



Dear Candidate

**A message from the Chief Executive, Steven Halls and Director of Finance
Joanne Wagstaffe.**

Why Three Rivers?

Three Rivers District Council's has been outstandingly successful in realising its long-held vision that *the district should remain a prosperous, safe and healthy place where people want and are able, to live and work.* Three Rivers District comprises beautiful Green Belt countryside and "Metroland" villages and small towns, where the majority of its inhabitants are relatively healthy, well educated, affluent, articulate and able to access our public services.

However, seriously deprived communities do exist in the District, often side by side with more affluent areas, where disadvantaged individuals and groups find difficulty in accessing the full range of services and facilities many of us take for granted. The Council has therefore consciously challenged itself to concentrate on improving services and access to services for all people, but particularly the people in deprived communities.

We recognise that the people of Three Rivers need and expect from an excellent Council a high standard of customer service and, despite the long period of austerity, we have continued to strive for, and achieve, customer service excellence.

To do that, Members and Officers have innovated in promoting more efficient, greener and more sustainable ways of delivering services, reducing the carbon footprint of the district, and leading by example: investing in Solar and Ground-source technologies, burmishing our multi-award-winning green strategies and demanding a higher proportion of affordable housing than anywhere in the country. Whether it is in back office investment in better CRM systems, increased digital offer of our services, developing partnerships with other local authorities or other sectors, or becoming a national leader in recycling, Members and Officers strive for excellence and we actively support local people to make the most of the economic, skills and learning opportunities available to them.

Playing our full part in Hertfordshire's economic strategy, we have been successful in attracting scores of millions of pounds-worth of investment into the district, from the massive development in Leavesden with its considerable new housing, tourism attractions and Warner brothers film studios, through the Croxley Rail Link, due to open by 2019, which will extend the existing London Underground Metropolitan Line to two new stations, providing a direct link into Watford and the overground network, right down to its trails of cycleways entwining with the Grand Union Canal to provide healthy and ready access into the countryside.

With a chance to join a rapidly evolving and enviably expert Council workforce at every level, there is every reason to further your career at Three Rivers.

Why Three Rivers? We have major schemes happening now....

The Croxley Rail Link is a £280m scheme being delivered by a consortium of HCC, London Underground, Watford and Three Rivers. The proposals are to connect the existing Metropolitan line to the currently disused Croxley Green Branch Line, with the provision of two new stations.

The overall aim of the project is to improve connectivity within the area and between Watford, London and the rest of the UK, thereby supporting economic development.

We are also the only LPA in Hertfordshire with an adopted up to date Local Plan with sites allocated for development for housing, two secondary and primary schools as well as expansions to employment sites which means that there will be plenty of development and inward investment to the District.

A development expansion of the successful Warner Bros Studios and the Harry Potter Tour is also imminent.

We also have the regeneration of South Oxhey that will deliver:-

- Around 500 new homes
- A varied and attractive shopping environment
- Attractive, high quality public spaces including a market square

Why Three Rivers? We value our heritage

The district has beautiful natural environment, many conservation areas, listed buildings and major areas of Green Belt. Rickmansworth Aquadrome, Chorleywood House Estate and Leavesden Country Park in Three Rivers are among the very best in the UK, this has been made official by the prestigious Green Park Award status, which is the mark of a quality park or green space.

77% of the district is Green Belt, with 22 designated conservation areas and hundreds of nationally and Locally Listed Buildings.

Rickmansworth has excellent leisure facilities and well located parks and public open spaces. Part of the district is within the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Camelot, Vocalink, Imagination Technologies, Skanska and RES are some well known and *nationally* important companies based in the Three Rivers district.

Three Rivers is the Lead Authority for Revenues and Benefits and Financial Services.



Dear Candidate

A message from the Managing Director, Manny Lewis.

Why Watford?

Over the last three years we have successfully implemented an ambitious programme of change and transformation. This has delivered major improvements to the town and the quality of life experienced by our residents.

Through strong political and managerial leadership, we have set a clear direction for the organisation and the town. This has involved challenging the way we do things and being receptive to new ways of working, whether partnering with the private sector or the third sector or working collaboratively with other local authorities

Watford has achieved considerable success as a regional centre for shopping, entertainment, leisure, business and learning. Our residents enjoy the benefits of living in a vibrant, prosperous town with great schools, job opportunities and an exciting and varied range of activities and facilities. The town centre public realm has been renewed to create exciting outdoor event spaces and an extensive cultural programme is creating a new family friendly vibrancy at the top of the Town. An outdoor cinema, music and performing arts festivals as well as an outdoor ice rink have been key successful Big Events to date.

There are also major investments planned for Watford Junction (1500 homes) and a redevelopment of the station, Ascot Road (300 + homes, mixed use scheme) and Watford Business Park (new light industrial combined with major office development). Last but certainly not least, the Croxley Rail Link, due to open by 2019, will extend the existing London Underground Metropolitan Line to two new stations, providing a direct link into Watford Junction overground station – and the council played a major role in securing this investment.

This makes the borough a highly attractive proposition for business and retailers alike, and that is why the Council is committed to an ongoing redevelopment programme that is set to secure economic prosperity for the benefit of residents.

Watford is a Town which is strongly pro sustainable growth and has developed an extensive range of partnerships across the public, voluntary & private sector to secure continuing success.

Why Watford? We have major schemes happening now

We don't think that any other District Council can provide the range of enrichment arising from the major planning applications in process or in the pipeline:

- £300m Watford Health Campus masterplan approved
- £22m infrastructure, new link road/access road application approved
- First phase of 90,000 sq ft employment zone application under consideration
- 300+ homes mixed use Ascot road scheme likely to be submitted 2016
- First phase remodelling of Watford Business Park/Croxley Business Park application to be submitted 2015
- First phase of 750 homes in Watford Health Campus to be submitted 2016
- First phase Watford Junction redevelopment likely to be submitted 2016
- Other key projects: Cassiobury Park HLF scheme, Watford Museum HLF scheme proposal, relocation of national Hurling Club, masterplan for new Cycle Hub/Skate Park; Watford Football club stadium improvements for premiership football.

The variety, breadth and complexity are there for ambitious, experienced planners seeking new challenges.

Why Watford? We value our heritage

Our strategy retains our green infrastructure and the character of the Town. We're investing in our 190 acre outstanding Cassiobury Park, following a successful HLF bid adjacent to 165 acres of ancient woodland at Whippendell Woods. The £6.5m improvements to Cassiobury Park will see a new visitor hub created, park restorations and enhancements to visitor attractions. A surprise to many is that 19% of the Town is green belt. 4 of Watford's parks have green flags.

We have a well reviewed Streetscape Guide, adopted by the Council in July 2013, securing high quality, consistent and coordinated public realm improvements. An updated Residential Design Guide was adopted in July 2014 and an extensive Conservation Areas Management Plan was adopted in July 2013 protecting our areas of special architectural and historical interest.