

Q2 2024/25 Highlights

- Watford Business Connect event was held on 9th July with great attendance and the launch of Watford Business Pledge
- Support provided to Watford Chamber in delivering the Meet the Mayor business engagement event on 18th July
- Hertfordshire SME Awards was held on 19th September with the council supporting and attending this event, celebrating several Watford businesses who won awards
- Support provided to the Environmental Managers business network, helping more Watford businesses join this useful and informative forum
- Connected businesses with funded training and staff development opportunities for their teams through the Watford Opportunities Skills Brokerage project
- Business recruitment underway for this second phase of the Growth Springboard micro business growth support project
- Work commenced to scope and define how Watford can require developers to do more to support skills and employment opportunities for local people
- New Visit Herts campaign being developed to promote some of Watford's independent hospitality businesses
- Ongoing monitoring of the impact of the BID Business Improvement Grant project, the Watford Net Zero project and the Watford Fit-2-Bid tendering support project
- Following the launch of the Watford Business Pledge 9th July, 10 businesses are in the process of signing up as Pledge 'early-adopters'
- The Watford Skills and Employment Group met on 12th September with a refreshed Action Plan. The meeting enabled new ideas and information to be shared to help Watford's residents and businesses get the most from skills and employment support available.
- Attended the launch of the new Hertfordshire Economy Strategy, with Hertfordshire Futures and stakeholders. The council will support the consultation for the new strategy, with dedicated feedback sessions in Watford.

Q3 2024/25 Priorities

- Sustainability Business Symposium scheduled for 8th October
- Preparation for the next UKSPF Watford Meet-the-Buyer event is underway (13th November)
- Working with Watford Chamber to create the Purple Tuesday event on 12th November, and the next business Meet-the-Mayor on 17th October
- Two Skills and Employment focus groups are planned with developers on 20th & 21st November