



CABINET

Monday, 16th February, 2015

7.00 pm

Town Hall Watford

Publication date: 6 February 2015

CONTACT

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Welcome to this meeting. We hope you find these notes useful.

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CABINET MEMBERSHIP

Mayor	D Thornhill	(Chair)
Councillor	D Scudder	(Deputy Mayor)
Councillors	K Crout, S Johnson, I Sharpe and M Watkin	

AGENDA

PART A - OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST (IF ANY)

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 January 2015 to be submitted and signed.

Copies of the minutes of this meeting are usually available seven working days following the meeting.

(All minutes are available on the Council's [website](#).)

4. CONDUCT OF MEETING

The Cabinet may wish to consider whether there are any items on which there is general agreement which could be considered now, to enable discussion to focus on those items where the Cabinet sees a need for further debate.

5. DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN 2015-19 (Pages 1 - 78)

A report of the Managing Director

6. CONTROLLED PARKING ZONES POLICIES (Pages 79 - 132)

A report of the Committee and Scrutiny Officer

7. WATFORD'S MONITORING REPORT 2014 (Pages 133 - 270)

A report of Head of Regeneration and Development

8. WATFORD HEALTH CAMPUS - APPROPRIATION OF OXHEY PARK OPEN SPACE (Pages 271 - 276)

Report of the Programme Manager

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PART A

Report to: Cabinet
Date of meeting: 16 February 2015
Report of: Managing Director
Title: Draft Corporate Plan 2015-19

1.0 **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report presents the council's draft Corporate Plan 2015-19. The plan articulates the council's strategic direction in the medium-term and outlines how it will achieve its vision and priorities over the next four years (see Appendix I)
- 1.2 The council undertook a significant review of its priorities in 2013 and, through this, developed a revised set of medium-term priorities to underpin its corporate and service planning and help shape the direction and content of its annual Corporate Plan. These are set out clearly in section 2. Whilst the plan is reviewed annually, it retains a medium term (four year) perspective. This allows for effective planning and allocation of resources and provides both continuity and resilience to the delivery of the corporate work programme. A progress update for the current areas of work identified in the Corporate Plan 2014-18 is attached as Appendix II. An overview of achievements is outlined in section 3 of the draft plan.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Cabinet to:

- 2.1 Note the current draft of the Corporate Plan 2015-19, propose any amendments and recommend it to Council (Appendix I).
- 2.2 Note the key performance indicators identified to support the monitoring of the Corporate Plan and ensure it contributes to the council's aim of continuous development and improvement. These are in section 11 of the draft Plan
- 2.3 Note the current progress update for the work identified in the Corporate Plan 2014-18. This will be finalised at the end of the financial year. (Appendix II)

Contact Officer:

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Report approved by:

Manny Lewis, Managing Director

3.0 DETAILED PROPOSAL

3.1 As part of its business planning cycle, the council undertakes an annual review of its Corporate Plan. Through this process the organisation reviews and agrees what is important and where it should focus resources to deliver good quality services to our community and real improvements to the town.

The Corporate Plan is, therefore, the council's key improvement and planning document, which underpins its programme of work and by which it can measure its achievements against the outcomes it had identified as important to Watford. From the plan the council develops its service business plans which, in turn, inform the work programme of each team within the council and the individual objectives of each member of staff, identified through our annual performance development review process.

3.1 Corporate Plan 2015 – 19

3.1.1 The medium term focus of our Corporate Plan has meant that there is no need for a significant review and refresh for 2015-19. By setting a direction and work programme for a four to five year period the council is clear as to its priorities and the outcomes it wants to achieve to 2018/19.

3.1.2 Whilst the plan ensures that areas of work identified in the previous plan are retained for 2015-19, there is scope to include emerging projects and areas of work and to update those which have a longer-term focus. This is particularly appropriate for the major projects with which the council is engaged. These, by their very nature, have a delivery timescale beyond the four years of the plan and, therefore, a review of the plan presents an opportunity to update on their progress and set new milestones for their delivery.

- Retains the basis of the Corporate Plan developed last year, including the overall framework of the Plan, the context and the approach to identifying priority areas of work and projects – see Appendix I
- Includes the key performance indicators that the council will use to monitor progress in certain areas – see Appendix II

3.1.3 To support the delivery of the corporate plan 2015-19, a detailed delivery plan is being developed. This delivery plan 'sits beneath' the corporate plan and sets out how the projects and development areas within the plan will be delivered in the short-term (2015/16). It contains quarterly milestones, identifies the key staff resources that will be required to ensure effective project delivery and outlines how the organisation will measure success at the end of 2015/16. This delivery plan informs service planning and quarterly reviews and is, therefore, adaptable across a number of the council's business planning processes. It also underpins project and programme management, which, as highlighted within the plan, will be an area for focus in 2015-9 (project area Cor46).

4.0 **IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 **Finance**

The drive to operate the council efficiently & effectively is a priority within the Corporate Plan, which reflects the importance to the council of using its resources effectively, providing value for money and sustaining a focus on delivery and meeting project milestones. The council has developed a Medium Term Financial Plan, which supports the synergy between its financial and corporate planning and identifies how the council will make sure it links its financial decisions to the delivery of the Corporate Plan. To help illustrate this, a section (Appendix i) within the Corporate Plan provides an overview of the council's financial resources and links these to current council expenditure (revenue and capital).

4.2 **Legal**

The Corporate Plan is one of the policy framework documents listed in the constitution that has to be approved by Council. The current draft document will be updated for approval at Council in March 2015.

4.3 **Equalities**

4.3.1 The Corporate Plan is informed by the Watford context, including an understanding of the demographic make up of the borough's community and feedback from local people on the issues that are important to them. The council has identified delivering the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 as an area of work within the Corporate Plan to support the delivery of Corporate Priority 3: 'Promoting an active, cohesive & well informed town'. Impact analyses are undertaken on specific projects/programmes where relevant. An overall equality impact analysis has been undertaken on the Corporate Plan (Appendix III).

4.4.1

Potential Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Overall score
<i>The council's Corporate Plan and its Medium Term Financial Strategy work together to achieve outcomes identified within the Plan. Failure to link the two effectively might result in insufficient financial resourcing for areas of work identified or failure to meet financial targets.</i>	1	4	4
<i>The council has acknowledged the importance of the organisation taking ownership of its corporate planning framework to ensure there is commitment to delivery and that targets are achieved. Failure to achieve this 'buy-in' could delay projects and programmes and impact on overall deliver. The plan is communicated in a number of ways to staff – see 4.5 below for proposal to improve communication in 2015-19.</i>	2	4	8
<i>The Corporate Plan represents a significant programme of work. The organisation needs to understand the interdependencies of the areas of work identified and their call on time / resources. Failure to do so effectively would risk delivery. This is addressed in the plan (area of work = Cor 44)</i>	2	4	8
<i>The Corporate Plan represents a significant programme of work. There is potential for slippage and failure to meet milestones without robust project and programme management. This is addressed in the plan (area of work = Cor 44)</i>	2	4	8

4.5 Staffing

4.5.1 The corporate plan is a key document for staff and provides an important part of the council's performance framework that supports services to develop their own delivery plans, which in turn inform individual staff objectives and outcomes. For 2015-19, there will be a 'Corporate Plan in brief' publication developed and a face to face 'corporate and service planning' session will be held on 19 February to share the draft plan.

4.6 Accommodation

4.6.1 No implications identified.

4.7 Community Safety

4.7.1 Community safety projects will help the delivery of Corporate Priority 1 - Making Watford a better place to live in.

4.8 **Sustainability**

- 4.8.1 The importance of embedding sustainability across the council and in its partnerships work is addressed through the objective Corporate Priority 1 - Making Watford a better place to live in.

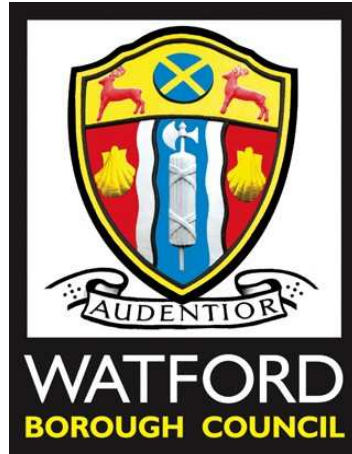
Appendices

- I. Draft Corporate Plan 2015-19
- II. Progress update on Corporate Plan 2014-18
- III. Equality Impact Analysis

Background papers

- Corporate Plan 2014-18

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Watford Borough Council

Corporate Plan 2015-19

Investing in our town

Document Version Control

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Foreword by Dorothy Thornhill MBE, Elected Mayor of Watford

I am pleased to introduce Watford Borough Council's Corporate Plan 2015-19. This is where we identify what we intend to do over the next four years and how we will measure how successful we have been in keeping our promises.

The foundation of this Corporate Plan was set out two years ago when we gave considerable consideration about the priorities for Watford and set ourselves the challenge of 'what type of town do we want Watford to be in the future'. We tested this with our residents and they gave us clear direction that they wanted to see Watford thrive through what are very difficult economic times and for us to ensure its reputation as a great place to live, work, visit and study continues to grow both within the borough and beyond. At the same time, they wanted their council to remain focused on providing good quality, value for money services and to champion Watford's best interests at both county and national level. I like to call it being a 'can do' council.

By using this feedback, our Corporate Plan identified a range of work and projects that cut across everything we do, including the very important work we do in partnership with other organisations in both the private and public sector, and set out how we would know we had been successful.

Over the last two years we have made real progress in delivering successful outcomes for the town and our residents. But there is more to do! Our recent achievements, such as the wonderful transformation to the top of the town, the opening of the new market and the impressive improvements in our parks, open spaces and allotments, show that we can and step up to deliver outstanding results for Watford

This Plan, therefore, sets the next stage in our journey.

It is vitally important for us to ensure that both our plans and our decisions are informed by the views of our residents and local community. Over the last year, I have been out and about across the borough and met many of you. This has given me a great opportunity to find out at first-hand what is important to you and what areas we need to focus on to improve the town and your experience of living in Watford. We have also put on a number of other special events, which have given you the chance to tell us what you think about some key areas of our work and future plans. There will be additional ways to get involved with the council and our plans over the next year. I hope many of you do take the opportunity to feed back to us.

As ever, if you have any comments on the Corporate Plan, our plans major projects or the council, then email me on themayor@watford.gov.uk or call 01923 226400 and ask for the Mayor's office.

**Dorothy Thornhill MBE
Elected Mayor of Watford**

1. Our Corporate Plan

Each year, we review and agree what is important to us as a council and where we should focus our resources to deliver good quality services to our community and real improvements to the town.

This corporate planning process sets the organisation's strategic direction in the medium-term (the next four years). The ultimate aim of effective corporate planning is to make sure the organisation, including its councillors and staff, is clear about what it has promised to deliver, has a shared understanding of what work needs to be completed in the short and medium - term, the milestones that will measure progress and the outcomes that will measure success.

Corporate Plan 2015-19

This planning is captured in our Corporate Plan, which for 2015-19 builds on last year's plan and consolidates the direction and the priority areas of work we established as part of our significant review of the council and its priorities in 2013.

The plan is our key improvement and planning document. It identifies where we are focusing our efforts and resources both over the next year and for the medium term. From the Corporate Plan the council develops its service business plans which, in turn, inform the work programme of each team within the council and the individual objectives of each member of staff, identified through our annual performance review process.

The plan is also a way for our residents and partners to see what we are planning to do in order to deliver our vision for Watford in the future. Through the commitments we make in the Plan people can judge how successful we have been over the previous year and if we have delivered on the promises it sets down.

Over the next 12 months we will regularly report back on our progress to members and to our community so that they can feel confident about how effectively we are working as an organisation

What informs and influences our corporate planning?

A number of important factors underpin this plan and are considered when we identify what specific areas of work we will focus on over the next four years (see our Corporate Medium Term Delivery Plan). These include:

- our corporate vision and priorities (reviewed in 2013) **(see section 2)**
- our progress and achievements against our commitments in previous plans **(see section 3)**
- feedback from our community and local residents, which helps identify what are the most important things for us to do both in the short and longer term **(see section 4)**
- our staff and financial resources **(see section 5)**
- linkages to other key council strategies - such as the Local Plan Core Strategy, Economic Development Strategy, Cultural Strategy, Green Spaces Strategy, Housing Strategy and Property Strategy **(see section 6)**

- an understanding of the local area including what the Census 2011 and more recent updates tells us about our residents and the borough and how this impacts on our planning(see section 7)

2. Our corporate vision and priorities

Our corporate vision

All successful organisations have at their heart, a clear vision of what they want to achieve. This vision sets out the organisation’s direction, defines its priorities and guides its actions, whilst making sure that it is constantly striving to improve the services it provides in line with local priorities and financial constraints. Linked to this vision is a defined set of priorities

By their very nature, corporate visions have a long-term perspective, whilst priorities are reviews more frequently. Therefore, we believe our vision remains relevant to the council and to the borough:

Watford’s vision is to be a successful town in which people are proud to live, work, study and visit.

Our vision as a council sets us two challenges – it is about the sort of place we want Watford to be and it is about what sort of organisation we need to be to make this vision a reality.

Our corporate priorities

We have an ambitious agenda for Watford. To make sure we are best placed to deliver this agenda we have ensured our corporate priorities provide the right framework and direction for the organisation. We need to ensure they clearly represent what we see as our main areas for focus and what we aim to achieve by 2019 so that we meet the challenges of our corporate vision about the type of town we want Watford to be in the future.

Our four corporate priorities, we believe, reflect our aims, clearly set out what we want to achieve for Watford as well as how we will continue to improve the way we work as an organisation.



Our residents' feedback on our priorities

When we revised our priorities we asked our residents for feedback on what they thought should be the priorities for the council and the town over the next few years. Over 450 people responded to our survey and the table below shows their top five responses.

Given the financial pressures we face and thinking about the role of the council and what it does for the town and residents, which of the following do you think we should be prioritising in the future?

TOP FIVE PRIORITY AREAS FOR RESIDENTS	% response	LINK TO CORPORATE PRIORITY
Keeping the town safe and tackling anti-social behaviour	71%	CP1 - Making Watford a better place to live in
Promoting economic prosperity including attracting, developing and supporting local businesses and jobs	55%	CP2 - To provide the strategic lead for Watford's sustainable economic growth
Looking at how our services are delivered to ensure they are cost effective	48%	CP4 - Operating the council efficiently & effectively
Maintaining the appearance of the town (clean streets / well maintained grass verges etc)	47%	CP1 - Making Watford a better place to live in
Protecting our parks and open spaces	46%	CP1 - Making Watford a better place to live in

3. Our achievements in 2014/15

An important part of deciding on what areas of work should be in our corporate plan is reviewing what we said we would achieve in last year's plan. A review of the Corporate Plan priorities 2014-18 highlighted that a number of key projects had been completed and significant progress has been made in the delivery of longer-term projects. Below are some of the highlights of our year:

- ✓ achieved four Green Flags for our parks and open spaces which recognise the best green places in the country. Of these, the one for Oxhey Park was new for 2014/15
- ✓ renewed Purple Flag for the excellent way we work in partnership to manage our night time economy in the town centre
- ✓ made significant progress on our major projects that will transform the town and enhance its offer to local people, visitors and businesses:
 - Watford Health Campus has achieved planning permission for the scheme and work started on the new road . The council has established the Watford Health Campus partnership LLP with Kier that is responsible for delivering the Health Campus in partnership with West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust.
 - Delivered transformational improvements to the top of the town, including improvements to the Pond, upgrading of the public realm with new surfacing, less clutter and fewer cars as well as fantastic new areas for entertainment and events

- ✓ with our Palace Theatre partners delivered the amazing Big Events programme, which saw Watford celebrate its new town centre event spaces with a varied range of entertainment including an outdoor cinema in summer and skating rink in winter
- ✓ achieved our £4.5million Heritage Lottery Funding bid for Cassiobury Park, which, in combination with the council's own investment, will deliver significant improvements and transformation to Watford's best loved park (and the fourth best loved in the country!). This will include a new visitors centre and revamped paddling pools
- ✓ radically improved our benefits performance – speeding up the time we take to deal with benefit claims
- ✓ developed our staff and secured our internal building blocks for the future
 - Gained Silver Investors In People accreditation
 - Achieved best ever sickness figures with under 5 days lost per member of staff
 - Conducted a staff survey and achieved an excellent response; results showed high staff morale and that, overall, people were extremely positive about working for the council
 - Achieved our excellent feedback on our closure of accounts including from our external auditors
 - Successfully moved to a 'lead authority model' with Three Rivers District Council – with Watford taking the lead for delivering Human Resources and ICT for both councils and Three Rivers Finance and Revenues and Benefits

4. What is important to local people

Listening to local people and ensuring they have the opportunities to influence decisions is essential if we are to focus on what matters most to our communities. We are committed to understanding needs and ensuring everyone has an opportunity to have a say.

Through consultations and engagement our community has told us what is important to them and the town. This has been reflected in our new corporate priorities but it also influences the work we do to deliver these priorities.

In our Community Survey 2013, we asked local people what they thought was important in making somewhere a good place to live. Below are the top five responses and how they link to our corporate priorities.

These are some things that people have said are important to them or help to make their area a good place to live. Which of them are important to you as a resident of Watford?

TOP FIVE THINGS THAT PEOPLE SAY HELP MAKE THEIR AREA A GOOD PLACE TO LIVE	% response	LINK TO CORPORATE PRIORITY
Level of crime / community safety	48%	CP1 - Making Watford a better place to live in
Road and pavement repairs	34%	CP1 - Making Watford a better place to live in
Level of litter and dirt on the streets	28%	CP1 - Making Watford a better place to live in
Level of traffic congestion	27%	CP1 - Making Watford a better place to live in
Quality of health services	25%	CP1 - Making Watford a better place to live in

The top issue remained unchanged from 2012 (level of crime / community safety) whilst level of traffic congestion appeared in the top five in 2013 but not in 2012.

5. Our staff and our financial resources

Our staff

During the last year, we have made significant investment in developing our staff and in ensuring the organisation continues to align its vision and priorities with its resources – including its human resources. In addition, we want to continue to be an organisation that values its staff and recognises the contribution they make to our achievements and success.

We currently employ 225 members of staff (198.22 full time equivalents), who work in 7 service areas. All undertake an annual performance development review, which links their personal objectives to the delivery of the areas of work identified in this plan. Since 2014 our Finance and Revenue and Benefits services have been delivered by Three Rivers District Council, which now employs staff working in these areas directly.

Community and Customer Services	Corporate Strategy and Client Services	Human Resources	Corporate
Regeneration and Development	Democracy and Governance	ICT client	

Our financial resources

Aligned with this Corporate Plan, the council approves a four year financial forecast which identifies factors likely to impact upon capital and revenue budgets (the council's expenditure). This is known as our medium term financial strategy.

The medium term financial strategy is based on looking at the factors that are likely to impact on the council's budget over the coming four years. We take account of our vision, our Corporate Plan and significant external pressures so that we can be sure that we can best use our resources to deliver our targets and meet corporate priorities. It also takes into account other plans and strategies to ensure we align our spending priorities with our objectives. A key element of the council's approach to financial planning is to ensure we consistently challenge costs and expenditure so that we can, where appropriate, reduce our costs through greater efficiencies and value for money.

When we agree new priority projects we look to deliver them within existing budgets but the annual budget process is used to ensure that these projects receive the necessary funding. Where projects involve major investment such as large development projects funding mainly comes from the sale of council assets (buildings / land), which are no longer needed to deliver our priorities.

The council's medium term financial strategy supports delivery of council priorities and this Plan. It:

- plans for a medium term balanced budget
- looks to deliver short and medium term savings from completion of efficiencies and service reviews
- recognises that a balanced budget will not be delivered through service efficiencies alone and that it will be necessary to consider other areas of service expenditure and of income generation to balance the budget
- controls new growth and looks to fund it from savings elsewhere
- maintains prudent reserves levels to meet unforeseen circumstances
- supports delivery of the Asset Management Plan and capital programme, ensuring investment for the future
- freezes council tax in 2015/16 (following a freeze over the last four years).

An overview of the council's medium term financial strategy and budget for 2015/16 is outlined in Appendix i.

6. Link to other key council strategies

This Corporate Plan provides a framework for other council strategies and policies. In this way it provides a central link between how our strategies and policies deliver our corporate vision and corporate priorities.

The most significant strategy that connects this Plan to the overall development of the town is the Local Plan: Core Strategy. We are delighted that this was found to be 'sound' by the government inspector. The Local Plan: Core Strategy vision for Watford complements our corporate vision and the work outlined within this Plan plays a crucial role in delivering its objectives.

Watford's Local Plan (Core Strategy) – how this shapes our planning and work

Watford's Local Plan (Core Strategy) was adopted in January 2013. This sets out the strategic vision and spatial strategy for Watford from now to 2031.

The strategy aims to provide a balance between directing growth to sustainable locations (e.g. where there is unused land and good local transport links) and protecting and enhancing the character of other parts of the town. Other council strategies look to the Local Plan for direction and are tested to ensure they complement what it is aiming to achieve for Watford.

In order to ensure that sufficient infrastructure (roads, schools, play areas) is provided to meet the needs generated by new development, the council has developed a Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule Levy and an Infrastructure Delivery Plan.

- *Watford will offer a modern highly sustainable environment providing easy access to jobs and services and where development meets high standards of urban design that respects the town's distinctive character and heritage*
- *Watford will be a place where people from all backgrounds can feel they belong, feel safe and secure and have the opportunity to be involved in their local community*
- *Sustainable transport links will be developed and improved with the conversion of the Abbey Flyer line from St Albans to Watford into a light rail link, and the Croxley Rail Link, which extends the Metropolitan Line to Watford Junction mainline station*
- *Watford town centre will strengthen its regional role by developing further its vibrant mix of shops, offices, leisure and cultural activities, within a highly accessible pedestrian and cycle friendly environment. By 2031 the town will have extended its range of services and facilities further to provide activities for all age groups; a 'family-friendly town centre' at all times*
- *Watford town centre will have a series of sectors where commercial, shopping, leisure, recreation and cultural activities support each other in well designed surroundings. Further high quality town centre housing will be developed, providing safe and attractive accommodation of various types, including family units, in good proximity to the railway stations at Watford Junction and Watford High Street*
- *Watford's existing local centres will be improved to provide our communities with strong neighbourhood centres with a wide range of services, including schools and retail facilities with good access to public transport. There will be an appropriate mix of housing suitable for all, including affordable housing. The new housing will lead the way in sustainable construction and technology.*
- *Watford's employment areas will be improved to offer the quality accommodation required by modern businesses, with access to facilities to help employees and businesses function effectively. Watford's excellent educational offer will be maintained and improved by supporting existing top class facilities such as West Herts College and improving the quantity and quality of our schools*
- *Key elements in the high quality of life enjoyed by Watford's residents and visitors are the open spaces and parks within the borough, and its extensive range of recreational, sports and leisure facilities. These recreational, leisure and sports assets will be protected and enhanced for use by all age groups*

- Residents will have the opportunity to choose healthier lifestyles with access to a range of leisure opportunities, as well as more opportunity to walk or cycle. There will also be improved access to quality healthcare, with an enhanced new hospital and neighbourhood GP surgeries

Core Strategy objectives

CORE STRATEGY STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	LINK TO CORPORATE PRIORITY
1: A family-friendly town centre	CP1 - Making Watford a better place to live in CP2 - To provide the strategic lead for Watford's sustainable economic growth
2: Sustainable neighbourhoods	CP1 - Making Watford a better place to live in CP3 - Promoting an active, cohesive & well informed town
3: Enhance Watford's regional economic and transportation role	CP2 - To provide the strategic lead for Watford's sustainable economic growth
4: Enhance Watford's regional health, recreational, educational, cultural and social role	CP1 - Making Watford a better place to live in CP2 - To provide the strategic lead for Watford's sustainable economic growth CP3 - Promoting an active, cohesive & well informed town
5: Enhance Watford's environment, green infrastructure and heritage assets	CP1 - Making Watford a better place to live in

7. An understanding of the local area

Whilst the Census 2011 has provided really valuable data and insight into the Watford community, the information is now 4 years old and we know a community can change significantly in even a short period of time. However, census information still offers a good picture of our area and we can support this with more up to date information from other sources. An important element for 2015, will be the release of the new Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), which were last published in 2010. These will provide a detailed overview of deprivation at small area level across England on seven different dimensions of deprivation (such as employment, health, crime, barriers to housing) and an overall composite measure of multiple deprivation (i.e. what is the story when all these elements are combined).

What we know about Watford:

Population The current estimated population is 93,700.

We are a young area – certainly younger on average than the rest of Hertfordshire and the Eastern region. We have a high proportion of 0-4 year olds (which puts pressure on school places) and a large number of people in the age brackets 25-34 when a lot of people are looking to set up their own home or move due to starting a family. This manifests itself in pressure on housing.

The ONS interim 2012-based subnational population projections are an indication of the future trends in population over the next 10 years.

- Watford's population is projected to be 103,000 by 2021
- Births are projected to be double deaths each year

Ethnicity

Watford is a diverse borough and this was shown in the Census 2011 data which showed a fall in the White British population and an increase in our black and ethnic minority population – especially – white Non British, Indian and Pakistani. Overall all ethnic groups had increase in numbers and percentage in Watford with the exception of White British and White Irish.

Data from National Insurance number registrations in 2014, shows the borough continues to attract people from abroad with the highest number of registrations from EU accession countries. At the same time, figures show us that the increase in population is not predominantly a result of migration into the borough but rather the increase in birth rate over death rate.

Households

Number of households

As of March 31 2014 there were 38,195 households in Watford.

Watford had the fourth highest percentage change in households - +14.6% - in the Eastern region from 2001 to 2011.

Household Composition

The most frequent household type identified in the Census 2011 was single people aged under pensionable age. This overtook married people with children. There was also a significant rise in lone parents in Watford over the 10 year period between censuses.

Another significant housing trend was the more than doubling of people in private rented housing in 10 years, which has implications for those looking to live in Watford and for the council's housing service.

Just under 10% of people lived in private rented housing in 2001 whilst it was just over 20% (7,371 homes) in 2011. This meant that both homes owned outright and homes being purchased with a mortgage fell.

Health

Watford's population enjoys better health than the Eastern Region and England overall with nearly 85% of the population stating that they have 'good health' and just under 14% recording a disability. However, there are health issues that need addressing in the borough, some of which are related to improving people's physical activity - see 2 below. These have been identified by the borough's Health and Wellbeing Partnership as the following priorities for our residents:

1. Improving access to help with alcohol related issues
2. Increase exercise & weight Management referrals (NOTE: this may focus on specific gender, ages and/or communities)
3. Improve availability of screening in Primary Care for TB & Sexual Health (NOTE: this may be through wider community engagement)
4. Safe Healthy Food
5. Continued focus on delivering health outcomes through safe and healthy homes
6. Local or Emerging issues that arise from further or local research

Education
To be
updated

A skilled workforce supports the economic development and employment aspirations for Watford. Year on year results show that there is an increasing trends in both GCSE results for pupils in Watford and the qualifications of the working age population.

In the academic year 2011/12, 92.2% of pupils in Watford achieved 5 or more GCSEs graded A* to C, compared to the national average of 81.8%,

There has been a mostly increasing trend in Watford over the last few years in NVQ qualifications held and these again increased during 2012.

Watford's working age population has the second highest percentage (43.7%) in Hertfordshire of those with qualifications at NVQ 4 and above (St. Albans is the highest with 52.9%); this is also higher than both the 40.4% average in Hertfordshire and the England average of 34.2%.

There are fewer people with no qualifications and significantly more people with Level 4/5 qualifications (degree level).

Economy

The town is currently home to around 3500 businesses with a good mix of company size and sector, with many international HQ's and a higher than average start-up success rate.. There is representation from financial and professional services sectors, pharmaceutical, health sciences, creative media, manufacturing and retail and leisure industries, amongst many others. Watford faired relatively well through the 2009-2013 global recession maintaining comparatively low unemployment levels, largely due to its locational strengths and the healthy breadth of sectors represented in the town. However, there are future challenges in matching growing population to job opportunities, the trade-off between using land for employment or for housing and ensuring a good skill match between employers and local people.

8. Corporate work programme 2015/16

Looking at the areas outlined in sections 2-6 above, we have developed the following corporate work programme for 2015/16. This is also set out in Appendix XX where we show how each area of work contributes to our corporate priorities.

Corporate Priority 1 - Making Watford a better place to live in

What this priority means for us

This priority is about the quality of Watford as a place to live, work and visit. It recognises that the council, although it does not deliver all the services and facilities that are important to the town and local people, does have an important role to play in ensuring that everyone is working together to achieve the best for Watford and its residents. We know that by seeing the borough as a 'total place' we can have a greater impact on those issues that are central to the quality of life in the borough.

The council is committed to taking greater ownership of what happens in the town. This involves working closely with our partners, particularly Hertfordshire County Council as well as other organisations that provide or influence services in Watford. These could be in the public, private or voluntary sector. We have identified delivering our core strategy commitments (see page 15) as fundamental to this priority. These involve areas of crucial importance to the town such as housing and new homes, improvements to transport across the town, planning in light of Census 2011 information and ensuring specific issues such as the good quality design of new developments and buildings and conserving the town's heritage are addressed.

We have identified some key actions that will help shape this priority and ensure we can keep track on our progress and achievements.

CP1 - Making Watford a better place to live in

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Update Watford BC statutory and non-statutory services business plans – departmental service business plans will all contribute to this key objective (for example; Private Sector Housing Delivery Plan and Health and Safety delivery plan)• Deliver new homes – target of 260 new dwellings per annum• Work with registered providers including the Watford Community Housing Trust on affordable housing solutions• Identify and manage ways to tackle the demand and supply for housing in the borough while improving conditions through the revised Housing Strategy, Homelessness Strategy and Private Sector Renewal Policy• Work with partners to develop our strategic response to issues where housing related activity could promote health, wellbeing and economic growth including a review of key policies and strategies to ensure a coherent, integrated approach | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deliver a review of the borough's cemetery provision• Deliver the Heritage Lottery Fund supported restoration of Cassiobury Park• Complete park improvement programme including relocation of Gaelic games club and Farm Terrace allotments• Work with partners and stakeholders to deliver a Sports Facilities Strategy for the town• Ensure the quality of the town's environment through the Veolia contract to deliver well-maintained streets, parks and public spaces• Ensure local people have easy to access ways to engage in recycling and waste reduction• Ensure the quality of the town's leisure provision and that it is accessible and affordable to support the health and wellbeing of our residents• Take forward a Heritage Lottery Fund bid for Watford Museum |
|---|--|

CP1 - Making Watford a better place to live in

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement measures to maintain and improve conditions within homes to ensure they are suitable for use and promote the health, safety and welfare of residents through the revised Private Sector Renewal Policy. • Continue to implement and make use of government initiatives to deliver energy efficiency solutions to businesses & residents to reduce ill health due to excess cold • Delivering the Climate Change Action Plan for Watford in • Work with partners to develop our strategic response to issues where housing related activity could promote health, wellbeing and economic growth including a review of key policies and strategies to ensure a coherent, integrated approach • Deliver new schools with Hertfordshire County Council (Health Campus and Watford Junction) • Deliver Local Plan Part 2: publication, submission and adoption • Progress Local Plan Review: review evidence base and areas such as housing and employment targets • Protect the Town's Heritage: review two conservation area appraisals within the year • Deliver infrastructure project to support the enhancement of the Town Centre: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town Centre events • Charter Place • Lower High Street • Market Street • Clarendon Road Phase 3 • Bus shelter improvements and relocation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver a review of play to ensure a value for money service that meets the needs of local young people • Refresh sports development framework to reflect priorities of the adopted Sports Facilities Strategy • Develop arts framework • Tackle Congestion and improve air quality in the borough with Hertfordshire County Council: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Big Herts Big Ideas • Quality Network Partnership • Watford Community Cycle Hub • Growth and Transport Plan with Hertfordshire CC • S106 funded cycling schemes • New shared surface 2 rings cycling campaign • Introduction of electric taxis • Watford Business Park – phase 2 – cycle link to Ebury Way • Deliver Watford's public health action plan to deliver improved health outcomes for local people including managing the outcomes identified for the Community Activation Fund • Deliver the Watford Community Safety action plan with partners including improved ways to communicate and engage community safety messages • Ensure the quality of the town's environment through the delivery of well maintained streets, parks and public spaces • Effectively manage issues like fly tipping and dumped rubbish through appropriate measures including enforcement where necessary • Ensure local people have easy to access ways to engage in recycling and waste reduction |
|--|--|

Key Public / Private Partnerships currently supporting this priority:

- Hertfordshire County Council
- Hertfordshire Police
- Police & Crime Commissioner
- One Watford
- Community Safety partners
- Registered providers
- Hertfordshire Health & Wellbeing Board
- Herts Valleys NHS Clinical Commissioning Group
- Watford and Three Rivers Health & Wellbeing Partnership

Key Public / VCS partnerships

- Sports
- Arts / Heritage
- Community Centres
- Play
- Health
- Community Safety
- HARI
- PoSH
- Heritage Lottery Fund
- Emerging other partnerships - these will be decided and implemented through the life of the Corporate Plan

CP1 - Making Watford a better place to live in

- Cultural Leaders Forum
- Veolia
- HQ Theatres
- SLM
- Watford Palace Theatre
- Capita

Measures of success

- New homes delivered each year, including number of affordable new homes
- Households supported to find solutions to their housing needs
- Number of homes improved to remove hazards to residents' health, safety and welfare
- Air quality targets achieved
- Green flags for parks and open spaces
- Local people's satisfaction with parks and open spaces
- Identified health outcomes and indicators
- Planned data published in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
- Satisfaction with sports and leisure facilities
- Satisfaction with parks and open spaces
- Satisfaction with waste and recycling
- Satisfaction with street cleaning
- Waste and recycling targets achieved
- Street cleanliness targets achieved
- Reduction in crime
- Maintain Purple Flag status of the town centre
- Local people's feelings of pride in Watford

Corporate Priority 2 - To provide the strategic lead for Watford's sustainable economic growth

What this priority means for us

This priority recognises the vital importance of economic growth to the prosperity of the borough. This prosperity brings with it jobs and good future prospects for both local residents and businesses. In difficult economic times, we cannot take Watford's economic growth for granted. And as the economy recovers, we want to make sure Watford can make the most of any opportunities that this brings. We have to understand and work with business to find out what issues they face and use our influence both within, and beyond, the borough to explore solutions and opportunities. This also involves building the relationship between business and education so that they can work to improve the match between local people's skills and those needed by local employers.

This priority also recognises the importance of the major projects that are being progressed across the town and the impact that they have on our local economy.

Below are some key actions that will help shape this priority.

CP2 - To provide the strategic lead for Watford's sustainable economic growth

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment in the town's infrastructure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Progress Ascot Road <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Redo lease ▪ Planning application ○ Progress Watford Health Campus as part of Watford LLP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Commence road construction ▪ Business zone south progressed (revised planning application) ▪ Outcome of CPO ▪ Review of branding ○ Procure long term partners for Watford Business Park ○ Support Croxley Rail Link and ensure synergy across major projects ○ Revised brief for Watford Junction • Deliver improved and effective Town Centre Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BID ballot • BID company established (if Ballot approves) • One Stop Shop for Watford explored as part of BID • Deliver Watford's Economic Development Strategy • Establish wi-fi provision for Watford | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to develop Watford's cultural offer including the events programme, community events programme and establishing an effective events team • Lead (with HCC and the LEP) the delivery of a programme to support businesses through improved regulatory delivery aimed at promoting growth and reducing burdens • Coordinate road closures to ensure Watford remains 'open for business' • Watford Junction: review national stations improvement programme • Work with a Developers Forum in order to promote opportunities for sustainable growth in the borough • Consider the most effective way of optimising funding opportunities – such as Business Rate Retention, New Homes Bonus, Grant Funding applications • Manage our property portfolio to stimulate growth, generate returns and meet changing service needs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Disposals and acquisition strategy ○ Implement recommendations of review and ensure relevant property support for identified projects across the organisation |
|---|---|

Key Public / Private Delivery Partnerships currently supporting this priority:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One Watford • Watford LABV • Town Centre Partnership • Watford For You • Watford and West Herts Chamber of Commerce • West Herts College • Cultural Leaders Forum | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South West Herts strategic collaboration with Hertfordshire LEP • Business Growth Forum initiatives – working closely with the Chamber of Commerce • Housing partners (HARI, POsH) • Registered housing providers • Hertfordshire County Council, National Regulators and other Herts District Authorities • Federation of Small Business |
|---|--|

Measures of success

- Major project milestones achieved
- New business start-ups and new job opportunities created
- Meeting Economic Development Strategy measures
- Establishing and meeting Property Strategy measures
- Satisfaction with town's cultural offer
- Number of Primary Authority agreements in place

Corporate Priority 3 - Promoting an active, cohesive & well informed town

What this priority means for us

This priority recognises that our local community and residents are the heart of the town and are the key factor in its success. We want people to be proud to be Watford residents and to feel that their voice can be heard on issues that matter to them. We know people want to understand and get involved in decisions that affect them or their neighbourhood and we are exploring how we communicate with our community to open up more channels for two-way communication. This priority also commits the council to finding the right ways to engage more effectively with residents whether through meetings, surveys, social media or more formal routes.

Below are some key actions that will help shape this priority.

CP3 - Promoting an active, cohesive & well informed town

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand our borough profile including Census 2011 analysis and using this knowledge to support our engagement and shaping our decision • Improve the accessibility, design and functionality of the council's website • Deliver a revised Customer Access Strategy • Review and implement equalities objectives • Deliver the annual community survey to find out our local community's views and areas where they would like us to focus • Deliver Boundary Committee review | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage on the vision for Watford 2031 including building understanding of our plans for growth and development and bringing to life our major projects and their positive impact on the town • Review the Commissioning Framework for leisure and community |
|---|--|

Key Public / VCS partnerships

- One Watford
- Cultural Leaders Forum
- Watford and Three Rivers Trust
- Community and voluntary sector groups
- Neighbourhood Forums
- Tenants and Residents' Associations

Measures of success

- Local people feel involved in shaping the town and in decision-making
- Local people feel well-informed about the council and what is happening in the town
- Maintained satisfaction levels for council services and the borough
- Redesigned website with good customer feedback ratings

Corporate Priority 4 - Operating the council efficiently & effectively

What this priority means for us

This priority focuses on ensuring we have the best people, systems, processes and management arrangements in place to deliver efficient, high quality services that represent real value for money to the community. We know that money is going to continue to be tight so we recognise that the council will need to continue ensuring it manages its budget effectively and allocate its resources in a way that supports its priorities

Below are some key actions that will help shape this priority.

CP4 - Operating the council efficiently & effectively	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and agree medium term financial strategy Ensure delivery of ICT roadmap Improved project and programme management including setting up a Programme Board to monitor major work programmes Monitoring & evaluation of service delivery including key performance indicators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract & client management - ensuring we get maximum value and best outcomes from our contracts Explore funding opportunities where they will support the delivery of our corporate priorities
<p>Public / Private Delivery Partnerships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three Rivers District Council Hertfordshire County Council Veolia Capita SLM Vinci Park HQ Theatres Land Registry 	

Measures of success

- Medium term financial strategy targets achieved
- ICT performance targets achieved
- Performance measures in contracts (such as Veolia parking, SLM) achieved
- Key performance measures achieved
- Major programme milestones achieved

9. The role of our Members in shaping and delivering the plan

Watford Borough Council has a directly-elected mayor – just one of 16 local authorities to have this form of leadership and just one of two district councils.

A directly-elected mayor means that local people elect the person who leads the council. In authorities which do not have directly-elected mayors the leader is chosen by the councillors. The Mayor is supported by a Cabinet that plays a key role in determining the overall budget and policy framework of the council. At Watford the Cabinet is made up of the Mayor and five councillors.

Each individual member of the Cabinet has a 'Portfolio' for which they are responsible and they can make decisions within their area of responsibility.

The council also has an Overview and Scrutiny Committee which reviews and scrutinises the policy of the council, its performance and, with the help of the Budget Panel, its budget. We also have five further committees covering: development control, licensing, audit, functions and standards.

In addition, all councillors play an essential role in the democratic leadership of their communities and providing an advocacy role for their residents. We are working to ensure that our councillors are supported and equipped to be effective in this critical role.

Watford Borough Council's Cabinet members and responsibilities

Dorothy Thornhill MBE – Elected Mayor – responsible for strategic partnerships, external relationships and community safety

Councillor Derek Scudder – Deputy Mayor – portfolio holder for Corporate Strategy & Client Services

Councillor Iain Sharpe – portfolio holder for Regeneration & Development

Councillor Keith Crout - portfolio holder for Community & Customer Services (excluding housing), including health and wellbeing

Councillor Mark Watkin – portfolio holder for Democracy & Governance and shared services

Councillor Steve Johnson – portfolio holder for Housing

10. Working in partnership

The council engages in a range of partnerships to support the delivery of this corporate plan. They are excellent vehicles for bringing the right people together who can make a difference for Watford.

Our partnerships can range from contractual arrangements with the private sector (such as those with Veolia to deliver waste, recycling, street cleaning and parks services and SLM to run our two leisure centres) to those with a wide range of partners who, by working together, can address the challenges and opportunities around a particular area. Examples of these include community safety, health and well being and cultural leaders partnerships.

A key to successful partnership working is having the right leadership arrangements in place to make them effective and to ensure they move from being 'a talking shop' to really successful ways of delivering what can be very complex and challenging areas of work. Both our elected mayor and managing director lead on a number of cross cutting areas for the council (*to be updated*)

Elected Mayor	<p>One Watford: the town's Local Strategic Partnership: Chair <i>The key organisations in the town that all have a role to play in improving the quality of life of Watford residents.</i></p>
	<p>Town Centre Partnership: Board member <i>The businesses and organisations who are working together to increase Watford's appeal as a destination for retail and leisure</i> <i>*Managing Director also a Board member</i></p>
	<p>Cultural Leaders: Chair <i>The organisations that contribute to the town's cultural offer to maximise its contribution to Watford's prosperity and quality of life</i></p>
Managing Director	<p>Developers Forum: Chair <i>Developers of all sizes with an interest in Watford to share their experience and aims for the town and to build understanding of the current development</i></p> <p>Watford Health Campus Partnership Board: <i>The strategic, decision-making body responsible for the delivery of the Watford Health Campus scheme</i></p> <p>Community Safety: Chair <i>The organisations and agencies who work to deliver a safer town</i></p> <p>Veolia Strategic Partnership Board <i>Regular strategic meetings with Veolia to ensure the quality of the town's waste, recycling, streets and parks services</i> <i>*Elected Mayor also a Board member</i></p>

11. Key Performance Indicators 2015/16

Each year, we identify a number of performance indicators that measure our key priorities or where we know we need to improve our performance. These measures support the organisation ensure that high quality outcomes are being achieved for the organisation and for the borough. They also provide an early indication if performance levels are not being achieved and highlight where some additional focus might be needed.

Our chosen key performance indicators (KPIs) for 2015/16 are:

Ref	Indicator	Service area responsible for reporting
FINANCIAL		
KPI 1	Capital receipts programme	Regeneration & Development
KPI 2	Occupancy rate commercial	Regeneration & Development
KPI 3	Rental income commercial	Regeneration & Development
KPI 4	Revenue budget	Finance
KPI 5	Capital programme – general	Finance
KPI 6	Capital programme – section 106	Finance
KPI7	Creditor payments paid within 30 days	Finance
KPI 8	Value of total outstanding invoices >2 months <12 months old compared to total raised in a rolling 12 month period	Revenues and Benefits
KPI 9	Value of total outstanding invoices <u>over</u> 12 months	Revenues and Benefits
KPI 10	Collection rates of council tax	Revenues and Benefits
KPI 11	Collection rates of NNDR	Revenues and Benefits
SERVICE DELIVERY		
KPI 12	Average time to process housing benefits claims (from date of claim)	Revenues and Benefits
KPI 13	Average time to process change of circumstances	Revenues and Benefits
KPI 14	Processing of planning applications as measured against targets for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘major’ applications (% determined within 13 weeks) • ‘minor’ applications (% determined within 8 weeks) • ‘other’ applications (% determined within 8 weeks) 	Regeneration & Development
KPI 15	Affordable homes on identified sites	Community and Customer Services

Ref	Indicator	Service area responsible for reporting
KPI 16	Number of households living in temporary accommodation	Community and Customer Services
KPI 17	Number of private sector units secured for use under Homelet	Community and Customer Services
KPI 18	The number of households in bed and breakfast accommodation and nightly lets who are pregnant/with dependent children	Community and Customer Services
KPI 19	Residual household waste per household	Corporate Strategy and Client Services
KPI 20	Household waste recycled and composted	Corporate Strategy and Client Services
KPI 21	Household collection services	Corporate Strategy and Client Services
KPI 22	Improved street and environmental cleanliness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Levels of litter • Levels of detritus • Levels of fly posting 	Corporate Strategy and Client Services
KPI 23	Recorded crimes (all crimes)	Community and Customer Services
KPI 24	Recorded violence against the person crimes (including aggressive behaviour, assault, domestic violence)	Community and Customer Services
KPI 25	Incidents of anti-social behaviour reported by public	Community and Customer Services
CUSTOMER SERVICE		
KPI 26	CSC service levels – 80% calls answered in 20 seconds	Community and Customer Services
KPI 27	'Long waits for calls received to CSC and Benefits <i>Long wait = calls not answered within 2 minutes</i>	Community and Customer Services
KPI 28	% of stage 1 complaints resolved within 10 days	Community and Customer Services
STAFF		
KPI 29	Sickness absence	Human Resources
KPI 30	Performance Development Reviews completed by end of June	Human Resources
SUPPORT SERVICES		
KPI 31	ICT service availability to users during core working hours	ICT Client Services

Appendix i:

Our financial resources

Aligned with this Corporate Plan, the council approves a three year Medium Term Financial Strategy which sets out its capital and revenue budgets. Our Medium Term Financial Strategy is aligned to the priorities outlined in this Plan and provides the underpinning financial planning needed to ensure we deliver them.

When we agree new priority projects we look to deliver them within existing budgets but the annual budget process is used to ensure that these projects receive the necessary funding. Capital schemes such as large building projects (the improvements to the top of the town), are mainly funded from the sale of council assets (buildings / land), which are no longer needed to deliver our priorities.

The Medium Term Financial Strategy is based upon the factors that are likely to impact on the council's financial position over the coming three years. We take account of our vision, our Corporate Plan and significant external pressures so that we can be sure that we can best use our resources to deliver our targets and meet corporate priorities. It also takes into account other plans and strategies to ensure we align our spending priorities with our objectives. A key element of the Financial Strategy is the need to reduce our costs through greater efficiencies and value for money.

The council's medium term financial strategy supports delivery of council priorities and this Plan by:

- planning for a medium term balanced budget
- looking to deliver short and medium term savings from completion of efficiencies and service reviews
- recognising that a balanced budget will not be delivered through service efficiencies alone and that it will be necessary to consider other areas of service expenditure and of income generation to balance the budget
- controlling new growth and looks to fund it from savings elsewhere
- maintaining prudent reserves levels to meet unforeseen circumstances
- supporting delivery of the Asset Management Plan and capital programme, ensuring investment for the future
- freezing council tax in 2015/16 (following a freeze over the last three years).

Watford Borough Council expenditure

The Medium Term Financial Strategy indicates that the budget requirement for 2015/16 is: £15,176,500

This is funded from the following sources:

- Settlement Funding Assessment
- Specific Government Grants
- New Homes Bonus
- Council Tax
- Revenue Reserves

Government funding

Watford will receive the following settlement from government for 2015/16.

Funding	£
Government Grant	4,374,711
New Homes Bonus	2,822,432
Grant for Council Tax Freeze	451,307

This settlement is one of the main sources of funding for the council. The other is council tax.

The Council tax for 2015/16

£ 7,696,220

This means the average charge of £249.84 remains the same as 2014/15.

Use of reserves

We do not underestimate the level of the savings that need to be made, however it's not always easy to be precise as to the timing of when this will be achieved. In view of this, the council may make use of some of its reserves to 'smooth' the delivery of the savings. Using reserves does not mean that the savings will not need to be made but it ensures that the council's budget balances whilst the organisation undertakes the work necessary to achieve permanent savings.

The use of reserves for 2015/16 is £20,830

The council's expenditure is allocated across our service areas as follows:

Spending	2015/16 Gross £million	Income	2015/16 Net £million
Democracy & Governance	3.571	(0.224)	3.347
Corporate Strategy & Client Services	8.216	(1.346)	6.870
Community & Customer Services	5.189	(1.181)	4.008
Regeneration & Development	4.322	(8.839)	(4.517)
Shared Services (ICT, HR, Finance and Revenues & Benefits)	43.403	(38.383)	5.020
Other Services	0.449	0	0.449
Total	65.150	(49.973)	15.177

Appendix ii:

How our Corporate Plan 2015-19 projects support the delivery of our corporate priorities

In the plan (**section 8**), we have identified specific project and development areas which support the delivery of our corporate priorities.

These focus on the areas we believe will deliver real improvement for our communities. Not everything the council does is captured in the delivery plan A significant amount of the work the council undertakes, much of which is required by law, continues to happen routinely to benefit the community and improve the organisation.

We see this as the council's ongoing commitment and in many ways reflects our 'core business' and the 'day job' This work is reflected in our service plans and monitored in a number of ways including through service business plans and regular monitoring of performance measures by both councillors and Leadership Team. – see section 7.

These are outlined below and are mapped against the priorities, showing where they make their most significant contribution. As they are complex areas of work they all contribute to more than one priority and show how, through working across our service areas, we can achieve positive outcomes.

Corporate Plan reference	Project	CP1 Making Watford a better place to live in	CP2 To provide the strategic lead for Watford's sustainable economic growth	CP3 Promoting an active, cohesive & well informed town	CP4 Operating the council efficiently & effectively
Cor1	Update Watford BC statutory and non-statutory services business plans – departmental service business plans will all contribute to this key objective (for example; Private Sector Housing Delivery Plan, Health and Safety delivery plan)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cor2	Deliver new homes – target of 260 new dwellings per annum	✓	✓	✓	
Cor3	Work with registered providers including the Watford Community Housing Trust on affordable housing solutions	✓	✓	✓	
Cor4	Identify and manage ways to tackle the demand and supply for housing in the borough while improving conditions through	✓	✓	✓	

Corporate Plan reference	Project	CP1 Making Watford a better place to live in	CP2 To provide the strategic lead for Watford's sustainable economic growth	CP3 Promoting an active, cohesive & well informed town	CP4 Operating the council efficiently & effectively
	the revised Housing Strategy, Homelessness Strategy and Private Sector Renewal Policy				
Cor5	Implement measures to maintain and improve conditions within homes to ensure they are suitable for use and promote the health, safety and welfare of residents through the revised Private Sector Renewal Policy.	✓	✓	✓	
Cor6	Continue to implement and make use of government initiatives to deliver energy efficiency solutions to businesses & residents to reduce ill health due to excess cold	✓	✓	✓	
Cor7	Deliver the Climate Change Action Plan for Watford in	✓			✓
Cor8	Work with partners to develop our strategic response to issues where housing related activity could promote health, wellbeing and economic growth including a review of key policies, strategies, assets and working practices to ensure a coherent, integrated approach	✓		✓	
Cor9	Tackle Congestion and improving air quality in the borough with Hertfordshire County Council - Intelligent Transport Systems Strategy, Big Herts Big Ideas, Quality Network Partnership, Watford Community Cycle Hub, Delivery of South West Herts Transport Strategy and Watford's Air Quality Action Plan	✓	✓	✓	

Corporate Plan reference	Project	CP1 Making Watford a better place to live in	CP2 To provide the strategic lead for Watford's sustainable economic growth	CP3 Promoting an active, cohesive & well informed town	CP4 Operating the council efficiently & effectively
Cor10	Deliver new schools with Hertfordshire County Council (Health Campus and Watford Junction)	✓	✓	✓	
Cor11	Deliver Local Plan Part 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publication • Submission • Adoption 	✓	✓	✓	
Cor 12	Progress Local Plan Review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • review evidence base • housing and employment targets 	✓	✓	✓	
Cor13	Protect the Town's Heritage – review two conservation area appraisals within the year	✓	✓	✓	
Cor14	Deliver infrastructure project to support the enhancement of the Town Centre: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town Centre events • Charter Place • Lower High Street • Market Street • Clarendon Road Phase 3 • Bus shelter improvements and relocation 	✓	✓	✓	
Cor15	Deliver a review of the borough's cemetery provision to secure future provision and meet the needs of the community	✓		✓	✓
Cor16	Deliver the Heritage Lottery Fund supported restoration of Cassiobury Park	✓	✓	✓	
Cor17	Complete park improvement programme including relocation of Gaelic games club and Farm Terrace allotments	✓		✓	

Corporate Plan reference	Project	CP1 Making Watford a better place to live in	CP2 To provide the strategic lead for Watford's sustainable economic growth	CP3 Promoting an active, cohesive & well informed town	CP4 Operating the council efficiently & effectively
Cor18	Work with partners and stakeholders to deliver the Sports Facilities Strategy for the town	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cor19	Ensure the quality of the town's environment through the Veolia contract to deliver well-maintained streets, parks and public spaces	✓		✓	✓
Cor20	Ensure local people have easy to access ways to engage in recycling and waste reduction	✓		✓	✓
Cor21	Ensure the quality of the town's leisure provision and that it is accessible and affordable to support the health and wellbeing of our residents	✓		✓	✓
Cor22	Deliver a review of play to ensure a value for money service that meets the needs of local young people	✓		✓	✓
Cor23	Refresh sports development framework to reflect priorities of the adopted Sports Facilities Strategy	✓		✓	✓
Cor24	Develop arts framework	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cor25	Deliver Watford's public health action plan to deliver improved health outcomes for local people including managing the outcomes identified for the Community Activation Fund	✓		✓	
Cor26	Deliver the Watford Community Safety action plan with partners including improved ways to communicate and engage community safety message	✓	✓	✓	

Corporate Plan reference	Project	CP1 Making Watford a better place to live in	CP2 To provide the strategic lead for Watford's sustainable economic growth	CP3 Promoting an active, cohesive & well informed town	CP4 Operating the council efficiently & effectively
Cor27	Effectively manage issues like fly tipping and dumped rubbish through appropriate measures including enforcement where necessary	✓		✓	
Cor28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment in the town's infrastructure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Progress Ascot Road <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Redo lease ▪ Planning application ○ Progress Watford Health Campus as part of Watford LLP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Commence road construction ▪ Business zone south progressed (revised planning application) ▪ Outcome of CPO ▪ Review of branding ○ Procure long term partners for Watford Business Park ○ Support Croxley Rail Link and ensure synergy across major projects ○ Revised brief for Watford Junction 	✓	✓	✓	
Cor29	<p>Deliver improved and effective Town Centre Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BID ballot • BID company established (if Ballot approves) • One Stop Shop for Watford explored as part of BID 	✓	✓	✓	
Cor30	Deliver Watford's Economic Development Strategy	✓	✓	✓	
Cor31	Establish wi-fi for Watford	✓	✓	✓	

Corporate Plan reference	Project	CP1 Making Watford a better place to live in	CP2 To provide the strategic lead for Watford's sustainable economic growth	CP3 Promoting an active, cohesive & well informed town	CP4 Operating the council efficiently & effectively
Cor32	Work with a Developers Forum in order to promote opportunities for sustainable growth in the borough	✓	✓	✓	
Cor33	Continue to develop Watford's cultural offer including the events programme, community events programme and establishing an effective events team	✓	✓	✓	
Cor34	Lead (with HCC and the LEP) the delivery of a programme to support businesses through improved regulatory delivery aimed at promoting growth and reducing burdens.	✓	✓	✓	
Cor35	Coordinate road closures to ensure Watford remains 'open for business'	✓	✓	✓	
Cor36	Watford Junction: review national stations improvement programme	✓	✓	✓	
Cor37	Consider the most effective way of optimising funding opportunities – such as Business Rate Retention, New Homes Bonus, Grant Funding applications	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cor38	Managing our property portfolio to stimulate growth, generate returns and meet changing service needs (including Property Review) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disposals and acquisition strategy • Implement recommendations of review and ensure relevant property support for identified projects across the organisation 	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cor39	Understand our borough profile including Census 2011 analysis and using this knowledge to support our engagement and shaping our decision			✓	✓

Corporate Plan reference	Project	CP1 Making Watford a better place to live in	CP2 To provide the strategic lead for Watford's sustainable economic growth	CP3 Promoting an active, cohesive & well informed town	CP4 Operating the council efficiently & effectively
Cor40	Improve the accessibility, design and functionality of the council's website to enhance online presence			✓	✓
Cor41	Deliver a revised Customer Access Strategy	✓		✓	✓
Cor42	Review and implement equalities objectives				
Cor43	Deliver the annual community survey to find out our local community's views and areas where they would like us to focus	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cor44	Engage on the vision for Watford 2031 including building understanding of our plans for growth and development and bringing to life our major projects and their positive impact on the town		✓	✓	
Cor45	Deliver Boundary Committee review			✓	✓
Cor46	Review and agree medium term financial strategy				✓
Cor47	Ensure delivery of ICT roadmap			✓	✓
Cor48	Improved project and programme management including setting up a Programme Board to monitor major work programmes				✓
Cor47	Monitoring & evaluation of service delivery including key performance indicators				✓
Cor48	Contract & client management - ensuring we get maximum value and best outcomes from our contracts	✓	✓	✓	✓

Alternative Formats of this Plan

For a copy of the Plan in large print or on audiotape, please contact:

Partnerships and Performance

Watford Borough Council, Watford Town Hall, Watford WD17 3EX

or email kathryn.robson@watford.gov.uk or telephone 01923 278077.

This plan is also available on our website www.watford.gov.uk

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Appendix II - Corporate Plan 2014-18 review – February 2015

	Description	Progress	Status	Lead	Carry forward to 2015/16
Corporate Priority 1 - Making Watford a better place to live in					
1:1	Updating Watford BC statutory and non-statutory services business plans – departmental service business plans will all contribute to this key objective	<p>A range of statutory and non statutory service business plans were developed in 2014/15 to support service delivery. These included ones identified in the Corporate Plan such as the Housing Strategy, Sports Facilities Strategy and Economic Development Strategy.</p> <p>Service planning was supported for four service areas with service planning workshops. Feedback from the staff survey indicated that service plans need to be shared across the service areas and the organisation to facilitate better understanding of work programmes and to identify key dependencies more effectively. This is being addressed for 2015/16.</p>	Ongoing	All services	✓
1:2	Delivering new homes – target of 260 new dwellings per annum	<p>There is a time lag between delivery and reporting of new homes so most recent figures are for 2013/14.</p> <p>The number of homes built in 2013/14 was 398. Watford has achieved 3,369 new homes since 2006, an average of 421 per annum, ahead of the Core Strategy housing target of 6,500 homes between 2006-31, which equates to an average of 260 dwellings per annum.</p> <p>There were 82 affordable dwelling completions in total during 2013/14, forming part of developments across six sites, where the</p>	Ongoing	Regeneration & Development	✓

	Description	Progress	Status	Lead	Carry forward to 2015/16
		<p>number of affordable homes achieved vary between 30% and 100% of the total residential units on each site; all conformed to the policy that applied at the time of permission.</p> <p>91% of all homes completed this year were on previously developed land, above our local target of 80%.</p>			
1:3	Working with partners to develop our strategic response to issues where housing related activity could promote health, wellbeing and economic growth including a review of key policies, strategies, assets and working practices to ensure a coherent, integrated approach	Housing Strategy agreed in Q3. Nominations Policy agreed for implementation in 2015/16. Focus now on delivery and shaping the service to deliver customer focused outcomes – prevention / demand management will be key area for service in 2015/16 and action planning will reflect this.	Ongoing	Community & Customer Services	✓
1:4	Delivering Local Plan Part 2 – Site Allocations, Development Management Policies, Town Centre Policies	<p>Consultation on Local Plan Part 2 undertaken through Q3 and Q4.</p> <p>The Community Infrastructure Charging Schedule was found sound by an inspector in August 2014 and will come into effect on 1st April 2015.</p>	Ongoing	Regeneration & Development	✓
1:5	Delivering new schools with Hertfordshire County Council (Ascot Road, Lanchester House, Watford Health Campus and Watford Junction)	Ascot Road and Lanchester House delivered. Also extension to Orchard School Work progressing on Watford Health Campus provision.	On target. Ongoing	MD /Regeneration & Development	✓

	Description	Progress	Status	Lead	Carry forward to 2015/16
1:6	Protecting the Town's Heritage - Conservation Area Character Appraisals and Management Plan, designation of new Conservation Areas	<p>In July 2014 a Conservation Area Character Appraisal was adopted for Oxhey. This marked the completion of a project to ensure that all conservation areas in the Borough have an up-to-date character appraisal and management plan. No new conservation areas have been designated in the last year and no additional ones are currently proposed. A number of enhancement projects detailed in the Watford Conservation Areas Management Plan were completed in the last twelve months. These included the St Mary's Tombs Restoration, Peace Memorial Renovation, Public Realm Enhancement in The Square Conservation Area, Enhancements to Vicarage Road Cemetery, Plaque Restoration at Macdonnell Gardens, The Parade Public Realm Enhancement and various de-cluttering works. Strategic enforcement projects were completed in Civic Core, St Mary's, High Street/King Street and Oxhey Conservation Areas.</p> <p>In addition a detailed guide to all Nationally Listed Buildings in the Borough was adopted, which complements the existing document on Locally Listed Buildings, while the Freestanding Heritage Assets Management Plan and Urban Design & Conservation Strategy were also adopted. Various enhancements to other heritage assets were also completed, such as the Coal Duty Obelisk in Waterfields Recreation Ground and the Coal Duty Marker on Water Lane.</p>	Ongoing	Regeneration & Development	✓

	Description	Progress	Status	Lead	Carry forward to 2015/16
1:7	Deliver the investment programme in green spaces (e.g. allotments, parks improvement, re-provision of Farm Terrace, relocate Hurling Club etc)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £810k allotment investment programme completed (some small works delayed at Paddock Road due to newt presence) Detailed design for the Gaelic Football Club completed. All planning conditions satisfied (with 1 exception) Park improvements continued – Riverside Road plans approved Paddock Road allotment plans drawn up for first phase of new provision 	Ongoing	Corporate Strategy & Client Services	✓
1:8	Working with partners and stakeholders to develop a Sports Facilities Strategy and action plan for the town	<p>Sports Facilities Strategy approved by Cabinet. Good engagement with local sports clubs and organisations throughout its development.</p> <p>Action plan for delivery developed – focused work identified for 2015/16.</p>	Ongoing	Corporate Strategy & Client Services	✓
1:9	Tackling Congestion and improving air quality in the borough with Hertfordshire County Council - Intelligent Transport Systems Strategy, Big Herts Big Ideas, Quality Network Partnership, Watford Community Cycle Hub, Delivery of South West Herts Transport Strategy and Watford's Air Quality Action Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worked in with HCC to promote cycling schemes in the Borough including the A412 phase 1 and 2 and introduced an on road cycle lanes on Watford Business Park; Overseen the delivery of the Grand Union Canal Towpath extension Project between Kings Langley and Hunton Bridge; Undertaken a programme of Street Clutter removal throughout the town to enhance cycle lanes and pedestrian routes; Introduced further Pedestrian Destination Street Name Plates to encourage modal shift; Completed Town Centre Enhancement Project and introduced a Shared Surface for cyclists and pedestrians; Secured Funds from HCC to improve the 	ongoing	Regeneration & Development/ Community & Customer Services	✓

	Description	Progress	Status	Lead	Carry forward to 2015/16
		<p>Colne Valley Cycle route (works programmed to commence by March 2015);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertaken Subway Improvements in Central and North Watford to promote walking; • Worked with Network Rail to improve pedestrian / cycle experience at Watford Junction following their major improvements; • Upgraded the major pedestrian link from Nascot area via Church Road subway to Watford Junction Station; • Moved the CCTV Control room and in the process of upgrading the cameras and equipment to provide better surveillance for cyclist and pedestrians; • Introduced new electric vehicle charging infrastructure and launched a pilot Electric Vehicle car club for the Borough; • Under Air Quality - secured £30k DfT funding for improvements to the Colne Valley Cycle Route; • Introduced a new bus shelter in Haines Way to support bus usage; • Produced a new Borough Wide Watford Cycle Route Map to help promote/encourage cycling in the Borough; • Undertaken a programme of new and refurbished cycle stands across the Borough; • Undertaken a Parking Strategy Review - making best use of available on and off street parking. Outcomes and 			

	Description	Progress	Status	Lead	Carry forward to 2015/16
		<p>recommendations due mid February 2015.</p> <p>Air Quality Action plan agreed. UK air quality needs to improve or UK will be fined by government. This has resulted in funding being made available from DEFRA for air quality initiatives. Watford BC has achieved funding for promoting and improving access to St Albans Road cycle route</p>			
1:10	Build on strong partnerships in leisure and community to ensure services are high quality and resilient to support the health and wellbeing of the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing contract monitoring with SLM and HQ Theatres to ensure quality of service is maintained and issues addressed • Attendance at leisure centres remains good and SLM implementing a programme of refurbishment e.g. gym equipment • Updates on contract performance presented to Overview and Scrutiny Committee – SLM and HQ in attendance • Work initiated on the Commissioning Framework review – this will include a review of Community Centres – completion in 2015/16 	Ongoing	Corporate Strategy & Client Services	✓
1:11	Build on the Veolia and other partnerships to deliver high quality, cost effective clean/green services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residual waste reducing in line with target • Recycling performance will meet corporate 45% target • Food waste campaign run to increase recycling • Clinical waste review undertaken as part of countywide review 	Ongoing	Corporate Strategy & Client Services	✓

	Description	Progress	Status	Lead	Carry forward to 2015/16
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consideration being given to bring sites given current market for recyclables and that glass is now collected at kerbside 			
1:12	Deliver the outcome of HLF bid for Cassiobury Park	<p>Successful bid.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Permission to start granted Project teams established (both internal and external) Budget lines established Education officer appointed 	Ongoing	Corporate Strategy & Client Services	✓
1:13	Implementing the Green Deal programme as a member of the Green Deal Together Community Interest Company to deliver energy efficiency solutions to businesses & residents, to reduce ill health due to excess cold and to address fuel poverty.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green Deal Together renamed Green Homes Together Business plan for Green Homes Together agreed by Board Measures being promoted locally for loft and cavity insulation, good take up. Exploring solar PV opportunities for Watford BC using GDH as managing agent to develop options through grant funding. 	Ongoing	Community & Customer Services	✓
1:14	Delivering the Climate Change Action Plan for Watford as part of the council's commitment to Climate Local	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action Plan going to Cabinet in March 	Ongoing	Community & Customer Services	✓
1:15	Strategic planning with the elected Police & Crime commissioner to maintain the successful partnership approach to community safety in Watford	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnership working remains effective and issues being tackled through ASBAG Crime figures impacted by changes to national reporting procedures so yearly comparisons not meaningful Further work undertaken to widen the ownership of community safety and effective planning session for next year delivered 	Ongoing	Corporate	✓

	Description	Progress	Status	Lead	Carry forward to 2015/16
1:16	Strategic planning with the new Health & Wellbeing Board and develop a public health strategy to deliver improved health outcomes for local people	<p>Public Health Priorities for Watford agreed with One Watford.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving access to help with alcohol related issues Increase Exercise & Weight Management referrals (NOTE: this may focus on specific gender, ages and/or communities) Improve availability of screening in Primary Care for TB & Sexual Health (NOTE: this may be through wider community engagement) Safe Healthy Food Continued focus on delivering health outcomes through safe and healthy homes Local or Emerging issues that arise from further or local research <p>Projects being developed under these priorities.</p> <p>Funding received from Hertfordshire CC (£100k) to deliver first round of projects:</p> <p>Projects identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TB prevention Phone App to promote Watford's health walks, training in parks etc Outdoor gym trainer Small shops - help to promote cigarette shutter 	Ongoing homes.	Community & Customer Services	✓

	Description	Progress	Status	Lead	Carry forward to 2015/16
1:17	Designing out Crime – Working with Police to ensure that new housing schemes over 10 units meet Secured by Design standards/update of Residential Design Guide	Development Management has a regular monthly visit from: Crime Prevention Design Advisor, Herts Constabulary Crime Prevention Design Service when he discusses, with case officers, aspects of designing out crime in relation to particular planning applications. His advice is passed to the applicant and, where appropriate, amendments or additions to submitted schemes are requested (and hopefully received) in order to take on board the advice proffered.			
1:18	Taking forward a Heritage Lottery Fund bid for Watford Museum	Architects appointed to undertake feasibility study to support the bid. Working to deliver this element by April 2015. They will help cost the bid - looking in the region of £1million to £1.7million. A decision on Stage 1 bid will be known in June 2015.			

	Description	Progress	Status	Lead	Carry forward to 2015/16
Corporate Priority 2 – To provide the strategic lead for Watford’s sustainable economic growth					
2.1	Investment in infrastructure and public realm: Charter Place, Watford Health Campus, top of the town, Croxley Rail Link, Watford Junction, Lower High Street, Ascot Road, Watford Business Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Top of the town Phase 1 completed - pond refurbishment, event space, new paving, decluttering achieved • Watford Health Campus Planning permission achieved for illustrative masterplan and for initial business zone. Cardiff Road Industrial Estate and Wiggshall Industrial Estate vacated. CPO completed. Clearance work starting for commencement of new road • Watford Business Park GAM appointed to manage the estate in the short term. Procurement for long term estate management and redevelopment to commence this year • Croxley Rail Link Approval of station design, substation and viaduct for CR achieved. Waiting for announcement on commencement of works. 			✓

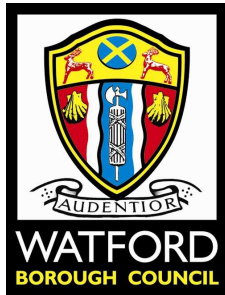
	Description	Progress	Status	Lead	Carry forward to 2015/16
2:2	Supporting the Town Centre Partnership and working to ensure the vibrancy and success of the town centre	<p>Town Centre Partnership agreed vision and priorities for town centre for engagement with local businesses and organisations.</p> <p>Engagement with local businesses and organisations underway and preparations for a BID ballot in 2015 started.</p> <p>Purple Flag retained in 2014.</p>	Ongoing	Regeneration & Development	✓
2:3	Introducing a Developers Forum in order to promote opportunities for sustainable growth in the borough	Two Forums held in 2014.	Achieved for 2014/15	Managing Director lead	✓
2:4	<p>Integrating the cultural offer into the town centre and continue to support the economic impact of the town's cultural offer as part of the implementation of the Cultural Action Plan</p> <p>Working with the cultural leaders forum in providing a framework for the development of a more joined up and sustainable cultural offer which connects more strongly with the whole community.</p> <p>Open up culture across the town from the buildings to the streets, establishing spaces and events where diverse communities can gather, connect and enjoy cultural activities.</p>	<p>Events space in the top of the town launched in June following completion of refurbishment.</p> <p>Town Centre events programme launched. Evaluation of 2014 shows 65,000 attendances across the event programme. There were high satisfaction ratings with the events from feedback received.</p> <p>Creative Employment Programme launched successfully – led by West Herts College – and good uptake from young people.</p> <p>Outdoor Events Policy being drafted to support effective event management and events team established to support improved management and liaison with community and commercial sector.</p>	Ongoing	Community & Customer Services	✓

	Description	Progress	Status	Lead	Carry forward to 2015/16
2:5	Completing the new Watford Market	Completed and opened in October 2014.	Achieved	Regeneration & Development	✓ Contract monitoring
2:6	Establish town centre wi-fi	Approval from Cabinet in Dec-14 to start procurement with aim of going live in Oct-15.	Ongoing	Regeneration & Development	✓
2:7	Leading (with HCC and the LEP) the development of a programme to support businesses through improved regulatory delivery aimed at promoting growth and reducing burdens. This to include development of a business plan with Hertfordshire County Council to offer Primary Authority agreements to businesses within and outside Watford	Training for all regulators being provided, DVD produced, funding secured from Herts Chief Executives, Year 2 plan being developed Watford has some positive case studies to promote showing how it works with business to achieve positive outcomes (e.g. recent B&Q investigation).	Ongoing	Community & Customer Services	✓
2:8	Up-dating & Implementing the Economic Strategy and action plan	Approved by Cabinet in December 2014.	Ongoing	Regeneration & Development	✓
2:9	Managing our property portfolio to stimulate growth, generate returns and meet changing service needs	Review undertaken in 2014. Report to Cabinet in March 2015 with recommendations for the way forward.		Regeneration & Development	✓

	Description	Progress	Status	Lead	Carry forward to 2015/16
Corporate Priority 3 – Promoting an active, cohesive & well informed town					
3:1	Lead a co-ordinated/integrated approach to intelligence gathering to support the development of corporate strategy and our equality objectives	Local profile updated as well as ward level profiles. AMR provides overall background to this work but specific intelligence being gathered to support decision making and partnership working.	Ongoing	Corporate Strategy & Client Services	✓
3:2	Engaging on the vision for Watford 2031 including building understanding of our plans for growth and development and bringing to life our major projects and their impact on the town	Initial fly through completed but additional work required to bring to required standard.	Ongoing	Corporate Strategy & Client Services	✓
3:3	Develop and implement a new, integrated approach to communications	Communications and engagement strategy developed for end of year, to be implemented by new team and new approach to communications and engagement delivery. Social media being increasingly used to engage and receive feedback.	Ongoing	Corporate Strategy & Client Services	✓
3:4	Responding to the Localism Agenda (community right to challenge, neighbourhood planning, resident fora)	Limited local interest as yet in the Localism agenda but procedures in place	Ongoing	Democracy & Governance	Will respond as required
3:5	Delivering individual electoral registration	Achieved	Completed	Democracy & Governance	

	Description	Progress	Status	Lead	Carry forward to 2015/16
Corporate Priority 4 – Operating the council efficiently & effectively					
4:1	Developing the council's medium term financial strategy	Achieved. Presented to Cabinet in January 2015.	Completed	Finance	✓
4:2	Develop and deliver fit for purpose, adaptable ICT services	ICT roadmap identified including resourcing needs. Capita implementing but facing unforeseen issues that are taking time to resolve.	Ongoing	ICT Client	✓
4:3	Developing the council's approach to organisational development	Number of achievements in this area including achieving IIP Silver and positive feedback from the staff survey. STEP continues to be rolled out to staff and achieves good feedback.	Ongoing	Human Resources	✓
4:4	Consolidating shared services	Move to lead authority model for HR, ICT (Watford BC lead) and Revenues and Benefits, Finance (Three Rivers DC lead)	Completed	Director of Finance	
4:5	Monitoring & evaluation of service delivery including key performance indicators	Regular reports to Leadership Team, Quarterly Reviews and Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Outsourced Scrutiny Panel. Improved project and programme management approach.	Ongoing	Corporate Strategy & Client Services	✓
4:6	Contract & client management - ensuring we get maximum value and best outcomes from our contracts	Contract Management Forum established across Watford BC and Three Rivers DC. Training needs audit completed, analysis and training plan development to be undertaken in Q4.	Ongoing	Corporate Strategy & Client Services	✓

	Description	Progress	Status	Lead	Carry forward to 2015/16
		Toolkit being developed to provide support and consistency and to disseminate good practice.			
4:7	Identify ways to improve customer access, including exploring the potential for channel shift through the More Efficient Ways of Working (MEWWs) project	Customer Access Strategy to be developed in 2015/16 to address needs of our customers in accessing council services. Website project, started this year for completion in 2015/16, will be critical to improved access and improved efficiency.	Ongoing	Customer & Community Services	✓
4:8	Review local council tax support scheme	Current scheme carried forward for 2015/16. Meets government requirements and local needs.	Completed	Revenues and Benefits	
4:9	Effectively manage sickness absence	Lowest ever sickness absence achieved for staff and stretch target reached (5 days or under)	Completed	Human Resources	✓ monitoring



Equality Impact Analysis

Title of policy, function or service	Corporate Plan 2015-19
Lead officer	Manny Lewis – Managing Director
Person completing the EIA	Kathryn Robson
Type of policy, function or service:	Existing (reviewed) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New/Proposed
Version	v.01- January 2015

1. Background

Corporate Plan 2015-19

Each year, the council undertakes a corporate planning process in order to review and agree the organisation's strategic direction in the medium-term and to detail how it hopes to achieve its vision and priorities over the next four to five years. This is then articulated through the council's Corporate Plan and through service plans, which in turn help inform team work programmes and individual objectives for each staff member, identified through their annual appraisal. In line with good practice, the council adopts a medium-term perspective to corporate planning and ensures that the process is informed and influenced by a number of key drivers. These include: resident and community consultation and feedback, an analysis and understanding of the local area, external issues (such as government requirements and legislation) and financial resources, including capital investment. The ultimate aim of effective corporate planning is to make sure the organisation is clear about what it has promised to deliver, has a shared understanding of what work needs to be completed in the short and medium-term, the milestones that will measure progress and the outcomes that will measure its success.

The council's Corporate Plan, therefore, sets out the direction for the council over the next four years. It is our key improvement and planning document, which identifies where we are focusing our efforts and resources both over the next year and for the medium term.

It links with other council strategies, such as the Local Plan Part 1¹: Core Strategy² and Economic Development Strategy, Housing Strategy and is updated annually to reflect any changes to the national, regional or local environment.

As our key strategic planning document then the plan's impact on the town and community is fundamental to ensuring it also provides effective linkage to the council's commitment to equalities and diversity and that it meets its duties under the Equality Act 2010.

2. Focus of the Equality Impact Analysis

This EIA, therefore, considers the potential equality related impacts, both positive and negative of the Corporate Plan 2015-19 on the people in the groups or with the characteristics protected in the Equalities Act 2010, should Watford Borough Council's Council approve the plan in March 2015.

¹ The Local Plan Part 1; Core Strategy is a collection of documents that sets out our planning policies for meeting the community's economic, environmental and social needs where this affects the development and use of land

² The Core Strategy is at the heart of the LDF. It contains a vision for the future of the borough and the main policies that establish the principles for how the council will achieve this. The Core Strategy has to conform with national and regional policies but should also link to other council plans and strategies and those of our partners

These are:

1. Age
2. Disability
3. Gender Reassignment
4. Pregnancy and maternity
5. Race
6. Religion or belief
7. Sex (gender)
8. Sexual Orientation
9. Marriage and Civil Partnership.

3. Engagement and consultation

A significant programme of engagement and consultation was undertaken with our local community to develop the corporate priorities that underpin the plan and to identify people's priorities for our corporate work programme.

The results of this are outlined in the plan – sections 2 (from feedback in 2013 [Watford Borough Council Community Survey 2012]) and 4 (from feedback in 2014 [Watford Borough Council Community Survey 2012]). This feedback provided important information for us to ensure the focus of our plan aligned with people's aspirations for Watford and that the outcomes we have identified will help deliver the type of town they want Watford to be.

In terms of section 4, the following is an analysis of the respondents' profile against four of the 9 protected characteristics.

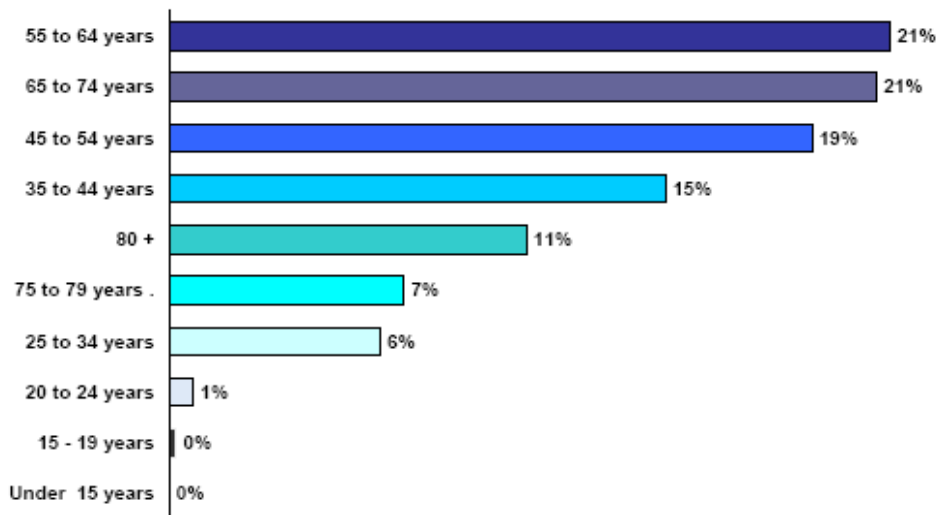
RESPONDENTS' PROFILE [Community Survey 2013]

Gender

44% of respondents were male and 56% female. In terms of the Watford population, this is a disproportionately low response from the male population (the population is 50:50 male / female)

Age

The age profile of respondents is shown below. There is a fairly distribution of responses from age groups from 45 years plus but disproportionately low response from younger age groups.



Ethnic Origin

The majority of respondents are white British (86%).

In terms of the most recent estimate of Watford's population, 75% of residents are white British.

Disability

Those classifying themselves as having a form of a disability was just under 25% - a quarter of respondents. This is higher than the profile of the borough overall.

4. What we know about the Watford population

The Corporate Plan potentially impacts all Watford residents and so when we are deciding on priority areas of work and understanding of the borough's population provides context for decision-making, particularly when we are working on areas that are shaping the town for the future.

Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The size of Watford's population at the time of the census in 2011 was 90,300. This was around a 13% increase in population since the last census in 2001 when the population was 79,726. The current mid-year estimate (<i>ONS 2013 revised mid-year estimates</i>) puts the population at 93,700 (rounded figure) Watford's overall population increase as a percentage, from the mid-2012 estimate, was the 4th highest of all local authorities in the country i.e. Watford's estimated change in population of circa 2,000 = 2.18%. Forest Heath (4.16%), Tower Hamlets (3.76%) and Islington's (2.19%) are the highest in the country. Details of the components of change mid-2012 to mid-2013 estimate show that the:
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Majority of Watford's estimated increase is from net internal migration - within the UK (6,905 in / 5,843 out) = 1062 net (53% of overall increase) ○ Followed by twice as many births than deaths (1,494 births -718 deaths)= 776 more births than deaths (39% of overall increase) ; ○ With the least increase stemming from net international migration (723 in/558 out) =165 net (8% of overall increase). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 49.6% of Watford's resident population are male and 50.4% are female (<i>ONS 2013 revised mid-year estimates</i>) 																								
<p>Population density</p>	<p>The population density for Watford is circa 4,358 people per square kilometre. This makes it the most densely populated district in England and Wales. However, in comparison with some metropolitan boroughs, particularly those in and around the outskirts of London, the density is relatively low.</p> <p>In 2011, Callowland was the most densely populated ward in the borough (i.e. number of persons per hectare).</p> <p>Mid 2013 year population estimates show Central has the highest population of any ward in Watford and Tudor the lowest at 6,099:</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Callowland</td><td>7,704</td></tr> <tr><td>Central</td><td>8,975</td></tr> <tr><td>Holywell</td><td>8,927</td></tr> <tr><td>Leggatts</td><td>7,876</td></tr> <tr><td>Meriden</td><td>8,089</td></tr> <tr><td>Nascot</td><td>8,160</td></tr> <tr><td>Oxhey</td><td>6,921</td></tr> <tr><td>Park</td><td>7,873</td></tr> <tr><td>Stanborough</td><td>7,227</td></tr> <tr><td>Tudor</td><td>6,099</td></tr> <tr><td>Vicarage</td><td>8,660</td></tr> <tr><td>Woodside</td><td>7,225</td></tr> </table> <p><i>This is ONS experimental data (Ward Level Mid-Year Population Estimates (experimental), Mid-2013)</i></p>	Callowland	7,704	Central	8,975	Holywell	8,927	Leggatts	7,876	Meriden	8,089	Nascot	8,160	Oxhey	6,921	Park	7,873	Stanborough	7,227	Tudor	6,099	Vicarage	8,660	Woodside	7,225
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<p>Age bands</p>	<p>Watford continues to have a relatively young population - particularly in comparison to the rest of Hertfordshire.</p> <p>The largest populations by age band in Watford are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25-29 (7,826) • 30-34 (8,975) • the numbers in each successive age-band fall progressively from ages 30-34 until there are estimated to be circa 1,700 who are 85+. <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Watford</th> <th>93,736 (overall)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>0-4</td><td>7,327</td></tr> <tr><td>5-9</td><td>6,177</td></tr> <tr><td>10-14</td><td>5,387</td></tr> <tr><td>15-19</td><td>5,223</td></tr> <tr><td>20-24</td><td>5,356</td></tr> <tr><td>25-29</td><td>7,826</td></tr> <tr><td>30-34</td><td>8,975</td></tr> <tr><td>35-39</td><td>7,620</td></tr> <tr><td>40-44</td><td>7,085</td></tr> <tr><td>45-49</td><td>6,568</td></tr> <tr><td>50-54</td><td>5,794</td></tr> <tr><td>55-59</td><td>4,673</td></tr> <tr><td>60-64</td><td>3,862</td></tr> <tr><td>65-69</td><td>3,540</td></tr> <tr><td>70-74</td><td>2,634</td></tr> <tr><td>75-79</td><td>2,255</td></tr> <tr><td>80-84</td><td>1,744</td></tr> <tr><td>85-89</td><td>1,041</td></tr> <tr><td>90+</td><td>649</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The median age in Watford in 2011 was 35 - no change since 2001. This was the lowest median age in Hertfordshire and the fifth lowest median age in the Eastern region (47 local authority areas in total). The median age for the UK was 39.</p> <p>Watford has the fourth highest percentage population of 0-4 year olds in the Eastern region and the sixth highest 0-14 year olds. In comparison, Watford has the third lowest percentage population of 65+ in the region.</p>	Watford	93,736 (overall)	0-4	7,327	5-9	6,177	10-14	5,387	15-19	5,223	20-24	5,356	25-29	7,826	30-34	8,975	35-39	7,620	40-44	7,085	45-49	6,568	50-54	5,794	55-59	4,673	60-64	3,862	65-69	3,540	70-74	2,634	75-79	2,255	80-84	1,744	85-89	1,041	90+	649
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Projections	<p>The ONS interim 2012-based subnational population projections are an indication of the future trends in population over the next 10 years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watford's population is projected to be 103,000 by 2022 • Births are projected to be double deaths each year
Households	<p>The average household size in Watford is 2.4. This is average for the region.</p> <p>Number of households The ONS data, based on the census, says that there were 36,681 households in Watford at the time of the Census; as of March 31 2014 is the figure was 38,195.</p> <p>Watford had the fourth highest percentage change in households - +14.6% - in the Eastern region from 2001 to 2011.</p> <p>Household Composition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most frequent household = single people aged under pensionable age. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grown from 17.5% in 2001 to 21.1% in 2011 (overtaken married couples with children) • Lone parents - significant rise in the number and % of lone parents (from 4.9% in 2001 to 7.2% in 2011) • One person pensioner households – declined in both numbers and percentage (from 12.2% 2001 to 10.0% in 2011) <p>Household tenure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Privately rented housing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increased from 3,170 homes in 2001 to 7,371 homes in 2011, from 9.8% to 20.1% of the housing stock • Homes owned outright: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • decreased from 26.1% to 24.4% • Homes being purchased with a mortgage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • decreased from 46.1% to 37.2% • Social housing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • remained static as % of the total housing stock (16.3% in both 2001 and 2011) yet it has increased in number from 5,266 in 2001 to 5,987 in 201

Household projections

Watford					
Household types	2011	2021	Change 2011-21	% Change 2011-21	% of total change
One person	11.7	12.5	0.8	6.6%	32.8%
Couple and no other adult (single family, a married or cohabiting couple, with or without dependent children)	14.9	15.0	0.1	0.5%	3.0%
Couple with other adults (one or more married or cohabiting couple families with one or more other adults present, with or without dependent children)	4.6	5.1	0.6	12.1%	23.4%
Lone parent (one or more lone parent families, with dependent children, no married or cohabiting couple families)	2.8	3.7	0.9	32.3%	38.3%
Other (multi-person household e.g. lone parents with only non-dependent children, non-cohabiting adults sharing a dwelling)	2.9	3.0	0.1	2.1%	2.6%
All households	36.8	39.2	2.4	6.4%	100.0%

Data source: Compiled by WBC, Planning Policy from DCLG 2011-based interim household projections

N.B. Household numbers are in thousands

Ethnicity

The White British population in Watford decreased from 2001 to 2011 and is now 62% of the Watford population.

All ethnic categories except for White British and White Irish have increased over the time period, with notable percentage increase in White Other, Indian, Pakistani and Black African.

The largest non-White British categories are:

- White other (up from 2.1% in 2001). This would include people from Europe, Australia etc
- Asian: Pakistani (up from 4.6% in 2001)
- Asian: Indian (up from 2.4% in 2001)

In terms of where people living in Watford were born, Census 2011 showed:

- **UK = 75%**
- **Ireland = 2%**
- **Rest of EU = 6%**
- **Rest of world = 17%**

National Insurance Number registration to adult overseas nationals

This can give some idea of current migration into Watford and the changes this might have long-term on the ethnic profile of the local community.

As of September 2014, the registration showed for the year to date:

- 1,822 registrations in Watford
- 445 were to EU nationals (excluding accession states)
- 992 were to EU nationals (accession states)

This was the highest number of registrations in Hertfordshire.

Religion or belief	Of those who indicated their religion in the 2001 Census, 66.4% indicated a Christian background. The second largest religious group was Muslim, indicated by 6.1%.
Sexual orientation and gender reassignment	There is no data held on sexual orientation or gender reassignment. It is estimated that 5% of the UK population do not define themselves as 'heterosexual'.
Education	<p>A skilled workforce supports the economic development and employment aspirations for Watford. Year on year results show that there is an increasing trends in both GCSE results for pupils in Watford and the qualifications of the working age population.</p> <p>In the academic year 2011/12, 92.2% of pupils in Watford achieved 5 or more GCSEs graded A* to C, compared to the national average of 81.8%,</p> <p>There has been a mostly increasing trend in Watford over the last few years in NVQ qualifications held and these again increased during 2012. Watford's working age population has the second highest percentage (43.7%) in Hertfordshire of those with qualifications at NVQ 4 and above (St. Albans is the highest with 52.9%); this is also higher than both the 40.4% average in Hertfordshire and the England average of 34.2%.</p> <p>There are fewer people with no qualifications and significantly more people with Level 4/5 qualifications (degree level).</p>
Health	<p>Watford's population enjoys better health than the Eastern Region and England overall with nearly 85% of the population stating that they have 'good health' and just under 14% recording a disability.</p> <p>However, there are health issues that need addressing in the borough, some of which are related to improving people's physical activity - see 2 below. These have been identified by the borough's Health and Wellbeing Partnership as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improving access to help with alcohol related issues 2. Increase exercise & weight Management referrals (NOTE: this may focus on specific gender, ages and/or communities) 3. Improve availability of screening in Primary Care for TB & Sexual Health (NOTE: this may be through wider community engagement) 4. Safe Healthy Food 5. Continued focus on delivering health outcomes through safe and healthy homes 6. Local or Emerging issues that arise from further or local research

<p>Deprivation</p>	<p>The current English Indices of Deprivation 2010 was published by the Government on the 24 March 2011, and uses 38 separate indicators (most of which are from 2008), organised across seven domains; these are Income, Employment, Health and Disability, Education Skills and Training, Barriers to Housing and Other Services, Crime and Living Environment</p> <p>These domains can be combined, using appropriate weights, to calculate the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2010 ('IMD 2010'). This is an overall measure of multiple deprivation experienced by people living in an area and is calculated for every Lower Layer Super Output Area (LSOA) in England, of which there are 32,482. LSOAs are small areas of relatively even size (around 1,500 people).</p> <p>In the IMD 2010, Watford is ranked 189 out of 326 authorities, putting it in the 6th decile nationally. This means that, overall, Watford is less deprived than half the authorities in England.</p> <p>Watford is the second most deprived authority in Hertfordshire. (Stevenage is the most deprived.) However, three Hertfordshire authorities are among the 10% least deprived authorities in England (Three Rivers, East Herts and St Albans) and the least deprived LSOA in England is in Three Rivers.</p> <p>No LSOAs in Watford are in the 20% most deprived in England and only four are in the most deprived 30%. Two of these are in Central, one in Stanborough and one in Meriden.</p> <p>The combined deprivation index, which weights income and employment more heavily than the other domains, obscures the more deprived areas in Watford, which are affected by crime, living environment deprivation and education, skills and training deprivation in particular. This is, at least in part, because income and employment deprivation are less of an issue for Watford.</p> <p>The ten most deprived LSOAs in Watford, as ranked in the IMD 2010, are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. E01023876 in Meriden 2. E01023860 in Central 3. E01023861 in Central 4. E01023891 in Stanborough 5. E01023865 in Holywell 6. E01023883 in Oxhey 7. E01023866 in Holywell 8. E01023859 in Central 9. E01023906 in Woodside 10. E01023857 in Callowland <p>Please see the map which shows which Watford LSOAs are among the 30% most deprived in England, 20% most deprived in the Eastern region and which are in the 30% most deprived in Hertfordshire.</p>
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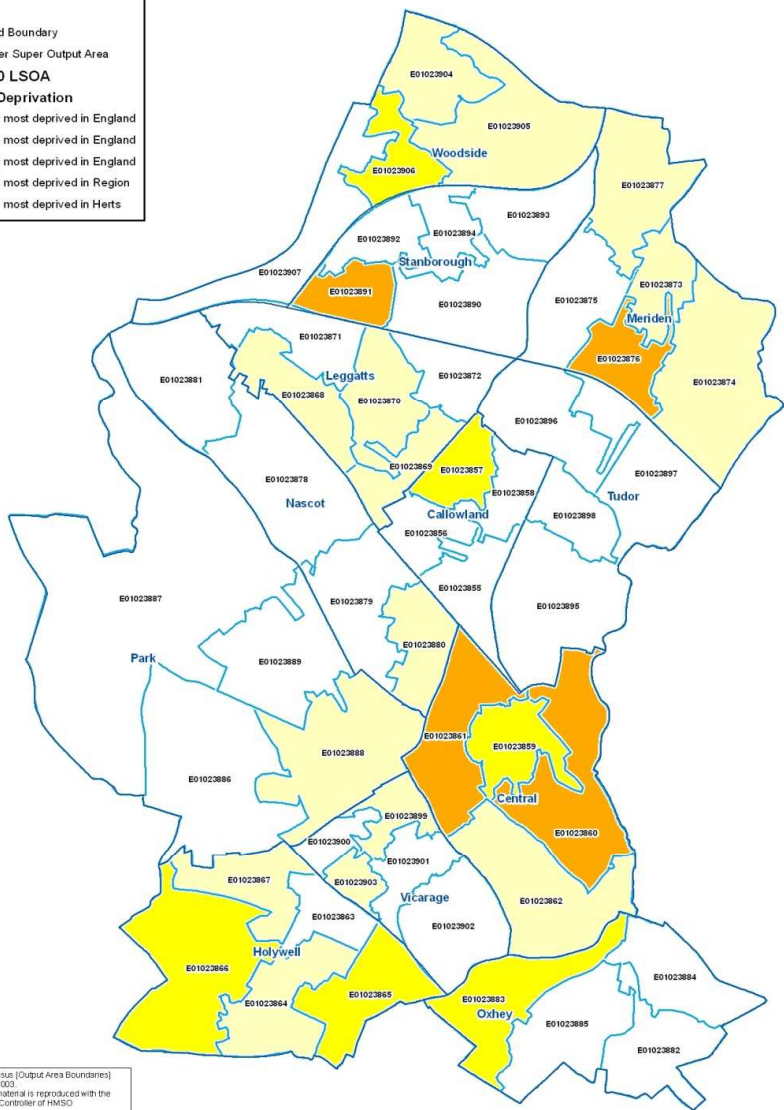
Legend

-  Ward Boundary
-  Lower Super Output Area

IMD 2010 LSOA

Multiple Deprivation

-  10% most deprived in England
-  20% most deprived in England
-  30% most deprived in England
-  20% most deprived in Region
-  30% most deprived in Herts



Source: 2001 Census (Output Area Boundaries)
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 Department for Communities and Local Government, Indices of Deprivation 2010



Map 1: Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2010
Multiple Deprivation by Lower Super Output Area (LSOA)
 Analysis shows the extent of multiple deprivation in Watford by illustrating which LSOAs are ranked in the top 10%, 20%, 30% in the county, region or nationally

Produced by Paul Morton, Corporate GIS, May 2011

N

Scale: 1:30,000
 at A4

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5. How will the council ensure equality is promoted through the Corporate Plan 2015-19

Under the Equality Act 2010, three areas need to be considered when analysing the equality impact of the Corporate Plan:

1. **eliminate** discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act
2. **advance** equality of opportunity between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and people who do not share it
3. **foster** good relations between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and people who do not

Section 2 of the corporate plan articulates the council's vision and priorities and section 8 and Appendix ii our corporate work programme

Watford's vision is to be a **successful town in which people are proud to live, work, study and visit**

Its corporate priorities of:

- **Making Watford a better place to live and**
- **Promoting an active, cohesive and well-informed town**

both recognise that, in some circumstances, people within our community might need additional help because of the circumstances in which they find themselves. Under this objective the council has identified areas which will ensure it meets its equalities duty.

These include:

Corporate Plan reference	Project / area of work
Cor1	Update Watford BC statutory and non- statutory services business plans – departmental service business plans will all contribute to this key objective (for example; Private Sector Housing Delivery Plan, Health and Safety delivery plan)
Cor2	Deliver new homes – target of 260 new dwellings per annum
Cor3	Work with registered providers including the Watford Community Housing Trust on affordable housing solutions
Cor4	Identify and manage ways to tackle the demand and supply for housing in the borough while improving conditions through the revised Housing Strategy, Homelessness Strategy and Private Sector Renewal Policy

Corporate Plan reference	Project / area of work
Cor5	Implement measures to maintain and improve conditions within homes to ensure they are suitable for use and promote the health, safety and welfare of residents through the revised Private Sector Renewal Policy.
Cor6	Continue to implement and make use of government initiatives to deliver energy efficiency solutions to businesses & residents to reduce ill health due to excess cold
Cor8	Work with partners to develop our strategic response to issues where housing related activity could promote health, wellbeing and economic growth including a review of key policies, strategies, assets and working practices to ensure a coherent, integrated approach
Cor9	Tackle Congestion and improving air quality in the borough with Hertfordshire County Council - Intelligent Transport Systems Strategy, Big Herts Big Ideas, Quality Network Partnership, Watford Community Cycle Hub, Delivery of South West Herts Transport Strategy and Watford's Air Quality Action Plan
Cor10	Deliver new schools with Hertfordshire County Council (for example Watford Health Campus)
Cor13	Deliver a review of the borough's cemetery provision to secure future provision and meet the needs of the community
Cor14	Deliver the Heritage Lottery Fund supported restoration of Cassiobury Park
Cor16	Work with partners and stakeholders to deliver the Sports Facilities Strategy for the town
Cor17	Ensure the quality of the town's environment through the Veolia contract to deliver well-maintained streets, parks and public spaces
Cor18	Ensure local people have easy to access ways to engage in recycling and waste reduction
Cor19	Ensure the quality of the town's leisure provision and that it is accessible and affordable to support the health and wellbeing of our residents
Cor20	Deliver a review of play to ensure a value for money service that meets the needs of local young people
Cor21	Refresh sports development framework to reflect priorities of the adopted Sports Facilities Strategy

Corporate Plan reference	Project / area of work
Cor22	Develop arts framework
Cor23	Deliver Watford's public health action plan to deliver improved health outcomes for local people including managing the outcomes identified for the Community Activation Fund
Cor24	Deliver the Watford Community Safety action plan with partners including improved ways to communicate and engage community safety messages
Cor26	Investment in infrastructure and public realm: Charter Place, Watford Health Campus, top of the town (phase 2), Croxley Rail Link, Watford Junction, Lower High Street, Ascot Road, Watford Business Park
Cor29	Establish wi-fi for Watford
Cor31	Continue to develop Watford's cultural offer including the events programme, community events programme and establishing an effective events team
Cor35	Understand our borough profile including Census 2011 analysis and using this knowledge to support our engagement and shaping our decision
Cor36	Improve the accessibility, design and functionality of the council's website to enhance online presence
Cor37	Deliver a revised Customer Access Strategy
Cor38	Review and implement equalities objectives
Cor39	Deliver the annual community survey to find out our local community's views and areas where they would like us to focus

The Corporate Plan has been developed to benefit all our community by identifying where the council can contribute to improving the borough, its own services and make a difference to issues that matter to local people.

By their nature, many of the major projects in the Plan have a long term perspective and so achievements will be measured through critical milestones in their delivery. Others will be achieved within the first year of the Plan and the impact from successful delivery will be assessed at the end of 2015/16.

Those projects identified as supporting individuals and the community will benefit those areas and individuals identified with the specific areas of work. Clearly Cor 38, which links the Corporate Plan to the council's equality duties will ensure that, through the delivery of the

Plan and its associated projects / areas of work, equalities are considered across the full gamut of the council's corporate work programme. It places a responsibility on the organisation to consider equalities in everything it does and to ensure:

- the council meets its responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010
- equalities is considered in the council's work and activities as relevant and appropriate so that the council makes a real difference and can evidence this
- equalities are considered in the council's decision making when relevant and appropriate
- the council works with outsourced service providers to ensure equalities duty is understood, embed and reflected in service delivery

A. Positive impacts

Potential positive effects

The outcomes that the council aims to achieve that are articulated through its Corporate Plan 2015-19 should of benefit across the Watford community and, therefore, to all those sharing a protected characteristic.

By highlighting the importance of equalities to the organisation, the plan re-emphasises the responsibility that everyone has to ensure that the equality duty is considered where relevant and appropriate to service provisions and delivery – both externally and internally. This commitment will ensure that, where appropriate, the equalities impact of new policies and strategies and changes to service provision are considered in advance of decision making through the equality impact analysis process. This is monitored through the Corporate Equalities Working Group.

Recommendation 1: Continue to build a comprehensive picture of the Watford community through feedback from consultations and updating the Watford context on a regular basis.

B. Negative impacts

Potential negative effects

These would arise if equalities is not considered and those areas of work identified as promoting equalities are not delivered.

The main ways of mitigating these potential negative effects:

- Training and communication – an online training programme is offered to all staff; this addresses both the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 and the council's own commitment to equalities and diversity.
- Corporate Equalities Working Group – provides critical friend support for EIAs and

advice on equalities overall

- Leadership Team receives reports on equalities to inform of progress and any issues
- Committee reports – the guidance to members has been revised to ensure members are fully informed of any equalities implications of any decisions they are required to make

6. Overall conclusion

Considering the information within this report and both the positive and negative impacts together, this analysis shows that the Corporate Plan will overall deliver positive impacts for the Watford community.

This is because, through the corporate work programme, it seeks to improve the town and services and facilities available to local people. The council's commitment to equalities is identified within this corporate work programme and, through this commitment, it demonstrates its expectation that equalities is considered and addressed as part of its delivery.

Summary of potential positive and negative impacts on protected characteristics

Protected Characteristic	Positive	Negative	None	Reasons for decision
Age	x	x		<p>The Corporate Plan has potential positive and negative impacts in terms of age.</p> <p>Positive impacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some areas of work identified will be of particular benefit to certain age groups e.g. Play Review (young people), tackling fuel poverty (older people), work to address housing issues is likely to impact on those with families, supporting the delivery of school places (younger people) A commitment to equalities is identified as part of the corporate work programme (Cor 38) <p>Negative impacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential if individual areas of work do not fully consider equality impacts as part of planning and delivery
Disability	x	x		<p>The Corporate Plan has potential positive and negative impacts in terms of disability.</p> <p>Positive impacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some areas of work identified will be of particular benefit to people with disabilities e.g. public health outcomes, customer access strategy A commitment to equalities is identified as part of the corporate work programme (Cor 38)

Protected Characteristic	Positive	Negative	None	Reasons for decision
				<p>Negative impacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential if individual areas of work do not fully consider equality impacts as part of planning and delivery
Ethnicity	x	x		<p>The Corporate Plan has potential positive and negative impacts in terms of ethnicity</p> <p>Positive impacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A commitment to equalities is identified as part of the corporate work programme (Cor 38) <p>Negative impacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential if individual areas of work do not fully consider equality impacts as part of planning and delivery
Sex	x	x		<p>The Corporate Plan has potential positive and negative impacts in terms of ethnicity</p> <p>Positive impacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A commitment to equalities is identified as part of the corporate work programme (Cor 38) <p>Negative impacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential if individual areas of work do not fully consider equality impacts as part of planning and delivery
Sexual orientation	x	x		<p>The Corporate Plan has potential positive and negative impacts in terms of ethnicity</p>

Protected Characteristic	Positive	Negative	None	Reasons for decision
				<p>Positive impacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A commitment to equalities is identified as part of the corporate work programme (Cor 38) <p>Negative impacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential if individual areas of work do not fully consider equality impacts as part of planning and delivery
Religion	x			<p>The Corporate Plan has potential positive and negative impacts in terms of ethnicity</p> <p>Positive impacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A commitment to equalities is identified as part of the corporate work programme (Cor 38) <p>Negative impacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential if individual areas of work do not fully consider equality impacts as part of planning and delivery
Pregnancy/maternity	x			<p>The Corporate Plan has potential positive and negative impacts in terms of ethnicity</p> <p>Positive impacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A commitment to equalities is identified as part of the corporate work programme (Cor 38) <p>Negative impacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential if individual areas of work do not fully consider equality impacts as

Protected Characteristic	Positive	Negative	None	Reasons for decision
				part of planning and delivery
Gender orientation	x			<p>The Corporate Plan has potential positive and negative impacts in terms of ethnicity</p> <p>Positive impacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A commitment to equalities is identified as part of the corporate work programme (Cor 38) <p>Negative impacts</p> <p>Potential if individual areas of work do not fully consider equality impacts as part of planning and delivery</p>

Summary of potential positive impacts and ways in which they can be ensured

Positive Impact	Protected characteristics	Ways to ensure the positive impact
A commitment to equalities is identified as part of the corporate work programme (Cor 38)	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to build a comprehensive picture of the Watford community through feedback from consultations and updating the Watford context on a regular basis • Embed understanding of equalities and impact on those with protected characteristics of new policies, plans and changes to service delivery • Ensure EIAs are carried out and are effective and support decision making • Work with outsourced service providers to ensure equalities duty is understood, embedded and reflected in service delivery (including equality monitoring where appropriate)

Summary of potential negative impacts and ways in which they can be removed or mitigated

Negative Impact	Protected characteristics	Ways to mitigate the negative impact
Potential if individual areas of work do not fully consider equality impacts as part of planning and delivery	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective training • Corporate Equality Working Group to provide leadership and direction

This EIA has been approved by:

Kathryn Robson

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Date20.01.15

PART A

Report to: Cabinet
Date of meeting: 16 February 2015
Report of: Committee and Scrutiny Officer
Title: Controlled Parking Zones Policies

1.0 SUMMARY

1.1 This report provides Cabinet with the final report of the Controlled Parking Zones (CPZ) Policies Task Group and its recommendations.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Vehicle Length Limits

- 2.1 The 5.25m length limit to be retained for all residential permits. *(For further details see page 9 of the Task Group's report)*
- 2.2 To extend the length limit for business permits (in CPZs) to 6.0m. *(For further details see page 9 of the Task group's report)*

Business Permits

- 2.3 Criteria to be revisited. *(For further details see page 9 of the Task Group's report)*
- 2.4 Vehicles should be registered to the company address (i.e. Head office) but not necessarily at the CPZ address – not to an individual at a residential address. *(For further details see page 9 of the Task Group's report)*
- 2.5 Vehicles must realistically be usable for the stated operation. *(For further details see page 9 of the Task Group's report)*
- 2.6 Vehicles to be used during the day rather than parked throughout entire business hours. *(For further details see page 9 of the Task Group's report)*

Blue Badge Drivers

- 2.7 Free permits be retained for drivers who hold a Blue Badge. *(For further details see page 10 of the Task Group's report)*
- 2.8 Extend free permit issue to cover parents caring for disabled children under 16 years old who hold a blue badge. *(For further details see page 10 of the Task Group's report)*

One Permit per Person

- 2.9 The current Rule should remain: up to two permits to be available to each household but only one permit per person. *(For further details see page 10 of the Task Group's report)*

Funerals

- 2.10 The policy to remain unchanged. *(For further details see page 10 of the Task Group's report)*

Visitor Voucher Abuse

- 2.11 Amendment to the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to allow for the revocation of vouchers when they are abused and confirm that all minutes on Visitor Vouchers must be scratched, including zero. *(For further details see page 11 of the Task Group's report)*

Doctor and Health Visitor (DHV) Permits

- 2.12 The price of DHV permits to be: £25 for the first five permits for any one organisation and subsequent permits to be priced at £55 each. Charges to be reflective of the residents' pricing structure. A formal criterion to be created and a clause inserted in the TRO to reflect this. *(For further details see page 11 of the Task Group's report)*
- 2.13 All current DHV permits to be revoked and reissued to applicants under the new criteria and pricing structure. *(For further details see page 11 of the Task Group's report)*

Staff Permits

- 2.14 A formal criteria for use to be created and a suitable clause inserted in the TRO to reflect this. *(For further details see page 11 of the Task Group's report)*

Late Night Enforcement (Residential Roads)

- 2.15 To continue with the current arrangements and to be reactive to specific yellow line complaints in circumstances where safety or access concerns may exist. *(For further details see page 12 of the Task Group's report)*

Period of Residency (Vehicle Ownership)

- 2.16 Proof of residency to be produced for each renewal of permit. *(For further details see page 12 of the Task Group's report)*
- 2.17 The requirement for a V5 or insurance document to be produced each year should be removed if the renewal relates to the same vehicle. *(For further details see page 12 of the Task Group's report)*

Refunds

- 2.18 That a standard administration fee of £10 is deducted from the refund due on each permit and a pro-rata refund for the remaining months is provided by BACS upon application. This rule to apply only to those permits with more than three months remaining. *(For further details see page 12 of the Task Group's report)*

Driveway CPZ parking by permit holders

- 2.19 A suitable clause to be written into the TRO in order that persistent instances of abuse can be dealt with. *(For further details see page 13 of the Task Group's report)*

Residents' Permits – minimum tenancy period

- 2.20 To formalise the minimum six months tenancy period to qualify for a 12 month permit. All other residents remain entitled to visitor vouchers. *(For further details see page 13 of the Task Group's report)*

Contact Officer:

For further information on this report please contact: Sandra Hancock
telephone: 01923 278377 email: legalanddemocratic@watford.gov.uk

Report approved by: Carol Chen, Head of Democracy and Governance

3.0 DETAILED PROPOSAL

- 3.1 The Head of Regeneration and Development submitted a scrutiny proposal to Democratic Services in November 2014. The suggestion referred to a review of the operational aspects of policies relating to the Controlled Parking Zone.
- 3.2 The suggestion was submitted to Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 20 November 2014. The Scrutiny Committee agreed to establish the Task group to carry out the requested review. The Task Group was to be carried out in a short period of time with the final report being submitted to Cabinet at its meeting on 16 February 2015.
- 3.3 The Task Group has met on three occasions, the last of which was on Monday 2 February 2015 when it agreed its final report and recommendations. The report is attached as Appendix 1 to this report. The relevant pages of the Task Group's report have been indicated next to the recommendations, providing more context and the Task Group's reasoning.
- 3.4 Following the completion of a review it is usual practice for a Task Group's final report to be presented to Overview and Scrutiny Committee for final approval. On this occasion it has not been possible to submit it to the Scrutiny Committee as its next

meeting is not until Thursday 5 March 2015. At that meeting the Scrutiny Committee will receive the Task Group's report and Cabinet's response.

- 3.5 If Cabinet accepts the Task Group's recommendations officers will be empowered to withdraw or refuse permits when they are being abused and have the support of formal policies and the Traffic Regulation Order for their actions.
- 3.6 If Cabinet does not accept the Task Group's recommendations parking enforcement will continue to be carried out under the current policies and Traffic Regulation Order.
- 3.7 Cabinet is asked to review and comment on each of the recommendations for referral to Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

4.0 **IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 **Financial**

- 4.1.1 The Shared Director of Finance comments that there are no financial implications.

4.2 **Legal Issues** (Monitoring Officer)

- 4.2.1 The Head of Democracy and Governance comments that some of the suggested recommendations will require the TRO to be amended. Should these amendments result in objections that are not withdrawn this could require a public inquiry.

4.3 **Equalities**

- 4.3.1 The Task Group's recommendations have been based on comments from the public and Members to the parking service, through surveys and officer's views. Regeneration and Development will be responsible for carrying out any Equality Impact Assessment if it is required.

4.4 **Potential Risks**

- 4.4.1 None have been identified as a direct result of the Task Group's report.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Final report of the Controlled Parking Zone Policies Task Group

Background Papers

Overview and Scrutiny Committee minutes 20 November 2014

File Reference

None



CPZ POLICIES TASK GROUP

REVIEW OF THE POLICIES FOR WATFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL'S CONTROLLED PARKING ZONES

FEBRUARY 2015

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3 - Minutes 20 January 2015	Pages 29 to 36
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5 - Report: Controlled Parking Zone Issues	Pages 39 to 46
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COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Watford Borough Council

Members - Task Group

Councillor Karen Collett

Councillor Kareen Hastrick

Councillor Peter Jeffree

Councillor Anne Joynes

Councillor Darren Walford

Chair of the Task Group and
Councillor for Woodside Ward

Councillor for Meriden Ward

Councillor for Park Ward

Councillor for Leggatts Ward

Councillor for Tudor Ward

Officer Support

Andy Smith

Justin Bloomfield

Liam Hornsby

Sandra Hancock

Rosy Wassell

Transport and Infrastructure Section Head

Parking Services Manager

Deputy Parking Services Manager

Committee and Scrutiny Officer

Committee and Scrutiny Support Officer

RECOMMENDATIONS TO PRESENT TO CABINET AND OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Vehicle Length Limits

- 1 The 5.25m length limit to be retained for all residential permits.
- 2 To extend the length limit for business permits (in CPZs) to 6.0m.

Business Permits

- 3 Criteria to be revisited
- 4 Vehicles should be registered to the company address (i.e. Head office) but not necessarily at the CPZ address – not to an individual at a residential address
- 5 Vehicles must realistically be usable for the stated operation
- 6 Vehicles to be used during the day rather than parked throughout entire business hours.

Blue Badge Drivers

- 7 Free permits be retained for drivers who hold a Blue Badge.
- 8 Extend free permit issue to cover parents caring for disabled children under 16 years old who hold a Blue Badge

One Permit Per Person

- 9 The current Rule should remain: up to two permits to be available to each household but only one permit per person.

Funerals

- 10 The policy to remain unchanged

Visitor Voucher Abuse

- 11 Amendment to the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to allow for the revocation of vouchers when they are abused and confirm that all minutes on Visitor Vouchers must be scratched, including zero.

Doctor and Health Visitor (DHV) Permits

- 12 The price of DHV permits to be: £25 for the first five permits for any one organisation and subsequent permits to be priced at £55 each. Charges to be reflective of the residents' pricing structure. A formal criterion to be created and a clause inserted in the TRO to reflect this.
- 13 All current DHV permits to be revoked and reissued to applicants under the new criteria and pricing structure

Staff Permits

- 14 A formal criteria for use to be created and a suitable clause inserted in the TRO to reflect this.

Late Night Enforcement (Residential Roads)

- 15 To continue with the current arrangements and to be reactive to specific yellow line complaints in circumstances where safety or access concerns may exist.

Period of Residency (Vehicle Ownership)

- 16 Proof of residency to be produced for each renewal of permit.
17 The requirement for a V5 or insurance document to be produced each year should be removed if the renewal relates to the same vehicle.

Refunds

- 18 That a standard administration fee of £10 is deducted from the refund due on each permit and a pro-rata refund for the remaining months is provided by BACS upon application. This rule to apply only to those permits with more than three months remaining.

Driveway CPZ Parking for Permit holders

- 19 A suitable clause to be written into the TRO in order that persistent instances of abuse can be dealt with.

Residents' Permits – Minimum tenancy period

- 20 To formalise a minimum six months tenancy period to qualify for a 12 month permit. All other residents remain entitled to visitor vouchers.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

At a meeting on 20 November 2014 the Overview and Scrutiny Committee were asked to review policies in relation to Controlled Parking Zones and to consider whether to establish a Task Group for this issue.

The meeting agreed that a task group on this subject would be wise.

It was suggested that the group should comprise councillors who did not represent a ward in which a CPZ was established. Councillors whose wards contained a CPZ were asked to attend as witnesses; enabling them to contribute the experience of residents in their wards.

In light of complaints received by the Parking Service the proposal had asked that the Task Group consider aspects of policies relating to the allocation of residents' and business permits and to test whether current policies were reasonable or whether a review would be justified.

It was proposed that evidence be gained through:

- Current policies
- Officers' views and comments from residents, the public and business users
- Member views
- Examination of other CPZ schemes

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee were advised that the Task Group must complete their work by the end of the current financial year.

It was agreed that the Task Group would comprise:

Councillor Karen Collett	–	Councillor for Woodside Ward
Councillor Kareen Hastrick	–	Councillor for Meriden Ward
Councillor Anne Joynes	–	Councillor for Leggatts Ward
Councillor Rabi Martins	–	Councillor for Central Ward
Councillor Darren Walford	–	Councillor for Tudor Ward

At the Task Group's first meeting it was agreed that Councillor Peter Jeffree, Park Ward, would replace Councillor Rabi Martins.

SUMMARY OF MEETINGS

First Meeting - 18 December 2014

Councillor Collett was elected Chair.

It was agreed that the Task Group would not review the entire parking scheme; the group would address those aspects specified in the scope.

Suggested areas for review included:

- Residence permits
- Visitor Vouchers
- Business Permits
- Exemptions
- Length of Vehicles
- Match day parking

It was recommended that transport and parking services officers prepare documents for the group listing comments and questions received from residents and members of the public. This could then be considered at the following meeting.

Members discussed the aims and contents of the report.

The following ACTIONS were AGREED:

1. That the Committee and Scrutiny Officer would research parking provision at other nearby local authorities and to then pass the information to the task group.
2. That the Transport and Infrastructure Section Head and the Parking Services Manager be asked to attend the following meeting of the Task Group
3. That the Committee and Scrutiny Officer would
 - email the task group members and the Head of Regeneration and Development for suggestions for questions in a survey to be sent to those Councillors whose wards had a CPZ: Callowland, Central, Holywell, Nascot, Park and Vicarage
 - look at questions posed by the consultant to residents and businesses in the CPZ areas and email these to the group
 - finalise the survey and send out to Councillors immediately after the Christmas break; the survey to be returned by 20 January.

The minutes for this meeting can be found in Appendix 2 to this report

Second Meeting - 20 January 2015

The Task Group had received a report of the Parking Services Manager addressing issues raised by residents and members of the public in respect of a number of rules and policies relating to the administration of the scheme. The Task Group had also received the results of a survey sent to Councillors whose wards had a CPZ.

The Parking Services Manager asked for guidance on whether any changes should be introduced to the current policies.

The Task Group considered each of the items outlined by the Parking Services Manager and then made its recommendations.

The recommendations are detailed on pages 4 and 5 of this report

The minutes for this meeting can be found in Appendix 3 to this report

Third Meeting - 2 February 2015

The Task Group had received the draft report to be sent to Cabinet in addition to an example of parking details in the vicinity of places of worship and two documents from the Parking Service regarding Business Permits.

The Task Group considered the documents and recommended that they be presented to the Cabinet at their next meeting on 16 February 2015.

The minutes for this meeting can be found in Appendix 4 to this report

RECOMMENDATIONS AND COMMENTS

VEHICLE LENGTH LIMITS

Recommendation 1

The 5.25m length limit to be retained for all residential permits.

Recommendation 2

To extend the length limit for business permits (in CPZs) to 6.0m.

The Parking Services Manager advised that 5.25m was a standard length for cars and a maximum length of 6.0m was standard for vehicles in business use. He advised that applicants make a declaration stating the length of their vehicles when applying for a permit.

BUSINESS PERMITS

Recommendation 3

Criteria to be revisited

It was felt that the rules were not sufficiently stringent to prevent abuse of the scheme.

The meeting agreed that where criteria were changed permit holders be fully informed of all aspects of the new regulations. It was also agreed that it would be wise to inform residents and businesses that parking staff would monitor CPZs to ensure that the regulations were complied with.

Recommendation 4

Vehicles should be registered to the company address (i.e. Head office) but not necessarily at the CPZ address – not to an individual at a residential address

Recommendation 5

Vehicles must realistically be usable for the stated operation

It was noted that in some cases vehicles were not such as would generally be used for business purposes e.g. luxury cars where normally it would be expected that a 'trades' van would be used. It was agreed that the type of vehicle to be used for a business permit should be specified if this were possible.

Recommendation 6

Vehicles to be used during the day rather than parked throughout entire business hours

The meeting noted that business vehicles were occasionally parked in the CPZ and then were not moved for the whole day; i.e. the parking permit was being used for parking rather than for business use. It was agreed that rules specify that vehicles be used rather than parked and then left in situ throughout the working day.

Parking Services officers produced a revised set of criteria which was approved by the Task Group at the meeting on 2 February 2015. The document is attached to this report at Appendix 6.

BLUE BADGE DRIVERS

Recommendation 7

Retain free permits for drivers who hold a Blue Badge.

Recommendation 8

Extend free permit issue to cover parents caring for disabled children under 16 years old who hold a Blue Badge.

The meeting noted that requests for free permits had been received from applicants who had caring responsibilities for members of the family in the same household. It was agreed that only Blue Badge drivers and parents caring for children under 16 years of age should be granted free permits.

ONE PERMIT PER PERSON

Recommendation 9

The current rule should remain: up to two permits to be available to each household but only one permit per person.

Increasing numbers of residents were requesting two permits where they had two vehicles registered in their name. It was agreed that to introduce a change in this rule could potentially result in an increase of vehicles parking on the highway.

FUNERALS

Recommendation 10

The policy to remain unchanged

Under the current regulations only hearses and limousines for mourners were exempt from parking restrictions in CPZ areas. The meeting noted that changes to the current policy could significantly impact on residents and businesses in some areas of the town.

Officers agreed to produce leaflets indicating available parking near to places of worship and to distribute these to churches etc and to funeral directors for use by guests on these occasions. At the Task Group's final meeting the Transport and Infrastructure Section Head produced a map which Members felt would be very helpful.

VISITOR VOUCHER ABUSE

Recommendation 11

Amendment to the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to allow for the revocation of vouchers when they are abused and confirm that all minutes on Visitor Vouchers must be scratched, including zero

Under the current regulations the parking service had no power to act on abuse of the voucher scheme. The meeting agreed that an amendment to the TRO would be wise; this would then allow residents who had abused the system to be penalised through the loss of vouchers.

DOCTOR AND HEALTH VISITOR (DHV) PERMITS

Recommendation 12

The price of DHV permits to be: £25 for the first five permits for any one organisation and subsequent permits to be priced at £55 each. Charges to be reflective of the residents' pricing structure. A formal criterion to be created and a clause inserted in the TRO to reflect this.

Recommendation 13

All current DHV permits to be revoked and reissued to applicants under the new criteria and pricing structure.

The Task Group was advised that there were no formal criteria for applications for DHV permits, that the cost of DHV permits were cheaper than those for residents and that a number of problems were associated with their use, for example drivers use them for personal and social reason.

The meeting discussed charges and it was agreed that a tiered pricing system be introduced at a cost equal to those of residents.

STAFF PERMITS

Recommendation 14

A formal criteria for use to be created and a suitable clause inserted in the TRO to reflect this.

For a number of Council staff, their role required them to visit sites within CPZs for which they were issued with parking permits. The permits were used on a 'pool' basis.

The meeting noted that no formal criteria for application for these permits existed and agreed that a criterion should be created and then inserted into the TRO.

LATE NIGHT ENFORCEMENT (RESIDENTIAL ROADS)

Recommendation 15

To continue with the current arrangements and to be reactive to specific yellow line complaints in circumstances where safety or access concerns may exist.

The meeting noted that problems occurred in roads which included a 'turning point' at the closed end of the street. Yellow lines had been installed to facilitate turning but this had raised complaints from residents who stated that this had minimised parking spaces. It was agreed that whilst officers would not monitor residential roads after 6.30 p.m. they would act in cases of specific complaints.

Parking Services produced a sample letter to send to residents in roads which had turning points at the ends of the street (Euston Avenue and St Mary's Road). The proposed letter is attached to this report at Appendix 7.

PERIOD OF RESIDENCE (VEHICLE OWNERSHIP)

Recommendation 16

Proof of residency to be produced for each renewal of permit.

Recommendation 17

The requirement for a V5 or insurance document to be produced each year should be removed if the renewal relates to the same vehicle.

The Parking Services Manager advised that proof of residency was required for each renewal as this acted as a safe-guard to ensure that permits were not issued to individuals who were no longer residents. It was not, however, necessary to update details of vehicles unless they had been changed since the previous permit had been issued.

REFUNDS

Recommendation 18

That a standard administration fee of £10 is deducted from the refund due on each permit and a pro-rata refund for the remaining months is provided by BACS upon application. This rule to apply only to those permits with more than three months remaining.

Significant numbers of requests for refunds were received which equated to considerable staff time spent in administration. There was no formal rule on the sums concerned.

The meeting considered the refund tables in the agenda and agreed that the structures indicated in the second table be introduced. The figures in this table included an administration fee of £10 having been deducted from the pro-rata refund for those months of the permit where more than three months remained.

DRIVEWAY CPZ PARKING FOR PERMIT HOLDERS

Recommendation 19

A suitable clause to be written into the TRO in order that persistent instances of abuse can be dealt with.

This issue had been referred to the Task Group as officers had received complaints of permit holders parking in front of vehicular access points and driveways. Residents signed a declaration agreeing not to park across driveways but there was no formal provision in the TRO allowing the Council to withdraw the permit in these circumstances. The group agreed with the Parking Services Manager's recommendation as detailed in his report.

RESIDENTS' PERMITS MINIMUM TENANCY PERIOD

Recommendation 20

To formalise a minimum six months tenancy period to qualify for a 12 month permit. All other residents remain entitled to visitor vouchers.

The Parking Services Manager advised that applications for permits were occasionally received from individuals who had short lets on properties in CPZ areas. The Task Group agreed that proven residency of at least six months should be a requirement for a parking permit and that residents for shorter terms should remain entitled to visitor vouchers.

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND APPENDICES

Bibliography

The following documents were found to be useful:

1. Minutes of the Planning and Highways Committee meeting – 20 January 1997:
2. Minutes of the Planning and Highways Committee meeting – 26 February 1997
3. Minutes of Special Planning and Highways Committee – 10 July 1997
4. Minutes of Cabinet meeting – 3 September 2007
<http://watford.moderngov.co.uk/CeListDocuments.aspx?Committeeld=121&MeetingId=164&DF=03%2f09%2f2007&Ver=2>
5. Report of the Head of Planning and Development on Controlled Parking Zone Consultation – Outcomes and Recommendations
<http://watford.moderngov.co.uk/Data/Cabinet/200709031930/Agenda/att764.pdf>
6. 'Your Parking Your Choice' consultation
<http://watford.moderngov.co.uk/Data/Cabinet/200709031930/Agenda/att765.pdf>
7. Minutes of Cabinet meeting – 2 December 2013
<http://watford.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=121&MIId=1199&Ver=4>
8. Watford High Level Parking Review
<http://watford.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s6157/Appendix%20Ai.pdf>
9. Comparator information on parking permits (meeting on 20 January 2015)
10. Additional Comparator information on parking permits (meeting on 20 Jan 2015)
11. Map for parking near to places of worship

Appendices:

- Appendix 1: Task Group scope
- Appendix 2: Minutes 18 December 2014
- Appendix 3: Minutes 20 January 2015
- Appendix 4: *Minutes 2 February 2015*
- Appendix 5: Report: Controlled Parking Zone Issues
- Appendix 6: Business Permits
- Appendix 7: Late Night Enforcement

Selection of topics and issues for scrutiny by councillors, officers or members of the public

Anyone wishing to suggest a topic for scrutiny must complete Section 1 of this form.

1. Sources

The following are sources of ideas for the work programme:

- Performance indicators, both national and internal.
- Views of Cabinet and Leadership Team especially in relation to policy subjects.
- The Council's surveys, such as the annual residents' survey.
- The Complaints Report which is compiled annually by the Customer Service Centre.
- Service complaints more widely; although individual cases will not be taken up if a large volume of complaints is received about a single issue then it may be appropriate to pursue the topic.
- Reports of external inspections of services.
- The views of the Council's partners.
- Issues picked up by ward councillors in their locality.
- The Council's Forward Plan

2. Outcomes

Success indicators could include:

- Having identified local needs;
- Having evaluated alternative ways of working/how a service could improve and making recommendations to the Executive or the Council's partners;
- Having developed an awareness of any contractual, economic, legal or structural constraints on Council's or its partners approach.

3. Criteria

To qualify for consideration the topic must meet the following criteria:

- Affect a group or community of people. Scrutiny will not normally look at individual service complaints.
- Relate to a service, event or issue in which Watford Borough Council has a significant stake.
- Not be an issue that Scrutiny has covered during the last year.
- Not be a planning or licensing issue, or any other matter dealt with by another council committee.
- To match one or more of the Council's current priorities.
- To be feasible and able to be completed within the timescale projected for the work.
- There must be availability within the relevant department/service to support the review.
- Be a topic that members wish to scrutinise.

On completion please return to Sandra Hancock, Committee and Scrutiny Officer

By email – sandra.hancock@watford.gov.uk

By post – Democracy and Governance, Watford Borough Council, Town Hall, Watford, WD17 3EX

Suggestions for topics to be scrutinised – evaluation table

A Member, Officer or member of the public suggesting a topic for scrutiny must complete Section1 as fully as possible. Completed tables will be presented to Overview & Scrutiny for consideration.

Section 1 – Scrutiny Suggestion	
Proposer: Councillor/Officer/Member of public	
<p>Topic recommended for scrutiny:</p> <p><i>Please include as much detail as is available about the specific such as;</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>areas which should be <u>included</u> in the review.</i> • <i>areas which should be <u>excluded</u> from the review.</i> • <i>Whether the focus should be on past performance, future policy or both.</i> 	<p><i>Review of operational aspects of policies relating to the Controlled Parking Zone, for example, allocation of residents' permits, business permits etc.</i></p>
<p>Why have you recommended this topic for scrutiny?</p>	<p><i>To address frequent issues arising from comments to the Parking Service relating to the above issues, and queries raised by members in dealing with their casework.</i></p>

<p>What are the specific outcomes you wish to see from the review?</p> <p><i>Examples might include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>To identify what is being done and what the potential barriers are;</i>• <i>To review relevant performance indicators;</i>• <i>To compare our policies with those of a similar authority;</i>• <i>To assess the environmental/social impacts;</i>• <i>To Benchmark current service provision;</i>• <i>To find out community perceptions and experience;</i>• <i>To identify the gap between provision and need</i>	<p><i>To test whether the current policies are reasonable, or whether a review is justified. If the policies are to be reviewed this would require wider public consultation and some amendments to the Traffic Regulation Order associated with the CPZ.</i></p>
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<p>How do you think evidence might be obtained?</p> <p><i>Examples might include</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questionnaires/Surveys • Site visits • Interviewing witnesses • Research • Performance data • Public hearings • Comparisons with other local authorities 	<p><i>Current polices available</i></p> <p><i>Comments received from the public, businesses and others</i></p> <p><i>Officer views</i></p> <p><i>Member views</i></p> <p><i>Vinci views</i></p> <p><i>Examination of other CPZ schemes</i></p> <p><i>Your Parking Your Say survey</i></p> <p><i>The Parking Study</i></p>
<p>Does the proposed item meet the following criteria?</p>	
<p>It must affect a group or community of people</p>	<p><i>Residents and businesses within the CPZ</i></p>
<p>It must relate to a service, event or issue in which the council has a significant stake</p>	<p><i>The Parking Service</i></p>

<p>It must not have been a topic of scrutiny within the last 12 months</p> <p><i>There will be exceptions to this arising from notified changing circumstances. Scrutiny will also maintain an interest in the progress of recommendations and issues arising from past reports.</i></p>	<p><i>No it hasn't</i></p>
<p>It must not be an issue, such as planning or licensing, which is dealt with by another council committee</p>	<p><i>No it isn't</i></p>
<p>Does the topic meet the council's priorities?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Making Watford a better place to live in ✓ 2. To provide the lead for Watford's sustainable economic growth ✓ 3. Promoting an active, cohesive and well informed Town ✓ 4. To operate the Council efficiently and effectively ✓

<p>Are you aware of any limitations of time, other constraints or risks which need to be taken into account?</p> <p><i>Factors to consider are:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>forthcoming milestones, demands on the relevant service area and member availability:</i> • <i>imminent policy changes either locally, regionally or nationally within the area under review.</i> 	<p><i>Task Group needs to have completed their work by end of this financial year.</i></p>
<p>Does the topic involve a Council partner or other outside body?</p>	<p><i>Vinci</i></p>

<p>Are there likely to be any Equality implications which will need to be considered?</p> <p><i>Protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 are:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age • Disability • Gender reassignment • Pregnancy or maternity • Race • Religion or belief • Sex • Sexual orientation • Marriage or civil partnership (only in respect of the requirement to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination) 	<p><i>The Parking Service already has an EqIA – this could be reviewed as part of the process to test whether any proposed changes would required a revised assessment.</i></p>
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<p>Sign off (It is expected that any Councillor proposing a topic agreed by Overview and Scrutiny Committee will participate in the Task Group)</p>	
<p>Councillor/Officer Jane Custance, Head of Regeneration and Development</p>	<p>Date 12-11-14</p>

The following sections to be completed by Democratic Services in consultation with the relevant Head of Service and Overview and Scrutiny Committee as necessary

Section 2	
Consultation with relevant Heads of Service	
Has the relevant Head of Service been consulted?	Yes
Is there any current or proposed review of service which would affect this suggestion?	No
Is this a topic which the service department(s) is able to support	Yes, we intended to review the CPZ policies and some external review of this work would be beneficial.
When was the last time this service was the subject of a scrutiny review?	Include date if known – have not been reviewed since the scheme was brought introduced in the mid-1990s.
Is the issue something which will be of significant interest to the public and if so, how should this be managed?	Potentially – if significant changes were proposed public consultation may be required. This should be considered as part of the review as it would have resource implications.
Head of Service consulted and when	November 2014

CONTROLLED PARKING ZONE POLICIES SCRUTINY TASK GROUP

18 December 2014

Present: Councillor Collett (Chair)
Councillors Hastrick, Jeffree and Joynes

Officers: Committee and Scrutiny Officer
Committee and Scrutiny Support Officer (RW)

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR / COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Apologies were received from Councillor Walford.

It was noted that Councillor Jeffree would take Councillor Martins' place on the Task Group on a permanent basis.

The Task Group was asked to elect a Chair for the Task Group.

AGREED

that Councillor Collett be elected Chair of the Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) Policies Task Group.

2. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest.

3. SCOPE AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

The Task Group received, from the Committee and Scrutiny Officer, documents relevant to the review.

The Committee and Scrutiny Officer advised that scrutiny of the CPZ policies had been requested by the Head of Regeneration and Development. This would not be a review of the entire parking scheme; the task group's views were sought on aspects detailed in the scope.

The Committee and Scrutiny Officer explained that there had been no review of CPZ policies since 1997. She noted the specific areas which it had been suggested the group should look at and then decide whether these needed alteration in any form. Suggested areas to review included:

Resident Permits:

Currently two permits per household / one per person – was this ideal?

Visitor Vouchers:

Was the allocation sufficient?; too many?; too few?

Business Permits:

At present one permit was allocated per business. Was this sufficient?

Exemptions:

The Task Group might like to look at this aspect of the scheme

Length of Vehicles:

An assessment of vehicle lengths and provision for differing types of vehicles could be considered by the group.

Match day parking and extent of each individual zone:

The group was not asked to look at these sections of the CPZ policies.

The Committee and Scrutiny Officer stressed that the work required of the group would need to be accomplished in a very short time frame: it was intended that the report should be presented at Cabinet at the February meeting.

The Committee and Scrutiny Officer advised that Council officers had, over time, received a considerable degree of feedback and questions from residents and members of the public. She recommended that, before the next meeting, transport and parking services officers would be asked to prepare documents listing comments and questions received along with officers' observations and suggestions. At the meeting the task group could consider options available and decide on recommendations for possible changes to policies.

The meeting discussed the aims and contents of the report.

It was decided that there would be no meeting to gather residents' views as there was too little time before the report needed to be finalised.

The Committee and Scrutiny Officer agreed to research parking provision and policies at Harrow, Three Rivers, Dacorum, St Albans, Hertsmere and Stevenage Councils and then pass this information to the task group.

The Committee and Scrutiny Support Officer advised that the Transport and Infrastructure Section Head and the Parking Services Manager would attend the next meeting on 20 January 2015.

It was decided that a survey would be sent to Councillors of those wards with a CPZ (Callowland, Central, Holywell, Nascot, Park and Vicarage) to be mailed back by 20 January. The Committee and Scrutiny Officer agreed to email the task group and also the Head of Regeneration and Development for suggestions for questions. She would also look at questions posed by the consultant to residents and businesses in the CPZ areas and email these to the group.

The survey would be finalised and sent out immediately after the Christmas Break.

4. **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

- Tuesday 20 January 2015
- Monday 2 February 2015

Task Group
The meeting started at 6.00 p.m.
and finished at 6.30 p.m.

Chair
CPZ Policies Scrutiny

CONTROLLED PARKING ZONE POLICES SCRUTINY TASK GROUP

20 January 2015

Present: Councillor Collett (Chair)
Councillors Hastrick (for Minute numbers 7 and 8),
Jeffree, Joynes and Walford

Officers: Transport and Infrastructure Section Head
Parking Services Manager
Deputy Parking Services Manager
Committee and Scrutiny Officer
Committee and Scrutiny Support Officer (RW)

5. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies were received.

6. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest.

7. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18 December 2014 were submitted and agreed.

8. CONTROLLED PARKING ZONE ISSUES FOR TASK GROUP

The Parking Services Manager explained that consultations on the parking schemes had been conducted in 2007 and also 2013 and that residents' views were taken into account. He noted that in numerous instances residents felt that they qualified for a parking permit but that reference to individual circumstances and to existing policies demonstrated that they were excluded. He considered that the policies relating to CPZ issues required further clarity to ensure they remained fit for purpose or required amendment.

The Parking Services Manager drew attention to the issues outlined in the agenda and asked for guidance on whether changes should be introduced to the current policies.

The Chair referred to the survey sent by the Committee and Scrutiny Officer to all Members whose wards had a CPZ and explained that

six replies had been received from: Central (1), Holywell (1), Nascot (1) and Park (3).

The Committee then discussed the issues as outlined in the report.

1 - Vehicle Length Limit

Councillor Jeffree expressed surprise that the current length limit was 5.25m as the standard parking bay length was 4.8m and 2.4m width.

The Parking Services Manager noted that 5.25m was a standard length and comparable to the standards applied in other authorities.

The Transport and Infrastructure Section Head advised that a maximum of 6m was the standard length for vehicles in business use.

It was noted that officers had no powers of enforcement with regard to vans in CPZs unless complaints were made. The Parking Services Manager pointed out that in the case of a complaint, officers would need to first measure the vehicle in order to establish that the length exceeded the permitted length. He advised that applicants were required to declare the length of their vehicle when applying for a permit.

The Transport and Infrastructure Section Head asked Members to consider how business vans could be accommodated in CPZs during the day.

The Parking Services Manager suggested that:

- vehicle length for business use should be 6.0m
- residents' permits remain at 5.25m

The meeting agreed that:

- the height limit of 2.3m should be unchanged.

Recommendation:

The 5.25m length limit to be retained for all residential permits. To extend the length limit for business permits (in CPZs) to 6.0m.

2 - Business Permits

The Parking Services Manager explained the difficulties inherent in determining which businesses were entitled to permits. He felt that the rules were not sufficiently stringent to prevent abuse of the scheme.

The meeting then discussed the differing needs of individuals and companies in order to carry out their businesses; it was noted that in some cases vehicles were not such as would generally be used for

business purposes.

The Parking Services Manager noted that business vehicles should not usually be present in the CPZs for long periods of time. He advised that officers had monitored the zones and vehicles' lengths of stay; this information would enable officers to determine where rules were being breached.

The Committee and Scrutiny Officer asked whether it would be possible to ask businesses for examples of their daily delivery schedules.

Councillor Hastrick suggested that the rules specify that vehicles be used during the day rather than simply parked in the zones and then left in situ. Councillor Joynes agreed that it would then be possible to state that the vehicle did not meet the criteria.

The Transport Infrastructure Section Head suggested that officers produce a draft criteria which would then be emailed to Members for their views.

The meeting considered that:

- It would be wise to continue to monitor CPZs and to inform residents and businesses of this fact.
- That the criteria for permits be considered and changed where necessary; where criteria were changed, permit holders be fully informed of all aspects of the new regulations
- Vehicles for which a business permit was granted should be used throughout the day and not left in situ
- That the type of vehicle to be used for a business permit should be specific if this were possible

Recommendation:

Criteria to be revisited

Vehicles should be registered to the company (but not necessarily at the CPZ address, e.g. Head Office) – not to an individual at a residential address

Vehicles must realistically be usable for the stated operation

Vehicles to be used during the day rather than parked throughout entire business hours

ACTION: Officers to prepare and email draft revised criteria to Members

3 - Blue Badge Drivers

The Parking Services Manager reminded the task group that free permits were only available for those Blue Badge holders who were drivers. Requests for free permits had been received from

applicants who had caring responsibilities for members of the family in the same household.

The Committee and Scrutiny Officer advised that other authorities used a variety of methods of charging; these were itemised on the comparator tables in the agenda.

The meeting discussed:

- the issue of free parking permits for carers of disabled children who were under 16 years of age
- areas in which Blue Badge holders could / could not park for free

Recommendation:

Retain free permits for drivers who hold a Blue Badge.
Extend free permit issue to cover parents caring for disabled children under 16 years old who holds a Blue Badge

4 - One Permit per Person

Currently each Council Tax property would be entitled to up to two permits but only one permit per person.

The Parking Services Manager advised that an increasing number of residents were applying for two permits where two vehicles were registered under one name. It was considered that to introduce this change would result in an increase in vehicles on the highway.

Recommendation:

The current Rule should remain: up to two permits to be available to each household but only one permit per person.

5 - Funerals

The Parking Services Manager spoke to the meeting on the subject of funerals and advised that a suspension of parking rules near places of worship was frequently requested by individuals and Members. It was agreed that sensitivity was required when addressing these requests. He noted that only hearses and limousines for mourners were exempt from parking restrictions in CPZ areas. It was also noted that sites of places of worship varied greatly across the borough and that changes to the current policy would, in some areas, significantly impact on residents and businesses.

Members pointed out that if precedents were set for funerals, then requests would inevitably be received for other religious service attendance: weddings, christenings etc.

Officers suggested that:

- maps be produced indicating where parking was available near to places of worship. These could then be passed to churches etc for distribution to guests / participants
- officers consult with funeral directors on suitable measures to facilitate parking in CPZ areas.

Recommendation:

The policy to remain unchanged

Officers to produce leaflets indicating parking places near places of worship which can be given to churches and funeral directors.

6 - Visitor Voucher Abuse

The Parking Services Manager advised on abuse of the visitor voucher scheme and explained that the parking service had no power to act in this regard.

The meeting agreed that it would be wise to amend the traffic regulation order: where abuse is identified residents would be penalised through the loss of their vouchers.

Recommendation:

Amendment to the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to allow for the revocation of vouchers when they are abused and confirm that all minutes on Visitor Vouchers must be scratched, including zero.

7 - Doctor and Health Visitor (DHV) Permits

The Deputy Parking Services Manager explained that there were no formal criteria for the application for DHV permits. He added that the cost (£20) was cheaper than for residents.

The Parking Services Manager outlined problems associated with use of these permits and said that criteria were needed which were suited to individual organisations.

The meeting then discussed charges; the following points were raised:

- a tiered pricing system to be introduced eg. The first five permits per organisation to be £25 but additional ones to be more expensive
- DHV and residents' permits costs to be equal
- Permit cost to be vehicle specific rather than shared use

Recommendation:

The price of DHV permits to be: £25 for the first five permits for any one organisation and subsequent permits to be priced at £55 each. Charges to be reflective of the residents' permit pricing structure. A formal criteria to be created and a clause inserted in the TRO to reflect this.

All current DHV permits to be revoked and reissued to applicants under the new criteria and pricing structure

8 - Staff Permits

For a number of Council staff their roles required them to visit sites within CPZs. Staff were issued with parking permits for this work at a charge of £100 per permit; these were used on a 'pool' basis and charged to the relevant service.

The meeting noted that there was no formal criteria for the application of these permits. The Transport Infrastructure Section Head suggested that fees and charges could be reviewed during the following year.

The Committee and Scrutiny Officer noted that officers other than those from the Council were also issued with Staff Permits. These included: Watford Community Housing Trust, Herts County Council, Herts Highways.

Recommendation:

A formal criteria for use to be created and a suitable clause inserted in the TRO to reflect this.

9 - Late Night Enforcement (Residential Roads)

The Parking Services Manager explained that enforcement officers did not generally patrol residential roads after 6.30 p.m. He noted that problems occurred in Euston Avenue and St Mary's Road both of which included a 'turning head' at the closed ends of the streets. Double yellow lines had been installed in these roads to facilitate turning; residents had complained, however, that this action had minimised parking spaces.

In response to a suggestion by Councillor Jeffree that additional signs could be installed, the Parking Service Manager said that such signs could only be advisory. He added that officers could write to residents in these roads to advise that the part of the road painted with yellow lines must remain clear.

The meeting discussed issues concerning yellow lines and agreed that whilst officers would not monitor residential roads after 6.30 p.m. they would act in cases of specific complaints in these areas.

Recommendation:

To continue with the current arrangements and to be reactive to specific yellow line complaints in circumstances where safety or access concerns may exist.

10 - Period of Residency (Vehicle Ownership)

The Parking Services Manager advised that permits could be renewed on line. It was not necessary to update details of vehicles unless they had been changed since the previous permit although proof of residency was required for each renewal since this was an important safe-guard to ensure that permits were not issued to individuals who were no longer residents.

Recommendation:

Proof of residency to be produced for each renewal of permit. The requirement for the a V5 or insurance document to be produced each year should be removed if the renewal relates to the same vehicle.

11 - Refunds

The Deputy Parking Services Manager advised that refunds were given but that there was no formal ruling.

The Parking Services Manager confirmed that a significant number of requests for refunds were received and a considerable amount of staff time was utilised in dealing with this issue. It was debatable whether the amount refunded was worth the work required.

The meeting looked at the refund tables in the agenda and noted that the figures showed the amount refunded after the administration fee had been taken into account.

The task group agreed that the new structures as indicated in the second table be introduced.

Recommendation:

That a standard administration fee of £10 is deducted from the refund due on each permit and a pro-rata refund for the remaining months is provided by BACS upon application. This rule to apply only to those permits with more than three months remaining.

12 - Driveway CPZ parking for permit holders

Complaints had occasionally been received where permit holders parked in front of vehicular access points and driveways. It was

noted that residents signed a declaration agreeing not to park across driveways.

The task group agreed with the officers' recommendation.

Recommendation:

A suitable clause to be written into the TRO in order that persistent instances of abuse can be dealt with.

13 - Residents permits minimum tenancy period

The Parking Services Manager advised that applications were occasionally received from individuals who had short lets on properties in CPZs e.g. holiday agreements or for temporary tenants. He considered that proven residency for a minimum of six months should be a requirement for a parking permit.

Recommendation:

To formalise the minimum six months tenancy period to qualify for a 12 month permit. All other residents remain entitled to visitor vouchers.

14 - Other issues

In reply to a query from Councillor Joynes the Parking Services Manager confirmed that non-residents landlords would not be entitled to a parking permit.

The Chair thanked officers for their input and for the detailed report.

9. **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

- Monday 2 February 2015

Chair
CPZ Policies Scrutiny

Task Group
The meeting started at 6.00 p.m.
and finished at 7.30 p.m.

CONTROLLED PARKING ZONE POLICES SCRUTINY TASK GROUP

2 February 2015

Present: Councillor Collett (Chair)
Councillors Hastrick, Jeffree and Joynes

Officers: Transport and Infrastructure Section Head
Committee and Scrutiny Support Officer (RW)

10. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Walford.

11. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest.

12. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 January 2015 were submitted and signed.

13. REPORT TO CABINET

Members considered the draft report to be submitted to Cabinet on 16 February 2015.

The following points were noted:

Business Permits:

At the meeting of the Task Group on 20 January 2015 it had been suggested that Parking Services officers prepare and present revised criteria for Business Permits to Members. This action had been completed and the criteria were approved by Members.

The criteria are attached to the Task group's report at appendix 6.

Funerals:

The Transport and Infrastructure Section Head had agreed to produce leaflets and maps to indicate available parking near to places of worship; this information to then be given out by the churches to assist their visitors.

One example of such a leaflet (for Holy Rood Church in Market Street) had been passed to members of the Task Group. It was agreed that this would prove very useful for both visitors and nearby

residents.

Late Night Enforcement (Residential Roads):

At the previous meeting Members had discussed problems at the turning points at the ends of certain closed ends of streets, specifically Euston Avenue and St Mary's Road.

Officers had agreed that the roads would be monitored and had also produced a letter for all residents of these roads detailing problems encountered by residents, information on restrictions and enforcement actions.

The task group approved the letter and agreed that distribution to residents would be wise.

The letter is attached to the report at appendix 7.

RESOLVED

that the report be submitted to Cabinet at the meeting on 16 February 2015.

Task Group
The meeting started at 6.00 p.m.
and finished at 6.15 p.m.

Chair
CPZ Policies Scrutiny

APPENDIX 5

CONTROLLED PARKING ZONE ISSUES FOR TASK GROUP

The Controlled Parking Zone scheme has been in operation within Watford since 1997. Residents and businesses of the scheme have been consulted upon the rules and arrangements in both 2007 and 2013, which has resulted in a change to some zones adopting full time hours, further to changes the denomination of the annual allocation of visitor vouchers available. Residents and businesses did not indicate that they wished to see any significant changes made to the operational hours or zone boundaries of the scheme and the vast majority of rules remained unchanged.

However, a number of fundamental rules and policies relating to the administration of the scheme did not form part of the consultations but continue to be raised and challenged by both residents and members. As a result, the Parking Service determined that it would be beneficial to all if those issues were considered and clarified by members to determine if they remain fit for purpose or require amendment. The specific points in question are outlined below:

1. Vehicle Length Limit

Current: length limit 5.25m (height limit 2.3m).

The length limit is equal to the size of a standard Ford Transit van and the restriction applies to residential and business permits.

2007 and 2013 consultations showed that residents continued to support the length limit.

Issue: Some members call for enforcement of the rule, which is done reactively, and others complain about enforcement of the rule. A number of business vehicles belonging to commercial premises or individuals exceed the current limit but we have not received complaints.

Recommendation:

The 5.25m length limit is retained for all residential permits.

Extend the length limit for business permits (CPZ businesses) to 6.0m

2. Business Permits

Current rules:

1 permit per business (Up to two registration marks)

No off street parking available on premises

Registered for business rates

Vehicle must be registered to the business and at the business address

“Vehicle must be used on an intermittent daily basis”

Permits not issued for commuting

Issue: rules are too vague and do not appear to have been consistently applied in the past.

A number of existing permits do not meet the current criteria and some have had them for a number of years. Attempts to withdraw or refuse issue have resulted in complaints and this is difficult due to the number of permits in operation that do not meet the criteria.

Recommendation:

Criteria needs to be revisited.

Vehicle should be registered to company but not necessarily at CPZ address (Head Office address etc) – not to an individual at a residential address Vehicles must realistically be used for the stated operation

3. Blue Badge Drivers

Current: permits are issued free to residents whose vehicle is registered to them at their CPZ address and prove their residency in the usual manner but provide a valid blue badge in their name.

Issue: There are an increasing number of applicants who are seeking free permits because their wife or mother or relative within the household is a blue badge holder and they have caring responsibilities.

Recommendation: Extend free permit issue to cover parents looking after children under 16 years old. Currently 256 residential permits issued free to BB holders/drivers (Loss of income to Council £5,632) Figure likely to increase if extended to carers/partners/relatives (for those over 16 years old). We do not see the correlation between charging for a permit and hindering the individual's ability to continue to care for the adult blue badge holder but this may need to be checked with Legal.

4. One permit per person

Current: Each Council tax property entitled to up to 2 permits but only 1 permit per person

Issue: Increasing number of residents are seeking two permits in their name and state this does not increase the overall numbers of vehicles on the highway or the maximum number of permits in the household beyond two. We are seeing increased member support of these requests and questioning of the rule.

Recommendation: Rule should remain. Up to 2 permits are available to each household but the 1 permit person appears to have attempted to curb each household having 2 permits where it can be avoided. Where these requests are refused, there will be one less vehicle on the public highway and this is significantly important in central CPZ zones where the availability of space is at a premium such as St Marys Road, where a specific contested request was made.

5. Funerals (Policy)

Current: Exemption only for official vehicles (limo's/hearse)

Issue: Requests from individuals and members for non-enforcement of whole roads during specific dates/hours when guests attending CPZ address for funerals. Generally accepted when informed of policy but some members less so.

Recommendation: Do not change policy – will impact significantly on residents and businesses in some areas

6. Visitor Voucher Abuse (TRO Revocation) + not scratched zero PCN's
Current: Rules relating to eligibility of vouchers outlined in TRO and instructions for use on face and reverse of vouchers

Issue: Vouchers are abused by a small number of residents, who pass them to businesses and commuters (potentially sell them) or use a variety of methods to re-use a single voucher. A small number of motorists do not scratch the zero when they claim to have arrived on the hour and seek cancellation of any PCN issued, which has often been supported by members.

Recommendation: Amendment required to TRO to allow for the revocation of vouchers when they are abused and confirm that all minutes on Visitor Vouchers must be scratched, including zero. (Visitor Vouchers have been amended to make this even clearer and recent Traffic Penalty Tribunal (TPT) decision supports Council has done all it can)

7. Doctor and Health Visitor (DHV) Permits (TRO Criteria & Charges)
Current: a number of "all zone" permits are issued to various health and caring organisations, which are known as Doctor, Health Visitor (DHV) permits. These are charged at £20 each and allow the holder to visit patients living within the controlled parking zone during restricted hours.

Issue: there is no formal criteria for the application of either of these permits. This can make the assessment of new applications or requests for additional permits difficult. Furthermore, the use of DHV permits is not included in the governing CPZ TRO.

Recommendation: the price of DHV permits is reviewed with consideration given to a tiered pricing structure. A formal criteria should also be created and a suitable clause is inserted in the TRO to reflect this. All DHV permits are revoked and re-issued to applicants under the new criteria and pricing structure.

8. **Staff Permits (TRO Criteria & Charges)**

Current: there are a number of Council staff whose roles require them to carry out visits within the controlled zones and are also issued with “all zone” permits. These are charged at £100 and are intended to be used on a ‘pool’ basis rather than issued to individuals. A number of external organisations have also historically been using these permits, including those which used to form a department of the council. This includes Watford Community Housing Trust, Hertfordshire County Council Highways Department and West Watford Community Association.

Issue: there is no formal criteria for the application of either of these permits. This can make the assessment of new applications or requests for additional permits difficult. Furthermore, the use of staff permits is not included in the governing CPZ TRO. Whether external organisations should receive ‘staff’ permits has also to be questioned.

Recommendation: a formal criteria is created and a suitable clause is inserted in the TRO to reflect this

9. **Late Night Enforcement (Residential Roads)**

Current: Evening enforcement takes place of Zone E (Met Quarter) to 10pm weekdays/Saturdays with some enforcement on Sundays. The general approach to evening enforcement across the town is 1-2 evenings per week until 10pm which includes one evening until 11pm for the overnight lorry ban. This is the only time that CEO's go into residential roads but do not issue to residential vehicles. All other evening enforcement only relates to the town centre and roads with bus routes. This is all further to weekday matchday enforcement in specific zones. Any enforcement in residential roads, which are primarily Euston Avenue and St Marys Road, is reactive to enforcement requests due to

obstruction and access concerns for larger vehicles in need of using the turning heads governed by double yellow lines.

Issue: whilst some residents and members call for enforcement of the double yellow lines in the turning head of residential roads, some residents on the receiving end of such enforcement do not wish this to take place and criticise the service.

Recommendation: allowing residents to use the yellow lines in the evenings does not appear to have caused any specific issues, further to those raised by the emergency services in Zone J area, and this creates additional space where and when it is often at a premium. Continue current arrangements and be reactive to specific yellow line complaints in circumstances where safety or access concerns may exist.

10. Proof of Residency (Vehicle Ownership)

Current: All applicants seeking a residents parking permit must provide a proof of residency (dated within the last 3 months) or their name must appear on the electoral register. Further, residents must supply a proof of vehicle ownership (V5 log book or insurance) each year.

Issue: the proof of residency and vehicle ownership is viewed as onerous by some residents who are unhappy at providing the same documents each year.

Recommendation: the need to prove residency is an important safeguard to ensure that permits are not issued to individuals who are no longer resident. The requirement for a V5 or insurance document each year should be removed if the renewal relates to the same vehicle.

11. Refunds (Not formalised – Admin fee)

Current: Permit holders who no longer require their permits and have more than 3 full months remaining can return their permit to the Parking Shop and apply for a pro-rata refund for the number of full months remaining (as shown on the chart below).

PERMIT COST £	FULL MONTHS REMAINING									
	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2 1
6 + 12	NO REFUNDS GIVEN									
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
22 RES	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	NONE
52 RES	44	40	36	32	28	24	20	16	12	NONE
60 BUS	44	40	36	32	28	24	20	16	12	NONE
150 BUS	132	120	108	96	84	72	60	48	36	NONE
300 BUS	264	240	216	192	168	144	120	96	72	NONE

Issue: the permit refund pricing structure is not standardised and leaves the Council open to challenge

Recommendation: that a standard administration fee of £10 is deducted from the refund due on each permit and a pro-rata refund for the remaining months, for permits with more than three months remaining, is provided by BACS upon application. This would also allow for refunds to be given for permits with the full 12 months remaining. The new structure would look as below:-

PERMIT COST £	FULL MONTHS REMAINING									
	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2 1
6 + 12	NO REFUNDS GIVEN									
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
22 RES	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	0
52 RES	38.50	35	31.50	28	24.50	21	17.50	14	10.50	0
60 BUS	44	40	36	32	28	24	20	16	12	0
150 BUS	126.50	115	103.50	92	80.50	69	57.50	46	34.50	0
300 BUS	264	240	216	192	168	144	120	96	72	0

12. Driveway CPZ parking by permit holders (Change TRO to allow revocation)

Current: All residents sign a declaration agreeing not to park in front of vehicular access points and driveways and acknowledge that this could result in the withdrawal of their permits.

Issue: On occasion we receive complaints of this behaviour and it is usually dealt with by writing to the permit holding resident and reminding them of the declaration. However, there is no formal provision in the TRO that would allow the Council to withdraw the permit in this circumstance.

Recommendation: A suitable clause needs to be written into the TRO so that persistent instances of abuse can be dealt with.

13. Residents Permits minimum tenancy period

Current: Residents must only prove residency by way of electoral roll, tenancy agreement, Council Tax or utility bill etc. We do not issue annual

permits to applicants who will be resident for periods of less than 6 months.

Issue: This is not a formalised process and we are frequently presented with applications from tenants in temporary housing etc seeking annual permits, although they will only be resident for short term periods.

Recommendation: Formalise the minimum 6 months tenancy period to qualify for a 12 month permit. All other residents remain entitled to visitor vouchers.

APPENDIX 6

Business permits are intended for businesses whose primary function is the delivery or the provision of a service at a customer's home or external address. One permit can be issued to qualifying businesses for use on a vehicle essential to the delivery of those services on a frequent basis throughout each day. All business permits will be subject to on-street monitoring to confirm that this is taking place.

Applicants should note that business permits **are not** issued for:-

- Commuting to or from a place of work
- Vehicles needing to load or unload from a business premises
- The purposes of banking
- Occasional visits when pay and display facilities are present in the nearby vicinity

With every application and permit renewal businesses must:-

- Not have any off-street parking within the curtilage of their premises
- Use the vehicle on a frequent basis throughout each day
- Provide a copy of their most recent business rates bill
- Provide a copy of their vehicle registration document confirming that the vehicle is registered in the name of the business either at the business address within the Controlled Parking Zone or at the company's main Head Office
- Provide a full covering letter or supporting statement outlining why they believe the vehicle is essential to the daily operation of the business and meets the criteria for business permit allocation
- Confirm that their vehicle does not exceed 6m in length and 2.3m in height

Declaration to be signed by all business permit applications

I understand that any business permit issued to me must be returned to the Council immediately if:-

- 1) I cease to own or use the vehicle in relation to the business
- 2) I cease to own or be the authorised user of any vehicle specified on this form
- 3) Any vehicle specified on the form is adapted or no longer used as an operational vehicle, as defined by the Traffic Regulation Order
- 4) On-street Council monitoring confirms that the vehicle has not been used for the purposes it was issued or has remained parked for extended periods in contravention of the terms of use
- 5) I am issued with a duplicate or replacement permit
- 6) Payment made for the purchase of the permit is dishonoured
- 7) Information relating to the issue of the business permit transpires to be false
- 8) The Council notify me in writing that the business permit has been cancelled because of the events specified above has occurred.

Business permits do not:-

- Guarantee a parking space
- Allow parking on single or double yellow lines
- Allow obstruction of a vehicular/pedestrian access points and/or driveways
- Allow parking within signed suspended areas

I agree that the use of this business permit will be subject to regular on-street monitoring by Council Officers and Civil Enforcement Officers. I declare that all the information I have given in this application is correct and understand that a false statement or any breach of the above may result in the withdrawal of the business permit and render me liable for prosecution.

All Residents
Euston Avenue

CPZ/01/1/JB

Dear Resident,

Re: Double Yellow Lines – Turning Head

Over a period of time, the Parking Service has received a number of complaints from local residents seeking enforcement of the double yellow lines found at the turning head of ***Euston Avenue***.

As you will be aware, double yellow line restrictions apply 24 hours, 7 days a week, every day of the year, with the intention of ensuring that a specific area of public highway remains free from vehicles. It is clearly not possible for enforcement to be carried out at all times that the restriction is in force but this does not diminish the motorist's responsibility to observe it.

The introduction of these double yellow lines followed a statutory process, which involved consultation with the emergency services, and there was an identified need to ensure that larger vehicles would be provided with sufficient room to manoeuvre safely in order to avoid the danger of reversing the length of the road to gain exit.

It is acknowledged that the availability of spaces can often be at a premium, particularly in the evenings, but I am sure that you can appreciate that the Parking Service cannot consider extending the use of permits to allow parking on these yellow lines under the circumstances.

As a result, all residents should be aware that the double yellow lines governing the turning head remain subject to enforcement at all times and all contravening vehicles observed will be liable for the issue of a Penalty Charge Notice.

Thank you for your understanding and co-operation.

Yours Sincerely,

Watford Council Parking Service

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PART A

Report to: Cabinet
Date of meeting: 16 February 2015
Report of: Head of Regeneration and Development
Title: Watford's Monitoring Report 2014

1.0 SUMMARY

- 1.1 Authorities' Monitoring Reports ('**AMRs**') must be prepared and published at least once a year in accordance with planning regulations, and Watford's Monitoring Report has been delivered annually since such regulations came into force in 2005. The AMR outlines the progress made on the local plan timetable and assesses the effectiveness of planning policies against various targets and indicators to see whether we are achieving local plan objectives. Watford's Monitoring Report 2014 covers the period 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014.
- 1.2 The purpose of this Cabinet report is to raise awareness of the information provided by the AMR 2014, which must be published on the council's website as soon as reasonably practicable.
- 1.3 Members' attention is drawn to the Executive Summary, Appendix 2 to the Cabinet Report (or pages 5-8 of the full AMR 2014). The Executive Summary will also be available to download separately from the full AMR 2014 on the website.
- 1.4 There is no requirement for formal public consultation; the AMR 2014 has previously undergone internal consultation within the council and with Hertfordshire County Council; it also features in the Members' Bulletin (January 2015).

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that Cabinet notes the information provided by the AMR.

Contact Officer:

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Or

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Report approved by: Jane Custance, Head of Regeneration & Development.

3.0 **DETAILED PROPOSAL**

- 3.1 Watford's Monitoring Report 2014 covers the period 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014. Additional information that has subsequently become known with regard to more recent developments is supplied within the commentary where it is practical to do so.
- 3.2 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published on 27 March 2012 and came into force with immediate effect, superseding previous planning guidance, and on the 6 April 2012 'The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012' were published.
- 3.3 The regulations state which information must be included; for example, progress made on the timetable for the production of documents within the local plan; information such as the number of net additional dwellings, in order to assess the effectiveness of planning policies against various targets and indicators. Further details are available in Appendix 3: Summary of the AMR process – 2014.
- 3.4 Watford's Monitoring Report 2014 focuses on a suite of indicators and monitoring mechanisms that were developed as the Local Plan Part 1 progressed, and included as the 'Monitoring Framework' within the Core Strategy. The indicators within the Monitoring Framework are currently under review as the Local Plan Part 2 policies are progressed
- 3.5 **Some extracts follow from the Executive Summary, available as Appendix 2 to the Cabinet Report (or pages 5-8 of the full AMR 2014).**

3.6 **Local Plan**

The Community Infrastructure Charging Schedule (CIL) was found sound by an inspector in August 2014, and will come into effect on 1st April 2015. This followed consultation in 2013 and again during February/March 2014, after which the Draft Charging Schedule was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in April 2014.

- 3.7 The second consultation on the Local Plan Part 2 is running from 17th December 2014 to 4th February 2015; this contains policies for considering applications for planning permission and identifies specific sites for development and the type of development that would be appropriate. An initial consultation took place from the 4th November 2013 for six weeks – responses made and new evidence were taken into account.

3.8 **Housing**

398 homes were built in 2013/14. Since 2006, Watford has delivered 3,369 of the 6,500 housing target set in the Core Strategy for the period 2006-31. The amount delivered is an average of 421 per annum, compared to the average target of 260 dwellings per annum.

- 3.9 Watford can demonstrate a 5 year housing land supply of 152.2%, which is above the National Planning Policy Framework requirement of 105%.

3.10 **Business Development and Employment**

Watford's Core Strategy seeks a minimum of 7,000 additional jobs in the district over the period 2006-2031. About 270 jobs were created in the area with the opening of Morrison's supermarket in November 2013 and the proposals to redevelop Charter Place should create about 1,100 new jobs across the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors and up to 500 temporary construction jobs. The East of England Forecasting Model (EEFM) 2013 suggests that the scale of job growth in Watford is 3,600 jobs for the period 2006 to 2014.

3.11 There was an unusual high net loss of 26,161 sq.m. employment floorspace during 2013/14 within the traditional employment type B use classes. Just over 50% of the loss was due to the demolition of the former Royal Mail Depot at Ascot Road, where there is the new Morrisons supermarket and a primary school is under construction. This development was identified in the Core Strategy as part of the Western Gateway Special Policy Area.

3.12 **Sustainable Development**

There has been a reducing trend in Carbon Dioxide emissions overall in Watford for the period 2005-2011 in line with policy objectives, although there has been an increase between 2011 and 2012. However, emissions have increased in 403 out of 406 local authorities across the UK. The main drivers of the increase in UK emissions in 2012 were an increase in residential gas use due to 2012 being a colder year than 2011, and increased coal for electricity generation.

3.13 The Council monitors air quality at several locations across the borough. On Rickmansworth Road close to the Town Hall, continuous 'real-time' monitoring of nitrogen dioxide and PM₁₀ particulates is undertaken. NO₂ concentrations have remained fairly constant and the annual mean objective of 40 g/m³ has not been exceeded during this time at the Town Hall monitoring station.

3.14 **Green Infrastructure**

Four of Watford's parks have received Green Flag awards this year, with the addition of Oxhey Park, for the first time; our aim to maintain the total amount of open space managed by WBC to Green Flag Award standard has therefore been exceeded. It is the sixth consecutive year that Woodside Playing Fields and Cheslyn Gardens have been awarded the Green Flag and the eighth year for Cassiobury Park.

3.15 The importance of open space and the Green Belt to Watford's predominantly urban environment is recognised and protected by Core Strategy Policy GI1: Green Infrastructure and GI2: Green Belt and additional saved policies from the Watford District Plan 2000; the Green Belt currently measures 407 hectares, equating to 19% of Watford's total area, and remains unchanged from last year.

3.16 **Transport and Projects and Infrastructure Delivery**

Planning permission to redevelop Charter Place and refurbish Intu Watford (formerly the Harlequin), was granted on the 5 February 2014. The proposal is for a £100 million development to include new retail space, a cinema and leisure complex, a new

restaurant hub, a covered 'niche' market area and public realm improvements. Construction is expected to begin in 2015, with completion due in 2017. On the 10th October 2014, the existing traditional market was moved to a new home in the centre of the town, accessible from the High Street near the flyover and from Beechen Grove, near Clarendon Road. It has been created from shipping containers and is spread over 2 floors, making a unique and attractive space.

3.17 Significant progress has been made over the last few years in delivering the Health Campus. The planning application for the infrastructure works required for the new access road was approved by Watford Borough Council in December 2013. Ecological and other preparatory works for the road have started, with construction expected to commence in March 2015. The planning permission incorporating both outline and detailed elements for the mixed-use Watford Health Campus was issued by the council on the 6 January 2015, following completion of a S106 planning obligation.

3.18 It has been identified that there is a need for up to 4 additional primary schools (or 10 to 11 form entry classes) by 2031. A 2 form entry school opened in September 2014 at Lanchester House, Hempstead Road; a new school building is under construction at Ascot Road although the first form entries for the new school opened in September 2014 and have been temporarily housed in the Lanchester building, until the new school building is finished, due summer 2015. Additional provision is proposed in the Local Plan Part 2.

4.0 **IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 **Financial**

4.1.1 The Shared Director of Finance comments that there are no financial implications in this report.

4.2 **Legal Issues** (Monitoring Officer)

4.2.1 The Head of Democracy and Governance comments that it is a legal requirement to publish the AMR.

4.3 **Equalities**

There are no direct equalities impacts arising from this report. The application of existing policies will be covered by existing equalities assessments and the review and preparation of new policies will be subject to assessments at the appropriate time.

4.4 **Potential Risks**

We consider that there are no risks with this report as it is an item for information.

Appendix 1. Watford's Monitoring Report 2014.

Appendix 2. Executive Summary – extract from AMR 2014.

Appendix 3. Summary of the AMR process – 2014.

Background Papers

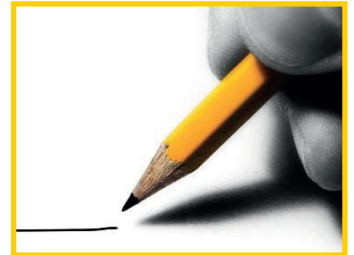
No papers were used in the preparation of this report

File Reference

LP.41

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Watford's Monitoring Report 2014



Planning for a Better Watford

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Executive Summary

Authorities' Monitoring Reports ('AMRs') must be prepared and published at least once a year in accordance with planning regulations, and an AMR has been delivered annually since such regulations came into force in 2005.

The AMR outlines the progress made on the local plan timetable and assesses the effectiveness of planning policies against various targets and indicators to see whether we are achieving local plan objectives. Watford's Monitoring Report 2014 covers the period 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014.

Planning Policy Delivery

- The Community Infrastructure Charging Schedule (CIL) was found sound by an inspector in August 2014, and will come into effect on 1st April 2015. This followed consultation in 2013 and again during February/March 2014, after which the Draft Charging Schedule was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in April 2014.
- The second consultation on the Local Plan Part 2 is running from 17th December 2014 to 4th February 2015; this contains policies for considering applications for planning permission and identifies specific sites for development and the type of development that would be appropriate. An initial consultation took place from the 4th November 2013 for six weeks – responses made and new evidence were taken into account.

Housing

- 398 homes were built in 2013/14. Watford has delivered 3,369 new homes since 2006, an average of 421 per annum, ahead of the minimum 6,500 housing target set in the Core Strategy for the period 2006-31, which equates to an average of 260 dwellings per annum.
- Watford can demonstrate a 5 year housing land supply of 152.2%, which is above the National Planning Policy Framework requirement of 105%.
- There were 82 affordable dwelling completions in total during 2013/14, forming part of developments across six sites. The number of affordable homes achieved varied between 30% and 100% of the total residential units on each site; all conformed to the policy that applied at the time of permission.
- 91% of all homes completed this year were on previously developed land, above our local target of 80%.

Business Development and Employment

- Watford's Core Strategy seeks a minimum of 7,000 additional jobs in the district between 2006-2031. About 270 jobs were created in the area with the opening of Morrisons supermarket in November 2013 and the proposals to redevelop Charter Place should create about 1,100 new jobs across the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors and up to 500 temporary construction jobs. The East of England Forecasting Model (EEFM) 2013 suggests that the scale of job growth in Watford is 3,600 jobs for the period 2006 to 2014.
- There was an unusual high net loss of 26,161 sq.m. employment floorspace during 2013/14 within the traditional employment type B use classes. Just over 50% of the loss was due to the demolition of the former Royal Mail Depot at Ascot Road, where there is the new Morrisons supermarket and a primary school is under construction. This development was identified in the Core Strategy as part of the Western Gateway Special Policy Area.
- 100% of employment development took place on previously developed land, exceeding the Core Strategy target of 90%. No greenfield land has been used for any employment development in the district during the period monitored since 2006/07.

Sustainable Development

- There has been a reducing trend in Carbon Dioxide emissions overall in Watford for the period 2005-2011 in line with policy objectives, although there has been an increase between 2011 and 2012. However, emissions have increased in 403 out of 406 local authorities across the UK. The main drivers of the increase in UK emissions in 2012 were an increase in residential gas use due to 2012 being a colder year than 2011, and increased coal for electricity generation.
- The Council monitors air quality at several locations across the borough. On Rickmansworth Road close to the Town Hall, continuous 'real-time' monitoring of nitrogen dioxide and PM₁₀ particulates is undertaken. NO₂ concentrations have remained fairly constant and the annual mean objective of 40 g/m³ has not been exceeded during this time at the Town Hall monitoring station.
- The council is guided in granting planning permission by recommendations from the Environment Agency, including advice on flood risk and water quality. No planning applications have been granted planning permission against Environment Agency advice.

Green Infrastructure

- Four of Watford's parks have received Green Flag awards this year, with the addition of Oxhey Park, for the first time; our aim to maintain the total amount of open space managed by WBC to Green Flag Award standard has therefore been exceeded. It is the sixth consecutive year that Woodside Playing Fields and Cheslyn Gardens have been awarded the Green Flag and the eighth year for Cassiobury Park.
- The importance of open space and the Green Belt to Watford's predominantly urban environment is recognised and protected by Core Strategy Policy GI1: Green Infrastructure and GI2: Green Belt and additional saved policies from the Watford District Plan 2000; the Green Belt currently measures 407 hectares, equating to 19% of Watford's total area, and remains unchanged from last year.
- Our bid for external funding to the Heritage Lottery Funding/BIG lottery funding for Cassiobury Park has been successful with the Stage 2 bid approved in June 2014. Works will take place over the following 2 years and completion is estimated at the end of summer 2016; the council is actively improving the wildlife value of all the sites it manages, co-ordinating with a broad partnership of local organisations.

Urban Design and Built Heritage

- The Watford Streetscape Guide 2013 was adopted by the council in July 2013, following public consultation during November/December 2012. The aim of the Streetscape Guide is to assist and provide guidance for those involved in the design and implementation of public realm works in Watford's town centre, to ensure that a high quality consistent and coordinated public realm is implemented in Watford's town centre.
- The scores for the 'Building for Life' assessments average at 9 this year, slightly less than last year's 9.5 but an improvement on the average of the scores seen in 2012 which was 8.8 and in line with our objective of increasing the quality of design.
- A revised version of the Residential Design Guide was adopted by the council on the 23rd July 2014, replacing the previous 2008 version; this followed public consultation during November/December 2013.
- Oxhey was designated a conservation area in the spring of 2013; a draft character appraisal document was published for consultation between 7th February and 21st March 2014 and then revised following some suggestions received. The final version was adopted by the council in July 2014. The Conservation Areas Management Plan was adopted by Watford Borough Council Cabinet on 8th July 2013.

Transport and Projects and Infrastructure Delivery

- Planning permission to redevelop Charter Place and refurbish Intu Watford (formerly the Harlequin), was granted on the 5 February 2014. The proposal is for a £100 million development to include new retail space, a cinema and leisure complex, a new restaurant hub, a covered 'niche' market area and public realm improvements. Construction is expected to begin in 2015, with completion due in 2017. On the 10th October 2014, the existing traditional market was moved to a new home in the centre of the town, accessible from the High Street near the flyover and from Beechen Grove, near Clarendon Road. It has been created from shipping containers and is spread over 2 floors, making a unique and attractive space.
- Significant progress has been made over the last few years in delivering the Health Campus. The planning application for the infrastructure works required for the new access road was approved by Watford Borough Council in December 2013. Ecological and other preparatory works for the road have started, with construction expected to commence in March 2015. The planning permission incorporating both outline and detailed elements for the mixed-use Watford Health Campus was issued by the council on the 6 January 2015, following completion of a S106 planning obligation.
- Progress continues with the Croxley Rail Link; preparatory works have been taking place along the length of the route in order to finalise the engineering designs and final funding approval from the Department for Transport is expected in March 2015. Construction is due to start in spring/summer 2015, with the current target date for trains to be running by spring/summer 2018.
- Initiatives taken to improve sustainable transport include the continued resurfacing of the Grand Union Canal towpath, with a total 8 miles now completed; a new electric car re-charge point has been installed at Timberlake car park on Radlett Road; new bus shelters and new cycle parking were added at various locations around the Town Centre.
- It has been identified that there is a need for up to 4 additional primary schools (or 10 to 11 form entry classes) by 2031. A 2 form entry school opened in September 2014 at Lanchester House, Hempstead Road; a new school building is under construction at Ascot Road although the first form entries for the new school opened in September 2014 and have been temporarily housed in the Lanchester building, until the new school building is finished, due summer 2015. Additional provision is proposed in the Local Plan Part 2.

1. Introduction

Authorities' Monitoring Reports have an important purpose in the ongoing management of planning policy by identifying changing circumstances and providing the context against which to consider the need for any review of the planning policies in place at the time. This Monitoring Report covers the period 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014. Additional information that has subsequently become known with regard to more recent developments is supplied within the commentary where it is practical to do so, in order to provide as up to date a picture as possible.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published on 27 March 2012 and came into force with immediate effect, superseding previous planning guidance, and on the 6 April 2012 'The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012' were published. For reference, Part 8, Section 34 of these new regulations deals with Authorities' Monitoring Reports in full, but in summary, this includes that they should:

- Report progress on the timetable for the preparation of documents set out in the local development scheme including the stages that each document has met or the reasons where they are not being met
- Identify where a local planning authority are not implementing a policy specified in a local plan together with the steps (if any) that the local planning authority intend to take to secure that the policy is implemented
- Include information on net additional dwellings and net additional affordable dwellings
- Report where a local planning authority have made a neighbourhood development order or a neighbourhood development plan
- Where a local planning authority has prepared a report in accordance with regulation 62 of the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010(b), the local planning authority's monitoring report must contain the information specified in regulation 62(4) of those Regulations i.e. details of CIL expenditure and receipts
- Any action taken during the monitoring period where a local planning authority have co-operated with another local planning authority, county council, or relevant body
- A local planning authority must make any up-to-date information, which they have collected for monitoring purposes, available in accordance with regulation 35 as soon as possible after the information becomes available

Watford's Local Plan Core Strategy was formally adopted on the 30 January 2013 and the development plan for Watford currently consists of:

- Watford Local Plan Part 1 – Core Strategy 2006 - 2031
- Remaining saved policies of the Watford District Plan 2000, until replaced
- the Waste Core Strategy and Development Management policies 2011-2026 within the Minerals and Waste Local Plan, prepared by Hertfordshire County Council.

This means that the Core Strategy now forms part of the development plan and is being used in determining planning applications. The council will continue to have regard to the remaining saved policies of the Watford District Plan 2000 and the Local Plan Part 2 policy documents that are currently being progressed; a second consultation is taking place from 17th December 2014 to 4th February 2015.

This monitoring report includes indicators which measure the effects of planning policies that the indicators can be directly related to: other indicators used in the document provide a wider context on such aspects as the economy and environment.

The requirement to submit the monitoring report to the Secretary of State was removed in 2011 but it is still required to be published as soon as reasonably practicable on the council's website at www.watford.gov.uk
We welcome views on the AMR's format and content so that we can make improvements on future reports and request that any comments be sent to the address below, or alternatively, you can email comments to strategy@watford.gov.uk

Planning Policy Section
Regeneration and Development
Watford Borough Council
Town Hall
Watford
WD17 3EX

2. Duty to Co-operate

Watford Borough Council participates in the Hertfordshire County/District Information Liaison Group quarterly meetings, in which issues concerning data collection and provision can be raised and examined. Most of the districts in Hertfordshire, including Watford Borough Council, subscribe to a joint monitoring software system across the districts called CDPSmart, which provides purpose built spatial monitoring, analysis and reporting specifically designed for the needs of Local Authorities.

In order to effectively meet the requirements of the Duty to Cooperate introduced in the Localism Act 2011, a partnership of all the planning authorities in the county - the Hertfordshire Infrastructure and Planning Partnership (HIPP) - agreed a Memorandum of Understanding in May 2013. This set out a commitment to joint working on planning matters on an ongoing basis with each other and other public bodies and private sector interests such as the Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), Hertfordshire Local Nature Partnership and infrastructure providers. A proposal was also agreed to create a Local Strategic Statement (LSS) for the County, providing an overarching strategic planning vision and objectives.

The first stage of the LSS included identifying and mapping major housing, employment and mixed use development proposals contained in adopted and emerging local plans; key major transport schemes for the period 2015 to 2019; key strategic proposals of the Hertfordshire Green Infrastructure Plan and a spatial representation of the Local Enterprise Partnership's key economic assets and opportunities in the county as defined in the LEP's growth strategy, their Strategic Economic Plan, called 'Perfectly Placed for Business'. The LSS proposals map was drafted and provided a spatial planning baseline for the preparation of the LEP's Strategic Economic Plan, which was submitted to Government at the end of March 2014. This sets out their priorities for delivering growth across the county.

Herts Planning Group (HPG) involves the county council and 10 districts in Hertfordshire who have agreed to work together on strategic planning issues, but were looking at what might be the most suitable governance arrangements.

The districts are considering ways to allocate housing numbers and meet the Localism Act's duty to cooperate, which legally requires councils to continuously engage with neighbours on strategic planning issues.

In addition Watford Borough Council ensures that Duty to Cooperate meetings are carried out with neighbouring authorities at regular intervals, to discuss cross boundary issues and often jointly commission studies together where necessary.

3. Local Development Scheme

The timetable setting out the programme for production of Local Plan Documents is known as the Local Development Scheme ('LDS'). Authorities' Monitoring Reports set out how progress with preparing local plan documents during the monitoring year meets targets set in the LDS, and whether changes to the LDS are required.

3.1. Local Development Scheme

Watford's Local Plan Part 1 - Core Strategy was adopted in January 2013 and sets out the council's vision for development and conservation in Watford to 2031. The current LDS, covering the period 2013-16 was published in April 2013. This recognises the change from the previous Local Development Framework approach to producing a Local Plan and the timetable is detailed below:

Table 3-1: Local Development Scheme Timetable 2013-16

Title	Local Plan Part 2
Subject Matter	This will contain site allocation policies, development management policies, and town centre policies.
Status	Local Plan Document:
Geographic coverage	Watford Borough
Timetable	
Notification	November 2012
<i>Informal consultation (likely to comprise 2 stages within this period)</i>	<i>Autumn 2013 – Summer 2014</i>
Publication (for consultation)	October 2014
Submission	March 2015
Examination	March – November 2015
Adoption	January 2016

3.2. Local Plan Part 2

- We wrote to stakeholders in November 2012 to ask what the Local Plan Part 2 should contain, and used the responses to help prepare draft policies.
- An initial consultation of the Local Plan Part 2 began on the 4 November 2013, between the notification and publication stages, as part of the plan preparation process. This contained initial site allocation proposals, draft development management policies, and draft town centre policies.
- A second consultation is taking place from 17th December 2014 to 4th February 2015. This means that the publication, submission and adoption dates will also slip and a revision to the LDS will be required.
- This delay was to allow us to take account of the findings of the Economic Growth and Delivery Assessment which took longer than anticipated.

Table 3-2: Local Plan Part 2 - target dates and progress under the 2013 LDS

Timetable	2013 LDS		Comments
	Target Date	Actual Date	
Notification	Nov 2012	Nov 2012	
Informal consultation (likely to comprise 2 stages within this period)	Autumn 2013 – Summer 2014		First consultation took place from 4 November to the 16 December 2013. A second consultation is taking place from 17 December 2014 to 4 February 2015.
Publication (for consultation)	Oct 2014		Under revision
Submission	Mar 2015		Under revision
Adoption	Jan 2016		Under revision

3.3. Policies Map

Strategic sites have been identified by the Core Strategy (maps provided within the Core Strategy document) but boundaries will be identified in Local Plan Part 2. The Policies Map (previously called the Proposals Map) will be updated once Local Plan Part 2 is adopted.

3.4. Evidence Base

A comprehensive evidence base was published on our website www.watford.gov.uk to accompany the Local Plan Core Strategy. The evidence will be kept under review to ensure it is appropriately comprehensive and that it remains up to date.

3.5. Risks

The published LDS identifies risks, their potential impacts and possible mitigation measures.

4. Contextual Characteristics of Watford

Watford is an urban borough in South West Hertfordshire, on the edge of the East of England region to the north-west of London. It covers an area of 2,142 hectares (8.3 square miles), and is the only non-metropolitan borough wholly contained within the M25. However, about 20% of the Borough forms part of the Metropolitan Green Belt and this is supplemented by a variety of open spaces. The Rivers Colne and Gade and the Grand Union Canal give structure to the main open areas, which include the Colne Valley Linear Park/Watling Chase Community Forest and Cassiobury Park, a historic park with a Green Flag award, the national standard for quality parks and green spaces.

The Borough has excellent transport links with mainline rail connections to London, Gatwick Airport, the Midlands and the North, Underground and Overground connections to London, its north-west suburbs and the rural Chilterns, community rail connections to St Albans, coach services to Heathrow airport, bus services to Luton airport and convenient road connections via the M1, M25 and A41.

A long established urban centre, with a market charter dating to the 12th century, Watford expanded rapidly from its linear layout along the historic High Street during the nineteenth century with the coming of the railway line. Much of the character of the area is formed by the streets of terraced Victorian housing, which were followed by an extensive variety of planned housing estates during the twentieth century. These estates, along with their associated employment areas, reflect the styles of design that predominated at the time of their construction, with the resulting diversity of urban character visible across the Borough.

Watford is the centre of a sub-region serving around 500,000 people, living within a 20 minute traveling time catchment. Known for traditional industries including printing, the town has successfully diversified into an attractive and popular regional shopping and business centre and a focus for culture and recreation. As part of the London commuter belt, Watford is strongly influenced by London; and whilst this brings the benefits of a buoyant economy, it also brings significant environmental pressures such as high levels of traffic congestion, high house prices and, with limited land available for development, pressure on all land, including the green belt.

4.1. Demographic Structure and migration

The resident population estimate for Watford on Census Day 2011 was 90,300. This was an increase of 13.3% compared to the figure of 79,726 from the 2001 Census.

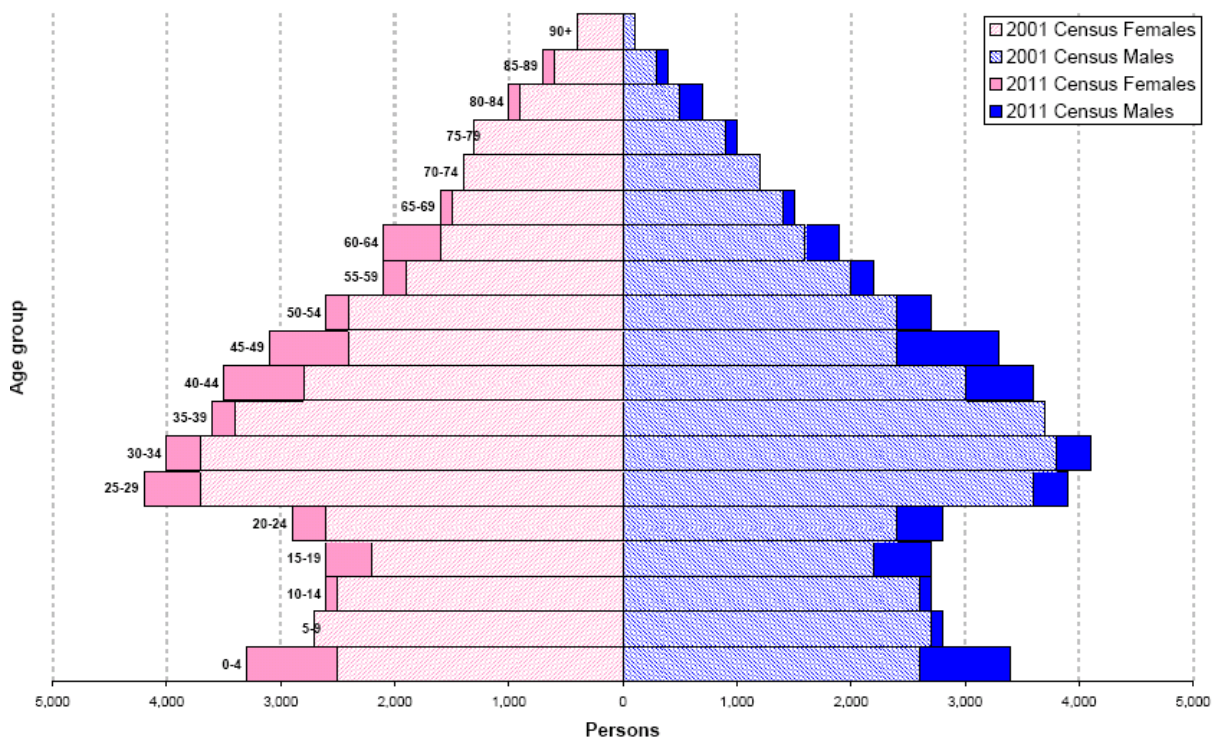
On the 26 June 2014, ONS released the mid-2013 population estimates, (as at the 30 June 2013) and Watford's estimate is 93,700, up by 2,000 from the mid-2012 population estimate of 91,700. Watford's overall population increase as a percentage, from the mid-2012 estimate, is the 4th highest of all local authorities in the country i.e. Watford's estimated change in population of circa 2,000 = 2.18%. Forest Heath (4.16%), Tower Hamlets (3.76%) and Islington's (2.19%) are the highest in the country.

Details of the components of change mid-2012 to mid-2013 estimate show that the:

- Majority of Watford's estimated increase is from net internal migration - within the UK (6,905 in / 5,843out) = 1062 net (53% of overall increase)
- Followed by twice as many births than deaths (1,494 births -718 deaths)= 776 more births than deaths (39% of overall increase) ;
- With the least increase stemming from net international migration (723 in/558 out) =165 net (8% of overall increase).

The 2011 Census showed that Watford's resident population was composed of 89,600 household residents and 700 residents of communal establishments. The number of households in Watford with at least one usual resident provided by the 2011 Census is 36,700. The household definition has been updated from the 2001 Census so is not directly comparable.

Figure 4-1: Age pyramid for Watford – 2001 Census and 2011 Census



Source: Office for National Statistics 2011 Census and 2001 Census population estimates

49.6% of Watford's resident population are male, as compared to 49.2% in 2001 and 50.4% are female, as compared to 50.8% in 2001, so the sexes have evened out slightly.

By 5 year age band, the largest amount of residents in Watford is in the 30-34 (8,100) and the 25-29 (8,000) age groups. The largest increases since 2001 can be seen within the infants' age band (0-4) and people in their forties, clearly apparent from the Age Pyramid provided.

Watford has a high population density, which has risen to 42 persons per hectare from 37 persons per hectare in 2001, compared with an average of 7 persons per

hectare in Hertfordshire and 4 persons per hectare in England overall. It is the most densely populated local authority in Hertfordshire, with Stevenage being the next most densely populated (32 persons per hectare). To put this into perspective, the 19 most densely populated local and unitary authorities in England and Wales were all London boroughs and the only non-London area in the top 20 was Portsmouth, with the top 20 ranging from 50 to 138 persons per hectare.

Table 4-1: Age of Population (number of people)

WATFORD	Total Resident Population 2011 Census	Total Resident Population 2001 Census
All Ages	90,300	79,726
0-4	6,700	5,117
5-9	5,400	5,305
10-14	5,300	5,053
15-19	5,300	4,380
20-24	5,700	5,004
25-29	8,000	7,206
30-34	8,100	7,528
35-39	7,300	7,093
40-44	7,000	5,783
45-49	6,400	4,807
50-54	5,400	4,781
55-59	4,400	3,871
60-64	4,000	3,249
65-69	3,100	2,866
70-74	2,600	2,587
75-79	2,200	2,177
80-84	1,700	1,480
85-89	1,000	936
90 and over	600	506

Source: Office for National Statistics 2011 Census and 2001 Census (2011 Census figures are rounded to nearest hundred; figures may not sum due to rounding)

The 2011 census included detailed results on the year of arrival (for those not born in the U.K) and country of birth. Those born in the U.K. (67,993 persons) account for 75.3% of Watford's resident population, as compared to the 86.2% born in the U.K. recorded in the 2001 Census. Of those Watford residents not born in the U.K. (22,308 persons), more than half state their year of arrival within the last 10 years, summarized below:

- Born in the U.K – 75.3%
- Arrived between 2001 and 2011 – 12.9%
- Arrived between 1991 and 2000 – 3.9%
- Arrived between 1981 and 1990 – 2.1%
- Arrived between 1971 and 1980 - 2.2%
- Arrived between 1961 and 1970 – 2.2%
- Arrived between 1951 and 1960 – 0.9%
- Arrived between 1941 and 1950 – 0.3%
- Arrived before 1941 – 0.11%

The following table provides a summary of the percentage of Watford residents born in the UK, and where the remaining residents were born, together with comparative figures for the county, the region and England.

Table 4-2: 2011 Census: Country of birth – percentage of residents (summary)

	U.K.	Europe (inc.U.K.)	Africa	Middle East and Asia	Americas and the Caribbean	Antarctica and Oceania (inc. Australia and Australasia)	Other country
Watford	75.30	83.64	4.80	9.74	1.49	0.33	0.001
Herts	86.59	91.94	2.75	3.90	1.04	0.37	0.000
East Region	89.02	93.81	1.76	3.08	1.10	0.26	0.000
England	86.16	91.21	2.43	4.77	1.25	0.34	0.000

Source: ONS, 2011 Census, extracted from Table QS203EW (detailed classifications amount to 20 pages). Crown Copyright. Compiled by WBC Planning Policy.

Watford’s population has grown more diverse, with the non-white proportion of Watford’s population increasing from 10% in 1991 to 14% in 2001, and 28% in 2011, which is more than twice the county average of 12.4% and almost double the national average of 14.6%.

Extremely detailed ethnic categories are available in the 2011 Census, unlike previous years. Within the broader groupings, the proportion of Watford’s total Asian or Asian British population has increased the most from 8.8% in 2001 to 17.9% in 2011, as compared with 6.6% overall in Hertfordshire. People identifying as Black or Black British amount to 5.8% from 2.7% in 2001 in Watford as compared with 2.9% in Hertfordshire as a whole (see Table 4-3).

Table 4-3: Ethnic Composition of Resident Population in percentages

	Total Res. Pop.	Census year	White	Mixed	Asian	Black	Other
HERTS	1,116,062	2011	977,495 87.6%	27,497 2.5%	72,581 6.6%	31,401 2.9%	7,088 0.6%
	1,033,977	2001	93.7%	1.4%	3.5%	1.1%	0.3%
WATFORD	90,301	2011	64,946 71.9%	3,104 3.4%	16,170 17.9%	5,229 5.8%	852 0.9%
	79,726	2001	85.9%	2.1%	8.8%	2.7%	0.5%

Source: Compiled by WBC, Planning Policy. Data sourced from ONS 2011 and 2001 Census.

4.2. Projected population growth

Revised population projections were released by ONS on 29th May 2014. These give a 25 year projection of the usual resident population based on the mid-2012 sub-national population estimates and supersede previous projections.

Comparison of change tables are compiled below for the new 2012-based population projections over a 10 year and a 25 year period, with the interim 2011-based population projections, which were provided for a ten year period only and the previous 2010-based population projections.

Table 4-4: Comparison of change in population over 10 years

	ONS 2010-based				ONS Interim 2011-based				ONS 2012-based			
	2010 based estimate	2020 projected figure	Increase over 10 years 2010-2020	Change 2010-2020 % increase	2011 based estimate	2021 projected figure	Increase over 10 years 2011-2021	Change 2011-2021 % increase	2012 based estimate	2022 projected figure	Increase over 10 years 2012-2022	Change 2012-2022 % increase
Watford	81,900	90,100	8,200	10.0%	90,700	95,300	4,600	5.1%	91,700	103,800	12,100	13.2%
Herts	1,099,000	1,212,100	113,100	10.3%	1,119,800	1,234,100	114,300	10.2%	1,129,100	1,246,600	117,500	10.4%

Compiled by WBC, Planning Policy. Data source: Crown Copyright. Office for National Statistics. Published 29 May 2014. N.B. all figures are rounded to the nearest 100 in accordance with ONS guidelines

It can be seen that Watford's estimated growth of 12,100 people over the ten years 2012 to 2022 in the 2012-based population projections equates to 13.2% (similar to London), higher than the interim 2011-based population projections which estimated Watford's growth to be 4,600 people over the 10 years 2011 to 2021, equivalent to 5.1%, and the previous 2010-based estimated growth of 8,200, equivalent to 10.0% over the same period.

Hertfordshire's average estimated growth over 10 years in the 2012-based population projections is 10.4%, similar to the 2011-based estimated growth rate of 10.2% and the 2010-based growth rate of 10.3%.

Table 4-5: Comparison of change in population over 25 years

	ONS 2010-based				ONS Interim 2011-based				ONS 2012-based			
	2010 based estimate	2035 projected figure	Increase over 25 years 2010-2035	Change 2010-2035 % increase	2011 based estimate	Produced for period of 10 years only	Increase over 25 years 2011-2036	Change 2011-2036 % increase	2012 based estimate	2037 projected figure	Increase over 25 years 2012-2037	Change 2012-2037 % increase
Watford	81,900	100,100	18,200	22.2%	90,700	N/A	N/A	N/A	91,700	117,900	26,200	28.6%
Herts	1,099,000	1,363,900	264,900	24.1%	1,119,800	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,129,100	1,400,700	271,600	24.1%

Compiled by WBC, Planning Policy. Data source: Crown Copyright. Office for National Statistics. Published 29 May 2014. N.B. all figures are rounded to the nearest 100 in accordance with ONS guidelines

As can be seen in the table above, the 2012-based population projections for Watford, equate to a 25 year growth of 28.6%, higher than the 25 year growth of 22.2% estimated in the 2010-based population projections, whereas the projections for Hertfordshire overall equate to growth of 24.1% in both sets of projections.

It is important to note that the projections are not forecasts and do not take any account of future government policies, changing economic circumstances or the capacity of an area to accommodate the change in population. They provide an indication of the future size and age structure of the population if recent demographic trends continued. Population projections become increasingly uncertain the further they are carried forward, and particularly so for smaller geographic areas and detailed age and sex breakdowns.

Components of change

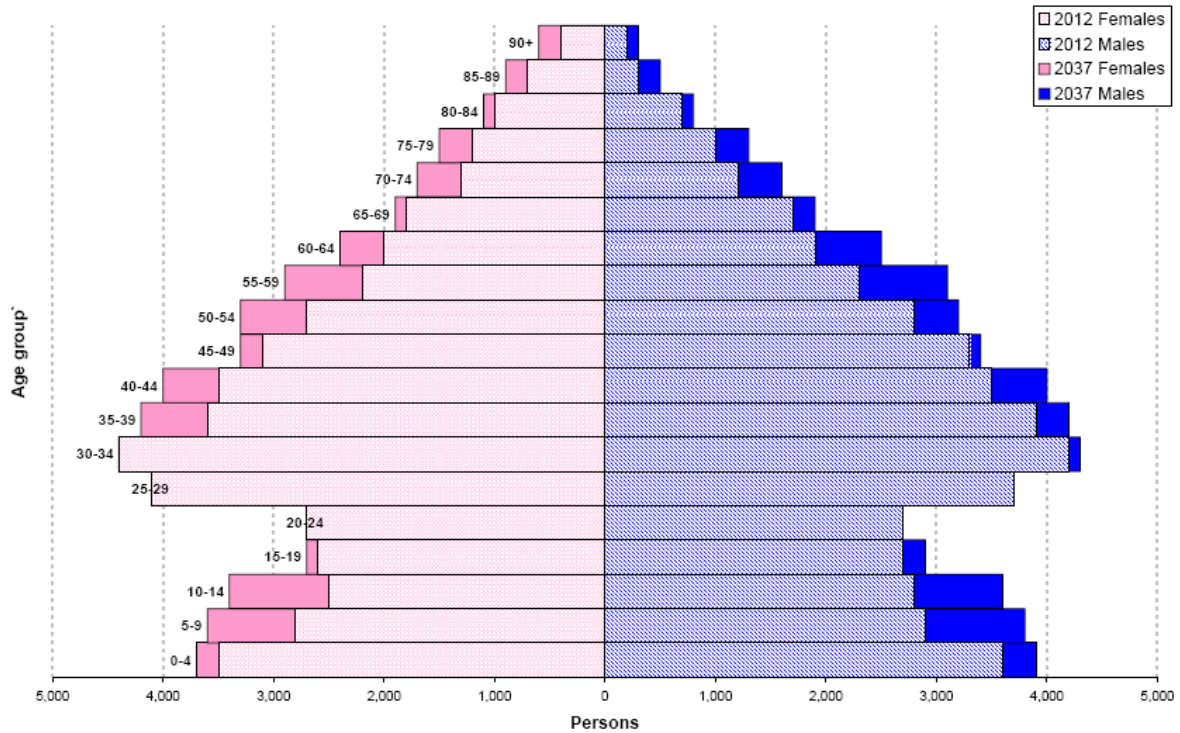
Population projections are trend-based projections, which means assumptions for future levels of births, deaths and migration are based on observed levels mainly over the previous five years.

Data has been published showing what makes up the components of change for the 2012-based population projections and these figures (to the nearest thousand) show that the bulk of the estimated increase for Watford over the period is expected to stem from natural change i.e. 19,000 more births than deaths, as opposed to migration (7,000, which results from more inward than outward internal (within the country) migration; there is expected to be almost as much outward as inward international migration).

The level of natural change can be attributed to the relatively young age structure of the current population, with a high proportion of child bearing age.

The 2012 age structure and expected age structure in 2037 is illustrated in the following age pyramid.

Figure 4-2: Age pyramid 2012 and 2037 – Watford



Source: Office for National Statistics, 2012-based population projections. Crown copyright.

4.3. Projected Household Growth, household size and composition

The 2011-based interim household projections were published by Communities and Local Government on 9 April 2013 and are linked to the 2011-based interim population projections published by ONS in September 2012. Like them, they have only been produced for a ten year period from a 2011 base to 2021, rather than the usual 25 year period. The previous 2008-based projections were produced on a 25 year period covering 2008 to 2033.

Table 4-6: CLG 2011-based interim household projections to 2021, percentage growth and average household size

	Watford		Herts		England	
	2011	2021	2011	2021	2011	2021
Household base figures 2011 and projections @ 2021	37,000	39,000	455,000	506,000	22.1 mill.	24.3 mill.
Percentage growth between 2011 and 2021	6%		11%		10%	
Average household size	2.44	2.41	2.43	2.41	2.36	2.33

Data source: Compiled by WBC, Planning Policy from DCLG 2011-based interim household projections
 N.B. From October 2011 DCLG does not publish data at regional level

The number of households is projected to grow between 5 and 10 per cent from 2011 to 2021 in nearly half (46%) of all LAs in England

- Watford - growth of 6% (2,000 households from base of 37,000 in 2011 to 39,000 in 2021)
- Hertfordshire - growth of 11%
- Other Hertfordshire LAs range in growth between the lowest at 6% for Watford and Stevenage to the highest at 20% for Welwyn Hatfield
- England - growth of 10%

Comparison of 2011-based interim projections with 2008-based household projections

From a national perspective, the 2011-based projections show a lower growth in households compared with the 2008-based projections.

Watford are one of the top 20 LAs with the greatest decrease shown in household growth, with 6% growth estimated compared to the 13% growth estimated in the 2008-based projections (a difference of -6%), although the 2011-based projections result in the same projected figure of 39,000 total households by 2021, as the starting base figure is higher.

- the 2011-based interim projections for Watford show estimated growth of 2,000 households (6% growth) from base of 37,000 to 39,000 in 2021
- the previous 2008-based projections estimated growth of 4,000 households (13% growth) from base of 35,000 to 39,000 in 2021

For information, Cambridge has the greatest decrease in projected household growth, with -3% estimated in the 2011-based projections, compared to 10% in the 2008-based projections, a difference of -13%; the City of London has the greatest increase in projected household growth, with 58% estimated in the 2011-based projections, compared to 31% in the 2008-based projections, a difference of 27%.

Household size

The majority of LAs in England (281 out of 326) have a projected decrease in average household size from 2011 to 2021, but at a slower rate than in the 2008-based projections. Between 2001 and 2011, average household size increased in many areas, rather than falling as projected in the 2008-based projections, which leads to a higher starting average household size for the projection period (e.g. Watford's average household size in the previous 2001 census was 2.43 and the 2008 projections estimated that Watford's average household size would decrease from a 2.38 base in 2008 to 2.27 by 2033).

The 2011-based projections estimate that, between 2011 and 2021:

- Watford's average household size will decrease from 2.44 to 2.41
- Hertfordshire's average household size will decrease from 2.43 to 2.41

- Only two LAs in Hertfordshire are estimated in increase in household size – Broxbourne from 2.48 to 2.50 and Welwyn Hatfield from 2.45 to 2.47
- England's average household size will decrease from 2.36 to 2.33

Household composition

On a national basis, couple households (both with and without other adults, or dependent children) represent 40% of the total increase in households between 2011 and 2021.

Over a quarter (28%) of the increase in households in England is accounted for by one person households, and by 2021, 13% of the private household population is projected to be living alone – this proportion of the population is unchanged from 2011.

Lone parent households (with or without another adult living in the accommodation) represent 18% of the total projected increase in households. 15% of the growth in total households is due to 'other' households, including multi person households such as student households and adults sharing accommodation.

Two thirds (67%) of the increase in households in England is projected for households without any dependent children. This reflects both the growth in one person households and multi-person households.

Table 4-6 shows the household projections for Watford by household type.

These show:

- Lone parent households are projected to grow the most by 32.3%, accounting for 38.3% of the total increase in households for Watford
- Couple households, with or without dependent children, with other adults are projected to increase at a rate of 12.1%, representing 23.4% of the total increase in households for Watford, faster than single family households, which only account for 3% of the total change
- One person households are projected to increase at a rate of 6.6%, although this makes up 32.8% of the total change for Watford
- The average household size is projected to decrease from 2.44 in 2011 to 2.41 by 2021 – this is a higher starting average household size than was previously estimated prior to the 2011 census results, and decreases at a slower rate.

Table 4-7: DCLG 2011-based interim household projections by household type

Watford					
Household types	2011	2021	Change 2011-21	% Change 2011-21	% of total change
One person	11.7	12.5	0.8	6.6%	32.8%
Couple and no other adult (single family, a married or cohabiting couple, with or without dependent children)	14.9	15.0	0.1	0.5%	3.0%
Couple with other adults (one or more married or cohabiting couple families with one or more other adults present, with or without dependent children)	4.6	5.1	0.6	12.1%	23.4%
Lone parent (one or more lone parent families, with dependent children, no married or cohabiting couple families)	2.8	3.7	0.9	32.3%	38.3%
Other (multi-person household e.g. lone parents with only non-dependent children, non-cohabiting adults sharing a dwelling)	2.9	3.0	0.1	2.1%	2.6%
All households	36.8	39.2	2.4	6.4%	100.0%

Data source: Compiled by WBC, Planning Policy from DCLG 2011-based interim household projections
N.B. Household numbers are in thousands

The household projections are an indication of the likely increase in households given the continuation of recent demographic trends. They are not an assessment of housing need nor do they take into account the effect of future government policies e.g. households that may move out from London boroughs seeking cheaper housing, because of the effects of the Welfare Reform Act. Household projections are acknowledged to be more uncertain at district level.

2012-based household projections are expected to have been released towards the end of 2014; household projections are published by DCLG and generally follow about six months after the ONS population projections are produced (which was 29 May 2014).

4.4. Crime

In the Watford Community Survey 2013, the level of crime and community safety remained the top choice as an effect in making somewhere a good place to live but with a significant drop in the number of people citing this as important, down to 48% from 72% in 2012. However, percentages have fallen overall as people were given the opportunity to choose 3 top choices in the 2013 survey

Table 4-8: Number of recorded offences in Watford

	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	% increase or - decrease between 12/13 and 13/14
Violence against the person	1224	919	973	851	1018	1062	976	-8.1%
Sexual offences	72	48	66	49	82	78	97	24.4%
Robbery offences	111	126	114	95	135	76	89	17.1%
Domestic burglary offences	445	465	357	421	361	272	216	-20.6%
Vehicle Crime	1144	911	771	779	662	437	539	23.3%

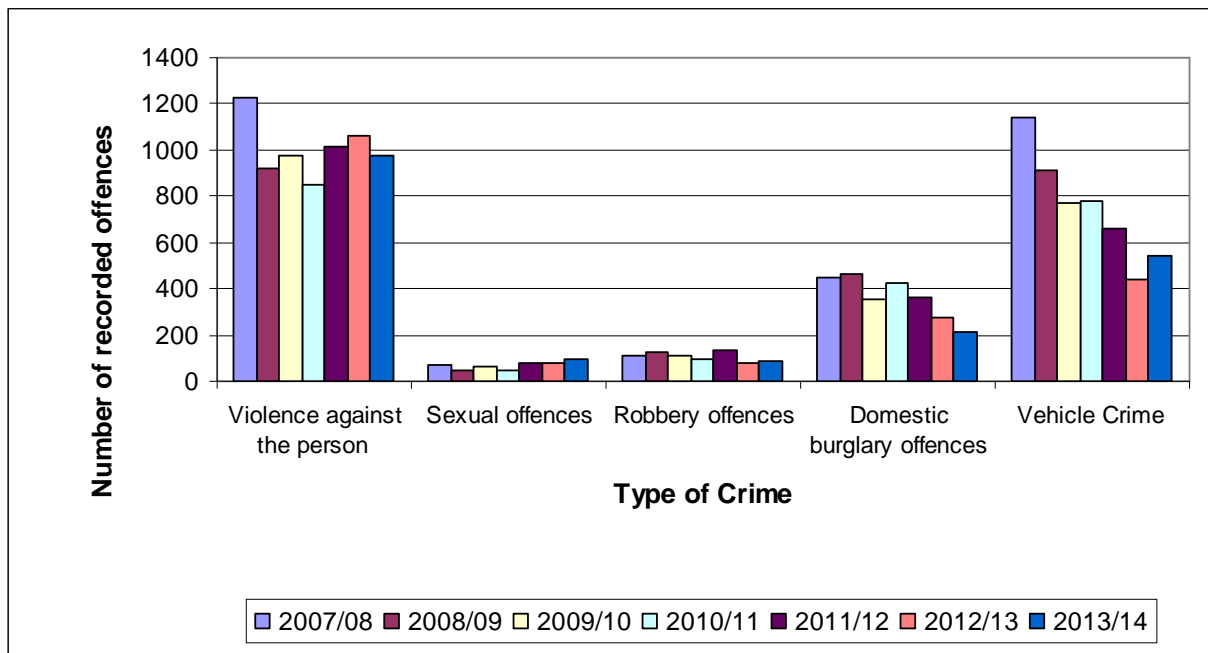
Source: <http://www.ons.gov.uk>

Watford is a densely populated urban town and a key centre for shopping and entertainment and so, has generally higher levels of crime proportionally, than other districts in Hertfordshire. Recordings of sexual offences, robbery and vehicle crime have all increased since last year although domestic burglary offences and violence against the person offences have decreased, as shown in Table 4-7. Although robbery offences and vehicle crime offences increased from last year, they are still lower than they have been over the preceding five years, as illustrated in the accompanying graph. There has been a mainly reducing trend in crime levels over these years.

The number of reported incidents of anti-social behaviour has also reduced by 40 per cent since 2010, thanks to the efforts of a number of agencies including Watford Borough Council and Hertfordshire Police. Initiatives that have contributed to the reduction include the introduction of Scan Net technology which enables local bars and clubs to verify customer identification; the new CCTV control room which records footage digitally and can transmit images wirelessly, and an ongoing commitment to tackle repeat anti-social offenders. Watford is proud to have achieved the Purple Flag accreditation which recognizes excellence in the management of town centres, scoring 'above average' for safety.

Watford Borough Council is one of the members of 'Safer Watford' – the Watford Community Safety Partnership, whose aim is to reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime across the borough. Other members of the partnership include Herts Constabulary, Herts Fire & Rescue, Herts County Council, NHS Herts and Herts Probation Service.

Figure 4-3: Key Crime Statistics in Watford 2007/08 to 2013/14



Source: Compiled by WBC, Planning Policy – source data from <http://www.ons.gov.uk>

4.5. Deprivation

DCLG is aiming to update the English Indices of Deprivation for publication in summer 2015. The current English Indices of Deprivation 2010 was published by the Government on the 24 March 2011, and uses 38 separate indicators (most of which are from 2008), organised across seven domains; these are Income, Employment, Health and Disability, Education Skills and Training, Barriers to Housing and Other Services, Crime and Living Environment

These domains can be combined, using appropriate weights, to calculate the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2010 ('**IMD 2010**'). This is an overall measure of multiple deprivation experienced by people living in an area and is calculated for every Lower Layer Super Output Area (LSOA) in England, of which there are 32,482. LSOAs are small areas of relatively even size (around 1,500 people).

The IMD 2010 can be used to rank every LSOA in England according to their relative level of deprivation, '1' being the most deprived and '32,482' being the least deprived. According to the IMD 2010, the most deprived LSOA in England is to the east of the Jaywick area of Clacton on Sea (Tendring 18a) and the least deprived is in one of Watford's neighbouring authorities, to the north west of Chorleywood (Three Rivers 005d). Both are in the East of England region.

There is no definitive point on the scale below which areas are considered to be deprived and above which they are not. In most cases, users concentrate on defining deprived areas by using a cut-off value beyond which areas are deemed to be the most deprived, the suitability of the cut-off depending on the purpose of the analysis. The IMD 2010 states that deprived areas have been defined in the latest release of the Index of Multiple Deprivation as those LSOAs that are amongst the 10 per cent most deprived in England.

Some of the key results quoted by the English ID 2010 are that:

- 98 per cent of the most deprived Lower layer Super Output Areas are in urban areas but there are also pockets of deprivation across rural areas
- 56 per cent of Local Authorities contain at least one LSOA amongst the 10% most deprived in England.

To place results for Watford in context nationally, none of the LSOAs in Watford rank among the most deprived 10% or the most deprived 20% in England.

Similarly, the LSOAs can be ranked within regional, county and district level, and we have compiled these figures for Watford, together with the national rankings, in Appendix 2; we have also shown by the shaded areas, those Watford LSOAs that come within the most deprived 10% and 20% of each larger geographical level considered (no shaded area appears in the 'England Rank' column, as no Watford LSOAs are ranked within the most deprived 20% nationally). There are 3,550 LSOAs in our region, the East of England, 683 LSOAs in the county of Hertfordshire and 53 LSOAs in Watford.

The most deprived LSOA in the borough is Watford 003D, a small area in Meriden ward, north of the North Western avenue, which is ranked the 7th most deprived LSOA in Hertfordshire, followed by Watford 009B in Central ward, north of the Harlequin centre, which ranks 8th most deprived LSOA in Hertfordshire (and was ranked most deprived in Watford in the IMD 2007). Both these LSOAs rank in the most deprived 10% (first decile) in the region, decreasing from three LSOAs in that category in the IMD 2007; together with another eight Watford LSOAs ranking among the most deprived 20% in the region, this makes a total of ten Watford LSOAs in the first quintile (the 20% most deprived) of the East of England region.

There are thirteen LSOAs in Watford which rank in the most deprived 10% in Hertfordshire, increasing from twelve LSOAs in the IMD 2007; three LSOAs each are in Central and Meriden wards, two in Holywell, and one each in Stanborough, Oxhey, Woodside, Callowland and Leggatts.

Unusually, all the LSOAs in Central ward come within the most deprived 20% in Hertfordshire, although LSOAs in this category can be found all over Watford, not just around the centre, including the majority of LSOAs in Meriden, Leggatts and Holywell ward. Watford 004B in Leggatts ward has not changed its ranking of 19th most deprived in Watford from the IMD 2007 to the IMD 2010, but has joined the 18 other Watford LSOAs in the most deprived 20% in the county; these LSOAs are the same as those in the IMD 2007, although some have shifted their position within the rankings. Only Nascot, Tudor and Park wards do not have any LSOAs within the most deprived 20% in the county and Nascot, Tudor, Park, Vicarage and Leggatts wards do not have any LSOAs within the most deprived 20% in the East of England region.

The IMD 2010 also includes Local Authority District Summaries and there are 326 LAs in all. Watford ranks 189 so is among the 50% least deprived in England, as are

all the Districts in Hertfordshire, apart from Stevenage (ranked 158). However, Watford is the 2nd most deprived district overall in Hertfordshire, with St. Albans being the least deprived, ranked at 316.

Further information on The English Indices of Deprivation 2010 can be found in the full report which can be located at:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/indices2010>

Also, neighbourhood summaries at LSOA level and above, including deprivation, can be seen by using the website:

<http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/>

4.6. Health

32 indicators make up the health summary in the NHS Health Profile, which is comprised of such factors as disease, poor health and life expectancy as well as deprivation, lifestyle, education and other social indicators which show how the health of people in the area compares with the rest of England.

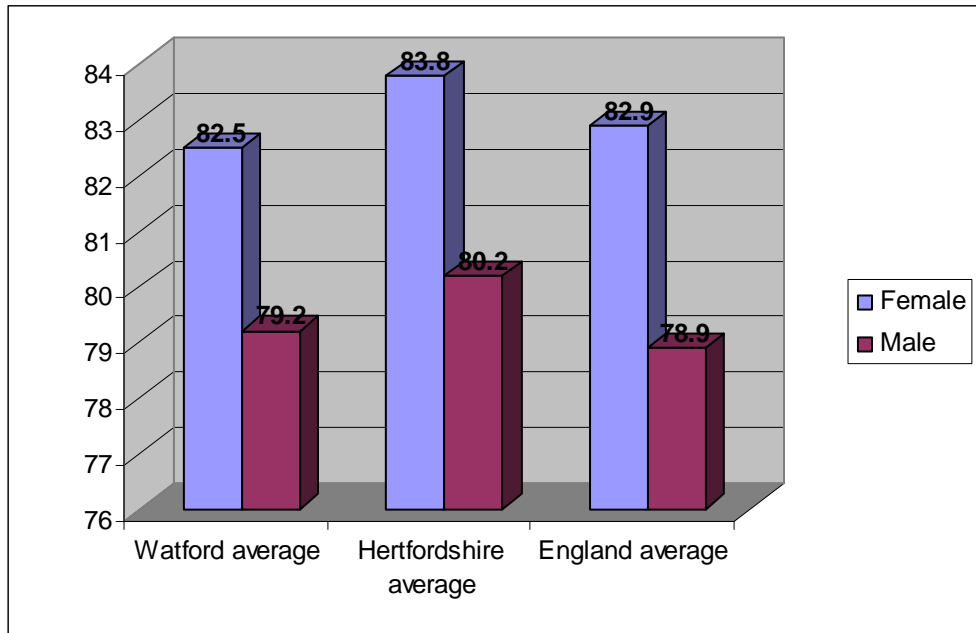
The 2014 NHS Health Profile's conclusion is very similar to that of the previous year in that the health of people in Watford is deemed 'varied compared with the England average'.

In 2014, there have been some changes in the indicators included and not all indicators are appropriate for comparison. However, to summarise, fourteen indicators have been measured as 'not significantly different from England average' and twelve indicators have been measured as 'significantly better than England average' (which may still indicate an important public health problem). The profile shows five different indicators for Watford which have been categorised as significantly worse than the England average and three all featured in 2013: acute sexually transmitted infections, statutory homelessness and violent crime. The fourth indicator is the latest three year ratio (August 2009 to July 2012) of excess winter deaths to average non-winter deaths, which has increased from the previous ratio of 22.6 to 28.9 and is significantly worse than the England average of 16.5.

Life expectancy at birth is an important indicator of health and it is female life expectancy which is cited as becoming significantly worse than the England average of 83.0, decreasing to 82.3 from 82.5 years last year. Male life expectancy remains unchanged at 79.2 years, the same as the England average. However, life expectancy can be 7.2 years lower for men and 8.7 years lower for women in the most deprived areas of Watford than in the least deprived areas.

Over the last ten years, the average early death rate (in people over 75) from all causes has fallen and is similar to the England average; however, the early death rate is worse than the England average in the most deprived quintile (fifth) in Watford and better in the least deprived quintile in Watford.

Figure 4-4: Life expectancy (years) at birth, 2009-2011



Source of data: Department of Health NHS Health Profile 2013

There is a drop shown in the percentage of adults smoking, from 16.6% last year to 14.3%. There has been no update on the data for physically active adults, which showed an improvement last year to better than the England average and the adults healthy eating indicator is no longer included. The proportion of obese adults has worsened from 17.3% to 20.9%, (better than the England average of 23%) although there has been a slight improvement in the proportion of obese children in Year 6 (aged 10-11), decreasing from 19.1% to 18.5%.

Similarly to the NHS profiles for 2012 and 2013, it is indicated that local priorities include smoking cessation, physical activity, obesity, older people's health and falls prevention.

From April 2013 statutory public health responsibilities transferred from the Primary Care Trust and Strategic Health Authority to Hertfordshire County Council. It is recognised that the council's services and policies play an essential role in improving the health of our residents. Watford Borough Council has been involved in developing the local Health and Wellbeing Strategy that identifies the priorities to be addressed across the County, with our Mayor being one of only two District Council representatives on the Health and Wellbeing Board whose responsibility it is to give strategic direction.

In the council's Corporate Plan 2013-17, the first priority is making Watford a better place to live in, with health and wellbeing key factors. Many Watford residents are already enjoying the benefits of the modernised leisure centres, Woodside and Watford Central. Ensuring that our leisure centres and also our parks and open spaces are maintained to a high standard all contributes to a potentially healthier town. It is recognised that we need to continue increasing participation in sports and leisure activities amongst our community as this has a positive impact on issues such

as obesity, diabetes and heart disease. Also, tackling problems such as alcohol and drug abuse has a positive impact on health as well as crime levels.

4.7. Street Cleaning and Recycling

In the Watford Community Survey 2013, litter and dirt in the streets remained one of the top three issues that people identified as an effect in making somewhere a good place to live, (after crime/community safety and road and pavement repairs) although the percentage choosing this option had dropped to 28% from 44% in 2012. (However, percentages have fallen overall compared to the previous survey as people were given the opportunity to choose 3 top choices in the 2013 survey).

Street cleansing and waste and recycling (along with Parks and Open Spaces) are services that are now managed for the Council by Veolia, an external contractor; this change was made in the summer of 2013.

Street cleansing performance is good in the areas of graffiti and fly posting – both of which have improved since last year – but the Council is expecting to see litter and detritus performance improve in 2014/15. A new approach to the delivery of street cleansing was introduced from November 2013 and it was expected that, whilst the new ways of working were embedded, performance would dip slightly.

The last quarter's results for 2013/14 were as follows (low figures are good for these measures):

- levels of litter increased to 5.06% (from 2.44%)
- levels of detritus increased to 6.76% (from 4.02%)
- levels of graffiti show an improving trend at 1.49% (from 2.67%)
- levels of fly posting show an improving trend at 0.3% (from 0.61%)

N.B. Figures in brackets are for the last quarter 2012/13.

Recycling performance of household waste shows improvement with a revised recycling service also introduced in November 2013; recycling is collected weekly instead of fortnightly, and recyclable materials can all go into one bin, no longer requiring separation into three boxes. A recycling rate of around 40% has been maintained, which compares well with other urban areas across the country.

5. Housing

5.1. H1: Plan Period and Housing Targets

Our current housing requirement is contained in Watford's Core Strategy 2006-31, which was adopted on 30 January 2013. (The East of England Plan, which was the Regional Strategy applying to Watford and previously formed part of Watford's Local Plan, was revoked by the Government in January 2013.)

Core Strategy Target, covering period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2031

The Core Strategy states that we are seeking a minimum total target of 6,500 homes from 2006 to 2031, an average delivery rate of 260 dwellings per annum. The housing supply figures are reviewed at least annually, in light of new evidence and joint working with neighbouring authorities and other partners.

5.2. H2: Housing Trajectory

H2a: Net additional dwellings – in previous years

The housing trajectory demonstrates housing provision by providing the actual numbers of net annual completions in the past and projected numbers of completions in the future, and compares these to the targets for new housing.

The main purpose of the trajectory is to support forward planning by monitoring housing performance and supply. This highlights whether any action is necessary in amending planning policy or other means of support to the housing market.

Figure 5-1 illustrates the housing trajectory graphically and Table 5-1 shows the figures in chart form – separate figures are provided for private and affordable housing completions.

Watford has delivered 3,369 new homes since 2006, an average of 421 per annum, ahead of the minimum 6,500 housing target set in the Core Strategy for the period 2006-31, which equates to an average of 260 dwellings per annum.

H2b: Net additional dwellings – for the reporting year (the past year of 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014)

The net figure of 398 completions for 2013-14 exceeds the average 260 homes required per year and also the revised annual rate required to remain on target. For the AMR year 2013/14, there were 46 units completed from 'Watford District Plan 2000' allocated housing sites (36 units on housing site no.24 - Cassio College, Langley Road site and 10 units on housing site no. 18 - Elm Cot, North Orbital Road), 13% of the total 398 net completions. As can be seen in Table 5-2, most allocated housing sites came forward for development in earlier years. A summary of all the Housing Sites allocated in the WDP 2000 and their current status is provided in Appendix 6.

Taking into account the 398 net housing completions to 2013-14, Watford's dwelling stock is currently estimated to be 38,760 (to nearest 10) as at the 31 March 2014.

H2(c): Net additional dwellings – in future years

Local Planning Authorities are required to identify a fifteen year supply of deliverable sites and Table 5-1 and Figure 5-1 show the estimated projections for 2014/15 to 2030/31.

The past completions between 2006/07 and 2013/14 total 3,369, which is well above the combined annual average required for the years 2006/07-2013/14 ($8 \times 260 = 2,080$), making 184 the revised annual rate necessary in order to achieve the minimum target of 6,500 by 2031 ($6,500 - 3,369 = 3,131 / 17 = 184$). If development continues in line with the projections calculated, we estimate that Watford will have achieved in excess of the minimum target by 2031.

The method used for assessing when deliverability of each permission or site is likely to come forward is based on the criteria in the NPPF, also taking into account such factors as to whether:

- the development has started
- planning permissions are full or outline and when they will expire
- discussions with Development Control or developers on progress or when/if likely to proceed.

Also provided separately in Appendix 5 is a list of the outstanding allocated sites without planning permission as at 31 March 2014, which shows the estimated likelihood of whether development will proceed and when figures for these sites are included in the projections.

The Core Strategy (adopted January 2013) identifies strategic site locations as Special Policy Areas, some of which are for major regeneration schemes: SPA2 Watford Junction, SPA3 Health Campus, and SPA6 Western Gateway. Specific boundaries in respect of the SPAs will be allocated by the Site Allocations process, part of the Local Plan Part 2, including a revised Town Centre boundary in respect of SPA1 Town Centre.

Additional sites may come forward – other sites are being assessed and published for consultation as part of the Site Allocations process, contained within the Local Plan Part 2. An initial consultation on the Local Plan Part 2 ran from the 4th November to the 16th December 2013; the results of the consultation have been reviewed and further consultation is being undertaken from 17th December 2014 to 4th February 2015. Planning applications will be considered and determined having regard to the NPPF, Development Plan policies and other material considerations. General updates on the progress of SPA2, SPA3 and SPA6 are provided under Local Indicator LT7 Development progress on major schemes.

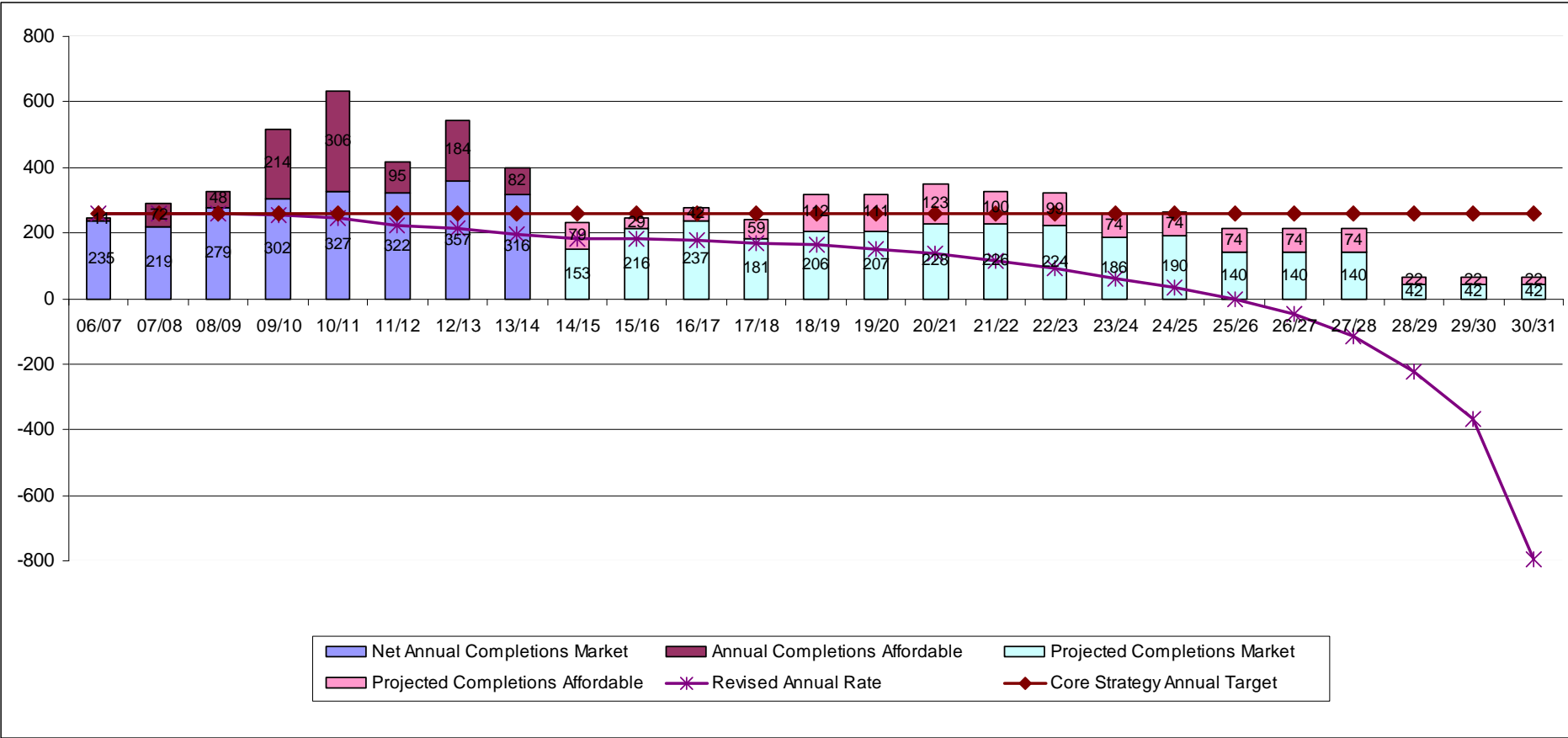
Table 5-1: H2: Net Housing Completions and Projected Completions @ 31/3/14

Year	Net Annual Completions Market	Annual Completions Affordable	Projected Completions Market	Projected Completions Affordable	Revised Annual Rate	Core Strategy Annual Target	Cumulative Totals	Net Annual Completions Totals	Projected Annual Completions Totals
06/07	235	11			260	260	246	246	
07/08	219	72			261	260	537	291	
08/09	279	48			259	260	864	327	
09/10	302	214			256	260	1380	516	
10/11	327	306			244	260	2013	633	
11/12	322	95			224	260	2430	417	
12/13	357	184			214	260	2971	541	
13/14	316	82			196	260	3369	398	
14/15			153	79	184	260	3601		232
15/16			216	29	181	260	3846		245
16/17			237	42	177	260	4125		279
17/18			181	59	170	260	4365		240
18/19			206	112	164	260	4683		318
19/20			207	111	151	260	5001		318
20/21			228	123	136	260	5352		351
21/22			226	100	115	260	5678		326
22/23			224	99	91	260	6001		323
23/24			186	74	62	260	6261		260
24/25			190	74	34	260	6525		264
25/26			140	74	-4	260	6739		214
26/27			140	74	-48	260	6953		214
27/28			140	74	-113	260	7167		214
28/29			42	22	-222	260	7231		64
29/30			42	22	-366	260	7295		64
30/31			42	22	-795	260	7359		64
	2357	1012	2800	1190		6500		3369	3990
				Target		6500			
				Less cumulative total to 2031		7359			
				Excess over plan period		859			

Source: Compiled by Planning Policy, WBC

N.B. Annual completions affordable portrayed in the table form part of the net annual completions totals (not including any affordable acquisitions)

Figure 5-1: H2: Housing Trajectory 2014



Source: Compiled by Planning Policy, WBC
 N.B. Annual completions affordable portrayed in the chart form part of the net annual completions totals (not including any affordable acquisition)

H2 (d): Managed delivery target

The purpose of the managed delivery target is to keep track of our housing delivery performance. We calculate the delivery rate necessary to achieve the housing requirement by the end of the relevant plan period, showing how levels of future housing are expected to come forward and taking into account the number of homes provided since the start of the relevant plan period.

The managed delivery target for each year is illustrated as 'Revised Annual Rate' within Table 5-1 and the corresponding Housing Trajectory graph, Figure 5-1.

- Taking into account the total completions of 3,369 units between 2006/07 and 2013/14, this equates to 3,131 units remaining to be achieved and a residual annual rate requirement or 'managed delivery target' of 184 dwellings for the remaining period ($6,500 - 3,369 = 3,131 / 17 = 184$) in order to achieve the minimum target of 6,500 by 2031.

As each future year's estimated completions vary, so does the annual rate required to reach the target, and is thus revised each year as shown. This enables us to monitor housing delivery performance over the relevant plan period, identify any shortfall and plan accordingly.

5.3. H3: Five Year Housing Land Supply Assessment

A more detailed assessment is required for the first five years; a summary is given below and further details are provided in Appendix 7.

- The **Core Strategy** covers the period 2006-07 to 2030-31, where we are seeking 6,500 dwellings over 25 years.
- Taking into account the total completions of 3,369 units between 2006/07 and 2013/14, this equates to 3,131 units remaining to be achieved and a residual annual requirement of 184 dwellings for the remaining period ($6,500 - 3,369 = 3,131 / 17 = 184$). This corresponds to a five year housing requirement of 920 (y) dwellings ($184 * 5 = 920$).
- The number of projected completions between 2015/16-2019/20 has been identified as 1,400 (x).
- **The five year housing land supply is calculated as $(x/y) * 100$. Watford's 5 year land supply is $(1,400/920) * 100 = 152.2\%$, which is above the National Planning Policy Framework requirement of 105%.**

The five year assessment is updated on an annual basis to reflect changes identified in the housing supply and the next assessment will follow the collection and analysis of data over the period 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015.

The larger sites (10 units and over) are detailed individually in the five year assessment listing, and summary totals are provided for the smaller sites (under 10 units) in order to reduce the volume of paperwork.

A summary of the five year assessment listing is available at Appendix 7 and is also available separately to download from our website; included in the housing trajectory within the five year assessment are three 'prior approvals' (these can be located by searching for references ending in JPD) which are all notifications of proposals to convert office buildings into residential use.

The full trajectory listing detailing all housing commitments is available from the Planning Policy team by e-mailing strategy@watford.gov.uk or writing to us at our address on the back page of this document.

5.4. H4: Total Net Housing Completions by Allocation or Windfall Type

Table 5-2: H4: Total Net Housing Completions by Allocated Housing Site or Windfall Type 2001-14

Year	No. of Allocated Housing Site Units Completed	Allocated Housing Site Units as % of Total Net Completions	No. of Large Windfall Site Units Completed	Large Windfall Site Units as % of Total Net Completions	No. of Small Windfall Site Units Completed	Small Windfall Site Units as % of Total Net Completions	Total Net Housing Completions	Total Windfall Site Units (large & small)	Total Windfall Site Units as % of Total Net Completions
2001/02	12	19%	19	31%	31	50%	62	50	81%
2002/03	93	56%	30	18%	42	25%	165	72	44%
2003/04	195	82%	12	5%	31	13%	238	43	18%
2004/05	89	25%	216	61%	51	14%	356	267	75%
2005/06	189	32%	300	51%	96	16%	585	396	68%
2006/07	72	29%	123	50%	51	21%	246	174	71%
2007/08	88	30%	118	41%	85	29%	291	203	70%
2008/09	8	2%	243	74%	76	23%	327	319	98%
2009/10	0	0%	452	88%	64	12%	516	516	100%
2010/11	0	0%	577	91%	56	9%	633	633	100%
2011/12	28	7%	292	70%	97	23%	417	389	93%
2012/13	162	30%	316	58%	63	12%	541	379	70%
2013/14	46	12%	266	67%	86	22%	398	352	88%
Totals	982	21%	2964	62%	829	17%	4775	3793	79%
Avg.p.a.	76	21%	228	62%	64	17%	367	292	79%

Source: Compiled by Planning Policy, WBC

Windfall sites refer to development proposals that come forward that have not been previously identified as available in the Local Plan process. Large windfall sites are developments where there are at least 10 dwellings or more, and small windfall sites are developments of less than 10 dwellings. Watford has a history of a substantial windfall delivery rate as can be seen in Table 5-2. Windfall sites (both large and small) comprise 79% of the total net housing completions since 2001.

A conservative allowance has been made within the housing trajectory from year 6 onwards of 64 units per annum in respect of windfalls. This allowance is calculated from the average windfall delivery rate for the period 2001-2014 on 'small' sites only ($829/13=64$). Although Watford does have a history of large windfall sites, we are not relying on past figures in this respect as this number of 'large' sites may not be repeated. We have also chosen not to include any windfall allowance in years 1 to 5 of the trajectory, to ensure that there is no double counting of sites with planning permission.

Slippage

Monitoring data shows that, historically, non-implementation rates, known as slippage, of planning permissions has been very low. However, there are a number of factors, including economic, which could mean that housing completions will not follow the projections outlined; not all planning permissions are implemented; for those under construction, building works may take longer than currently scheduled and new developments may come forward. Factors such as these are outside local authority control, as are downturns in the housing market.

The estimated figure contained in our 2014 trajectory for net completions during 2013-14 was 287 units, whereas the actual net completions figure was 398 units. The main difference in the amount of actual and anticipated completions results from a larger sized development at Leggatts Way, where all of the remaining 111 units were completed this year, sooner than expected rather than as we estimated, between 2013/14 and 2014/15.

5.5. H5: New and converted dwellings – on previously developed land ('PDL')

In 2013/14, there were 431 completed dwellings (gross) in total during the year, of which 91% (392 units) were on previously developed land.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states in paragraph 111, that 'Planning policies and decisions should encourage the effective use of land by re-using land that has been previously developed (brownfield land), provided that it is not of high environmental value. Local planning authorities may continue to consider the case for setting a locally appropriate target for the use of brownfield land.

Within the Core Strategy, Policy HS1 'Housing Supply and Residential Site Selection' details factors that will support residential allocation or will be considered in determining planning applications, and includes previously developed land – our local target continues to be 80% of all residential development on previously developed land, as specified in the Core Strategy's 'Monitoring Framework'.

As can be seen in the table below, the percentage of housing completions on previously developed land remains well above this target.

Table 5-3: H5: Percentage of new and converted homes (gross) on previously developed land

2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
99.66%	100%	100%	100%	97.90%	92.50%	97.00%	91.00%

Source: Compiled by Planning Policy, WBC.

N.B. PDL definition amended 9/6/10 to exclude private residential gardens and applied to results from 2010/11. The revised definition is required to be applied to all completions to assist in measuring subsequent results as consistently as possible, even though the data will include completions that were granted under the previous definition, and this obviously affects any comparisons made between results prior to and after this date.

5.6. H6: Net additional pitches (Gypsy and Traveller)

- There have been no additional pitches delivered.

Watford Borough Council currently accommodates a 10-pitch public gypsy/traveller site at Tolpits Lane in the south of the town, managed by Hertfordshire County Council. It also contains two privately-owned travelling show people's sites in the north. There are no transit sites in Watford.

The Core Strategy Policy HS4 set a target of 20 pitches by 2021 and has stated that 'a site in the vicinity of the existing Tolpits Lane site will be the preferred location.' The Local Plan Part 2 – Site Allocation document has identified a potential site adjacent to the existing site. This is currently out for a second round of public consultation.

The Department for Communities and Local Government collect and publish data from local authorities who carry out the count of caravans on traveller sites twice a year, in January and July; data recorded in January 2014 was published in June 2014. This showed the last five counts since January 2012 which all recorded:

- No unauthorised encampments.

The council acknowledges a need for 10 transit pitches in south and west Hertfordshire to complement the existing South Mimms site by 2011 and will work with neighbouring authorities to identify the most appropriate location(s) for these pitches. There is not considered to be a need for any additional plots for travelling showpeople in the District. These targets will be kept under review. Any applications for pitches will be assessed on a case by case basis against the policies of the Core Strategy and other relevant guidance.

5.7. H7: Affordable housing completions and housing mix

There were 82 affordable dwelling completions in total during 2013-14 across five sites, with the mix made up of 10 social rented dwellings, 34 affordable rented dwellings and 38 low cost ownership (shared ownership and intermediate rent).

Table 5-4: H7: Affordable housing completions mix provided

	Social rent		Affordable rent		Intermediate		Total afford. units provided
	Number of units	% of total afford. units	Number of units	% of total afford. units	Number of units	% of total afford. units	
2011/12	79	83%	0	0	16	17%	95
2012/13	122	66%	31	17%	31	17%	184
2013/14	10	12%	34	41%	38	46%	82

Source: Watford Borough Council

Affordable targets for Watford have been developed through the Core Strategy, informed by the evidence produced by various studies such as the Development Economic Study (DES) and the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) that were commissioned in partnership with neighbouring local authorities. The Core Strategy, states that 35% affordable housing will be sought on major applications of 10 residential units and above (or sites of more than 0.5 ha), with a mix of 20% social rent, 65% affordable rent and 15% intermediate (shared ownership) affordable housing.

5.8. H8: Percentage of affordable homes on qualifying sites

The 82 affordable completions in 2013/14 formed part of developments across six sites, where the number of affordable homes achieved varies between 30% and 100% of the total residential units on each site. Both the Cassio Campus and Leggatts Campus permissions conformed to the policy that applied at the time of approval which was 30% affordable housing, rather than the 35% affordable housing presently required; three sites achieved 100% affordable completions. This shows that our policy is being complied with and is increasing the stock of affordable homes.

Figure 5-2: Former Leggatts Campus, Leggatts Way



Table 5-5: H8: Number of affordable homes provided 2013/14 and as % of gross housing completions on qualifying sites

Planning Permission No.	Address	No. of affordable homes per permission and % of permission's total housing units	No. of affordable homes completed 2013/14
08/01378/FULM	West Herts College Cassio Campus, Langley Road	67 – 30% of total 223 units (9 affordable units outstanding)	9
11/00300/FULM	West Herts College Cassio Campus, Langley Road	1 - 33% of total 3 units (in addition to the 67 granted under 08/01378/FULM above)	1
09/00835/FUL	Former West Herts College, Leggatts Campus, Leggatts Way	66 – 30% of total 217 units (28 affordable units outstanding)	28
11/00272/FULM	Gammons Farm Close,	14 – 100% of total 14 units	14
11/00756/REM (Reserved matters re. 07/01358/OUTM)	756, 758, 758a St. Albans Road	14 – 100% of total 14 units	14
11/01248/FULM	Croxley View (garage compounds)	16 – 100% of total 16 units	16
		Total affordable completed 2013/14	82 units

Source: Watford Borough Council

By way of comparison, historical affordable data since 2001/02 is provided, together with totals for overall net housing completions. Please note that we also supply the percentages for 'affordable homes provided as average % of net housing completions' for information but this result is not representative of the effectiveness of our policy, which does not apply on sites with less than 10 units; also, on many large developments, all the affordable homes can be supplied in one particular year although there can be completions of other units in market housing over a number of years, so that lower percentages of affordable housing in some years are often compensated by higher percentages in other years.

Table 5-6: Affordable homes provided 2001/02 to 2013/14

	Affordable Homes provided	Net Housing Completions (includes market and affordable)	Affordable Homes provided as average % of Net Housing Completions
2001-02	0	62	0.0%
2002-03	15	165	9.1%
2003-04	36	238	15.1%
2004-05	31	356	8.7%
2005-06	163	585	27.9%
2006-07	11	246	4.5%
2007-08	72	291	24.7%
2008-09	48	327	14.7%
2009-10	224	516	43.4%
2010-11	356	633	56.2%
2011-12	95	417	22.8%
2012-13	184	541	34.0%
2013-14	82	398	20.6%

Source: Watford Borough Council, Planning Policy

N.B. To the year ending 31 March 2007, affordable housing completions monitored in this table are only those identified as a component part of a planning application - these do not include affordable acquisitions, if any. However from the 2008 reporting year, the planning definition for affordable completions was revised to include acquisitions and conversions as well as new-build completions.

5.9. H9: Affordable Housing Commitments

In addition to 326 affordable homes with planning permission there are also currently (as at 31 March 2014) another 864 affordable homes anticipated to come forward, some of which have been identified through pre-application discussions or form part of identified development schemes, such as Watford Junction and the Health Campus. This makes a current total of 1,190 affordable homes anticipated to come forward over the period 2013/14 to 2030/31, around 30% of the estimated total 3,990 housing commitments outstanding. The total number of affordable homes anticipated is subject to schemes proving viable and funding being identified.

The five year assessment sites listing is available at Appendix 7 in this document and separately on our website to download; the full trajectory listing detailing all housing commitments is available from the Planning Policy team by e-mailing strategy@watford.gov.uk or writing to us at our address on the back page of this document.

5.10. H10: Gross Housing Completions 2006/07 to 2013/14 by size

Almost 37% of dwellings built during 2013/14 were two bedroom properties, decreasing from 2012/13, when almost half (49%) were two bedroom. Conversely, the proportion of one bedroom properties built in 2013/14 has increased to 42.7%, up from 24.5% in 2012/13.

The percentage of three bedroom properties built in 2013/14 has increased to 11.8%, from 7.9% in 2012/13 although completions on four bedroom properties have

decreased from 16.4% to 6%, with little variance in five bedrooms at 2.6% (last year being the only year since 2006/07 that 2 no. six bedroom properties were built). Overall, the proportion of dwellings with three bedrooms or more has reduced from 26.9% in 2012/13 to 20.4%, although this proportion is higher than each previous year shown, since 2006/07.

Table 5-7: H10: Gross Housing Completions 2006/07 to 2013/14 by size

	1 bed	2 bed	3 bed	4 bed	5 bed	6 bed	Unknown	Total Gross Housing Completions
2006/07	98	161	17	16	1	0	0	293
	33.4%	54.9%	5.8%	5.5%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	
2007/08	92	184	25	8	8	0	19	336
	27.4%	54.8%	7.4%	2.4%	2.4%	0.0%	5.7%	
2008/09	143	158	35	23	8	0	2	369
	38.8%	42.8%	9.5%	6.2%	2.2%	0.0%	0.5%	
2009/10	227	224	33	41	15	0	0	540
	42.0%	41.5%	6.1%	7.6%	2.8%	0.0%	0.0%	
2010/11	310	305	33	15	2	0	0	665
	46.6%	45.9%	5.0%	2.3%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	
2011/12	130	254	32	57	6	0	0	479
	27.1%	53.0%	6.7%	11.9%	1.3%	0.0%	0.0%	
2012/13	139	276	45	93	13	2	0	568
	24.5%	48.6%	7.9%	16.4%	2.3%	0.4%	0.0%	
2013/14	184	159	51	26	11	0	0	431
	42.7%	36.9%	11.8%	6.0%	2.6%	0.0%	0.0%	

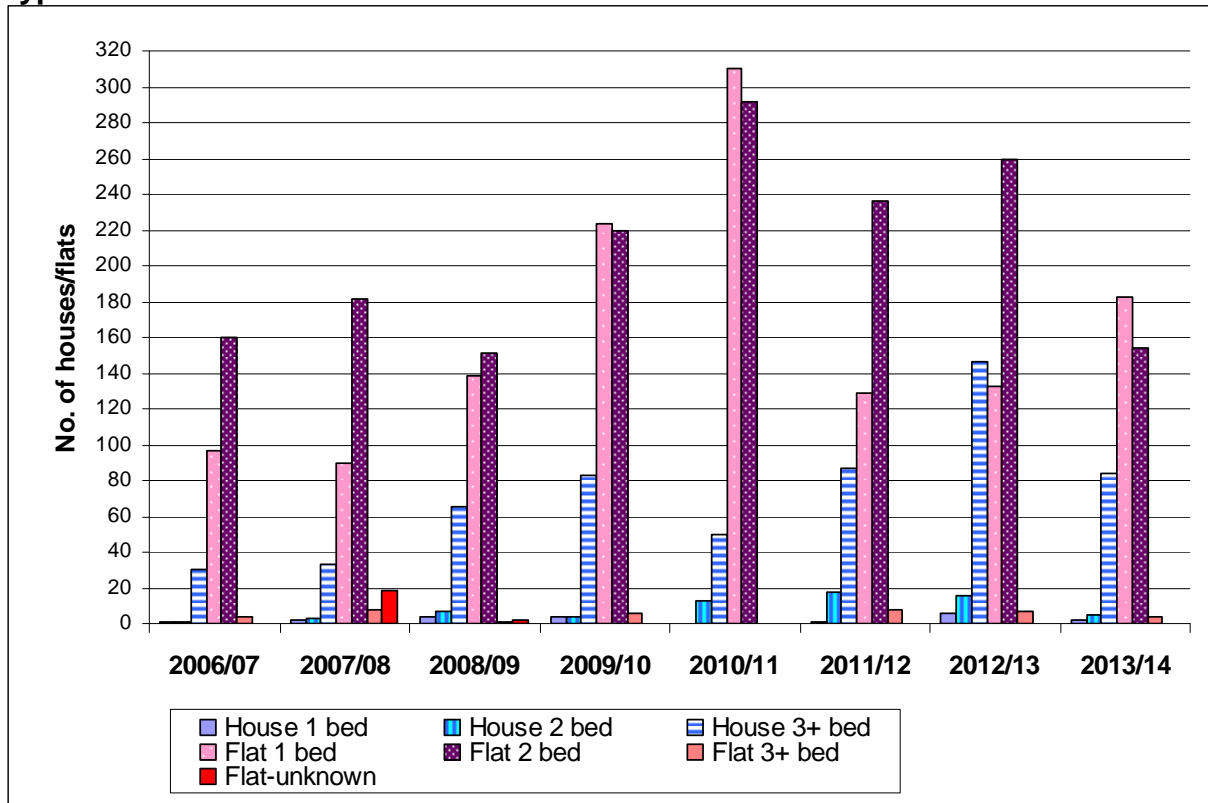
Source: Watford Borough Council, Planning Policy

5.11. H11: Gross Housing Completions 2006/07 to 2013/14 by size and type

The proportion of houses that have been built in 2013/14 has decreased to 21%, down from 29% in 2012/13, so flats/maisonettes/studios have increased to 79%. This compares to the building peak for flats in 2010/11 when they represented 91% of total housing completions, the highest percentage over the 2001/02 to 2013/14 period.

The 2011 Census confirmed that there was a significant increase in flatted development in the borough between 2001 and 2011, with the proportion of the housing stock being flats increasing from 26.7% to 34.0%. This increase of 7.3% was entirely purpose-built flats, which increased from 19.7% in 2001 to 27% in 2011, whilst converted flats remained the same percentage of the stock, at 5.5% as did flats in a commercial building, at 1.5%.

Figure 5-3: H11: Gross Housing Completions 2006/07 to 2013/14 by size and type



Source: Watford Borough Council, Planning Policy

The percentage of houses declined by 7.1% overall, from 73.1% in 2001 to 66% in 2011 - detached housing decreased from 11.6% to 10.5%, semi-detached housing decreased from 30.7% to 28.1% and terraced housing decreased from 30.8% to 27.4%.

Table 5-8: H11: Gross Housing Completions 2006/07 to 2013/14 by type

	Bungalow	Flat	House	Total Gross Housing Completions
2006/07	1 0.0%	261 89.1%	31 10.6%	293
2007/08	2 1.0%	298 88.7%	36 10.7%	336
2008/09	1 0.0%	293 79.4%	75 20.3%	369
2009/10	1 0.0%	449 83.1%	90 16.7%	540
2010/11	1 0.0%	602 90.5%	62 9.3%	665
2011/12	4 1.0%	373 77.9%	102 21.3%	479
2012/13	0 0.0%	404 71.1%	164 28.9%	568
2013/14	2 0.5%	340 78.9%	89 20.6%	431

Source: Watford Borough Council, Planning Policy

5.12. H12: Housing density

There is no national indicative minimum density contained within the NPPF. It is for local authorities and communities to decide for themselves the best locations and types of development in their areas.

Table 5-9: H12: Percentage of new-build dwellings (gross, not including conversions) completed by net density

	New Dwellings (Gross completions, excluding conversions)	Net Dev. Area (ha)	Average density per hectare	% dwellings less than 30 dpha	% dwellings between 30 and 50 dpha	% dwellings greater than 50 dpha
2006/07	226	2.83	80	3	6	92
2007/08	235	2.61	90	5	3	92
2008/09	264	4.79	55	6	26	68
2009/10	480	6.04	80	7	15	78
2010/11	543	3.62	150	1	8	92
2011/12	410	6.65	62	4	21	74
2012/13	521	7.81	67	4	32	64
2013/14	286	5.44	53	2	27	70

Source: Compiled by Planning Policy, WBC and Information Management Unit, HCC

N.B. Please note these figures relate to new-build dwellings completed and exclude conversions for the purposes of density calculations. Percentages may not sum 100% due to rounding. Dpha = dwellings per hectare

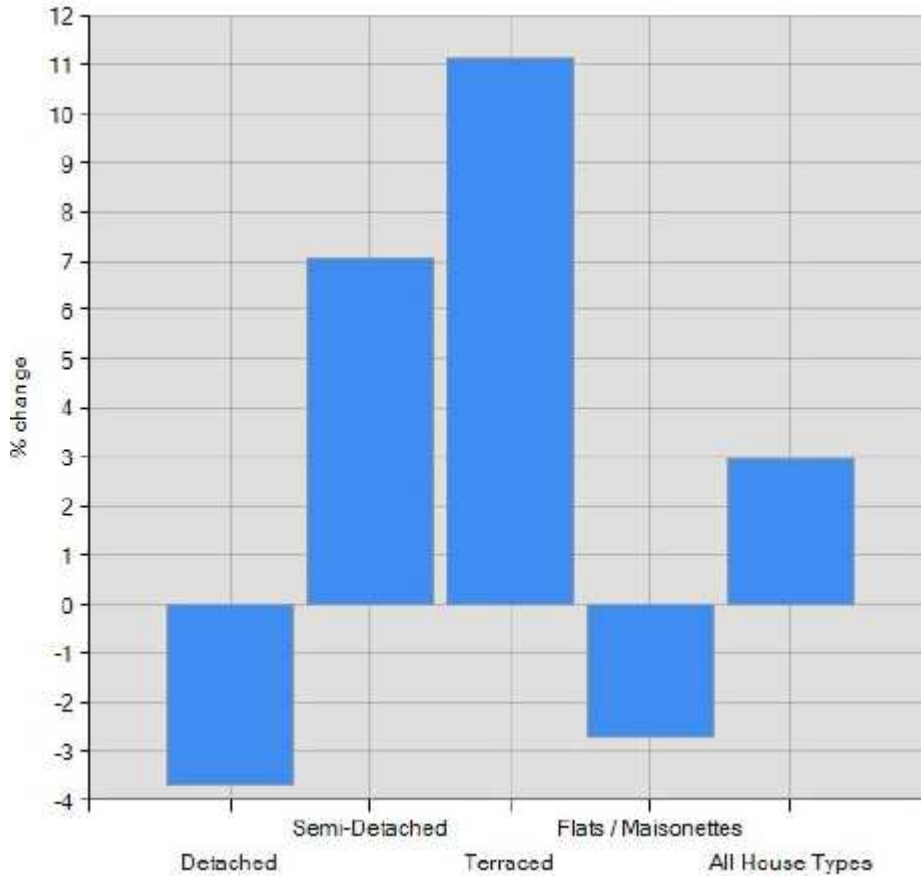
Policy HS2 in the Core Strategy deals with housing mix including density. Densities will vary according to the accessibility of locations, with the highest densities around the town centre and key strategic sites. Housing development will be required to make efficient use of land but in all areas the appropriate density for development will be informed by the Residential Design Guide (character area map) and the Watford Character of the Area Study, keeping with the character of the area appraisals and supporting the development of sustainable, balanced communities. As can be seen from Table 5-9, the average density for 2013-14 has reduced and equates to 53 dwellings per hectare, although the percentage of dwellings that are at a density greater than 50 dwellings per hectare has increased to 70%, as opposed to 64% in 2012/13.

5.13. H13: Average house prices in Watford

The percentage change in house prices over the year to the 2nd quarter of 2014 for all house types in Watford was an increase of 3% (from £275,000 to £283,100).

This house price movement, together with that for each house type can be seen in the following diagram:

Figure 5-4: House price movement in Watford - % change over year to 2nd quarter 2014



For comparison, at the 2nd quarter 2014, the average price in Hertfordshire in respect of all house types was £361,000 (an annual increase of 10.3%); the average price of a semi-detached property was £386,800 and a flat, £195,400 – all higher than those of Watford's, as seen in the following graph and table.

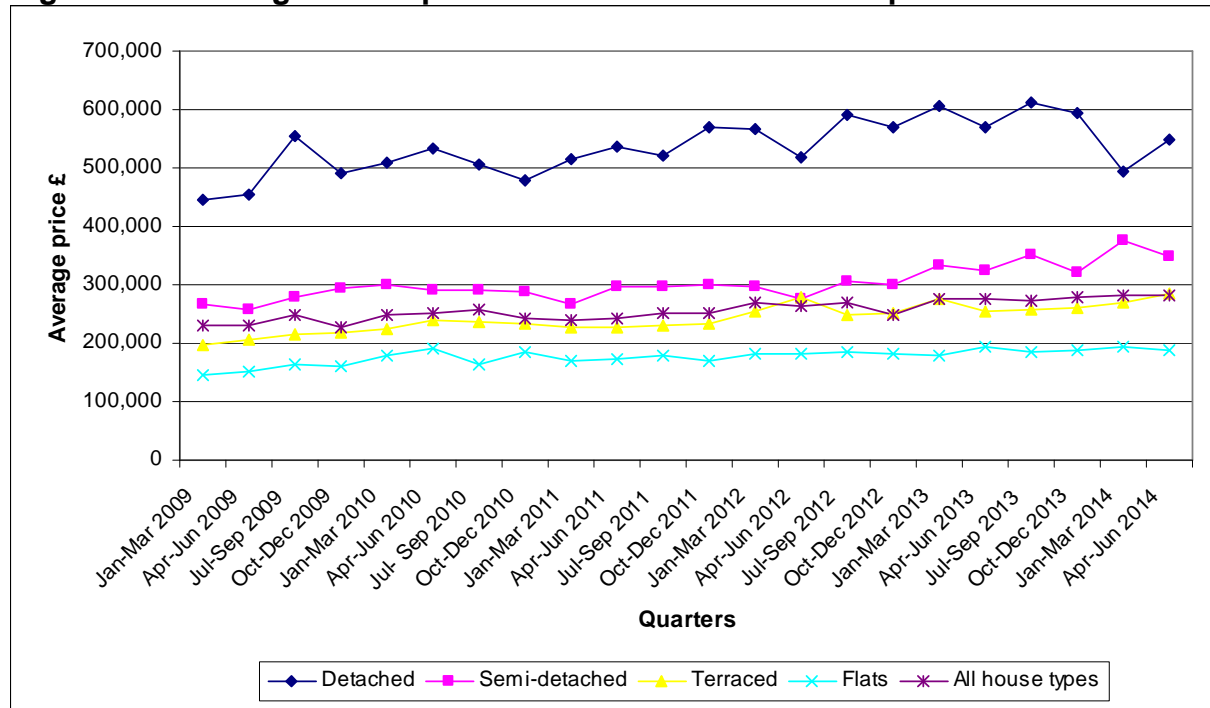
Table 5-10: H13: Average house prices in Watford, quarterly 2009-2014

Quarter	Detached	Semi-detached	Terraced	Flat / Maisonette	All Properties
Jan-Mar 2009	444,400	267,200	196,700	145,000	230,300
Apr-Jun 2009	453,200	258,900	206,100	151,100	228,900
Jul-Sep 2009	553,400	277,600	215,000	163,600	247,100
Oct-Dec 2009	492,000	294,000	216,800	162,000	228,200
Jan-Mar 2010	510,000	299,200	224,000	180,200	248,500
Apr-Jun 2010	534,200	290,800	237,900	189,900	250,300
Jul-Sep 2010	505,000	290,700	236,900	162,200	256,200
Oct-Dec 2010	478,000	289,300	234,700	183,900	241,800
Jan-Mar 2011	516,300	266,000	227,700	169,300	240,800
Apr-Jun 2011	536,700	296,400	228,000	171,500	241,100
Jul-Sep 2011	520,600	295,900	231,500	178,200	250,600
Oct-Dec 2011	570,600	300,200	232,900	171,100	251,300
Jan-Mar 2012	566,100	296,900	255,900	181,300	270,600
Apr-Jun 2012	519,000	275,600	278,100	182,300	263,200
Jul-Sep 2012	590,500	305,500	249,600	184,300	268,500

Quarter	Detached	Semi-detached	Terraced	Flat / Maisonette	All Properties
Oct-Dec 2012	570,400	301,500	251,100	182,500	247,900
Jan-Mar 2013	606,800	334,600	275,200	180,200	275,100
Apr-Jun 2013	568,600	325,600	255,500	194,200	275,000
Jul-Sep 2013	612,000	351,800	257,300	184,700	274,000
Oct-Dec 2013	593,200	321,200	260,800	188,400	278,000
Jan-Mar 2014	495,000	375,700	269,400	195,400	280,400
Apr-Jun 2014	547,700	348,600	283,900	188,900	283,100

Source: Land Registry house price data via HCC. Average prices rounded to nearest 100
 N.B. Prices quoted are for sales during a particular quarter and are not necessarily representative of the price one would expect to pay for a particular house in Watford; 2014 data is provisional.

Figure 5-5: Average house prices in Watford 2009 to 2nd quarter 2014



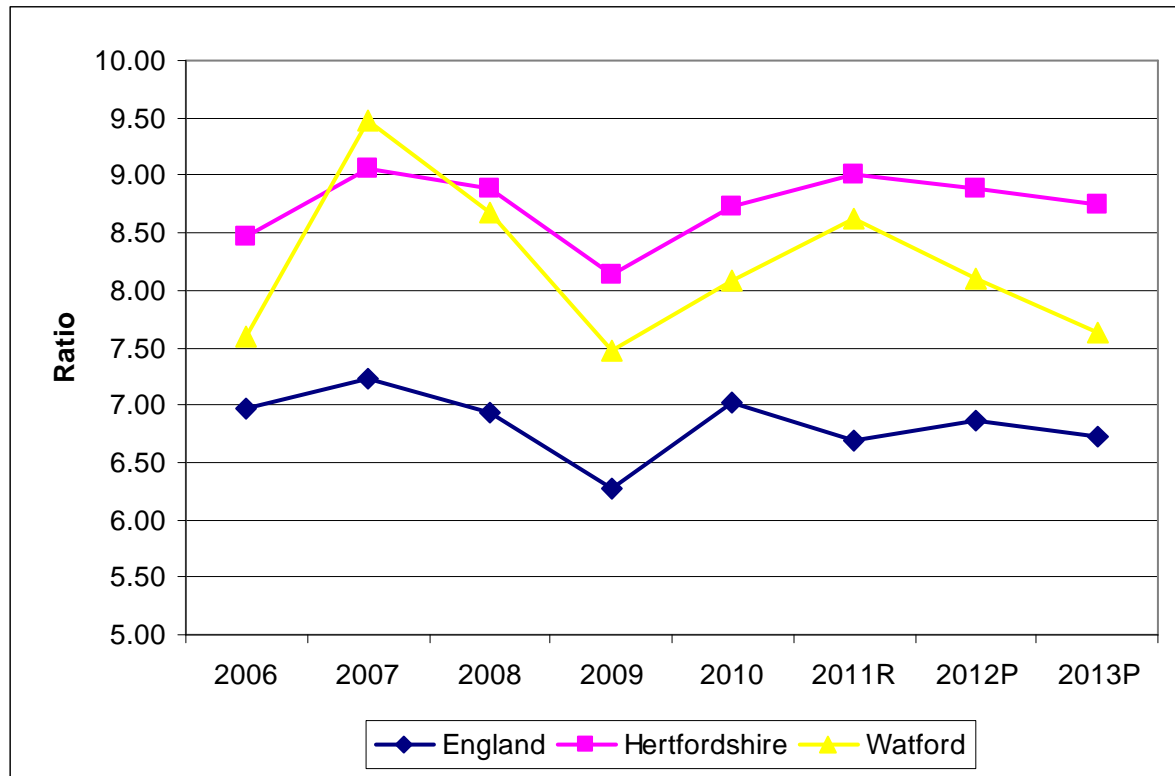
Source: Land Registry house price data via HCC. Average prices rounded to nearest 100
 N.B. Prices quoted are for sales during a particular quarter and are not necessarily representative of the price one would expect to pay for a particular house in Watford; 2014 data is provisional.

5.14. H14: House purchase affordability

It has been suggested that there has been more housing activity generally in the UK since the Government introduced the Help to Buy equity loan scheme in April 2013. This allows buyers of new-build homes to put down a minimum 5% deposit and take out a government loan for up to 20% of the value of the property. The Government suggests that the scheme is expected to help at least 74,000 households buy a new-build home by March 2016 and has extended the scheme to March 2020, to help an estimated further 120,000 households purchase a home. Figures released for the period between 1 April 2013 and 31 July 2014 show that 55 purchases in Watford have been made using the Help to Buy Equity Loan scheme. From January 2014, the scheme was extended to help buyers of existing homes – statistics had not been released at the time of writing (late 2014) for the Mortgage Guarantee part of the Help to Buy scheme, which includes both new build and housing.

The ratio of median house prices to median earnings for Watford has been reducing from a high of 9.49 in 2007, a similar pattern to a lot of the country. The ratios of 2012 and 2013 are provisional but show that buyers in Watford need just over seven and a half times their annual salary in order to achieve the purchase price of the average home, with a ratio of 7.63, less than the previous year's ratio of 8.11 and the Hertfordshire ratio of 8.75, but more than the England ratio of 6.72. (Table 577, www.gov.uk).

Figure 5-6: H14: House purchase affordability – ratio of median house prices to median earnings, 2006 – 2013



Source: Base data extracted Aug 2014 from CLG Table 577 on www.gov.uk
 N.B. The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) is based on a 1 per cent sample of employee jobs, as at April each year. It does not cover the self-employed nor does it cover employees not paid during the reference period. The statistics used are workplace based gross earnings for full time employees.
 The 'median' property price/income is determined by ranking all property prices/incomes in ascending order. The point at which one half of the values are above and one half are below is the median.
 N.B. 2011 figures have been revised due to revisions in ASHE data. Figures for 2012 and 2013 are provisional and may change when the table is updated to reflect revisions in ASHE data. DCLG does not publish data at regional level since October 2011.

Within Watford, the 2011 census showed that the private rented sector increased from 9.8% of households in 2001 to 20.1%, an increase of 10.3%, at the expense of households in owner – occupied accommodation, which decreased from 72.2% in 2001 to 61.6% in 2011, either owned outright (26.1% decreased to 24.4%) or with a mortgage/loan (46.1% to 37.2%), an overall decrease of 10.6%.

The proportion of households living in social rented accommodation is unchanged at 16.3%, although rather than being largely rented from the council as in 2001, the majority are renting from Registered Social Landlords, such as the Watford Community Housing Trust (WCHT).

6. Business Development and Employment

The following indicators include employment data on newly built floorspace as well as information concerning changes of land use to and from employment.

Employment type is defined by planning Use Class Orders:

B1 – Business, encompassing:

- B1 (a) – Offices (other than those permitted in class A2 – Financial and Professional Services)
- B1 (b) – Research and development
- B1 (c) – Light industry

B2 – General Industrial – carrying out an industrial process other than within class B1

B8 – Storage or Distribution

B0 - used to indicate where a mix of 'B' Uses granted permission.

Core Strategy policies EMP 1, EMP 2 and saved policies E1, E2 and E5 in the Watford District Plan 2000 deal with safeguarding employment provision.

Please note that if demolitions are involved, these can often take place in one year and the replacement premises are not completed until the following year (or years in the case of larger sites), which can sometimes be the cause of an apparent net loss.

Totals for each year since 2006/07 with respect to indicators BD1 – BD4 are provided in Appendix 8. The data in Appendix 8 shows that there has been a net loss of 55,792 sq.m. of 'employment' floorspace in Watford since 2006 (almost half of which was during 2013/14), with about 49,000 sq.m. of the loss fairly evenly split between offices, general industrial and storage/distribution. The majority of this loss has been outside of allocated employment areas. Additional new employment floorspace is planned, as shown by indicator BD3. It is worth noting that in practice the B use class land uses are not the only ones which provide employment, with shops, schools, leisure uses and some types of office, for example, falling outside of the 'employment' land use class. Thus a loss of 'employment' land does not necessarily always correlate to a loss of employment opportunity.

The Core Strategy (adopted January 2013) identifies strategic site locations as Special Policy Areas, some of which are for major regeneration schemes: SPA2 Watford Junction, SPA3 Health Campus and SPA6 Western Gateway. Specific boundaries in respect of the SPAs will be allocated by the Site Allocations process, part of the Local Plan Part 2, (there was a public consultation during November/December 2013 and further consultation is being undertaken from 17th December 2014 to 4th February 2015) including a revised Town Centre boundary in respect of SPA1 Town Centre.

Economic growth is being encouraged and supported by the council and progress is being made to begin redevelopment in the SPAs. General updates on the progress of SPA2, SPA3 and SPA6 are provided under Local Indicator LT7 Development progress on major schemes.

6.1. BD1: Total amount of additional employment floorspace in Watford and employment areas

BD1 (i): Total amount of additional employment floorspace in Watford LA

Table 6-1 illustrates changes to employment floorspace (gross internal floorspace) completed within Watford borough, during 2013/14.

Table 6-1: BD1 (i): Total amount of additional employment floorspace in LA

BD1 (i)	B0	B1	B1a	B1b	B1c	B2	B8	Total
Gross gain sq.m.	0	324	460	0	1825	0	2095	4704
Loss sq.m.	0	0	6243	0	2732	1168	20722	30865
Net gain sq.m.	0	324	-5783	0	-907	-1168	-18627	-26161

Data Source: Planning Policy, WBC and HCC via CDPSmart monitoring system

Any negative value under 'net gain' is a net loss.

N.B. Category B1a is also captured under BD4 where the same figure is quoted.

Overall, there was a net loss of 26,161 sq.m. employment floorspace. Approximately half of the total loss was due to the demolition of the former Royal Mail Depot at Ascot Road, where there is the new Morrisons supermarket and a primary school is under construction. The majority of the remaining loss was due to the demolition of the Cardiff Road Industrial Estate buildings, to make way for the new hospital access road and also the demolition of buildings to the rear of Rembrandt House, where there will be 107 new residential properties.

The bulk of the gain in 'B' employment use class was changes of use between industrial/warehouse/offices amounting to a little over 3,000 sq.m. New employment space in various small redevelopments amounted to almost 1,500 sq.m. the majority of which took place in the employment areas and the town centre.

BD1 (ii) Total amount of additional emp. floorspace in employment areas

There are seven main blocks of land identified as employment areas within the Watford District Plan 2000 where the council seeks to protect the land for employment use (saved policy E1) and Table 6-2 shows the amount of floorspace developed in those areas.

Table 6-2: BD1 (ii): Total amount of additional employment floorspace in employment areas

BD1 (ii)	B0	B1	B1a	B1b	B1c	B2	B8	Total
Gross gain sq.m. in LA	0	324	460	0	1825	0	2095	4704
Gross gain sq.m. in emp. areas	0	324	98	0	1671	0	2095	4188
% of LA gain in emp. areas	N/A	100%	21%	N/A	92%	N/A	100%	89%
Loss sq.m. in LA	0	0	6243	0	2732	1168	20722	30865
Loss sq.m. in emp. areas	0	0	2602	0	2590	1168	15429	21789
% of LA loss in emp. areas	N/A	N/A	42%	N/A	95%	100%	74%	71%

Data Source: Planning Policy, WBC and HCC via CDPSmart monitoring system

As both the Cardiff Road Industrial Estate buildings and the former Royal Mail Depot at Ascot Road are within the existing employment areas, the demolitions in those areas account for the majority (around 16,000 sq.m.) of the exceptional loss of employment floorspace shown in the employment areas, which in turn make up 71% of the total loss in Watford during 2013/14. Other losses that have been permitted in employment areas are mostly changes of use to other 'B' use classes or to other employment generating uses (outside the 'B' use class) such as a yoga studio and a gymnastics club (use class D2), uses beneficial for the community.

6.2. BD2: Total amount of employment floorspace on PDL

Previously developed land (PDL) often referred to as brownfield land, is that which is or was occupied by a permanent structure, excluding agricultural or forestry buildings; also excluding land in built-up areas such as private residential gardens, parks, recreation grounds and allotments (the full definition is contained within the NPPF).

Table 6-3: BD2: Total amount and % of employment floorspace on PDL

BD2	B0	B1	B1a	B1b	B1c	B2	B8	Total
Gross gain sq.m.	0	324	460	0	1825	0	2095	4704
Gross gain sq.m. on PDL	0	324	460	0	1825	0	2095	4704
% on PDL	N/A	100%	100%	N/A	100%	N/A	100%	100%

Data Source: Planning Policy, WBC and HCC via CDPSmart monitoring system

It is shown that 100% of employment development within Watford took place on previously developed land, exceeding the Core Strategy target of 90%. It can be seen from Appendix 8 that no greenfield land has been used for any employment development during the period monitored since 2006/07.

6.3. BD3: Employment land available by type

BD3 (i): Employment land available by type - sites defined and allocated in the Local Plan

Employment Areas E1 – E7 were allocated in the Watford District Plan 2000 (WDP 2000). These have been reviewed and any changes to allocations will be made in Local Plan Part 2. The Core Strategy (adopted January 2013) identifies strategic site locations as Special Policy Areas, some of which are for major regeneration schemes: SPA2 Watford Junction (Watford Junction was Key Development Site no. RA6 in the WDP 2000), SPA3 Health Campus and SPA6 Western Gateway. Specific boundaries in respect of the SPAs will be defined in Local Plan Part 2, including a revised Town Centre boundary in respect of SPA1 Town Centre. An initial consultation on the Local Plan Part 2 ran from the 4th November to the 16th December 2013; the responses were reviewed and further consultation is being undertaken from 17th December 2014 to 4th February 2015.

General updates on the progress of SPA2, SPA3 and SPA6 are provided under Local Indicator LT7 Development progress on major schemes.

BD3 (ii): Employment land available by type (sites for which planning permission has been granted, but not implemented)

The most significant sized site area for which planning permission has been granted, but not yet implemented, is Watford General Hospital mixed use health campus site providing a substantial 6.5 hectares of employment land, 60% of the total gain proposed of 10.89 hectares, shown in Table 6-4, and around 16,400 sq.m of employment floorspace in various 'B' uses, almost half of the total gain to employment floorspace proposed in the borough. Various smaller redevelopments make up the remainder of the proposed gain.

However, there are also outstanding planning permissions and prior approvals¹ that could result in a total loss of over 31,000 sq.m. employment floorspace, over half of which would be office floorspace, changing to a variety of uses, including two hotels, retail use and in the majority of cases, to residential use (there have been eight prior approvals between May 2013 and November 2014 inclusive, mostly office conversions to residential apart from one which proposes a change of use from B1 Business to a school). The remaining proposed loss of employment floorspace is mainly split between Light Industry, Storage and Distribution and General Business use (B1); the bulk of the proposed floorspace redevelopment would relate to changes within the B use classes with much of the remainder pertaining to further residential use.

¹ From 30 May 2013, the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 was amended to allow greater flexibility under permitted development for the change of use of commercial premises, subject to a notification procedure with the local planning authority, termed as prior approvals.

Table 6-4: BD3 (ii): Employment land available by type

BD3	B0	B1	B1a	B1b	B1c	B2	B8	Total
Gross gain sq.m	0	17054	3057	297	2019	3622	8216	34265
Area of land gain in hectares	0.00	5.98	0.12	0.12	0.27	1.18	3.23	10.89

Data Source: Planning Policy, WBC and HCC via CDPSmart monitoring system

6.4. BD4: Total amount of floorspace for 'town centre uses'

'Town centre uses' encompasses the completed amount of floorspace in respect of retail (A1), financial and professional services (A2), office (B1a), and leisure (D2) development, which ideally should be concentrated in the town centre as opposed to less central and less accessible locations. Business Development data in this report uses the existing town centre boundary as per the Watford District Plan 2000, although this is being reviewed as part of the Site Allocations process within the Local Plan Part 2. An initial consultation on the Local Plan Part 2 ran from the 4th November to the 16th December 2013, the responses were reviewed and there is further consultation being undertaken from 17th December 2014 to 4th February 2015.

Table 6-5: BD4: Total amount of completed retail, financial and professional services, office and leisure development: within the local authority area (LA) and town centres (TC)

BD4 - total gain in LA	A1	A2	B1a	D2	Totals
Gross gain sq.m. in LA	8169	345	460	1374	10348
Loss sq.m. in LA	892	230	6243	2697	10062
Net gain sq.m. in LA	7277	115	-5783	-1323	286
BD4 - gain in TC	A1	A2	B1a	D2	Totals
Gross gain sq.m. in TC	604	235	155	0	994
Loss sq.m. in TC	75	142	1482	0	1699
Net gain sq.m. in TC	529	93	-1327	0	-705
% gained in TC of total gross gain to LA in each use class	7%	68%	34%	0%	10%

Data Source: Planning Policy, WBC and HCC via CDPSmart monitoring system

NB: Any negative value under net gain is a net loss. Floorspace is specified as square metres, not confirmed as gross internal floorspace

Use Class A1, not expressed as net tradable floorspace, data not available for historic applications

B1a totals in LA is the same data as included within Indicator BD1

There has been a small amount of redevelopment in traditional 'town centre' uses in the designated town centre, including 68% of the total gain to financial and professional services in the borough. However, there has been an overall net loss in

employment floorspace within the town centre; this was primarily to office floorspace and two-thirds of the office floorspace was conversion of the upper floors at 1 Clarendon Road to 21 residential flats. There has not been any new leisure development in the town centre although various gains to D2 use class in the borough were two gyms, a yoga studio and an extension to the Leavesden Green Community Centre.

The majority of the gain to A1 retail overall in Watford was outside the town centre but in a designated employment area; Morrisons opened their new supermarket at Ascot Road, on the former Royal Mail Depot site in West Watford.

The bulk of the D2 loss was at the Vicarage Road Stadium, where there is a new spectator stand in progress of being completed.

There has also been a substantial amount of office floorspace (6,243 sq.m.) lost overall in Watford; the largest amount of office floorspace lost (2,306 sq.m.) was at Colne House, Upton Road, an office building vacant for 11 years, with little prospect of being occupied in the foreseeable future - a change of use to D1 for the provision of healthcare services was permitted - this is also an employment generating use; other changes of use from offices included a gym (D2 use class), a tanning and beauty salon and 42 residential properties.

6.5. BD5: Losses of employment floorspace (completed sites only)

This indicator relates to site areas where the redevelopment to 'non-employment uses' outside of the traditional B use classes has been completed during this monitoring year and will not necessarily correlate with floorspace figures in BD1 which concern employment uses only.

i) in employment areas = 12,442 sq.m.

The largest part of this loss (6,490 sq.m.) was from B8 Storage and Distribution, with the majority due to replacement of the former Royal Mail Depot at Ascot Road with a supermarket (Morrisons, as previously mentioned). 3,546 sq.m. of the total loss in employment areas, mainly to light industry (B1c) and general industrial (B2), was due to the demolition of Cardiff Road industrial buildings in preparation for the construction of the new hospital access and link road.

Other changes of use included to a yoga studio and two gyms (class D2 leisure) and a development of 9 flats.

ii) in Local Authority Area =14,965 sq.m (including the 12,442 sq.m. above).

The bulk of the additional employment floorspace lost outside the employment areas has been to offices, mostly for residential development, 57 new dwellings, across various sites.

Across the borough, that makes a total of 2,558 sq.m employment floorspace lost to residential development, resulting in 66 new dwellings. The two largest sites were

within the town centre, 24 flats in High Street/King Street and 21 flats in Clarendon Road.

43% of the overall employment floorspace lost in Watford was from B8 Storage and Distribution, with 32% from B1a Offices, 15% from Light Industry B1c, and the remainder from B2 General Industrial and B1 Business.

6.6. BD6: Total jobs recorded in Watford

Watford's Core Strategy seeks a minimum of 7,000 additional jobs in the district between 2006-2031. The figure for total jobs includes employees, self-employed, government-supported trainees and HM forces.

Table 6-6: BD6: Total jobs recorded in Watford

2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
60,000	59,000	58,000	72,000	73,000	74,000	76,000

Data Source: Crown Copyright. Office for National Statistics. November 2014.

We have strong reservations about the figures shown for total jobs in data from the Office of National statistics. It should be noted that the data between 2008 and 2009 shows a marked increase of 14,000 jobs but this data should be treated with caution – we believe the density and jobs figure have been overstated due to an anomaly in the reporting process, by an employment agency based in Watford reporting positions both within and outside Watford.

The Core Strategy jobs target was based on employment forecast data provided by the East of England Forecasting Model (EEFM) in 2009/10. In order to exclude the above anomaly, we will be using the total jobs figures, not including employment activities, from the EEFM Forecasting Model, to monitor progress of job growth, as endorsed by Nathaniel Lichfield and Partners, who recently undertook an Economic Growth & Delivery Assessment on our behalf.

The latest published (dated 30 August 2013) EEFM 2013 baseline projections for total jobs, less those that are designated employment activities, suggest a scale of job growth in Watford of 3,600 from 2006 to 2014 and imply total job growth of 13,300 for the period 2006 to 2031.

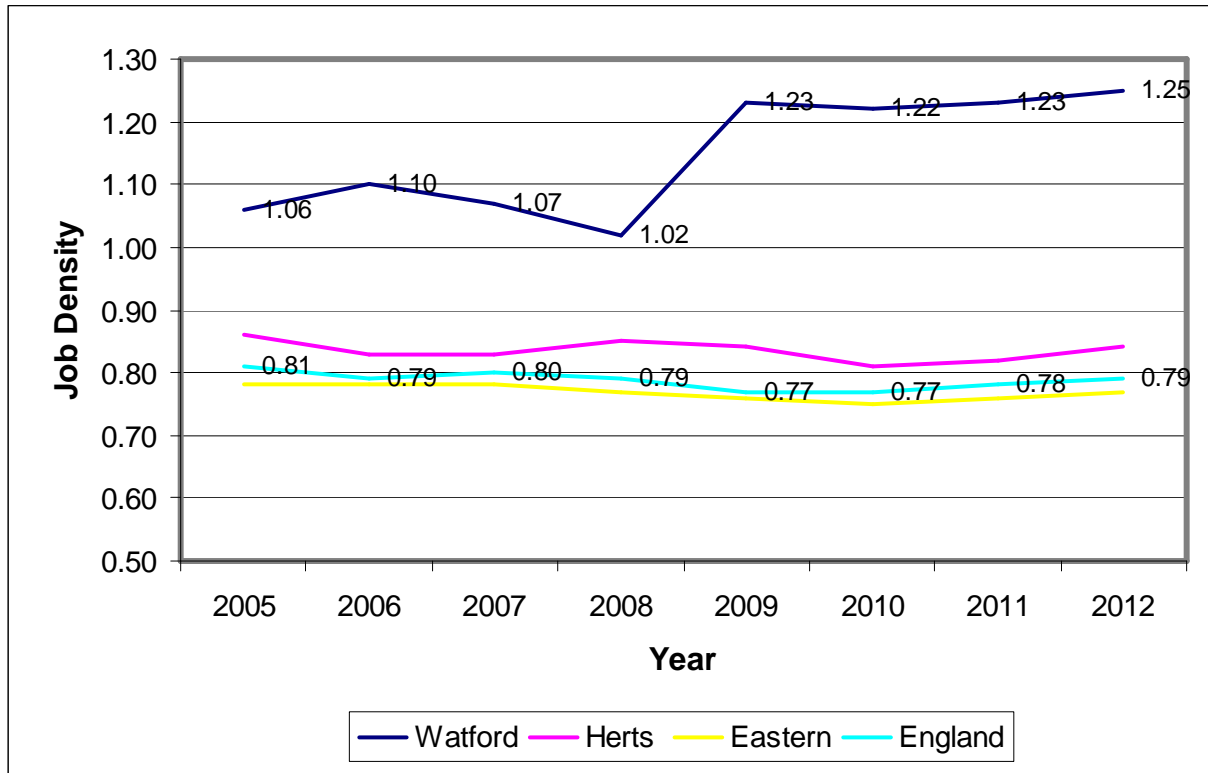
6.7. BD7: Job Density

For comparison with other areas, we need to look at job density which is the number of jobs per residents of working age 16-64. High job densities are where there is at least one job for every working-age resident, a ratio of 1.0 and Watford's 76,000 total jobs equate to a high job density of 1.25. Historically, Watford has had a higher job density than the county, region and country, despite our reservations explained earlier about the total jobs figures quoted in recent years.

The recession saw Watford's job density decrease from 1.06 in 2006 to 1.02 jobs per working-age resident in 2008, and is since recorded as having increased to 1.25 in 2012. This is higher than all the districts in the county; Welwyn Hatfield, at 1.07, is

the only other district that has a job density greater than 1. For comparison, Hertfordshire’s job density is 0.84, the region’s is 0.77 and England’s is 0.79, and by these standards, it is indicated that Watford is a relatively healthy economy.

Figure 6-1: BD7: Jobs density 2005-2011 representing the ratio of total jobs to working-age population (includes males and females aged 16-64)



Data Source: Crown Copyright. Office for National Statistics. Nov 2014.

N.B. Watford and England values are labelled on the above chart

The density figures represent the ratio of total jobs to population aged 16-64 (historical density figures have been revised following updated working age population figures). The figure for total jobs includes employees, self-employed, government-supported trainees and HM Forces.

6.8. BD8: Number of Employee Jobs in Watford

Since 2010, the Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES) has supplied the figures on employee jobs (not to be confused with the total jobs/jobs density figures which include employees, self-employed, government-supported trainees and HM forces). Please note that all job numbers are rounded to the nearest 100 in accordance with ONS regulations.

There were 73,900 employee jobs in Watford in 2013, an increase of 5,800 jobs (8.5%) since 2012; 56.4% of all employee jobs are based in Central ward, in and around the town centre.

During 2013, 51.8% (38,300) of all Watford’s employee jobs were full-time, down from 53.9% in 2012, with part-time employee jobs increasing to 48.2%. Watford has the largest amount of part-time employee jobs (35,700) recorded compared with all

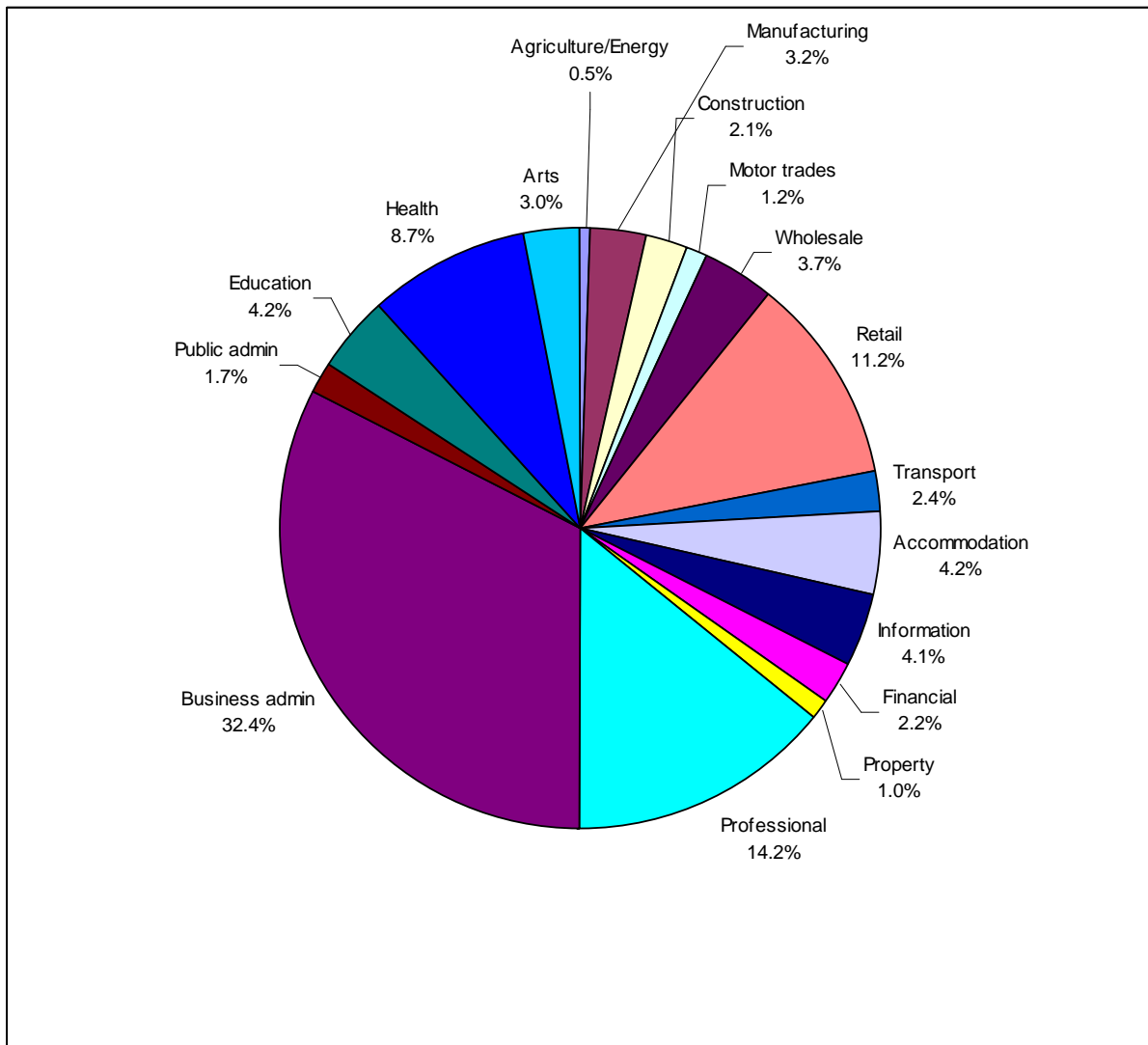
the districts in Hertfordshire; St. Albans has the next largest amount with 25,000 part-time employee jobs.

Compared with full-time, there was a much higher proportion of part-time employees recorded in Business administration and support services (86.5%); the following industry groups also had more part-time workers than full-time workers but to a far lesser extent: Retail, Accommodation and food services and Education.

6.9. BD9: Percentage of Employee Jobs by Industry Groups – Watford 2012

Business administration and support services group has the most employee jobs recorded with 32.4% (24,000) of all employee jobs, mainly in Central ward (29.7%, 22,000); this group also has the largest increase since 2012, up from 29.4%; the next largest industry groups are Professional (14.2% - 10,500) up from 13.4% in 2012 and Retail (11.2% - 8,300) down from 11.9% in 2012.

Figure 6-2: BD9: % of Employee Jobs by Industry Groups – Watford 2013



Data Source: Business Register and Employment Survey (2012) – ONS © Crown copyright reserved

Major employers in the district include Haden Young Ltd, Mirror Colour Print Watford Ltd, Asda, Marks and Spencer, Tesco Stores Ltd, Watford Borough Council, J Sainsbury PLC and John Lewis. Watford has an established office market concentrated around Clarendon Road in the town centre, with convenient access via Watford Junction.

6.10. BD10: Earnings by residence - Gross weekly pay – all full time workers

In respect of gross weekly pay for full time workers, Watford residents have higher median earnings (£642) than the county (£610.30) the region (£542.70) and England (£520.70).

Table 6-7: BD10: Earnings by residence - gross weekly pay - full time workers

	Watford	Herts	East of England	England
2007	568.5	*	479.9	464.0
2008	583.9	569.4	499.0	484.5
2009	571.4	577.5	509.5	495.9
2010	587.8	596.0	523.3	506.0
2011	607.0	592.2	525.0	504.70
2012	639.3	598.4	531.4	513.2
2013	642.0	610.3	542.7	520.7

Source: ONS Annual Survey of hours and earnings – resident analysis, www.nomisweb.co.uk Oct 2014

N.B. Median earnings in pounds for employees living in the area

* Sample size too small to allow Labour Force Survey data to be produced

6.11. BD11: Earnings by workplace – Gross weekly pay – all full time workers

Median earnings in respect of gross weekly pay for full time employees that are working in Watford increased in 2013 to £565; this is higher than the equivalent workplace median earnings for Hertfordshire, the Eastern region and nationally.

Table 6-8: BD11: Earnings by workplace - gross weekly pay - full time workers

	Watford	Herts	East of England	England
2007	434.4	-	450.5	463.6
2008	514.6	517.5	469.1	483.9
2009	506.2	517.5	478.6	495.0
2010	516.8	538.2	488.7	504.5
2011	470.8	520.9	489.3	504.0
2012	536.2	539.2	495.2	512.6
2013	565.0	547.3	505.0	520.5

Source: ONS Annual Survey of hours and earnings – workplace analysis, www.nomisweb.co.uk Oct 2014.

N.B. Median earnings in pounds for employees working in the area

- Sample size too small to allow Labour Force Survey data to be produced

Workplace earnings are lower than the median earnings for Watford residents (£642), some of whom commute to higher paid areas such as London.

6.12. BD12: Count of active enterprises in Watford

The number of active enterprises and business start-ups and closures provide an indicator of the level of entrepreneurship and of the health of the business population.

Table 6-9: BD12: Count of active enterprises in Watford

2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
3,705	3,785	3,860	4,010	3,945	4,035

Source: ONS: Business demography dataset @ Oct 2014.

The count of active enterprises in Watford shows a mostly increasing trend, standing at the number of 4,035 in 2012. This equates to 663 active enterprises per 10,000 working age population (mid-2012), higher than the 2011 equivalent of 650 active enterprises per 10,000 working age population (mid-2011).

6.13. BD13: Comparison of percentage of business starts and closures

The number of business closures in Watford decreased significantly in 2012, from 17.1% (670) of active enterprises to 11% (445) of active enterprises. Business starts also decreased from 14.1% (555) to 11.9% (480) but there were more starts (11.9%) than closures (11%) in contrast to the preceding year.

This sign of a reviving economy is reflected in percentage figures for the county, the region and nationally, which all show more business starts than closures. However the higher figures in Watford indicate that business activity is more buoyant here.

Table 6-10: BD13: Comparison of % of business starts and closures 2011-12

Area	2011		2012	
	Business starts	Business closures	Business starts	Business closures
Watford	14.1%	17.1%	11.9%	11.0%
Hertfordshire	10.8%	12.6%	11.3%	10.7%
Eastern region	9.7%	12.0%	10.6%	10.3%
England	10.4%	13.1%	11.6%	10.8%

Source: ONS: Source data from Business demography dataset @ Oct 2014 – percentages compiled by WBC, Planning Policy.

6.14. BD14: Total Claimant Count 2008-14 and change 2013-14

The official unemployment rate is published monthly at a national and regional level (but not at district level) from the Labour Force Survey and the definition of unemployed is those who are without a job and want a job, have actively sought work in the last four weeks and are available to start work in the next two weeks or out of work, have found a job and are waiting to start it in the next two weeks.

Secondly, the 'claimant count' is the number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance, and this is a useful indicator of unemployment trends and also is available at a more local level. The Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) is payable to people under pensionable age who are available for, and actively seeking, work.

The impact of the recession is clearly visible, with the total number of claimants having more than doubled between July 2008 and 2009, in all Hertfordshire districts. However, it can be seen that numbers across most of the county have been decreasing since 2011, particularly during 2013/14; Watford's claimant count has decreased by 34.4% between July 2013 and 2014, dropping to a proportion of 1.8% (of the resident population aged 16-64) - all the Hertfordshire districts have dropped to a proportion below 2% apart from Stevenage, which has a proportion of 2.5%.

Numbers of long term claimants (more than one year) decreased through all the Hertfordshire districts, with numbers in Watford decreasing from 405 in July 2013 to 270 in July 2014 - the proportion as a percentage of all claimants in Watford slightly decreased from 24.1% to 24%, less than the county average of 26%. Stevenage has the highest proportion of long term claimants in the county at 32%.

Table 6-11: BD14: Claimant Count and change

Area	July 2008		July 2009		July 2010		July 2011		July 2012		July 2013		July 2014		% change 2013/14
	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate	
Hertfordshire	8,681	1.2	19,680	2.8	17,500	2.5	18,136	2.5	17,576	2.4	15,870	2.2	10,831	1.5	31.8%
Broxbourne	825	1.4	1,947	3.3	1,801	3.0	1,997	3.4	1,876	3.2	1,728	2.9	1,082	1.8	37.4%
Dacorum	1,331	1.5	2,853	3.1	2,324	2.5	2,527	2.7	2,194	2.3	1,971	2.1	1,420	1.5	28.0%
East Herts	733	0.8	1,978	2.2	1,534	1.7	1,688	1.9	1,665	1.9	1,466	1.6	963	1.1	34.3%
Hertsmere	822	1.3	1,741	2.8	1,648	2.6	1,584	2.5	1,496	2.4	1,337	2.1	963	1.5	28.0%
North Herts	979	1.2	2,288	2.9	1,954	2.4	1,915	2.4	1,938	2.4	1,741	2.2	1,196	1.5	31.3%
St Albans	752	0.9	1,728	2.0	1,567	1.8	1,492	1.7	1,557	1.8	1,333	1.5	914	1.0	31.4%
Stevenage	1,025	1.9	2,125	3.9	2,047	3.8	2,196	4.0	2,222	4.0	1,951	3.5	1,403	2.5	28.1%
Three Rivers	489	0.9	1,274	2.3	1,104	2.0	1,124	2.0	1,057	1.9	1,015	1.8	646	1.2	36.4%
Watford	780	1.4	1,795	3.1	1,685	2.8	1,773	2.9	1,816	3.0	1,681	2.7	1,103	1.8	34.4%
Welwyn Hatfield	945	1.3	1,951	2.7	1,836	2.5	1,840	2.5	1,755	2.4	1,647	2.2	1,141	1.5	30.7%

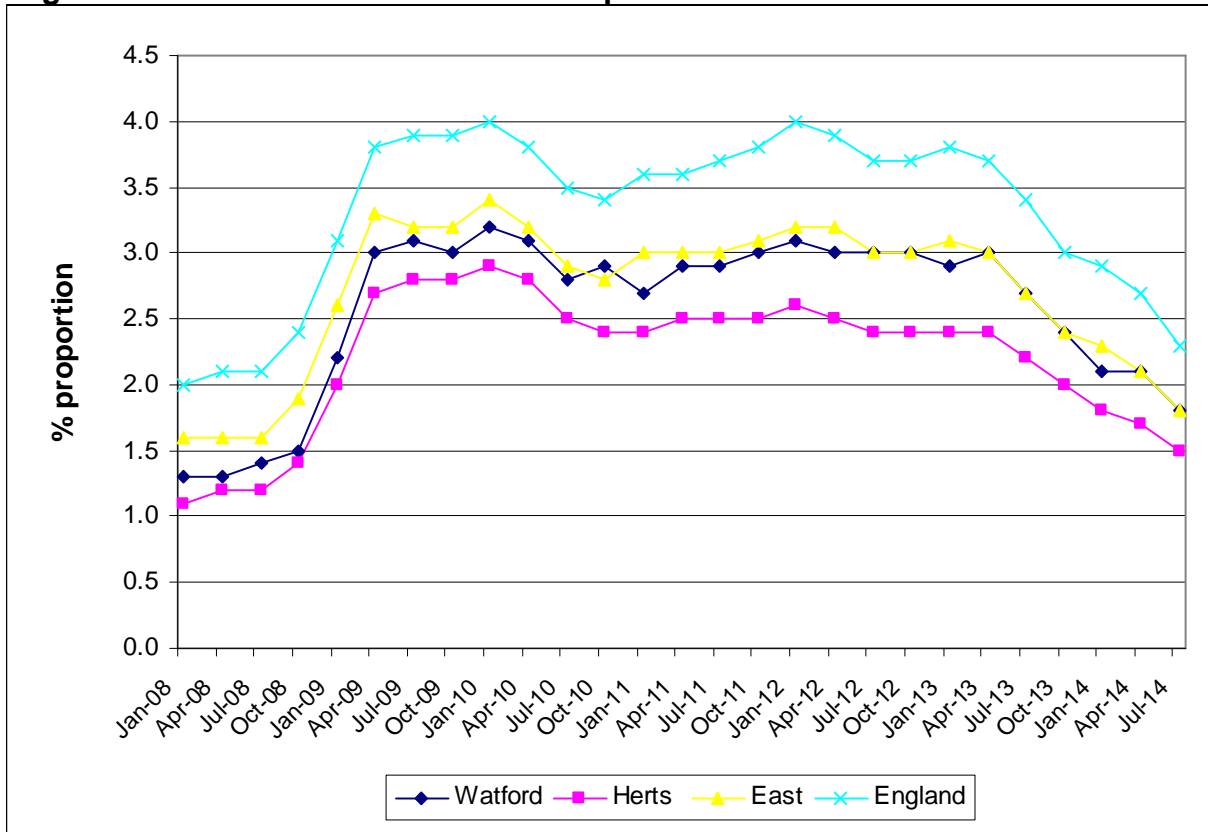
Data Source: Crown Copyright. Office for National Statistics via www.nomisweb.co.uk

N.B. Claimants of Universal Credit are not yet included in the Claimant Count.

N.B. Rates for LAs from 2013 onwards are calculated using the mid-2013 resident population aged 16-64.

A summary of claimant count for the period 2008-2014 in Figure 6-3 shows how rates have varied over time and how the July 2014 rate of 1.8% in Watford compares – the same as the East of England (1.8%), higher than Hertfordshire (1.5%), and lower than the national rate of 2.3%.

Figure 6-3: BD14: Claimant Count Comparison 2008-2014



Data Source: Crown Copyright. ONS. N.B. % is a proportion of resident working age population.

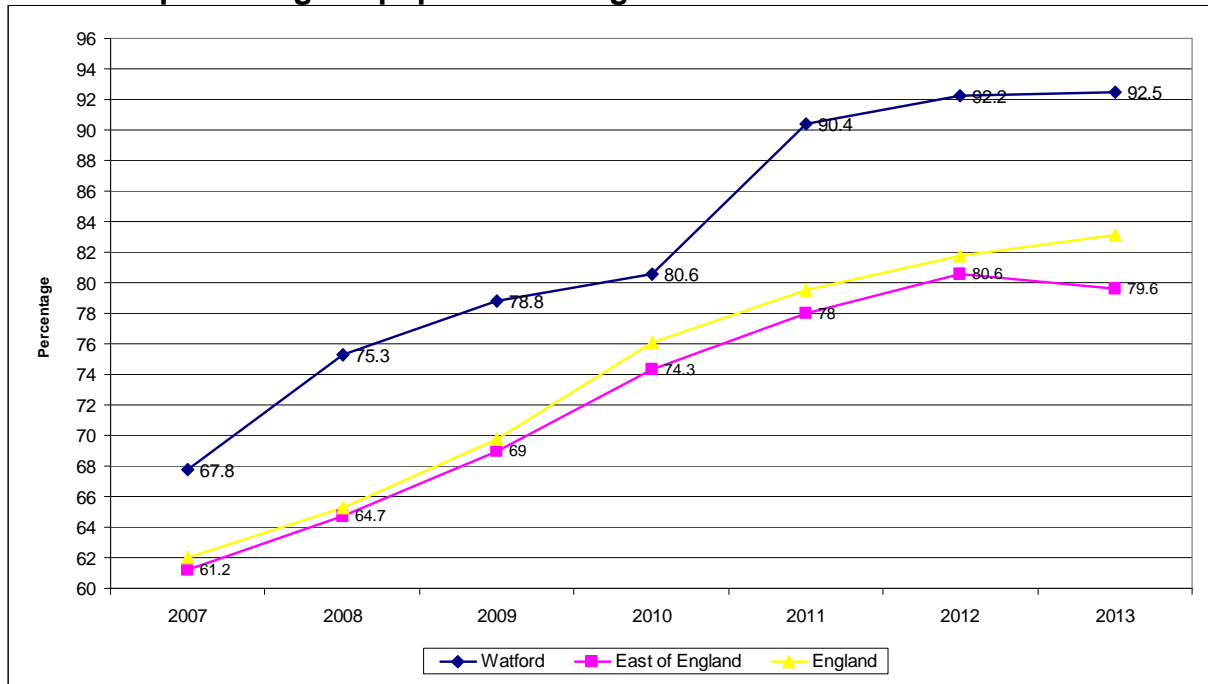
6.15. BD15: GCSE results, percentage of pupils achieving 5+ A* - C

A skilled workforce supports the economic development and employment objectives in the Core Strategy. It can be seen from the yearly results that there have been increasing trends in GCSE attainment generally, with the percentage of pupils based in Watford schools achieving 5 or more GCSEs at grade A* to C increasing by nearly 25 percentage points since 2006/07.

In the academic year 2012/13, 92.5 % of pupils in Watford achieved 5 or more GCSEs graded A* to C, compared to the national average of 83.1%, and the regional average of 79.6%.

At the time of the 2011 Census, 8% of the resident population in Watford were school pupils or full-time students aged 16-74 years, up from 6% ten years ago.

Figure 6-4: BD15: GCSE and equivalent results at end of stage 4 by school location - percentage of pupils achieving 5+ A* - C



Data Source: Department for Education via www.education.gov.uk Sep 2014

N.B. The results printed in this dataset are not comparable with previous years due to a shift from age-based reporting to stage-based reporting in 2006-07.

6.16. BD16: Qualifications of working age population

There has been a mostly increasing trend in Watford over the last few years in NVQ qualifications held although there have been slight decreases during 2013. The percentages of Watford’s working age resident population with qualifications held in NVQ 1 to 3 and above are between 0.2% and 1.3% less than the corresponding Hertfordshire averages but Watford’s qualifications at NVQ 4 and above has increased to 48.5%, considerably higher than Hertfordshire’s 41.7% and England’s average of 35%.

Table 6-12: BD16: Qualifications of working age resident population (age 16-64)

Watford	Jan-Dec 2007	Jan-Dec 2008	Jan-Dec 2009	Jan-Dec 2010	Jan-Dec 2011	Jan-Dec 2012	Jan-Dec 2013
% with NVQ4+	31.7	25.9	29.8	31.7	36.0	43.7	48.5
% with NVQ3+	53.5	45.0	49.7	48.2	50.2	63.5	60.1
% with NVQ2+	68.8	58.8	66.0	67.0	72.6	80.9	77.7
% with NVQ1+	79.0	70.5	77.6	76.8	86.0	92.9	88.4
% with other qualifications	11.3	17.6	15.6	15.3	*	*	7.2
% with no qualifications	9.7	11.9	6.8	7.9	8.3	*	*

Source: ONS Annual Population Surveys (Jan 2007-Dec 2013).

N.B. *Sample size too small for reliable estimate

Definitions of qualification levels:

NVQ4 and above: e.g. HND, Degree and Higher Degree level qualifications or equivalent

NVQ3 and above: e.g. 2 or more ‘a’ levels, advanced GNVQ, NVQ3 or equivalent

NVQ2 and above: e.g. 5 or more GCSEs at grades A-C, intermediate GNVQ, NVQ2 or equivalent

NVQ1 and above: e.g. fewer than 5 GCSEs at grades A-C, foundation GNVQ, NVQ1 or equivalent

Other Qualifications: includes foreign qualifications and some professional qualifications

No qualifications: no formal qualifications held (the sample size for Watford is too small to be considered reliable)

With respect to those with 'other qualifications' (which includes foreign qualifications and some professional qualifications) numbers have reduced in Watford since 2011, down to 7.2% in 2013.

7. Sustainable Development

7.1. S1: Number of planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency on flooding and water quality grounds

Local Authority planners are required to consult the Environment Agency (EA) on certain types of planning applications received, such as all large sites over one hectare and any major planning applications in flood risk areas. The EA produces annual reports of objections made on flood risk ground and water quality grounds; please note that the EA report lists all objections, including those subsequently resolved.

- During 2013/14, the EA did not object to any planning applications in Watford on the grounds of water quality.
- There was one objection received on the grounds of flood risk, where a Flood Risk Assessment was required; this objection related to the application 14/00191/FULM, to improve the sports field surface and introduce land drainage at the Radlett Road Playing Fields at Colne River Park; this application was subsequently withdrawn.

The council is guided in granting planning permission through the advice of the Environment Agency, and in accordance with the Core Strategy objectives. These include avoiding development on areas at risk of flooding unless appropriate mitigation measures are put in place (Policy SS1) and also aim to minimise water consumption, surface water run-off and non-fluvial flooding whilst protecting water quality (Policy SD2). There are also saved policies from the Watford District Plan 2000 (namely SE26 to SE28) that include requirements for flood prevention and defence and the safeguarding of water quality.

7.2. S2: Average household water use (litres per head per day)

During 2013/14, the average household water use in Hertfordshire was approximately 148 l/h/d. There has also been a revised estimate of 148 l/h/d for the previous year 2012/13 (rather than the 149.7 quoted last year).

Water use in Hertfordshire remains higher than the England and Wales average of 141 l/h/d. The Environment Agency has advised us that no more localised data is available within Hertfordshire as the water company has subdivided their resource zones and these cannot be matched with the local authority districts.

Table 7-1: S2: Average household water use (litres per head per day – l/h/d)

	2000/01	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Watford	175.2	174.5	170.5	166.3	166.7	155.2	Not avail.
Hertfordshire	173.3	163.4	165.9	163.2	160.5	148.0	148.0
England and Wales	149.0	145.6	146.0	146.6	144.7	142.0	141.0

Source: Contains Environment Agency information © Environment Agency and database right
N.B. The data provided at district or county level is calculated and based upon data for each water company water resource zone. It is therefore an estimate of household water use. Figures are provided since 2008/09 with 2000/01 for historic comparison; in 2013/14, data for 2012/13 for Hertfordshire and England & Wales was revised and no further localised data was available.

It can be seen from the data provided for 2000/01 and since 2008/09, that there is a reducing trend which is in line with the Core Strategy aim of minimising water consumption (Policy SD2). Water use in Hertfordshire is lower than Surrey, a comparative county, where average household water use was estimated to be 163 l/h/d in 2013/14.

As Lead Local Flood Authority for Hertfordshire the County Council has developed a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2013-2016. This is a legal requirement under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.

High level objectives proposed in the Strategy include:-

- To reduce the potential impact and costs of flooding in the county.
- To better understand local flood risk and make best use of available information.
- To develop greater personal involvement in flood risk management amongst residents of Hertfordshire.
- To secure improvements to the water environment of Hertfordshire through the undertaking of actions associated with flood risk management.

The council will continue to work with HCC and other local authorities, the Environment Agency, water companies and developers in order to reduce water consumption e.g. all new developments must incorporate water conservation measures that predict household water use per person is within national or regional standards, whichever is lower.

7.3. S3: Renewable Energy

Policy SD3 within the Core Strategy supports and encourages the use of renewable energy sources.

Not all renewable energy installations require planning permission; small scale domestic installations may be considered permitted development. Contributed capacities are often not supplied in planning applications where renewable energy is included, but they are provided in the following tables where available.

S3 (i) Renewable energy developments granted in 2013-14

Policy SD3 Climate Change in the Core Strategy states that all new developments must maximise the use of energy efficiency and energy conservation measures, incorporating renewable energy to reduce the overall energy demand and CO2 emissions. Water saving measures, such as SuDS and green roof systems should also be incorporated. New development will also be required to include a commitment to climate change adaptation and mitigation from design stage.

We cannot positively identify that energy from renewables is on the increase in Watford as capacities have not been consistently available, and not all renewable energy installations require planning permission but there does appear to be an

increasing trend in the number of applications identified as including renewable energy sources.

Table 7-2: S3 (i): Renewable Energy Developments granted in 2013-14

Permission Reference	Granted Date	Address	Description	Capacity (kW)	Code for Sustainable Homes Rating
Renewable Power - other					
13/00682/FUL	28/08/2013	Watford General Hospital, Vicarage Road, Watford, WD18 0HB	Installation of Combined Heat and Power plant in the Boiler House in place of a redundant boiler involving the installation of louvers and doors, the installation of a transformer enclosure with palisade fence and the installation of a radiator enclosure	-	
Other Totals:				-	
Solar Panel (Unknown)					
13/01000/FUL	21/11/2013	31 Glen Way, Watford, WD17 3HL	Erection of 2 No. detached dwellings and associated works following the demolition of the existing house and out buildings (It is not specified whether the solar panels are photovoltaic (i.e. generating electricity or thermal i.e. heating water)	-	
13/00332/FUL	07/03/2014	1 Wellstones Service Yard, Wellstones, Watford, WD17 2AE	Proposed alterations to ground floor involving the creation of 4 car parking spaces and extension at first and second floor levels to create three storey office building. The roof will have a shallow pitch of slates and solar panels.	-	
Solar Panel (Unknown) Totals:				-	

Permission Reference	Granted Date	Address	Description	Capacity (kW)	Code for Sustainable Homes Rating
Solar Power (PV) Totals					
13/00863/FULM	31/10/2013	32 Clarendon Road, Watford, WD17 1JJ	Demolition of existing building and redevelopment of site to provide 1,632 sq.m of office (Class B1a) floorspace and 22 residential flats with associated surface and basement car parking, cycle and bin storage and landscaping. The scheme provides photovoltaic on the roof.	9	The residential dwellings will achieve Code for Sustainable Homes Level 4 and the office accommodation BREEAM New Construction 'Very Good.
13/00517/FUL	18/07/2013	78 Oxhey Avenue, Watford, WD19 4HA	Alterations to front bay and erection of a rear extension to existing house; demolition of attached garage and erection of new end of terrace house. Photovoltaic panels are shown on the rear.	-	
Solar Power (PV) Totals:				9	

Data Source: WBC, Planning Policy and HCC
N.B. Unknown capacities are shown as -

S3 (ii) Renewable energy developments completed in 2013-14

As well as individual householders buying in to the concept of renewable energy by having solar panels fitted to their existing properties there is evidence that various forms of renewable energy are increasingly being incorporated into the designs for new residential development and other developments for community use, such as schools.

Table 7-3: S3 (ii): Renewable energy developments completed 2013-14

Permission Reference	Completed Date	Address	Renewable Power Source	Capacity (kW) if known	Code for Sustainable Homes rating (if applicable)
08/01378/FULM	17/01/2014	Cassio College, Langley Road, Watford	Solar Panel (Unknown)	-	
11/00272/FULM	08/10/2013	Gammons Farm Close, Watford, WD24 5LG	Solar panels (unknown)	-	4. 68 to 83 points
11/00300/FULM	18/03/2014	West Herts College, Cassio Campus,, Langley Road, Watford, WD17 4YH	Solar Power (PV)	Solar Panels	
09/00835/FUL	29/11/2013	Former West Herts College, Leggatts Campus, Leggatts Way, Watford, WD24 5TE	Solar Power (PV)	Scheme to achieve 10% of the site's energy from renewable or low-carbon energy sources- use of photovoltaic tiles	3. 57 to 67 points
11/01248/FULM	14/02/2014	Croxley View (Garage Compounds), Watford, WD18 6PE	Solar Power (PV)	-	
12/01282/FULM	20/02/2014	1 Clarendon Road, Watford, WD17 1HG	Solar Water Heating	-	
12/01282/FULM	20/02/2014	1 Clarendon Road, Watford, WD17 1HG	Solar Power (PV)	8	

Data Source: WBC, Planning Policy and HCC

N.B. Unknown capacities are shown as –

The Green Deal Home Improvement Fund was set up in 2014 to help households in England and Wales improve the energy efficiency of their homes; it was a Government project to enable home owners, landlords and businesses to improve the energy efficiency of their buildings, thus saving money on their energy bill, with the cost paid off in instalments through their energy bill. However, due to popular demand, the Green Deal Home Improvement Fund was closed to new applications in July 2014.

People interested in improving the energy efficiency of their homes can receive updates about any possible future schemes by emailing gdhif@decc.gsi.gov.uk or call the Energy Saving Advice Service on 0300 123 1234.

The adopted Core Strategy requires all new development to comply with updated national standards on sustainable development. To ensure this the council will apply the principles of Building Futures - a Hertfordshire wide sustainability toolkit.

7.4. S4: Per capita Carbon Dioxide (CO2) emissions

Estimates of Carbon Dioxide (CO2) emissions from the Department of Energy and Climate Change can be used to measure local contributions to climate change.

As can be seen from the accompanying table, there has been a reducing trend in emissions overall in Watford for the period 2005-2011 in line with policy objectives, although there has been an increase between 2011 and 2012.

Across the UK, since 2011, emissions have increased in 374 out of the 406 LAs (92% of the LAs); this is the reverse of the result observed between 2010 and 2011, when emissions decreased in 403 out of 406 local authorities. The main drivers of the increase in UK emissions in 2012 were an increase in residential gas use due to 2012 being a colder year than 2011, and increased coal for electricity generation.

Table 7-4: S4: Watford per capita CO2 emissions 2005-12

Year	Industry and Commercial	Domestic	Road Transport	Total
2005	2.7	2.5	1.2	6.4
2006	2.7	2.5	1.3	6.5
2007	2.6	2.4	1.3	6.3
2008	2.8	2.3	1.1	6.2
2009	2.5	2.1	1.1	5.6
2010	2.6	2.2	1.0	5.7
2011	2.1	1.9	1.0	4.9
2012	2.5	2.1	0.9	5.5

Source: Extracted from subset 'Emissions within the scope of influence of Local Authorities for 2005-2012' of the main 'Local and regional CO2 emissions estimates for 2005-12' dataset published by Dept. of Energy & Climate Change (DECC) <http://www.decc.gov.uk>, dated 26/6/2014. The data in this subset exclude emissions in the main dataset which are considered to fall outside the scope of influence of LAs (e.g. emissions from motorways). Figures are quoted in tonnes (t) CO2. A consistent time series has been produced by re-calculating the 2005 to 2011 estimates to reflect the methodological changes used in calculating the 2012 estimates.

To help influence reducing domestic emissions within the borough, the council's activities are set out in our Home Energy Conservation Act Further Report (with the next bi-annual report due to be published in March 2015) www.watford.gov.uk/heca Watford Borough Council's aspirations to be a leader within the community and to champion the climate change agenda is demonstrated with its own carbon management strategy. This sets out our five year plan to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) from our own operations by 30%, against a 2009/10 baseline to 2015. Since the baseline, the council has achieved a 45% reduction within our own managed buildings to 2014. For more information please see <http://www.watford.gov.uk/greenhousegasemissions>

7.5. S5: Air Quality Management Areas and Air Quality monitoring

The council's Environmental Services & Licensing Section undertakes monitoring of the main local air pollutants associated with urban areas. The results of the monitoring indicate that health based national objectives are being exceeded in some areas. The air quality problem in Watford is predominantly a result of emissions from road vehicles, as is the case elsewhere in the UK.

The council designated six Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) in 2006 as a result of exceeding the air quality objective for annual mean nitrogen dioxide across various areas of the borough. The 2009 Further Assessment of air quality recommended the redesignation of the six AQMAs to four revised areas, amalgamating AQMA 3 (Aldenham Road) and AQMA 4 (Chalk Hill) to form a single AQMA (AQMA 3A, Aldenham Road and Chalk Hill) due to their proximity and similarity in the air quality issues affecting them and revoking AQMA 6. The revised AQMAs are:

- Watford AQMA 1: St Albans Road
- Watford AQMA 2: Vicarage Road
- Watford AQMA 3A: Aldenham Road and Chalk Hill
- Watford AQMA 5: A405/Horseshoe

The council's Air Quality Action Plan, to improve Air Quality in the revised AQMAs, was completed in 2009 and accepted by DEFRA. In 2011 we completed our more detailed plan that determined which of the original options were feasible and we carried out a public consultation on the proposals in 2012. An updated report has been written with input from the Council's Development Control, Planning Strategy and Transport Sections, as well as Hertfordshire County Council's traffic planners. It is aligned with the recent Local Transport Plan (LTP) 3 and suggests a number a number of measures that could be taken forward.

The full Air Quality Action Plan, as well as a summary leaflet can be accessed on our website www.watford.gov.uk/airquality

The council monitors air quality at several locations across the borough. On Rickmansworth Road close to the Town Hall, continuous 'real-time' monitoring of nitrogen dioxide and PM₁₀ particulates is undertaken. Current and historical monitoring results, as well as other useful air quality information is available from Herts & Beds Air Pollution monitoring Network website www.hertsbedsair.org.uk

A summary of the annual data for 2009-2013 at the Town Hall site is provided in the following table.

Table 7-5: Air Quality Data for Town Hall site

Town Hall site	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Nitrogen Dioxide: Annual mean concentration $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ - (annual mean objective is $40 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	39	39	39	38	39
Nitrogen Dioxide: Number of Exceedences of hourly mean objective ($200 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	0	1	0	1	0
PM10 Particles: Annual Mean Concentration $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (annual mean objective is $40 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	22	24	25	22	24
PM10 Particles: number of exceedences of 24-hour Mean ($24\text{-hour mean objective is } 50 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) *	0	7	20	13	7

Source: Environmental Health & Licensing Section, WBC; originally downloaded from www.hertsbedsair.org.uk/hertsbeds/asp/AdvStats.asp

- It can be seen that NO_2 concentrations have remained fairly constant and that the annual mean objective of $40 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ has not been exceeded during this time at the Town Hall monitoring station.
- There was one hour during 2010 and again in 2012 where the hourly average of NO_2 was above $200 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. This is well below the limit of 18 hours allowed as per the NO_2 hourly mean objective of $200 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.
- The annual mean PM10 concentration recorded at Watford Town Hall has been between 22 and $25 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, well below the objective of $40 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.
- The number of PM10 exceedences of the 24-hour mean objective of $50 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ is well within the permitted 35 exceedences per year.

The council will continue to monitor air pollution concentrations and implement or promote as many of the recommended measures in the Action Plan as possible.

8. Green Infrastructure, Sport and Recreation

8.1. G1: Change in areas of biodiversity importance

Priority habitats are local nature reserves, wildlife sites, 'Sites of Special Scientific Interest' (SSSIs) and 'Regionally Important Geological Sites' (RIGS).

The site boundaries and records for Wildlife Sites and Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS) are now being maintained by the new Herts Environmental Records Centre (previously HBRC) hosted by the Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust. An annual report is produced and the April 2014 report shows that there has been no change in the number of wildlife sites recorded; there has been a nominal change in total area recorded from 247.8 hectares to 247.2 hectares. There are no Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS) or Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) situated within Watford.

There is a site with SSSI designation that is owned and managed by Watford Borough Council, which is Whippendell Wood – it is adjacent to the borough boundary but geographically within Three Rivers. Natural England lists the whole of Whippendell Wood as ancient wood i.e. it is believed to have been continuously wooded for at least 400 years. Of particular importance is the semi-natural vegetation, the rich variety of fungi in the wood and the invertebrate fauna. Whippendell Wood has a management plan which takes into consideration all the requirements of maintaining a SSSI.

Five of the wildlife sites in Watford are also designated Local Nature Reserves – Albans Wood, Harebreaks Wood, Lairage Land, Cassiobury Park and Garston Park – and these offer a variety of accessible habitats, birds and wildlife.

The council, in partnership with local 'Friends of' groups, made up of local residents, regularly organises events such as river clearance, scrub removal and tree planting to encourage and support our wildlife.

HERC, as ecological advisors to most planning authorities in the county manages a protected species GIS layer and will pick up any planning application affecting an important species.

Table 8-1: G1: Change in areas of biodiversity importance in Watford

	2010 no.	2010 area (ha)	2011 no.	2011 area (ha)	2012 no.	2012 area (ha)	2013 no.	2013 area (ha)	2014 no.	2014 area (ha)	Difference 2013 to 2014
LNRs	5	94.67	5	94.67	5	94.67	5	94.67	5	94.67	0
Wildlife sites	34	260.17	34	260.51	33	256.05	27	247.8	27	247.2	Nominal change recorded in area
SSSIs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
RIGS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A

Source: HERC and WBC, compiled by Planning Policy, WBC

N.B. LNRs = Local Nature Reserves; SSSIs = Sites of Special Scientific Interest;
RIGS – Regionally Important Geological Sites.

Wildlife sites:

- The decrease between 2011 and 2012 was due to a boundary revision - a site having originally been designated as being along the boundary between Watford and Three Rivers, but since found to be solely within Three Rivers.
- the decrease between 2012 and 2013 was due to de-selection of 6 sites not for any reason of deterioration but rather the review of existing data held at the Records Centre on some of the species wildlife sites, mainly the reptile and amphibian sites during this period; it was found that they did not actually meet the selection criteria when strictly applied although this did not mean that the species were no longer present. Across the county, there were a total of 96 sites de-selected, most for similar reasons, with only about 5 sites de-selected due to deterioration.

The areas may continue to vary from year to year with the addition and de-selection of sites, as well as major boundary amendments (particularly to Wildlife Sites). Throughout the year, there are also numerous minor changes to boundaries as new information becomes available (e.g. the removal of areas with no ecological value). Re-digitising is also necessary when Ordnance Survey baseline mapping data is updated.

8.2. G2: Change in priority habitats and species

Watford Borough Council is actively looking at how it can improve the wildlife value of all the sites it manages. Although Watford is a highly urban borough, it maintains conditions for a great deal of wildlife, including rare species, to thrive.

However, it is impractical for districts to attempt to calculate specific numbers of particular species and any loss to development, due to a lack of resources including time, money and expertise. Data is periodically published where available, including changes in bird populations and changes in butterfly numbers and species, although data is generally only available at county level, rather than district level. It should be noted that the surveys to obtain the data on birds and butterflies are mostly carried out by volunteers and enthusiasts in their own time.

Birds

'The `State of the UK's Birds 2012' report presents updated and wide ranging information on surveys over many decades. Particular headlines of relevance to Hertfordshire include:

- Despite long term declines since 1970, woodland and wetland bird trends have shown slight improvements since 2009
- Farmland birds continue to decline and are now at their lowest, half of their 1970 level
- Numbers of 'all' native species of wintering wildfowl and waders rose steadily from the mid 1970s to the late 1990s, and then stabilised before entering a shallow decline
- A number of priority species have shown recovery largely due to BAP conservation focus, including bitterns

Butterflies

The UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme <http://www.ukbms.org/> reported that 'Washout 2012' was the worst year for UK butterflies on record with 52 out of the 56 species monitored suffering declines. The relentless rain and cold of 2012 created disastrous conditions for summer-species in particular as they struggled to find food, shelter and mating opportunities; butterfly abundance plummeted to a record low as a result and 13 species suffered their worst year on record.

2013 was overall a better one for butterflies in Hertfordshire, with the warm dry summer balancing out the cold, wet spring. Comparing 2013 with a baseline calculated using 2005-2009 data, of the 35 species, 14 have decreased in numbers and 21 have increased in numbers or remained static. Based on distribution, 18 have increased their range and 8 have decreased, with the others unchanged. Long term trends emerging from the data suggest there may be a 5-6 year cyclical pattern of increasing and decreasing population overall, although this masks changes at the species level and does not attempt to show the historic decline in numbers known to have occurred.

For more information, please see the Wildlife and Habitats section of Hertfordshire's Quality of Life Report 2013 <http://www.hertsliis.org/env/qualityoflife/qolreport/>

Core Strategy Policy GI3 and saved WDP 2000 policies SE36, SE37 and SE 39 are designed to protect natural habitats important for priority species or rare species and conserve and enhance biodiversity, including the appropriate management and expansion of wildlife corridors.

8.3. G3: Amount of open space managed to Green Flag Award standard

- **Our target to maintain the amount of open space managed to Green Flag Award standard has been exceeded this year, with the addition of Oxhey Park. This brings the amount of open space managed to Green flag Award standard to 111.97 hectares, which represents 36% of Watford's total open space managed (311.3 hectares) as at 31 March 2014.**

Four of Watford's parks have received Green Flag awards, including for the first time, Oxhey Park. It is the sixth consecutive year that Woodside Playing Fields and

Cheslyn Gardens have been awarded the Green Flag and the eighth year for Cassiobury Park.

The Green Flag is awarded as a means of recognising and rewarding the best green spaces in the U.K. and is a sign of the highest environmental standards in recreational green areas.

A greater number of sites are managed to this high standard than currently hold Green Flag awards e.g. St. Mary's Churchyard and it has been our principle aim to maintain the amount of open space managed to Green Flag Award standard. Also included in the Action Plan of 'A Green Spaces Strategy for Watford 2013-2023' adopted in November 2013, is the aim to seek further Green Flags for Watford, including Callowland Rec., Waterfields Rec., as well as St. Mary's Churchyard.

Table 8-2: G3: Amount (hectares) of eligible open spaces managed to Green Flag award standard

	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Alban Woods	3.31	3.80	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Lairage Land	5.26	4.40	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Harebreaks Woods	5.61	5.23	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Cassiobury Park	75.77	74.88	74.88	74.88	74.88	74.88
Garston Park Nature Reserve	6.00	6.36	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Cheslyn Gardens	1.11	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12
Woodside Playing Fields (exc. Alban Wood)	22.21	21.56	21.56	21.56	21.56	21.56
Goodwood Recreation	3.83	3.72	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
St.Mary's Churchyard	0.40	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41
Oxhey Park	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	14.00
Total	123.50	121.48	97.97	97.97	97.97	111.97

Data Source: Environmental Services/Planning Policy, WBC. Figures have been rounded to two decimal points. N.B. See www.greenflagaward.org.uk for criteria of the Green Flag Award
The difference between 2008/09 and 2009/10 measurements was due to implementation of GIS and a resulting improvement in accuracy.
The reduction between 2009/10 and 2010/11 was due to cost cutting and service prioritisation.

8.4. G4: Change in total open space managed by WBC

- There has been no change during 2013/14 in the total amount of open space managed by WBC, recorded as 311.31 hectares.

Table 8-3: G4: Change in total hectares of open space managed by WBC

2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	Change in hectares between 2012/13 & 2013/14
339.94	311.31	311.31	311.31	311.31	311.31	0.00

Data Source: Planning Policy, WBC. Figures have been rounded to two decimal points.
N.B. The change between 2008/09 and 2009/10 measurements was due to implementation of GIS and a resulting improvement in accuracy.

Our bid for external funding to the Heritage Lottery Funding/BIG Lottery funding for Cassiobury Park has been successful, with the Stage 2 bid approved in June 2014. The bid submitted requested a further grant of £4.5 million alongside WBC funding of £1.4 million. Works will take place at the park over the following 2 years and completion is estimated at the end of summer 2016. Proposals include a new revamped pools facility which will include catering facilities, park management office, changing facilities, toilets, visitor centre and education/community room. The Cha Cha Cha café will be modernised and improvements made to its surrounds and entrances from Shepherds Road and Rickmansworth Road; also, it is planned to reintroduce the historic and Grade II listed bandstand from its rather forlorn situation near the Town Hall, so it can be brought back into more use for arts, music and events in the park.

More details of the proposals can be found at <http://www.watford.gov.uk/ccm/content/leisure-and-community/cassiobury-park-heritage-lottery-fund-restoration.en>

Following a year of site works, improvements have been completed on Callowland Rec., Oxhey Park, King George V Playing Fields, Waterfields Rec. and the council's two cemeteries. This has equated to an investment of £1.5 million.

Watford Borough Council commissioned work to assess playing pitch and changing facilities and are in the process of developing a sports facility strategy which will inform future direction for sports provision in the Borough for the next 5 years. The expected completion date is January 2015.

The importance of open space in Watford's urban environment is recognised and protected by Core Strategy Policy GI1: Green Infrastructure and GI2: Green Belt, and also addressed by the saved planning policies from the Watford District Plan 2000, L8: Open Space Provision in Housing Development and L9: Children's Play Space.

8.5. G5: Maintain the general extent of the Green Belt

The predominantly urban nature of Watford means that the protection of its surrounding Green Belt land is of particular importance. It is the council's intention to maintain the general extent of the Green Belt, as contained within the Core Strategy policy GI2.

Table 8-4: G5: Maintain the general extent of the Green Belt in Watford

2012	407 ha
2013	407 ha

Source: Watford Borough Council

N.B. Please note that whilst the official 'Local Planning Authority Green Belt Statistics' England 2013/14 quote a figure of 410 hectares for Watford, all figures within this publication are quoted to the nearest 10 hectares.

Electronic mapping of the Green Belt onto our GIS system was undertaken in June 2012 and the resulting measurement of 407 hectares equates to 19% of Watford's total area. This base figure of 407 ha is a result of more accurate measuring and

does not show any loss in Watford's Green Belt – in 2003, Watford's Green belt was measured as 406 hectares.

There will be a general presumption against inappropriate development in the Green Belt. Exceptions to this are defined in paragraphs 89-91 of the NPPF.

From the evidence available, it seems that our policies are serving to protect our biodiversity, along with the council co-ordinating with a broad partnership of local organisations and actively improving the wildlife value of all the sites it manages.

9. Urban Design and Built Heritage

Urban design is the process of shaping the physical setting for life in cities, towns and villages. It is the art of making places. It involves the design of buildings, groups of buildings, spaces and landscapes, and establishing the processes that make successful development possible.

Watford Council expects developers to follow current best practice when designing new buildings and delivering new development, to be in accordance with Core Strategy Policy UD1 'Delivering High Quality Design' and has also produced a number of guides to assist:

9.1. Design Guides

The **Shopfront Design Guide** was adopted by the council as a Supplementary Planning Document in February 2013, following public consultation between 19th September 2012 and 29th October 2012. The Shopfront Design Guide for Watford is intended to provide helpful guidance for designing new shopfronts or making alterations to existing ones. The document sets out a range of design principles for works to shopfronts and is an important material consideration in the determination of related planning applications received by the council.

The aim of the **Watford Streetscape Guide 2013** is to assist and provide guidance for those involved in the design and implementation of public realm works in Watford's town centre, to ensure that a high quality, consistent and coordinated public realm is implemented in Watford's town centre. The Streetscape Guide was adopted by the council in July 2013, following public consultation between 12th November and 16th December 2012.

The **Residential Design Guide (RDG)** for Watford provides detail on designing new residential development in the Borough, both in relation to extensions to existing buildings and larger scale development of new residential units. The existing Residential Design Guide was adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document in November 2008.

A revised version of the Residential Design Guide was published for public consultation between Monday 4th November and Monday 16th December 2013; the final document was adopted by the Council on the 23rd July 2014, replacing the previous 2008 version.

9.2. U1: Housing Quality – Building for Life Assessments

It is Watford Borough Council's aim to improve the quality of design build, and assessments were started in 2010; subsequently, the format of Building for Life assessments was revised nationally in 2012.

Figure 9-1: Former Fire & Ambulance Station development, Whippendell Road



The revised format is based on the National Planning Policy Framework and the Government’s commitment to build more homes, better homes and involve local communities in planning. The process involves trained officers making assessments following a number of set questions, which has been reduced from 20 to 12. The applicable developments (where there are 10 units or more) have been scored using the traffic light system proposed, but numerically, with green for the highest scoring = 1; amber= 0.5; red = 0; so the overall highest score available is 12.

Table 9-1: U1: Building for Life Assessments - 2013/14 completions

Permission ref.	Development or Site Name	Proposed units	Net comps 2013-14	Score out of 12
08/01378/FULM & 11/00300/FULM	Cassio College, Langley Road (Assessed in 2012/13)	223 + 3	36	10
08/00440/REM	Former Fire & Ambulance Station, 562-572 Whippendell Rd	90	18	10.5
09/00835/FUL	Former West Herts College, Leggatts Campus	217	111	6
10/01236/FULM	132-136a High Street, 3-9 King Street & 13 Smith Street	24	24	9.5
11/00057/FULM	Elm Cot, North Orbital Road	11	10	8.5
11/00272/FULM	Gammons Farm Close	14	14	8
11/00428/FULM	Land Adjacent to Woodside Leisure Park, North Orbital Road	12	12	9
11/00756/REM	756,758 & 758a St Albans Road	14	14	8
11/01248/FULM	Croxley View (Garage Compounds)	16	16	10

Compiled by Planning Policy, WBC.

N.B. Completions prior to 2013/14 are not included in the above table.

The findings of these assessments will be shared with colleagues and a learning session will take place to see how future schemes can achieve better quality design. The scores for the sites surveyed this year average at 9, slightly less than last year's 9.5, but an improvement on the average of the scores seen in 2011/12 which was 8.8. As a new format was introduced in 2012, results are not directly comparable with earlier years. It is hoped the current version 'Building for Life 12', will have a lifespan of 7 to 10 years.

Details of the BFL 12 assessment criteria can be viewed at the following link:
<http://www.designcouncil.org.uk/our-work/CABE/Our-big-projects/Building-for-Life/>

Figure 9-2: Former garage compounds, Croxley View



The preservation and enhancement of our cultural heritage is important to allow the community and future generations to experience and enjoy it and forms part of making Watford a better place to live in, a key objective in the Corporate Plan 2013-17.

Following successful bids for financial support, renovation works to the Peace Memorial, and also listed and locally listed chest tombs in St Mary's churchyard were completed.

A partnership project has resulted in the restoration of the Christ Church War Memorial in the summer of 2014, in time for the World War One centenary commemorations. The Coal Duty Obelisk in Waterfields Recreation Ground, the War Memorial on High Road, Leavesden and the Horse Trough on Leavesden Road have also been renovated in 2014.

The major improvement works to the town centre, which began in the spring of 2013 were completed in the summer of 2014, in time for the 'Imagine' festival and included new street furniture, lighting, trees and paving, with a new events space and enhancements to the pond.

The council aims to conserve and enhance the built environment of the town through careful control of development and design, and protection of historic assets as outlined in Core Strategy policies UD1 'Delivering High Quality Design' and UD2 'Built Heritage Conservation'; supplied is the current status of indicators which were introduced in the Core Strategy in order to monitor our progress.

9.3. U2: Conservation Character Area Appraisals - completions

The Regeneration and Development Department has been reviewing the existing - conservation areas, preparing area appraisals and management plans for each area in accordance with government advice and evaluating the potential for new areas. The conservation areas are:

- Civic Core Conservation Area
- Estcourt Conservation Area
- Grove Mill Lane Conservation Area
- High Street/King Street Conservation Area
- Macdonnell Gardens Conservation Area
- Nascot Conservation Area
- St Mary's Conservation Area
- The Square Conservation Area
- Watford Heath Conservation Area
- Oxhey Conservation Area

Conservation area character appraisals were completed for the first nine conservation areas before 31 March 2012, as scheduled.

Oxhey was designated a conservation area in the spring of 2013; a draft character appraisal document was published for public consultation between 7th February and 21st March 2014 and then revised following some suggestions received. The final version was adopted by the Council in July 2014.

9.4. U3: Conservation Area Management Plan

A public consultation on the draft Conservation Areas Management Plan took place between 4th April 2013 and 15th May 2013, in accordance with the target timeline and a revised version of the document was subsequently adopted by Watford Borough Council Cabinet on 8th July 2013. The document contains various indicators which will help to monitor change when it is reviewed and updated, together with the character appraisals, every five years.

Further information on [conservation areas](#) can be found on our website.

Locally listed buildings have been designated as such because of their local architectural and/or historic value, and any development adversely affecting these buildings will be resisted. On the 13 December 2010, Watford Borough Council Cabinet approved the revised register of Locally Listed Buildings in Watford, at that time numbering 240 locally listed buildings. Since that date, the road bridge over the River Gade, Grove Mill Lane was added to the register of Locally Listed Buildings on 30 January 2012, while Sugden House, 2 Farm Field was upgraded from locally listed to statutory listed status. 36 Clarendon Road has been demolished as part of planning permission 14/00531/FULM – although there will be harm to the town's historic environment through the loss of this building, the building itself was not considered to be of significant merit and its potential use was very limited. The decision was made that the loss would be outweighed by achieving a high quality office building to meet the employment needs of the town - see www.ukplanning.com for further details.

Nationally listed buildings are buildings or structures that have been judged to be of national historical or architectural interest. Listing ensures that the architectural and historic interest of the building is carefully considered before any alterations, either internally or externally, are agreed.

These are included on a register known as the statutory list, drawn up by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, and assisted by English Heritage (EH). This was recently reviewed and there are now 92 statutory list entries for listed buildings in Watford. The changes made to the previous 94 list entries include three de-listings:

- Original Salter's Hall gates, which were moved in 1989 to Salter's Hall, 4 Fore Street, London, EC2Y 5DE
- Nicholl tomb and Deacon/Kent tomb, St. Mary's Churchyard

There was also one addition:

- Sugden House, 2 Farm Field was upgraded from locally listed and designated as a Grade II Listed Building on the 2 July 2012.

9.5. U4: Buildings on listed buildings at risk register

The majority of listed buildings are well maintained; however, a small but significant number have been neglected and are under threat. In 2011, the council produced a survey of the listed buildings at risk in Watford (available online through the link provided). This survey is being used as our baseline, with the intention to update this survey every five years; listings of the affected structures at that time are provided below:

Table 9-2: U4 (i): Buildings in risk category 1 - 3 ('at risk') 2011

ADDRESS	BUILDING TYPE	GRADE	CONSERVATION AREA	CONDITION	OCCUPANCY	RISK
Clutterbuck Tomb, St Mary's Churchyard.	Chest Tomb (LB ref 10/74 C)	Grade II	Yes (St Mary's)	Poor	0	3
Dalton/Clest Tomb, St Mary's Churchyard.	Chest Tomb (10/74D)	Grade II	Yes (St Mary's)	Very Bad	0	1
Dundas Tomb, St Mary's Churchyard.	Chest Tomb (10/74G)	Grade II	Yes (St Mary's)	Poor	0	3
Deacon Stacey Tomb, St Mary's Churchyard.	Chest Tomb (10/74H)	Grade II	Yes (St Mary's)	Poor	0	3
Fawcett Tomb, St Mary's Churchyard.	Chest Tomb (10/74 I)	Grade II	Yes (St Mary's)	Poor	0	3
Tomb 5m East, St Mary's Churchyard.	Chest Tomb (10/74K)	Grade II	Yes (St Mary's)	Poor	0	3
Five Arches Viaduct, Water Lane.	Railway Viaduct (4/25)	Grade II	No	Poor	0	3
Bridge 163, Grove Wharf, Grand Union Canal.	Canal Bridge (274/20)	Grade II	No	Poor	0	3
Little Cassiobury, Hempstead Road.	House (4/23)	Grade II*	Yes (Civic Core)	Poor	Vacant	3
Frogmore House, Lower High Street.	House (4/26)	Grade II*	No	Poor	Vacant	3

Table 9-3: U4 (i): Buildings in risk category 4 ('vulnerable') 2011

ADDRESS	BUILDING TYPE	GRADE	CONSERVATION AREA	CONDITION	OCCUPANCY	RISK
97 High Street.	Shop and upper floors (LB ref 10/51)	Grade II	No	Fair	In Use	4
Bushey Arches.	Railway bridge (4/27)	Grade II	No	Fair	0	4
Morison Tomb, St Mary's Churchyard.	Chest Tomb (10/74 E)	Grade II	Yes (St Mary's)	Fair	0	4
Tomb 10m South of chancel of St Mary's, St Mary's Churchyard.	Chest Tomb (10/74 F)	Grade II	Yes (St Mary's)	Fair	0	4
Gates to Salter's Almshouses, Church Road.+	Gateway (4/17 A)	Grade II	Yes (Nascot)	Fair	0	4
Old Station House, 147A St Albans Road.	Former Station house/office (4/19)	Grade II	Yes (Nascot)	Poor	In Use	4
Wafford Tunnel archway.	Tunnel Entrance (3/12)	Grade II	No	Unclear	0	4

+ Original gates were moved in 1989 to Salter's Hall, 4 Fore Street, London, EC2Y 5DE.

However, following restoration work, the following structures are no longer considered to be 'at risk':

- Clutterbuck Tomb, Dalton/Guest Tomb, Dundas Tomb, Deacon/Stacey Tomb, Fawcett Tomb, Morrison Tomb, Tomb 5m East, Tomb 10m South of chancel of St Mary's, St Mary's Churchyard.
- Gates to Salter's Almshouses, Church Road.
- Bridge 163, Grove Wharf, Grand Union Canal.
- Bushey Arches.
- Old Station House, 147A St Albans Road.

Watford Borough Council has achieved the decreasing trend desired and aims to further reduce the number of listed buildings at risk of decay.

9.6. U5: Listed buildings – any demolitions

We can confirm that no listed buildings have been demolished in Watford during this monitoring year. The Council will continue to actively conserve and protect historic buildings in the district.

10. Transport and Projects

The evidence base for the Local Plan indicates that transport is one of Watford's most important local issues, together with affordable housing and looking after the environment.

Hertfordshire County Council has overarching responsibility for transport and their new LTP3 Active Travel Strategy was published in April 2013 and updated the existing Walking Strategy (2011) and the Cycling Strategy (2007) to provide a joined-up approach to ensuring active travel modes are planned together to help reduce congestion, improving health and reducing pollutant emissions.

The LTP3 Active Travel Strategy forms part of Hertfordshire's Local Transport Plan (LTP3) which covers the period 2011 to 2031. This sets out the overall transport strategy for Hertfordshire, the goals and challenges to be met, and outlines a programme of transport schemes and initiatives. The Plan covers all modes of transport and takes account of the effect of transport on wider aspects including the economy, environment, climate change and social inclusion.

Further information on the LTP3 and transport planning is available on <http://www.hertsdirect.org/services/transtreets/>

10.1. T1: Amount and % of completed non-residential development within UCOs A, B and D complying with car-parking standards set out in the WDP 2000

Policy T22 and Appendix 2: 'Car and Cycle Parking Standards' in the adopted Watford District Plan 2000 set out Watford's car parking standards, which are based on maximum demand-based parking.

Car parking standards are in place to ensure that appropriate provision is made for car parking in relation to new development or in land use conversions. They are intended to restrict over provision, over capacity and to encourage the use of alternative transport modes.

There have been 38 applicable developments, which have been completed over the monitoring period of 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014 and there was no change to the existing car parking spaces in most of the developments. Two retail developments approved will result in additional parking spaces and one retail development reduced the number of parking spaces; a B1a office scheme also reduced the existing number of car parking spaces to make way for an extension, retaining sufficient spaces in both cases.

An extension for a B1c light industry scheme increased the number of car parking spaces. All complied with the WDP 2000 maximum car parking standards. There were also 34 additional cycling spaces across the developments, the majority within the D2 class use.

Table 10-1: T1: Amount and % of completed non-residential development within UCOs A, B and D in 2013/14, complying with car-parking standards in WDP 2000

Use Class Order (UCO)	No. of development sites in each UCO	Total no. and % of developments complying with maximum car parking standards
A1	6	6
A2	3	3
A3	2	2
A5	3	3
B1	1	1
B1a	5	5
B1c	3	3
B8	3	3
D1	8	8
D2	4	4
Total	38	38 (100%)

N.B. Where a Use Class within A, B and D has not been listed, no developments have completed in that category.

There were 3 planning applications, (two of which were dealt with by Hertfordshire County Council as the relevant planning authority) within the D1 use class pertaining to additional classrooms or extensions to school facilities, thus increasing the number of pupils and possibly staff. The two County Council applications with additional classrooms, showed an increase in the number of car parking spaces, with no change to the remainder of use class D1 redevelopments. The council is currently revising its car parking strategy as part of the new Local Plan Part 2 document, which is undergoing consultation from 17th December 2014 to 4th February 2015.

10.2. T2: Accessibility - Percentage of new residential development within 400 metres of a bus stop where a frequent bus service operates i.e. where there are 5 or more journeys each way per day Mon-Sat

Accessibility planning is essential to effective spatial planning in order to identify whether people can get to jobs, education, health and other key activities. In order to monitor accessibility, Hertfordshire County Council, as the highway authority with the main responsibility for transport issues in the county, runs a software program on behalf of the districts which is able to address all aspects of travel time using digital road networks and public transport timetable data, and enables specific locations to be mapped and analysed.

In January 2013, new Core Strategy policies were adopted and Policy T2: Location of New Development and Policy T3: Improving Accessibility outline our accessibility requirements; criteria is included that, to be accessible by bus services, sites should be within 400m of a bus stop where a frequent bus service operates i.e. served by 5 or more bus journeys each way per day Mon-Sat.

The result for 2013/14 was that 68% of net residential development was within 400m of a bus stop. The 32% of housing completions which were less accessible to bus stops involved 6 sites; 3 sites were in North Watford, which is also farther away from rail and underground stations, with the bulk (28%) of the housing completions at the former Leggatts Campus site; 2 sites, with 4 housing completions, were in Oxhey and one housing completion was actually in Central Watford, but away from the main bus routes. This highlights that even the centre of an urban conurbation such as Watford can be affected by accessibility issues and this will be drawn to the attention of transport planners who liaise with the bus companies.

The following table shows the results on net residential development for the period 2006/07 to 2012/13, based on the percentage of new residential development within 30 minutes public transport time of a GP, hospital, primary and secondary school, employment and a major health centre, which was the local plan policy in existence prior to the Core Strategy being adopted in January 2013; this showed that hospitals figure as a less accessible key service.

Table 10-2: T2: Percentage of new residential development (net completions) within 30 minutes public transport time of services/key activities

Service/key activity	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
GPs	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Hospitals	100%	100%	78%	89%	75%	68%	79%
Primary schools	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Secondary schools	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Employment	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Retail centre	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Data Source: Hertfordshire County Council/Watford Borough Council via Accession software
N.B. Results can be affected because of the particular parameters set and bus/train timetables and routes can change.

10.3. T3: % Change in Total Vehicle Kilometrage on HCC roads in Watford

Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) is the highway authority for all public roads in the county except the motorway and trunk road network, which is the responsibility of the Highways Agency, although many HCC roads interact with these.

A large element of the motorway and trunk road network is of a long-distance nature so a comparison of traffic on just HCC controlled roads provides a measure of locally generated traffic change.

Watford's traffic levels have increased by 1.5% in 2012/13, following more significant decreases over the last two years, of 2.8% during 2011/12 and 4.86% during 2010/11. Traffic flows on HCC roads within most of Hertfordshire's districts has increased in 2012/13 (apart from Broxbourne, Three Rivers and Hertsmere); Dacorum had the biggest increase with 6.3%.

Table 10-3: T3: % Change in Total Vehicle Kilometrage on HCC roads in Watford

2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
+0.5 %	-0.6 %	+1.04	-2.9	-1.35	+1.77	+2.58	-4.86	-2.80	+1.5

Source: Hertfordshire's Traffic and Transport Data Reports 2004-2014

N.B. HCC roads – Hertfordshire County Council controlled roads, which excludes motorway and trunk roads; + denotes an increase and – denotes a decrease in traffic flow levels.

Traffic levels overall in Hertfordshire have increased by 1.6% during 2012- 2013, occurring across all road types apart from A roads which fell by 0.6%.

Traffic growth and road congestion are closely associated. In terms of road congestion, HCC also monitor journey time data during the morning peak (07:00 – 10:00) in the major towns of Hemel Hempstead, St. Albans, Stevenage, Watford, Welwyn Garden City and Hatfield (Bishop's Stortford is also included due to its proximity to Stansted Airport). Following last year's overall decrease in average journey times per mile across the county, there has been an increase during 2012/13 by 2 seconds to 2 minutes 47 seconds per mile. Average journey times for 2012/13 increased in all towns except for Hemel Hempstead (decrease of 3 seconds or - 1.1%) including Watford, with Watford's average journey time per mile increasing by 7 seconds to 3 minutes 23 seconds, a change of 2.1%; only St Albans has a higher average journey time of 3 minutes 39 seconds per mile.

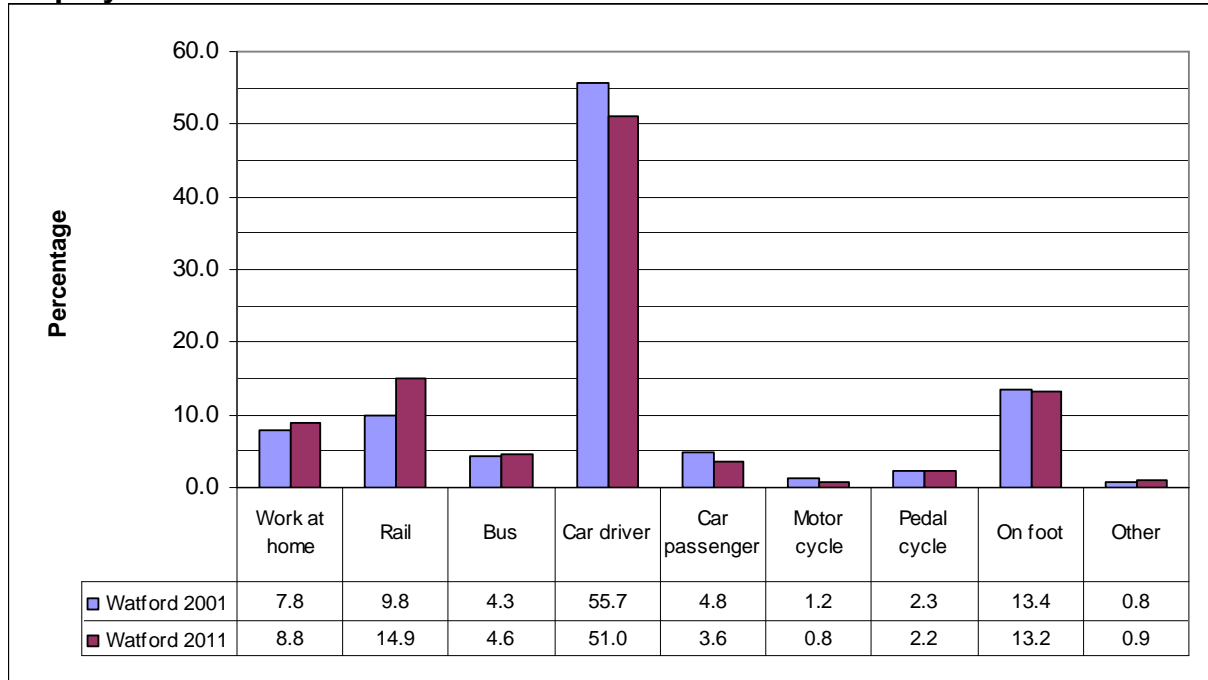
It is essential that new development does not worsen existing traffic conditions and Core Strategy Policy T4: Transport Assessments and Policy T5: Providing New Infrastructure, seek to mitigate any impact on the borough's transport network and improve the network with regard to sustainable modes of transport. Proposals must be accompanied by a transport assessment or statement in accordance with the most recent DfT guidance and in consultation with Hertfordshire Highways and the Highways Agency, and financial contributions or physical works will be required.

10.4. T4: Travel to Work Mode Shares

- Less Watford residents in employment travel to work in 2011 by car at 54.6%, than the 60.5% in 2001, a decrease of 5.9% (51% as driver and 3.6% as passenger). Overall in Hertfordshire, the proportion travelling to work by car has decreased by 3.9%, from 64.4% in 2001 to 60.5% in 2011.
- 19.5% of residents in Watford travel to work by public transport in 2011, as opposed to 14.1% in 2001, which is an increase of 5.4% (most of the increase coming from train or underground, rather than bus). The Hertfordshire average for residents travelling to work by public transport is lower at 16.5%, although this has also increased from 13.7% in 2001.
- The proportion of Watford residents who work at home more than doubled between 1991 and 2001 to 7.8% and this has increased to 8.8% in 2011, with 11.4% being the Hertfordshire average.

- Watford has a much higher proportion (13.2%) of residents walking to work than any other district in Hertfordshire (average 8.5%); also, a higher usage of travelling to work by bicycle at 2.2%, as compared to the county average (1.6%). The Hertfordshire average for both modes of travel to work has decreased slightly since 2001, less so in Watford.

Figure 10-1: T4: Travel to Work Mode Share by Watford residents in employment – 2011 and 2001 Census



Source: Chart compiled by WBC, Planning policy - data from 2011 & 2001 Census

N.B. The above table relates to how Watford residents in employment travel to work, some of whom commute to other areas – it does not represent all employees working in Watford.

Distance travelled to work

The average distance commuted to work by Watford’s employed residents has increased from 11.4km in 2001 to 13.1km in 2011; although Watford’s 15.5% change 2001-11 is the highest in Hertfordshire, the average distance travelled is still the lowest of all the Hertfordshire districts; the England and Wales % change 2001-11 was 12%, increasing from 13.4km in 2001 to 15km in 2011. On average, workers resident in the East of England (17km) had the longest commutes while working residents in London had the shortest commutes (11km).

- Of the 51% of Watford employed residents that drive a car or van to work, the majority of those (also 51%) drive less than 10km, with 30% driving between 10km and 30km, and 6% driving 30km and over.
- Of the 19.5% using public transport (train, underground or bus/coach) to get to work, almost 25% of those travel less than 10km with the majority of public transport users, over 60%, travelling between 10km to 30 km and nearly 7% travelling 30km and over.
- Not including those working at home, the remaining 20% of Watford’s employed residents use other methods of travel to work (which would include

walking, cycling, car passenger etc) and unsurprisingly, 82% of these travel less than 10km to work.

Commuting data derived from the 2011 Census has been released in 2014, and shows that Watford is still an important employment centre although larger numbers of residents than previously are travelling out of Watford to work. The number of people commuting into Watford is 28,814, very similar to that in 2001 (28,636) but the number of Watford residents commuting out of Watford has increased by about 4,000 people, to 24,903. This results in net in-commuting of around 3,900 people in Watford (a decrease by almost 50% from the 7,700 plus recorded in the 2001 Census).

Fifty-six per cent of Watford's total workplace population of 51,469 comes from outside the borough, similar to the 58% recorded in 2001. However, the number of people that both live and work in Watford is 14,428, which is a decrease of 30% from the 20,700 living and working in Watford in 2001.

47% (11,676) of those commuting out of Watford travel into the London area; 41% travel to other districts in Hertfordshire, including the local authority where the highest number of Watford residents commute to, which is Three Rivers (3,483, about 14%).

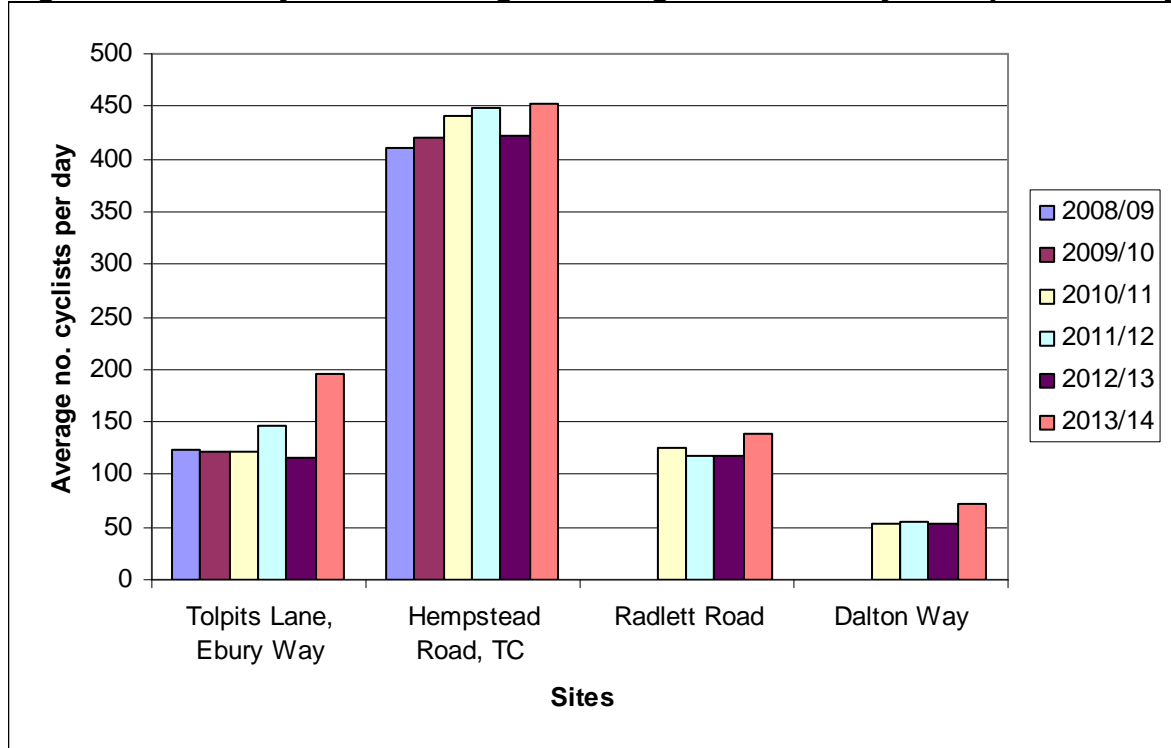
50% of in-commuters to Watford (not including those 14,428 that live and work in Watford) travel from other districts in Hertfordshire – again, the local authority with the highest number of commuters to Watford is Three Rivers, (5,747, about 20%). Around 7,880 people commute into Watford from the London area (27% of the in-commuting total).

10.5. T5: Watford's cycle route usage – average number of cyclists per day

A challenging target of increasing cycling levels was set in Hertfordshire County's Local Transport Plan (LTP3), and is based on the percentage of all trips, where the journey length is less than 3 miles, which are made by cycling. The baseline figure was calculated from the 2009 County Travel Survey, where it was 2.7%. It is intended that the target will be tracked every 3 years through future HCC travel surveys, the first target being 3% by 2015/16.

Four sites in Watford have been continuously monitored with automatic counters. It can be seen from the following chart that usage has significantly increased above previous levels during 2013/14 at three of the sites in Watford, especially at Tolpits Lane, Ebury Way cycle track and usage has increased back to just above 2011 levels at the Hempstead Road site; an increase has been seen across the county, reversing the decline of 2012, which was likely to be attributable to 2012 being confirmed as the second wettest year on record.

Figure 10-2: T5: Cycle route usage – average number of cyclists per weekday



Data Source: Hertfordshire’s Traffic and Transport Data Reports 2008 – 2013.
 N.B. Number of cyclists is recorded on weekdays between 6:00-22:00.
 Data not available pre. 2010/11 on Radlett Road and Dalton Way sites

10.6. T6: Annual output for cycle routes in Watford

Cycling as a mode of transport is cheap, healthy and sustainable and Watford Borough Council has been strongly committed to encouraging cycling by developing a safe network of useable routes and improved storage facilities in Watford. Watford’s cycle path runs through the middle of the town centre shopping area, including the Parade, which underwent a major improvement programme during 2013/14.

Table 10-4: T6: Annual output in km for cycle routes in Watford

2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
4.30	6.10	1.30	0.50	0.00	1.90	0.00	0.50	0.80	0.00	0.26

Source: Watford Borough Council

Since 2003/04, 15.4 km of new cycle route has been delivered (see Table 10.5) providing cyclists with easier, more direct and safer journeys around the town. There is a new cycle lane on Greenhill Crescent, approximately 260 metres long. Hertfordshire County Council advise us that although there has been limited new cycle routes added during 2012/13 and 2013/14, there should be significant additional cycle routes added during 2014/15. Projects include an enhanced cycle route between Vicarage Road and the High Street, including new cycle lanes on Market Street, enhancements to the cycle route along the A412 corridor between Watford town centre and the Dome roundabout, including extensive additional cycle lanes, and enhancements to the cycle routes on Clarendon Road and Station Road.

Hertfordshire County Council advise us that although there has been no new cycle route added during 2012/13 or 2013/14, there should be additional cycle routes added during 2014/15. Projects include a cycle route along the A412 corridor between Watford town centre and the Dome roundabout.

Some useful cycle route maps for Watford are available from the Customer Service Centre at the Town Hall and on our website: [Cycle lanes and routes](#) for the Ebury Way, the Grand Union Canal towpath and a general map covering all the cycle routes. These were updated and published in 21013/14.

Watford Borough Council has a Green Travel Plan in place which sets out a programme of initiatives to encourage staff to choose green travel, including interest free loans for public transport season tickets and cycle purchase, staff car parking fees and car sharing (www.hertsliftshare.org). Car sharing and all more sustainable travel mode use has increased at Watford Borough Council and this has begun to reduce our carbon footprint and contribute to local and national targets.

Recent initiatives to lessen congestion and improve sustainable transport generally in Watford include:

- A partnership between HCC, Watford Borough Council, Three Rivers Council and the Canal & Rivers Trust has achieved the resurfacing of a total 8 miles of the Grand Union Canal Towpath
- New bus shelters were installed at Haines Way and Vicarage Road, following those installed over the summer of 2013 in Horseshoe Lane, The Harebreaks, Courtlands Drive and High Road, Leavesden
- The installation of a new electric car re-charge point at Timberlake car park on Radlett Road, adding to those of last year at the Town Hall main car park, the Avenue, Longspring, Sutton, Gade, Pinner Road car parks – a further installation is being progressed at Watford Business Park, Greenhill Crescent. (There is also an electric charging point at Queen's car park in the Intu shopping centre, Watford and at the new Morrisons supermarket at Ascot Road)
- Shower units and covered cycle parking were installed at Watford General Hospital
- New cycle parking hoops added at various locations around the Town Centre, including fifteen new hoops at identified destinations, new cycle parking at Watford Junction and enhanced cycle parking on The Parade.

10.7. T7: Development progress on major schemes

There are some major developments anticipated including the Watford Health Campus, Charter Place, Ascot Road (Western Gateway), Croxley Rail Link and the Watford Junction scheme. (For information on the Abbey Flyer, please see the website <http://www.hertsdirect.org/abbeyline> - in summary, the DfT decided to step back from the plan to transfer and convert the line although HCC will consider whether a case can be made to convert the line to light rail in the future, when other redevelopment such as at Watford Junction comes forward or when the rail operator franchise agreement is due for renewal.)

The Special Policy Areas are identified in the Core Strategy as broad locations; the precise boundaries will be set within the Local Plan Part 2, on which further consultation is being undertaken from 17th December 2014 to 4th February 2015.

Updates on progress are provided:

The Watford Health Campus (Special Policy Area 2)

Significant progress has been made over the last few years in delivering the Health Campus, following approval of outline planning permission in 2008 and the signing of a planning obligation/Section 106 in 2010, providing a potential contribution of over £2m.

Legal and financial agreements were signed on the 19 June 2013, between the council, West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust and Kier Investment Ltd, and these agreements will see the partners working together over a number of years to improve the area in and around the Watford General Hospital and Cardiff Road Industrial site, in terms of creating an attractive and sustainable community in West Watford that incorporates new modern hospital facilities, employment, quality open space and new homes.

The planning application for the infrastructure works required for the new access road was approved by Watford Borough Council in December 2013. Ecological and other preparatory works for the road have started, with construction expected to commence in March 2015.

During January and until the 18 February 2014, Watford Health Campus partners - Watford Health Campus Partnership LLP (Watford Borough Council and Kier) and West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust (which manages Watford Hospital) undertook public consultation and held a series of public exhibitions on the masterplan, prior to finalising and submission.

The planning permission incorporating both outline and detailed elements for the mixed-use Watford Health Campus was issued by the council on the 6 January 2015, following completion of a S106 planning obligation.

During the 7 – 13 January 2015, there was a Compulsory Purchase Inquiry; the Council and West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust (WHHT) together own the

majority of the land required for the scheme - some third party interests have been acquired by agreement but there are also some outstanding, which the Council with the agreement of WHHT, are seeking to acquire through the use of compulsory purchase powers. The Secretary of State's decision is expected May/June 2015.

The overall scheme is expected to be delivered over the next 10-15 years; for more information, please visit the website: www.watfordhealthcampus.info

Charter Place

The planning application submitted by Intu in September 2013 to redevelop Charter Place and refurbish Intu Watford (formerly the Harlequin), was granted planning permission on the 5 February 2014. The proposal is for a £100 million development to include new retail space, a cinema and leisure complex, a new restaurant hub, a covered 'niche' market area and public realm improvements. The proposed redevelopment should create about 1,100 new jobs across the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors and up to 500 temporary construction jobs. It is intended for construction to be started in 2015, with completion due in 2017.

On the 10th October, the existing traditional market was moved to a new home in the centre of the town, accessible from the High Street near the flyover and from Beechen Grove, near Clarendon Road. It has been created from shipping containers and is spread over 2 floors, making a unique and attractive space. The grand opening took place on the 31 October, with celebrity chef Rosemary Shrager holding cooking demonstrations with produce from the market, together with a range of fun Halloween activities. Opening hours are from 9am to 5pm Tuesday to Saturday.

During the last week of November 2014, there was a Compulsory Purchase Inquiry; some third party interests have been acquired by agreement but there are also some outstanding, which the Council are seeking to acquire through the use of compulsory purchase powers. The Secretary of State's decision will follow about six months later, during 2015.

Ascot Road (part of Special Policy Area 6: Western Gateway)

SPA6 has been identified in the Core Strategy as an area where there is potential for major regeneration, physical and transport improvements through the redevelopment of key sites in the area and opportunities for restructuring.

Watford Borough Council successfully negotiated a deal at Ascot Road, on the former Royal Mail sorting office site owned by the council, which involved several parties including Centros, a developer, Morrisons and Hertfordshire County Council. Morrisons opened their new supermarket at Ascot Road in West Watford on 25 November 2013, creating about 270 jobs in the area.

Part of the site is needed for a new primary school and for the Croxley Rail Link; the school building is presently under construction (see 'Schools 11.1' for further information).

The Croxley Rail Link (part of Special Policy Area 6: Western Gateway)

This a scheme to extend the London Underground Metropolitan line from Croxley to Watford Junction, (via Watford High Street) providing an east-west public transport link for Watford.

Watford Borough Council, Hertfordshire County Council, London Underground, Transport for London, Network Rail and Three Rivers District Council have all supported the scheme. In July 2013, HCC and London Underground were granted the legal powers needed to build, operate and maintain the Croxley Rail Link.

Preparatory works have been taking place along the length of the new route in order to finalise the engineering designs. The next steps are for the county council to continue discussions with London Underground and for the scheme to receive final funding approval from the Department for Transport, which is expected in March 2015. Construction is due to start in spring/summer 2015 and the current target date for trains to start running on the new link is spring/summer 2018.

Two new stations will be opened along the route and the existing Watford Metropolitan line station will close. Cassiobridge station, off Ascot Road where it is planned to have park and ride facilities, will serve the local community and provide a valuable new transport link for businesses in the area. A second station will be sited at Vicarage Road to serve the existing Watford Hospital, the football ground and the proposed Health Campus project. The new stations will also provide better transport links to Croxley Business Park and Watford Business Park.

For more information, please see <http://www.croxleyraillink.com/>

Watford Junction (Special Policy Area 2)

This area has been identified in the Core Strategy (SPA2) for a major mixed use regeneration scheme that will improve the railway station, road and transport facilities together with new residential, employment, retail and commercial leisure space with associated new physical, social and green infrastructure.

In February 2011, unlike the Croxley Rail link, the Department of Transport did not agree to move the scheme forward into the development pool of projects across the county competing for funding. Discussions are continuing between the key parties involved in an attempt to resolve the many complex issues and find a viable scheme for the site, whilst additional potential sources of funding that could be pooled together to deliver the redevelopment have been identified. Croxley Rail Link however increases the importance of Watford Junction and this should improve the long term regeneration potential.

The station forecourt was re-designed during 2012/13 under the National Stations Improvement Programme scheme in order to create a better gateway to Watford and more space for all rail users, although the new road layout has caused problems with drop-off and pick-up of passengers and arrangements for taxis, which have yet to be redressed.

Network Rail is undertaking an £81 million investment program, which includes works to remove the signal box at Watford Junction in preparation for Croxley Rail Services; replacing 12 miles of track, signaling and overhead power lines in the Watford area and 175km of security fencing. There has been a series of eight weekend closures (including a longer closure from 24 December to 29 December) planned to accomplish these works, which started in May 2014 and carry on to April 2015. London Midland, Virgin Trains, Network Rail and other train operators are working together to provide alternative travel arrangements, which include road transport and ticket acceptance on other lines.

11. Infrastructure Delivery and Planning Obligations

Infrastructure encompasses the entire framework required to support daily life, such as transport, utilities, education, hospitals and open space.

The Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) considers the infrastructure improvements that are needed to support the planned increase in new homes, business premises and other facilities arising from the population and job growth in the borough up to 2031, as outlined in the Core Strategy.

The IDP includes an assessment of the existing provision and an analysis of the future provision required. The IDP is accompanied by an infrastructure delivery schedule which sets out details of the infrastructure schemes that are proposed to take place during the local plan period to 2031.

The main conclusions of the IDP include the need to provide new infrastructure for the following over the plan period:

- schools
- health care facilities
- transportation
- green infrastructure
- additional cemetery capacity

The intention is to update the IDP and infrastructure delivery schedule on a regular basis and the most recent IDP review took place in March 2013 – please see the 'Infrastructure Delivery Plan March 2013' document for full details, available on our website www.watford.gov.uk

Some information with regard to health care and transportation is also provided in the Transport and Projects' section of this document - most of the Special Policy Areas have potential to deliver or support improvement in healthcare facilities, such as SPA3 Health Campus and SPA2 Watford Junction; also, some information in respect of green infrastructure is provided in the relevant section of this document.

An update on schools and cemetery provision as at November 2014 follows.

11.1. Schools

Primary School provision

The County Council has a duty to plan for and secure sufficient school places for their area in line with their duties under section 14 of the Education Act 1996. In the wider Watford town area, the County Council has identified that there is a need for up to 4 additional primary schools (or 10 to 11 form entry classes (FE) over the lifetime of the Core Strategy (to 2031). This is largely a result of the planned housing growth on strategic sites in central and west Watford, and individual sites in other areas. It is also related to recent increases in birth rates. Watford Borough Council has been

actively engaging with Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) to ensure this demand is met.

The Core Strategy sets out this need within Policy INF1 and also the Infrastructure Delivery Plan. HCC would wish to see the following sites identified for primary school expansion/provision: these sites were consulted on in the Site Allocations' first consultation from 4 November to 16 December 2013 and further Local Plan Part 2 consultation (including Site Allocations) is being undertaken from 17th December 2014 to 4th February 2015.

- Ascot Road - land adjacent to St Anthony's and Westfield Academy to allow for the provision of an additional 2FE primary school with the use of a detached playing field. The school building is under construction although the first form entries for the new school opened in September 2014 and have been temporarily housed in the Lanchester Building. These pupils will then move into the new school building when it is finished – the new building is due to open in summer 2015.
- Orchard School - the land adjacent to the site is in the ownership of Watford Borough Council. This is to accommodate a 2FE school and future proof the site for a further expansion up to 3fe in the future. In July 2013 the Secretary of State declassified part of the fallow allotment land to facilitate this school expansion.
- Lanchester House, Hempstead Road for an additional 2FE school. This school opened in September 2014.

The Ascot Road site is detailed in the Core Strategy; also detailed are that school sites will be required at, or in the vicinity of strategic sites such as the Health Campus and Watford Junction. These have still to be identified.

- Land within proximity to the Health Campus site for an additional 2FE primary school.
- Land within the vicinity of Watford Junction development for an additional 2FE primary school. Bedford Street site has been identified as an option.

Table 11-1: Current and potential capacity in Watford Primary schools @ November 2014

School	Current Capacity	Expansion Capacity	Comments
Alban Wood	1FE	0	No expansion potential
Ascot Road	2FE	0	New school opened September 2014.
Beechfield	2FE	0	Permanently expanded by 1FE to 2FE from Sept 2012
Berrygrove (The Grove Academy)	3FE		Academy located on a large site but already 3FE
Bromet	PAN 40	0	No expansion potential
Bushey & Oxhey Infants	2FE	0	No expansion potential
Cassiobury Infants	3FE	0	Permanently expanded by 1FE to 3FE from Sept 2012 (temporarily expanded by 1FE in 2010 and 2011)
Cassiobury JM	3FE	0	Permanently expanded by 1FE to 3FE Sept 2013
Central	2FE	0	Permanently expanded by 1FE to 2FE in Sept 2014.
Chater Infants	2FE	0	No expansion potential
Chater Junior	2FE	0	No expansion potential
Cherry Tree	2FE	0	Permanently expanded by 1FE to 2FE from Sept 2012.

School	Current Capacity	Expansion Capacity	Comments
Coates Way JMI	1FE	0	No expansion potential as majority of site in floodplain
Holy Rood RC	2FE	0	No expansion potential
Holywell	3FE	0	Permanently expanded by 1FE to 3FE from Sept 2012.
Kingsway Infants	2FE	0	Temporary expansion by 1FE to 3FE Sept 2012. No potential to expand permanently.
Kingsway Junior	2FE	0	To have temporary expansion by 1FE to 3FE Sept 2015. No potential to expand permanently.
Knutsford	2FE	0	No expansion potential
Lanchester Building	2FE	0	New school opened September 2014.
Laurance Haines	2FE	0	No expansion potential without additional land
Leavesden Green	1FE	+1FE	Needed for potential growth at Abbots Langley and the primary planning areas in the north of Watford
Nascot Wood Infant & Nursery	2FE	0	Temporarily expanded in 2013 by 1FE to 3FE. No permanent expansion potential
Nascot Wood Junior	2FE	0	To have temporary expansion by 1FE to 3FE Sept 2016. No permanent expansion potential
Orchard	1FE	+1FE	Permanently expanded by 1FE to 2FE in Sept 2014. Additional land acquired from Watford BC to enable future expansion to 3FE when required.
Parkgate Infants	2FE	0	No expansion potential
Parkgate Junior	2FE	0	No expansion potential
St Anthony's RC	2FE	0	Permanently expanded by 1FE to 2FE from Sept 2013. (temporarily expanded by 1fe in 2012)
St Catherine of Sienna Academy	1FE	0	Temporarily expanded in 2013 by 1FE to 2FE. Will be temporarily expanded again in 2014.
Watford Field Infant	2FE	0	Temporary expansion by 1FE to 3FE Sept 2012. No potential to expand permanently.
Watford Field Junior	2FE	0	To have temporary expansion by 1FE to 3FE Sept 2015. No potential to expand permanently.

Data source: HCC, Property and Technology

Secondary school provision

Based on current pupil forecasts, the County Council recommends that two sites should be allocated and reserved for secondary education in SW Herts across the plan period. Given the geographic spread of existing schools, the secondary school requirement will be provided in the Three Rivers District.

Three Rivers District Council has worked closely with Hertfordshire County Council to identify possible sites for additional secondary schools.

Two sites were identified in the Three Rivers Site Allocations Document which is due to be considered for adoption by Three Rivers District Council in November 2014.

These sites are:

- Mill End/Maple Cross – Land east of the A405 (19.64ha)
- Croxley Green – Land north-east of Baldwins Lane (12.26ha)

11.2. Additional cemetery capacity

In our Core Strategy, policy INF1 states that; 'Infrastructure provision in Watford will reflect the council's priorities for infrastructure set out in the infrastructure delivery plan.' This lists new cemetery capacity as one of these priorities. The borough

currently has 2 cemeteries, at Vicarage Road and North Watford; a new cemetery is required to serve the borough.

At the end of 2013, we previously consulted on a potential cemetery site on council owned land at Paddock Road in Hertsmere (which would need to be allocated in their Local Plan rather than our own). This raised concerns, primarily relating to access through existing allotments, and 2 additional sites have now been identified within Watford Borough. All 3 sites are presented as options in the Local Plan Part 2 consultation starting on 17th December 2014 but not all may be taken forward. The additional options are to extend the existing North Watford cemetery, and/or to identify an additional site at Russell Lane. All 3 options are considered suitable for woodland burials.

Whilst some infrastructure is funded directly by both public and private organisations, much is only needed as a result of the impact of new development. To ensure that the burden of providing the additional infrastructure that is needed does not fall on existing communities, planning authorities are able to seek appropriate funding for this infrastructure from developers via planning obligations, which are legal agreements negotiated as part of the planning application process.

An Infrastructure Funding Gap Assessment (IFGA) report was produced in March 2013, which estimates the cost of infrastructure, predicts the funding sources that may be available and demonstrates that a financial gap exists in the funding of the infrastructure required – and therefore the need for a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) in Watford.

11.3. Community Infrastructure Levy

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a new charge which will allow the council to raise funds from new developments for use on infrastructure to support the growth of the borough. The levy will apply to most new buildings; charges will be based on the size, type and location of the new development and will be set out in a charging schedule.

Following preliminary consultation in 2013 and further consultation from 17 February to 31 March 2014, representations were taken into consideration and the Draft Charging Schedule was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on the 15 April 2014. The Inspector's Report was received on the 18 August 2014 and the view of the Examiner was that the Charging Schedule is sound. The Council will aim to adopt CIL in March/April 2015.

CIL is not intended to replace S106 planning obligations, which are currently sought in respect of residential development but will operate at a more strategic level for residential and retail uses and is based on a cumulative collection approach which requires pooled contributions for the delivery of major infrastructure items which have been identified as needed in the borough in the IDP.

S106 agreements will continue but focus more on delivering site specific and localized infrastructure needs that cannot otherwise be achieved through the CIL, or are more appropriately delivered via S106. The principal uses for S106 agreements

would be the delivery of affordable housing (which is expressly omitted from the definition of infrastructure in the CIL Regulations) and the mitigation of the direct effects of proposed development.

11.4. IN1: Infrastructure provided - Section 106 funded schemes 2013/14

Watford Borough Council currently negotiates developers' contributions towards site specific infrastructure including affordable housing (results provided in the Housing section of this report), open space and children's play space.

- In 2013/14, the amount of Section 106 contributions used to fund schemes on public open space and children's play space was £2,636,921.

Table 11-2: IN1: Section 106 funded schemes 2013/14

CROXLEY RAIL LINK	OXHEY PARK
CASSIOBURY PARK STUDY FACILITIES	KING GEORGE V PLAYING FIELD
ST. JOHN ROAD PLAY AREA	COLNE RIVER PROJECT
JELlicoe ROAD PLAY AREA IMPROVEMENTS	KNUTSFORD ROAD
SKATE PARK IMPROVEMENTS	NORTH WATFORD CEMETERY
ESTCOURT ROAD IMPROVEMENTS	VICARAGE ROAD CEMETERY
GOODWOOD REC. PLAY AREA IMPROVEMENTS	LOCAL PARK IMPROVEMENTS
HAREBREAKS REC. GROUND PLAY AREA	GARSTON PARK
MERIDEN PARK PLAY AREA	LOCAL NATURE RESERVES
CALLOWLAND RECREATION GROUND	CASSIOBURY PARK HLF PROJECT
RIVERSIDE RECREATION GROUND	WATFORD MUSEUM

Data Source: WBC

Refurbishment and improvement to a number of recreation grounds, parks, play areas and the cemeteries have taken place during the last financial year, as shown in the accompanying table and monies to help with the cost of the Croxley Rail Link have been paid to HCC.

11.5. IN2: Section 106 monies received 2013/14

- The amount of S106 contributions received by Watford Borough Council for public open space and children's play space in 2013/14 was £556,932.

There is a programme of works using S106 funds covering the 2011/12 to 2014/15 period, where a large number of projects have been allocated funding across the town, including play areas, parks and open spaces, a major investment in the Colne River Park, allotments, cemeteries, playing pitches and changing rooms.

Please note that Hertfordshire County Council is also responsible for negotiating and setting standard charges for planning obligations in areas including transport, education, libraries, youth and childcare facilities, fire and rescue services, adult care facilities and health facilities. (Responsibility for administering any monies from planning obligations for health facilities was transferred from the NHS Primary Care Trust to HCC under the Public Health Team with effect from April 2013.)

12. Appendix 1. Glossary of Terms

Accessibility

The ability of everybody to go conveniently where they need, including elderly people, people with disabilities and those with children, particularly in relation to services and facilities.

Affordable housing

Affordable housing includes social rented and intermediate housing, provided to specific eligible households whose needs are not met by the market (see National Planning Policy Framework for full definition). This includes not only newly built affordable housing delivered through planning policy, but also acquisitions and conversions but it does not include 'low cost market' housing.

AMR – Authority's Monitoring Report

A report by local planning authorities assessing Local Plan production progress and policy effectiveness.

CIL – Community Infrastructure Levy

The Community Infrastructure Levy is a new planning charge, introduced by the Planning Act 2008. It came into force on 6 April 2010 through the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010. The government consulted on further regulatory reforms to the Community Infrastructure Levy, covering a range of amendments to the regulations, related particularly to rate setting and the operation of the levy in practice. The consultation closed on 28 May 2013. Further details can be found at on the Gov.uk website.

COI – Core Output Indicators

Originally a mandatory standardised set of indicators introduced in 2005 by the government in order to monitor the effectiveness of policies and enable national comparison. In March 2011 the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) withdrew published guidance on local plan monitoring leaving it to local councils to decide which indicators to include. Although the NPPF includes guidance for Authorities' Monitoring Reports, it is less prescriptive with regard to indicators. However, most of the district councils in Hertfordshire intend to continue to monitor the Core Output Indicators, although they may not be labelled as such, in order to provide consistency and enable some element of comparison to be maintained.

Core Strategy

The Core Strategy is the central part of Watford's Local Plan and sets out the key elements of the council's planning vision and spatial strategy for the Borough. It establishes the direction for other documents that will set out our planning strategy and policies in more details. All other Local Plan documents must be consistent with the Core Strategy.

DCLG – Department for Communities and Local Government

The Department for CLG was created on 5 May 2006, with a powerful remit to promote community cohesion and equality, as well as responsibility for housing, urban regeneration, planning and local government.

EELGA – East of England Local Government Association

From 1 April 2010, some of EERA's work will be taken forward by a new organisation called the East of England LGA – www.eelga.gov.uk, which is the association of the 52 local authorities of the East of England.

EERA – East of England Regional Assembly

EERA was the Regional Planning Body for the East of England, providing regional planning guidance for the East of England in the form of a 'Regional Spatial Strategy' until it was dissolved on the 31 March 2010. It no longer functions as an organisation.

G.I.S – Geographic Information System

Computerised mapping system.

HBRC - Hertfordshire Biological Records Centre

Conducts biological recording and manages an extensive database with information on habitats, species and sites across the county. Also provides an ecological advisory service.

HCC

Hertfordshire County Council

Hectare

10,000 square metres (about 2.5 acres)

IMD – Index of Multiple Deprivation

The Government publishes an Index of Multiple Deprivation combining individual indices for the following domains: income deprivation; employment deprivation; health deprivation and disability; education, skills and training deprivation; barriers to housing and services; crime; and living environment deprivation into an overall measure of deprivation, the most recent being the 2010 IMD.

LDS – Local Development Scheme

A document setting out a timetable for the preparation of the different documents which make up the Local Plan.

LEP – Local Enterprise Partnership

Local enterprise partnerships are partnerships between local authorities and businesses. They play a central role in determining local economic priorities and undertaking activities to drive economic growth and the creation of local jobs. Watford is part of the Hertfordshire LEP which covers the whole of Hertfordshire.

Local Plan

The plan for the future development of the local area, drawn up by the local planning authority in consultation with the community.

LSOAs – Lower Super Output Areas

Administrative areas initially designated in the 2001 Census, having relatively uniform numbers of residents (around 1,500). There are 32,482 LSOAs in England as opposed to 8,414 local authority wards.

LSP – Local Strategic Partnership

A partnership that brings together organisations from the public, private, community and voluntary sector within a local authority area, with the objective of improving people's quality of life. Watford's LSP is called One Watford and is responsible for producing the Sustainable Community Strategy.

NPPF – National Planning Policy Framework

The NPPF sets out the Government's planning policies for England. It provides a framework within which local councils can produce their own distinctive local plans which reflect the needs and priorities of their communities.

ONS - Office for National Statistics

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is the UK's largest independent producer of official statistics and is the recognized national statistical institute for the UK. It is responsible for collecting and publishing statistics related to the economy, population and society at national, regional and local levels. It also conducts the census in England and Wales every ten years.

PDL – Previously Developed Land

Previously developed land (also known as brownfield land) is land that is or has been occupied by a permanent structure excluding agricultural or forestry buildings; also excluding land in built-up areas such as private residential gardens, parks, recreation grounds and allotments – see the NPPF for a full definition.

PPS – Planning Policy Statement

These were Government statements of national planning policy guidance. They were phased in to replace PPGs (Planning Policy Guidance) and have since been superseded by the National Planning Policy Framework.

RSS – Regional Spatial Strategy

The East of England Plan, which was revoked in January 2013, was the Regional Strategy applying to Watford and previously formed part of Watford's development plan.

SA – Sustainability Appraisal

An assessment of the social, economic and environmental impacts of the policies and proposals contained within the Local Plan.

SCI – Statement of Community Involvement

A document that sets out how the council will engage with the community in preparing and reviewing the Local Plan, and also in major planning application decisions. In effect it is the council's planning policy on consultation. A statement demonstrating how the local planning authority has complied with the Statement of Community Involvement is required for all Local Plan documents.

SEA – Strategic Environmental Assessment

The European 'SEA Directive' (2001/42/EC) requires a formal 'environmental assessment' of certain plans and programmes, including those involving planning and land use. The assessment will examine the potential impacts of policies and proposals on the environment, and includes proposals for the mitigation of these impacts.

Section 106 Planning Agreement

Section 106 (S106) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 allows a local planning authority to enter into a legal agreement or planning obligation with a landowner in association with the granting of planning permission. They tend to apply to major development schemes and are often made in order to secure contributions towards community infrastructure to meet the needs of residents in new developments and/or to mitigate the impact of new developments upon existing community facilities.

SP – Structure Plan

The Hertfordshire Structure Plan, produced by the County Council, was revoked by government in January 2013. Hertfordshire County Council has produced the Minerals Local Plan 2002-16 and the Waste Core Strategy and Development Management Policies 2011-2026 which now form part of the development plan.

Spatial Planning

Spatial planning goes beyond traditional land use planning to bring together and integrate policies for the development and use of land with other policies and programmes which influence the nature of places and how they function.

This will include policies which can impact on land use by influencing the demands on, or needs for, development, but which are not capable of being delivered solely or mainly through the granting or refusal of planning permission and which may be implemented by other means.

SPD – Supplementary Planning Document


These documents provide additional guidance to policies contained in Local Plan documents.


WDP 2000 – Watford District Plan 2000

The Watford District Plan was adopted in December 2003. Following adoption of the Core Strategy in January 2013, some policies remain in existence from the Watford District Plan 2000, as listed in Appendix 4, and form part of the development plan until replaced by the Local Plan Part 2. For more information, please see <http://www.watford.gov.uk/ccm/content/planning-and-development/planning---local-plans-information.en>

13. Appendix 2. 2010 Index of Multiple Deprivation

LEGEND.

 Watford LSOAs that fall within the 10% most deprived (first decile) in the specified area

 Watford LSOAs that fall within the 20% most deprived (first quintile) in the specified area

N.B. No shaded area appears in the 'England Rank' column, as no Watford LSOAs are ranked within the most deprived 20% (first quintile) nationally.

Lower Layer Super Output area (LSOA) Code	Lower Layer Super Output area (LSOA) Name	Ward	2010 IMD SCORE	Rank (where 1 is most deprived)			
				Watford rank	Herts rank	East of England rank	England rank
E01023876	Watford 003D	Meriden	31.55	1	7	325	7539
E01023860	Watford 009B	Central	31.17	2	8	339	7683
E01023861	Watford 009C	Central	29.63	3	15	393	8354
E01023891	Watford 002B	Stanborough	28.10	4	21	461	9075
E01023865	Watford 011C	Holywell	26.63	5	32	528	9818
E01023883	Watford 012B	Oxhey	26.25	6	34	544	10014
E01023866	Watford 011D	Holywell	25.41	7	40	587	10445
E01023859	Watford 009A	Central	24.94	8	45	613	10705
E01023906	Watford 001C	Woodside	24.83	9	46	619	10768
E01023857	Watford 006C	Callowland	24.79	10	47	624	10795
E01023873	Watford 003A	Meriden	23.42	11	57	714	11634
E01023870	Watford 004C	Leggatts	23.30	12	59	726	11722
E01023877	Watford 003E	Meriden	22.74	13	66	754	12055
E01023862	Watford 009D	Central	21.02	14	91	891	13236
E01023905	Watford 001B	Woodside	20.63	15	97	923	13520
E01023864	Watford 011B	Holywell	20.57	16	98	928	13564
E01023868	Watford 004A	Leggatts	20.22	17	105	953	13831
E01023899	Watford 010A	Vicarage	19.93	18	109	977	14047
E01023869	Watford 004B	Leggatts	19.74	19	113	993	14175
E01023867	Watford 011E	Holywell	16.86	20	158	1277	16605
E01023904	Watford 001A	Woodside	16.81	21	159	1283	16642
E01023903	Watford 010E	Vicarage	16.70	22	162	1293	16738
E01023874	Watford 003B	Meriden	15.60	23	191	1420	17706
E01023888	Watford 008C	Park	15.47	24	196	1435	17823
E01023880	Watford 007C	Nascot	15.38	25	198	1442	17904
E01023886	Watford 008A	Park	14.47	26	214	1546	18745
E01023855	Watford 006A	Callowland	14.12	27	220	1582	19101
E01023901	Watford 010C	Vicarage	13.12	28	250	1735	20253
E01023892	Watford 002C	Stanborough	12.92	29	256	1762	20498
E01023871	Watford 004D	Leggatts	12.87	30	257	1770	20543

Lower Layer Super Output area (LSOA) Code	Lower Layer Super Output area (LSOA) Name	Ward	Rank (where 1 is most deprived)				
			2010 IMD SCORE	Watford rank	Herts rank	East of England rank	England rank
E01023858	Watford 006D	Callowland	11.99	31	276	1898	21545
E01023884	Watford 012C	Oxhey	11.41	32	290	1994	22233
E01023897	Watford 005C	Tudor	11.31	33	295	2010	22342
E01023900	Watford 010B	Vicarage	11.08	34	303	2048	22614
E01023875	Watford 003C	Meriden	11.05	35	306	2058	22666
E01023863	Watford 011A	Holywell	10.73	36	309	2105	23054
E01023856	Watford 006B	Callowland	10.54	37	316	2144	23293
E01023902	Watford 010D	Vicarage	10.23	38	326	2198	23727
E01023890	Watford 002A	Stanborough	9.76	39	341	2290	24345
E01023872	Watford 004E	Leggatts	9.55	40	347	2334	24623
E01023882	Watford 012A	Oxhey	9.00	41	362	2428	25346
E01023907	Watford 001D	Woodside	8.29	42	393	2566	26238
E01023879	Watford 007B	Nascot	7.86	43	411	2644	26754
E01023893	Watford 002D	Stanborough	7.38	44	428	2718	27330
E01023895	Watford 005A	Tudor	6.93	45	443	2798	27917
E01023881	Watford 007D	Nascot	6.92	46	444	2799	27926
E01023885	Watford 012D	Oxhey	5.75	47	491	3013	29270
E01023896	Watford 005B	Tudor	5.13	48	514	3109	29919
E01023894	Watford 002E	Stanborough	4.60	49	537	3188	30456
E01023898	Watford 005D	Tudor	4.43	50	547	3220	30621
E01023878	Watford 007A	Nascot	3.86	51	575	3305	31152
E01023887	Watford 008B	Park	3.23	52	610	3398	31661
E01023889	Watford 008D	Park	1.42	53	674	3538	32430

Compiled by Planning Policy, Watford Borough Council

IMD score data source: Department for Communities and Local Government, The English Indices of Deprivation 2010 <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/indices2010>

N.B. Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs) number 32,482 in England, of which the LSOA with a rank of 1 is the most deprived, and 32482 the least deprived. There are 3,550 LSOAs in the East of England region, 683 LSOAs in Hertfordshire and 53 LSOAs in Watford. LSOAs are small areas of relatively even size (around 1,500 people).

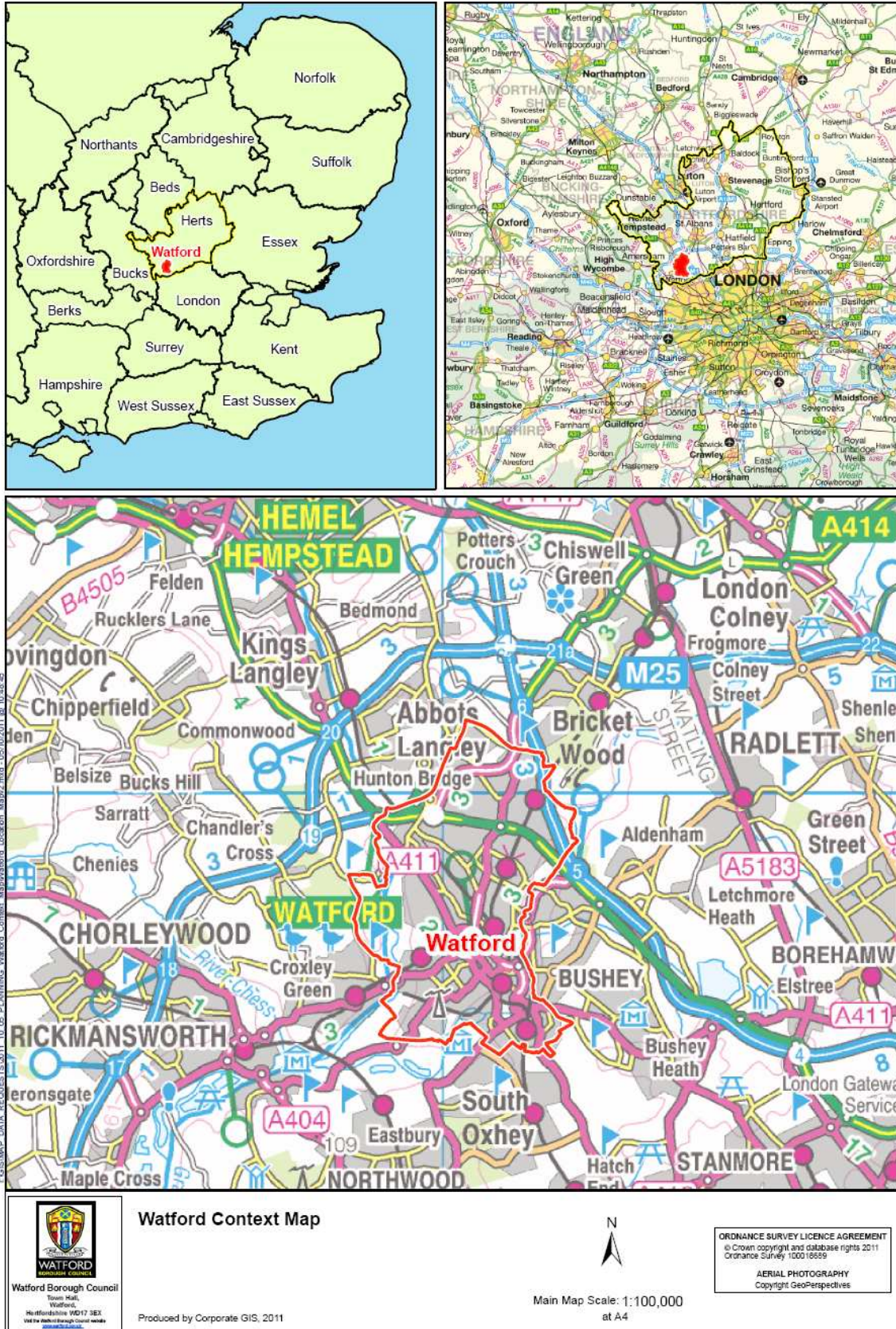
Notes as background information (please refer to the full document 'The English Indices of Deprivation 2010' for further guidance).

- The ID 2010 identifies concentrations of deprivation and it is important to note that not all deprived people live in deprived areas and conversely, not everyone living in a deprived area is deprived.
- The ID 2010 is not a measure of affluence. The indicators which have been used have been chosen because they represent different aspects of deprivation. A lack of deprivation does not necessarily equate to affluence. Therefore the LSOAs with the

highest ranks (i.e. close to 32,482 within England) are not necessarily affluent, just less deprived.

- The English Indices of Deprivation 2010 are based on broadly the same methodology as the previous version in 2007 and it is possible to compare the current pattern of deprivation with the pattern in 2007.
- There is no definitive point on the scale below which areas are considered to be deprived and above which they are not. In most cases, users concentrate on defining deprived areas by using a cut-off value beyond which areas are deemed to be the most deprived, the suitability of the cut-off depending on the purpose of the analysis. The IMD 2010 states that deprived areas have been defined in latest release of the Index of Multiple Deprivation as those LSOAs that are amongst the 10 per cent most deprived in England.
- The ID 2010 is a relative measure of deprivation and therefore it cannot be used to determine 'how much' more deprived one LSOA is than another. For example, it is not possible to say that LSOA x, ranked 20 is twice as deprived as LSOA y, which is ranked 40. However, it is possible to say that x is more deprived than y.
- The IMD 2010 is the most detailed (part of the ID 2010) and should be used to pinpoint pockets of deprivation or to highlight variations within a wider geographical area. The district and county council summaries are useful when only a broad overview is required.

14. Appendix 3. Watford Context Map



LOUISMAP DATA REQUESTS 2011 10 05 PLANNING Watford Context Map\Watford Location Map2.mxd 05/10/2011 @ 10:48:45



Watford Context Map

Produced by Corporate GIS, 2011



Main Map Scale: 1:100,000
at A4

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15. Appendix 4. Schedule of WDP 2000 Policies post Core Strategy adoption

SE7	Waste, storage, recovery and recycling in new development
SE20	Air quality
SE21	Air quality management areas
SE22	Noise
SE23	Light pollution
SE24	Unstable and contaminated land
SE25	Potentially Hazardous or polluting development
SE26	Watercourses
SE27	Flood prevention
SE28	Groundwater quality
SE36	Replacement trees and hedgerows
SE37	Protection of trees, woodlands and hedgerows
SE39	Tree and hedgerow provision in new development
SE40	Landscape Character Area Assessment
T10	Cycle parking standards
T21	Access and servicing
T22	Car parking standards
T24	Residential development
T26	Car free residential development
H9	Back garden development
H10	Planning agreements for educational and community facilities
H13	Conversions
H14	Conversions – provision of family sized units
H15	Non residential properties in residential areas
H16	Retention of affordable housing
E1	Employment areas
E2	Employment use outside identified employment areas
E5	Environmental considerations
S5	Non-retail uses in prime retail frontage
S6	Non-retail uses within the Harlequin shopping centre
S7	Secondary retail frontage
S9	Non-retail uses in North Watford shopping centre/local shopping frontages
S11	Use class A3 food and drink
S12	Planning conditions for use class A3 food and drink
L8	Open space provision in housing development
L9	Children's play space
CS3	Loss of community facilities
CS6	Childcare facilities
CS8	Change of use/redevelopment
CS9	Health provision
U15	Buildings of local interest
U17	Setting of conservation areas
U18	Design in conservation areas
U19	Small-scale development in conservation areas
U20	Demolition in conservation areas
U24	Shopfronts
U25	Advertisement and signs

16. Appendix 5. Outstanding allocated sites without planning permission @ 31/3/14

Site ID.No	Address	Net gain where known or estimated gain	Estimated Likelihood of proceeding / Current Use	Current year 2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	Totals
Hse 3 (SHLAA - rejected site NAS 16)	1-22 Bromet Close	30	No recent apps/interest																	Appears unlikely-not included
Hse 12 (SHLAA accepted site CEN 80)	Ladys Close	2 (revised - SHLAA estimate)	No recent apps/interest																	Appears unlikely-not included
Residue of Hse Site 14 (SHLAA accepted site PAR 34)	Metropolitan Stn Approach	96 (revised - SHLAA estimate)	Site encompassing residue H14 put forward in site allocations consultation by London Underground											46	50					96
Hse 21 (SHLAA accepted site part of VIC 17/18)	R/O Red Lion Garage, Vicarage Road	4	No recent apps/interest																	Appears unlikely-not included
Hse 25 (SHLAA accepted site OXH 11)	Council Depot Site	85 (revised - SHLAA estimate)	Retained as WBC depot (P/P 01/00427/DC withdrawn 26/10/04)																	Not included – no longer to be used for housing

Site ID.No	Address	Net gain where known or estimated gain	Estimated Likelihood of proceeding / Current Use	Current year 2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	Totals
Hse 28 (SHLAA accepted site WOD 35)	Adj. Leveret Close	6 (revised - SHLAA estimate)	No recent apps/interest																	Appears unlikely-not included
Hse 29 (SHLAA accepted site CEN 28)	Opposite Reeds Orphanage, Orphanage Road	170 (revised - SHLAA estimate)	Appears unlikely - BT site - no recent apps/interest																	Appears unlikely-not included
RA6 (part of SHLAA accepted site CAL 30/31) also SPA 2 in CS 2006-31	Site around Watford Junction	1500	Likely – discussions ongoing between key parties involved						150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150		1500
SPA3 in CS 2006-31	Watford General Hospital, Vicarage Road, Watford	209	Re.14/00511/OUTM received 1/4/14 for 713 units -decision pending (proposed figures per Design Guide) - 209 units id. In addition to existing p/p 07/00958/OUTM for 504 units								137	72								209
Totals				0	0	0	0	0	150	150	287	222	150	150	150	150	150	150	0	1805

N.B. 'Hse' sites are the Housing Proposal Sites (see Appendix 8 for updated list of the original contained in Watford District Plan 2000. Page 69); RA6 is a Key Development Sites (see Watford District Plan 2000. Page 146); SPAs are identified in the Core Strategy 2006-31 and included here where a potential housing element has been identified.

17. Appendix 6. Housing Sites listed in WDP 2000 – Status @ 31/3/14

Key	LP	Lapsed permission	UC	Under construction
	P	With planning permission or resolution to grant subject to S106	C	Completed
	WDN	Planning application withdrawn	PB	Planning Brief

WDP 2000	Housing Proposal Site Address	Approx. capacity	Actual Units (where known)	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	Comment as at 31/03/14 (sites which have not been wholly developed are in bold).
2	Watford Fields Pumping Station	51	59	-	-	-	-	-	-	Completed 2002-03
3	1-22 Bromet Close	30		LP	LP	LP	LP	LP	LP	No recent planning applications received - appears unlikely to proceed
5	103-111 Queens Avenue	16	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	Completed 2003-04
7	111 Langley Road	14	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	Completed 2005-06
8	R/O 285-289 Shepcot Lane (previously R/O 277-289)	9	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	Completed 2003-04
9	201 & adjacent High Street	10	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	Completed 2001-02
12	Lady's Close	2		LP	LP	LP	LP	LP	LP	Lapsed planning permission, no recent applications received - appears unlikely
14	Metropolitan Station Approach	210	305	-	-	-	-	-	-	271 completed 05/06 and 34 completed 06/07. (Planning application 01/00320/FUL granted 28.3.03 & 05/00072/FUL granted 5.4.05)
Resi - due of 14	Strip of land (by railway) at Met. Station App.	96		-	-	-	-	-	-	Site encompassing residue H14 put forward in site allocations consultation (Nov-Dec 2013) by London Underground
15	(part of) Abattoir Site, Vicarage Road, known as EDF site, Vicarage Road	26	86	-	-	-	-	-	-	Completed 2007-08
16	Rounton, 28 Nascot Wood Road	19	19	-	-	-	-	-	P	Planning application 13/00450/OUTM for 20 units, 19 net, approved 29/ 7/13. (Ancient woodland reduced capacity)

WDP 2000	Housing Proposal Site Address	Approx. capacity	Actual Units (where known)	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	Comment as at 31/03/14 (sites which have not been wholly developed are in bold).
17	59-63 Langley Road & 1 Langwood Gardens	13	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	Planning application 04/00670/OUTM granted 27.9.04 – completed 06-07
18	North Orbital Road	76		-	-	P	P	P	U/C	Majority of site completed 2004-05. Additional planning permissions 11/00057/FULM approved 31/3/11 for 11 units & completed 2013/14; 11/00388/FUL approved 17/8/11 for 8 units, & 12/00164/FUL approved 3/4/12 for 9 units, both under construction
19	Watford College Annex, Gammons Lane	26	50	-	-	-	-	-	-	Completed 2003-04
20	790-794 St. Albans Road	7	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	Planning application 04/00549/FULM granted 26.8.04 - completed 06-07
21	R/O Red Lion Garage, Vicarage Rd	4		LP	LP	LP	LP	LP	LP	No recent planning applications received - appears unlikely to proceed
24	Cassio College, Langley Road, West Herts Site	135	223	P	P	UC	UC	UC	C	Planning Brief & 08/01378/FULM approved 9/3/09 for 223 dwellings, completed 2013/14
25	Council Depot Site, Wigenhall Road	85		-	-	-	-	-	-	Planning application 01/00427/DC withdrawn 26/10/04 (as of 2007, this will remain the Council Depot, so will not proceed as a Housing Site)
26	Site bordering Hertsmere and Railway, Blackwell House, adjacent 28 -34 The Larches	38	50	-	P	P	P	P	U/C	Outline permission 09/00905/OUTM for 50 units & reserved matters 11/00707/REM granted 2010/11 – started 2013/14; (forms part of larger development of 180 units - remainder within Hertsmere)
27	Rear of 139-143 Rickmansworth Road (25-31 King Georges Avenue)	21	14	U/C	P	P	P	P	P	Planning application 04/01189/FULM granted 21/03/05 and 06/00170/VAR granted 10.8.06 for 14 dwellings– 10 in total completed by 2008-09-remainder seems unlikely
28	Adj. Leveret Close	6		-	-	-	-	-	-	No recent planning applications received - appears unlikely to proceed
29	Site opposite Reeds Orphanage	170		-	-	-	-	-	-	No recent planning applications received - appears unlikely to proceed (BT site)
30	112-114 Langley Road	5		-	-	-	-	-	-	Completed 2001-02

18. Appendix 7. Summary of 5 Year Assessment of Housing Supply @ 31/3/14

KEY

Five year supply period	
Excluded sites/units from trajectory calculations	

Reference H=WDP2000 Allocated Housing sites. RA=WDP2000 Key Devt. sites SPA= Core Strategy (CS) 2006-31 Special Policy Area	Application Reference	Address	Proposed Units	Net Comm.	2014/ 15	2015/ 16	2016/ 17	2017/ 18	2018/ 19	2019/ 20	Five Year Supply Totals	Total Identified Supply 2014-2031	Available in year estimated	Suitable	Achievable in year estimated
SPA3	07/00958/OUTM	Watford General Hospital, Vicarage Road, Watford	504	504				168	168	168	504	504	✓	✓	✓
	11/00952/FULM	Rembrandt House, Whippendell Road, Watford	107	107		35	72				107	107	✓	✓	✓
	13/00828/VAR	52A - 56 High Street, Watford, WD17 2BS	56	56			56				56	56	✓	✓	✓
H1/26	11/00707/REM	Blackwell House, Aldenham Road, Watford	50	50	22	28					28	50	✓	✓	✓
	12/01006/FULM	23-25 Upton Road, Watford, WD18 0JL	29	29	29						0	29	✓	✓	✓
	13/00069/FULM	24-28 St Albans Road, Watford	28	28	28						0	28	✓	✓	✓
	13/00863/FULM	32 Clarendon Road, Watford, WD17 1JJ	22	22		22					22	22	✓	✓	✓

Reference H=WDP2000 Allocated Housing sites. RA=WDP2000 Key Devt. sites SPA= Core Strategy (CS) 2006-31 Special Policy Area	Application Reference	Address	Propo- sed Units	Net Comm.	2014/ 15	2015/ 16	2016/ 17	2017/ 18	2018/ 19	2019/ 20	Five Year Supply Totals	Total Identified Supply 2014-2031	Available in year estimated	Suitable	Achievable in year estimated
H1/16	13/00450/OUTM	28 Nascot Wood Road, Watford, WD17 4SD	20	19		10	9				19	19	✓	✓	✓
	12/01263/EXT	35/37 Marlborough Road, Watford, WD18 0QD	17	17			17				17	17	✓	✓	✓
	11/00338/REM	1-5 Tolpits Lane &, 99 Hagden Lane, Watford, WD18 7QG	16	14		14					14	14	✓	✓	✓
	12/00855/FUL	187 - 189 Harwoods Road, Watford, WD18 7RP	16	14			14				14	14	✓	✓	✓
	12/00306/FULM	9 Station Road, Watford, WD17 1AP	14	14		14					14	14	✓	✓	✓
	11/01165/FULM	6 - 10 Whippendell Road, Watford, WD18 7LU	14	14	4	10					10	14	✓	✓	✓
	12/00353/FULM	24 - 30 King Street, Watford, WD18 0BP	14	14		14					14	14	✓	✓	✓
	11/00314/EXT	60 - 62 Queens Road, Watford, WD17 2LA	13	9	3	6					6	9	✓	✓	✓
	12/00338/FULM	13 Eastbury Road, Watford, WD19 4PU	11	11	11						0	11	✓	✓	✓
	10/00722/FULM	14, Rossllyn Road, Watford, WD18 0JY	11	11	11						0	11	✓	✓	✓
	13/01024/JPD	Archway House, Orphanage Road, Watford, WD17 1PG	10	10			10				10	10	✓	✓	✓

Reference H=WDP2000 Allocated Housing sites. RA=WDP2000 Key Devt. sites SPA= Core Strategy (CS) 2006-31 Special Policy Area	Application Reference	Address	Prop- osed Units	Net Comm.	2014/ 15	2015/ 16	2016/ 17	2017/ 18	2018/ 19	2019/ 20	Five Year Supply Totals	Total Identified Supply 2014-2031	Available in year estimated	Suitable	Achievable in year estimated
SUB-TOTAL NET COMMS. UNDER 10 UNITS				293	124	92	67	10	0	0	169	293			
SUB-TOTAL NET COMMS WITH PERMISSION				1236	232	245	245	178	168	168	1004	1236			
SPA 2 in CS 2006-31 & RA6 in WDP2000		Watford Junction	1500	1500					150	150	300	1500	✓	✓	✓
SPA3 in CS 2006-31	Re.14/00511/OU TM received 1/4/14 for 713 units -decision pending (proposed figures per Design Guide) - 209 units id. In addition to existing p/p 07/00958/OUTM for 504 units	Watford General Hospital, Vicarage Road, Watford	209	209								209	✓	✓	✓
	14/00512/OUTM received 1/4/14 - decision pending	Farm Terrace allotments	69	69								69	✓	✓	✓
Site encompassing residue H14 put forward in site allocations consultation Dec 2013 by London Underground		Remainder - Met Stn App	96	96								96	✓	✓	✓
Pre-application discussions		Chalk Hill, Approx. 80 units	80	80								80	✓	✓	✓

Reference H=WDP2000 Allocated Housing sites. RA=WDP2000 Key Devt. sites SPA= Core Strategy (CS) 2006-31 Special Policy Area	Application Reference	Address	Pro- posed Units	Net Comm.	2014/ 15	2015/ 16	2016/ 17	2017/ 18	2018/ 19	2019/ 20	Five Year Supply Totals	Total Identified Supply 2014-2031	Available in year estimated	Suitable	Achievable in year estimated
Pre-application discussions	14/00531/FULM (granted 28/5/14)	36 Clarendon Rd	34	34			34				34	34	✓	✓	✓
Discussions pre-Prior Approval	14/00201/JPD (dated 3/4/14)	JSA House, 110 The Parade	62	62				62			62	62	✓	✓	✓
Conservative windfall allowance from year 6 (based on small windfall average only since 2001-02)			704	704								704			
TOTAL OF ALL PROJECTED COMMITMENTS				3990	232	245	279	240	318	318	1400	3990			
Excluded sites from current housing trajectory calculations (shown for information only)															
H1/27	04/01189/FULM - 4 remaining units appear unlikely to complete	25-31 King Georges Ave, R/O 139-143 Rickmansworth Road	14	4									?	✓	?
SPA 6 in CS 2006-31	Going forward in Local Plan Part 2 as an option for business use	Ascot Road	300	300									?	?	?
H29	BT site in use - no recent apps/interest	Opposite Reeds Orphanage, Orphanage Road	78	0									?	✓	?
H28	No recent apps/interest	Adj. Leveret Close	8	0									?	✓	?
H12	No recent apps/interest	Ladys Close	3	0									?	✓	?
H3	No recent apps/interest	1-22 Bromet Close	30	0									?	✓	?
H21	No recent apps/interest	R/O Red Lion Garage, Vicarage Road	4	0									?	✓	?

Reference H=WDP2000 Allocated Housing sites. RA=WDP2000 Key Devt. sites SPA= Core Strategy (CS) 2006-31 Special Policy Area	Application Reference	Address	Pro- posed Units	Net Comm.	2014/ 15	2015/ 16	2016/ 17	2017/ 18	2018/ 19	2019/ 20	Five Year Supply Totals	Total Identified Supply 2014-2031	Available in year estimated	Suitable	Achievable in year estimated
H25	WBC decided to retain as WBC depot	Council Depot Site, Wiggenhall Rd	85	0									x	✓	x

Five Year Housing Land Supply Assessment as at 31 March 2014

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published on 27 March 2012 and came into force with immediate effect, superseding previous guidance such as Planning Policy Statement 3. There remains a requirement to assess and demonstrate a five year housing supply.

The method used for assessing when deliverability of each permission or site is likely to come forward is based on the criteria contained in Paragraph 47 of the NPPF, taking into account such factors as whether the development has started, whether planning permissions are full or outline and when they will expire, discussions with Development Control or developers on progress or when/if likely to proceed. Monitoring data also shows that, historically, non-implementation rates, known as slippage, of planning permissions has been very low. As Watford does not have a record of persistent under-delivery of housing (the average delivered over the last eight years of the plan period is 421 p.a. - see housing trajectory Figure 5-1/Table 5-1), there is a requirement for a buffer of 5% rather than 20%. Additionally, Watford has a high incidence of windfall delivery (see Table 5-2) but no windfall allowance has been included within the five year assessment to avoid any possibility of double-counting.

The first year of the trajectory period, looking forward is 2014/15, which is the current year during which the AMR 2014 is compiled, and the expected number of dwellings likely to be completed has been identified as 232, the majority of the developments under construction.

The current year is not included as part of the five year assessment, which covers the following five years between 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2020. Sites included in the five year assessment are a combination of sites with planning permission that are under construction; sites with unimplemented planning permissions; allocated housing sites that are expected to come forward and other sites identified for housing.

The five year housing assessment has been calculated against the target contained in our **Core Strategy** (adopted in January 2013) as follows:

- The **Core Strategy** covers the period 2006-07 to 2030-31, where we are seeking a minimum 6,500 dwellings over 25 years.

- Taking into account the total completions of 3,369 units between 2006/07 and 2013/14 already delivered, this equates to 3,131 units remaining to be achieved and a residual annual requirement of 184 dwellings for the remaining period ($6,500-3,369=3,131/17=184$). This corresponds to a five year housing requirement of 920 (y) dwellings ($184*5=920$).
- The number of projected completions between 2015/16-2019/20 has been identified as 1,400 (x).
- **The five year land supply is calculated as $(x/y) * 100$. Watford's 5 year housing land supply is $(1,400/920)*100=152.2\%$** which is above the National Planning Policy Framework requirement of 105%.

In the five year sites assessment listing above, the larger sites (10 units and over) are detailed individually, and summary totals are provided for the smaller sites (under 10 units). A site specific list detailing all housing commitments contained within the full housing trajectory listing is available from the Planning Policy team by e-mailing strategy@watford.gov.uk

Additional sites may come forward – sites have been assessed and published for consultation as part of the Site Specific Allocations DPD process within the Local Plan Part 2, most recently from 17 December 2014 to 4 February 2015. As in previous consultations, the representations received will then be reviewed before any allocation of sites. Planning applications will be considered and determined having regard to the NPPF, Development Plan policies and other material considerations.

19. Appendix 8. Business Development Data 2006-14.

Theme – Business Development	Indicator no.	Indicator by Use Class		2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	Total 2006/07 to 2013/14
'B' Use Class completions development	BD1 (i)	Sq.m. of completed employment floorspace in Watford LA		Sq.m.	Sq.m.	Sq.m.	Sq.m.	Sq.m.	Sq.m.	Sq.m.	Sq.m.	Total 2006/07 to 2013/14
		B0	Gross	2042	4021	0	0	0	0	0	0	6063
			Net	-420	3898	-3400	-468	0	0	0	0	-390
		B1	Gross	680	198	0	186	51	3320	316	324	5075
			Net	-1755	198	-648	-260	-281	2924	-3016	324	-2514
		B1a	Gross	813	428	1398	1034	1408	2400	490	460	8431
			Net	-758	-9185	-599	663	-582	887	-991	-5783	-16348
		B1b	Gross	0	0	0	0	0	180	0	0	180
			Net	0	0	0	0	0	180	0	0	180
		B1c	Gross	0	0	222	120	324	2302	0	1825	4793
			Net	-125	0	-405	-192	324	-880	-1579	-907	-3764
		B2	Gross	289	2065	0	446	671	0	3460	0	6931
			Net	-700	-8000	0	446	321	-11882	3460	-1168	-17523
		B8	Gross	880	0	1126	2366	216	10470	1155	2095	18308
			Net	-838	-3255	616	1007	-1302	7389	-423	-18627	-15433
		Totals	Gross	4704	6712	2746	4152	2670	18672	5421	4704	49781
			Net	-4596	-16344	-4436	1196	-1520	-1382	-2549	-26161	-55792

Theme – Business Development	Indicator no.	Indicator by Use Class	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	Total 2006/07 to 2013/14	
'B' Use Class completions development	BD1 (ii)	Sq.m. of completed employment floorspace within employment areas	Sq.m.	Sq.m.	Sq.m.	Sq.m.	Sq.m.	Sq.m.	Sq.m.	Sq.m.	Total 2006/07 to 2013/14	
		B0	Gross	2042	4021	0	0	0	0	0	6063	
			Net	-420	3898	0	-468	0	0	0	3010	
		B1	Gross	0	76	0	186	0	0	324	586	
			Net	-520	76	-592	186	-210	0	-3332	-4068	
		B1a	Gross	515	0	130	284	702	1002	402	3133	
			Net	515	-4040	130	284	627	235	-241	-4994	
		B1b	Gross	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
			Net	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		B1c	Gross	0	0	222	0	309	2302	0	4504	
			Net	0	0	178	0	309	-880	-1154	-2466	
		B2	Gross	289	1397	0	0	320	0	3332	5338	
			Net	289	1397	0	0	-30	-8071	3332	-4251	
		B8	Gross	880	0	543	2266	216	9974	1094	17068	
			Net	880	-1397	543	1128	-469	6893	-434	-6190	
		Totals	Gross	3726	5494	895	2736	1547	13278	4828	4188	36692
			Net	744	-66	259	1130	227	-1823	-1829	-17601	-18959

Theme – Business Development	Indicator no.	Indicator by Use Class	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	Total 2006/07 to 2013/14	
'B' Use Class completions development	BD2	Total gross gain and amount and % of completed employment floorspace on PDL - sq.m.	Sq.m.	Sq.m.	Sq.m.	Sq.m.	Sq.m.	Sq.m.	Sq.m.	Sq.m.	Total 2006/07 to 2013/14	
		B0	Gross	2042	4021	0	0	0	0	0	6063	
			Gross on PDL	2042	4021	0	0	0	0	0	6063	
			% on PDL	100%	100%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	100%	
		B1	Gross	680	198	0	186	51	3320	316	324	5075
			Gross on PDL	680	198	0	186	51	3320	316	324	5075
			% on PDL	100%	100%	N/A	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	
		B1a	Gross	813	428	1398	1034	1408	2400	490	460	8431
			Gross on PDL	813	428	1398	1034	1408	2400	490	460	8431
			% on PDL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	
		B1b	Gross	0	0	0	0	0	180	0	0	180
			Gross on PDL	0	0	0	0	0	180	0	0	180
			% on PDL	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	100%	100%	100%	N/A	100%
		B1c	Gross	0	0	222	120	324	2302	0	1825	4793
			Gross on	0	0	222	120	324	2302	0	1825	4793

Theme – Business Development	Indicator no.	Indicator by Use Class	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	Total 2006/07 to 2013/14	
		PDL										
		% on PDL	N/A	N/A	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	
	BD2 cont.	B2	Gross	289	2065	0	446	671	0	3460	0	6931
			Gross on PDL	289	2065	0	446	671	0	3460	0	6931
			% on PDL	100%	100%	N/A	100%	100%	100%	100%	N/A	100%
		B8	Gross	880	0	1126	2366	216	10470	1155	2095	18308
			Gross on PDL	880	0	1126	2366	216	10470	1155	2095	18308
			% on PDL	100%	N/A	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
		Totals	Gross	4704	6712	2746	4152	2670	18672	5421	4704	49781
			Gross on PDL	4704	6712	2746	4152	2670	18672	5421	4704	49781
			% on PDL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Employment Land Supply	BD3 (i)	Sites allocated for employment in WDP 2000. N.B. Land area in hectares does not necessarily equate to floorspace sq.m, which can be over a no. of floors.	The Core Strategy (adopted January 2013) allocates Special Policy Areas for major mixed use regeneration schemes: SPA2 Watford Junction, SPA3 Health Campus, and SPA6 Western Gateway. Strategic site locations have been identified by the Core Strategy but specific boundaries will be allocated by the Site Allocations process, including a revised Town Centre boundary in respect of SPA1 Town Centre in the Core Strategy. Business Development data in this report uses the existing town centre boundary as per the Watford District Plan 2000. General updates on the progress of SPA2, SPA3 and SPA6 are provided under Local Indicator LT7 Development progress on major schemes.									

Theme – Business Development	Indicator no.	Indicator by Use Class	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	Total 2006/07 to 2013/14	
Employment Land Supply	BD3 (ii)	Sites for which planning approval is outstanding for employment – hectares	Hectares	Hectares	Hectares	Hectares	Hectares	Hectares	Hectares	Hectares		
		B0	2.77	1.66	1.66	0.58	0	0	0	0		
		B1	0.42	0.031	0.09	0.42	7	6.65	6.02	5.98		
		B1a	0.86	3.067	0.97	1.1	0.76	0.49	0.48	0.12		
		B1b	0	0.003	0	0	0	0	0.12	0.12		
		B1c	0.12	0	0.08	0.08	0.573	0.54	0.89	0.27		
		B2	0.38	0.243	0.59	0.59	1.473	1.13	1.16	1.18		
		B8	1.11	1.24	1.12	1.16	3.169	1.4	3.11	3.23		
		Totals	5.66	6.243	4.5	3.92	12.98	10.19	11.78	10.89		
Theme – Town Centre Uses	BD4 (i)	Sq.m. of completed retail, office and leisure development within TC	Sq.m.	Sq.m.	Sq.m.	Sq.m.	Sq.m.	Sq.m.	Sq.m.	Sq.m.	Total 2006/07 to 2013/14	
		A1	Gross	0	445	0	0	11	0	218	604	1278
			Net	-663	-323	-609	-884	-216	-109	-133	529	-2408
		A2	Gross	0	0	133	145	386	109	307	235	1315
			Net	-266	0	-91	-315	315	-468	307	93	-425
		B1a	Gross	298	0	489	0	0	0	0	155	942
			Net	-638	0	237	-140	-225	-83	0	-1327	-2176
		D2	Gross	0	0	0	0	1185	323	0	0	1508
			Net	0	0	0	0	-300	323	0	0	23

Theme – Business Development	Indicator no.	Indicator by Use Class	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	Total 2006/07 to 2013/14	
	BD4 (i) cont.	Gross gain in TC as % of gross gain in relevant use class in Watford	Sq.m.	Sq.m.	Sq.m.	Sq.m.	Sq.m.	Sq.m.	Sq.m.	Sq.m.		
		A1	0%	100%	0%	0%	2%	0%	18%	7%		
		A2	0%	0	75%	50%	33%	47%	67%	68%		
		B1a	37%	0	35%	0%	0%	0%	0%	34%		
		D2	0%	0	0%	0%	42%	13%	0%	0%		
	BD4 (ii)	Sq.m. of completed retail, office and leisure development in Watford	Sq.m.	Sq.m.	Sq.m.	Sq.m.	Sq.m.	Sq.m.	Sq.m.	Sq.m.	Sq.m.	
		A1	Gross	777	445	778	184	482	1069	1196	8169	13100
			Net	114	-120	-266	-1743	-230	349	360	7277	5741
		A2	Gross	0	465	177	288	1164	233	459	345	3131
			Net	-305	465	-47	-257	918	-393	311	115	807
		B1a	Gross	813	428	1398	1034	1408	2400	490	460	8431
			Net	-758	-9185	-599	663	-582	887	-991	-5783	-16348
		D2	Gross	240	330	4955	0	2798	2443	463	1374	12603
			Net	-1218	210	4955	0	1000	2443	463	-1323	6530

N.B. Totals may not sum due to rounding

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Executive Summary - extracted from AMR 2014

Authorities' Monitoring Reports ('AMRs') must be prepared and published at least once a year in accordance with planning regulations, and an AMR has been delivered annually since such regulations came into force in 2005.

The AMR outlines the progress made on the local plan timetable and assesses the effectiveness of planning policies against various targets and indicators to see whether we are achieving local plan objectives. Watford's Monitoring Report 2014 covers the period 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014.

Planning Policy Delivery

- The Community Infrastructure Charging Schedule (CIL) was found sound by an inspector in August 2014, and will come into effect on 1st April 2015. This followed consultation in 2013 and again during February/March 2014, after which the Draft Charging Schedule was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in April 2014.
- The second consultation on the Local Plan Part 2 is running from 17th December 2014 to 4th February 2015; this contains policies for considering applications for planning permission and identifies specific sites for development and the type of development that would be appropriate. An initial consultation took place from the 4th November 2013 for six weeks – responses made and new evidence were taken into account.

Housing

- 398 homes were built in 2013/14. Watford has delivered 3,369 new homes since 2006, an average of 421 per annum, ahead of the minimum 6,500 housing target set in the Core Strategy for the period 2006-31, which equates to an average of 260 dwellings per annum.
- Watford can demonstrate a 5 year housing land supply of 152.2%, which is above the National Planning Policy Framework requirement of 105%.
- There were 82 affordable dwelling completions in total during 2013/14, forming part of developments across six sites. The number of affordable homes achieved varied between 30% and 100% of the total residential units on each site; all conformed to the policy that applied at the time of permission.
- 91% of all homes completed this year were on previously developed land, above our local target of 80%.

Business Development and Employment

- Watford's Core Strategy seeks a minimum of 7,000 additional jobs in the district between 2006-2031. About 270 jobs were created in the area with the opening of Morrisons supermarket in November 2013 and the proposals to redevelop Charter Place should create about 1,100 new jobs across the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors and up to 500 temporary construction jobs. The East of England Forecasting Model (EEFM) 2013 suggests that the scale of job growth in Watford is 3,600 jobs for the period 2006 to 2014.
- There was an unusual high net loss of 26,161 sq.m. employment floorspace during 2013/14 within the traditional employment type B use classes. Just over 50% of the loss was due to the demolition of the former Royal Mail Depot at Ascot Road, where there is the new Morrisons supermarket and a primary school is under construction. This development was identified in the Core Strategy as part of the Western Gateway Special Policy Area.
- 100% of employment development took place on previously developed land, exceeding the Core Strategy target of 90%. No greenfield land has been used for any employment development in the district during the period monitored since 2006/07.

Sustainable Development

- There has been a reducing trend in Carbon Dioxide emissions overall in Watford for the period 2005-2011 in line with policy objectives, although there has been an increase between 2011 and 2012. However, emissions have increased in 403 out of 406 local authorities across the UK. The main drivers of the increase in UK emissions in 2012 were an increase in residential gas use due to 2012 being a colder year than 2011, and increased coal for electricity generation.
- The Council monitors air quality at several locations across the borough. On Rickmansworth Road close to the Town Hall, continuous 'real-time' monitoring of nitrogen dioxide and PM₁₀ particulates is undertaken. NO₂ concentrations have remained fairly constant and the annual mean objective of 40 g/m³ has not been exceeded during this time at the Town Hall monitoring station.
- The council is guided in granting planning permission by recommendations from the Environment Agency, including advice on flood risk and water quality. No planning applications have been granted planning permission against Environment Agency advice.

Green Infrastructure

- Four of Watford's parks have received Green Flag awards this year, with the addition of Oxhey Park, for the first time; our aim to maintain the total amount of open space managed by WBC to Green Flag Award standard has therefore been exceeded. It is the sixth consecutive year that Woodside Playing Fields and Cheslyn Gardens have been awarded the Green Flag and the eighth year for Cassiobury Park.
- The importance of open space and the Green Belt to Watford's predominantly urban environment is recognised and protected by Core Strategy Policy GI1: Green Infrastructure and GI2: Green Belt and additional saved policies from the Watford District Plan 2000; the Green Belt currently measures 407 hectares, equating to 19% of Watford's total area, and remains unchanged from last year.
- Our bid for external funding to the Heritage Lottery Funding/BIG lottery funding for Cassiobury Park has been successful with the Stage 2 bid approved in June 2014. Works will take place over the following 2 years and completion is estimated at the end of summer 2016; the council is actively improving the wildlife value of all the sites it manages, co-ordinating with a broad partnership of local organisations.

Urban Design and Built Heritage

- The Watford Streetscape Guide 2013 was adopted by the council in July 2013, following public consultation during November/December 2012. The aim of the Streetscape Guide is to assist and provide guidance for those involved in the design and implementation of public realm works in Watford's town centre, to ensure that a high quality consistent and coordinated public realm is implemented in Watford's town centre.
- The scores for the 'Building for Life' assessments average at 9 this year, slightly less than last year's 9.5 but an improvement on the average of the scores seen in 2012 which was 8.8 and in line with our objective of increasing the quality of design.
- A revised version of the Residential Design Guide was adopted by the council on the 23rd July 2014, replacing the previous 2008 version; this followed public consultation during November/December 2013.
- Oxhey was designated a conservation area in the spring of 2013; a draft character appraisal document was published for consultation between 7th February and 21st March 2014 and then revised following some suggestions received. The final version was adopted by the council in July 2014. The Conservation Areas Management Plan was adopted by Watford Borough Council Cabinet on 8th July 2013.

Transport and Projects and Infrastructure Delivery

- Planning permission to redevelop Charter Place and refurbish Intu Watford (formerly the Harlequin), was granted on the 5 February 2014. The proposal is for a £100 million development to include new retail space, a cinema and leisure complex, a new restaurant hub, a covered 'niche' market area and public realm improvements. Construction is expected to begin in 2015, with completion due in 2017. On the 10th October 2014, the existing traditional market was moved to a new home in the centre of the town, accessible from the High Street near the flyover and from Beechen Grove, near Clarendon Road. It has been created from shipping containers and is spread over 2 floors, making a unique and attractive space.
- Significant progress has been made over the last few years in delivering the Health Campus. The planning application for the infrastructure works required for the new access road was approved by Watford Borough Council in December 2013. Ecological and other preparatory works for the road have started, with construction expected to commence in March 2015. The planning permission incorporating both outline and detailed elements for the mixed-use Watford Health Campus was issued by the council on the 6 January 2015, following completion of a S106 planning obligation.
- Progress continues with the Croxley Rail Link; preparatory works have been taking place along the length of the route in order to finalise the engineering designs and final funding approval from the Department for Transport is expected in March 2015. Construction is due to start in spring/summer 2015, with the current target date for trains to be running by spring/summer 2018.
- Initiatives taken to improve sustainable transport include the continued resurfacing of the Grand Union Canal towpath, with a total 8 miles now completed; a new electric car re-charge point has been installed at Timberlake car park on Radlett Road; new bus shelters and new cycle parking were added at various locations around the Town Centre.
- It has been identified that there is a need for up to 4 additional primary schools (or 10 to 11 form entry classes) by 2031. A 2 form entry school opened in September 2014 at Lanchester House, Hempstead Road; a new school building is under construction at Ascot Road although the first form entries for the new school opened in September 2014 and have been temporarily housed in the Lanchester building, until the new school building is finished, due summer 2015. Additional provision is proposed in the Local Plan Part 2.

Appendix 3: Summary of process for Authorities' Monitoring Reports 2014

1.0 SUMMARY OF AMR PROCESS - 2014

- 1.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published on 27 March 2012 and came into force with immediate effect, superseding previous planning guidance, and on the 6 April 2012 'The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012' were published. For reference, Part 8, Section 34 of these new regulations deals with Authorities' Monitoring Reports in full, but in summary, this includes that they should:
- Report progress on the timetable for the preparation of documents set out in the local development scheme including the stages that each document has met or the reasons where they are not being met
 - Identify where a local planning authority are not implementing a policy specified in a local plan together with the steps (if any) that the local planning authority intend to take to secure that the policy is implemented
 - Include information on net additional dwellings and net additional affordable dwellings
 - Report where a local planning authority have made a neighbourhood development order or a neighbourhood development plan
 - Where a local planning authority has prepared a report in accordance with regulation 62 of the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010**(b)**, the local planning authority's monitoring report must contain the information specified in regulation 62(4) of those Regulations i.e. details of CIL expenditure and receipts
 - Any action taken during the monitoring period where a local planning authority have co-operated with another local planning authority, county council, or relevant body
 - A local planning authority must make any up-to-date information, which they have collected for monitoring purposes, available in accordance with regulation 35 as soon as possible after the information becomes available
- 1.2 There is a requirement for the production and publication of each Authority's Monitoring Report at least annually. The AMR must be published on the council's website as soon as reasonably practicable.
- 1.3 There is no requirement for formal public consultation but the AMR 2014 has previously undergone internal consultation within the council and also with Hertfordshire County Council; it features in the January 2014 Members' Bulletin.
- 1.4 Watford's Monitoring Report 2014 focuses on monitoring a suite of indicators and monitoring mechanisms that were developed as the Local Plan Part 1 progressed and are included as the 'Monitoring Framework' within the Core Strategy. They measure the effects of our local plan

policies; the indicators will be regularly reviewed and are currently under review as the Local Plan Part 2 policies are progressed.

- 1.5 Watford's Monitoring Report 2014 is published, together with the **Executive Summary – extracted from AMR 2014**, (covering Pages 5-8 of the full AMR 2014 and available to download separately), on the website www.watford.gov.uk as soon as possible, once finalised, together with previous AMRs and other local plan documentation.

Report to: Cabinet
Date of meeting: 16 February 2015
Report of: Martin Jones, Programme Manager
Title: Watford Health Campus - Appropriation of Oxhey Park Open Space

1.0 SUMMARY

1.1 The land known as Oxhey Park lying to the north of the River Colne between the river and the railway embankment has been designated as Open Space since its acquisition by the Council in 1920 for the purposes of public walks and pleasure grounds.

In order to facilitate the construction of the new Link Road for the Hospital following the granting of planning permission in December 2013 under application reference 13/00971/FULM, the land shown edged red on the attached plan needs to be appropriated by the Council for Planning purposes.

Whilst the land was previously included within the CPO boundary, on the advice of the Council's QC, this has been removed and the decision has been made to appropriate the land under the Local Government Act 1972. The end result and programme will remain the same as before only the procedure adopted to appropriate the land is different.

1.2 The Watford Health Campus Partnership LLP (LABV) received planning permission for the new road serving Watford Hospital in December 2013 and went through a consultation process including local groups and incorporated a number of their suggestions in design. The road will extend through the northern section of Oxhey Park from Dalton Way in the east to Wiggshall Road in the west before pushing up to the hospital site. Since April 2014, the LABV have been discharging the required pre commencement conditions to facilitate starting the construction of the road in April 2015. Some site clearance, demolition and ecology works have taken place so far and the LABV are in the process of obtaining the required Highway consents and agreements with Hertfordshire County Council as the Highway Authority

1.3 Although the Council is the Landowner, due to its designation as Open Space, the land required needs to be appropriated for planning purposes prior to any construction taking place. The land was previously included within the red line boundary for the CPO for appropriation under the CPO process however, on the advice of the Council's QC, this has subsequently been removed. Including the land within the CPO process would legally have required a special Parliamentary Procedure to CPO the land and the Council would also be required to provide replacement land of the same area to offset the loss. By removing it from the CPO process and using the procedure in the Local Government Act to appropriate only part of the Park for the purposes of the road for which planning permission has already been granted, the Council avoids that complication. The principle of the road being constructed through the Park and the loss of some Open Space has previously been agreed by the Council through the planning determination process.

The wider Health Campus development which has now been granted planning permission provides additional and improved levels of open space and park areas and significantly improves accessibility to the Colne Valley.

- 1.4 The appropriation by Cabinet will include the permanent land required by the road for its alignment but also the temporary working areas either side of the road corridor and the area of the Irish Club. It is the intention to transfer the temporary working areas and Irish Club land back into Open Space once the works have taken place. This is shown on plan in annex 2

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the land identified edged red on the Plan being land currently designated as Open Space that is required to facilitate the construction of the Link Road for Watford Hospital is appropriated for Planning Purposes under Section 122 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Contact Officer:

For further information on this report please contact: Neil Farnsworth, Project Manager, Watford Health Campus, Regeneration and Development
Telephone extension 8246 email: neil.farnsworth@watford.gov.uk

Report approved by: Carol Chen, Head of Democracy and Governance

3.0 DETAILED PROPOSAL

- 3.1 The Council can appropriate land for any purpose for which it is authorised to acquire land by agreement. The appropriation process is set out in the Local Government Act 1972. Section 122 (1) provides:

- (i) subject to the following provisions of this section, a principal Council may appropriate for any purpose for which the Council are authorised by this or any other enactment to acquire land by agreement any land which belongs to the Council and is no longer required for the purpose for which it is held immediately before the appropriation; but the appropriation of land by a Council by virtue of this sub section shall be subject to the rights of other persons in, over or in respect of the land concerned.

The Council is a principal Council and so must follow the process set out in Section 122. Cabinet should only resolve and authorise the Council to appropriate land for another purpose if it is satisfied that the land is no longer required for the purpose for which it is held. Whilst the Council currently holds the land as public open space, it is clearly required for the building of the new hospital link road. It should therefore be appropriated for planning purposes.

Requisite notices required under the 1972 Act were published in the Watford Observer on 23rd and 30 January 2015 notifying of the intention to appropriate the land from open space to planning purposes.

No objections have been received

The land at Oxhey Park between the northern edge of the River Colne and the former railway embankment as shown edged red on the attached plan is required to facilitate and deliver the new road for Watford Hospital and the subsequent Watford Health Campus development prescribed within Policy SPA3 of the Council's adopted Core Strategy Local Plan Part 1.

Planning permission was granted for the road in December 2013 by the Council's Development Control Committee, effectively approving the principle of the road utilising part of the lands within the existing Open Space known as Oxhey Park. It was resolved to grant planning permission for the hybrid planning application for the quantum of development within the Health Campus site in December 2014 subject to the completion of a s106 Planning Obligation. The s106 was completed in January 2015 and a Decision Notice authorising the granting of planning permission was issued on 6 January 2015.

The Public Inquiry for the Compulsory Purchase of any land not in the ownership of the Council required to deliver the scheme was held in January 2015. Originally, it was proposed to appropriate the land required for the construction of the road through the CPO process and this included the entire northern part of the park.

On the advice of the Council's QC, this part of the park was removed from the CPO. In order therefore to be able to use the land to construct the road the subject of the December 2013 planning permission the land needs to be appropriated for planning purposes under the 1972 Act.

As stipulated within 1.3 above, additional Open Space is provided through the wider Health Campus development that now has planning permission.

- 3.2 The land proposed to be appropriated as shown on the plan includes the land permanently required for the alignment of the road through the park. In addition, land will also be required on a temporary basis for the purposes of the working area for construction and site compounds that includes the Irish Club site. It would be the intention once the construction works have been completed that any land not used for the road would revert back to Open Space within the Park.
- 3.3 By appropriating the land in this way, this reduces the risk to the LABV of being able to start works on the road promptly and within the indicative programme. It reduces the risk for the mobilisation of the Contractor which, if reliant on the CPO timetable could take up to five months for a decision. Whilst the majority of the land falls within the ownership of the Council and therefore works can start, appropriation in this manner will allow greater flexibility within the mobilisation period which is desirable.

4.0 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Financial

- 4.1.1 The Director of Finance comments that there are no financial implications as a result of this report.

4.2 Legal Issues (Monitoring Officer)

- 4.2.1 The Head of Democracy and Governance comments that the legal implications are set out in the body of the report.
- 4.3 **Equalities**
- 4.3.1 There are no equalities implications arising from this report.
- 4.4 **Potential Risks**
- 4.4.1 The main risk associated with the Council not appropriating the land for planning purposes would be that there would be a delay in the mobilisation of the Contractor to facilitate the construction of the road. This would result in delays to the construction of the road. The Health Campus Project has its own risk register and risks associated with it are also captured in both the Corporate and Service Risk Registers.
- 4.5 **Staffing**
- 4.5.1 There are no staffing implications from this report.
- 4.6 **Accommodation**
- 4.6.1 There are no accommodation implications from this report.
- 4.7 **Community Safety**
- 4.7.1 There are no community safety implications from this report.
- 4.8 **Sustainability**
- 4.8.1 There are no sustainability implications from this report.

Appendices

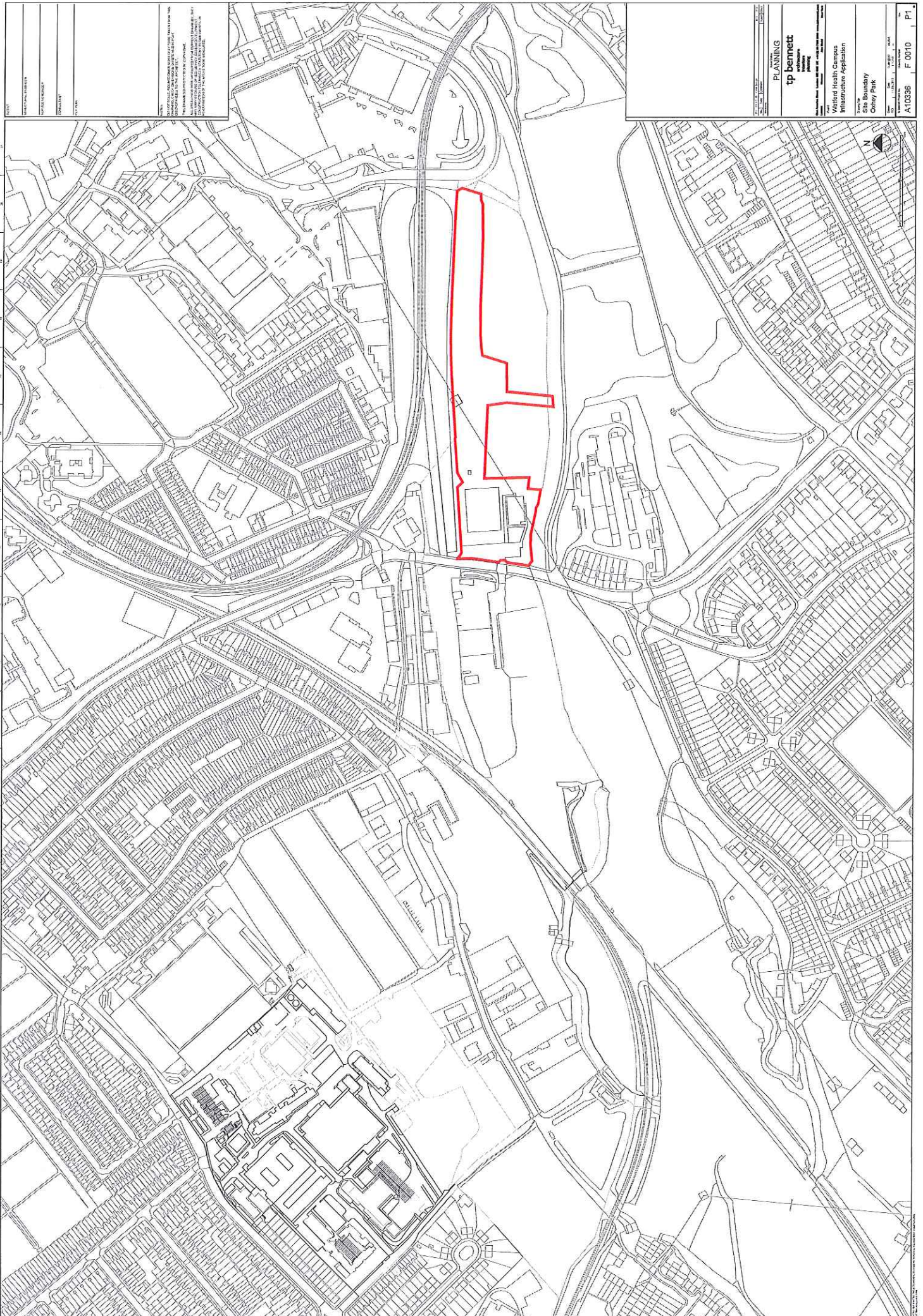
Plan showing extent of land to be appropriated

Background Papers

None

File Reference

None



DRAWN BY: [REDACTED]
 CHECKED BY: [REDACTED]
 DATE: [REDACTED]

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PLANNING
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 ARCHITECTS
 ENGINEERS
 PLANNERS

Wellford Health Campus
 Infrastructure Application
 Site Boundary
 Cherry Park

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