











**Appendix A – 2019/2020 reporting against Projects identified in the Corporate Plan – as at 20/02/2020**



For **Q3 2019/2020** North Hertfordshire District Council is reporting against 7 Projects identified in the Corporate Plan 2019 - 24



**Key for the Report**


Status key	
	Project Halted / Funding not available / Extremely Late
	Project behind original due date/ unlikely to hit original due date.
	Project not due for completion in year or has not reached due date
--	Project Pending
	Project Completed.


Status	Q3	Q2	Q1	Summary of Movement this Qtr.
	0	1	1	
	3	3	2	
	2	2	3	
--	1	1	1	
	1	0	2	North Hertfordshire Museum and Community Facility complete
Total	7	7	9	

- **Where projects are carried over from previous years, their status is retained until they are complete – to ensure transparency**

Description in Corporate Plan	Corporate Objective	Portfolio	Milestones – current year and beyond	Due Date	Overall Status	Comments
<b>Status – RED - 0</b>						
<b>Status – AMBER - 3</b>						
Development of a Crematorium in North Hertfordshire - subject to approval by Cabinet March 2017  <b>NOT Prince II</b>	Prosper & Protect	Waste, Recycling & Env	Obtain outline planning permission from Central Beds.	July 2018		Central Bedfordshire refused the outline planning application in March 2019. Cabinet approved funding for an appeal on 26 March 2019
			Agree the Heads of Terms and Options Agreements with our nominated partner.	July 2018 		The appeal was submitted in September 2019. The Hearing date has been set for 13/05/2020.
			Prospective tenant exercises the option and enters into an agreement for lease (the prospective tenant will be responsible for applying for detailed planning permission).	31 Dec 2018		If planning permission is granted, Officers will assess any planning conditions and the options for progressing development.
			The prospective tenant enters into a lease, in accordance with the Heads of Terms, following the grant of detailed planning permission	31 Mar 2019		

			Practical Completion of Crematorium	December 2020		
<p>Investigating a range of options to <b>improve use of Council assets</b></p> <p><b>NOT Prince II Project spans more than one year.</b></p>	Responsive & Efficient	Various	<p>Report to Cabinet Shareholder Sub-Committee on potential options</p> <p>Obtain Cabinet approval to establish a Property Company</p> <p>Set up Property Company</p>	<p>15 March 2018 </p> <p>31 Mar 2018</p> <p>Mid 2018</p>		<p>Our aim is to set up a company with subsidiary companies, the first being a Property Letting Company. Currently the potential profits that the Property Letting Company would make are marginal. This is because we only have a couple of sites, the conversion of Harkness Court and the Town Lodge project. If we had more sites, this is likely to improve the financial position. We have been investigating other assets that the Council own, refurbishing these and selling them to the company. Unfortunately, there are no other sites that would be viable for conversion into residential, therefore, the financial position remains the same. All of the sites that the Council own, which are suitable for conversion, are better being converted to non-residential. Therefore, it makes more business sense to keep these assets under the Council and not the company. Based on this assessment, the proposed company directors recently</p>

						agreed that it does not make business sense to register the Property Letting Company at this time, as the financial modelling does not achieve a return on investment. Officers continue to investigate other ways to improve the financial viability of the Property Letting Company, which could include acquisitions, developments and refurbishments. Officers will report their findings when this work has been concluded in approximately six months' time.
Submission of a Local Plan for North Herts  Project spans more than one year.	Prosper & Protect	Planning & Enterprise	<p>Consultation on major modifications (timescale dependant upon Planning Inspectorate)</p> <p>Response to the Inspectors questions with regard the modifications</p> <p>Additional Hearing dates to discuss modifications</p> <p>Publication of Inspectors Report (timescale dependant upon Planning Inspectorate)</p> <p>Adoption of the new local plan report to Full</p>	<p>Jan - April 2019</p> <p>Dec 2019</p> <p>TBC</p> <p>TBC</p> <p>TBC</p>		<p>The Council responded to the Inspector's letters at the end of September 2019. This set out the Council's intention to respond to his queries by Friday 29 November 2019. Officers, in consultation with the Local Plan Project Board, have submitted the Council's responses and these have been published on the website.</p> <p>Additional Hearing dates have now been announced as weeks beginning 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> March. The Inspector will then carry out a final focussed consultation prior to issuing the final report. No dates have been set for</p>


			Council (timescale dependant upon Planning Inspectorate)			these steps. All the information has been added to the Councils website at the link below. <a href="http://www.north-herts.gov.uk/localplan">www.north-herts.gov.uk/localplan</a>
<b>Status – GREEN -2</b>						
Brexit (Preparation for Brexit - deal or no deal) and implementation / management of those impacts, challenges and risks).	Prosper & Protect	Leader of Council	<p>Working with regional lead and Local resilience forums to prepare for Brexit (deal or no deal).</p> <p>Work with strategically important contractors to understand the risks they will potentially face and to ensure plans are being taken to mitigate those risks if possible.</p> <p>Contribute to countywide preparations for managing potential emergency incidents associated with Brexit, e.g. local food resilience/ strategic co-ordination group and local resilience forums</p> <p>Work with LLG and MHCLG on process mapping for governance/secondary</p>			<p><b><i>NB Rating relates to the Council's actions, rather than the national issue of Brexit.</i></b></p> <p>The European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Act Bill received Royal Assent on Thursday 23 January and we left the EU on the 31 January. There will be a transition period scheduled to end on 31 December 2020, while the UK and EU negotiate new arrangements.</p> <p><b>What we've done so far?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At a senior level we have had regular co-ordination meetings, initially through SMT, to assess the critical risks for relevant service areas.</li> <li>• Brexit was added as a</li> </ul>



<p><b>Not Prince II</b></p>			<p>legislation process mapping.          Constitution/delegation and warrant checks being undertaken.          Relevant managers to check policies for compliance and enforcement post Brexit issues.</p> <p>Draft contract clause to cover data transfer – use of change of law provision to impose</p> <p>Exceptions and tension monitoring reports to be sent and received.</p> <p>Elections Board preparation for snap election/further referendum considerations (September 2019).</p>			<p>corporate risk with our preparations and risk assessments reported through to the Finance Audit and Risk Committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have a designated Brexit page on our website with signposting to relevant information and sites:  <a href="https://www.north-herts.gov.uk/home/council-and-democracy/get-ready-brexit">https://www.north-herts.gov.uk/home/council-and-democracy/get-ready-brexit</a></li> <li>• A Brexit Project Board was set up in July 2019 with the Leader as the Lead Executive Member. This is a cross party / officer Board which includes representatives from areas (Regulatory Services, Emergency Planning, Community Protection, Policy and Communications) that are likely to be affected and they have provided input into the preparations. The Board</li> </ul>
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						<p>will continue to meet and consider issues for the foreseeable future.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Members passed a motion at Full Council in September 2019 to take positive steps to communicate with residents/ publicise links and alert EU nationals about the importance of applying for Settled Status and make this information available at Member surgeries. Since the December election, posters / information has been sent to Libraries and relevant local groups in our area to highlight the settlement scheme and the application process. Our Customer Services is one of the few to have registered with We Are Digital to assist residents by providing Settled Status application support.</li><li>• Officers have and continue to liaise with</li></ul>
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					<p>other Brexit, Food, Emergency Planning, Economic Development Officers across the County, regionally, and where appropriate have been liaising with and making representations to central government departments. We have been trying to work with relevant partner organisations on business support and encourage businesses to access information and readiness events. Information for businesses can also be found on <a href="#">the Herts Growth Hub</a>, <a href="#">@BbfaHerts</a> and <a href="#">@HertsGrowthHub</a></p> <p><b>What we are doing next?</b></p> <p>Our aim is to continue to support residents and businesses as much as we are able during the short term of the transitional period and longer one beyond that under the new arrangements with the EU.</p>
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						<p>So, we need to keep providing assistance to those that need information on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• applying for Settled Status: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families">https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families</a></li> <li>• businesses preparing to leave: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/business-uk-leaving-eu">https://www.gov.uk/business-uk-leaving-eu</a></li> </ul>
<p>Designating air quality management areas in Hitchin to address the improvement of the air quality – Stevenage Road and Paynes Park. (5 Year Plan commenced 2018)</p> <p><b>Not Prince II</b></p>	<p>Attractive &amp; Thriving</p>	<p>Housing &amp; Env Health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Development of ECO stars scheme for business to reduce emissions from freight deliveries</li> <li>•Investigate options for extending and improving electric vehicle recharging facilities in the district</li> </ul>	<p>To be confirmed</p> <p>On-going</p>		<p>The Council were unsuccessful with a bid to DEFRA for a grant to progress this scheme. Officers are reviewing alternative funding options and have created a new milestone, "Work with businesses to reduce emissions from freight deliveries and buses/coaches" for 2019/20.</p> <p>Officers are negotiating with developers through the planning process to implement charging points within new homes. Officers are currently drafting an Electric Vehicle Charging</p>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Anti-idling campaign to encourage drivers to switch off when stationary, including investigation of enforcement options</li> </ul>	<p>Spring/Summer 2019</p> 	<p>Strategy in consultation with the Executive Members and their deputies.</p> <p>An initial survey of Hitchin town centre was completed in February 2019. Due to resource issues and conflicting priorities, it is now anticipated that this action will be completed in 2020/21. However, Legal are currently looking at the enforcement options relating to vehicle idling, the outcome of which will help to inform any associated campaign.</p>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Review of on-street parking in air quality management areas</li> </ul>	<p>TBC subject to Parking strategy Action Plan</p>	<p>Will be co-ordinated with next general review of parking in Hitchin and adoption of the Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy - date to be confirmed</p>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Participate in National Clean Air Day</li> </ul>	<p>Annual</p> 	<p>Due to other work priorities, it was not possible to undertake</p>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Contribute development of Air Alert texting scheme with HCC and other partners</li> </ul>	2019 		<p>any activity around National Clean Air Day in June 2019</p> <p>Air Alert texting scheme launched 1 March 2019.</p>
<b>Status – PENDING - 1</b>						
<p>Churchgate</p> <p>Project will span more than one financial year</p> <p><b>Once actual project commences will be</b></p> <p><b>Prince II</b></p> <p><b>Date of Last Project Board</b></p> <p>n/a</p>	Attractive & Thriving	Commercial	Further work to be undertaken to explore potential options prior to reporting back to Full Council at a future date	Tbc	--	<p>Full Council on 7 February 2019 approved the principle of purchasing the Churchgate Shopping Centre, subject to the economic case. It also confirmed that any regeneration must be a viable investment that maintains a return to the Council.</p> <p>Full Council on 20 March 2019 voted to put Hitchin forward for a “Future High Streets Fund” bid. MHCLG have announced the 100 bids to be taken forward. Hitchin was not successful.</p> <p>Officers continue to explore the options around Churchgate with a report back to Full Council in</p>

						due course.
<b>Status – COMPLETE -1</b>						
Complete the fit out and open the North Hertfordshire Museum and Community Facility  <b>Prince II</b>	Prosper & Protect		Continue to negotiate on possible acquisition of 14/15 Brand Street.  Report to Cabinet on proposed way forward.  Complete fit out of Museum.	Original due date 30 September 2015   31/07/2018   September 2018   		The project board have now signed off the Project as complete and the closure report and lessons learned report have been compiled.