

Watford Borough Council Delivery Plan Progress Update

THEME 1: A council that serves our residents

Key achievements over this period

- Watford Borough Council have been assigned as the district lead on the 'Staying Connected' project, which is a cross organisational Herts wide initiative that aims
 to support people with accessing information technology devices/kit and assist with training to help get them digitally connected to reduce social isolation.
 Support is now available for Watford residents who are digitally excluded either through lack of access to technology or digital skills and the project is gradually
 increasing both the number of devices available and volunteers who can provide training throughout the remainder of the year to ensure that as many residents
 as possible who need support are able to access the scheme.
- Our Reimagining Watford project, as a key strand within the Town Hall Quarter programme, has commenced and looks to ensure that we maximise upon the benefits of more agile working whilst recognising the need for an ongoing collaborative space for staff. As staff return to the office, we have been engaging with our Staff Ambassadors Group and using the results of our staff surveys to understand the space, which will support our staff whilst also allowing them to deliver the best service to residents and businesses. Work to return to the office is now underway with some decluttering of the existing work spaces commenced. The council is monitoring any government / NHS advice on Covid secure working and has steps in place to ensure the health and safety of staff, members and customers.
- Completed refurbishment of suites in buildings 4 & 6 at Croxley Business Park vacant industrial stocks now limited as everything else under offer which marks a positive position from this time last year.
- Following a successful business continuity planning process, the council has been able to retain delivery of the vast majority of services permitted by government guidance during the second and third national Covid-19 lockdowns.
- Outturn report completed and understatement of c.£0.2m compared to last budget.
- The council's Business Intelligence platform has been implemented and the first services, including HR and the EPMO, are using the system. A further app to monitor all WBC projects and programmes, and record progress against the Council Plan, has now been launched and work is underway to create information dashboards for services across the council.
- Successfully connected our Business Intelligence platform to a Customer Service Centre data source to enable real time reporting.



Theme BRAG Analysis

BRAG rating	Key	Total number in theme
	Completed	3
	On track	14
	Planning underway	0
	Delayed / Unknown	0
	Delivery reprofiled as a result of external influences	1
Total	1	18

	il is a caring and collaborative organisation rs to people at the heart of everything we	Project	Key Milestones	'RAG' Rating	Update
1. Provide an excellent customer experience	We will deliver a new Customer Experience Strategy covering the next 5 years to ensure that we provide an excellent end-to-end customer experience across all our services.	Customer Experience Strategy	 ✓ September '20- Research and analyse data sources ✓ November '20 – Strategy development ✓ November '20- Present draft strategy to Strategic Board October '21 - Engage Leadership Board & Portfolio Holders October '21 – Strategy approved by Leadership Board Nov '21 – Strategy approved by Cabinet 	Delivery Reprofiled	The Customer Experience Strategy will be supported by engagement with members, residents, businesses and officers as it is a critical part of ensuring that our customers remain firmly at the heart of what we do. The draft strategy is complete and an initial discussion held at the council's Strategic Group. Subsequent research and analysis of data services has been delayed to take account of the impact of the pandemic on future customer behaviour but the strategy will



					now be taken forward for internal and external consultation prior to approval by cabinet. External consultation will be a qualitative piece of engagement with a focus on specific customer groups, those who have more specific needs such as those who are 60+ or have disabilities.
2. Ensure a continual focus on customer needs	We know our customer needs constantly change, so we will continually review the services we are providing to our residents and businesses, ensuring we make the most of new technology without overlooking those who require a personal service	Customer Experience Strategy	Milestones subject to Customer Experience Strategy (above)	On track	This activity forms an integral part of most Service Plans and remains an ongoing action across the council. The development of the Customer Experience Strategy will drive forward this commitment and outline some focused activity to deliver this commitment. The past 16 months have been a great example of how the council constantly adapts to ensure that we continue to meet the needs of our customers.
3. Address digital isolation	We will work with our partners, volunteers and community groups to support residents who do not have access to technology or do not currently have	Watford Helps (Road to Renewal Plan)	 ✓ January '21 – Develop job descriptions for 'Digital Navigators' ✓ May '21 – Develop eligibility 	On track	The approach to this project has been changed and is being delivered through a county wide, cross organisational 2 year
	the skills to use IT so that they have the		criteria for devices		programme involving
	same opportunities as others in our		✓ May'21 - Develop process for		Hertfordshire County Council, the
	town.		accessing, cleaning and		NHS Trusts, Voluntary Sector
			distributing IT kit and Herts wide digital support map / database		organisations including the CVS's and relevant charities as well as



			✓ September '21 – Deploy approved approach		district and borough councils (WBC is the lead council for LAs across the county). Support is now available for Watford residents who are digitally excluded either through lack of access to technology or digital skills and the project is gradually increasing both the number of devices available and volunteers who can provide training throughout the remainder of the year to ensure that as many residents as possible who need support are able to access the scheme.
COMMITMENT Deliver high quality su	stainable services	Project	Key Milestones	'RAG' Rating	Update
1. Deliver a new Waste and Recycling offering for Watford	We will deliver the new waste and recycling service to cut waste, increase recycling and ensure the sustainability of our service.	Waste and Recycling Service Review	✓ 1 September '20 – New service launched	Complete	The new waste and recycling service launched on 1 September 2020. This included a new chargeable green waste service which just under 14,000 households have signed up to (85% via our online form). The town has seen increased levels of recycling following the service change.
2. Embed a continuous	We know that our customers value great and easy access to excellent services. We	Continuous Improvement	✓ September '20 – Begin to gather insight	On track	The need for continuous improvement and providing the



improvement approach across all of our services.	will develop a new approach to ensure that we learn from leading practice and our changing customer needs and challenge ourselves to continually improve to deliver excellent, high quality services to our residents and businesses.		•	September '20 - Develop and deploy ongoing improvements February '21 - Develop methodology April '21 - Develop Business Intelligence dashboard April '21 - Develop prioritised improvement timeline Sep 2020 - Feb 2022 - Develop and deploy ongoing improvements		very best service to our customers is already an integral part of the work that all services undertake. The continuous improvement process model for customer facing services is now established through regular service meetings to review the provision of services across all access channels. All feedback, volumetrics and other data is reviewed at these meetings with improvement actions agreed and prioritised and progress against the improvements identified monitored. This methodology will be reviewed in February to ensure it remains fit for purpose in view of the growing number of process available through both our online and telephone channels.
3. Manage our organisational renewal post Covid-19	We will support the council to bounce back from Covid-19, addressing any backlogs and learning from ways of working during the emergency to ensure that we make the most of new opportunities to meet our resident and customer expectations.	Remobilisation (Road to Renewal Plan)	✓	6 July '20– Road to Renewal Plan approved by Cabinet	On track	All additional milestones captured with our Road to Renewal plan. The council's first Road to Renewal plan was approved by Cabinet in July 2020 and progress has been tracked through regular updates to Cabinet alongside the whole of the strategic framework. It should be noted that a refresh of the Road to Renewal plan is



					currently underway to align with the challenges which have arisen following a year of the pandemic, which will include the impact on the organisation itself.
COMMITMENT	_	Project	Key Milestones	'RAG'	Update
Empower leaders at a organisation and our	all levels in our council to inspire our communities.			Rating	
1. Introduce a new Organisational Development approach	We want to make sure that we develop, motivate and inspire our staff whilst ensuring that they feel supported and empowered to do their best for our residents and businesses. To do this, we will develop a new approach to Organisational Development which will recognise the strengths and commitment of our staff whilst helping them to work as one team in the best interests of our town, residents and businesses. We will ensure that our approach protects their health and wellbeing and that it provides opportunities for genuine two-way engagement.	Organisational Development Strategy	✓ 6 July – Organisational Development Strategy approved by Cabinet	On track	All additional milestones and progress updates captured within Appendix B – Organisational Development Quarterly Update.
2. Improve our	Learning from the experience of Covid-19,	Organisational	✓ 30 July '20 – Internal	Complete	New internal governance
internal decision	we will ensure our internal governance	Renewal (Road	engagement relating to		approach in place from
making so that it is	structures allow us to make well-	to Renewal	governance processes complete		September 2020 to ensure robust
agile and effective	considered, transparent decisions as quickly	Plan)	✓ 1 September '20 - New internal		but agile decision making and a
	as possible to support our ambition to react		governance structure in place		clear and renewed focus.



3. Improve succession planning and talent management and recruitment	efficiently to deliver our commitments to our residents and community. We will ensure that we open up opportunities for staff to build their skills, experience and knowledge so that working for our town can be a fulfilling and professional career. Where we do need to recruit, we will ensure we recruit the very best candidates from those that apply and represents the diverse backgrounds of our residents.	Organisational Development Strategy	and corporate communications circulated ✓ 6 July '20 – Organisational Development Strategy approved by Cabinet	On track	All additional milestones and progress updates captured within Appendix B – Organisational Development Quarterly Update.
COMMITMENT Focus our budget so w secure investment to v	e can deliver on our commitments and vork for Watford	Project	Key Milestones	'RAG' Rating	Update
1. Ensure our investment portfolio delivers maximum value to the council	We will ensure that we are actively managing our investment portfolio, including exploring new opportunities to protect our income levels, manage risk and maximise value over the longer term, so that we can continue to provide high quality services to our residents and businesses.	Investment Portfolio (Road to Renewal Plan)	 ✓ 23 July '20 - Compare latest quarter rent/investment collections with pre-Covid quarters ✓ 10 August '20 – outstanding market rent letters sent ✓ 15 August '20 - Intu rent receipt not received ✓ 7 September '20 – Regus rent extension agreed at PIB ✓ 20 October '20 - LSH quarterly update report to Commercial Income and Investment Board ✓ 1 November '20 – Additional occupation of CBP premises 	On track	Further refurbishments have completed at Croxley Business Park and monitoring of quarterly rent receipts and comparison with previous quarters remains ongoing. The June RPI has been confirmed, enabling the annual review of head lease. Watford Centre Ltd has agreed and completed a surrender premium with John Lewis at Atria, and WBC has now received the majority of this premium,



	 ✓ 30 November '20 – Ongoing monitoring of intu rent income ✓ 02 December '20 - Cabinet approval for the refurbishment of the Croxley Business park units 	with the balance expected in September. Atria seeing encouraging volumes from leisure and event businesses since lockdown ended on 19 July,
	 ✓ 16 December '20 – CIIB approved Croxley Business park refurb ✓ 8 February '21– Cabinet approval for the letting of Building 1 at Croxley Business 	in line with expected change in consumer behaviours post-Covid.
	Park ✓ 1 March '21 – Cabinet approval to the Croxley BP Business Plan for 2021/22 ✓ March '21 Completion of procurement for external legal support at Croxley Business Park	
	 ✓ June '21 – Review of Croxley Business Park income model ✓ July '21 – Premium from John Lewis site received ✓ August '21 – Refurbishments of buildings 4 & 6 completed September '21 – Receipt of 	
	 balance of John Lewis premium October '21 – Final sale of Gade car park expected October '21 – Decision expected from interested party on 935 High St proposal 	



			November'21 – Atria pay-over due	
2. Assess the feasibility of Growth Fund	We will assess the feasibility of using our financial strength to support economic growth and an investment return through investing in start-up and growth opportunities.	Revive (Road to Renewal Plan)	with investment advisors to undertake a programme of work Collin to	chis work will form part of the commercial pipeline overseen by the Executive Head of commercial Finance and continues to investigate the feasibility of an innovation and Incubation Hub in the town as part of the Town Hall Quarter programme, which will selp to support start-ups.
3. Deliver the council's financial recovery	We will reset our finances in the light of the pressures created by COVID-19 and based on insight about possible future pressures which will allow us to fund priorities to help Watford recover.	Financial Resilience (Road to Renewal Plan)	discussions at Council ✓ 10 September '20 - Budget strategy review at Portfolio Holders and Heads of Service ✓ 23 September '20- Review base budget adjustments ✓ 12 October '20- Growth bids and savings proposals for	Ongoing management of budgets nd planning for impact of Covid on future financial years. However, this will need to ontinue as the town emerges from future lockdowns or tiered estrictions. ATFS to be considered by Council on January 2022.



4. Manage the council finances	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 for the money we have available.	Financial Resilience (Road to Renewal Plan)	 ✓ 14 July '20 - Budget reset discussions at Council ✓ 10 September '20 - Budget strategy review at Portfolio Holders and Heads of Service ✓ 23 September '20 - Review base budget adjustments ✓ 12 October '20 - Growth bids and savings proposals for 2021/22 due from services ✓ November '20 - assessment of growth bids and savings proposals in preparation for the budget setting cycle. ✓ January '21 - 2021/22 budget setting process completed 	On track	Ongoing management of budgets and planning for impact of Covid on future financial years. This will continue as the incident develops and the final impact of Covid-19 remains uncertain at the current time. MTFS to be considered by Council in January 2022.
COMMITMENT Welcome innovation, continuously improve	technology and new ways of working to	Project	Key Milestones	'RAG' Rating	Update
1. Ensure that our use of digital technology matches our ambition to deliver the best possible service to our residents	We will deliver a new ICT strategy for the next five year period to ensure that we are making the most of new ICT and digital opportunities.	ICT Strategy	Q3/Q4 2021/22 – Development of strategy underway for approval at Cabinet All future milestones will be dependent on the Strategy but implementation is anticipated from early 2022 onwards. However, in effect delivery of the strategy has already commenced with the building of the Office 365 tenancy.	On track	The development of the council's ICT strategy (2022 to 2027) is underway with delivery of the document expected in early 2022 This will build upon the huge progress made over the period of the last strategy which saw the completion of the core infrastructure programme, the roll out of laptops for all staff and the introduction of the highly



			Covid related work, including the deployment of Microsoft Teams to a small group of individuals and to further support a likely requirement for Community Protection staff to access a Covid related system within the HCC cloud based data centres.		communications platform which has allowed all staff to continue working throughout Covid-19 with minimal impact on services.
2. Deliver our Business Intelligence Strategy	We will improve how the council uses data and information to support well-informed decisions, improve performance and provide a better customer experience. We will use this information to monitor the delivery of our services for customers and to take action if something needs improving.	Business Intelligence	 ✓ October '20 - Draft strategy ready for organisational review and socialisation October 2020 ✓ February '21 – Strategy approved by Leadership Board. To be reviewed by Cabinet alongside the Customer Experience Strategy Future milestones are due to be agreed through discussions with services 	On track	The first draft of Business Intelligence Strategy has been prepared. The council's Business Intelligence platform has been implemented and the first services are using the system. The App to monitor all WBC projects and programmes, and record progress against the Council Plan, has now been completed and work continues to develop a Customer Experience dashboard, covering a wide range of areas including complaints and customer contact, with completion expected in September 2021. We are currently developing a new reporting methodology using the business intelligence platform to partially automate the production of KPI reports, and increase the scope for better analysis of performance, and more engaging ways to present KPI data to stakeholders.



3. Ensure that the council's future office accommodation is fit for purpose	Learning the lessons from Covid-19 and listening to our staff, we will develop plans to ensure the council has a modern, fit for purpose, sustainable and good value for money offices to work from.	Organisational Development Strategy (Also linked to High Street North / Cultural Hub works)	✓ 6 July '20 – Organisational Development Strategy approved by Cabinet	On track	All additional milestones and progress updates captured within Appendix B – Organisational Development Quarterly Update. It should be noted that this activity is being delivered through the Town Hall Quarter programme which was initiated in January 2021. Engagement is underway with all staff as part of our Reimagining Watford project but the ambition is to create a workspace which is fit for the future, supports collaborative working and allows our staff to provide the very best service to our residents and businesses
4. Enhance agile ways of working for our staff	We will ensure that our staff are able to provide high quality and efficient services to customers when they want them by opening up opportunities for staff to work remotely or in an agile way, helping the council to become an employer of choice.	Agile Working	 September '21 – Team office clearing and decluttering September / October '21 – Agile Charters and Reconnecting Bubbles October '21 – Piloting agile working Mid 2022 – Move to new agile space 	On track	Our Reimagining Watford project, as a key strand within the Town Hall Quarter programme, looks to ensure that we maximise upon the benefits of more agile working whilst recognising the need for an ongoing collaborative space for staff. As staff return to the office, we have been engaging with our Staff Ambassadors Group and using the results of our staff surveys to understand the space whilst would allow our staff to deliver the best service to residents and businesses. Work to return to the



					office is now underway with some decluttering of the existing work spaces commenced so that it is more aligned to agile working.
5. Embed resilience across the organisation We will ensure that our staff are partial and have the necessary information, understanding and a manage any future disruption to sand learn from this.	(Road to Renewal Plan)	\[\square \tau \] \[\square \t	6 July '20 - Report to SLT on lessons learnt from first wave response 31 July '20 – Updated business continuity plans template agreed and instructions for review and second lockdown scenario planning circulated 31 August '20 – All Business Continuity Plans updated 14 September '20 - Report to LB on second wave preparations 21 September '20 - Report to PHs on second wave preparations May '21 – Review of function completed and reviewed at Leadership Board From June '21 – Delivery of recommendation of review	On track	Business continuity plans across the council have been updated to reflect the lessons learnt from the first wave of Covid-19. Plans for second wave preparedness were finalised and put into action effectively. This includes the impact on services and a clear and auditable process for amending services based on resource requirements or government guidance. A review of the corporate resilience approach has been completed and was discussed at the council's Leadership Board in May 2021. Planning underway to implement proposed changes in relation to emergency planning



THEME 2: A thriving, diverse and creative town

Key achievements over this period

- Town Hall Quarter programme developed into a comprehensive single programme to regenerate the area at the north end of the High Street, ensure a sustainable future for the Town Hall and Colosseum, develop a refreshed heritage and museum service and adopt new ways of working for the council. Significant progress made to date on potential designs and the development of associated business cases
- £3.7m awarded to the council to assist in the decarbonisation of the Town Hall and Colosseum, contributing to the council's target of achieving a greener organisation. Initial discovery work has now commenced on-site with completion expected by March 2022.
- The sale of all remaining plots at Woodlands within the Riverwell development have now completed. Construction of the Multi-Storey Car Park has commenced on site and good progress has been made to date, with practical completion expected in January 2022. Jarvis have been appointed as main contractor on Family Housing with Phase 1 set for 1st section completion in August 2023.
- Covid lockdown restrictions ended on 19 July with large volumes returning to the high street and the night-time economy in particular. July footfall data was comparable with July 2019. Our 'Summer of Fun' programme of events was held to encourage the public back to a safe town centre.
- Market successfully refurbished within budget and new 'Market Lates' event launched 3 September to bring food, music and entertainment and promote the market as a place to shop, eat, drink and be entertained.
- £0.98m paid directly to business by way of Additional Restrictions Grants by end July 2021. An additional 'top-up' of c.£0.85m funding successfully applied for enabling a further menu of grants to support local businesses, charities and young entrepreneurs across Watford.
- Watford Business Growth Grant launched with £0.5m fund to advise and support businesses with 5-10 employees eligibility criteria being reviewed to enable more businesses to claim.
- Charitable Support Grant launched 16 August to support local charities.
- Agreement reached with the University of Hertfordshire to create and manage a Young Entrepreneurs programme to support 18-30 year olds considering setting up/already set up a business this will be across all sectors with particular emphasis on the creative and green/sustainability sectors.
- Agreement reached with Watford Palace Theatre to manage grants as part of our Cultural Strategy delivery programme to support arts and culture.
- Expression of Interest published for tenders to manage a Low Carbon Business grant scheme encouraging businesses to lower their carbon output and associated costs.
- Economic Growth Strategy finalised and agreed by Cabinet June 2021. This vision and strategy for economic development for Watford (that embraces economic growth, environmental sustainability, social equity and inclusive growth) will be formally launched in October alongside a new 'branding and narrative for Watford' to promote the town effectively. Detailed plan created to deliver associated programme of work.



- Successful 'Welcome Back Fund' application enabling the Council to recoup some funding already spent on reopening the town safely.
- Full support provided to Chamber of Commerce-led KickStart programme to help young people at risk of long term unemployment get into the job market by providing government funding for employers to create six-month job placements. A number of placements created at the Council.

Theme BRAG Analysis

BRAG rating	Key	Total number in theme
	Completed	5
	On track	12
	Planning underway	3
	Delayed / Unknown	2
	Delivery reprofiled as a result of external influences	0
Total	result of external findences	22

COMMITMENT Promote Watford as an e businesses can invest, gro	•	Project	Key Milestones	'RAG' Rating	Update
1. Drive the economic	We will develop our Watford	Revive (Road	√ 17 July '20 – Develop tender brief	Initial	Strategy finalised and agreed
recovery of Watford	Survive, Revive and Thrive	to Renewal	√ 27 July '20 – Tender documents finalised	activities	by Cabinet.
	Recovery Plan to support the	Plan)	√ 21 August '20 – Tender closes	complete but	
	economic engine of our town		√ 10 September '20 – Supplier interviews	work remains	Final public document to be
	as it survives COVID-19, revives		√ 15 September '20 – Supplier confirmed	ongoing	launched alongside new
	and once again thrives.		√ 2 October '20 – Strategy development		brand narrative in Autumn
	The Plan brings together a		initiation		2021.
	number of work streams to		√ 8 October '20 - Initial stakeholder		
	support our town through the		engagement event		Detailed Economic Delivery
	immediate challenges that		√ 12 October '20 – Design survey and		Plan to be managed by our
	have arisen during lockdown		questions		enhanced Economic
	and will help us all plan for the				Development team and



	future in a very uncertain landscape to ensure Watford remains a vibrant economic hub in south west Hertfordshire.			19 October '20 – Deliver survey and survey live period 02 November '20 – Review survey results 06 November '20 – Commence 1:1 stake-holder meetings 27 November '20 – Definition of strategic priorities 23 December '20 – First draft of strategy 21 January '21 – Second draft of strategy 09 February '21 – Review by Mayor/Cllrs 11 February '21 – Review by One Watford for Business 18 February '21 – Review by Strategy Group 15 March '21 – Final strategy received 18 March '21 – Final review by WBC Steering Committee 27 April '21 – Leadership Board update 30 April '21 – Publishable docs and detailed working Action Plan complete 07 June '21 – Review and sign-off by Cabinet August '21 - Detailed plan and work programme created Autumn '21 – Public-facing strategy published		created to manage work coming out of the Growth Strategy which will inform the refreshed Road to Renewal plan.
2. Re-mobilise our	We will continue our close	Reopening	√	10 July '20— Approach to high street	Initial	Local support to businesses,
Town Centre and local	working with Watford BID, intu, our businesses and other	the Town Centre (Road	/	stewards agreed 15 July '20 – Shop local campaign	activities complete but	including in relation to public health, has continued.
economy and support its recovery	partners to position Watford	to Renewal	·	introduced	work remains	public fleatth, flas continued.
its recovery	town centre as the town	Plan)	/	22 July '20— Changes to pavement licensing		Revised governance
	centre of choice for our local	ridii)	V	15 September '20 – Enhanced track and	ongoing	structure introduced 13
	people as well as the wider			trace roll out		January 2021 when Town



region, making it safe, welcoming and somewhere people know they can visit to socialise, dine-out, shop and enjoy.	

- ✓ 12 October '20 Officer meeting re longterm strategy for High Street traffic control
- √ 12 October '20 Traffic Marshals agreed to be in place until January 2021
- √ 23 October '20 Long-term strategy for High Street traffic control considered at RCB
- ✓ October '20 Winter planters in place to aid social distancing
- ✓ 11 November '20 Social distanced Remembrance Day
- √ 13 November '20— Christmas light switchon
- ✓ 02 December '20 Town centre re-opened after November lockdown – transition to 'tier' system
- √ 02 December '20 Covid Marshals introduced
- √ 05 December '20 Spectators return to Watford FC.
- ✓ December '20 Comprehensive comms programme to reinforce tier messaging
- ✓ 06 January '21 Review of festive period in Town Centre
- √ 13 January '21 New Town Centre
 Operations Group structure took over
- ✓ 22 February '21 Gov't roadmap published
- ✓ 08 March '21 Gov't roadmap schools return
- ✓ March '21 Market revamp programme commenced ahead of 13 April reopening
- ✓ 29 March '21 Gov't Roadmap outdoor sport and leisure facilities open

Centre Operations Group took over responsibility to provide a real focus for the council to support the Town Centre through tactical interventions and projects. The Town Centre Strategic Forum has been established to provide the strategic direction for the town centre.

Programme of projects now tracked at Operations Group to support businesses and encourage the public back into the town in line with the published Government Roadmap.

Public health advice and support for businesses across the Town, but particularly in the Town Centre, has been ongoing throughout.

In the last quarter, the Town Centre Operations Group refocussed to concentrate on tracking metrics and community objectives e.g. anti-social behaviours, begging etc to ensure we



			\[\lambda \] \[\lambda \] \[\lambda \]	12 April '21 – Government Roadmap – outdoor hospitality, non-essential retail, gyms & swims, close contact services open From 17 April '21 – Street entertainers every Saturday 17 May '21 – Government roadmap – indoor entertainment and indoor sport open, pilot public events End May '21 – Summer planters installed 19 July '21 – Government roadmap final step – nightclubs and large events open, no legal limits on social contact 20 – 26 July '21 - BID Food & Drink week BID appointed new Christmas Lights provider July/August '21- Summer programme of events e.g. 'Big Beach' 03 September '21 – first 'Market Lates' event Mid-November '21 – Christmas lights		attract the public back to the town centre. Final Covid legal restrictions came to an end 19 July 2021 and a Summer programme of events was held to welcome people back to our town centre and support our local businesses.
3. Invigorate our small and medium businesses	We will speak regularly to our smaller and medium sized	Survive (Road to	√	June '20 - Business Information Hub	Initial activities	Business partnerships and
across the town	businesses and local business	Renewal	./	launched and communications circulated	complete but	forums review complete and all recommendations
across the town	owners across the town. We	Plan)		August '20 – Review of existing forums August '20 – Business forums	work remains	implemented to ensure that
	will understand their strengths	,	•	recommendations approved by Informal	ongoing	the council is best placed to
	and concerns and, based on			Cabinet, including merging virtual Covid-19		support the many successful
	this, will produce a package of			group with SME business Connect		smaller businesses and
	practical help, support and advice to enable them to		\checkmark	September '20 – Wenta support		business owners across the town. All first forums have
	bounce back and thrive			programme proposal approved by Renewal		been held with regular
	following the impact of COVID-			Coordination Board		meetings scheduled. The
	19 and to support them		√	October '20 – Final virtual Covid-19 Forum		council has continued to
	through exit from the EU.		√	October '20 – Wenta business support programme to launch		work hard to support local



			✓ ✓ ✓ ✓	November '20 – Relaunch of SME Business Connect November '20 – Relaunch Developers' Forum January '21 – BID Ballot opens February '21 – Inaugural One Watford for Business April '21 – Next 'One Watford for Business' forum held July – direct Additional Restrictions Grants paid to businesses July – Watford Business Growth Grant launched August – Charitable Support Grant launched		of available grants.
4. Attract and retain	Recognising the importance of	Thrive (Road	√	July '20 – Key businesses identified	Initial	Key accounts scheme
big business in Watford	big businesses to local employment in the town, we	to Renewal Plan)	√	August '20 – Business CRM tender	activities complete but	launched and meetings underway. All businesses
	will introduce new ways to	i idii,	_	underway August '20 – Review of existing forums	work remains	involved will have regular
	engage with the town's larger		√ ·	August '20 – Business forums	ongoing	interactions with senior
	businesses and major			recommendations approved by Informal		council officers, with contact
	employers to give them a			Cabinet		recorded on the business
	strong voice in Watford's		√	August '20 – Key Accounts Programme		CRM system.
	economic future and to support their business plans			approach approved		Business partnerships and
	for growth. This will include		\checkmark	September '20 - Leadership Team account		forums review complete and
	moving to a key account			managers assigned to businesses		all recommendations were
	model for our top 50 firms,		√	September '20 – CRM supplier appointed		implemented to ensure that
	providing them with a direct		√	October '20 – existing contacts added to		the town attracts and
	link to the council.			CRM		retains major employers for
			√	October '20 – CRM contract		Watford residents.
			V	October '20 – Introduction emails to initial		
				20 businesses		



			 ✓ November '20 – CRM live ✓ December '20 – Key Accounts Programme launched ✓ December '20 – Business partnerships and forums review complete and all recommendations implemented ✓ April '21 – Next 'One Watford for Business' forum held ✓ August '21 – Business Rates data uploaded to CRM 		
5. Maximise opportunities for Watford	We will work closely with local partners, including the Hertfordshire Growth Board to maximise opportunities for Watford within the County and wider sub-region. This will include joint working on schemes to benefit the whole town, such as improving the town's travel options, public spaces and schools. Our aim is to make Watford the obvious option for public investment in infrastructure to encourage economic prosperity to improve the lives of our residents and opportunities for our businesses, which will support the wider communities in Hertfordshire.	N/A	 ✓ Q1 and Q2 2020/21 - Spatial Options development ✓ Q3 2021/22- Statement of Common Ground and Statement of Community Involvement across authorities to be agreed ✓ Q3 2021/22 - Complete development of a Vision for the Joint Strategic Partnership. ◆ Q4 2021/22 - Consultation on the Vision 	On track	Continuing to contribute to the development of a strategic approach to growth in SW Hertfordshire including Watford, Dacorum, Hertsmere, Three Rivers and St Albans through ongoing work with the East/West Southern Growth Corridor Programme, the Hertfordshire Growth Board and the LEP.



right environment for bu		Project	Key Milestones	'RAG' Rating	Update
1. Progress our plans for the High Street North and Cultural Hub	We will take forward plans to revitalise the 'High Street north' area to create a vibrant and attractive neighbourhood for all our residents to enjoy, as well as establishing a new area in the town for culture to flourish.	High Street North	 ✓ Q2 2020 - North High Street Regeneration Study ✓ Q3 - Q4 2020 - Identified programme of developments and strategy with the aim of identifying delivery partner/s to take scheme forward and quick wins ✓ Q3 2020 - Approval and sign off by Cabinet ✓ Q3 - Q4 2020 - Commencement of procurement of development partner(s) to help deliver initial development opportunities together with entering into MoUs with partners for future phases of development ◆ Q3 -Q4 2020 - Detailed feasibility and discussions with stakeholders with the intention of bringing a programme business case to Cabinet in June 2022 as part of the next key gateway 	On track	Plans developed into the Town Hall Quarter programme, which include the regeneration of the Town Hall area / High Street North as well as improvement works to the Town Hall, Colosseum and a review of the council's internal culture and ways of working. Approval for the first stage of the programme was provided by Cabinet on 18 January 2021. Work is now underway to reach the second programme gateway to provide additional assurance in relation to feasibility and value following procurement of a Joint Venture partner, the process of which is now underway. This progress of the programme is being monitored by a Member Steering Group.
2. Develop Watford Business Park	We will develop Watford Business Park to create new, high quality business space	Watford Business	√ Q3 2020 - Submit detailed planning application/commence intrusive surveys/demolition.	Planning Underway	Demolition works were completed in Q1 21/22 and remediation contract awards



	and employment opportunities for local people.	Park (Zone A)	•	August 2021 - Contractor appointed Q1 2021/22 – Secure Cabinet approval to appoint Q3 2021/22 – Main contractor appointed Q4 2021/22 – Construction and preletting campaign on Gateway Zone Q4 2020/21 – Q4 2021/22 – Identify further regen/commercial activities and present outline business cases to the council's Strategic Group and member-led commercial board, once developed		and works will commence in Q3 21/22 and complete in time for the main works contract, which is currently undergoing further validation, to commence in Q4 21/22.
2. Create new neighbourhoods at Riverwell	We will continue to develop the new and vibrant neighbourhood at Riverwell with a high quality mix of new homes, jobs, open spaces and community facilities, including a new car park for Watford General Hospital. The work at Riverwell will support the opportunity for West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust to deliver its ambition for our local hospital.	Riverwell	✓✓✓	Q3 2020 – Planning obtained for the Multi-Storey Car Park (MSCP) and Family Housing and tenders issued. Development of legal agreements Q3-4 2020 – Agree marketing strategy & potential turnkey development proposals for industrial zone north and progress to preparing detailed planning application Q3-4 2020 – To complete enabling works including utility diversions on site Q1 2021/22 – Let contract and start on site for Phase 1 of Family Housing Q1/4 2020 – To continue to develop plans for remaining development zones and their integration into the hospital refurbishment/redevelopment plans Q3 2020 – To have achieved the sale of all remaining residential units at Woodlands and initiate sale of ground lease. Advise Elections team accordingly. Q4 2020 – To have commenced works on site on MSCP	On track	The new Multi-Storey Car Park onsite is under construction with practical completion expected January 2022. Jarvis has been appointed as main contractor on Family Housing with Phase 1 set for 1st section completion in August 2023. Completion achieved of last remaining residential unit at Woodside and sale of ground lease expected to complete shortly. Ongoing dialogue with WHHT on hospital redevelopment proposals following receipt of outline planning consent.



3. Make the best use of our small sites	We will renew sites owned by the council through the creation of new facilities for our community and new homes for local people to ensure that we are doing all we can with the land we own to provide what residents want and need.	Surplus Sites	 ✓ Q3/4 2020 – Ongoing monitoring of site development through liaison with Bellway Homes and Mayfield Q3-4 2020 – Liaise with HCC on legal agreements and delivery of school and ensure timetable accords with longstop ✓ January '21 - Approval of Programme Definition Document intended to relaunch programme and ensure programme approach to surplus sites. ✓ March '21 - Review of sites (internally) to create prioritisation list November '21 – First set of Strategic Outline Cases to be approved All further milestones will be subject to the approval of the above business cases 	On track	A number of council sites being reviewed to ensure that they work for our community. Additional resource has been identified to assist with the business cases for delivering sites.
COMMITMENT		Project	Key Milestones	'RAG' Rating	Update
_	cilities, services and transport opments to create successful,				
well-designed new comm	· ·				
1. Achieve the right	We will produce and deliver a	Local Plan	✓ November '20 – Draft Local Plan to Cabinet	On track	Consultation has now
long-term balance of	comprehensive new Local Plan	Review	✓ January '21 – Consultation underway		concluded and Local Plan
development, services	for Watford which will shape		✓ March '21 – Regulation 19 consultation		submitted to Planning
and transport links for	how the town will develop		completed		Inspectorate. Examination
our town	sustainably over the next 30		✓ Aug '21 – Submission to Planning		by the Inspector is scheduled for across a three
	years and make sure that key development sites are		InspectorateJanuary / February '22 – Local Plan		week period in January /
	underpinned with creative and		examination		February 2022 and will
	Tunderprinied with treative and	<u> </u>	CAGITITIACION		1 Colually 2022 allu Will



2. Champion high quality design in Watford	well-considered masterplans. We will work with other Hertfordshire Councils on long term spatial plans for Hertfordshire. Through the creation of a Design Panel, use of our 3D model and developing	Place Shaping Panel /	✓ ✓	Q1 2020 - Finalise 3D model Q1 2020 – Set up and induct the Place Shaping Design PanelQ2 2020 - Finalise	Delivery reprofiled	ensure that the town is developed in a sustainable way over the next 30 years. Place Shaping Panel operational. 3D model finalised, but go live was
watioiu	planning guidance, we will expand how the council's planning function ensures that proposed development proposal designs are of a high quality.	Watford 3D Urban Model	•	platform for 3D model Q3 2021 – Urban Design Officer starting Q3 2021 - Go Live Watford Urban Design 3D model Q2-Q4 2020– Hold regular panel meeting on a monthly basis		delayed due to the impact of Covid-19 and lack of resources. However, a new Urban Design Officer has been recruited to review and resource the project and will be joining at in October 2021.
3. Develop the Watford Junction Quarter	Recognising the importance of the Watford Junction area for so many of our residents and businesses, we will bring landowners together so we can move forward with our 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.	Watford Junction Quarter	✓✓✓	August '20 - Supplementary planning document for site adopted Q2 2020 – Submit funding bid to Herts Growth Board for infrastructure interventions Q1 2021 – Complete strategic transport review work Q1 2021 – Procure consultants to help deliver collaborative funding and development strategy Q2 2021 – Work with landowners to prepare collaborative funding and development strategy to commence Q1 to Q4 2021 – Working with Network Rail to deliver improvements to Watford	On track	The council continues to work closely with a range of stakeholders to support the development of the Watford Junction area. The council is progressing funding and development strategy work and been liaising with landowners to identify how to facilitate and unblock development. £40k funding has been secured from Homes England to support this work



•	y homes to meet the needs of ng that is affordable through and social housing	Project	Junction station and design a publicly accessible pedestrian link across the rail lines Key Milestones	'RAG' Rating	Update
1. Deliver our Housing Strategy	We will produce and deliver a forward looking Housing Strategy so that Watford continues to offer affordable and good quality homes in thriving and sustainable neighbourhoods.	Deliver Our Housing Strategy	 Q2 2022 – Complete writing draft document by end September 2022 Q3 2022 - Consultation stakeholders, members by end December 2022 Q4 2023 – Approval of final draft by Cabinet and Council by end June 2023 	Delivery reprofiled	Focus over the last period has been on the establishment of a Single Homelessness Pathway to support the council's ambition of achieving and maintaining zero rough sleepers and on the Afghan Resettlement scheme. The delivery of an updated Housing Strategy has subsequently been reprofiled but the existing strategy will be reviewed to ensure that it can continue to provide direction in the intervening period.
2. Delivery of Private	We will work to support the		A number of initiatives identified to support	On track	
Sector Housing	improvement of the standard		private sector housing renewal over the period		
Renewal activity	of the town's privately owned		of the Delivery Plan. This will be an ongoing		
	homes, including ensuring		programme led by the council's Community		
	regulatory compliance, particularly where this can		Protection team and will ensure that the quality		



		 December '21 - External Wall Insulation project review and close 	current schemes are on track. Due to covid and late award of government funding the funds were not granted until March 2021. However a project extension has also been granted until March 2022. Two projects were awarded funding; one with Bucks council and one with TRDC and WCH. Both projects have begun
	lomes	 November: Promotion materials and processes completed and scheme advertised. Scheme commences on site. Scheme runs through winter and demand tails off May '21 New scheme now in development for Winter 2021 	Warmer Homes - As previous reported, the original scheme has been closed, although WBC were highest performing local authority in the County. New scheme is now in development for Winter 2021. Minimum energy efficiency



			Minimum	MEES Scheme set to carry over through new		from central government to
			Energy	financial year to Mar '22 following extension of		pilot ways to improve
			Efficiency	project by BEIS due to covid		energy efficiency within
			Standards			rental properties. Processes
			BEIS			and surveys completed.
						Non-compliant rental
						properties without, or with
						low rated EPCs, will be
						targeted to achieve
						compliance using external
						wall insulation project areas.
						wan insulation project areas.
						HMOs - Properties identified
						have been visited and follow
						up completed. Further
			HMOS	Proactively identify those HMOs that require		investigative work underway
				licensing but are not licenced. Take action to		to develop more intelligence
				ensure that the properties are safe and		and direct visits. Contractor
				licenced.		has been engaged
3.	Review our	To ensure that we are making	Strategic	Continuous assessment of effective partnership	On track	The council works closely
	strategic	the most of our opportunities	Housing	arrangements and practices.		with a number of
	partnerships	to deliver quality homes that	Partnerships			organisations to ensure that
		meet the needs of local				it provides quality homes for
		people, we will review our				Watford residents and will
		strategic housing partnerships				continue to ensure that our
		and ensure that we all work				partnership arrangements
		together to provide quality				remain effective. Work has
		homes for our residents.				also now commenced on a
						single homelessness
						pathway for residents,
						working closely with
						partners to ensure a joined



					up, comprehensive approach for customers.
COMMITMENT Build on our new, greener ways to travel in and around Watford and promote the transition to a low carbon economy.		Project	Key Milestones	'RAG' Rating	Update
1. Position Watford as a Sustainable Travel Town	We will consult with a range of stakeholders to develop a sustainable Transport Strategy. The Strategy will position Watford as a sustainable travel town that promotes greener ways to travel, reduces congestion, helps people to make healthy travel choices and stimulates economic growth.	Sustainable Transport Town	 ✓ September '20 – Board, PID and task developed ✓ November '20 - Develop detailed project plan milestones ✓ November '20 - Public engagement on vision ✓ May '21 - draft strategy presented to Portfolio Holders ✓ Aug '21 – Strategy consultation underway Further milestones subject to final strategy 	On track	Consultation of the draft of the Sustainable Transport Strategy was launched in August 2021 and is due to close at the beginning of October at which point feedback will be reviewed and amendments made, although the timelines will be dependent on the consultation results. Current initiatives of Sustainable Transport Strategy and Infrastructure Delivery Plan are contributing to progression of WBC being named a Sustainable Travel Town by HCC. We will also continue to support and lobby for Watford to have a strong connection to the HERT rapid transit scheme.



2. Implement a demand responsive transport scheme	We will launch the ArrivaClick on demand bus service for Watford and make sure it links effectively with all of Watford's greener ways to travel so that we can reduce congestion, improve air quality and provide another sustainable but innovative way for our residents, visitors and commuters to get around.	Demand Responsive Transport	✓ ·	July '20 – Arrivaclick demand responsive transport system launched	Complete	Revised service launched on 1 July 2020 to ensure conformity with social distancing requirements. A set of new KPI's and ridership projections have been agreed with the operator.
3. Improve the cycling and walking network in Watford	We will work with Hertfordshire County Council and our cycling community on our Local Cycling and Walking Implementation Plan to improve the cycling and walking network across our town so more people choose to cycle and walk around it. This will promote health and wellbeing, encourage residents and visitors to enjoy our public places and ensure that our town becomes greener and cleaner for everyone both now and for years to come.	LCWIP	•	12 April '21– LCWIP stage 3 & 4 - Cycling Network and Walking Network review 17 May '21 - LCWIP Stage 5 - prioritisation complete Q2/Q3 2021 – Undertake public consultation Q4 2021 – Stage 6 - final joint LCWIP document and commencement of implementation	Planning underway	Significant progress has been made since Q2 with the consultation and engagement planned for Q3 underway. Watford is continuing with Stage 4 and 5 elements of the plan and will then reconnect with Three Rivers for Stage 6 and delivery of the final LCWIP document, presented as a joint piece.
4. Champion proposals for a mass-rapid Transport Scheme for Watford	As part of our plans to encourage sustainable transport options, we will work closely with Hertfordshire Growth Board to secure the best mass rapid transport	Mass-Rapid Transport	•	2021/22 – Hertfordshire Growth Board bid to Government for funding* 2021/22 – HCC initiating parameter work to understand the options	On track	High Level early stage discussions held with HCC and their consultants who are leading on the proposal for a mass rapid transport scheme in the area. The



	system for our town, providing a further option for our residents, visitors and commuters to travel sustainably.		 January / February '22 – HCC to procure for design options * dependent on opportunity 		council will continue to support the County Council in their preparation to review options for the MLX replacement and further milestones will be developed as the project progresses.
5. Continue to investigate opportunities to create a low Carbon Transport Hub	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.	Low Carbon Transport Hub	 Engagement with HCC colleagues and BID initiated 2021/22 – Land acquisition discussions and proposals 2021/22 – Consider funding options to progress 	Planning underway	In line with the newly formed Sustainable Transport Board and the council's ongoing commitment to invest in sustainable transport for Watford residents, high level plans are continuing to investigate opportunities to create a low-carbon transport hub in Watford Town Centre. Key milestones in place over the next period which will help to establish future works.
6. Make Watford a sustainable town	Working with our partners, businesses and residents, we will together make Watford a more environmentally friendly town that meets the target of net zero carbon by 2030. We will continue to implement sustainable transport initiatives, support low income households and the		 ✓ September '20 – New waste and recycling service launched ✓ Q2-3 2020 – Warmer homes scheme underway ✓ Q3 2020 – Funding bid to the Energy Trust for the wider roll out of electric vehicle charging and subsequent installed of 7 dual 7KW fast chargers, including in Cassiobury Park, Croxley Business Park and residential 	On track	There are a number of initiatives and projects underway to ensure that the council can meet the target of net zero carbon by 2030. This includes many of the innovative sustainable transport initiatives listed above, although the individual milestones have



	community to improve energy efficiency, implement our Tree and Green Spaces Strategies to increase biodiversity, promote clear air campaigns and increase domestic recycling rates.		•	roads, supported by a Traffic Regulation Order Q3 2021 – 2020/2021 External wall insulation project for private sector housing complete. Q3 2021/22 – Local Nature Reserve biodiversity action plans to be reviewed and funding opportunities identified		not been listed against this commitment. It should also be noted that a whole range of activities were agreed by Cabinet in March 2020 as part of the approval of the council's Sustainability Strategy, which provides a detailed view of all the activities being undertaken to meet their commitment. A Sustainability Officer has recently been recruited who will provide additional resource to deliver the council's Sustainability Strategy.
7. Ensure that the council is a greener organisation	We will ensure that the council is active in reducing its environmental impact and carbon footprint through our staff, our buildings and our operations. Sustainability will be integrated into our council plans, we will reduce our use of single use plastics, lead by example on low carbon travel and carry out energy audits of our council buildings.	N/A	•	Q4 2020 - The Council has already number of electric vehicles in the waste and parks fleet. The authority has a rolling replacement programme for these waste and street vehicles and is actively seeking to replace the diesel engines with hybrid and electric options to ensure that the target date of 2030 is achieved. March '21 - Decarbonisation funding of £3.7m awarded April '22 – Town Hall and Colosseum decarbonisation works complete Expansion of the electric car provision in the Town Hall in the context of the Sustainable Transport Strategy and subject	On track	Sustainable activities integrated into Service Plans across the council, approved on 13 October 2020. Further work required to establish a single plan of activity but initial milestones captured against this commitment, all of which continue to run on track. A whole range of activities were also agreed by Cabinet in March 2020 as part of the approval of the council's Sustainability Strategy, which provides a detailed view of all the

Appendix A - Delivery Plan Progress Update Version 1.0 16 September 2021



to developments within the Town Hall	activities being undertaken
Quarter. Timescales to be confirmed.	to meet their commitment.
	A Sustainability Officer has
	recently been recruited who
	will provide additional
	resource to deliver the
	council's Sustainability
	Strategy.

Appendix A - Delivery Plan Progress Update Version 1.0 16 September 2021



THEME 3: A healthy and happy town

Key achievements over this period

- Single Homelessness Pathway launched to bring together all the separate temporary accommodation providers into a multi-agency 'team' and work collaboratively to provide a holistic view of Watford's approach to accommodating and supporting single homeless people and the end-to-end journey they take.
- Second donation tap point to be installed in the Town Centre to actively promote public donations to combat begging and rough sleeping.
- Member led scrutiny task group has reported back to Cabinet with a number of recommendations to ensure that the council is actively tackling issues of importance to Watford's minority communities. Some of these recommendations have already been completed whilst others will be progressed over the next quarter.
- Two successful Super Sunday Covid-19 vaccination clinics held at Watford FC's Vicarage Road ground enabling c.3,000 residents to get vaccinated and increasing the take-up of inoculations across Watford.
- Designs continue for Woodside Sports Village, a refreshed outdoor space to provide new sports and leisure facilities in the town.
- Watford has built a strong reputation as a dementia-friendly town and accreditation has been achieved for a further two years. Support and activities for those living with dementia and their families have continued over the last period, including the Golden Memories reminiscence programme at Watford Football Club, Trishaw rides at Watford Cycle Hub and the Forget Me Not restaurant at West Herts College.
- As part of the Town Hall Quarter programme, Haley Sharpe design Ltd have been appointed to assist with the new design for the museum and the initial review of potential space in the Town Hall. The Town Hall Quarter business case is currently being developed which would create a refreshed and vibrant museum offer for residents and visitors of all ages.
- Work to design a memorial for front line covid workers has also progressed with an artist selected, a site at the hospital chosen and some funding secured. In addition, a tree memorial will be planted close to the band stand in Cassiobury Park as part of the Queen's Jubilee Green Canopy as a new place of reflection for residents.



Theme BRAG Analysis

BRAG rating	Key	Total number in theme
	Completed	2
	On track	15
	Planning underway	1
	Delayed / Unknown	0
	Delivery reprofiled as a	3
	result of external influences	
Total		21

Watford a place fo old age	sity, heritage and culture to make r people to succeed from childhood to	Project	Key Milestones	'RAG' Rating	Update
1. Ensure that everyone living in our town has the opportunity to achieve their potential	We will work with all parts of our diverse community to ensure that we tackle inequality so that background is not a barrier to success in our town and all of our residents have the same opportunity to reach their potential.	Achieving Potential	 ✓ February '21 – Member led scrutiny task group to review issues of importance to Watford's minority community and develop recommendations for Cabinet (March 2021). The task group's work includes reviewing the council's street naming policy and process. ✓ March '21 - Encourage all communities to complete their Census 2021 returns and to underline the importance of this data in formulating future council policies. June '21 – Corporate definition for ethnic minorities to be adopted July '21 – Equalities Forum to be established 	Delivery reprofiled	Whilst this commitment is embedded within all council Service Plans, specific activity has been undertaken by the council's Democratic Services team working with a memberled scrutiny task group to develop a range of proposals which have now been considered and agreed by Cabinet. These will be delivered over the next period but will be reprofiled to ensure sufficient engagement from the Equalities Forum and new Portfolio Holder. To date,



			 August '21 – Corporate equalities policy to be developed September '21 – Equalities Impact Assessment template to be updated By December '21 - Training on equalities and unconscious bias for staff and members. TBC – Research has commenced with Watford Museum to develop an education programme based around a new exhibition which explores the background and history of the town's road names, subject to funding 		research to inform the definitions used by the council, our Corporate Equalities policy and Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken, providing a firm foundation for this work.
2. Develop a heritage trail for Watford	Recognising Watford's rich culture and past, we will celebrate the town's heritage through developing a new innovative, digital heritage trail to bring Watford's past to life.	Heritage Trail	 February '21 – tender and commission consultant March - July '21 – Strategy developed 	Delivery reprofiled	Project Manager in place with the development scope of works now being developed This will align with the council's wayfinding strategy with the brief developed by October 2021, reprofiled as a result of resourcing restrictions
3. Review and reinvigorate how we celebrate our local heritage	Develop proposals for a modern and inspiring heritage service and Museum that engages and educates our residents and visitors by telling the story of our town and its rich and diverse history.	Museum and Heritage Review	 ✓ February '21 – tender and commission consultant ✓ March - July '21 - deliver review on service and options appraisal September '21 – Develop business case for move to the Town Hall 	On track	Haley Sharpe design Ltd appointed and the initial review of potential space in the Town Hall developed completed. Business case currently being developed for move to the Town Hall, as part of the Town Hall Quarter programme.



4. Develop services to support our residents' health and wellbeing, including those with mental health issues	We will work closely with our partners to ensure that the right support is available for our residents who need it across the town. This will include Watford's Healthy Hub which will strengthen the health support available for local people, including mental health help and guidance.	Healthy Hub	 November '21 – RIBA Stage 2 proposals for Town Hall development and space requirements Covid has impacted on the implementation of the delivery of the Healthy Hub. In agreement with HCC a reviewed delivery plan has been put in place offering Covid secure Healthy Hub service: ✓ Domestic Abuse and Mental Health worker to commence. ✓ Remote offer, actively seeing clients and linking in with other services. ✓ Develop website 	On track	The Healthy Hub launched remotely in May 2020. Services continue to be offered remotely and, where possible, in person in the community. Services have been extended working with partners such as Cathartic. Proposal to reopen hub from September onwards for face to face services, subject to covid
			 June '21 – Explore opportunities for establishment of strong links with additional relevant organisations and partners with some of their services delivered through the Hub October '21 – Recruitment for a designated Mental Health Officer underway to support a further focus in this area March '22 - Dependent on Covid restrictions, implement a secondary satellite Hub working in conjunction with the main Hub 		face services, subject to covid restrictions.
4. Create a Dementia	Working with businesses, partners, carers and residents living with dementia we will champion Watford	Dementia Friendly Town	Lots achieved to date and milestones to be confirmed with delivery of agreed action plan to be reviewed in the light of Covid-19	On track	Watford has built a strong reputation as a dementia-friendly town and



Friendly Community	as a place where people living with dementia are understood, respected and supported.		and the focus of the council's Community Protection team on working with residents and businesses on preventing the spread of the virus. Action plan being refreshed in current steering group as we learn to live with covid.		accreditation has been achieved for a further two years. Support and activities for those living with dementia and their families have continued over the last period, including the Golden Memories reminiscence programme at Watford Football Club, Trishaw rides at Watford Cycle Hub and the Forget Me Not restaurant at West Herts College.
6. Commemorate Watford's response to Covid-19	Building on the community spirit and outstanding work across the town during the Covid-19 pandemic, we will evolve Watford Together so that it commemorates Watford's response to the pandemic, recognises the invaluable contribution of our front line workers and provides opportunities for reflection for all parts of our community.	Watford Together (Road to Renewal Plan)	Have been unable to confirm a timeline for these events which are entirely subject to Government guidance and legislation. However, there is a clear commitment to celebrate the resilience of the town and great community spirit across the local area shown by Watford residents through the Covid-19 pandemic.	On track	With government restrictions now ended, the council provided a Summer of Fun across the town, with the Big Screen at Knutsford Playfield and Woodside Playfield, the Big Beach and Maze on the Parade, Imagine Watford in Watford Fields, George V park and Garston Park and Big Band Stand in Cassiobury Park. Work to design a memorial for front line covid workers has also progressed with an artist selected, a site at the hospital chosen and some funding secured. In addition, a tree memorial will be planted close to the band stand in Cassiobury Park as part of the



					Queen's Jubilee Green Canopy as a new place of reflection for residents.
7. Enhance the town's character and its physical heritage	We will produce a refreshed Conservation Area Management Plan which ensures that we continue to protect the character of our town and enhances its future for local people.	CAMP	 Q1 2021/22 - Prepare tender and appoint consultants Q3 2021/22 - Seek cabinet approval 	Delivery Reprofiled	Delivery has been re-profiled to ensure alignment with the Local Plan work. Now expected to commence Q3 2021/22 with completion expected this year. A new part time apprentice post has been created to help resource this project.
COMMITMENT Enable our cultura	l and creative sectors to flourish	Project	Key Milestones	'RAG' Rating	Update
1. Maximise the cultural opportunities for the town	We will refresh Watford's Cultural Strategy to ensure our cultural and creative sectors can flourish, help to bring our community together and provide a vibrant, diverse and exciting offer to residents and visitors.	Watford Together (Road to Renewal Plan)	 ✓ August '20 – AEA commissioned to provide support in delivery of the council's existing cultural strategy, including our work with the cultural sector ✓ October '20 – Review of all strategic partnerships underway. Final outcome to be informed by AEA review ✓ November '20 – Cultural Leaders Group to review AEA report and action plan ✓ January '21 – AEA final report to Cabinet alongside THQ Programme ✓ January '21 – Governance workshop to establish preferred governance model 	On track	Recommendations from the Strategy have now been consolidated into a single action plan, aligning with the council's Town Hall Quarter programme. The next steps will be to convene a further meeting of the CLG to agree the governance model we should adopt. Work is also underway with the Palace Theatre and the Pump House on their future plans and collaborating such that the council can support them as they seek funding for



2. Making the most of the town's cultural and entertainment venues	We will ensure that council-owned entertainment venues continue to provide a high quality, varied and diverse entertainment programme for all in our town and further enhancing the buildings so that they are modern and sustainable.	Watford Colosseum Refurbishment	•	June '21 – Strategy recommendations consolidated into single action plan for delivery Nov '21 – Cultural Leaders Group to agree adoption of governance model August '20 – AEA Commissioned to provide support in delivery of the council's existing cultural strategy, including our work with the cultural sector December '20 – Contract with HQ theatres ends July '21 – RIBA Stage 1 designs reviewed by the Town Hall Quarter Member Steering Group Sept '21 – Engagement with cultural organisations from across the town to understand space requirements November '21 - RIBA Stage 2 designs and associated business case for the Colosseum refurbishment to be approved by Cabinet Q2 2022 – Refurbishment works commence on site at the Colosseum Q3 2023 – Refurbished Colosseum reopens	On track	Cultural Strategy delivery support underway with Cultural Leaders engaged and ongoing alignment of the council's cultural ambitions across the town. Further work for this commitment will follow the successful completion of the Cultural Strategy work and additional scoping related to the Town Hall Quarter programme for which the business case is expected in November 2021. Work is also underway with the Palace Theatre and the Pump House on their infrastructure plans and collaborating so that we can make the best use of the space in our town for community groups
3. Enhance our cultural partnerships	We will work together with Watford's cultural partners and the South West Herts Growth Board on shared initiatives to build on the strength of the town's creativity, innovation and	Watford Together (Road to Renewal Plan)	√	August '20 – AEA commissioned to provide support in delivery of the council's existing cultural strategy, including our work with the cultural sector	On track	It is anticipated that a shared governance model will be agreed by the end of this year with our Cultural Leaders Group. The council continues



	entrepreneurial spirit and provide a strong cultural offering for the town and our residents which works to attract people to the town and supports businesses.		 ✓ October '20 – Review of all strategic partnerships underway. Final outcome to be informed by AEA review ✓ November '20 – Cultural Leaders Group to review AEA report and action plan ✓ January '21 – AEA final report to Cabinet alongside THQ Programme ✓ January '21 – Governance workshop to establish preferred governance model ✓ June '21 – Strategy recommendations consolidated into single action plan for delivery Nov '21 – Cultural Leaders Group to agree adoption of governance model 		to work closely with the Herts Growth Board, Hertfordshire LEP, County Council and neighbouring District / Borough Councils on a county- wide Covid-9 recovery plan which will look to align our economic ambitions with the cultural sector so that we can ensure that we have a strong cultural offering for the town. This is an addition to our Town Hall Quarter programme which has a focus on culture at its heart, creating a new cultural focus for the town and our residents, visitors and communities.
and outdoor space	vality events, recreational opportunities es for people to get together, feel part of st their health and wellbeing.	Project	Key Milestones	'RAG' Rating	Update
1. Complete Oxhey Activity Park	We will deliver Oxhey Activity Park, an exciting new venue for skateboarding, BMX and cycling, combined with a café and community facilities.	Oxhey Activity Park	 ✓ 7 September '20- Practical completion ✓ 7 September '21 - Handed over to Veolia following conclusion of defect liability period 	Complete	Oxhey Activity Park opened in September 2020. Car Park extension was opened in April 2021 following feedback from residents and visitors. The park has now been handed over to Veolia for ongoing maintenance.



2. Create Woodside Sports Village	In order to provide modern and attractive facilities for sports and leisure for all the community, and our young residents in particular, to enjoy, we will deliver a new vision for Woodside that makes best use of the space available to provide new sports and leisure facilities in the town.	Woodside	 ✓ April '20 – Design Brief to procure consultants ✓ Sept '20 - Appoint design team ✓ October '21 - onwards detailed design, planning and procurement to begin on site in late 2021 Further milestones subject to the design work underway. 	On track	Detailed design work continues to create a new and exciting space for residents across the town. Additional opportunity to create a 'Learn to Ride' facility at King George V playing fields has also been identified and is being progressed.
3. Revitalise the River Colne	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.	Reclaiming the River Colne	 April '20 - May '21 - River improvement plans developed, funding streams assessed May '21 - March '22 - Environmental improvement procurements underway October '21 - Calendar of events around the river commences March '22 - Landscape and access improvements complete March '22 - Water quality reports due Further milestones to be determined as programme progresses. 	On track	Recruitment of a Project Manager to support delivery of this project has now been completed. Work can now begin on confirming timelines. However, project governance has been proceeding with the existing team, including the securing of additional funding and engagement with partners.
4. Improve our local parks	We will upgrade Watford's much loved parks and open spaces including Meriden Park, Lea Farm Recreation Ground, Cassiobury Park performance space and the town's outdoor playgrounds so that they provide opportunities for our residents to exercise and spend time together and enhance the biodiversity of the town.	Park Enhancements	Subject to recruitment of Project Manager who started with the council at the end of September. Work is now underway to scope these projects at which point timelines will be confirmed.	Planning underway	Works continually ongoing and 12 green flags issued to Watford Parks in 2020. Applications for 17 green flag sites were submitted in mid-February with the results expected in September 2021. Further milestones on future parks improvements to be



					identified through the planning process which can now commence as the Project Manager recruitment has been completed.
5. Enhance our public spaces	We will improve public spaces across the town 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 Albans Road, Clarendon Road and the Watford Junction Gateway, as well as other local street and open space improvement initiatives.	Clarendon Road Watford Junction	 ✓ Q1 2020 – Construction works ongoing from St Johns Road to Station Road ✓ Q1 2020 - One way traffic flow Beechen Grove and St Johns Road for 9 months ✓ Q3 2020 – 2nd Phase starts • 2022/23 – Completion of all works • 2023/2024 Defects Correction period • 2024/25 Handback the completed project to Highway Authority, Herts County Council ✓ Q2 2020 – Implementation of scheme ✓ Q3 2020 – Completion of scheme • 2021-22 Defects Correction Period • 2023 Hand back the completed project to Network Rail 	On track	A number of public realm schemes are either complete or underway. Significant improvement works have already been undertaken in Clarendon Road with the third phase of these works commencing recently. Improvements to the Watford Junction forecourt and St Albans Road are now complete and have succeeded in improving the street scene and access for residents and visitors to the many businesses.
		St Albans Road	 ✓ Q2 2020 – HCC permits & Technical agreement ✓ Construction ✓ Q3 2020 – Completion • Q3 2020 – Q3 2022 Defects Correction period (HCC required a 2 year period) • Q4 2022 – Sign off and handover of highway back to County 		



COMMITMENT Work even more closely with the voluntary and community sector, to build a resilient community where people support each other		Project	Key Milestones	'RAG' Rating	Update
1. Support the voluntary sector in Watford to provide positive outcomes for those in need	We will build upon the success of our Watford Helps initiative and harness the community spirit established during the COVID-19 crisis to work in partnership with charitable, community and voluntary organisations focused on helping our vulnerable residents live healthy, happy and independent lives.	Watford Helps (Road to Renewal Plan)	 ✓ August '20 – Voluntary Sector Specialist recruited ✓ September '20 – Review approach approved by Informal Cabinet and engagement underway ✓ October '20 – Internal review of draft strategy ✓ November '20 – Strategy approved by Cabinet ✓ May '21 - W3RT to provide a menu of options covering which set of recommendations they can implement within their current budget • 	On track	Following approval of our Voluntary Sector Strategy, work on how best to ensure that the positive joint working across the sector and with the council throughout Covid-19 is harnessed and taken forward in the long-term is currently being undertaken in joint cooperation with W3RT. A separate, more detailed report is produced by W3RT on a quarterly basis detailing the progress made against the recommendations in the Strategy but positive headway continues to be made.



2. Ensure our community buildings benefit local residents	Through our Community Asset Review, we will make sure our community buildings are well maintained and we will work with our community tenants to make sure the buildings maximise the benefits for our local people.	Community Asset Review	 ✓ October '20 - Completion of review of all buildings – Includes Condition Surveys and schedules of work ✓ July '21 – Property Strategy to Cabinet for approval January '22 – Works to start on Phase 1 assets April '22 – Works to start on Phase 2 assets July '22 – Works to start on Phase 3 assets 	On track	Project Manager in post to support the work required over the next two years. The project will be a key component of the delivery of the Property Strategy to ensure our community buildings are in a good state of repair, provide benefit to the local community and that the lease arrangements with tenants are appropriate and in accordance with the policies outlined within the new Property Strategy.
3. Ensure a safer Watford	We will work with partners and use our statutory powers to ensure that Watford is a safe place for all our residents.	One Watford	 ✓ 28 July – Review approach, working with the LGA to undertake remote peer support, agreed ✓ 12 October – All One Watford members notified in relation to review ✓ 1-3 December –Desktop exercise completed 	On track	With the benefit of feedback from the LGA, work on defining the future terms of reference of One Watford will be undertaken as part of the town's brand positioning work.
COMMITMENT		Project	Key Milestones	'RAG' Rating	Update



Work with partner enjoy better lives	rs to end rough sleeping and help people					
1. Achieve and maintain zero rough sleepers on the streets on Watford	We will agree a new Homelessness Strategy for Watford which will be reviewed on an annual basis and adapted regularly to ensure that it remains valid and supporting those in our community to achieve and maintain zero rough sleepers on the streets of Watford.	Homelessness and Rough Sleeping	\land	30 June - Medium Complex Intensive Support Service (MCISS) opens 6 July – Homelessness Strategy approved by Cabinet 14 July - Information shared on training, secondment and shared learning opportunities provided at Watford Strategic Homeless Forum 14 July - Watford Rough Sleeping Taskforce was launched 23 September – Next Steps Accommodation funding bid successful 25 September - MHCLG funding of £101,000 for winter shelter and accommodation for rough sleepers with no recourse to public funds obtained for the period October 2020-March 2021 30 September - Application for 20 units of self-contained move-on accommodation submitted Q3 2020 MHCLG Rough Sleepers Initiative funding application – submission May 2021 (MHCLG changed the timetable) Q4 2020/21: NSAP short-term revenue funding spent by end March 2021 Q4 2020/21: NSAP capital funding spent by end March 2021 Q4 2020/21: Work with HCC re best use of housing related support funding by end March 2021	On track	It should be noted the Homelessness Strategy contains a significant number of initiatives, milestones and objectives – the list contained within this report is not exhaustive with more detailed reporting on delivery of Strategy provided to HPAG. However, this does provide an overview of the significant progress already made in this field over the last few months, where there has been a significant focus on supporting those who find themselves homeless and sleeping on the streets. This resulted in a period of 2 months between January and March 2021 when zero rough sleepers were recorded. Whilst numbers have risen very slightly they remain extremely low We have adopted and continue to develop a single pathway for rough sleepers, working with partners from across the town to help achieve this commitment to



				Q1 2021/22 - Open complex needs scheme June 2021 - Launch multi-agency Single Homelessness Pathway July 2021 – launch Outreach Plus at The Sanctuary Q3 2021/22: Have zero rough sleepers on streets of Watford		achieve and maintain zero rough sleeping. This Single Homelessness Pathway will take approx. 1 year to bed down.
2. Support our residents with more complex needs and housing requirements	We will develop a focused scheme to help those with more complex needs, looking at areas such as housing and other targeted support and working with partner organisations to ensure that these services are provided.	Complex Needs	✓ ✓ ✓	Q1 2020 – Source Support Service Provider Q4 2020 – Sign Support Contract with provider Q3 2020 – Implementation of works Q4 2021 - Completion	Complete	The Complex Needs scheme at Brindle Court opened on 1 April 2021 as planned, managed by council partners, One YMCA. It will provide much needed support for some of the most vulnerable in the town.
3 Continue partnership working	We will work with partners to ensure there are no rough sleepers on the streets of Watford.	Rough sleeping and homelessness	√ ✓	6 July – Homelessness Strategy approved by Cabinet 14 July - Information shared on training, secondment and shared learning opportunities provided at Watford Strategic Homeless Forum 14 July - Watford Rough Sleeping Taskforce was launched June 2021 - Launch multi-agency Single Homelessness Pathway September 2021 - work with agencies to house a number of Afghan refugees Mar 2022 – Herts CC recommissioning process ends	On track	The Watford Rough Sleeping Taskforce is continuing to meet on a monthly basis focusing on hard-to-engage individuals and agreeing a multi-agency approach to focused and bespoke support, working with the council's designated Rough Sleepers Coordinator. Monthly KPI meetings with partner agencies to ensure the Single Homelessness Pathway begins to work as planned.

Appendix A - Delivery Plan Progress Update Version 1.0 16 September 2021

