



OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

21 September 2022

7.00 pm

Rooms 201 & 202, Annexe, Town Hall, Watford

Contact

Jodie Kloss democraticservices@watford.gov.uk 01923 278376

For information about attending meetings please visit the council's website.

Publication date: 13 September 2022

Committee Membership

Councillor S Feldman (Chair)
Councillor F Ezeifedi (Vice-Chair)
Councillors S Ahmed, P Kloss, R Martins, T Osborn, K Rodrigues, J Stiff and M Turmaine

Agenda

Part A - Open to the Public

- 1. Apologies for Absence/Committee Membership
- 2. Disclosure of interests (if any)
- 3. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 July 2022 to be submitted and signed.

4. Other scrutiny meetings - minutes

The following scrutiny committees and task groups have met since the last meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- Finance Scrutiny Committee (14 September 2022)
- 5. Strategic Framework and Performance Update (Pages 4 107)

Report of the Associate Director of Customer and Corporate Service, Executive Head of Human Resources and Business Intelligence Manager

6. Executive Decision Progress Report (Pages 108 - 111)

The Scrutiny Committee is asked to review the latest edition of the Executive Decision Progress Report and consider whether any further information is required.

7. Hertfordshire County Council's Health Scrutiny Committee

The committee to note that the Health Scrutiny Committee has not met since the last meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

8. Work Programme (Pages 112 - 115)

The scrutiny committee is asked to review the current version of the work programme and consider any additional areas councillors wish to scrutinise.

9. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 19 October 7pm

Agenda Item 5

Report to: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date of meeting: 21 September 2022

Report author: Associate Director of Customer and Corporate Service, Executive

Head of Human Resources and Business Intelligence Manager

Title: Focusing on delivery:

Council Delivery Plan 2022-24 Quarter 1 Update

Organisational Development Strategy 20202-24 Quarter 1 Update

Council Performance 2022-23 Quarter 1 Update

Nature of Report: For noting

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 Following the Mayoral election in May 2022, Watford Borough Council launched its new Council Plan in July 2022 which sets out an ambitious agenda for the town and the council. The Council Plan forms part of the organisation's strategic framework, which aims to ensure that the council delivers on its commitments. Underpinning the Council Plan is a two year Delivery Plan and our Organisational Development Strategy, which are both supported by a suite of key performance indicators (KPIs). This allows the council to ensure that both projects and high quality services continue to be delivered, and for action to be taken if areas of concern are identified. A critical part of this approach is regular reporting of the key elements of the council's strategic framework and day to day performance. This report, therefore, contains updates comprising:
 - the Council Plan 2022-26 and Delivery Plan 2022-24;
 - the Organisational Development Strategy 2020-24; and
 - key performance indicators.
- 1.2 The updates reflect the positive outcomes that have been achieved through strengthening the council's strategic framework and establishing a clear focus for the organisation, including aligning existing KPIs to our Council Plan themes. This has enabled services to concentrate on what is important to the town and council. The progress achieved since the last update to Cabinet is shown in the updates appended to this report (Appendices A, B and C).
- 1.3 The successful delivery of the commitments in the Council Plan 2022-26 is critical to ensuring we remain focused on what is important to Watford and we are seen by our community as an organisation that delivers on its promises. As such, the council has committed to reporting on progress against the Council Delivery Plan, Organisational Development Strategy and Key Performance Indicators on a quarterly basis. This

report forms the first of these updates since the approval of the new Council Plan. As such, it should be noted that individual service planning remains underway. Following this process, which will also review the key performance indicators used by the council, future reports will be updated to reflect any new measures which best reflect the performance of the organisation.

2.0 Risks

2.1

Nature of risk	Consequence	Suggested Control Measures	Response (treat, tolerate, terminate or transfer)	Risk Rating (combination of severity and likelihood)
Slippage on delivery of the Council Plan	Failure to deliver our commitments resulting in poorer outcomes for our town and residents. Potential impact on the reputation of the Council.	Regular monitoring and reporting to Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny Robust project and programme management	Treat	3 (severity) x 2 (likelihood) = 6
Failure to recognise milestones / completion of commitments	Lost opportunity to celebrate success internally and externally	Regular monitoring and reporting to Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny Robust project and programme management Clear communication of milestones / achievements	Treat	3 (severity) x 2 (likelihood) = 6
Failure to promote and recognise the Council's strategic approach and culture that is focused on delivery and outcomes	Lost opportunity to embed a renewed strategic approach and culture that ensures Watford BC remains a high performing, innovative and agile organisation	Regular, robust and accurate reports for Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny that is owned across service areas Linking delivery to staff and team objectives	Treat	3 (severity) x 1 (likelihood) =3
Slippage on delivery of the Organisational Development Strategy	Failure to deliver our commitments to staff potentially resulting in	Regular monitoring and reporting to Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny	Treat	3 (severity) x 2 (likelihood) = 6

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	failure to deliver our Council Plan.	Robust project and programme management.		
	Potential impact on staff's health and wellbeing.	Regular checking in with staff through 1:1s, team meetings, surveys, Staff Ambassador Group		
Loss of skilled staff / difficulties in recruiting if Organisational Development Strategy is not delivered and the council is not perceived as a place where staff can develop and grow	Impact on delivery, potential cost implication if needed to recruit on short-term basis to fill posts	Regular monitoring and reporting to Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny Robust project and programme management. Regular checking in with staff through 1:1s, team meetings, surveys, Staff Ambassador Group Build into recruitment literature	Treat	3 (severity) x 2 (likelihood) = 6
Failure to scrutinise organisational performance	Potential for performance to slip with consequences for quality of service delivery	Robust scrutiny and challenge	Treat	3 (severity) x 2 (likelihood) = 6
Failure to respond to issues with organisational performance	Potential for issues with performance not to be addressed, and for poor performance to continue	Response to issues identified monitored by Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Leadership Board and Portfolio Holders.	Treat	3 (severity) x 2 (likelihood) = 6
Failure to provide transparency over organisational performance	Lack of understanding and trust related to organisational performance, particularly where performance is below the standard expected.	Ensure KPIs have sufficient commentary explaining the context around the quarterly results. Ensure portfolio holders have regular opportunities to review and discuss organisation performance.	Treat	3 (severity) x 2 (likelihood) = 6

3.0 Recommendations

Overview and Scrutiny Committee are recommended to note:

- 3.1 The progress updates within this report relating to:
 - the Council Plan 2022-26 and Delivery Plan 2022 -24 (Appendix A)
 - the Organisational Development Strategy 2020-24 (Appendix B)
 - the key performance indicator results for 2020/23 (Appendix C)
- 3.2 That the key performance indicators and measures will continue to be reviewed as part of the council-wide service planning process and the ongoing work on the Business Intelligence Strategy.

Further information

Liam Hornsby, Associate Director of Customer and Corporate Services liam.hornsby@watford.gov.uk Tel: 01923 278094

4.0 Detailed proposal

4.1 A refreshed strategic framework

- 4.2 The council has an ambitious agenda for Watford and recognises that a focused, and aligned, strategic framework is fundamental to the successful delivery of its plans for the town.
- 4.3 Following the Mayoral election in May 2022, the council reviewed and refreshed its strategic framework to better reflect these ambitions as well as the Mayor's Manifesto, local intelligence, community feedback and best practice. The renewed framework, comprising the council's key strategies and plans, confirms our focus on what is important to the town and its residents and that resources are allocated to its priority commitments.
- 4.4 A critical part of the successful delivery of the renewed framework is robust, and regular, monitoring and reporting of the associated plans including:
 - the Council Plan 2022-26 and Delivery Plan 2022-25;
 - the Organisational Development Strategy 2020-24 and Delivery Plan; and
 - key performance indicators.

This report presents a progress update of the plans outlined in 4.4 and in associated Appendices (A, B and C).

- 4.5 A significant amount of progress has been achieved across all delivery areas. In line with the new senior management structure, all services are currently using the Council Plan to finalise their service plans for the next period. The direction set by the strategic framework has ensured services have clarity on where they need to concentrate, focus their energies and support the council's reputation as a council that gets things done and that delivers on what is important to the town.
- 4.6 Running throughout the council's progress is the strengthening of our organisational approach, governance and structure. This means the council has the essential building blocks in place to support all of our activities and commitments not just across these plans but also across all of our corporate work and effort. This has particularly focused on:
 - making sure we have the right capacity to deliver;
 - a renewed emphasis on integrating how we work strategically;
 - making sure the way we make our decisions is transparent, timely and supported by the relevant information; and
 - our organisational culture is directed to our 'one team' approach, shared ownership of our corporate priorities and commitment to deliver
- 4.7 All three plans are underpinned by a suite of key performance indicators, which are currently under review and which will be finalised over the next period, as part of the service planning process.

5.0 Council Plan 2020-24 and Delivery Plan 2020-22

- 5.1 The new Council Plan 2022-26 was approved by Council in June 2022 as was the associated Delivery Plan 2024-26.
- 5.2 The Council Plan is designed to be strategic, high level and outward-facing, with an emphasis on outcome focused commitments based around four key themes:
 - A greener, brighter future
 - An inspiring, thriving and creative town
 - A diverse happy and healthy town
 - A council working for our community and serving our residents

Each theme has a number of areas of commitment under which specific projects and areas of work have been identified and articulated through the Delivery Plan 2022-24.

- 5.3 Whilst the Council Plan has a four year perspective, the Delivery Plan has been developed to focus on key priorities to 2024. The 18 month perspective means that the Council can be flexible and agile to respond to emerging and future challenges and opportunities over the life of the Council Plan.
- By reporting regularly to Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the progress made by the organisation against the Council Plan and, particularly the Delivery Plan, we can ensure we are continuing to focus our resources on what is important to our town and community. It also provides transparency and clear accountability to our community.
- 5.5 The full report can be seen an Appendix A but some key highlights are included below:
 - The waste and recycling service changes introduced in 2020 has resulted in a significant increase in recycling rates across the town. The council and its contractor will strive to deliver the new target for recycling rates over the next four years. A proposal for the introduction of food waste from flats and high rise building is being developed to make it as easy and simple as possible for all residents to recycle as much as they can.
 - In line with the council's commitment to support proposals for a sustainable transport across the town, we have been working closely with Hertfordshire County Council. A tender has subsequently been issued to consultants to undertake an Options and Feasibility study into potential alternatives for the former MLX corridor. Tenders have now been returned and are under evaluation.
 - Following the successful receipt of more than £3m of grant funding from central
 government, the work to decarbonise the Town Hall is now underway. All listed
 building consent conditions have been successfully discharged and windows
 across both buildings have started to be removed for refurbishment with cavity
 wall insulation being installed. Internally, light fitting removals are underway with
 the scheme expected to be completed in spring 2023.
 - An investment plan has been submitted to the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities setting out a programme of projects to be funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. The council has also made a bid to the Levelling Up Fund to support the delivery of our ambitious Town Hall Quarter, including the Colosseum and Innovation and Incubation Hub.

- Designs on the future Colosseum have continued to be developed with feedback and engagement with key stakeholders, theatre professionals and operators. Morgan Sindall have been appointed to finalise the designs with the council and commence the refurbishment works in November 2022, with completion expected in Autumn 2023, providing a refreshed and first class entertainment venue for the whole town to enjoy.
- The works to refresh and revitalise Clarendon Road is now largely completed with just some minor issues left to be completed. Market Street works are also progressing. Work is underway to design the next phase of public realm improvement works in the High Street, between the junction of Market Street and King Street.
- Development activity has continued at Riverwell with the completion of the MSCP in the spring (mostly for Watford General Hospital use), and construction of phase one of Avenues. Sales are progressing on this residential development with completions from the end of the year into the spring of 2023. Bellway and Audley Group are completing their schemes to the south of Thomas Sawyer Way and will be welcoming residents this autumn.
- Market Lates have continued to bring more visitors to our vibrant and refreshed market, following the significant investment made in the space over the last 12 months. The Market Late events have provided a great opportunity for local traders to showcase their diverse food and drink offer and further events are planned. A number of specialist markets have also been held with an event specifically for new businesses, starts up and young, local traders and plans for vegan and green and continental specialist markets in the pipeline.
- The successful award of 17 green flags across the borough demonstrates our ongoing commitment to our parks as a place for all residents and visitors to enjoy. In terms of specific activities, priority footpath improvement works have been undertaken in Cassiobury Park with an additional trial Beryl Bike bay installed close to the Hub building. To ensure that all visitors can continue to use the park safely, our cycling code of conduct was launched in April 2022 providing guidance on how the space can be shared.
- Cabinet approved the plans to relocate Watford Museum to our historic Town Hall in December 2021. Work on the design of the Museum in this space has continued with a bid to the National Heritage Lottery Fund being prepared to support the final vision. Works to the Town Hall itself are currently expected to commence in 2023 and complete in 2024, at which point fit-out works to the Museum can commence.
- Our Big Centenary celebration was successfully held on 4 June 2022, with residents and visitors from across the town joining a parade down the High Street

and festivities around the bandstand in Cassiobury Park. Our '100 people who made Watford' scheme has launched, celebrating the achievements of key residents over the year. An accompanying 'We are Watford' film has been produced for launch in Quarter 2.

- Works on Cheslyn House and St Marys are now complete with further maintenance work underway at the Chapel at Vicarage Road Cemetery subject to determining the best solution for the stonework. Planning for Phase 2 currently underway with an application for the third round of Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme in progress.
- The council has continued to deliver its popular Big Events programme over the last period, providing a diverse range of free activities for local residents and families. The Big Beach and Big Screen have been in place over the summer holidays.
- In order to support local employment and, particularly, our younger residents, we
 are currently recruiting for five Corporate Apprentices to join us on a two year
 programme, working with services from across the organisation to provide them
 with the skills, knowledge and experience to help start their careers, whilst
 providing valuable public services to our customers.
- The council is refreshing its Customer Experience Strategy, aimed at ensuring we
 engage with, and provide the best service for, our customers whether they be
 residents, businesses, community groups or partners. Following engagement with
 service areas across the council, a draft Customer Experience Strategy will be
 reviewed by members prior to finalisation and publication.
- Senior management restructure has been completed and came into effect on 1
 August 2022, aligning the internal resource of the organisation to the delivery of
 the Council Plan. Any savings as a result of the changes will be prioritised to
 support the delivery of the Council Plan and to provide the best front line services
 to our residents, businesses and community.
- Business Cases for Planning Enforcement, Building Control and Legal shared services with St Albans City and District Council have been approved by Council and work is now underway to implement the new services.
- The council's new collaborative and focused working space opened in July 2022, providing a modern and fit for purpose space for teams to deliver the very best services to residents, businesses and the community. Work is still underway to align this space to new council values and behaviours, for implementation over the next period.

6.0 Organisational Development Strategy 2020-24 and associated Delivery Plan

- 6.1 The Council Plan identifies the Organisational Development Strategy as a priority area of work under the theme 'A council working for our community and serving our residents'.
- 6.2 The council recognises our staff are critical to our success and to building our reputation as a council that delivers. At the same time, we know that the commitment of our staff and their passion for public service ensures we keep our residents, our businesses and community at the heart of everything we do. The importance of effectively matching our resources (both financial and staff) to the ambitions of our Council Plan and Delivery Plan was recognised when the plans were presented to Cabinet in June 2022 with a newly approved senior management structure.
- 6.3 The Organisational Development Strategy is also supported by a Delivery Plan, which translates the high level, strategic approach to how we develop our staff into practical and timely actions.
- 6.4 The full report can be seen an Appendix B but some key highlights are included below:
 - Successful pilot session of Health and Wellbeing training to increase resilience completed with the rollout of further sessions planned for September/ October
 - Training delivered to various staff groups on the following topics: Mental Wellbeing in the Workplace, Menopause and Mental Health First Aider
 - 38 Agile Charters, detailing how teams will work in the future, completed for all teams by Jan 2022, supported by our agile pathfinders team
 - Common values and behaviours themes determined in workshop on 17 Feb 2022 with Reimagining Watford Team, pathfinders and Unison.
 - The Reimagining Watford team supported the opening of the new office space (which was launched on 20 July) with agile guidance so that the benefits of the new space are maximised.
 - Corporate guidance on use of unified communications, Outlook and meeting etiquette has been provided to all employees. Our volunteer Agile Pathfinders will champion agile ways of working and with managers and role model these new ways of working to reflect our agreed Values and Behaviours
 - iTrent (our new performance management tool, has been tested and gone live, supporting regular line manager check-ins and annual appraisals

7.0 Key Performance Indicators

- 7.1 Our key performance indicators underpin our Council Plan by ensuring that the organisation continues to perform against a range of measures. The measures highlighted within this report have supported the delivery of good quality services (both internal and external) by highlighting areas of good performance and, more importantly, under performance. This allows the council to ensure that services continue to offer a high quality service to our residents and businesses, and for action to be taken if areas of concern are identified.
- 7.2 The attached report (Appendix C), therefore, shows the results for the current set of key performance indicators at the end of Q1 for 2022/23. However, some key highlights are included below:
 - Average time to process housing benefit claims was on target at 7 days. Average time to process a change of circumstance was better than target at 5 days (target is 6 days). These results are showing significant improvement when compared with Q1, Q2 and Q3 last year.
 - Planning recorded excellent performance in Q1, with all planning key performance indicators exceeded targets.
 - Channel shift results have exceeded targets in Q1. There were 5,121 online forms submitted during the quarter, relating to 82 different processes. The most used form was the General Enquiry form (914 submissions) followed by the Garden Waste Renewal form (724 submissions) and the Report a Street Cleansing or Parks Issue form (696 submissions). The service has recently developed reports to analyse General Enquiries in more detail, to enable better insight in to how, and why, customers are contacting WBC, areas of the website that could potentially be improved as part of our continuous improvement approach, and better monitoring of responses to ensure they are within agreed timescales. The top 3 service areas general enquiries related to in Q1 were Council Tax (287 enquires), Parking (156 enquiries) and Environmental Health (110 enquiries).
 - Long wait calls to the CSC were on target for Q1. The percentage of all calls answered was slightly below target at 94% (target 95%). An increase in Green Bin renewals in June was one of the factors that impacted this figure.

- Freedom of Information (FOI) requests responded to within 20 working days was below target. Meeting timescales for FOI responses can be challenging. Some FOIs need input from multiple departments, which can take time to coordinate. FOI responses can sometimes generate a significant amount of work (depending on the type of request), requiring significant information to be brought together, which needs to be fitted in alongside existing workloads. To give an indication of numbers, 130 FOIs were received in Q1. The service is investigating additional reports that may improve visibility of FOIs that are not moving through the process quickly enough in order to improve this score.
- The number of households in temporary accommodation (TA) has remained under 100 since the beginning April. There have been a number of new development handovers, including social rent homes, which has helped both reduce numbers in temporary accommodation (as there were over 100 in March 2022) and keep them at a steady rate. This is despite an increase in the number of households approaching the council who are already homeless rather than being threatened with (impending) homelessness.
- In the parking service, general Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) issue has remained consistent at around 2,500 PCNs per month. The bus gate enforcement went live at the end of May and this generated 1,200 bus gate related PCNs in June. Compliance is rising and this level of bus gate PCNs is not expected to be maintained as motorists observe the camera restriction to help keep our high streeet accesible and pedestrian friendly.
- Household waste and recycling indicators have new targets as of Q1 this year. Both
 indicators were well within target for Q1. When compared with Q1 2021/22 levels
 of household waste, recycling, food and garden waste collected were significantly
 lower this year, reflecting a national trend.
- Indicators relating to environmental cleanliness showed mixed results. The litter score was within target and has decreased slightly (which is positive) when compared with Q1 last year. The detritus score was not within target, however it had improved significantly when compared with this time last year, and a general improvement was noted across most land use areas. The graffiti score has risen from 2.18% this time last year to 3.77% this year and reflects a noticeable increase in graffiti incidents. Efforts will be directed towards the worst affected areas accordingly. The fly posting score was just outside of the target, however the results show a clear improvement when compared with last year.

- There has been a significant increase in usage figures for Watford Leisure Centre: Central, compared with quarter 1 last year, and compared with the previous quarter. The throughput has almost doubled (116,597) when compared with the same time last year (64,717) and membership is now up to 3,297, compared with Q1 last year which was 2,180. This is understandable as people's confidence regarding Covid-19 has improved. Most other KPIs are showing steady progress. There has also been a range of improvements across both centres, including upgraded wet-side showers, new body pump weights and gym lighting at Watford Central. Woodside has had a new food menu introduced at the café and improvements to stadium/gym lighting.
- The financial indicators (including Revenues and Benefits) are generally looking positive, with most within target or on track to meet targets by the end of the year. The Council Tax collection rate was similar to result recorded in Q1 last year, which is positive but the cost of living crisis may well impact later in the year. The value of outstanding invoices under 12 months old was well within target, and the best result the service have achieved in the last 12 months. The value of invoices outstanding over 12 months old was slightly outside of the target, and the service are currently reviewing old debt to assess what needs to be considered for write-off.
- Numbers of staff on long term sickness have remained relatively low (if compared with other local authorities) and steady. There has been a reduction in short term sickness levels when compared with Q4 last year. The 2022/23 Personal Development review cycle was launched at the end of June with a target completion date of 31 August, therefore we expect to report results related to PDR completion, staff satisfaction and motivation in Q2.
- ICT continue to report strong results, with all KPIs in Q1 on target or exceeding targets. There was a total of 5 priority 1 incidents recorded, related to 8x8, Eros (the WBC elections application) and Firmstep, however the root cause was identified for all incidents. Missed calls to the helpdesk have continued to be reduced, and were down to 1% in Q1.

8.0 Implications

8.1. Financial

8.1.1 The Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy is aligned with the Council Plan to ensure that the commitments within the Plan are resourced. The Council's budget underpins the whole of the Council Plan and Delivery Plan. The importance of the budget is recognised under the theme 'A Council working for our community and serving our residents' with the related commitment being 'Focus and challenge how we manage our budget so it is concentrated on delivering our commitments and securing greater investment for Watford'.

8.1.2 The Shared Director of Finance comments that there are no further financial implications arising from the contents of this report.

8.2 **Legal issues**

8.2.1 The Council Plan is one of the policy framework documents listed in the constitution that has to be approved by Council. The plan was approved by Council on 13 June 2022.

8.3 Equalities, Human Rights and Data Protection

8.3.1 An Equality Impact Analysis (EIA) was developed for the Council Plan 2022-2026. This is consistently reviewed based on up to date information and data the council receives to ensure the council meets its public sector equalities under the s149 (1) of the Equality Act 2010.

EIAs were also developed for the Organisational Development Strategy 2020-24 during its development. These will also this will be monitored through the life of the respective strategies.

8.4 **Staffing**

8.4.1 The Council Plan sets the Council's strategic direction, and is, therefore, a key document for staff, enabling them to understand our commitments and priorities and allowing them to contribute fully to our success and achievements. As the overarching plan for the Council, it provides the framework for all our strategies and policies and links, through the Delivery Plan, to service business plans and individual staff objectives and outcomes. The principles demonstrate how we go about our work and are an important guide for staff on the Council's expectations recognising it is not just what we deliver but how we deliver that is a measure of our organisational culture. As a result, the recent senior management restructure has been undertaken to ensure an ongoing focus on the delivery of the Council Plan.

The Organisational Development Strategy supports the Council Plan and Delivery Plan to equip all staff to deliver the very best service for residents.

8.5 Community Safety/Crime and Disorder

8.5.1 Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires the Council to give due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of its functions on crime and disorder in its area and to do all it reasonably can to prevent these. Our theme: A diverse, happy and healthy town, underpins our commitment to 'promote our welcoming and respectful town' and the associated action to 'ensure everyone feels welcome, included and safe in Watford' and to 'stablish our commitment to the wellbeing of

women and girls' by working with partners and using our statutory powers.

8.6 **Sustainability**

8.6.1 The council's commitment to sustainability runs through the Council Plan and a range of actions to deliver our climate change commitments are identified within the Delivery Plan. These range from pushing forward with delivering greener ways to travel in Watford to promoting Watford's transition to a low-carbon economy. Indeed, an entire theme is devoted to delivering 'a brighter, greener future' with a whole range of activities planned to meet our sustainability commitments.

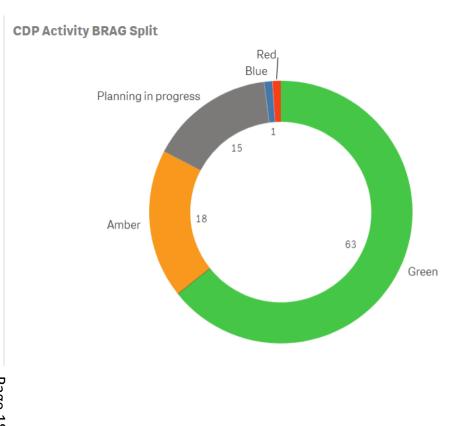
Appendices

- Appendix A Council Plan 2022-26 / Delivery Plan 2022-24 progress update
- Appendix B Organisational Development Strategy 2020-24 progress update
- Appendix C Key Performance Indicators update 2022-23

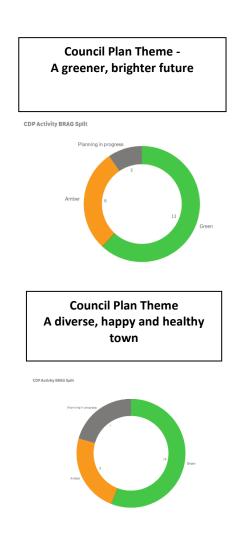


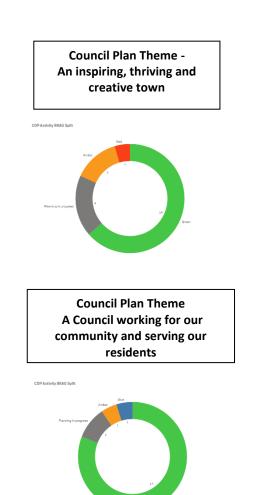
Appendix A - Council Delivery Plan Progress update Q1 2022/23

Delivery Plan Overview











THEME: A greener brighter future Overview

Key achievements over this period



- The waste and recycling service changes introduced in 2020 has resulted in a significant increase in recycling rates across the town. The council and its contractor will strive to deliver the new target for recycling rates over the next four years. A proposal for the introduction of food waste from flats and high rise building is being developed to make it as easy and simple as possible for all residents to recycle as much as they can.
- In line with the council's commitment to support proposals for a sustainable transport across the town, we have been working closely with Hertfordshire County Council. A tender has subsequently been issued to consultants to undertake an Options and Feasibility study into potential alternatives for the former MLX corridor. Tenders have now been returned and are under evaluation.
- Following the successful receipt of more than £3m of grant funding from central government, the work to decarbonise the Town Hall is now underway. All listed building consent conditions have been successfully discharged and windows across both buildings have started to be removed for refurbishment with cavity wall insulation being installed. Internally, light fitting removals are underway with the scheme expected to be completed in spring 2023.



Commitment	A	Activity	BRAG' Rating	Trend	Headline
	Investigate greener travel and transport solutions that work for Watford	We will continue to investigate the potential for a low-carbon transport hub in Watford town centre to encourage more use of public transport, reducing congestion and improving air quality for everyone.	Green	**	Forming part of the new Transforming Travel in Watford programme, the work to develop a low-carbon transport hub remains underway with the 'Pyramid' site at the junction of the High Street and Exchange Road identified as the preferred site. Over the next period, the programme structure, governance and delivery plan will be finalised providing a deliverable plan for this activity.
	Promote ways of to travel that support people make greener choices	We will explore initiatives such as secure cycle parking and school travel plans to give people options other than using their car for every journey.	Green	*	The council is committed to continuing to work towards net carbon zero by 2030 and, through the new Transforming Travel in Watford programme, will commence work to explore opportunities for cycle parking and school travel plans over the next period.
Encourage people to make greener travel choices, reducing congestion and improving the health and wellbeing of the		We will introduce initiatives such as electric vehicles, e-cargo bikes, electric charging points and e-car clubs to encourage more use of green transport, reducing congestion and improving air quality.	Green	*	The council is committed to achieving net carbon zero by 2030 and, through the new Transforming Travel in Watford programme, will commence work to develop a deliverable plan of activity for a range of green transport initiatives over the next period. This follow on from the submission of a funding bid for a second round of electric vehicle charging points across the town and further investigations in relation to a e-car club.
town	Work with our partners to improve our cycling and walking network, including designing and implementing a green loop	We will work with Hertfordshire County Council and our cycling and walking communities to improve the cycling and walking network across our town so more people choose to cycle and walk.	Green	**	Our Local Cycling and Walking Implementation Plan work, as part of our commitment to support sustainable transport solutions, is progressing, with project validation complete for the Green Loop East and Hempstead Road, and a number some key quick win projects designed, including the Water Lane to Lower High Street link and the Ebury Way to Ascot Road link. A number of stand-alone sites have also been designed and are ready for implementation, including Brush Rise, Radlett Road / Bushey Mill Lane and Garston Park.
	Champion proposals for a sustainable transport option for Watford Junction to Croxley	We will work closely with Hertfordshire County Council on the Watford to Croxley Link, examining the feasibility of options to secure the best transport system for our town, offering greater choice for our residents, visitors and commuters to travel sustainably.	Green	*	In line with the council's commitment to support proposals for a sustainable transport across the town, we have been working closely with Hertfordshire County Council. A tender has subsequently been issued to consultants to undertake an Options and Feasibility study into potential alternatives for the former MLX corridor. Tenders have now been returned and are under evaluation.
Promote improvements to Watford's biodiversity to enhance the range of	Set out our commitments to improving Watford's biodiversity	We will develop our Strategy and Biodiversity Action Plan, recognising the importance of our range of habitats across the town and setting out how we will improve and enhance these for future generations.	Green	**	Recognising the importance of biodiversity in achieving our green commitments, our Biodiversity Strategy is being scoped with the Planning Policy team and alongside our emerging Sustainability Strategy to develop a suite of documents which support planning, sustainability and service delivery. In terms of specific projects, a National Lottery Heritage bid totalling £250,000 has been submitted to support our commitment to 'Rediscover the River Colne', a 10 year programme of activity to improve the river throughout the town. Design work is also underway at Cassiobury Wetlands which aims to bring the historic wetlands area back to life, further contributing to improving biodiversity across the town.
habitats, plants and wildlife in the town	Enhance and extend our green canopy, through our proactive tree planting initiative	We will work with our community to plant 20,000 trees across the town by 2026, increasing our green canopy, making Watford a more pleasant place to live, work and enjoy recreation time.	Green	*	The council has already made significant strides with its ambition to plant 20,000 trees across the town by 2026 with tree giveaways for all residents over the past months. Looking forward, a permanent Tree Manager has been appointed to investigate our 'Trees for Streets' scheme and to develop a tree notification form for our local residents, ensuring that we work closely with our local community to achieve this aim.



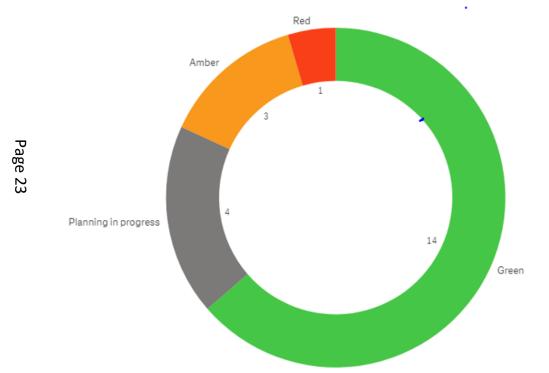
	Commitment	Α	ctivity	BRAG' Rating	Trend	Headline
		Rediscover the River Colne to enhance the river, the river corridor, as a place for our community to enjoy	We will improve the River Colne through Watford to make it a more appealing place for local people to enjoy and a better environment for plants and wildlife to flourish.	Amber	*	Work is underway with Groundwork to take forward our scheme to improve the River Colne, with physical works to the northern section of the river to commence in Autumn 2023. A number of engagement events have been held and a National Heritage Lottery fund bid has been submitted to further support the project. We are currently exploring opportunities with the University of Hertfordshire and a satellite company to enhance programme team resource to assist with water quality monitoring and volunteering.
		Reinvigorate the Cassiobury Wetlands as an important part of our natural environment	We will improve the wetland and habitat of the former watercress beds on the River Gade in Cassiobury Park to enhance biodiversity, water quality and preserve and protect relevant elated historical features.	Amber	*	As part of our commitment to improve the Cassiobury Wetlands, work has been undertaken to complete the final design. An Expression of Interest request to support the work has been made with nine respondees indicating their interest in the project and the full procurement exercise expected to commence shortly.
		Celebrate and enhance Whippendell Woods as a site of special scientific interest	We will protect Whippendell Woods, a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), in order to preserve its 'favourable condition' status.	Amber	*	The council remains committed to enhancing Whippendell Woods as a site of special scientific interest and continue to work with the local community on mountain bikes using the space. The next phase of work will commence upon the successful recruitment of the new Parks Manager.
Page 21		Promote healthy and sustainable gardening across the town	We will continue compost give-aways using our green waste recycling to bring back the organic material as free, nutrient-rich compost for Watford residents to grow plants and vegetables.	Green	*	In line with our commitment to promote healthy and sustainable gardening across the town, the council's popular Compost Giveaway will continue on an annual basis. Encouraging and supporting our residents to grow plants and vegetables.
21		Provide clear guidance on improving biodiversity in the town	We will set out guidance for developers on how to improve and enhance biodiversity in developments so they contribute to the town's goals for better habitats and environmental diversity	Planning in progress	*	Recognising that improving biodiversity cannot be achieved by the council alone, we are developing a Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document, liaising with organisations such as the Wildlife Trust and County Council to provide guidance that ensures our developments are sustainable and support our town-wide goals.
,	Work alongside our	Develop and implement our new Sustainability Strategy	We will work with our community and businesses to develop and implement our new Sustainability Strategy which will set out how together, we can contribute to our target to be a net carbon neutral borough by 2030.	Amber	*	The development of our new Sustainability Strategy is now underway with a focus on realising the benefits required to contribute towards out target to be net carbon neutral by 2030. It is expected that the new strategy, which will cover the period 2023-2030, will be ready for adoption in Spring 2023.
	community and usinesses to find the right ways to reach net carbon neutral, seeking not just to	Prepare for legislative changes to help protect our environment	We will respond to the requirements of the Environment Act 2021 to ensure we deliver on our role in improving air quality, tackling waste, improving biodiversity and making other environmental improvements.	Planning in progress	*	Development of Climate Change Strategy 2023 - 2030 on-going and this will include working with residents and businesses in the town in our ambition of net caron zero by 2030.
to	learn from others but to explore innovative solutions that will work for Watford	Explore opportunities that will contribute financially to our green commitments and goals	We will explore innovative, economically viable ideas that contribute to net carbon zero tapping into emerging trends, including investigating the possibility of green bonds to raise funds for planned projects.	Green	*	In order to explore opportunities for Green Investment Bonds, discussions have been initiated with the Government's Green Finance Institute and Abundance, the FCA regulated company who delivers the scheme. Another initiative is the Electric Super Hub - a high speed charging hub for EVs to be constructed on Council-owned land. This would entail leasing the land to an operator with soft market testing currently underway.



Commitment	A	Activity	BRAG' Rating	Trend	Headline
	Investigate generating energy from renewable sources	We will examine including sustainable energy generation in council developments so we lead by example and demonstrate how it can work effectively.	Amber	*	Investigation is underway in relation to range of sustainable energy opportunities. This includes electric vehicle charge station opportunities and PV solar power on council owed sites, such as the Town Hall and Colosseum. As part of our Community Asset Review, work is underway on an application for the third round of the public sector decarbonisation scheme, which will allow for our buildings to be as sustainable as possible.
	Improve the energy performance of the Town Hall and Watford Colosseum	We will carry out extensive de-carbonisation works to our Town Hall and Colosseum to improve their energy efficiency and ensure they have a reduced carbon footprint.	Amber	*	Following the successful receipt of more than £3m of grant funding from central government, the work to decarbonise the Town Hall is now underway. All listed building consent conditions have been successfully discharged and windows across both buildings have started to be removed for refurbishment with cavity wall insulation being installed. Internally, light fitting removals are underway with the scheme expected to be completed in Spring 2023.
	Ensure the council's own buildings are energy efficient	We will explore ways to improve the energy performance of all properties within our portfolio.	Green	*	Building on the successful bid for decarbonisation funding at the Town Hall and Colosseum, a third Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme funding round is due to open in September. Keen to take advantage of this opportunity and deliver against this commitment, a feasibility exercise is underway to determine which of our existing buildings would be best suited to benefit from such a bid.
Page 22	Promote sustainable construction in our own developments	We will actively encourage the use of sustainable materials in any of our new developments so we can role model to others who develop in our town.	Green	*	In taking our responsibilities as a role model to the town seriously, we continue to promote sustainable construction in our own developments with the recent procurement process for the Town Hall and Colosseum focused on social value and sustainability. The recent renovation to the Annexe building on the Town Hall site saw 94% of all waste material recycled.
Encourage residents and businesses to recycle more, reusing materials and	Increase how much our residents recycle and reduce the waste we throw away as a town	We will build on the success of our waste and recycling scheme to boost household recycling rates across the borough, introducing the opportunity for food waste collections for all households and setting targets that reflect our sustainability ambitions.	Green	*	The waste and recycling service changes introduced in 2020 has resulted in a significant increase in recycling rates across the town. The council and its contractor will strive to deliver the new target for recycling rates over the next four years. A proposal for the introduction of food waste from flats and high rise building is being developed to make it as easy and simple as possible for all residents to recycle as much as they can.
reducing waste and what they throw away	Support our partners to reduce waste and increase recycling	We will work with our partners, including our environmental services provider and leisure services provider to deliver the next step change in reducing waste and increasing recycling, particularly through campaigns and changing behaviours.	Green	**	Work is taking place with key contractors across the borough, including at our leisure centre and Watford Market, to reduce the amount of waste created, and seek to increase the recycling rates. Further work will be planned over the next period.



THEME: An inspiring, thriving and creative town Overview Key achievement over this period



- An investment plan has been submitted to the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities setting out a programme of projects to be funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund
- Designs on the future Colosseum have continued to be developed with feedback and engagement with key stakeholders, theatre professionals and operators. Morgan Sindall have been appointed to finalise the designs with the council and commence the refurbishment works in November 2022, with completion expected in Autumn 2023, providing a refreshed and first class entertainment venue for the whole town to enjoy.
- The works to refresh and revitalise Clarendon Road is now largely completed with just some minor issues left to be completed. Market Street works are also progressing. Work is underway to design the next phase of public realm improvement works in the High Street, between the junction of Market Street and King Street.
- Development activity has continued at Riverwell with the completion of the MSCP in the spring (mostly for Watford General Hospital use), and construction of phase one of Avenues. Sales are progressing on this residential development with completions from the end of the year into spring 2023. Bellway and Audley Group are completing their schemes to the south of Thomas Sawyer Way and will be welcoming residents this Autumn.
- Market Lates have continued to bring more visitors to our vibrant and refreshed market, following the significant investment made in the space over the last 12 months. A number of specialist markets have also been held with an event specifically for new businesses, starts up and young, local traders and plans for vegan and green and continental specialist markets in the pipeline.



Commitment	A	ctivity	BRAG' Rating	Trend	Headline
	Deliver our Innovation and Incubation Hub	We will provide a new Innovation and Incubation Hub, as part of our Town Hall Quarter, which will support start-up businesses in the town and give our key sectors a boost, tapping into the significant opportunity provided by the flourishing creative sector and drawing businesses into the borough.	Green	*	As part of our ambitious Town Hall Quarter scheme, the business case for the future use of the Town Hall, including a new innovation and incubation hub, was approved by Cabinet in December 2021. Work is underway on the next stage of due diligence with a bid to both the Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership and to the government Levelling Up Fund submitted in order to support this opportunity.
Position Watford as a town where start-ups and business innovation can thrive, supported by	Develop a skills and employment plan for Watford that supports the current, and future, needs of our local businesses and life chances of residents	We will work with our business community and education partners, linking to the Hertfordshire LEP Skills and Employment Plan to develop and deliver a Watford Skills and Employment Plan, connecting local skills to business needs.	Planning in progress	*	Planning is underway to create a skills and employment plan for Watford, working with key partners, in particular West Herts College, to dovetail Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership's current Hertfordshire Skills and Employment Plan and to respond to latest data and evidence in terms of need. This work will also align with emerging work to develop the Innovation and Incubation Hub and the community wealth building plan allowing us to respond to local business needs and to continue to promote Watford as place for investment with a talented and skilled workforce. The plan will reflect the opportunities resulting from Watford's Shared Prosperity Fund allocation.
strong local skills, generating a range of job opportunities, including for our young people	Maximise economic potential and harness new opportunities from Watford's future growth sectors	We will engage with our successful business sectors and partners at local, county and regional levels, building on the economic drive our sectors provide for Watford's economy, promoting clustering where it makes sense for our town to create greater growth and encourage inward investment.	Green	*	Building on existing engagement with local businesses, we have drafted a Watford Sectors Action Plan setting out activities and interventions to support the development of Watford's key growth sectors. Working in partnership with Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership as sectors sponsors, and other key partners including the University of Hertfordshire, this work will dovetail creative, film and TV work already undertaken by Herts LEP and Herts Growth Board, aligning with the emerging plans for the Innovation and Incubation Hub, the skills and employment plan and the inward investment plan.
	Make the most of our Shared Prosperity Fund allocation	We will use our Shared Prosperity Fund to boost our ambitions for prosperity, jobs and skills, spreading opportunities and building our sense of community pride.	Green	*	An investment plan has been submitted to the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities setting out a programme of projects to be funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund
Tell Watford's story as a great location for businesses where	Promote what makes Watford a great location for business, connecting to building pride in the town and our profile as a great place to visit	We will work with partners to shape our place narrative and brand, sharing what is great about Watford, attracting more visitors and supporting our local economy, putting the town on the map as a great place for business.	Green	*	Our place brand and narrative is being developed to build on the initial concept design, promoting Watford as a great town to attract more visitors and support our local economy. This will be shared with key stakeholders during Quarter 3 and refined. An associated implementation and resourcing plan is being developed alongside the creative content to ensure successful rollout.
they can invest, grow and succeed as part of our flourishing business community and networks that connect people	Ensure there is a strong voice for local businesses by fostering effective business networks and forums	We will engage with Watford businesses, encouraging an empowered business community that can be a strong voice for the town, making the most of opportunities and new ventures and encouraging vibrant networks and forums that bring businesses together in a meaningful and effective way.	Green	*	Work is underway to launch two new council-led business forums to improve communication and information sharing and to respond to feedback from businesses, meeting the council's engagement aspirations. Recognising the importance of businesses to our local economy and residents, we will connect with the range of business networks and forums led by others, to ensure a strong business voice is heard and communication with business is effective and productive.



	Commitment	Α	ctivity	BRAG' Rating	Trend	Headline
		Engage with wider economic, business and planning partnerships to make sure Watford's interests are represented	We will work closely with our partners in Hertfordshire LEP, Herts Growth Board and the South West Herts Joint Strategic Partnership to shape and influence wider discussions on our economic role and impact.	Amber	*	In line with our ambition to work closely with neighbouring authorities, a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) agreed has been agreed all five SW Herts authorities.
		Progress our transformational plans for the Town Hall Quarter	We will take forward plans to revitalise the north end of Watford High Street to create a vibrant and attractive neighbourhood within our Town Hall Quarter for our residents to enjoy, as well as establishing a new area in the town for culture to flourish.	Amber	*	Following a competitive process, the competitive dialogue period to secure a joint venture partner to work with the council on the Town Hall Quarter scheme has now closed and evaluation is underway. Following a robust and detailed evaluation process, it is expected that a final decision will be taken in Autumn 2022 allowing the next stage of engagement design to commence.
	reate a distinctive and successful	Secure the future of Watford Colosseum, improving the heritage building and attracting a new operator	We will refurbish the Watford Colosseum so it remains a first-class entertainment venue, attracting a new operator to bring an exciting and diverse range of performances and creative events to boost the town's cultural offer and local economy.	Green	*	Designs on the future Colosseum have continued to be developed with feedback and engagement with key stakeholders, theatre professionals and operators. Morgan Sindall, currently undertaking the decarbonisation works at both the Town Hall and the Colosseum, have been appointed to finalise the designs with the council and commence the refurbishment works in November 2022, with completion expected in Autumn 2023, providing a refreshed and first class entertainment venue for the whole town to enjoy.
25 pr	ighbourhood at the leart of our town, roviding space and ime for residents, usinesses and the immunity to enjoy and experience	Enhance a sustainable town centre with a mixed economy that will have a broad appeal to all ages and interests	We will develop our Town Centre Framework to ensure that our vibrant and diverse town centre continues to attract residents, businesses and visitors to live, work, shop, eat, drink and enjoy spending time.	Green	*	The council continues to work on its Town Centre Framework to support the Town Centre and ensure that the council supports businesses and the town centre to remain vibrant, attractive and diverse. Significant engagement will inform both pieces of work with a draft engagement plan now developed.
	una experience	Enhance our outdoor public spaces to make them welcoming and attractive	We will improve a number of our public spaces to provide excellent, safe and attractive outdoor spaces that support a greener Watford. This work will include the enhancement of key areas of our town such as St Mary's Churchyard, Market Street, Queens Road and St Albans Road.	Amber	*	The works to refresh and revitalise Clarendon Road d is now largely completed with just some minor issues left to be completed. Market Street works are also progressing. Work is underway to design the next phase of public realm improvement works in the High Street, between the junction of Market Street and King Street.
		Promote the appeal of our town centre and all it has to offer	We will continue to deliver our 'Shop and Eat Local' campaign to attract people to our town centre, supporting our local businesses and their unique appeal.	Green	*	The council continues to positively promote the appeal of the Town Centre, with our Shop and Eat Local Campaign being developed further over the next period to support the Autumn and Christmas period.



Commitment	Α	ctivity	BRAG' Rating	Trend	Headline
	Promote Watford Market and our offer as a market town	We will support our local traders by continuing to run our popular 'Market Late' events, showcasing the great range of food and drink stalls in the market and trialling specialist markets.	Green	*	Market Lates have continued to bring more visitors to our vibrant and refreshed market, following the significant investment made in the space over the last 12 months. The Market Late events have provided a great opportunity for local traders to showcase their diverse food and drink offer and further events are planned. A number of specialist markets have also been held with an event specifically for new businesses, starts up and young, local traders and plans for vegan and green and continental specialist markets in the pipeline.
	Take forward plans for the Watford Junction Quarter	We will bring landowners together so we can progress with our long-term plans to create a new Watford neighbourhood that successfully combines new homes, station facilities, jobs, public space, school provision and community facilities for both our existing and new residents.	Green	*	Whilst the council does not own the land around Watford Junction, we are committed to improving the local amenities to create a new neighbourhood and have continued to work closely with land owners to explore feasibility. This has including seeking additional funding opportunities and undertaking transport assessment to understand the optimal distribution of future car park around the station. A meeting with the new Head of Development at Network Rail has been arranged to discuss the plans to date and to agree next steps.
Ensure the right mix of facilities, services and transport links as	Continue our transformation of Watford Business Park	We will complete the Gateway development at Watford Business Park to continue our plans to create new and high quality business space to maximise local employment opportunities and generate income for the council to support its wider priorities.	Red	*	Following the sign off of our ambitious and exciting plans to develop Watford Business Park into a new and high quality business space, enabling works have now commenced on site. Whilst, the team have yet to secure Environmental Agency consent and further works cannot continue on-site until this issue has been resolved, the works to discharge other conditions and further iterate the design of some other elements continue to progress.
part of new developments to create successful, well-designed new communities	Continue to deliver the neighbourhood at Riverwell	We will continue to develop the Riverwell scheme to deliver a high quality mix of new homes, jobs, open spaces and community facilities, maintaining an income source for the council to support its wider priorities. The work at Riverwell will support the opportunity for West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust to deliver its ambition for an acute hospital in Watford.	Green	*	Development activity has continued at Riverwell with the completion of the MSCP in the spring (mostly for Watford General Hospital use), and construction of phase one of Avenues. Sales are progressing on this residential development with completions from the end of the year into the spring of 2023. Bellway and Audley Group are completing their schemes to the south of Thomas Sawyer Way and will be welcoming residents this Autumn
	Achieve the right long-term balance of development, services and transport links for our town	We will adopt our new Local Plan for Watford which will shape how the town will develop sustainably over the next 30 years and make sure that key development sites are underpinned with creative, sustainable and well considered planning frameworks.	Green	*	The final draft of Local Plan was agreed by Full Council on 19 July 2021 and was inspected in February of this year. The main modifications as a result of that inspection have now been completed and consulted upon. It is expected that the final inspector's report will be received in September with the final version due to be reviewed by Cabinet and Full Council over the next period.



	Commitment	A	Activity	BRAG' Rating	Trend	Headline
		Deliver a new Housing Strategy for Watford	We will deliver a Housing Strategy that sets out the strategic direction for housing activity in Watford for the next five years. The delivery of housing growth, bringing inward investment into the borough, ensuring existing homes are of good quality, and preventing homelessness will all contribute to meeting the housing challenges faced by our residents.	Planning in progress	*	Following the recent Senior Management Restructure, work on the development of the Housing Strategy is underway as part of the wider service planning process with a further update on the plan available during the next period.
		Review and refresh our Nominations Policy	We will deliver a new Nominations Policy for Watford to help our residents apply to our housing register, how we manage the register, your choice about where you live, how we assess applications and allocate properties.	Green	*	The principles for a revised Nominations Policy have been drafted and are ready for consultation. Over the next period, any changes to the existing policy will be reviewed and informed by legal advice, with consultation undertaken prior to any changes.
n re ai	ake sure we have quality homes to neet the needs of sidents, including housing that is ffordable through lirect ownership, private rental, fordable and social rent housing	Improve housing provision for those local families who need homes that are affordable	We will work with partners to deliver high quality new homes for social rent, for local families who need them the most and support the housing needs of the most vulnerable members of our community.	Green	*	The final site in the WBC / WCH Social Rented Housing Programme has now completed (Brightwell Court). The new tenants are due to move in week commencing 12/9/22. The SRP has delivered 53 new social rented homes (2 & 3 beds) across 21/22 and 22/23. In terms of all new affordable housing completions expected this financial year, we are expecting a total of 355 new units. As at 31/08/22 we have had delivery of 127 of the 355 units. We are expecting 228 units between 1/9/22 - 31/3/23. The new affordable housing mix in the new Local Plan no longer asks for affordable rented units and asks for a greater % of social rented units. We hope this change will increase the number of social rented unit delivered via the planning process. That said, we will not see the impact of new Local Plan on completions data for a few years yet, plus there are several larger sites across the borough looking to deliver 'build to rent' rather than our new affordable housing mix, which will impact our ability to deliver new social rented homes.
		Develop planning guidance to ensure developers provide new homes that support local needs	We will provide guidance to inform how new homes and buildings should be designed so they meet the needs of Watford and are built to a high standard.	Planning in progress	*	In light of likely planning reforms, we are currently considering how best to bring forward this guidance, either as a design code or design guidance. The key will be to ensure that are homes meet the needs of the borough and are of a high standard.
		Deliver a refreshed Private Sector Renewal Policy	We will review and refresh our Private Sector Renewal policy to support the improvement of Watford's housing stock, setting out how we can help the private sector improve and maintain housing quality in the town.	Planning in progress	*	Following the recent Senior Management Restructure, work on the development of the Private Sector Renewal Policy is planned for later this year with planning forming part of the wider service planning process and a further update on the plan available during the next period.

THEME: A diverse, happy and healthy town Overview Key achievements over this period



- The successful award of 17 green flags across the borough demonstrates our ongoing commitment to our parks as a place for all residents and visitors to enjoy. In terms of specific activities, priority footpath improvement works have been undertaken in Cassiobury Park with an additional trial Beryl Bike bay installed close to the Hub building. To ensure that all visitors to can continue to use the park safely, our cycling code of conduct was launched in April 2022 providing guidance on how the space can be shared.
- Cabinet approved the plans to relocate Watford Museum to our historic Town Hall in December 2021. Work on the design of the Museum in this space has continued with a bid to the National Heritage Lottery Fund being prepared to support the final vision. Works to the Town Hall itself are currently expected to commence in 2023 and complete in 2024, at which point fit-out works to the Museum can commence.
- Our Big Centenary celebration was successfully held on 4 June 2022, with residents and visitors from across the town joining a parade down the High Street and festivities around the bandstand in Cassiobury Park. Our '100 people who made Watford' scheme has launched, celebrating the achievements of key residents over the year. An accompanying 'We are Watford' film has been produced for launch in Quarter 2.

- Works on Cheslyn House and St Marys now complete with further maintenance work underway at the Chapel at Vicarage Road Cemetery subject to determining the best solution for the stonework. Planning for Phase to currently underway with an application for the third round of Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme in progress.
- The council has continued to deliver its popular Big Events programme over the last period, providing a diverse range of free activities for local residents and families. The Big Beach and Big Screen have been in place over the summer holidays.



Commitment	A	ctivity	BRAG' Rating	Trend	Headline
	Deliver improvements to Meriden Park	We will, in consultation with our residents, improve the popular and well-loved Meriden Park, including providing new paths, planting and landscaping, for the whole community to enjoy.	Green	*	In line with our commitment to improve Meriden Park, a consultation evening was held with local residents on 7 July 2022 seeking feedback on the concept design. All feedback has now been collated and the design will be updated and costed with work anticipated to commence in Autumn 2023.
Continue our investment in our outstanding parks	Continue our programme of investment and improvements in Watford's parks	We will carry out a range of improvements across our award winning parks and open spaces, including improving footpaths, refurbishing grass tennis courts, and carrying out cycling path repairs. In addition, we will promote the 'cycling code of conduct' and associated engagement programme to support considerate cycling.	Green	**	The successful award of 17 green flags across the borough demonstrates our ongoing commitment to our parks as a place for all residents and visitors to enjoy. In terms of specific activities, priority footpath improvement works have been undertaken in Cassiobury Park with an additional trial Beryl Bike bay installed close to the Hub building. To ensure that all visitors to can continue to use the park safely, our cycling code of conduct was launched in April 2022 providing guidance on how the space can be shared.
and open spaces so they remain the best in the area	Enhance Woodside Playing Fields so it offers improved facilities and opportunities for leisure and sport	We will invest in Woodside Playing Fields to enhance the activities on offer, including improvements to both the current boxing and cricket facilities.	Green	*	Following the initial concept design works at Woodside Playing Fields, the scheme design continues to be developed to ensure that it remains within the existing financial envelope. The rebased timeline continues to run to schedule with high level design options developed in relation to the pavilion, function hall, changing rooms and gym and toilet block. An updated design for the scheme is anticipated to be completed by October 2022.
	Complete our work in partnership for a new crematorium for south west Hertfordshire	We will complete the new crematorium and agree future running arrangements, with our partner local authorities, to deliver enhanced facilities, including a remembrance chapel and gardens.	Amber	*	Work continues on-site at the new crematorium at its Hemel Hempstead base, providing residents of South West Hertfordshire, including Watfordians, with enhanced facilities and service provisions. Inflation continues to pose a challenge to the project but work is expected to be completed by February 2023, as planned.
Celebrate and promote our town's rich and diverse culture and creativity	Reimagine our Museum and its place in telling the history of our town	We will develop proposals for a modern, inspiring Heritage and Museum service based in our historic Town Hall that engages and educates our residents and visitors by telling the story of our town and its rich and diverse history, including ensuring that the service and sacrifice of fallen service men and women is recognised.	Green	**	Cabinet approved the plans to relocate Watford Museum to our historic Town Hall in December 2021. Work on the design of the Museum in this space has continued with a bid to the National Heritage Lottery Fund being prepared to support the final vision. Works to the Town Hall itself are currently expected to commence in 2023 and complete in 2024, at which point fit-out works to the Museum can commence.
	Celebrate 100 years of Watford Borough, building a legacy for future generations	We will lead a programme of celebrations across the town commemorating 100 years since the formation of the borough of Watford.	Green	*	Our Big Centenary celebration was successfully held on 4 June 2022, with residents and visitors from across the town joining a parade down the High Street and festivities around the bandstand in Cassiobury Park. Our '100 people who made Watford' scheme has launched, celebrating the achievements of key residents over the year. An accompanying We are Watford film has been produced for launch in Quarter 2.



	Commitment	A	ctivity	BRAG' Rating	Trend	Headline
		Bring our local heritage to life for our community	We will create a new innovative heritage trail across the town to recognise Watford's rich culture and past.	Amber	**	Our trial heritage trail was successfully launched in March 2022, providing a digitally interactive route along the High Street. Plans to extend this will be timed to align with new projects such as the Blue Plaque Scheme, which formed part of the Mayor's Manifesto.
		Enhance the town's creative and cultural appeal through a new Public Art Strategy	We will develop a Public Art Strategy for Watford, to explore how art in all its forms, can animate and enhance our public spaces, building on Watford's strong sense of identity and creativity and linking to improved wayfinding across the town.	Amber	*	Recognising the importance of public art in attracting visitors to our High Streets, work is underway on the development of a Public Art Strategy for the town, with external support already secured. Whilst there were some initial delays in the procurement of the external support, now this has been completed it is expected that the Public Art Strategy will be completed in February 2023.
		Commemorate the town's links to our past	We will introduce a Blue Plaque scheme which will commemorate links between our historic buildings and famous residents, events or former buildings.	Planning in progress	*	This scheme will build on the 100 people who made Watford initiative, launched as part of our centenary celebrations. This provides a range of information on some of those Watfordians who have made exceptional contributions to the town and will feed into our innovative heritage trail.
Page 31		Mark and reflect on Watford's response to COVID-19	We will install a public memorial providing a place for reflection and commemoration to build on the community spirit and recognising the outstanding work across the town during the COVID-19 pandemic.	Amber	*	Given the significant impact of the Covid-19 pandemic across the town, work continues to design a public memorial. Further work is required with a revised option to be presented back to Portfolio Holders in October 2022.
31		Enhance our town's historical features and character	We will develop a series of conservation management plans to enhance and protect the historical features, and character, of different areas across the town.	Green	*	Online survey, social media and Urban room to go live 8 August and continue through September. Direct engagement with key resident groups is ongoing, with two school events on the future conservation management plans held in July. An online survey with social media advertising and our 'Urban Room' were launched on 8 August 2022 to provide more direct engagement with residents and the community.
	Promote our	Ensure everyone feels welcome, included and safe in Watford	We will continue to make sure people feel welcome and safe in Watford, working closely with our partners to bid for funding that will support ways to have a positive impact on levels of violence against women and girls.	Amber	*	Community Safety Partnership strategic plan for the next two years is due to be approved by One Watford in August. Priorities against which actions for all partners are currently being agreed are: Serious Youth Violence, Violence Against Women and Girls, Community Wellbeing and Reassure and Inform. Whilst the council were not successful in their bid for safer streets funding, work on reducing violence against women and girls continues.
	welcoming and respectful town	Establish our commitment to the wellbeing of women and girls	We will deliver 'White Ribbon' accreditation for Watford Borough Council as a part of our ongoing commitment to tackle violence against women and girls, and continue our productive engagement with our One Watford partnership, which is bringing together all strands of this work across the town.	Green	*	Following the above, an outline proposal for delivery of the White Ribbon action plan has been developed with work taken forward over the next period and specific updates scheduled at One Watford in both September and December.



	Commitment	А	ctivity	BRAG' Rating	Trend	Headline
		Make sure our town remains clean and free from litter	We will trial a new mobile CCTV approach, as part of our overall CCTV review, which allows us to target litter and fly-tipping hotspots and obtain evidence so that we can prosecute offenders, helping to keep our streets clean and litter-free.	Amber	**	The review in relation to our CCTV systems and operations is progressing, alongside the need to relocate the existing CCTV control room as a result of the move of the police station from Shady Lane to George Street. The pilot project to test the viability of mobile cameras is being planned.
		Develop a range of information and signposting to create a 'welcome to Watford' resource	We will develop a digital 'welcome to Watford' resource for new residents, setting out how they can be fully involved in the life of the town and make the most of Watford and all it has to offer.	Planning in progress	**	This project is scheduled to commence in Quarter 3.
		Engage with our community to support better outcomes for our town and residents	We will develop our strategic approach, setting out how we will proactively work and engage with our community and our voluntary and community sector.	Planning in progress	*	Mindful of the key role our community and voluntary sector played throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, we will commence a detailed review of our strategic approach to working and engaging with key community and voluntary partners in Autumn 2022.
	ten to and hear the diverse voices of	Continue to engage with our community so we actively listen to their views and ideas	We will continue to run our Pensioners Forum to provide support, guidance and companionship for our older residents, who contribute so much to the life of our town.	Green	*	Recognising the valuable contribution our elderly residents made to the town, and mindful of the additional support they may need, our Pensioners Forum continues to be held regularly, supported by Watford and Three Rivers Trust.
		Understand and support specific groups within our community	We will introduce a new Veterans Forum for exforces personnel, who have done so much for our town and country, building on our commitment to the Hertfordshire Armed Forces Covenant, which provides support between our civilian community and local Armed Forces community.	Planning in progress	**	Following a clear commitment in the Mayor's Manifesto, this project will be scoped in Quarter two with an update included within the next council plan update to Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
	Watford	Support the voluntary sector in Watford to provide positive outcomes for our residents	We will develop a new Voluntary Sector Commissioning Framework and work in partnership with charitable, community and voluntary organisations focused on helping our residents live healthy, happy and independent lives, understanding and meeting their needs through initiatives such as opening up the Town Hall to wider community use.	Green	*	Cabinet have agreed to extend the Voluntary Sector Commissioning Framework for one year (2023/2024) to conduct a review of the commissioned organisation. This work stream is also linked to the council's new community Framework.
		Ensure our community buildings benefit local residents	We will work with our community tenants to ensure our community buildings are well maintained, and, that our buildings maximise the benefits for local people.	Amber	**	Works on Cheslyn House and St Marys now complete with further maintenance work underway at the Chapel at Vicarage Road Cemetery subject to determining the best solution for the stonework. Planning for Phase to currently underway with an application for the third round of Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme in progress. Implementation of the existing phase two potentially delayed to allow alignment of refurbishment of community centres with decarbonisation opportunities.



Commitment	A	Activity	BRAG' Rating	Trend	Headline
	Deliver our Equality and Diversity policy so it underpins what we do and how we engage with our community	We will develop an Equality and Diversity policy for Watford, making sure it reflects our diverse town and our commitment to being a place where everyone can thrive.	Green	**	The policy is being developed but is waiting for the key data from Census 2021 so that it is based on a more up to date portrait of Watford's diverse community. Initial figures on population and age and sex profile has been released but the dates for other equalities related data has not been confirmed.
	Work with partners to end rough sleeping on the streets of Watford	We will continue to deliver our Homelessness Strategy for Watford, reviewing this on an annual basis and adapting it regularly to ensure that it remains innovative and effective, supporting our target of minimising rough sleepers on the streets of Watford.	Green	*	Significant progress has been made to reduce homelessness across the town in the last few years. The next review of the homelessness strategy is scheduled for Autumn 2022
	Encourage Watford to develop as an age friendly town	We will work towards making Watford an age- friendly town which residents and visitors of all ages can enjoy, ensuring local services are accessible to and inclusive of older people with varying needs and capacities.	Planning in progress		Work will commence over the next period to replicate the success of our Dementia Friendly Town initiative through creating an age friendly town. This will ensure that our local services are inclusive and accessible.
Page 33	Tackle digital isolation so residents can effectively engage using new technology	We will work with our partners, volunteers and community groups to support residents who do not have access to technology, choose not to do so or do not currently have the skills to use IT so that they have the same opportunities as others in our town.	Green	*	As part of the staying connected project, for which Watford is the county lead, a digital recycling scheme is now in place with residents able to drop off old devices for use by those who cannot afford to buy new technology, further supporting residents impacted by the cost of living crisis.
Support improved health and wellbein	Develop services to support our residents' health and wellbeing	We will work closely with our partners to develop a mental health strategy for Watford, ensuring the right support is available for residents who need it. Watford's Healthy Hub will provide a pivotal link to assistance and guidance, including opening up conversations about the menopause and for those needing help with mental health issues.	Green	*	Mental Health Strategy and Menopause work to be scoped September 2022. Healthy Hub service provision continues to be developed and improved as a new MOU has been signed with HCC securing funding of £35k for the next two years. The hub is providing a network to support residents to access information and support services to improve their health and wellbeing. Healthy Hubs in the community are being delivered through the community engagement team and are targeting areas where populations are experiencing higher levels of health inequalities.
across the town	Engage with health partners to improve public health and health inequalities for our residents	We will engages across our health partners to make sure the health and wellbeing needs of Watford are represented in new health structures and commissioning of services.	Green	**	MOU with HCC signed to ensure funding of £30k/annum for next two years to support delivery of work to reduce health inequalities. Approach of council to add value to Primary Care Network health inequalities projects being developed has been agreed with the Locality Partnership for health and care. Focus is on engaging with residents to develop a portrait of health for areas and groups that can inform health and care service delivery and development. As opportunities arise for local projects to amplify resident voices and deliver bespoke outcomes the team will seek funding and support and facilitate delivery with partners. Examples of engagement and outcomes so far:£10,000 from HCC secured to fund women only clinic for sex workers and other vulnerable women including those affected by domestic violence or drug and alcohol abuse who are unable to access health care; Badminton session for Pakistani women as initial step to addressing mental health exacerbated by social isolation; Working with cancer charities, Peace Hospice and cancer special nurses to educate on prevention, early screening and signposting to relevant services for support once cancer diagnosis made. A recent Healthy Hub supported by Lead Cancer Specialist nurse promoting cancer prevention, early screening and available support proved very successful.

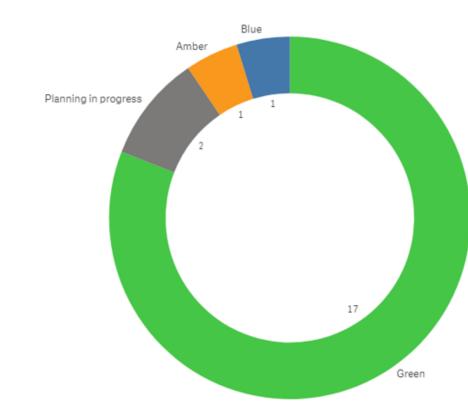


	Commitment	A	ctivity	BRAG' Rating	Trend	Headline
		Support single homeless people to access accommodation and support	We will continue to establish and embed our single homelessness pathway, focusing on the root causes of homelessness and working closely with our partners to support individuals on every part of their journey into independent living.	Green	*	The council is continuing to work with a range of partners to address rough sleeping with our single homelessness pathway having been in place for the past year. Over the past period, three successful operational staff seminars have been held with providers. The multi-disciplinary approach has been successful with 4 verified rough-sleepers at the last count.
to he		Make sure residents are aware of what help we offer to support them manage their finances	We will promote our council tax discount scheme so residents know support might be available to help them pay their bills.	Green	*	We no longer require customers to complete a claim form for council tax reduction where they are in receipt of Universal Credit. We promote the scheme at all contacts with customers on the telephone or at the customer centre. We have a dedicated officer to provide help for customers complete an online form if required.
		Coordinate advice in the town for those seeking information on how to cope with the cost of living crisis	We will work with partners to ensure people can access the advice and information they need when they face financial difficulties, particularly those who are vulnerable or are dealing with debt.	Amber	**	Initial meeting held with invited community groups and organisations on 14 July 2022, with a verbal update to Portfolio Holders on 18 July 2022. In order to ensure that tangible support is provided to local residents a designated Project Manager will manage a detailed Action Plan owned and delivered by all those groups and organisations involved.
		Use innovative ways to support our local community financially	We will build upon the success of our COVID-19 Fund, Ukraine Community Funds and Watford Community Fund to investigate a new local lottery to support our local community so that they can continue their good work in our town.	Planning in progress	*	There are a number of local lottery formats adopted across other areas that we will explore for Watford. The project will be scoped in Quarter 3, building on initial work that has been undertaken.
	Bring together ways to help our residents who might be struggling financially	Welcome the whole town and visitors to our Big Events	We will deliver our exciting, free programme of Big Events across the town, including our Big Screen, Big Beach and Fireworks, bringing our community together regularly in our town centre and parks.	Green	*	The council has continued to deliver its popular Big Events programme over the last period, providing a diverse range of free activities for local residents and families. The Big Beach and Big Screen have been in place over the summer holidays with Big Sports and fireworks planned for Quarter 3. Planning for Winter in Watford promotion is now also underway.
		Provide an appealing and lively programme of holiday activities for young people	We will continue to offer our young people exciting things to do during the Easter and summer holidays so they can be engaged and involved in an enjoyable range of free activities.	Green	*	Our free Easter and summer holiday programme has been delivered. We are convening a wider cost of living forum with organisations across the town to bring together the support available and to make sure local people are aware of where to go for help. This will include making sure people are aware of the benefits they are entitled to, including those administered by the council. The forum will also bring together data and information to build understanding of the extent of the crisis within Watford and make sure Watford is coordinating with county, regional and national support and campaigns.
		Improve private sector housing across the town, focusing on how it can contribute to both environmental and community benefits	We will support the sustainability of the town's privately owned homes making use of Energy Company Obligation funding to improve the energy efficiency and warmth of those who are vulnerable or on low incomes.	Green	*	We are poised to commence ECO as soon government lays affirmative regulations in Parliament We have signed a partnership agreement with E.ON (who has one of the biggest eco obligations) and have been in discussions directly with installers. ECO delivery is expected through to the end of the scheme in March 2026

Commitment	Activity		BRAG' Rating	Trend	Headline
	Help our community better access the benefits of Watford's economic growth	We will explore ways to create a resilient and inclusive economy that benefits our community, building on foundations from the Hertfordshire Community Wealth Building project, linking local people with opportunities and supporting our voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector link to make a greater economic contribution.	Planning in progress	**	Following the approval of the Council Plan 2022-26 and our Economic Growth Strategy, planning is underway to develop and deliver a community wealth building plan which helps our communities — both business and resident communities — benefit more from the investment. Through this work, we will also connect with developers, skills providers and the voluntary/community sector to shape the plan and set out delivery activities. We will utilise the UKSPF to help increase development supply chain opportunities for local businesses.

THEME: A council working for our community and serving our residents Overview

Key achievements over this period



- In order to support local people and particularly our younger residents, we are currently recruiting for five Corporate Apprentices to join us on a two year programme, working with services from across the organisation to provide them with the skills, knowledge and experience to help start their careers, whilst providing valuable public services to our customers.
- The council is refreshing its Customer Experience Strategy, aimed at ensuring we engage with, and provide the best service for, our customers whether they be residents, businesses, community groups or partners. Following engagement with service areas across the council, a draft Customer Experience Strategy will be reviewed by members prior to finalisation and publication.
- Senior management restructure has been completed and came into effect on 1 August 2022, aligning the internal resource of the organisation to the delivery of the Council Plan. Any savings as a result of the changes will be prioritised to support the delivery of the Council Plan and to provide the best front line services to our residents, businesses and community.
- Business Cases for Planning Enforcement, Building Control and Legal shared services with St Albans City and District Council have been approved at Full Council and work is now underway to implement the new services.
- The council's new collaborative and focused working space opened in July 2022, providing a modern and fit for purpose space for teams to deliver the very best services to residents, businesses and the community. Work is still

Page 3

underway to align the space to the new council values and behaviours, for implementation over the next period.



Commitment	A	ctivity	BRAG' Rating	Trend	Headline
	Provide an excellent customer experience for everyone who engages with the council	We will prepare and deliver a new Customer Experience Strategy to transform how we engage with our customers over the next four years, delivering a real step change across all our services, embracing innovation and embedding a first class experience our customers will value.	Green	**	Work is underway of the council's refreshed Customer Experience Strategy, aimed at ensuring we engage with, and provide the best service for, our customers whether they be residents, businesses, community groups or partners. Following engagement with service areas across the council, a draft Customer Experience Strategy will be reviewed by members prior to finalisation and publication.
Make sure we deliver an outstanding customer	Champion a greener and more sustainable council that strives to reduce our carbon footprint	We will embed our ambition to be net carbon neutral by 2030 by continuing to deliver our organisational Sustainability Action Plan so that it intrinsic to everything and ensures we reduce our carbon footprint in line with our green goals.	Planning in progress	**	The Council continues to lead by example to deliver our organisational Sustainability Action Plan - climate change is being incorporated into the latest Corporate and Service risk registers and considered in the delivery of the Council's projects and programmes (e.g. 94% of Annexe refurbishment materials were recycled). We continue to work with our management company LSH to embed sustainability in our investment portfolio. The Director of Finance is undertaking LGA Senior Leadership training on sustainability which will ensure it is considered in the Council's financial decisions and processes. We are progressing the introduction of Sustainability Impact Assessments to our governance processes. Our procurement process is being updated to include sustainability and climate action measures in all tenders
experience and the high quality services our community expects	Focus the right resources in the right places to secure future success	We will review how we employ our resources (including staff and finances) to make sure they are focussed on the areas which are most important to the council and support the delivery of this Plan.	Green	*	Senior management restructure has been completed and came into effect on 1 August 2022, aligning the internal resource of the organisation to the delivery of the Council Plan. Any savings as a result of the changes will be prioritised to support the delivery of the Council Plan and to provide the best front line services to our residents, businesses and community.
	Explore opportunities to share services with other councils where it delivers best value and better customer outcomes	We will work with other authorities to develop and implement business cases that explore opportunities to share more services where this will deliver improvements for our customers.	Green	**	Business Cases for Planning Enforcement, Building Control and Legal shared services with St Albans City and District Council have been approved by Council and work is now underway to implement the new services. Governance is now in place and the shared service agreement is being drafted. Due diligence is underway aligning performance indicators, service levels and job descriptions. Launch of the Planning Enforcement and Building Control shared service is expected in November 2022 with Legal implementation planned for January 2023.
	Make sure the council continues to hold successful and well run elections	We will support and prepare for the implementation of the Elections Act 2022 so that our elections continue to be effectively managed and voters are well informed on elections and how to exercise their right to vote.	Planning in progress	*	Whilst the council continue to plan for successful elections, the Government has yet to produce specific detail in relation to the requirements of the Elections Act 2022, beyond the need for Voter ID in 2023. In order to ensure that the council continue to provide well run and effectively managed elections, the team will attend training in September which will provide an overview of the upcoming changes.



Commitment	Α	ctivity	BRAG' Rating	Trend	Headline
	Adopt the right digital technology that matches and supports our ambition for excellent service delivery for our residents	We will develop and deliver a new four-year ICT strategy to drive forward how we use ICT and digital technology to deliver our ambitions, seeking opportunities to innovate to meet the needs of the council and our community.	Green	*	Significant work has been underway to support the council's move to the collaborative and office work space in the Annexe to facilitate the Town Hall refurbishment. This includes the migration of the data centre to an external site. Work on the ICT Strategy has commenced with Member engagement scheduled after the summer and completion expected in early 2023.
Pioneer new ways of working that	Deliver a step change in how we use our data and information so it strengthens our drive for constant improvement	We will improve how we use our data and information to challenge our decisions, enhance performance and support excellent customer experience, using our information to monitor service delivery and to drive action if something needs improving.	Green	*	The council's business intelligence platform has been implemented with a number of services now live. Our Business Intelligence strategy is underway ensuring that we use the existing data to improve performance across the organisation, using it as a key decision making tool and to highlight issues.
challenge us to innovate, transform and consistently improve	Strengthen our approach to contract management to ensure we are making the most of our contracts and that they are delivering for us and the town	We will implement a robust contract management framework to ensure we deliver expected outcomes and excellent value for money from our contracts, providing the best service for our customers.	Green	*	A review of the documentation that currently exists within the Council in relation to contract management is currently underway. There is a Contract Management Toolkit that predominantly advises on pre Contract award and the procedures required to operate a project and achieve the necessary permissions to proceed which is being reviewed as part of this work. The intention is to strengthen existing guidance and produce a "Guide to Contract Management" for a good generic overview, with key elements and tools taken from the existing documentation.
	Embed social value through our procurement process	We will update our Procurement Strategy to strengthen our approach to evidencing economic, social and environmental outcomes when procuring, awarding and delivering contracts.	Blue	*	A refreshed Procurement Strategy, with an emphasis on social value, has been drafted and presented to the council's Corporate Management Board for consideration. Further draft has been written and presented to Portfolio Holders, including the Portfolio Holder for Property, Resources and Customer Service. Feedback will be taken into account prior to finalisation and approval.
Focus and challenge how we manage our budget so it is concentrated on delivering our commitments and	Ensure our investment portfolio is ambitious and effectively managed to deliver maximum value to the council	We will ensure that we are actively managing our investment portfolio, including exploring new opportunities to protect our income, manage risk and maximise value over the longer term, so that we can continue to provide high quality services to our residents and businesses.	Green	**	We have agreed 4 long leasehold extensions on Watford Business Park (WBP) which generated capital receipt in excess of £1.5m and secured rental income (with rent review protection) for the medium to long term. We are continuing to utilise the council's existing land bank to generate further income through development. Examples include the Gateway site at WBP and the Riverwell Multi-Storey Car Park. Our Out of Borough Assets are continuing to perform well, including the Coleshill Industrial Estate rents which have grown from £6.50 psf to £7.50 psf in the last twelve months.
securing greater investment for Watford	Assess the feasibility of a Growth Fund and its benefits for Watford	We will explore where our financial strength can support start-up and growth opportunities delivering a positive investment return for the council and renewed prosperity for the town.	Planning in progress	*	The Council has set aside £500k towards a Growth Fund. As part of the LUF bid, a further £500k has been requested to complement the Innovation Hub initiative. This would enable a £1m fund to be set up to support businesses in the hub, through a grants and loan scheme to enable them to access funding that they would otherwise not easily be able to obtain, in order to develop their businesses. If the Council does not receive funding from LUF, the fund may continue in another form.



Commitment	Α	ctivity	BRAG' Rating	Trend	Headline
	Manage and direct the council finances effectively	We will ensure that our budgets align with our priorities and that budget management is robust, forward-looking and supports the best possible service outcomes from available resources, enabling us to keep council tax increases below inflation.	Green	**	The 2022/23 budget included a Council Tax increase of 1.5%, well below inflation. The first monitoring report for 2022/23 will be presented to Finance Scrutiny in September ahead of presentation to Cabinet. The 2023/24 budget setting process has now begun and will ensure that council resources continue to align to council priorities to deliver the best possible service outcomes. The Local Government Finance Settlement, expected late Autumn, will set out the referendum limit for council tax increases alongside details of core
	Identify new commercial opportunities that align with our ambition	We will look for new and innovative commercial opportunities that will align to our values, whilst ensuring a financial return that can be used to support the council's activities for the benefit of the borough.	Green	*	funding. In line with the council's ambition to utilise commercial opportunities, strategic outline cases have been drafted for a number of initiatives, including a Vertical Farm, EV Charging Hub and Green Investment Bonds. In each case they require working with external partners with expertise in the specific areas to enable these initiatives and further work is now underway to develop the business cases further.
ם מ	Manage our ambitious capital programme so that it supports our aspirations	We will develop a commercial risk and mitigation strategy for our capital programme to protect the council against turbulence in global markets, whilst still delivering our ambitious programme of improvements.	Amber	**	The rapid and significant increase in inflation poses significant risks to the affordability of the Capital Investment Programme. The greatest exposure is to projects that are at the pre-tender stage where there Council has not yet entered into contract. Where possible, mitigations are in place such as the early purchase of materials to protect against future price rises.
Page 40	Invest our Croxley Park funds in ethical investments	We will make sure the funds we receive from Croxley Park are invested in a sustainable way to deliver financial goals and better future for us all.	Green	*	Funds from the Croxley Park investment are placed with the Royal London Sustainable Diversified Trust Fund and Royal London Sustainable Managed Growth Trust Fund with the aim to provide capital growth that will maintain the value of the investment in line with inflation. The performance of these funds is monitored by the Property Investment Board and reported through the Council's budget monitoring report.
Lead by example, securing our reputation as a forward thinking, caring and inspiring	Build on our innovative approach to agile working, realising the benefits for our staff and our community	We will ensure our staff are able to provide timely high quality and efficient services to customers by opening up opportunities for staff to work in an agile way in a modern, collaborative and inspiring workplace, helping the council to become an employer of choice.	Green	**	The council's new collaborative and focused working space opened in July 2022, providing a modern and fit for purpose space for teams to deliver the very best services to residents, businesses and the community. Work is still underway to align the space to the new council values and behaviours, for implementation over the next period.
organisation where staff can thrive and achieve their best for our residents and businesses		We will open up opportunities for our staff to grow and develop, building their skills and knowledge to achieve. Where we do recruit, we will appoint the best, ensuring we recruit people with the right experience and behaviours to be part of 'Team Watford'.	Green	**	Whilst the new agile space has provided the physical space to attract and retain the best staff, a new performance management system has also additionally been launched to facilitate and promote staff development needs. In addition, the values and behaviours project will set out expected behaviours for 'Team Watford', ensuring that we provide the very best service to our residents, businesses and community.



Commitment	A	activity	BRAG' Rating	Trend	Headline
	Embed our values and behaviours so they inspire our staff to achieve even more and underpin how we work	We will collaboratively develop meaningful corporate values and behaviours with our staff and use these as the foundation to implement a behaviours framework. This will help develop the skills of our people at all levels, and from all backgrounds, to recognise individual contributions, expertise and knowledge and to improve the resident and customer focused services we deliver.	Green	**	All staff workshops completed and analysis of work by external consultants and design group members complete. Initial framework presented to the council's Corporate Management Team in July with final values and behaviour framework to be agreed in September.
	Refresh our Organisational Development approach so that it effectively underpins and supports our Council Plan	We will ensure we develop, motivate and inspire our staff so they are supported and empowered to do their best for our residents and businesses by refreshing our Organisational Development approach.	Green	*	To ensure that we continue to support staff to deliver the very best service for our residents, a new performance management system has been launched alongside new mandatory learning modules so all objectives, linked to the delivery of the Council Plan, and check ins can be accessed in one place for staff. Our refreshed values and behavioural framework will be confirmed in Autumn 2022 and then worked into the employment lifecycle from recruitment and onboarding to development and progression.
Page 41	Seek and implement opportunities for people to have fulfilling local government careers	We will create apprenticeship opportunities for local people at the beginning of their working life, providing them with experience, skills and knowledge from across the council to help kick start their careers.	Green	*	In order to support local support and particularly our younger residents, we are currently recruiting for five Corporate Apprentices to join us on a two year programme, working with services from across the organisation to provide them with the skills, knowledge and experience to help start their careers, whilst providing valuable public services to our customers.
	Protect the physical and mental health and wellbeing of our staff	We will ensure that we protect the physical and mental health and wellbeing of our staff by developing their resilience and providing opportunities for genuine two-way engagement	Green	**	Health and Wellbeing training has been planned and will be rolled out across September to increase the resilience of all staff but particularly front line staff. The upcoming yearly appraisal cycle and opening of the new collaborative working space (with physical provides a further opportunity for line managers to support employees and discuss health and wellbeing.



Organisational Development Strategy 2020-24 Progress Update

Theme 1 - Workforce Health and Wellbeing

Key Achievements over last period

- Successful pilot session of Health and Wellbeing training to increase resilience completed rollout of sessions planned for September/ October
- Training delivered to various staff groups on the following topics: Mental Wellbeing in the Workplace, Menopause and Mental Health First Aid
- Values and Behaviours workshops completed with an opportunity for all staff to contribute

Theme BRAG Analysis

ב כ	BRAG rating	Key	Total number in theme
5		Completed	8
ر		On track	5
		Potential risks	0
		Challenges	0
		Planning in progress	0
	Total		13

COMMITMENT		Key Milestones	'RAG' Rating	Update
Focus on tackling stigma associated with mental health				
Take steps to improve the number of	All managers to be trained in how to spot		Completed	7 dates were arranged in November
managers who feel confident to spot the	signs of mental health issues with			/ December 2020 with the majority
early warning signs of mental health and have	Remploy providing relevant training			of managers having attended
the skills to manage those conversations	course which will consist of 2 x 2hr on-			specialist training by January 2021.
	line face to face group training.			Since then further sessions have
				been held and future sessions will be



N	1ental health first aid training for colleagues,	Mental Health First Aiders (MHFA) to be		Completed	arranged subject to demand and sufficient numbers attending. On-line e-learning courses available
	nabling them to spot the signs and offer upport.	accessible.			to all staff together with an online consulting tool. Additional volunteers for MHFA have been identified, signed up and received training. Further support for staff is available through Remploy and the staff intranet updated with details.
d	ackle stigma around mental health issues or eclaring a disability by encouraging open onversations	Increase awareness of policies and use of on-line material to ensure staff have knowledge to recognise when help is required.		Completed	Regular and ongoing communication relating to mental health issued and planned. Intranet contains a wealth of information which is regularly updated. Additional funding received from government and our Mental Health Champions are in the process of reviewing different options. We will continue to liaise with Mental Health Champions and First Aiders to recognise the individual needs of employees who may be reluctant to share concerns.
	OMMITMENT upport personal and professional growth in he	ealth subjects	Key Milestones	'RAG' Rating	Update
	ontinue to grow and develop "Watford ealth and You" resources.	Intranet pages to be updated with information on a regular basis.		Completed	The intranet information is reviewed on a monthly basis and updates added for staff.



1	Create and publicise a range of opportunities to learn and build good habits on health and wellbeing topics so our people can access e-earning and interactive, habit changing sessions. - Factors affecting wellbeing at work control and autonomy) - Food, sleep and exercise - Financial health	Identify e-learning opportunities and ensure they are advertised and accessible via the i-Learn platform		Completed	New resources are constantly being identified and added to our library accessible through the intranet. Communications sent out to staff regarding the new material available.
,	Use focus groups to develop a health and wellbeing programme – with access to a number of health and improvement areas.	Design and Launch a programme with feedback from group Ensure there is resilience and a feeling of wellbeing amongst staff, as measured by Wellbeing Survey Increased staff satisfaction and motivation as measured by staff survey	By Sept 2022	On track	Mental Health First Aiders and Wellbeing Champions group established and now meeting on a quarterly basis to discuss wellbeing issues and help identify trends which are then reviewed by the Leadership Board. The group continue to meet regularly and provide feedback on initiatives. Grant received via Government to spend on mental wellbeing including workshops in September 2022. Activities to include resilience training, mental health first aid (new and refresher courses) and support for managers to spot signs of mental health concerns.



	COMMITMENT Ensure our occupational health and employee accessible to all	assistance offering is high quality and	Key Milestones	'RAG' Rating	Update
	Continued promotion of the benefits of the Employee Assistance Programme and Occupational Health services.	Regular ongoing communication to take place to ensure all staff are aware of external support that is available.		Completed	Intranet resources are regularly updated and communication for staff pointing to these resources.
	COMMITMENT Craft great roles where our people feel in contrand feel well supported to do so	rol over the best way to deliver their work	Key Milestones	'RAG' Rating	Update
Page 45	Ensure that all of our people have access to "job crafting" training, so that they can develop skills to enhance flow, productivity, engagement and wellbeing. In this context Job Crafting is linked to leadership development to help employees to think through productivity enhancement and flow of work to team members, recognising that the job might be the same, but that people might approach the task in very different ways - in its simplest form, some people prefer to work early, and other prefer to work late	Develop a process whereby employees have an opportunity to review the effectiveness of their role so that they can learn how to identify improvements and any new skills required	By Sept 2022	On track	Work to be fully scoped so that it also links in with Values and Behaviours project which is ongoing throughout 2022. Leadership Development programmes to include sessions on productivity and improvement as well as taking into account the recent restructure alongside redefined roles. Senior leadership training separate management course scheduled for September 2022. In the meantime, agile training has been rolled out to include the need to focus on outputs and optimisation of work flow.
	Ensure our leadership programmes emphasise the importance of engaging and co-designing work so all of our people feel able to contribute new ideas and instigate new and better ways of doing things	Key competencies to be identified and incorporated into updated Leadership Programme	By 1 October 2022	On track	Final values and behaviours to be agreed in September 2022 by Corporate Management Board. This will provide the basis on which



					competencies can be developed and behaviour measured against.
	Support teams to regularly pause and reflect on their work. Discussions should be around how to optimise team effectiveness and create a psychologically safe workspace	Develop a pro-forma to be used in team discussion to identify team successes and process improvement opportunities. Staff Ambassador Group to review in first instance	By September 2022	On track	Focus groups using managers and staff ambassadors to be created to input into the pro forma and contribute other ideas and suggestions for the delivery of this objective. Mental Health in the Workplace courses and H&WB workshops, scheduled for September 2022
	COMMITMENT		Key Milestones	'RAG' Rating	Update
Pag	Champion physical health				
ge 46	Adopt Public Health England workplace health standards and refresh our HR policies.	Review policies and procedures to ensure they are compliant with standards Ensure managers are confident in the support they can give their teams Benchmark or standards against other organisations	By September 2022	On track	Policies regularly reviewed and interim policies, to reflect the Covid-19 situation are introduced, for example interim Smarter Working policy. Policies will also be compared to Public Health England standards to identify gaps and improvements required. H&S Specialist at HCC contacted to advise on alignment with Agile principles.
	Evaluation of pilot health check programme (environmental health)	Gain feedback from provider on common issues that need to be addressed		Completed	Pilot took place in June 2020 with approx. 50% take up by staff. Whilst some elements were positive, overall feedback indicated this was not an approach for Watford to take forward currently.



Rollout of health check programme across	Collate and analyse anonymised data	Completed	'Wellbeing with CARI' rolled out to
the wider council	from system to identify any trends.		all staff in July 2020. Links to
			assessment have been added to all
			Mental Health and Wellbeing
			newsletters. Whilst CARI had some
			benefits, overall the feedback from
			staff was limited and, with other
			support in place, we are not taking
			the initiative forward.



Theme 2 – An Organisation Driven by Values and Behaviours

Following on from delays to starting this project due to Covid-19, the initial workshop on the council's future values and behaviours was held with the Leadership Team in January. This initial workshop agreed the high level process for the Values and Behaviours workshops to be rolled out across the organisation.

Following on from this, staff workshops were held across a number of weeks in March and April to give each employee an opportunity to attend and have their input to help shape the future values and behaviours for Watford.

The outputs from all the workshops were collated and further developed with input from a focus group of employees from across the Council. Leadership Board has had initial sight of the draft values and behaviours framework with a final decision to be made in September.

Following on from this, an implementation plan has been written to ensure the values and behaviours are then embedded within the Council including all the policies throughout the employee lifecycle as well as across the wider remit of the Council.

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3	BRAG rating	Key	Total number in theme
0		Completed	2
		On track	13
		Potential risks	0
		Challenges	0
		Planning in progress	0
	Total		15



	COMMITMENT Work with staff and stakeholder to	create our values and behaviours	Key Milestones	'RAG' Rating	Update
	Workshops to be arranged with Cabinet and SLT, with input from Ambassadors Group.	Workshops to review teamwork within Leadership Team and agree Values and behaviours required for effective working. Workshops to be held face to face.	September 2022	On track	All staff workshops have taken place and design group has helped shape outputs from these along with external support. Newly formed CMB to review proposed values and behaviours in September 2022
Page 49	Staff Ambassadors Group to take part in meetings to feedback	Group is established and working	October 2022	On track	Staff Ambassador group has met several times and provided input to the council's Chief Executive. There will be ongoing meetings as the final values and behaviours emerge and are agreed
	Design, schedule and facilitate focus groups and drop-in sessions using a range of digital and face to face channels, providing a forum for employees to contribute and shape the values and behaviours they believe are important to the Council	Workshops to be attended by majority of staff who will be able to propose both the Values and Behaviours they see as important for the benefit of effective working.		Completed	Workshops took place between March and April 2022 facilitated by external support. Workshops were held across a number of dates and times to ensure all staff had an opportunity to attend and contribute their views
	Listen, reflect upon and incorporate the views of under-	Identify those individuals who have not had the opportunity to take part		Completed	Staff who were not able to attend were encouraged to



	represented workforce groups within the Council, building on our representation as an inclusive employer, ensuring that our values and behaviours work for all.	in workshop and seek their views through telephone consultation.			pass their views on to a colleague or manager to contribute at a session on their behalf. Extra sessions were scheduled to take into account school holidays and different working hours
_	Carry out meetings with Cabinet members and LT to shape values and behaviours that align to our organisational ambitions and goals as set out in our Council Plan	Summary of key Values and Behaviours, as suggested by employees, and approved by LT to be discussed and shared with UNISON.	September 2022	On track	Final values and behaviours to be agreed in September 2022 to allow the new senior team more time to consider the proposals.
Page 50	Summarise and present key themes from engagement sessions, incorporating them into an all staff communication.	Summary of key Values and Behaviours, as suggested by employees to be published together with timetable of implementation.	October 2022	On track	Staff engagement has informed the current proposals and feedback will follow on from agreement by Leadership Board and senior team of final values and the behavioural framework. Key themes are to be integrated across the Council as part of the implementation plan
	COMMITMENT We will make sure our leaders emb everything they do	ody the values and behaviours in	Key Milestones	'RAG' Rating	Update
	Design and deliver a senior leadership development programme for the council's 1 st and 2 nd tier leaders, aligned to	Content to include information relating to Performance Review and Check-in meetings and the need for all staff to review not only what has been	September 2022	On track	External consultants to deliver senior management team training following the recent senior management



	the values and aimed at supporting positive role modelling of behaviours in leadership	achieved but how it was achieved including reviewing behaviours displayed.			restructure to take into account new structure and expectations going forward, including agreed values & behaviours
Page 51	'Watford Leads' development course will build management skills and confidence amongst all team managers and leaders (3 rd tier managers), centred around the values and behaviours	Liaise with suppliers to ensure workshop content makes reference to Values and Behaviours and how this forms part of everyday management	November 2022	On track	New providers for the council's new development programme are currently being sought with potential to join up with other Councils to maximise the return of investment. Short-term solution rolled out with new provider and feedback to be collated by November 2022 (on completion of first 3-day course).
•	COMMITMENT Launch our values and behaviours		Key Milestones	'RAG' Rating	Update
	Rollout of values and behaviours across every aspect of the employee journey, including, with input from Staff Ambassadors:	Identify all "touch points" from Recruitment to leaving including internal job application process where there is an opportunity to refer to our Values and Behaviours.	September 2022	On track	Detailed project plan will be updated with revised dates following on from confirmation of final values and behaviours in September
•	Create an organisational launch and series of local team engagement events	Lunch and Learn sessions designed for all staff on understanding how to embed values and behaviours in everything we do.	October 2022	On track	Comms plan as part of the implementation plan (above) to be rolled out following on from agreement of final



	Demonstration of how the values and behaviours support the delivery of these priorities	Each department to produce a case study of improvements that can be made to their service incorporating new ways of working.	November 2022	On track	Part of the implementation plan must ensure each service area can interpret the behavioural expectations alongside the values and the relevance to individual roles.
-	Refresh our Internal Communications and Engagement Strategy and align it to the council's Council Plan by improving the cascade of strategic updates, recognition of success.	Internal communications to specifically link values and behaviours to messages.	December 2022	On track	Linked to the rollout plan in terms of updating all departments developing new ways of working to promote the new values and behaviours.
Page	COMMITMENT Embed our values and behaviours so that they are 'lived not laminated'		Key Milestones	'RAG' Rating	Update
52	Embed our Council values and behaviours through workshops and celebrating successes, reaching every single employee; with values included in every process from recruitment through to annual reviews.	All interactions to include reference to our values and behaviours and how they will impact the interaction.	April 2022	On track	Implementation plan written and to be updated with dates once values and behaviours agreed. This 'embedding' of values and behaviours will take some time, but everyone across the Council knows this is coming and ways of working will be updated
	Review of people policies and processes to reflect desired values and behaviours	All policies to be reviewed to ensure they are aligned to our Values and Behaviours	December 2022	On track	Approach to Implementation written to incorporate whole employee lifecycle and review of polices within this lifecycle.

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	Key Milestones	'RAG'	Update
Reward those who exemplify our values and behaviours		Rating	
The review will consider both monetary (including the team ecognition reward) and non-monetary recognition. Itaff Ambassador suggestions to date include Star of the month Monetary Incentives Thank you Cards Compliments Board	April 2022	On track	To be discussed and agreed taking employees group views on board once the values and behaviours confirmed. Consideration to be given to extrinsic and intrinsic rewards
The net net net net net net net net net ne	ne review will consider both onetary (including the team cognition reward) and nononetary recognition. aff Ambassador suggestions to date clude Star of the month Monetary Incentives Thank you Cards	April 2022 April 2022	Rating Re review will consider both onetary (including the team cognition reward) and non-onetary recognition. aff Ambassador suggestions to date clude Star of the month Monetary Incentives Thank you Cards Compliments Board



Theme 3 – Become an Agile Organisation

Key Achievements over last period

- 38 Agile charters completed for all teams by Jan 2022
- Common themes determined in workshop on 17 Feb 2022 with Watford Reimagining Team, some pathfinders and Unison.
- The Reimagining Watford team supported the opening of the new office space (which was launched on 20 July) with agile guidance so that the benefits of the new space are maximised.
- Corporate guidance on use of 8x8, Outlook and meeting etiquette approved by Project Board and provided to all employees. Agile charters were encouraged to be constantly reviewed as an evolving document. Pathfinders will champion agile ways of working and with managers, role model these new ways of working reflecting the Values and Behaviour work stream (which will be determined in Sept 2022).

Theme BRAG Analysis

Page	BRAG rating	Key	Total number in theme
		Completed	8
54		On track	4
		Potential risks	0
		Challenges	0
		Planning in progress	5
	Total		17

COMMITMENT Optimise choice over when and where our people work		Key Milestones	'RAG' Rating	Update
Team based review of processes, learning and ways of working pre-, during and post-crisis.	Each team agrees how they will work going forward, with a formal date for reflection and review.		Completed	The Covid-19 pandemic resulted in the majority of staff working remotely rather than being office based. However, the new collaborative space for staff has now been opened, informed by staff feedback and a more



				agile way of working, allowing us to maximise the use of available space.
	Deliberate decisions and actions are taken to retain and embed ways of working that support agility	Each team participates in a simple team reflection session. A focus on what to stop, drop, continue, and re-invigorate, post COVID-19	Completed	Flexible working is in place with staff working at home to suit their own personal situations. Managers are checking in with staff and ensuring key activities continue. Agile working space has now been launched.
Page 55	Teams and the wider organisation agree what agile working is, and could be, so there is clarity (for example, in future, will 100% homeworking be acceptable for some roles?)	Clarity as to what agile working is, and recognition that "one size does not fit all" in each service – tested through the staff survey. "Challenge sessions" in LB where leaders can challenge each other, with a view to optimising an agile mind-set (at least every quarter).	Completed	Agile Charters developed for all service areas, setting out how each department can deliver the best service to residents and businesses
	Creation of agile champions. Teams, leaders and staff who can share their experiences (this becomes a recognised badge of honour).	Publication of case studies (at least every quarter). Reward and recognition of best practice.	Completed	Agile Champions have been appointed and supported the roll out of Agile Charters and the opening of the collaborative working space for staff
	Development of organisational case studies in agility to demonstrate the art of the possible in different types of teams.	Agile can be developed in different ways across different teams, the measurement is in team members feeling that they have some control and autonomy of when, where and how they work, in the context of their department, as measured the staff survey	Completed	Agile Charters and collaborative working space now in place, informed by case studies at different organisations.



	COMMITMENT Design ways of working that challenge and further develop an agile mindset		Key Milestones	'RAG' Rating	Update
a	People policies (particularly health nd safety and flexible working) are eviewed to optimise agile working	Policies reviewed, signed off and publicised. Flexibility and responsiveness that was demonstrated during crisis is replicated and embedded postcrisis and reflected in our policies.		Completed	Interim Smarter Working (Agile) policy introduced. Other policies have already been reviewed, updated and published.
þ	align our annual review (appraisal) process with our succession planning and staff development approach	Incorporate our staff's interests in deepening their understanding of other parts of the council and from this: • Develop a register of interests of individuals who wish to gain exposure or experience in another area • Be considered for a secondment or temporary promotion opportunity	October 2022	On track	Line managers to discuss and record as part of their regular catch up sessions. HR to build a database of individuals' interest and to contact relevant managers with opportunities required and available. New performance management system is now live and annual appraisal process is underway, due to complete by August 2022
t t	Re-design and delivery of project eams, where staff are chosen because of their functional role or experience. Instead, there will be a deliberate move to encourage beople to work on projects because of their interest and potential.	Establish a direct link to a new Leadership Development programme. This will result in a record take-up of project roles in different areas of the business.		Planning in progress	i-perform launched 1 October 2020 as new check-in (1:1 meetings) and annual review platform. This incorporates development discussions and a section for recording skills to kick start the central database of staff skills and abilities. iTrent has superseded iPerform and is currently live. Check-ins to be developed from here



	Creation of opportunities to pilot new approaches to agile working service models and solutions, with clear evaluation criteria	There will be a swift response to new demand. We will initially test on small scale, engaging users, gathering insight and learning what will work on a larger scale e.g. possible focus on digital solutions		Completed	Bi-monthly Team reflection exercises to identify and test opportunities to change processes that increase productivity.
	COMMITMENT Supporting the development of digital		Key Milestones	'RAG' Rating	Update
Page 57	Support colleagues to improve their digital skills using a blend of face to face and online channels	Assessment of our workforce digital learning requirements as we roll out digital solutions for our communities.	October 2022	On track	Develop a programme of courses that will increase awareness and use of digital technologies. Digital training has been and is available for all staff. Further developments in the training to be reviewed following completion of annual appraisals via iTrent, with digital training needs highlighted as part of the review.
-	Creation of a digital mentor programme which buddies up "technophobes with techno geeks" promoting digital and potentially intergenerational learning	Number of successful buddying relationships established.	September 2022	On track	Through the performance development review process, identify experts in their field and encourage them to become mentors for those developing in their roles.
	Creation of "digital champions" clustered around our most popular digital hard and software (such as 8x8). Champions will be available to share their knowledge and learning,	Digital champions established and regularly publicised and supported to help and coach others.		Completed	Identify champions in their specialist areas and publicise their availability to help those in need of increasing their knowledge and confidence. Each area has an IT Champion (not Digital Champion). This is something



informally with colleagues across the Council.				slightly different a review took place to clarify roles and now in place
COMMITMENT Break down silos across teams		Key Milestones	'RAG' Rating	Update
Creation of an annual service roadshow – an opportunity for our staff to show case to each other the work they are doing, and learn more about different parts of the Council	Roadshow takes place, is vibrant, well attended and evaluates well		Planning in progress	This was due to be reviewed when we returned to a more consistent face to face working environment. Now that is achieved, the time is to revisit this and explore whether to take forward
Review and re-design of corporate and local induction to reduce silo working and set expectations from the outset, to include:	Time spent in the CSC, as the face of the Council will be mandatory for all new starters. Each new starter will spend a minimum of two days working directly with at least two teams that their new role will require them to interface with, in the first 12 weeks of their employment.	December 2022	On track	Corporate induction has started to be reviewed and potentially delivered online (e-learning) and local induction will be reviewed to incorporate new values and behaviours. Agreement in principle from CSC to host new starters.
A commitment that all staff, irrespective of their role or level in the organisation, can spend up to five days per year, working in, or shadowing in another department, to improve their understanding and make important links.	Take up of developmental opportunity to work in another department or team. An opportunity to blog and share their learning and experience, to encourage take up.		Planning in progress	Pro-forma to be designed and distributed to all service managers to identify work shadowing opportunities in their direct area. Details of all opportunities to be shared on intranet so that managers can arrange. Covid restrictions had stopped office working and now is the time to revisit this commitment.



Ī	Creation of "partnership timeouts"	Creation of tool which can be used	Planning	Tool to be developed at start of new
	where different parts of the council	by teams who often interface to	progress	year to reflect the working
	who are internal customers to each	identify process improvements.		arrangements in force at the time.
	other, can come together, review	Participants will gain a greater		This will be linked to the Values and
	ways of working and reflect on how	understanding of the work of		Behaviours to ensure everyone has a
	the customer transfers seamlessly	different teams and departments		mind-set to look at continuous
	between teams.	and have greater insight and		evolution of the customer journey.
		awareness of the impact of their		
		work on other teams.		
	In recognition that silos take place in	Creation and delivery of OD tools	Planning	n Tool to be developed at start of new
	hierarchy, as well as across teams,	to support leaders to encourage	progress	year to reflect the working
	take steps to empower front line	the whole team, irrespective of		arrangements in force at the time.
	teams and individuals to take action	role or grade to lead innovation		Draft of leadership programme
	and make changes to practices, for	and service change (measured by		approved and going out to tender. This
Pa	the benefit of their customers.	the staff survey?). Staff should		is linked to work on Agile Charters and
age		contribute ideas and suggestions		will be embedded in team meetings
5		for change and take decisions for		and management programmes.
9		the benefit of their customers.		



Theme 4 – Performance and Staff Development

Key Achievements over last 3 months

- Exploration of suppliers for management and development training underway as previously identified provider were not in budget including dialogue with St Albans and Welwyn & Hatfield
- iTrent (Performance and Learning& Development) has been tested and gone live

Theme BRAG Analysis

BRAG rating	Key	Total number in theme
	Completed	3
	On track	9
	Potential risks	0
7	Challenges	1
	Planning in progress	1
Total		14

COMMITMENT We will create a strong development	process	Key Milestones	'RAG' Rating	Update
Design and implementation of development programmes linked to succession planning and building organisational resilience	Proactive management of individuals to ensure stretch, personal development and improve likelihood of retention Identification of business critical roles, vacancy risk and pipeline prospects for short, medium and long-term Staff Ambassador group and management forums to discuss, benchmark and review current data	By October 2022	On track	Following on from the senior management restructure, leadership training is due to be delivered in September 2022. Further leadership and management courses to be sourced, taking into account the new values and behaviours that will be decided in September.
Revise and refresh our development offering for all staff	Roll out of refreshed development approach	By 1 October 2022	On track	iTrent used for PDR's this year (2022) with links to Council themes. PDR



	to facilitate good quality performance management, set clear objectives linked with our Council Plan and reflect how our organisational values are being demonstrated. Need to focus on the WHAT and HOW part of the role	100% of staff and managers have completed their annual reviews with clear objectives set and a personal development plan in place			window due to close at the end of August. Looking forward, SMART objectives set with employees should consider the new values and behaviours as part of the overall approach to development
	Support the recruitment and retention of apprentices to the council.	Increase the number of council apprentices.	By 1 October 2022	On track	There is agreement to recruit 6 apprentices across the council Corporate apprentice recruitment currently live with a view they will start in September
Page 61	Make full use of the apprenticeship levy to support learning and development and career progression.	All funds used. Demonstrable impact of learning for the individual and the organisation.	Ongoing	On track	The Corporate apprenticeship scheme will make use of the levy and further opportunities to be explored
	Develop a comprehensive approach to succession planning which incorporates planning for roles which are: Hard to Fill Business Critical (i.e. a potential single point of failure) Have an ageing workforce profile	Identification of all "single points of failure" roles will be a starting point to prioritise development needs. HR to create a central list so that risks can be identified.		Completed	Pro-forma developed that will enable HR Business Partners to collect information from relevant line managers. A review has been undertaken and is now included with Service Plans (Single Point of Failure exercise).
	HRBP's to hold information of who can step into each role at short notice.	Ensure there are no "Single Points of Failure" within the workforce.		Completed	This is linked to the exercise on Single Point of Failure and is included in the above point.
	We will work with partners to explore opportunities to create a comprehensive graduate and / or	Successful programme in place with strong feedback from graduates.	By 1 September 2022	On track	Decision taken to put Graduate Programme on hold to focus on



	degree placement programmes, designed to attract and retain high calibre graduates				Apprenticeships. Graduate programme to be reviewed in Sept 2022.
	COMMITMENT Prioritise the development of all of o	ur neonle	Key Milestones	'RAG' Rating	Update
	ritoritise the development of all of o	ui peopie		Kating	
Page 62	Build in the concept of "everyone is a leader at Watford" into our recruitment and on-boarding programmes, as well as our work with colleagues at all levels of the organisation	At the last staff survey, 32% of respondents felt that they cannot contribute to ideas for improvement / ways to do things differently (and another 3% didn't know). Success to be measured by a statistically significant improvement in staff survey results. Support in first line leadership, middle leadership and senior leadership programmes, emphasising the benefits and risks of leadership styles that lead to constant improvement.	August 2022	On track	This all links to the new Leadership Development program and Values and Behaviours project. Mandatory e-learning has been reviewed together with the development of special reports to capture progress and timescales. Induction is in the process of being reviewed with a new method of delivery being considered.
	Review training and promotion data by workforce profile, so that we can assure ourselves that under-represented groups are both accessing the development required and successfully achieving promotions, in our organisation.	Assurance that under-represented groups access the same level of development and achieve promotion at the same rate as all staff.	August 2022	Challenges	Additional request sent to all staff for them to add personal characteristic information to their profile. HR system also being configured with current and historical development information and this will enable analysis of workforce strengths. All historical data in a file waiting to be uploaded to our corporate leave system by the supplier Once uploaded will be linked to Learning and Development module. Data capture of personal information on iTrent ongoing



Page 63	Launch and integrate our new performance review system, i- Perform for regular 1:1 check –ins and annual reviews (appraisal) so that all staff feel it's a worthwhile exercise: - Incorporation of interests and passion, as well as career development discussions Use the annual review as an opportunity to nurture all talent, irrespective of grade or role - Carefully link the role back to the objectives of the organisation so that everyone understands how	Currently, 18% of our staff feel that the annual review is not of value to them (and a further 8% did not know!). We want our people to look forward and see the value of an annual review. The success will be an improved rating of the quality of the conversation (measured by the staff survey).		Completed	with recent discussion how to increase this amongst staff as well as managers as the data held regarding Watford employees is very low. iTrent performance (PDR) module launched June 2022. First PDR cycle on iTrent still live and due to close end of August. Objectives can be linked to Council plan with future opportunities to link to values and behaviours.
	•				
	COMMITMENT We will encourage and actively development	Key Milestones	'RAG' Rating	Update	
	Our new 'Watford Leads' development programme will build management skills and confidence amongst all team managers and leaders (3rd tier managers).	All 3rd tier managers will complete the course over time. Participants will deliver a specific business improvement project in the workplace. All events to have a cross section of departments represented. Positive feedback from participants.	September 2022	On track	New senior management team to undertake leadership workshop in September 2022 with new management programme also due to start in September



-	Introduce a 'first steps to leadership' programme to cover the main principles of leadership and Watford's Council policies and processes.	Colleagues feel supported by their manager – measured by the staff survey (baseline to be set following next survey) Course designed. Selection and evaluation approach agreed. Aspiring leaders feel supported to develop their career – measured by course evaluation (baseline to be set). Positive feedback from participants. Improved compliance with corporate policies.	December 2022	On track	Linked to evolvement of leadership and management programmes. September 2022 will see a leadership programme and management programme rolled out. Providers are being sought to take this development need forward with tailored modules to incorporate agile working and the new values and behaviours
	COMMITMENT We will create an enviable programn	ne of leadership development	Key Milestones	'RAG' Rating	Update
Page 64	Pilot and roll -out a new leadership competency framework, that is linked to the annual review process	Managers use feedback to create their personal development plan – measured through performance review scores. Managers visibly demonstrate the qualities set out in the Framework, measured via regular 1; 1 check-in meetings and annual review process. Increased opportunities for secondments and career progression for aspiring leaders – measured by staff survey (baseline to be set)		Planning in progress	: iTrent now live but no competency framework linked. Can link objectives to Council plan with future plan to link objectives into values and behavioural framework
	Support leaders to link workforce and succession planning — forecasting the type and number of roles and skills needed for the future and create learning and development plans to support their team development.	All leaders received appropriate training tools and support to complete their workforce plans. All services have a workforce plan in place, aligned to the annual business planning cycle.	October 2022	On track	Review workforce plan with leaders to ensure appropriate individual development plans are in place to satisfy future needs. Line managers have reviewed as part of single point of failure exercise. HRBPs to have regular reviews. Links in with development of Leadership programme and development of tools to

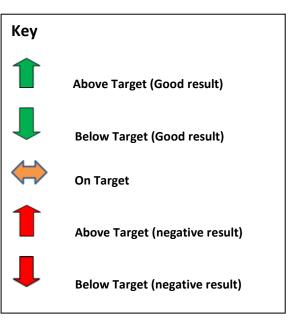


		undertake reviews of their workforce
		requirements. Review of single point of
		failure exercise following restructure to
		ensure robust plan still in place



Appendix C: Quarter 1 Key Performance Indicators 2022/23

Overview





Council Plan Theme 1: A Council working for our community and serving our residents

		Indicator	Service area	Reporting frequency	Results 2022/23	Comments & Benchmarking (where available)
Page 67	1.	Average time to process housing benefits claims (from date of receipt to date processed)	Revenues & Benefits Head of Revenues and Benefits	Monthly	Benefit processing: new claims 14 12	A low result is good for this indicator TARGET: 7 days Individual results by month were: April = 8 days May = 5 days June = 5 days



	Indicator	Service area	Reporting frequency	Results 2022/23	Comments & Benchmarking (where available)
2.	Average time to process change of circumstances (from date of receipt to date processed)	Revenues & Benefits Head of Revenues and Benefits	Monthly	Benefit processing: change of circumstances 14	A low result is good for this indicator TARGET: 6 days Individual results by month were: April = 3 days May = 5 days June = 5 days
3	Value of outstanding invoices <12 months old compared to total raised in a rolling 12 month period	Revenues & Benefits Head of Revenues and Benefits	Monthly	RESULT: 0.38%	A low result is good for this indicator Target: 3% or less Result is well within target, and the lowest result achieved in over a year.



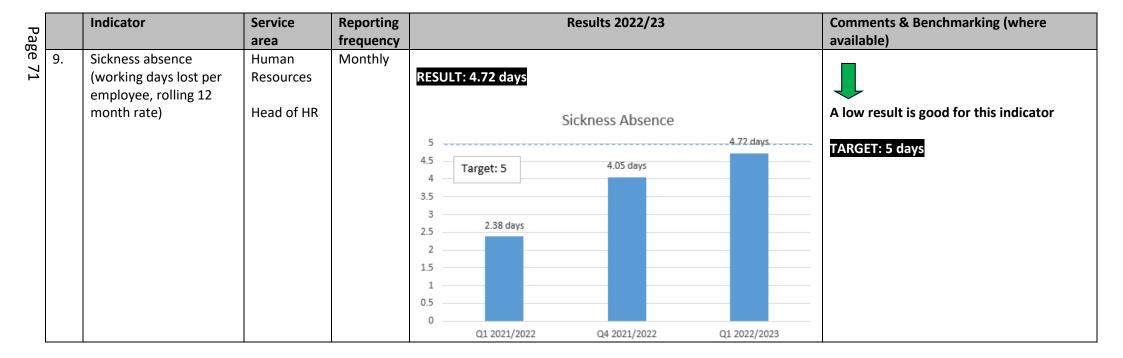
		Indicator	Service area	Reporting frequency	Results 2022/23	Comments & Benchmarking (where available)
	4	Value of outstanding invoices over 12 months	Revenues & Benefits	Monthly	RESULT: 10.72%	1
			Head of Revenues			A low result is good for this indicator
			and Benefits			Target: 10 % or less
						Q1 result is slightly outside of the target. The service is currently reviewing old debt to see what needs to be considered for write-off.
Page 69	5.	% payment classified as 'LA error'	Revenues & Benefits	Monthly	RESULT: 0.13%	.
9			Head of Revenues			A low result is good for this indicator
			and Benefits			Target: 0.48% or less
			Dements			Q1 result well within target. The value of the subsidy to be received is £7,926.00.
						LA error arises when a mistake is made and/or the council have been slow in processing changes resulting in overpayments. If the overall LA error rate is:
						>0.54% - NIL subsidy received on overpayments caused by LA error
						<0.54>0.48% - 40% subsidy received on overpayments caused by LA error
						<0.48% 100% subsidy received



	Indicator	Service area	Reporting frequency	Results 2022/23	Comments & Benchmarking (where available)
6.	Collection rates of council tax	Revenues & Benefits Head of Revenues and Benefits	Monthly	Q1 RESULT: 28%	A high result is good for this indicator Target for 2022/23: 97% For Q1 this year the service are more or less on par with the same time last year, and slightly ahead of the quarterly target (24%).
7.	Collection rates of NNDR	Revenues & Benefits Head of Revenues and Benefits	Monthly	Q1 RESULT: 31.24%	A high result is good for this indicator Target for 2022/23:97% The Q1 result is 8% up on the same position last year which can be attributed to the additional rate relief granted in 2021/22. The service are on track to achieve the end of year target. Quarterly target is 24%.



	Indicator	Service	Reporting	Results 2022/23	Comments & Benchmarking (where
		area	frequency		available)
8.	Creditor payments paid within 30 days	Finance Head of Revenues and Benefits	Quarterly	RESULT: 99.04%	No target set at this time Cumulative data shows 99.04% of invoices have been paid within 30 Days.





	Indicator	Service	Reporting	Results 2022/23	Comments & Benchmarking (where
10	Ctoff sigling and large	area	frequency		available)
10.	Staff sickness – long	Human	Monthly	DEGLUE	
	term / short term	Resources		RESULT:	No target set
		Head of HR		Short term absences – 42	
				Long term absences – 4	
				Comparison with Quarter 4:	
				Short term absences -57	
				Long term absences - 4	
				These figures relate to absences started within the relevant	
				quarter.	
7					
11.	Staff satisfaction taken	Human	Monthly		
	from PDRs	Resources		Not reported in this quarter	
		Head of HR		The PDR cycle was launched at the end of June with a target	
				completion date of 31st August. The results for this KPI is	
				expected to be included in the Q2 report.	
12.	Staff motivation taken	Human	Monthly		
	from PDRs	Resources		Not reported in this quarter	
		Head of HR		The PDR cycle was launched at the end of June with a target	
				completion date of 31st August. The results for this KPI is	
				expected to be included in the Q2 report.	



	Indicator	Service area	Reporting frequency	Results 2022/23	Comments & Benchmarking (where available)
13	Return to work interviews carried out on time	Human Resources Head of HR	Monthly	Return to work inteviews completed on time Target: 100% 74.88 % 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 Q1 2021/2022 Q4 2021/2022 Q1 2022/2023	A high result is good for this indicator TARGET: 100% 58% of late completions have given either Employee or Manager being on leave as the reason for late completion.
14	PDRs completed on time	Human Resources Head of HR	Annual	Not reported in this quarter The PDR cycle was launched at the end of June with a target completion date of 31st August. The results for this KPI is expected to be included in the Q2 report.	



	Indicator	Service	Reporting	Results 2022/23	Comments & Benchmarking (where
		area	frequency		available)
15.	ICT service: Missed calls to the helpdesk	Associate Director of ICT & Shared Services	Monthly	Missed calls to the helpdesk 12% 10% 10% Target: 8% 2% 2% Q1 2021/2022 Q4 2021/2022 Q1 2022/2023	A low result is good for this indicator TARGET: 8% Watford BC / Three Rivers DC – shared result. Service desk is answered 96% of calls within 20 seconds. Telephone contacts with the service desk remain at approximately 40% of the total call volumes per month.
16.	Customer satisfaction survey Responses where the service has been rated as meeting or exceeding expectations.	ICT Associate Director of ICT & Shared Services	Monthly	RESULT: 96%	No target set. Narrative indicator Total of 5 'Poor' responses to customer satisfaction surveys. Contacts made with those staff. There was an average Net Promoter Score of 77 across Q1.



	Indicator	Service area	Reporting frequency		Res	sults 2022/23		Comments & Benchmarking (where available)
17.	First time fix (first time fix statistics are calculated by the ME system as an incident being closed 30 minutes post creation)	ICT Associate Director of ICT & Shared Services	Quarterly	100% — 90% — 80% — 70% — 60% — 40% — 20% — 10% — 0% — RESULT: 92%	Q1 2021/22	ner Satisfactio	n 97%	A high result is good for this indicator TARGET: 45% Ongoing improvements, with a movement away from email as a mechanism to contact Littlefish vs use of Chat function.



	Indicator	Service area	Reporting frequency	Results 2022/23	Comments & Benchmarking (where available)
18.	Tickets closed per team	ICT Associate Director of ICT & Shared Services	Quarterly	First time fix 90% 90% 80% 70% 60% 40% 30% 20% 10% 7% Q1 2021/2022 Q4 2021/2022 Q1 2022/2023 RESULT: 83%	A high result is good for this indicator TARGET: 80% Ongoing consistent performance from Littlefish service desk and network operations team. Ongoing activities around continuous service improvement and shifts of procedures from W3R team to Littlefish team.



	Indicator	Service area	Reporting frequency	Results 2022/23	Comments & Benchmarking (where available)
Page 77				Tickets closed per team Target: 80% 87% 83% Target: 80% 60% 60% 60% 40% 30% 20% 10% Q1 2021/22 Q4 2021/22 Q1 2022/23	
1	9. Tickets against service levels	Associate Director of ICT & Shared Services	Quarterly	RESULT: 97%	A high result is good for this indicator TARGET: 95% Ongoing consistent performance from the Littlefish team and W3R onsite team. Improvements specifically around service request service levels from the W3R time.

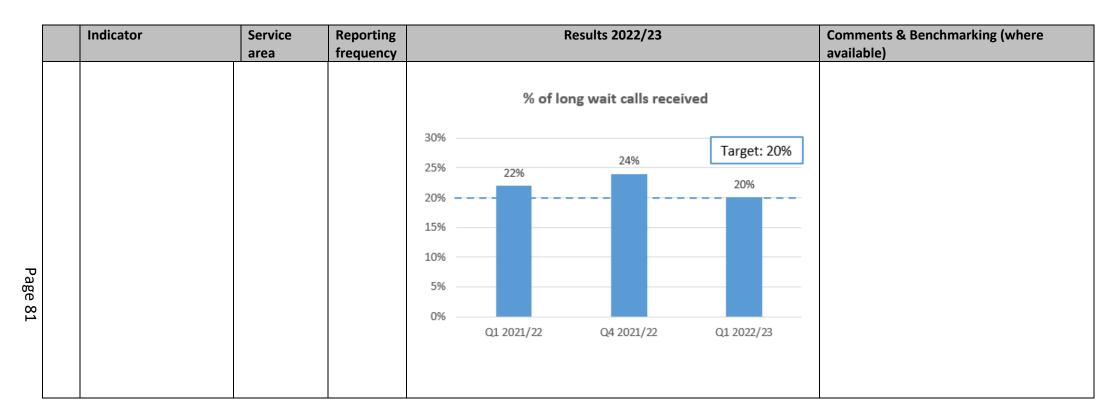
		Indicator	Service area	Reporting frequency	Results 2022/23	Comments & Benchmarking (where available)
				. ,	Tickets against service levels	,
					100% 97% 97% 83% Target 05%	
					80%	
					40%	
Daga 79					20%	
70					0% Q1 2021/22 Q4 2021/22 Q1 2022/23	
•	20.	Network Uptime Local Area Network:	ICT	Quarterly	RESULT: 100%	1
		Network uptime defined as availability of	Associate Director of ICT &			A high result is good for this indicator
		local area network across all primary sites, Watford Borough	Shared Services			TARGET: 99% No local network incidents in Q1.
		Council, Three Rivers District Council. This would be measured				No local network incluents in Q1.
		through P1 and major incident notification				

		Indicator	Service	Reporting	Results 2022/23	Comments & Benchmarking (where
			area	frequency		available)
	21.	Core System Uptime: Core systems uptime defined as the available of all priority 1 applications. Downtime to be recorded as full system unavailable, not partial, the time from call	ICT Associate Director of ICT & Shared Services	Quarterly	RESULT: 99%	A high result is good for this indicator TARGET: 99% Total of 5 priority 1 (P1) incidents through Q1. 2 P1 incidents were related to the 8x8
Daga 70		logged to call resolution.				application. The root cause was identified for both. 1 P1 incident for EROS WBC elections application. The root cause was identified. 2 P1 related to incidents at the Batchworth depot where the Firmstep service unavailable. Root cause was identified.
	22.	Network Uptime Wide Area Network: Network uptime defined as availability of wide area network across all connected sites, Watford Borough Council, Three Rivers District Council, Batchworth and Wiggenhall Depots	Associate Director of ICT & Shared Services	Quarterly	RESULT: 100%	A high result is good for this indicator TARGET: 99% No wide area network incidents recorded in Q1.



	Indicator	Service area	Reporting frequency	Results 2022/23	Comments & Benchmarking (where available)
23.	CSC - Channel mix (% transactions that customers self-serve)	Customer Services Associate Director of Customer and Corporate Services	Quarterly	* for those processes for which data is currently available, which are those that have been digitised on the Firmstep platform. CSC Channel mix 100 90 78% 83% 80% 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0 Q1 2021/22 Q1 22021/22 Q1 2022/23	A high result is good for this indicator TARGET 70% There was an increase in general enquiry and garden waste renewal online submissions during this quarter.
24.	Long wait calls received to CSC Long wait = calls not answered within 2 minutes (Revenues and Benefits calls are not included)	Customer Services Associate Director of Customer and Corporate Services	Monthly	RESULT: 20%	A low result is good for this indicator TARGET: 20%







		Indicator	Service area	Reporting frequency	Results 2022/23	Comments & Benchmarking (where available)
Dags 07	25.	CSC service levels: Percentage of all calls answered	Associate Director of Customer and Corporate Services	Monthly	## West of calls answered 120% 100% 94% 98% 94% Target: 95% 60% 20%	A high result is good for this indicator TARGET: 95% This result was impacted by staff shortages over the past 3 months due to leave and other issues. In addition the service have 1 member of staff seconded to Hertfordshire County Council for 8 months to support the Hertfordshire response to Ukraine, which impacted service levels. An increase in Green Bin renewals was also a factor, increasing calls to the CSC in June.
					Q1 2021/22 Q4 2021/22 Q1 2022/23	

Page 83



	Indicator	Service	Reporting	Results 2022/23	Comments & Benchmarking (where
26.	CSC service levels: FOI's responded to within 20 working days	Customer Services Associate Director of Customer and Corporate Services	Quarterly	FOI response within 20 working days 100% 90% 83% 80% 77%% 60% 50% 40% 30% 20% 10% Q1 2021/22 Q4 2021/22 Q1 2021223	A high result is good for this indicator TARGET: 100% There were 130 FOI requests received in Q1. There has been some discussion as to why it's often a challenge to meet the timescales for FOI responses. Some FOI's need input from multiple departments, which can take time to coordinate. FOI responses can sometimes generate a significant amount of work (depending on the type of request) which needs to be fitted in alongside existing workloads. To give an indication of numbers, 130 FOI's were received by WBC in Q1. The service are investigating additional reports that may improve visibility of FOI's that are not moving through the process quickly enough and improve this result. There are some departments that consistently receive significantly more FOI's than others.



Council Plan Theme 2: A greener, brighter future

	Indicator	Service area	Reporting frequency		Re	esults 2022/2	3		Comments & Benchmarking (where available)
27. Page 84	Residual household waste per household	Leisure, Community & Environ'tal Services Associate Director of Environment	Quarterly	150 - 100 -		87.48 Q4 2021/22	Quarterly target: 105 kg	g	A low result is good for this indicator TARGET per quarter: 105 kg 126 tonnes less residual waste collected when compared to Q1 last year. This is recognised as a national trend as people are buying less.



	Indicator	Service area	Reporting frequency	Results 2022/23	Comments & Benchmarking (where available)
28.	Waste recycled and composted	Leisure, Community & Environ'tal Services Associate Director of Environment	Quarterly	Waste recycled and composted 70% 60% 56.20% 55.28% 50.16% Target: 48% 40% 30% 20% 10% Q1 2021/22 Q4 2021/22 Q1 2022/23	A high result is good for this indicator TARGET: 48% When compared with Q1 2021/22, there was 316 tonnes less recycling, food and garden waste collected in Q1 2022/23.



	Indicator	Service area	Reporting frequency	Results 2022/23	Comments & Benchmarking (where available)
29.	Recycled household kerbside collection services (Veolia contract target)	Leisure, Community	Quarterly	Waste recycled and composted (contractual target) 60% 56.20% 55.67% 50% Target: 48% 40% 20% 00 Q1 2021/22 Q4 2021/22 Q1 2022/23	A high result is good for this indicator TARGET: 48% See commentary for indicator 21.



	Indicator	Service area	Reporting frequency	Results 2022/23	Comments & Benchmarking (where available)
30.	Levels of Litter: Improved street and environmental cleanliness	Leisure, Community & Environ'tal Services Associate Director of Environment	Quarterly	4.0% 3.37% 3.0% 2.0% 1.0%	A low result is good for this indicator TARGET: 4.46% The litter score has decreased slightly from 3.37% this time last year to 3.17% this year. This result represents a significant 2.98% improvement on the Q3 score the last time this area was surveyed (Oct, Nov, Dec 2021). The improvement is largely down to performance gains in Other Retail and Commercial, and Industry and Warehousing areas. Littering hot spots found in Main Road areas will be targeted ahead of the next survey.



	Indicator	Service area	Reporting frequency	Results 2022/23	Comments & Benchmarking (where available)
31.	Levels of Detritus: Improved street and environmental cleanliness	Leisure, Community & Environ'tal Services Associate Director of Environment	Quarterly	Street cleanliness: levels of detritus 9% 7.92% 8% 7% 6.61% 6.46% 5% Target: 5.48% 4% 3% 2% 1% 0% Q1 2021/22 Q4 2021/22 Q1 2022/23	A low result is good for this indicator TARGET: 5.48% The detritus score has improved significantly when compared with this time last year, reducing from 7.92% to 6.46%, however it is still outside of the target. There was a general improvement in performance across most land use areas. Further work is required in Main Road, Medium and Low Obstruction Housing areas, in order to maintain performance gains and where possible improve performance in time for the next survey.
32.	Levels of Graffiti: Improved street and environmental cleanliness	Leisure, Community & Environ'tal Services Associate Director of Environment	Quarterly	RESULT: 3.77%	A low result is good for this indicator TARGET: 3.71% The graffiti score has risen from 2.18% this time last year to 3.77% this year and reflects a noticeable increase in graffiti incidents. The worst affected areas are Main Retail and Commercial and Other



	Indicator	Service	Reporting	Results 2022/23	Comments & Benchmarking (where
		area	frequency		available)
				Street cleanliness: levels of graffiti	Highway areas, therefore efforts will be directed towards these areas accordingly.
				4.0% 3.57% 3.57% Target: 3.71% 2.5% 2.18% 2.0% 1.5% 1.0% 0.5% Q1 2021/22 Q4 2021/22 Q1 2022/23	
33.	Levels of Fly Posting: Improved street and environmental cleanliness	Leisure, Community & Environ'tal Services Associate	Quarterly	RESULT: 0.40%	A low result is good for this indicator TARGET: 0.36%
		Director of Environment			The results show a significant improvement in the flyposting score, which has decreased from 1.79% this time last year to 0.40% this year. The reduction is due to Improved performance in Main Retail and Commercial, and Main Road areas, with just two estate agent boards (one attached to a



		Indicator	Service area	Reporting frequency		Results 2022/23	Comments & Benchmarking (where available)
					2.00%		sign and the other driven into a highway shrub bed) housing areas accounting for the overall score. Joint action with Planning Enforcement can help to deter agents from
					1.50%		erecting boards on highway land, however prosecutions in the past haven't always resulted in a change in behaviour from Estate Agents.
					1.00%	0.79%	
Page 90					0.50%	0.40% Target: 0.36%	
					0.00%	Q1 2021/22 Q4 2021/22 Q1 2022/23	
	34.	Number of Green Flag awards achieved	Parks Heritage and Culture	Annual	RESULT: 17		\Leftrightarrow
			Associate Director of Environment				A high result is good for this indicator TARGET for 2022/23: 17
							Green Flag awards retained. Parks are judged annually and expected to remain at 17, the highest number in Hertfordshire.

Council Plan Theme 3: An inspiring, thriving and creative town



	Indicator	Service area	Reporting frequency	Results 2022/23 Comments & Benchmarking (where available)
35.	Processing of planning applications: 'major' applications - % determined within 13 weeks	Associate Director of Planning, Infrastructure and Economy	Quarterly	Major applications determined in 13 weeks 100% 100% 100% 100% Target: 90% Target: 90% There were two applications in this category during Q1. Both were determined within 13 weeks or with an agreed extension of time.

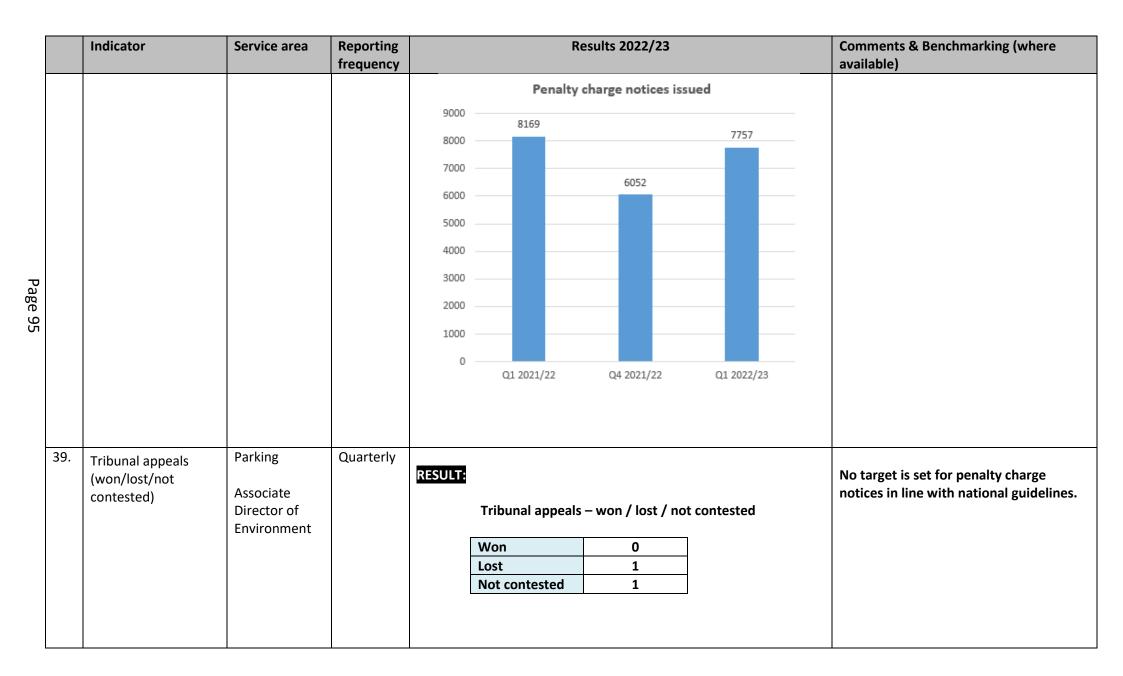


	Indicator	Service area	Reporting frequency	Results 2022/23	Comments & Benchmarking (where available)
3	5. Process of planning applications: 'minor' applications - % determined within 8 weeks	Planning Associate Director of Planning, Infrastructure and Economy	Quarterly	Minor applications determined in 8 weeks 100% 98% 95% 96% 90% Target: 92% 70% 60% 40%	A high result is good for this indicator TARGET: 92% There were 52 applications in this category during Q1. 50 applications were determined within 8 weeks or with an agreed extension of time, and two were agreed outside the target.
	7. Process of planning applications:	Planning	Quarterly	30% 20% 10% 0% Q1 2021/22 Q4 2021/22 Q1 2022/23	
	'other' applications - % determined within 8 weeks	Associate Director of Planning, Infrastructure and Economy			A high result is good for this indicator TARGET: 92% There were 148 applications in this category during Q2. 143 applications were determined within 8 weeks or with an agreed extension of time, and five were agreed outside the target.



		Indicator	Service area	Reporting frequency	Results 2022/23	Comments & Benchmarking (where available)
					Other applications determined in 8 weeks	
					100% 96% 97%	
					80% Target: 9	2%
					60%	
עס					40%	
Page Q/					20%	
					0% Q1 2021/22 Q4 2021/22 Q1 2022/	23
	38.	Penalty Charge	Parking	Quarterly		
	90.	Notices issued	Associate Director of Environment	Quarterny	RESULT: 7,757	No target is set for penalty charge notices in line with national guidelines.





	Indicator	Service area	Reporting	Results 2022/23	Comments & Benchmarking (where
			frequency		available)
40.	Reasons for appeals lost (narrative measure)	Parking Associate Director of Environment	Quarterly	One appeal at the Traffic Penalty Tribunal was lost by the council in the last quarter. The adjudicator was not satisifed that the restriction was adequately signed at the location of the contravention.	

Council Plan Theme 4: A diverse, happy and healthy town

8	Indicator	Service area	Reporting frequency	Results 2022/23	Comments & Benchmarking (where available)
41	Affordable homes completions, including social / affordable rent, affordable sales and starter homes. (Starter homes do not contribute to reduction in homeless households on the waiting list or in temporary accom.)	Associate Director of Housing and Wellbeing	Biannually	Not reported in this quarter. This indicator is reported at the end of Quarter 2 and at the end of the year.	available)



	Indicator	Service area	Reporting frequency	Results 2022/23	Comments & Benchmarking (where available)
42.	Number of statutory homeless	Associate Director of Housing and Wellbeing	Quarterly	Number of statutory homeless 20 18 16 16 14 13 12 10 8 7 6 4 2 0 Q1 2021/22 Q4 2021/22 Q4 2021/22 Q1 2022/23	See indicator 12 regarding reasons for homelessness.
43.	Reasons for homelessness Narrative indicator	Housing Associate Director of Housing and Wellbeing	Quarterly	The reasons for homelessness among those to whom the council a	ccepted a duty to house are as follows:

Indicator	Service area	Reporting frequency	Results 2022/23		mments & Benchmarking (where ailable)
Indicator	Service area			Result Q1 2022/23 3 6 1 1 1 2 2 13 3 4 15 Treason for loss of these fam (1 family). This in nouseholds where fildren involved all ation for larger fathouseholds a dut	f the last settled home which has nilies from the private rented sector crease in evictions from the private the council accepted a main duty to stogether in this set of decisions. It is smilies. As a result the council needed y to a main duty to house. They will



Indicator	Service area	Reporting	Results 2022/23	Comments & Benchmarking (where
				available)
Number of households living in temporary accommodation Snap-shot at quarter end	Associate Director of Housing and Wellbeing	Quarterly	Households in temporary accommodation 120 Target: 100% 80 60 40 Q1 2021/22 Q4 2021/22 Q1 2022/23	A low result is good for this indicator TARGET: 100 The number of households in temporary accommodation (TA) has remained under 100 since the beginning April. There have been significant numbers of new development handovers, including social rent homes, which has helped both reduce numbers in temporary accommodation (as there were over 100 in March 2022) and keep them at a steady rate. This is despite an increase in the number of households approaching the council already homeless rather than being threatened with (impending) homelessness. The average number of homeless presentations was four per week last year. So far this financial year the average has been six homeless presentations per week.
	Number of households living in temporary accommodation Snap-shot at quarter	Number of households living in temporary accommodation Snap-shot at quarter end Associate Director of Housing and	Number of households living in temporary accommodation Associate Snap-shot at quarter end Frequency Trequency Accommodation Associate Director of Housing and	Number of households living in temporary accommodation Snap-shot at quarter end Associate Director of Housing and Wellbeing Households in temporary accommodation 120 Target: 100% 100 93 96 40 40 20 Tequency



	Indicator	Service area	Reporting frequency	Results 2022/23	Comments & Benchmarking (where available)
45.	Number of households living in temporary accommodation with children Snap-shot at quarter end	Associate Director of Housing and Wellbeing	Quarterly	Households in temporary accommodation with children 60 57 55 50 49 40 30 20 10 Q1 2021/22 Q4 2021/22 Q1 2022/23	The numbers of households living in temporary accommodation (TA) with children has remained steady over the quarter. There are 135 children, including expected children, in TA as at the end of June 2022.
46.	Number of households living in temporary accommodation without children Snap-shot at quarter end	Associate Director of Housing and Wellbeing	Quarterly	Q4 RESULT: 36	No target set The number of households without children in temporary accommodation remained steady throughout the quarter.







	Indicator	Service area	Reporting frequency	Results 2022/23	Comments & Benchmarking (where available)
48.	Throughput of	Leisure,	Quarterly		average number of verified rough sleepers (i.e. they have been observed rough sleeping by the New Hope Outreach Plus service) has been five during Q1.
ç Page 102	Watford Leisure Centre: Woodside	Community & Environ'tal Services Associate Director of Environment	Quarterry	Throughput Watford Leisure Centre - Woodside 160,000 140,000 118,140 110,121 100,000 80,000 40,000 Q1 2021/22 Q4 2021/22 Q1 2022/23	This result shows a slight reduction in comparison to the same quarter last year. Physical development officer focus is increasing participation. The Physical Development Officer's role is to break down barriers to participation and to work with inactive individuals to help them become active.



		Indicator	Service area	Reporting frequency	Results 2022/23	Comments & Benchmarking (where available)
Page 103	49.	Membership of Watford Leisure Centre: Woodside	Leisure, Community & Environ'tal Services Associate Director of Environment	Quarterly	Membership Watford Leisure Centre - Woodside 5,000 4,697 4,398 4,000 3,578 3,500 2,500 2,000 1,500 0 Q1 2021/22 Q4 2021/22 Q1 2022/23	No target set at this time Membership figures have remained steady.
	50.	Watford Leisure Centre - Woodside - swimming lessons take up	Leisure, Community & Environ'tal Services Associate Director of Environment	Quarterly	RESULT: 2,058	No target set at this time These figures have remained steady.



		Indicator	Service area	Reporting frequency		R	esults 2022/23		Comments & Benchmarking (where available)
					2,100 —	Swimming L	essons take up - W	oodside	
					2,050		2,054	2,058	
					2,000 —				
					1,950 —				
					1,900 —				
Pa					1,850 —	1,817			
Page 104					1,750 —				
04					1,700 —				
					1,650 —	Q1 2021/22	Q4 2021/22	Q1 2022/23	
	51.	Throughput of Watford Leisure Centre: Central	Leisure, Community & Environ'tal Services Associate Director of Environment	Quarterly	Q4 RESULT	Г: 116,597			No target set at this time Some good improvements across the site. SLM have a physical development officer who is working hard to increase these numbers and focus on those who are inactive.



		Indicator	Service area	Reporting frequency	Results 2022/23	Comments & Benchmarking (where available)
Page 105	52.	Membership of Watford Leisure Centre: Central	Leisure, Community & Environ'tal Services Associate Director of Environment	Quarterly	Throughput - Watford Leisure Centre Central 140,000 120,000 80,000 40,000 20,000 Q1 2021/22 Q4 2021/22 Q4 2021/22 Q1 2022/23	No target set at this time Some great improvements across the site. SLM have a physical development officer who is working hard to increase these numbers and focus on those who are inactive.



		Indicator	Service area	Reporting frequency	Results 2022/23	Comments & Benchmarking (where available)
Page 106					Membership - Watford Leisure Centre Central 3,500 3,297 2,918 2,500 2,180 2,000 1,500 1,000 0 Q1 2021/22 Q4 2021/22 Q1 2022/23	
	53.	Watford Leisure Centre – Central - swimming lessons take up	Leisure, Community & Environ'tal Services Associate Director of Environment	Quarterly	Q4 RESULT: 1,704	No target set at this time Some great improvements across the site. SLM have a physical development officer who is working hard to increase these numbers and focus on those who are inactive.



Indicator	Reporting frequency	Results 2022/23 Comments & Benchmarking (where available)
		Watford Leisure Centre - Central - swimming lesson take up
	:	
	:	1,239
	:	



Executive Decision Progress Report

From May 2022

Contact Officer: Jodie Kloss Senior Democratic Services Officer

Telephone: 01923 278376

Email: <u>democraticservices@watford.gov.uk</u>

All officer decisions are available on the <u>Officer Decision Register</u> or on the full <u>Decision Register</u>. Only key decisions are shown below. Further information about <u>forthcoming decisions</u> is available online.

Date key decision is due to be taken and by whom	Proposed decision published in the Notice of Executive Decisions	Details of the proposed decision	Does the decision contain any exempt information requiring it to be considered in private and what are the reasons for this?	Status
13 June 2022 Cabinet	28 January 2022	Voluntary Sector Commissioning Framework Lead officer: Chris Fennell	No	Approved by <u>Cabinet</u> 13 June 2022
13 June 2022 Cabinet	16 May 2022	Shared Services Lead officers: Vivien Holland / Liam Hornsby	Yes part exempt on the grounds that it contains information that may enable the reader to identify an individual.	Approved by <u>Cabinet</u> 13 June 2022
13 June 2022 Cabinet	16 May 2022	Delivering the Council Plan Lead officer: Donna Nolan	Yes on the grounds that the report contains information enabling readers to identify individuals.	Approved by <u>Cabinet</u> 13 June 2022
11 July 2022	10 June 2022	South West Hertfordshire Joint Strategic Plan of Community Involvement, and Issues and Options (Regulation 18) Consultation Document Lead officer — Jack Green	No	Approved by <u>Cabinet</u> 11 July 2022

Date key decision is due to be taken and by whom	Proposed decision published in the Notice of Executive Decisions	Details of the proposed decision	Does the decision contain any exempt information requiring it to be considered in private and what are the reasons for this?	Status
11 July 2022 Cabinet	10 June 2022	Town Hall and Colosseum Refurbishment — recommendation to appoint a main contractor Lead officer — Kate Harrison and Liam Hornsby	Yes on the grounds that it contains commercially sensitive information	Approved by <u>Cabinet</u> 11 July 2022
19 July 2022 Cabinet and Council	13 May 2022	Council Plan 2022-26 and Delivery Plan 2022-24 Lead officers: Kathryn Robson and Liam Hornsby	No	Approved by <u>Cabinet</u> 13 June 2022 and <u>Council</u> on 19 July.
19 July 2022 Cabinet and Council	10 June 2022	Lead officer – Chris Fennell	Yes on the grounds that it contains commercially sensitive information	Approved by <u>Cabinet</u> 11 July 2022 and <u>Council</u> on 19 July.
September 2022 Mayoral decision	2 September 2022	Covid 19 Additional Relief Fund Scheme Lead officer — Jane Walker	No	Decision to be taken under urgency procedures in accordance with Access to Information Procedure Rule 16 of the council's constitution.
17 October 2022 Cabinet and Council	2 September 2022	Watford Local Plan	No	-

Date key decision is due to be taken and by whom	Proposed decision published in the Notice of Executive Decisions	Details of the proposed decision	Does the decision contain any exempt information requiring it to be considered in private and what are the reasons for this?	Status
		Lead officer – Jack Green		
3 October 2022	2 September 2022	Riverwell Business Plan 2022/23 Lead officer — Peter Hall	Yes part exempt on the grounds that it contains information that may enable the reader to identify an individual.	-
16 January 2023 Cabinet	1 August 2022	Housing Nominations Policy Lead officer — Justine Hoy	No	-
27 February 2023 Cabinet	1 August 2022	Housing Strategy for Watford 2022-27 Lead officer – Justine Hoy	No	-

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

2022/2023 work programme

Date	Publishing	Topics	Speakers
22 June	14 June	New task group proposal: Sustainability Strategy	Jodie Kloss (Senior Democratic Services Officer)
		OSC work programme 2022/23	Jodie Kloss (Senior Democratic Services Officer)
29 June	21 June	Call-in only	Cancelled
20 July	12 July	Update on ArrivaClick contract	 Alan Gough (Group Head of Community and Environmental Services), Chris Fennell (Head of Leisure and Environmental Services), Kim Bloomfield (Contract and Relationship Manager - Sustainable Transport)
		 Quarter 4 2021/22 Council Performance Report to monitor and challenge results 	 Liam Hornsby (Head of Enterprise Programme Management Office), Claire Dow (Business Intelligence Manager)
27 July	20 July	Call-in only	To be cancelled if no call-in.
21 September	13 September	Quarter 1 2022/23 Council Performance Report to monitor and challenge results	Liam Hornsby (Associate Director of Customer and Corporate Services), Claire Dow (Business Intelligence Manager)

		Update on WBC's Strategic Framework – to review progress achieved on the Council Plan and the Organisation Development Strategy	Kathryn Robson (Executive Head of Strategy & Initiatives (Communications, Partnerships & Community)), Liam Hornsby (Associate Director of Customer and Corporate Services), Executive Head of HR and OD
19 October	11 October	Voluntary Sector Commissioning Framework (End of Year Report – 2021-2022) – to review the end of year report	Paul Stacey (Associate Director of Environment), Julietta Federico (Contract and Relationship Manager)
		Community Safety Partnership update	Liam Fitzgerald (Community Safety Manager)
16 November	8 November	Update on voluntary sector strategy and W3RT task group 2020/2021	 Paul Stacey (Associate Director of Environment), Julietta Federico (Contract and Relationship Manager), representatives from W3RT
		ICT Strategy	Emma Tiernan (Associate Director of ICT & Shared Services)
14 December	6 December	Task group report: Sustainability Strategy	Councillor Jessica Stiff (Chair of Task Group), Jodie Kloss (Senior Democratic Services Officer)
		 Quarter 2 2022/23 Council Performance Report to monitor and challenge results 	Liam Hornsby (Associate Director of Customer and Corporate Services), Claire Dow (Business Intelligence Manager)

		Update on WBC's Strategic Framework – to review progress achieved on the Council Plan and Organisation Development Strategy	 Kathryn Robson (Executive Head of Strategy & Initiatives (Communications, Partnerships & Community)), Liam Hornsby (Associate Director of Customer and Corporate Services), Executive Head of HR and OD
01 February	24 January	Update on Electric Vehicles Task Group	Councillor Simon Feldman, Andy Smith (Senior Transport and Infrastructure Projects Officer)
		Update on Sustainable Transport Strategy including task group recommendations	 Councillor Amanda Grimston, Tom Dobrashian (Executive Director of Place)
		Tree maintenance contract	 Paul Stacey (Associate Director of Environment)
22 February	14 February	Community Safety Partnership – to review the update on the 2022/23 plan and consider objectives for 2023/24	Liam Fitzgerald (Community Safety Manager)
15 March	7 March	Quarter 3 2022/23 Council Performance Report to monitor and challenge results	 Liam Hornsby (Associate Director of Customer and Corporate Services), Claire Dow (Business Intelligence Manager)
		Update on WBC's Strategic Framework – to review progress achieved on the Council Plan and Organisation Development Strategy	 Kathryn Robson (Executive Head of Strategy & Initiatives (Communications, Partnerships & Community)), Liam Hornsby (Associate Director of Customer and Corporate Services), Executive Head of HR and OD

Other items to be scheduled

2022/23

- Parking services resources and levels of responsiveness to residents' needs (Cllr Hannon suggestion)
- Customer Experience Strategy
- Outcome of the Report-it working group

2023/24

- Update on ArrivaClick service (June/July 2023)
- Update on the waste and recycling service (beginning 23/24).
- Review of CCTV service following move to new police station.
- Review changes to NLF applications following implementation.