

<p><b>1. 3-Year Grant Funding Programme *</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The current programme provides funding to 3 commissioned preferred provider organisations and 8 grant funded organisations to provide a range of services. This funding stream ends 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013.</li> <li>• * The budget of £841,165 includes an amount of £148,420 for property related issues, therefore the maximum amount available for future funding to support identified service delivery priority outcomes £732,745.</li> <li>• From April 1<sup>st</sup> 2013 the accommodation costs will be charged to the organisations leasing the council property that this relates to.</li> <li>• As the programme ceases, the budget of £732,745 will be reviewed and decisions made on how to deploy this expenditure on priority service delivery options identified in the Commissioning Framework and savings required.</li> </ul>
<p><b>2. Community Centres</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The council has for many years been pursuing a strategy to support VCS organisations to take over the management of council owned community centres.</li> <li>• 4 centres have successfully transferred to date. As part of this process the council has committed to providing a grant to each of the organisations to enable them to fund the management of the centres. This grant represented a cost saving on the management costs of the council running the service itself.</li> <li>• The service is monitored through an SLA. As each comes to an end, service provision, cost efficiency, value for money and future sustainability plans will be reviewed, refined and decisions made on the level of future funding.</li> </ul>
<p><b>3. Discretionary Rate Relief</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The council can use its discretion to award relief from the payment of business rates. Guidelines on awarding discretionary relief to registered charities were adopted by the council's</li> </ul>

	<p>Executive on the 19 March 2007.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Each case must be considered on its own merit. Currently 88 charitable/not-for-profit organisations/sports clubs benefit from discretionary relief with a financial impact on the council of in excess of £200,000.</li><li>• These guidelines are currently under review in the light of the introduction of Local Business Rate Retention in April 2013 and a separate process for reviewing and agreeing any changes to policy will be undertaken by Finance and reported to Cabinet in due course.</li></ul>
<b>4. Property Rental *</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cabinet in 2006 adopted a policy which confirmed that all council rented premises should charge a market rent regardless of the status of the occupiers. (It should be noted that a market rent may not be the commercial rent achievable on a given property as the rental level will be assessed on the basis of the nature and use of the property. This means that a property agreed for community use will be assessed on the basis of that more limited market for the property)</li><li>• Organisations not paying market rent were informed that from April 2007 the council expected payment of market rent when either the current lease expired or when there was an opportunity for a rent review within the existing lease.</li><li>• In addition, it was agreed that not-for-profit organisations should be granted a lease that excludes external repairs and maintenance when their current lease expires except where the organisation has been complying with the terms of a full repairing lease and new not-for-profit organisation tenants should be granted a lease that excludes external repairs.</li><li>• Some organisations in receipt of grant support have continued to receive grant through the 3-Year Grant Funding Programme to offset the market rent.</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013 this support will cease. From April 1<sup>st</sup> those organisations that are not commissioned to provide services from council-owned buildings will be responsible for paying the rent set out in their lease through their own resources.</li> </ul>
<p><b>5. Sports Commissioning</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Sports Development budget supports the actions agreed within the Sport Development Framework which are to:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. Increase community participation in physical activity and sport to contribute towards a healthy town for Watford residents;</li> <li>. Develop capacity within the local sporting infrastructure, particularly around clubs, coaches and volunteers, to improve sporting opportunities.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• A proportion of this budget is used to target low participation groups identified through the Active People Survey; such as women, people with disabilities, children and young people, 14 - 25, 55 plus and black and minority ethnic communities.</li> <li>• In addition, we subsidise the Coaching Bursary Scheme through the Herts Sports Partnership which encourages and supports more volunteers to obtain coaching qualifications.</li> <li>• A range of workshops on First Aid, Safeguarding, Equality and Coaching Disabled People are also subsidised to help improve the local sporting infrastructure.</li> <li>• The council commissions and subsidises the provision of free swimming and gym sessions for children and young people during the main school holidays.</li> </ul>
<p><b>6. Small Grants Fund</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Small Grants Fund was created by amalgamating the Mayor's Community Fund and the Annual Fund thereby reducing the budget by 50%. There is therefore £50,000 committed for 2012/13.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This year the fund offers not-for-profit groups the opportunity to apply for a grant of up to £2000 for project based initiatives which meets one of the following criteria:</li> </ul> <p>Enhance the town’s environment or heritage through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. public area cleanups</li> <li>. improving the visual look of the town</li> <li>. an event or activity celebrating the town’s history</li> </ul> <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. provide an event or activity which celebrates the town’s community and multi-cultural diversity.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Small Grants Fund is reviewed annually and is responsive to changing priorities.</li> <li>• Going forward there will be a need to review whether to continue this funding and if so to agree the criteria and budget for 2013/14.</li> </ul>
<p><b>7. Culture and Arts</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Watford Cultural Plan sets out the framework for the cultural rejuvenation of Watford for the next 5 years.</li> <li>• Through research and consultation, 4 development themes have been identified focusing on the town centre, but connecting assets and opportunities across communities. The 4 themes are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. Balanced Watford</li> <li>. Accessible Watford</li> <li>. Talented Watford</li> <li>. Participating Watford</li> </ul> </li> <li>• A budget of £17,000 is used to commission artists and local organisations to carry out work to</li> </ul>

	<p>deliver activities to support these themes e.g. Pop-Up Galleries, professional exhibition space [Space 2 Galleries], Imagine Watford and Watford Live festivals. £20,000 from the Local Authority Business Growth Incentive funding (LABGI) supports the Imagine Watford festival.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In addition, significant investment goes to the Watford Palace Theatre (currently through the 3-Year Grant Funding Programme) and to Watford Colosseum.</li> <li>• The theatre delivers inspirational, diverse and cutting edge theatre and film performances with a wide regional and local community attraction and engages in extensive participatory work with young people and communities. This includes major celebrations in the calendar of local diverse communities.</li> <li>• The council has a contract with HQ theatres to manage and promote the recently refurbished Colosseum, which provides a wide range of entertainment including comedy, bands, classical music, musicals, some large scale theatre performances, restaurant as well as being the home of the BBC Concert Orchestra, a conference venue and available for community hires.</li> </ul>
<p><b>8.Externally Commissioned Services</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• District councils are not best placed to undertake the commissioning process for areas of activity that are the primary responsibility of other commissioning services e.g. health care, social care, education, youth services, fire services, crime and disorder nor does the council have dedicated funding for these activities.</li> </ul>