

Telling the Story – An overview of achievements by Corporate Priority up to 30 September 2014:

Please note only the objectives where there are achievements to report have been listed and where an achievement relates to a specific service plan action this has been referenced.

Priority: People	What we want to achieve	What we have done
	<p>Objective: Improve the health and well-being of our residents</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Published our Health and Wellbeing Strategy which sets out our plans for combining our resources and skills to promote healthier lifestyles in partnership with Hertfordshire County Council, the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), NHS Trusts, volunteer organisations and others. • Helped older residents in the district to stay fit, active and independent by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Launching concessionary Fitsteps dance classes in Bishop's Stortford and Ware. The classes are aimed at older residents (60 years plus) so that they can reap the many health benefits that regular physical activity brings. Fitsteps is a national fitness programme which was created following the popularity of the TV programme, Strictly Come Dancing. The Bishop's Stortford class varied in numbers between two to eight residents at each session. The number of residents attending the Ware class varied from 20 to as high as 40 at each session. Due to its success the initial pilot was extended with reduced funding and

		<p>will run independently from January 2015.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Supporting a grant from the LSP Health and Wellbeing Group to the Herts Sport Partnership to provide 'Fellas Fitness'. The initiative is aimed at older men to help build and maintain their fitness levels, whilst at the same time providing an opportunity to meet and interact with other members of their local community. • Welcomed the first UK Womens International cycling tour through East Herts. The race made its way through the district on the fourth stage of the tour, which started in Cheshunt and finished in Welwyn Garden City. Cyclists passed through Hertford Heath, Hertford town centre before continuing through Wadesmill, Standon, Buntingford and Cottered.
	<p>Objective: Increase community engagement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As at August 2014 we have awarded £64, 519 in both revenue and capital grants to 37 different groups, including charities and parish councils. This included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Summer Activities – Our summer activities grants programme for 2014 was very well received and more than 2,717 children and young people attended the various activities. 68% came from the 5 to 11 age category. Events included Summer Archery, Flying Circus at Courtyard Arts, Tennis coaching, community picnic and Pop School. ➤ Community Activity Grants – In our first two funding rounds for this year, we awarded 11 different Community Activities grants to groups in both towns and villages. These grants have been used to fund a day trip, a Christmas outing for older people groups, a community fun day and the creation of a website for a town

partnership

- In the 2014/15 financial year, we awarded 10 capital grants for community led projects to improve well used facilities or services. For example, we helped Datchworth Parish Council replace and relocate water troughs for its allotment, helped two village halls refurbish their toilets and entrance hallway, updated play areas and improved car parking facilities at a village sports pavilion.
- Held the fourth annual Community Sports Awards. This annual event, funded by East Herts Council aims to celebrate achievements and contributions to sport as well as inspiring our local sporting talent to go on and reach their full potential. 19 awards were presented in total across 9 categories.
- Held our annual rural parish conference where up to 46 parish councils attended. The event provides a popular forum for engaging with parish councils on rural issues with particular interest this year on the information that the CVS presented on the community car scheme.
- Successfully implemented Individual Electoral Registration (IER). IER has been rolled out across the country to help modernise the way people register to vote and to help tackle electoral fraud. (14-DLSS01)

Priority: Place	What we want to achieve	What we have done
	<p>Objective: Reduce residual waste and increase our recycling rate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduced the use of compostable caddy liners in kitchen caddies that can be disposed of in the brown bin. Residents told us that composting food waste was messy without them, and therefore made it more difficult. Nearly a third of waste put in the black bin for landfill is food, and we wanted to make it easier and encourage residents to put it in their brown bin for composting. Currently the recycling rate is 53.49% as at August 2014 which is 2.29% higher than the same period last year. (14-ES12)
	<p>Objective: Maintain our clean streets and reduce litter</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An effective stray dog services is essential to ensuring dog fouling is kept to a minimum through education and responsible dog ownership. Won the RSPCA Gold Footprint award. This certification is given for the quality of stray dog services, housing, contingency planning and animal welfare principles. Last year the council achieved a silver footprint and the year before that, a bronze. The council also scored top marks for its consistent promotion of responsible dog ownership, including micro-chipping, which becomes compulsory for all dogs in Britain from June 2016. From April 2014 to August 2014 the council has picked up 64 stray dogs.
	<p>Objective: Maintain our parks, play areas and open spaces in good order</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Celebrated Love Parks Week, by holding two free fun activities at Southern Country Park in Bishop's Stortford and Pishiobury Park in Sawbridgeworth. Activities at Southern Country Park ranged from the popular annual dog show to a fitness activity trail, orienteering and making wooden medallions with the Friends group. At Pishiobury Park visitors could meet the Longhorn cattle and join a guided bug hunt.

		<p>The council also teamed up with the Dogs Trust to offer free dog micro-chipping on the day.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retained our two Green Flags for The Ridgeway in Hertford (for the sixth year running) and Southern Country Park in Bishop's Stortford (for the seventh year running).
	<p>Objective: Ensure future development best meets the need of the district and its residents</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The development management committee approved a small development of sustainable homes in an East Herts village. The homes are expected to become the biggest group of naturally ventilated homes in the UK, serving as a working model for buildings elsewhere in the country. They will also exceed the highest ranking in the Code for Sustainable Homes, which measures new homes performance in categories such as energy efficiency, water use and health and well-being.

Priority: Prosperity	What we want to achieve	What we have done
	<p>Objective: Deliver value for money and reduce our reliance on central government funding</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installed a new seating and auditorium floor at Hertford Theatre to provide a better customer experience. (14-CEC04) • Implemented remote working procedures in the Area Environmental Inspection Team. This allows inspectors to receive service requests and customer enquiries remotely in the district enabling jobs to be visited more quickly and some actions to be undertaken while on site. (14-ES20) • East Herts has considered how to make best use of its resources and through Audit Committee agreed a framework that allows wider options in terms of investing its money. This includes being able to make use of Property Funds. It is anticipated that the increased income from these investments will be able to close gaps in the financial model in future years as an alternative to having to look to make further savings. Executive will receive a report in October recommending specific funds to invest in. • Corporate Management Team (CMT) considered and agreed a new senior management structure that focussed resources in a different way. This included the investment in a new Head of Business Development, the remit of which includes considering improved ways of working, a more commercial approach to delivering Council Services and working alongside service areas to consider future efficiency savings. Further investment has also been made in other areas including Procurement resource to enable wider working with our suppliers to encourage greater competition in the market.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the second year running, the council has undertaken a “Budget Challenge” to consider our allocation of resources, and in particular highlight those areas where there have been underspends in prior years, to free up resource to reallocate to other priority areas.
	<p>Objective: Enhance the economic well-being of East Herts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebrated ‘Love Your Local Market’ week by holding a special market where locally made ice-cream, meats and games, cheeses, pickles, sausages alongside the weekly fishmonger and greengrocer could be enjoyed. The council also provided spaces free of the usual rental charge, to encourage and support as many small businesses to take part. • Following extensive public consultation agreed to implement free short stay parking (30 minutes) for visitors to East Herts Council car parks in Bishop's Stortford, Hertford and Ware. As part of the council’s ambition to increase the vibrancy of the district's town centres, 30 minutes free parking has been introduced in most car parks, adding to the free bays on street and increasing availability and convenience. Visitors needing to park for more than half an hour will receive more parking time for the same price.