

Watford Borough Council

Member Self- Assessment 2018/19

Nascot Ward

Self-Assessment of: Councillor Mark Watkin

1. Year elected:

2006

2. Reasons for becoming a councillor:

My principal reason was, and remains my desire, to improve the facilities and services provided to my Ward by the council and its associated bodies. "To make a difference" to the lives of the community I serve

3. Roles in the Council:

Member of Cabinet - Portfolio Holder for Legal and Democratic Services, Shared Services, Watford 2020, Commercial Services and Customer Services
Commercial Watford Board (Chair)
Appointments Committee (Chair)
Chief Officer Pay Panel
Council Functions Committee
Development Management Committee
Planning Policy Advisory Group
Property Investment Board

4. Membership of outside bodies:

Chessbrook ESC – Governor
Friends of Cassiobury Park – member

Nascot Residents Association – member
 Friends of Watford Museum – member.
 Friends of Little Cassiobury - member
 Council liaison with Watford Val Murugan Trust
 Elected County Councillor for Nascot Park Division, Shadow Cabinet Member responsible for Education, Children’s Services, Libraries and Localism
 Hertfordshire SACRE (Chair)
 Hertfordshire Music Forum
 Hertfordshire Education Trust
 St. Michael and All Angels Parochial Church Council member

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

GDPR
 Development Management Committee training
 Safeguarding/Human Trafficking and Slavery
 BID briefing
 Cycle Hire Study briefing
 Annual Local Government Finance Conference
 Watford 2020 briefing

6. Attendance Record:

83%

Your work with Constituents and in the Community.

Please tell us about the work in your ward and for the council:

- I work with the four main Residents Associations in Nascot Ward attending their meetings where appropriate and actioning any issues they raise at their meetings.
- I liaise with the local PCSO particularly with ASB matters which are affecting parts of Nascot.
- I have raised parking issues affecting local businesses on the Goodwood Parade with our parking team.
- I have advised and supported a number of families in Nascot, including some whose children have special educational needs.
- Together with my ward colleagues we send out regular e-newsletters, Focus newsheets, and targeted street letters on specific local issues. I also have my own Facebook site

- I endeavour to keep up to date with my training, particularly relating to Development Management and Licensing, but I also attend national conferences on specific areas relating to my Cabinet Portfolio.
- In my role as a Cabinet Member, I attended meetings of the Outsourced Services Committee, Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the Budget Panel and the Audit Committee.
- I have advised residents on a range of planning matters and am a member of the Development Management Committee

7. Providing vision

I strive to build a town where everyone has equal opportunity to be housed, enjoy leisure, and have gainful employment. Although not directly Borough responsibilities, I look to improve the quality of the local education and ensure that the Borough is well served by its local health services.

I do this in my meetings with my fellow Cabinet Members, my work with the Senior Leadership team and with leaders of the various departments that constitute my portfolio.

8. Managing Performance

I meet regularly, typically at least once a month and where necessary more frequently with all my heads of service to discuss their department's performance and where appropriate review their key performance indicators. Good performance must be far more than just achieving a series of KPIs.

Objective(s) for 2019/20

1. To ensure that all Departments meet or pass their service targets.
2. To ensure that the Watford 2020 programme is a success.
3. To see that successful launch of Watford Commercial Services
4. Through the use of its ICT, wireless and broadband to see the Council adopt innovative strategies and services to serve Watford better.

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