

**Watford Borough Council**

**Member Self- Assessment 2016/17**

**Oxhey Ward**

**Self-Assessment of: Councillor Peter Taylor**

**1. Year elected:**

2012

**2. Reasons for becoming a councillor:**

To serve my community and support the Liberal Democrat administration in delivering high quality services across the town.

**3. Roles in the Council:**

**Deputy Mayor, Liberal Democrat Group Leader and Portfolio Holder for Client Services.**

**4. Membership of outside bodies:**

**Oxhey Village Environmental Group  
Friends of Oxhey Park**

**5. Training & Development undertaken (Councillor's training record is listed):**

**LGA Leadership Academy**

**6. Attendance Record:**

100%

## Your work with Constituents and in the Community

**Please tell us about the work in your ward and for the council, you may wish to mention the following:**

- I have helped a number of Oxhey residents with housing issues. This has involved taking up case work with the Housing Trust relating to overcrowding, fire-safety and property insulation. I have arranged and attended meetings with residents to discuss problems with representatives for WCHT and with Watford Council's housing team.
- Working with ward colleagues, I am currently organising a survey across Oxhey Ward on parking regulations. As part of this process I have discussed the issues with local businesses and sought their views on the best way to proceed.
- I have attended and promoted community events at Watford Museum and Watford Palace Theatre. I have also attended many of the council's Big Events, including the Big Skate, Big Sports Day, Big Beech and Big Screen.
- I have helped vulnerable or disadvantaged people my community by responding to case work matters quickly and effectively. I have also supported the 'Dementia Friends' programme both in Oxhey and at the town's two leisure centres.
- I communicate with residents through e-mail, face-to-face, using social media and in ward newsletters.
- I have attended the 'Leadership Academy' training that is provided by the Local Government Association. This involved sharing best practice with senior councillors from different parties across the country.
- I have participated in the scrutiny process by answering questions at a scrutiny committees, mainly the Outsourced Services Scrutiny Panel.
- I have kept residents in my ward updated on proposed developments through ward newsletters and emails. I have spoken at a number of Development Management Committee meetings to raise the concerns of residents. I have also attend meetings in my ward where residents have asked questions about particular planning applications.

### **Questions 7. and 8. for CABINET MEMBERS ONLY**

For those councillors in a leadership role, how have you met these further objectives?

#### **7. Providing vision**

I attend regular meetings with senior council officers and other members of the cabinet where we discuss the strategic direction of the council. I listen to others but make frequent

contributions in these discussions too. Our vision of being a ‘Bold and Progressive’ council is applied in a range of situations. I have contributed to the development and delivery of council’s key priorities, including a family-friendly town centre (Big Events), improved parks (Green Flags and Cassiobury Park improvements) and a thriving local economy. I recognise that an important part of my role as Group Leader and Deputy Mayor is to articulate the council’s vision in public meetings, the local media and in the council chamber.

## 8. Managing Performance

I hold regular meetings with senior council officers to discuss the performance of the areas in my portfolio and strategic priorities. This includes quarterly reviews to monitor the performance of services within my cabinet portfolio. In these discussions, we consider the latest Key Performance Indicators and specific matters of interest. I am also in frequent email and phone contact with officers to discuss issues of high priority and I am willing to challenge the performance and expectations of the council when necessary.

**Note;** members can find their objectives from last year by looking at their profile page on the council’s website. In addition, a link to your last self-assessment can be emailed to you upon request to [paul.bateman@watford.gov.uk](mailto:paul.bateman@watford.gov.uk)

New councillors will already have received a link to last year’s Annual Council report. This demonstrates how the self-assessment information is collated and presented.

9.Objective for 2016/17	Update on progress
Continue to respond quickly and effective to casework from local residents.	I continue to receive a high-volume of casework from local residents, mainly via email. I respond to this in a timely manner and always do my best to achieve a positive outcome.
In my role as a portfolio holder ensure that residents continue to receive high quality services and good value for money.	This year Watford gained 11 Green Flags, 3 more than last year and the highest number of any council in Hertfordshire.  The recent QUEST assessment of our leisure centres rated both ‘excellent’ and in the top 50 of over 700 assessed.

Note; it is entirely an individual member’s choice as to how many objectives they wish to set, there is no upper or lower limit.

**10. Objective(s) for 2017/18**

Continue to respond quickly and effectively to casework from local residents.

Ensure that an Oxhey Ward parking survey is undertaken in a fair and transparent manner and that the wishes of local residents determine the outcome of this.

Oversee improvements to Oxhey Park North and the start of the project there. Make sure that the views of residents are incorporated into this project and that the work is carried out to a high standard.

In my role as a portfolio holder ensure that residents continue to receive high quality services and good value for money.