

**Watford Borough Council**

**Member Self- Assessment 2016/17**

**Leggatts Ward**

**Self-Assessment of:** Councillor Bilqees Mauthoor

**1. Year elected:**

May 2014

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

I became a councillor as I wanted to represent people from my ward and I believe in the Labour values. I want to make a difference to our society and bring communities together. I have so far worked across board and doing just that to the best of my ability. I also want what is right for the people in my ward.

**3. Roles in the Council:**

I have held or in current post of the following:  
Chair of the Cllr Group  
Member of Audit, housing, licensing, member development, major projects and overview and scrutiny.  
Chair of the Watford Labour Woman's group

**4. Membership of outside bodies:**

Nursing and Midwifery Council  
Royal college of Nursing

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

**6. Attendance Record:**

96%

## 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:**

Being a ward councillor, I have helped with individual cases regarding housing especially when it came to a case where a disabled child was involved. I arranged a meeting with the housing officers and explained reasons for the difficulty presented in the case. I have also been part of setting up a petition with regards to the compound site that is on the Harebreaks many residents were against this and feel very unsatisfied with the outcome.

There has also been objections to building homes in Leaford Crescent again residents were objecting this planning unfortunately we lost the appeal. Although in these circumstances we lost the most important thing we did was gathered people together and representing them before the council was my priority.

Lately I have also been interested in the reformation of the Refugee centre where many women are facing difficulty with domestic violence and fleeing away in order to stay safe. In this case I arranged a meeting with the housing department for them to explain their rationale and understand the process involved. Being a member of the housing policy advisory group, we had the chance to voice out our concerns given the national status and aims regarding the crisis in housing.

- In terms of business the Courtland shops have been involved with the regeneration and face uplift of the area, concerns regarding parking and safety have been raised and addressed appropriately.
- I have worked very closely with the Watford mosque and the Church to see how we could integrate communities. In order to celebrate the Big get together in memory of the late MP Jo Cox the church has agreed to host an event next summer. I have also visited local schools summer fairs and helped possible.

I have also initiated a programme for ESOL classes held in the local community centre in partnership with the Watford Women's centre and the Watford housing trust as I recognised there was a need to help women from with an ethnic background to learn English and sewing to help them gain confidence and be able to communicate effectively. We arranged a prize giving ceremony for those who attended the course. I am always in favour of supporting community events no matter how big or small as long as people can celebrate their differences and support each other.

Communication is very important hence I regularly do ward walks, canvass and delivering leaflets. I am contactable via twitter, Facebook, email or even face to face. I have attended training provided by the council and I have also done a few externally as well to help become more confident. For example, I have done a presentation and public speaking course and master class, Trained by parliament in women in politics. I am currently the Chair of the Watford Labour women's group and I have done some presentations to help and bring women and their issues together for discussion. We are moving in the right direction more work needs to be done so hopefully if I get elected again in 2018 I would look to do more with schools and for members of the public.

Being in opposition can be challenging but it is important to stay focus and understand your

limitations. Scrutiny is the key and this year I am a member of outsource services looking at the services that this council works in partnership with external providers. It is always important to ensure that the residents of Watford are the main focus of any decision making.

I presented a motion regarding tackling loneliness in our society, this was agreed unanimously and now a task group has been set up to look at how this can be dealt with in our community.

I am also working with the police to look at how we could engage with younger people in our society preventing gang crime and negative influence.

Externally I have visited and met with main MP's including our Labour leader on different occasions, it is always very important to understand the direction the party is taking from a national level and implement it to a more local level where possible.

Overall, I have broadened my knowledge and sincerely hope my journey into politics does not stop here, I am willing to learn more and champion the challenges that lie ahead.

### **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**

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#### **8. Managing Performance**

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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.

<b>9. Objective for 2016/17</b>	<b>Update on progress</b>

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**

- + to become more efficient in scrutiny.**
- + to represent more motions of issues that are affecting resident in Watford**
- + carry out more training sessions for Women in politics**
- + carry on being a good advocate for local residents and foresee problems that may arise.**