

Appendix A: Council Achievements List 2016-17 (Quarter 3, Oct - Dec 2016)

Corporate Priorities:

- One – Maintain a safe and healthy community
- Two – Protect and enhance the environment
- Three – Meet the borough’s housing needs
- Four – Help build a strong local economy
- Five – Engage with our communities and provide value for money

Achievement	Source	Corporate Priority
October 2016		
The council’s religious and traditional customs Funeral Policy was published and shared with funeral directors across the borough. This policy covers burials based on a range of religious beliefs.	Business Plan	Five
The fifth Welwyn Hatfield Dragons' Apprentice Challenge was launched at the Gosling Sports Park. Year 12 students compete to raise the most money for their partner charity, while learning vital business skills - guided through the process by their 'dragon', a business expert from the borough. Now in its fifth year, the Dragons' Apprentice Challenge raised £26,000 last year alone for local charities and community groups and more than £40,000 since it began.	Press Release (U)	Four
Plans to transform the eastern entrance to Hatfield town centre were unveiled at a public exhibition. The proposals would see Number 1 Town Centre (the old Pizza Hut site) and numbers 3-9 redeveloped into 70 high quality new homes and up to four new retail units.	Business Plan	Four

Achievement	Source	Corporate Priority
<p>The £1.4m Hatfield Community Sport Fund was launched at the University of Hertfordshire. Sports clubs attended and learned how to apply for funding and what the independent fund board, who oversee the allocation and administration of the money, will be looking for in applications.</p>	<p>Press Release (U)</p>	<p>One</p>
<p>Halloween Fest took place in Hatfield, another event bringing families to the town centre with face painting, children's art activities, local food trader stalls and more. Around 600 people attended.</p>	<p>Press release (U)</p>	<p>Four</p>
<p>The latest phase of consultation on the Draft Local Plan and supporting documents closed, the final opportunity to make comments before the draft plan is submitted for independent examination by a planning inspector. Spread over five consultation documents, the council received more than 3,000 comments. The Draft Local Plan allocates sites for future development until 2032, including locations for over 12,000 new homes.</p>	<p>Business plan</p>	<p>Three</p>
<p>Welwyn Garden City businesses gave their backing and voted in favour of setting up a Business Improvement District (BID) for the town centre. The BID will see businesses investing £1.5 million in the area over the next five years, coming into operation on 1 April 2017.</p>	<p>Press release (U)</p>	<p>Four</p>
<p>A successful 10-day women and girls sport and physical activity campaign - This Girl Can - was delivered. The inaugural event was well received by partners and local schools. Over the 10 days around 1,800 women and girls took part in different activities.</p>	<p>Business Plan Press Release (U)</p>	<p>One</p>
<p>The second Community Information Day of the year took place in the Woodhall shops area of Welwyn Garden City. The event was held in response to a recent increase in anti-social behaviour and increases in complaints about behaviour and feelings of public safety in this area.</p>	<p>Business Plan Press release (U)</p>	<p>One</p>

Achievement	Source	Corporate Priority
November 2016		
Following a consultation exercise which received around 400 responses, the council's Older Person's Housing Strategy was published. This strategy informs and offers a range of housing options, advice and support for older people to promote independence, health and good quality of life.	Business Plan	Three
Remembrance Day was commemorated in a number of services held across the borough. The Mayor and Leader of the Council attended, along with other Members and senior Officers.	Business Plan Press Release (U)	Five
<p>A ground-breaking event marked the start of construction on the first council homes to be built in the borough for a generation. The properties will be built on a disused brownfield site in Garden Avenue, Hatfield. A total of 22 new homes will be built, consisting of 15 two bedroom apartments and seven one bedroom apartments. Construction is expected to be complete in winter 2017.</p> <p>The council's affordable housing programme has so far delivered 87 homes, with a further 66 homes either with planning permission or in construction.</p>	Press Release (U)	Three
A successful annual programme of planning training sessions for borough councillors, town/parish councillors and clerks was completed. Further sessions will be arranged in 2017-18.	Business Plan	Three
The manager of a Hatfield takeaway pleaded guilty to 23 food hygiene breaches and was ordered to pay fines totalling over £35,000 by St Albans Crown Court. The manager had failed to comply with food hygiene regulations and hygiene improvement notices served by the council's public health and protection team.	Press Release (U)	One
Around 9,000 people flocked to Welwyn Garden City and Hatfield town centres to enjoy the council's Christmas Lights Switch-On events, with food and drink, fun fair rides and music.	Press release (U)	Four
The Victorian Christmas Fair, attended by 340 people, completed the year's outdoor community events programme at the Mill Green Museum in Hatfield.	Business Plan	One

Achievement	Source	Corporate Priority
The annual Welwyn Hatfield Alliance Conference, 'Educating for the Future', was hosted in the council chamber. Leaders from education, business and the public sector came together to discuss how best to prepare young people for the future challenges of the employment market.	Business Plan Press Release (U)	Five
The council's Annual Report for 2015-16 was published, with a summary appearing in Life magazine, delivered to all households in the borough.	Business Plan	Five
December 2016		
Landlord focus groups and debt forums were held to improve benefits and council tax support take-up in deprived areas.	Business Plan	Five
A new-look White Lion House was unveiled containing a shared office space for the Hatfield Housing Office and Town Hub. The refurbishment provides more spacious facilities for tenants and the community. The moves also made way for the continued progress of the town centre investment programme, including providing new retailer PoundWorld with a prime retail spot in White Lion Square.	Press Release (U)	Three
A Hatfield landlord was sentenced after pleading guilty to 20 management regulation offences, leaving the property with major safety and disrepair issues. He was ordered to pay £33,950 in fines, £25,000 in costs and a victim surcharge of £120. The prosecution was brought by the council's private sector housing team.	Press Release (U)	One
The Community Safety Partnership hosted its second event of the year at Gracemead House, focussed on providing information and support to vulnerable and elderly residents. It was very well attended by partners and by local residents.	Business Plan	One
A festive market brought many to Hatfield town centre, with stalls offering jewellery, unique arts and crafts, decorations, and food and drink, complemented by a Santa Run and a choir.	Press release (U)	Four

Achievement	Source	Corporate Priority
The DISCOVER programme, a council commissioned pilot to work with young people in Year 12 at Monks Walk School, began. The project provides young people with free counselling on mental wellbeing, focusing on stress often faced at school.	Business Plan	One
The council's homelessness prevention team became the first in Hertfordshire to achieve a silver standard award from the National Practitioner Support Service, who set 10 different 'challenges' designed to help local authorities deliver more efficient and cost effective homelessness services. The Housing Needs team prevented around 111 people, including families, from becoming homeless in 2015/16, and hopes to achieve the gold standard later this year.	Press Release (U)	Three
The council supported churches in Welwyn Garden City to host a carol service outside the main entrance to the Howard Centre. Members and Officers were joined by around 150 local people and, given the location, the festive occasion was also enjoyed by many shoppers and commuters passing by.	Press Release (U)	Five
The 'Dick Whittington' pantomime was successfully produced and delivered in the Hawthorne Theatre by the CW Entertainment team. Feedback and reviews were both excellent and ticket sales totalled £125k, with the average seat occupancy at 90%. A further production will now be commissioned for 2017-18.	Business Plan	One

* **Press releases:** U: Used by local media, N: Not used by local media, x: not yet published.