

Appendix A: Council Achievements List 2017-18
Quarter 3, October-December 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
October 2017		
Plans to redesign the public space in White Lion Square went on display in Hatfield town centre. The redesign follows a public consultation in early 2015 which sought views on how residents would like to see the space used. It aims to make better use of the area, create a more welcoming environment and drive footfall to shops and businesses in and around the town centre.	Press release (U)	Four
The Partnership Accreditation for Landlords (PAL) scheme registered its 100th Accredited Landlord. The PAL scheme is a free and voluntary landlord and property accreditation scheme, set up by the council and the University of Hertfordshire in 2012, which recognises landlords and agents who meet their legal obligations and provide quality rented homes in the private rented sector in Welwyn Hatfield.	Press release (U)	Three

Achievement	Source	Corporate Priority
<p>A range of Halloween-themed events were held at both Mill Green Museum and in Hatfield town centre providing free or low-cost family entertainment to residents, including games and competitions, and boosting footfall to these venues.</p>	<p>Press release (U)</p>	<p>Five</p>
<p>Valuable safety messages were passed on by students in schools to help their peers spot signs of domestic abuse. Sixteen Year 12 students from schools across the borough participated in the second Community Youth Champion workshop which included presentations on domestic violence, child exploitation and having healthy relationships.</p>	<p>Press release (N)</p>	<p>One</p>
<p>Cabinet agreed to proceed with the redevelopment of Howlands House in Welwyn Garden City to provide more good quality accommodation for homeless households in the borough. Providing short-term accommodation for people and families who have lost their homes, the proposals would see the original buildings demolished to make way for a larger, modern facility to house more people in need. The new buildings would replace the 63 rooms with improved and more comfortable accommodation, and create space for an additional 64 flats.</p>	<p>Press release (U)</p>	<p>Three</p>
<p>Residents and businesses were invited to have their say on the potential introduction of a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) in parts of Hatfield, including the town centre. A PSPO helps to protect shared spaces and the community from anti-social behaviour, giving the police additional powers to issue fines and prosecute those responsible.</p>	<p>Press release (U)</p>	<p>One</p>

Achievement	Source	Corporate Priority
November 2017		
<p>Remembrance Day was commemorated by a number of services and wreath-laying ceremonies at different venues across the borough attended by councillors, officers and many members of our local community.</p>	Press release (U)	Five
<p>A £6m grant from the Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) was announced to help release land in Hatfield town centre for new homes and for retail and leisure, to secure its continued transformation to 2030 and beyond. It follows a successful funding bid to the LEP awarding £4.8m towards the cost of building a multi-storey on The Common car park which will be reinvested in developing other residential and retail sites around the town, and £1.2m to improve the public space in White Lion Square.</p>	Press release (U)	Four
<p>The council launched a new community gardening scheme called '<i>It's Your Neighbourhood</i>', seeking local volunteers to celebrate and cultivate green spaces near their home with the council's help. Individuals and local gardening groups were invited to come and find out more at a launch event in the Council Chamber</p>	Press release (N)	Two
<p>Nominations opened for the 2018 Civic Awards which celebrate local people in their personal endeavours and inspirational achievements. Run annually by the council, and now sponsored by its housing repairs and maintenance contractor <i>Mears</i>, the Civic Awards are the highest accolade bestowed by the authority. A <i>Young Person's Award</i>, sponsored by the University of Hertfordshire, is also given to people aged 21 or under.</p>	Press release (U)	Five

Achievement	Source	Corporate Priority
<p>Mill Green Mill and Museum won an award at the prestigious Hertfordshire Tourism Awards. The venue won in the '<i>Hidden Gem Visitor Attraction in Hertfordshire</i>' category, beating off competition from Letchworth Garden City's Standalone Farm and Henry Moore Studios and Gardens near Much Hadham. The awards, held annually, celebrate exceptional standards of customer service and outstanding overall visitor experiences.</p>	<p>Press release (U)</p>	<p>One</p>
<p>Over 60 leaders from voluntary organisations across the borough gathered at the Welwyn Hatfield Alliance Conference to highlight the important work of the sector. This year's theme, '<i>Communities Together</i>', saw attendees discuss current projects and work within the voluntary and community sector, and celebrate some of the strong partnerships that exist. This annual event, organised by the council, featured keynote speeches from Welwyn Hatfield Inter Faith Group, Connect Hertfordshire, Welwyn Hatfield Community Voluntary Service, Citizens' Advice Welwyn Hatfield and Welwyn Hatfield Community Inclusion Partnership.</p>	<p>Press release (N)</p>	<p>Five</p>
<p>Ten local Town and Parish Councillors and Clerks joined Borough Councillors for a planning training session which was hosted by Trowers & Hamblins.</p>	<p>Business Plan</p>	<p>Three</p>
<p>December 2017</p>		
<p>The <i>Hertfordshire Warmer Homes</i> scheme, of which the council is a partner, was launched. The scheme offers free or discounted energy efficiency improvements, such as loft or cavity insulation and heating repairs, to eligible households in the borough.</p>	<p>Business Plan</p>	<p>One</p>

Achievement	Source	Corporate Priority
<p>Minster House in Hatfield will provide better accommodation for the borough's older population after Cabinet agreed new redevelopment proposals. The council has set aside £15m for the project to fund a new purpose-built facility, helping future generations of older people live happily, independently and comfortably in their own homes. It follows a borough-wide consultation which asked how the council could best meet the needs of older people in our communities and ongoing discussions with Minster House residents to collect their views and suggestions.</p>	<p>Press release (U)</p>	<p>Three</p>
<p>Local businesses and residents were invited to get into the festive spirit at a Christmas carol event in White Lion Square, supported by a four piece live band. Attendees received a voucher for a free mince pie and hot drink from Simmons in the town centre.</p>	<p>Press release (U)</p>	<p>Five</p>
<p>The Museum Service has successfully added 17 new volunteers to its existing numbers over 2017, although four volunteers have stepped down for different reasons, representing a net gain of 13 volunteers.</p>	<p>Business Plan</p>	<p>One</p>
<p>Free advice on staying safe and well this winter was delivered at a <i>Safer Together</i> event in Hatfield, giving people advice on personal and financial safety, health and wellbeing, and crime prevention. The event was organised and delivered by the Community Safety Partnership.</p>	<p>Press release (U)</p>	<p>One</p>
<p>The annual activities and events programme for the Museum Service was successfully completed for 2017 with the delivery of the <i>Victorian Christmas Fair</i> bringing together Victorian street sellers, commercial stalls, and a range of children's activities.</p>	<p>Business Plan Press release (U)</p>	<p>One</p>

Achievement	Source	Corporate Priority
<p>43 public and school performances of <i>Beauty and the Beast</i> were successfully completed between 8-31 December. Customer feedback was extremely positive, as were reviews both online and in print. <i>Aladdin</i> has been commissioned as the panto for 2018 and tickets went on sale on Friday 9 February.</p>	<p>Business Plan Press release (U)</p>	<p>One</p>