

## Q1 2024/25 Highlights

- Year 3 funding allocation received from MHCLG – procured and awarded final UKSPF projects
- Refresh of Visit Herts focus and priorities for Watford
- Recruitment and Retention businesses event delivered in partnership with Herts Growth Hub
- Development of the Watford Business Pledge scheme ready for July launch, including recruitment of resource
- Peer to Peer networking event held for Growth Springboard cohort of businesses
- Represented Watford Council at the Watford Business Expo, and at Watford Chambers 'Meet-the-Mayor' business event
- Supported BID board meetings, 'Breakfast with The BID' networking meetings, and town centre strategy development
- With Hertfordshire colleagues, represented Watford at the annual, national UKREiiF property and infrastructure investment forum in Leeds
- Monitoring of all UKSPF live projects and submission of the end of Year 2 UKSPF report to MHCLG
- Facilitated quarterly economy stakeholder steering group meetings
- Preparation for Watford Business Connect at The Clarendon Works happening 9<sup>th</sup> July
- Business engagement as usual, including development of three Watford Business Pledge early adopter businesses

## Q2 2024/25 Priorities

- Deliver the Watford Business Connect event – 9<sup>th</sup> July
- Onboard new starter to support Watford Business Pledge
  - Leading to scale up of Watford Business Pledge activity and business participation
- Commenced final UKSPF projects
- Refresh of the Watford Skills and Employment Action Plan
- Represent the Council at business networking and engagement events during the quarter and maintain active business engagement and support