

Council Achievements List 2017-18 (Quarter 2, July-September 2017)

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

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

Achievement	Source	Corporate Priority
July 2017		
This year’s <i>Vintage Day</i> at the Mill Green Museum attracted a total of 635 visitors who saw classic cars, enjoyed period music, and browsed craft and retail stalls alongside our refreshments which included the famous Mill Green cream teas served in the Jubilee Garden.	Press release (U)	Five
Cabinet approved a proposal on how the council will use ring-fenced government funding to continue tackling homelessness in Welwyn Hatfield. We were allocated £201,592 for 2017-18 and £228,271 for 2018-19. One of the principal uses of this funding will be to reduce the number of rough sleepers in the borough.	Press release (U)	Three
Consultation commenced on a range of potential improvements to Welwyn Garden City town centre. Developed by Hertfordshire County Council in partnership with the borough council, proposals include measures to reduce speed by creating a 20 mph zone. Other measures include raised crossing points and traffic management measures to minimise conflict between vehicles and pedestrians, as well as reducing unnecessary traffic circulation in the town centre.	Press release (U)	Four

Achievement	Source	Corporate Priority
Hundreds of residents took advantage of advice from the Community Safety Partnership on how to stay safe and well this summer. A week of themed sessions were delivered from a vacant retail unit in the Howard Centre with organisations including Trading Standards, Citizens Advice, Herts Fire & Rescue, Victim Support and Hertfordshire Libraries.	Press release (U)	Five
Eight small businesses in Welwyn Hatfield were awarded grants of up to £1,000 by the council. Applications were received in the spring and evaluated by the Welwyn Hatfield Business Forum.	Press release (U)	Four
August 2017		
A <i>Water Day</i> event at Mill Green Mill and Museum made a splash with over 400 visitors learning more about the importance of water as a finite resource; to hear talks about water conservation; and to join in with a range of interactive demonstrations. The event was organised in partnership with Affinity Water, sponsors of the ' <i>All in the Drop</i> ' exhibition on site, and with the University of Hertfordshire.	Press release (U)	Five
Five refurbished bungalows were unveiled at Tudor Road, Welwyn. Originally built in 1971 with asbestos ceilings, walls and floors they now offer residents a modern, comfortable and accessible place to live. Internal and external layouts were redesigned to the Lifetime Homes Standard which ensures properties are as convenient and easy to manage as possible throughout all stages of life.	Press release (U)	Three
An estimated 5,000 youngsters from across Welwyn Hatfield flocked to take part in the borough's first ever <i>Big Summer of Fun</i> programme. The first two weeks of August were packed with activities to suit all ages and interests covering sports, dance, and music. A total of 20 local partners put on around 90 free and charged for activities over the fortnight which were held at various locations across the borough.	Press release (U)	One

Achievement	Source	Corporate Priority
September 2017		
<p>The first hearing sessions took place for the Examination in Public of the borough's proposed Local Plan. Melvyn Middleton has been appointed by the Secretary of State to carry out the independent examination. It was also the first ever series of meetings in the Council Chamber to be live-streamed across the web.</p>	Press release (U)	Three
<p><i>HealthFest</i> made a successful return to White Lion Square in Hatfield. This family event helped residents find out how to improve their physical and mental health with over 25 stalls providing information, advice and activities for everyone to try out and enjoy.</p>	Press release (U)	One
<p><i>Lovells</i> were appointed as the primary developer to regenerate the High View neighbourhood centre in Hatfield. This scheme is expected to deliver around 150 new homes ranging from one bed flats to three bed houses, and around 18 commercial units available to current tenants and new businesses. Connectivity to the nearby Jim McDonald Centre will also be improved as part of this scheme.</p>	Press release (U)	Three and Four
<p>'<i>Operation Balsam</i>', offering residents greater protection from noise disturbance, returned for its ninth year. This partnership between Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council, Hertfordshire Constabulary and the University of Hertfordshire puts additional noise patrols in place for the whole borough, and prioritises reports from or about students starting the new academic year.</p>	Press release (U)	Two
<p>The 2017-18 <i>Dragon's Apprentice Challenge</i> was launched. This annual event, now in its sixth year, sees schools and colleges put forward teams to try and transform £100 into £1,000 or more for a chosen charity. The aim is to help students learn vital business skills by marketing a product or service they develop through fundraising events and by other means, guided each step of the way by their '<i>dragon</i>' who is drawn from the local business community.</p>	Press release (U)	Four and Five

Achievement	Source	Corporate Priority
<p>Business rate relief was awarded to all eligible small businesses which limits the increase in their rates payable to £600.00 per annum. We also awarded relief to those businesses that applied for discretionary relief, along with one-off £1,000 business rates relief to all qualifying public houses.</p>	<p>Business Plan</p>	<p>Four</p>
<p>The council re-submitted a £6 million funding bid to the LEP at their meeting on 21 September to help support the regeneration of Hatfield town centre. A tour of Hatfield was arranged for the LEP Board so they could see the expected benefits this investment would bring to the town.</p>	<p>Business Plan</p>	<p>Four</p>