









**Appendix A – 2020/2021 reporting against Projects identified in the Council Plan – as at 10/08/2020**

For **Q1 2020/2021** North Hertfordshire District Council is reporting against 15 ongoing Projects to support the Council Plan 2020 - 25




**Key for the Report**

<b>Status key</b>	
	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 / has not reached due date
--	Project Pending
	Project Completed.

<b>Status</b>	<b>Q1</b>	<b>Summary of Movement this Qtr.</b>
	0	
	3	
	10	
--	2	
	0	
Total	15	


- Where projects have been b/f from previous years, their status is retained until they are complete – to ensure transparency



## Projects supporting the Council Plan 2020/2025




	Portfolio	Corporate Objective	Milestones for Completion in 2021 Year	Due Date Where available	Status	Comments
<b>Status – COMPLETE - 0</b>						
<b>Status – GREEN - 10</b>						
NHLC Refurbishment of Gym Members Changing Rooms  (capital programme)	Environment & Leisure	Build Thriving & Resilient Communities	Complete Refurbishment	31/10/2020		Work has already started on site and is due to be completed in October.
Renovate play area Howard Park, Letchworth  (capital programme)	Environment & Leisure	Build Thriving & Resilient Communities	Consultation on Design  Complete renovation	10/08/2020  31/03/2021		Consultation on the design of Howard Park and Gardens renovation closed on 10 August 2020. Groundwork East will now begin the process of preparing detailed designs for the play area.
Brexit  (Preparation for Brexit - deal or no deal) and implementation / management of		Build Thriving & Resilient Communities	Working with regional lead and Local resilience forums to prepare for Brexit (deal or no deal).  Work with strategically important contractors to			No agreements on subsequent items with the EU. Still have withdrawal agreement and Protocol regarding Northern Ireland. Negotiations ongoing.  We are keeping our EU Transition page under review and the Council's


<p>those impacts, challenges and risks).</p>		<p>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 legislation process mapping.</p> <p>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>communications team has this as a standing item for their bi-monthly meetings.</p> <p>Herts communications group have a standing item.</p> <p>We will be looking at our officer delegations again to see what (if any) updates are required in the next few months to cover off new agreements / legislation (the ‘shallow and wide’ approach) to arguably cover off where we are, or anticipate where we may be, come 1 January 2021.</p> <p>Emergency Planning Officer and Information Communication Technology Manager had put forward a proposal for extension of the fuel storage at the DCO - the Emergency Planning Officer said not enough resource to take this forward at this time.</p> <p><b>Herts Brexit Officers (now EU Transition Officers - ETO)/ EU TCG meetings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One meeting took place of the ETO on 18 June. Due to ongoing covid management, there was a discussion as to how we will plan for managing impacts from EU transition at the strategic level in Hertfordshire. A new Brexit / EU transition Tactical Co-ordination Group</li> </ul>
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			<p>Exceptions and tension monitoring reports to be sent and received.</p>		<p>has been set up – with the ETO subsumed into that. Supt. Sue Jameson will be chairing. No meeting dates have been received/ organised at this stage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Brexit working group took place on 17 July (HCC, the Growth Hub, Herts LEP &amp; the Chamber of Commerce – Frank Harrison from NHDC attending). This is part of the preparations for the end of the transition and ‘Check, Change, Go’. Whilst there have been national announcements on new border arrangements, there is frustration regarding the lack of detail as to how this will work.</li> <li>• There was a county-wide EU Settlement meeting on 21 July, with confirmation that approaches to this are different and some being effectively moth-balled because of covid. Herts authorities are now starting to look again at an approach to the hard to reach groups – although accepting that some of the previous CAB direct outreach work will now not be feasible.</li> </ul> <p><b>Business:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• From an Economic Development point of view, the Council has been signposting businesses looking for guidance on Brexit to the Growth Hub, Wenta, Better Business for All and to the LEP schemes. The LEP ran a series of Brexit webinars</li> </ul>
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					<p>workshops etc pre covid and these should (hopefully) restart soon.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brexit is raised periodically at Herts Economic Development Officers' Group (but usually in the context of BEIS and MHCLG wanting feedback from the grass roots). The general consensus is that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) most businesses are preoccupied by COVID and</li> <li>b) that until more concrete details come from the negotiations there is not much more businesses can do.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>EELGA/ LGA:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No updates</li> </ul>
<p>Develop long term museum storage solution</p> <p>To equip the museum service with a sustainable storage solution suitable for the effective management of the collection for</p>	Enterprise and Co-operative	Build Thriving & Resilient Communities	Milestones to follow		Officers are currently exploring options.


the foreseeable future.  (capital programme)						
Refurbishment of lifts at Lairage Car Park – Project will span more than 1 year  (capital programme)	Finance and IT	A More Welcoming and Inclusive Council	Determine requirements  Procurement of Contractor	Summer 2020		The specification and tender documents are being finalised and the tender should be sent out by the end of August.
Implement a “customer account” for customers to access specific information relating to them and to enable them to transact with the Council from a single log-on.  (council plan)	Leader	A More Welcoming and Inclusive Council	Implement Customer and Member Portals	Dec 2020		Contract awarded and project preparation work being carried out.

<p>Delivery of the Climate Change Strategy</p> <p>(council plan)</p> <p>Installing additional electric vehicle charging points in council car parks to ensure that every car park has charging points in at least 5% of spaces, with a minimum of two spaces per car park.</p>	Housing & Env Health	Respond to Challenges to the Environment	<p>Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy Scoping Document supported by the Executive Members and their deputies.</p> <p>Other milestones to follow once strategy adopted.</p>			Strategy document being prepared, meanwhile work is on-going with regard a pilot scheme for EV charging within Hitchin.
<p>Disposal of surplus assets</p> <p>(Remove maintenance obligation and generate capital receipts)</p> <p>(capital programme)</p>	Enterprise and Co-operative	Enable an Enterprising & Co-operative Economy	<p>Land adjacent to Hill View, Rushden </p> <p>29 Gernon Road, Secondary Centre &amp; Document Centre, and surrender of Town Lodge lease</p>	<p>30/04/20</p> <p>31/08/20</p>		<p>Sold April 2020.</p> <p>Original due date was 31 May 2020. Completion of sale depends on prospective purchaser securing planning permission.</p>

			<p>Land at Clare Crescent, Baldock</p> <p>Land adjacent 1 North End, Kelshall;</p> <p>Land adjacent 9 North End, Kelshall;</p> <p>Land at The Green, Ashwell Road, Newnham;</p> <p>Land at Hawthorn Close, Hitchin; and</p> <p>Land at Passingham Avenue, Hitchin.</p>	<p>31/03/2021</p> <p>31/03/2021</p> <p>31/03/2021</p> <p>31/03/2021</p> <p>31/03/2021</p> <p>31/03/2021</p>		
<p>Acquisition of Property investments  (capital programme)</p>	<p>Enterprise and Co-operative</p>	<p>Enable an Enterprising &amp; Co-operative Economy</p>	<p>Continue to explore opportunities to improve the financial viability of property letting company and seek to explore other opportunities for trading companies.</p> <p>Explore the Council options for letting or selling Harkness Court.</p>	<p>31/03/21</p>		<p>Work is still progressing on investigating 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. This work has taken a bit of a back seat in light of Covid-19 and it is difficult to put a date against this work as the current priority is to explore the Council options for letting or selling Harkness Court. This work will also assist in the financial viability of the Property Letting Company</p>



			The commercial team will explore acquisition opportunities, if they meet the acquisition criteria each one will require a business case to seek approval for the Council to proceed.	31/03/21		
Property conversion at Harkness Court, Hitchin to provide Housing at market rents  (service delivery plan)	Enterprise and Co-operative	Enable an Enterprising & Co-operative Economy	Commence works  Completion of works	Aug 20  Jan 21		The Building Contract has now been signed. The contractor's site manager entered site on 28 <sup>th</sup> July 2020 to familiarise himself with the site. Work commenced on 5 August and completion is estimated for 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2021.
<b>Status – AMBER - 3</b>						
Examination and Adoption of the Local Plan 2011 - 2031 (b/f form previous year)	Planning and Transport	Build Thriving & Resilient Communities	Milestones and dates will depend on the Planning Inspectorate			Hearings were postponed due to Covid-19 and there are currently no confirmed dates for recommencement. However, discussions are underway with regard resuming through 'virtual' means. An additional letter has been received from the Inspector (8 July) re: housing targets, a response has been sent and published.  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>
Development of a Crematorium in North Hertfordshire	Environment & Leisure		Appeal Hearing	13/05/20		Central Bedfordshire refused the outline planning application in March 2019. Cabinet approved funding for an appeal on 26 March 2019

(b/f from previous year)			<p>Obtain outline planning permission from Central Beds</p> <p>Review Options for obtaining detailed planning permission.</p>	Further dates once outcome of hearing is known	<p>The appeal was submitted in September 2019. The Hearing date was originally set for 13/05/2020, however this has been postponed due to Covid19. We are currently waiting for the Planning Inspectorate to confirm a revised hearing date.</p> <p>If planning permission is granted, Officers will assess any planning conditions and the options for progressing development.</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)	Housing & Env Health	Respond to Challenges to the Environment	<p>Work with businesses to reduce emissions from freight deliveries and buses/coaches"</p> <p>Negotiate with developers through the planning process to implement charging points in new homes.</p> <p>Anti-idling campaign to encourage drivers to switch off when stationary, including investigation of enforcement options</p>		<p> NHDC working in partnership with Centrica to try to develop innovative EV pilot trial covering town</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 late in 2020/21. Legal have looked at the enforcement options relating to vehicle idling, the outcome of which will help to inform any associated campaign.</p>

			Review of on-street parking in air quality management areas			Will be co-ordinated with next general review of parking in Hitchin and adoption of the Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy - date to be confirmed.
			Participate in National Clean Air Day	08/10/2020		
<b>Status – RED - 0</b>						
<b>Status – PENDING - 2</b>						
Work with HCC & EHDC on a joint Business case for a purpose-built depot, transfer facility and household waste recycling centre; Dependant on approval of Local Plan. Project will span more than one financial year  (service delivery plan)	Waste, Recycling and Environment	Build Thriving & Resilient Communities	Report to Joint Partnership Board to confirm if EH wish to be involved  Detailed business case to be written		--	This project is now delayed for at least 12 months and will not recommence until next summer with a report to Cabinet Sept/Oct 21. This is due to the delays with the local plan and Baldock master plan.  The existing site at Bury Mead Road, owned by NHDC, requires investment to ensure it remains fit for purpose in the interim period. Work is underway to assess the Capital investment required to ensure the site remains viable for between 5 and 10 years.
Churchgate	Leader	Build Thriving & Resilient	Explore Options		--	Full Council on 7 February 2019 approved the principle of purchasing the Churchgate Shopping Centre, subject to the economic case. It also confirmed that

		Communitie s			<p>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 due course.</p>
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