

**South
Derbyshire**
District Council

Annual Report 2018-2019

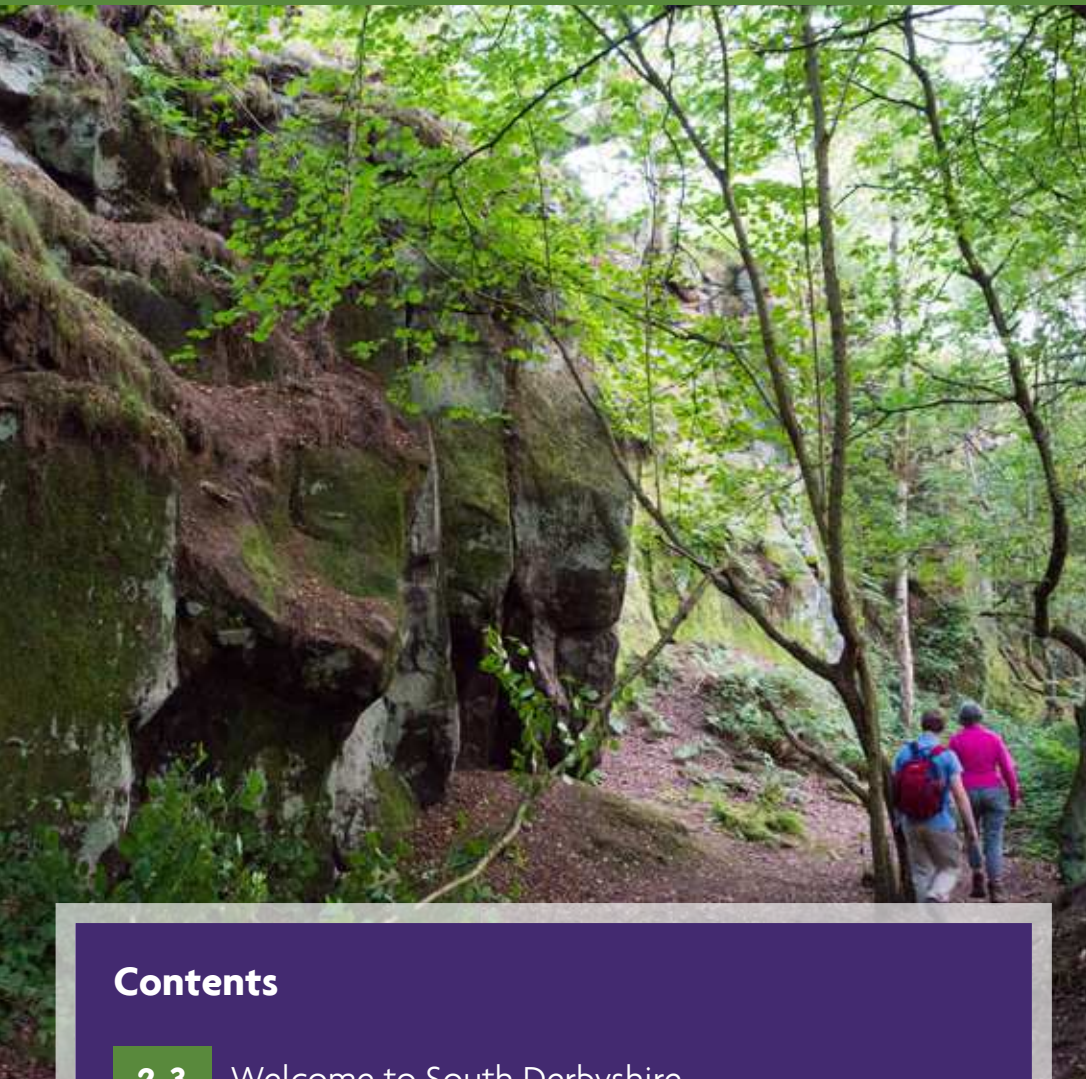


People | Place | Progress

www.south-derbys.gov.uk



**South
Derbyshire**
District Council



Contents

- 2-3** Welcome to South Derbyshire
- 4-5** South Derbyshire – Changing for the better
- 6-7** People - Keeping residents healthy, happy and safe
- 8-9** Place - Creating vibrant communities to meet residents' needs
- 10-11** Progress - Encouraging inward investment and tourism
- 12-13** Outcomes - Work that underpins all of our activities
- 14-15** Get involved in the Council's work
- 16-17** Working in partnership
- 18-19** Summary of annual accounts

The Council is delighted to have played a significant role over the past year in the continued successful growth of the District. We have welcomed more residents, new employers, and expansion of existing ones, as well as further increases in the number of tourists coming here.

At a time when concern for the environment is more prominent than ever, it is important to say that as part of the District's growth, the Council plays an important role in protecting the environment and promoting responsible behaviour.

We set out our aims in our Corporate Plan, in which we make a commitment to providing a 'cleaner, greener' environment and have agreed service standards for how we manage our parks, open spaces and our street scene.

In October, the Council was awarded ISO1400 for its environmental management for the 10th year in a row. This is a prestigious international award which demonstrates we have an Environmental Management System in place which ensures continual improvement of our environmental performance.

The Council has employed a new Environmental Protection Officer and a new structure for managing our environmental impact has been put in place, which now includes all our major sites – the Civic Offices, Etwall Leisure Centre, Green Bank Leisure Centre and Rosliston Forestry Centre.

Outside of the Council buildings, we are looking at making ways to combat litter across the District. A new Community Safety Enforcement Officer has joined the Council during the year whose focus is on improving the environment in the town centre.

As well as new initiatives, we are maintaining practices that have been in place to help protect our environment for many years. These include making it a planning condition that all new housing developments over a certain size include trees within them, or make a contribution to fund tree planting elsewhere in the District.

We also continue to encourage new and existing employers in the area to take actions such as installing solar panels and considering electric car plug-in points. We are also encouraging our own staff to walk and cycle more and have been developing a Council Travel Plan to promote sustainable travel.

The Council is very proud of its environmental performance, and indeed of its many other achievements in 2018/19. Examples of our work are provided on the pages that follow.

As we move on, we will continue to listen to and engage with you, our residents and business community, to ensure South Derbyshire remains a prosperous, desirable and sustainable District, well into the future.



Cllr Martyn Ford - Leader
South Derbyshire District Council



Frank McArdle - Chief Executive
South Derbyshire District Council



The Council's Corporate Plan 2016-21

The Corporate Plan 2016 – 2021 was approved following extensive consultation into South Derbyshire's needs. It groups the Council's work under four key themes: People, Place, Progress and Outcomes.

The Corporate Plan is central to the Council's work - setting out its values and vision for South Derbyshire and defining priorities for delivering high quality services. The Council aspires to be an 'excellent'

Council to make sure it meets the expectations of local communities.

This Annual Report demonstrates how work and activities under the People, Place, Progress and Outcomes themes have contributed to that in 2018/19.



The Council's vision

'Making South Derbyshire a better place to live, work and visit'

The Council's values



Put residents first



Actively listen and resolve problems



Set clear targets



Develop staff



Act decisively



Be driven by economy, effectiveness and efficiency



Lead for success

What the Council does



Promote and develop economic growth, tourism, sport and leisure.



Employ Safer Neighbourhood Wardens to make communities cleaner and safer.



Collect household waste and work to encourage recycling in innovative ways.



Provide a 24-hour, 365-days-a-year emergency Careline service.



Manage and maintain more than 3,000 Council homes and offer homelessness prevention service to those in need.



Support voluntary groups, cultural activities and crime prevention work.



Carry out street cleaning, pest control and work to prevent pollution.



Work with partners on a wide variety of community projects for the benefit of residents.



Deal with planning applications, building regulations, tree preservation orders, listed buildings and heritage.



Collect Council Tax and Business Rates, pay Housing Benefits.



Work to ensure that the food and drink served in South Derbyshire's restaurants, cafes and pubs are safe to consume.



The following pages provide a snapshot of what has been achieved in 2018/19 under the Council's Corporate Plan themes.

People - Keeping residents healthy, happy and safe



Examples of what the Council achieved include:

The Active Communities Team delivered **over 1,900 sessions** across its services ranging from Get Active in the Forest, Active Schools Partnership, holiday provision, health initiatives and programmes through to community delivery and support.

Record numbers of visits were recorded by Etwell and Green Bank leisure centres and at Rosliston Forestry Centre, helped by the good weather. The Leisure Centres recorded **1,089,816 participations** and Rosliston welcomed **213,389 visitors**.

Empty home intervention plans were made for **12 properties**, by the end of the year seven were confirmed as being reoccupied, two were for sale, two had been sold and one was being redeveloped.

The number of volunteers / group members who undertook some form of training through the Active South Derbyshire (ASD) offer almost **doubled** for 2018-19 compared to the previous year.

To mark the 100th anniversary of the ending of WWI, Swadlincote's Town Crier, Karen Bailey, joined 99 counterparts from across the UK and other countries to make a **cry for peace**, while the Gresley Male Voice Choir **performed harmonies** to replicate the outpouring of relief that took place in 1918.

Interactive workshops, hundreds of **career opportunities** and **expert advice** were on offer at the South Derbyshire Skills Festival, designed to enable 11 to 24-year-olds to explore the construction, engineering, health, hospitality, digital, lifestyle and technology industries.

The Council has added its name to a charter aimed at helping employees who become terminally ill at work. The Dying to Work Voluntary Charter is part of the wider Dying to Work campaign which is seeking **greater security for terminally ill workers** so they cannot be dismissed as a result of their condition.

90% of residents are **satisfied** with the **quality** of their new home.

Dozens of residents across South Derbyshire were presented with Christmas hampers. A total of **31 hampers**, full of everyday essentials and festive treats, were delivered to people including a 65-year-old who is bringing up his two-year-old grandson, a couple living in temporary accommodation with their four children and an 80-year-old woman who volunteers in her community.

At an awards ceremony in Ankara, Turkey, it was announced that South Derbyshire had beaten off more than 500 nominations to scoop the bronze award in the **Green Apple International Awards** for its Fab Food project, part of the Waste Less Save More campaign in collaboration with Sainsbury's.

A Christmas Bin Collections Communications campaign to engage residents and provide more information about bin collections over Christmas and New Year 2018-19 saw **missed bins reduce** from 576 per 100,000 over Christmas 2017 to 62 per 100,000 over Christmas 2018.

Environmental Education Project volunteering hours delivered over the course of the year equated to **862 hours**.





Examples of what the Council achieved include:

Swadlincote's long-awaited **golf course**, which has helped transform the site of a former opencast coal mine, was officially opened. The course, to be named the Swadlincote Lake Course, is the latest feature at **Swadlincote Golf Centre**.

The total number of **affordable dwellings delivered was 219**; against a target of more than 150 this was an outstanding achievement.

Reducing levels of fly-tipping was a key target for the Council in 2018/19 and incidents were cut by 9.3% compared to 2017/18 and by 15.4% compared to 2016/17

The Council introduced a new structure and process in the Planning department as well as **new software** to provide a more accessible service with **better information for the customer**.

A five-year Heritage Lottery Fund-supported Invisible Heritage project at Eureka Park was successfully completed. Significant **improvements to the park infrastructure** and much **increased community engagement** were achieved during the project lifespan.

Significant progress was made on the construction of a **new community facility** at Stenson.

The 100th anniversary of the end of WWI was marked with the creation of a **new memorial Garden** in Eureka Park, a Service of Remembrance and parade took place in Swadlincote and a beacon was lit at the performance area on Eureka Park to symbolise the end to the darkness of war.

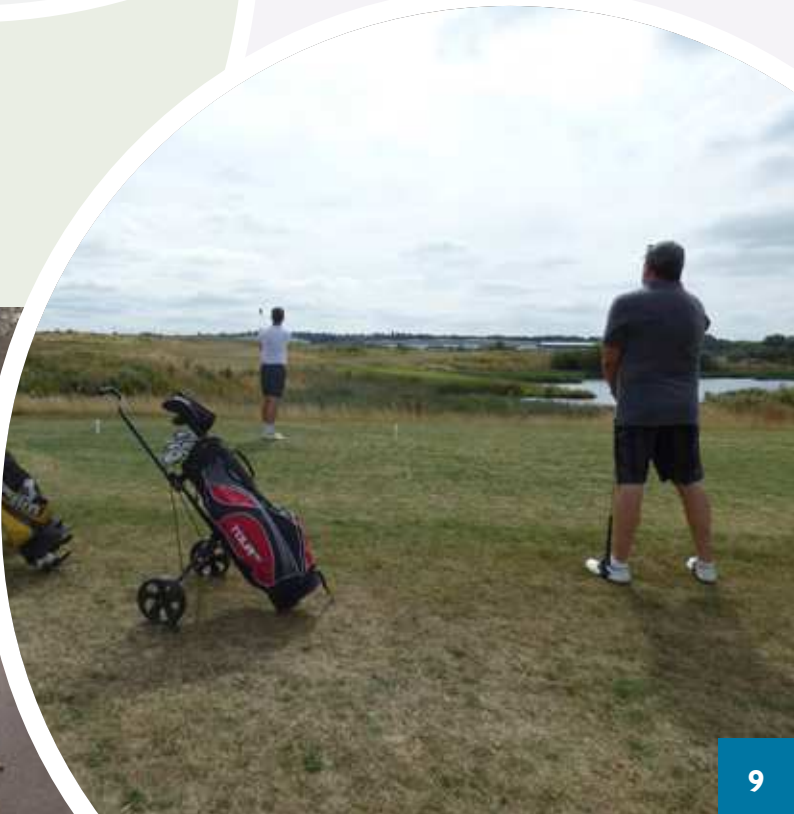
A full review of the **Repairs and Maintenance Service** was undertaken by Housing Quality Network, as a result of which a number of the recommendations have been implemented to **improve the service delivered to tenants**.

14 new CCTV cameras were installed in Swadlincote town centre.

Church Gresley's Maurice Lea Memorial Park and Swadlincote's Eureka Park were **named amongst the best in the country** after scooping **Green Flag Awards**. The parks were awarded the coveted status for being continually well maintained, offering excellent facilities and meeting the highest possible environmental standards.

Among the many actions delivered by the **Safer South Derbyshire Partnership** on which the Council leads was the organisation of Liberation Day, which enables the over-55s to get information on local services and advice on key concerns that may affect them.

A celebratory **unveiling of sculptures and history boards** was held to launch the new Salt Brook Heritage Trail in Hatton. Four national, professional artists - Rachel Carter, Graeme Mitcheson, Dan Rawlings and Alex Blakey - created unique works of art inspired by the global industries that started and grew in Hatton.



Progress - Encouraging inward investment and tourism opportunities



Examples of what the Council achieved include:

Community Partnership Scheme grants were awarded to **15 projects** over the course of the year. Several received the maximum grant of £25,000 and all £250,000 available was allocated.

Guidance was offered to a total of **266 businesses** or people thinking of starting a business (through the South Derbyshire Business Advice Service) in 2018/19.

A 'New roads to Japan - forging better business links through the **Toyota-Derbyshire Partnership**' event was held with the Japan Local Government Centre.

Shoppers enjoyed beautifully made **creative goodies**, as well as **local produce** such as cheese and pies, and indulged in treats like Greek and Indian street food at the Swadlincote Food, Drink & Makers Fair.

Budding entrepreneurs learned more about how to follow in the footsteps of Tesco and Marks and Spencer by setting up their own market stall at a **free Become a Market Trader workshop** held at People Express in Swadlincote.

Approval was granted to progress Swadlincote town centre initiatives including **Town Benchmarking**, involving annual monitoring of key indicators and views.

A new **Community Safety Enforcement Warden** post focused on the town centre has been created and filled.

A programme of events took place to mark the anniversary of the relationship which was established when car giant Toyota Motor Manufacturing (UK) Ltd built its first European factory in Burnaston. **Over 2,500 people are employed** at the factory which supports a thriving supply chain and continues to pump **millions of pounds** into the local economy every year.

Thousands of people enjoyed **high profile events** in Swadlincote Town Centre including the **Christmas Lights** switch-on and the **Pancake Races**.

A "**Thinking of Starting a Business?**" workshop held in Swadlincote attracted 38 participants.

A new grant scheme was launched to help ambitious businesses across South Derbyshire. The **Derbyshire Business Support Grant Scheme** aims to help established firms and those starting up to invest and create new jobs by offering capital and revenue project funding. Funding comes from Business Rates collected in South Derbyshire.

At the end of the year, the proportion of food businesses with a **five-star hygiene** rating stood at **85.20%**; this is the **highest it has ever been**.

Fourteen students from William Allitt School visited the Hilton Hotel at St George's Park as part of **Tourism Week** to learn about careers in the sector.



Outcomes - Work that underpins all of the Council's activities



Examples of what the Council achieved include:

During 2018/19 Derbyshire was selected to be part of a 100% Business Rates Retention Pilot. An **additional £1m** was generated in South Derbyshire through the Pilot which has been earmarked for use on **future Economic Development** projects.

Students enjoyed a fascinating insight into the world of local democracy with **Elected Members visiting schools** across the District and schools visiting the Council Chamber at the Civic Offices where they took part in mock elections.

The work done by the Council to protect its residents, businesses and visitors has been recognised through an internationally renowned **Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA)** award. It is the eighth successive year that the authority has earned a prestigious gold award accolade from RoSPA.

The Council was awarded **ISO1400** for its environmental management for the 10th year in a row. This is a **prestigious international award** which demonstrates we have an Environmental Management System in place which ensures continual improvement of our environmental performance.

During 2018/19 we developed a **Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement** and staff guidance on Modern Day Slavery was produced. Key staff from the Council's Housing and Environmental Health teams went on training provided by Derbyshire County Council.

The **STAR survey** was completed and reported to Elected Members. A new forum for tenants was held during Q4 from which a new **Tenant Involvement Strategy** will now emerge.

The Council signed up to a new national campaign to help **tackle domestic abuse** in communities and homes. The Make a Stand campaign centres around a pledge which has been developed by the Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH) in partnership with Women's Aid and the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA).

As part of a conscious effort to show that we treat customers, suppliers and each other appropriately, the Council formulated an **Ethics Statement** that sets out our morals, known as ethics when they apply to behaviour at work.

More than **20 stalls** were available to offer expert advice and **support on Universal Credit** at a free drop-in session organised by the Council with the Department for Work and Pensions and Trident Reach.

The Council generated **£374,000** through grants and income to support the **delivery of services across the District** and or to partners to deliver services on behalf of partnerships such as the Health and Wellbeing Group.

The Council collected a cash amount of **£6,032,872** from current tenants during 2018/19, which is £129,074 more than 2017/18.

£23 million was negotiated through developments across the District that were subject to S106 agreements.



Get involved in the Council's work

The Council is always keen to ensure that residents' views are used effectively to inform decision-making and provides a range of ways in which they can influence decisions and make their views known.

During 2018/19, there was a variety of consultation undertaken in order to inform service provision as well as Area Forums taking place four times during the year in six different areas.

Among the consultation that took place in 2018/19 was:

April 2018	Views were sought on proposals to clamp down on fly-tipping at a well-known fly-tipping and anti-social behaviour hot-spot in the District.
May 2018	During the National Forest Walking Festival participants on every walk were asked to complete an evaluation form.
June 2018	Council tenants were given the opportunity to have their say on how satisfied they are with their homes and services provided. The Survey of Tenants and Residents (STAR) Survey explored areas such as the quality of homes and communities, the effectiveness of repairs and maintenance work and whether tenants think they are getting value for their money.
August 2018	Tenants were invited to comment on methods of communication used by the Council via text message.
February 2019	A six-week consultation on our Proposed Submission Local Green Spaces Plan started.

Social media

The Council's Facebook and Twitter accounts are one of the main ways in which residents contact the Council and share their views on its work.

Between April 1st, 2018 and March 2019, the Facebook central account grew by 1,222 (145%) residents choosing to 'like' the Facebook page and stay up to date with news and events from around the District.

Between April 1st, 2018 and March 2019, the Twitter central account grew by 254 followers (3.41%).

3.7 million people viewed our Social Media content during 2017/18 and there is evidence of this increasing. Facebook's significant growth (in fans and engagement) ties in with the latest Ofcom Communications Market report. It states that Facebook still dominates, reaching 90% of internet users whilst Twitter reaches 60%. This is evident in our own social media activity.

Instantaneous information is at the heart of better understanding and serving our residents, allowing them to gain an insight into how the Corporate Plan themes of People, Place and Progress are delivered in the District.

On average, we reach 230,000 people on Facebook per month and since 2016, video views have increased 15-fold by 1,490% across Facebook and Twitter.

Residents are now encouraging other residents in local Facebook community groups to source up-to-date and accurate information on the Council's central social media platforms as well as pointing them to the SDDC website.



Your District Councillors

Aston-on-Trent						Etwall		Willington & Findern		Hatton	Hilton		Linton		Melbourne																						
																																					
Neil Atkin			Daniel Corbin			Peter Watson		Dr Jane Perry		Gordon Rhind		Trevor Southerd		Lisa Brown		David Muller		Martyn Ford		Andrew MacPherson		Andrew Roberts		Andrew Billings		Julie Patten		Jason Whittenham		Melanie Bridgen		Dan Pegg		Martin Fitzpatrick		Jim Hewlett	
Midway			Newhall & Stanton			Repton		Seales		Stenson		Swadlincote		Woodville																							
																																					
David Angliss			Paul Dunn			Dr Robert Pearson		Sean Bambrick		Kevin Richards		Linda Stuart		Andrew Churchill		Kerry Haines		Andrew Brady		Amy Wheelton		David Shepherd		Lakhvinder Singh		Vonnice Heath		Mick Mulgrew		Neil Tilley		Michael Dawson		Malcolm Gee		Steve Taylor	

Working in partnership



By working in partnership with other organisations and supporting the voluntary sector, South Derbyshire continues to achieve far more than it could alone.

The Council works to strengthen existing partnerships and to enter into new ones that will benefit those who live, work in and visit South Derbyshire.

New partnerships established include a multi-agency Welfare Reform Group created to manage

rollout and the impacts of Universal Credit starting in November 2018.

Actions to have come from the multi-agency group included running a drop-in advice and support session event in partnership with the Department for Work and Pensions and Trident Reach.

The Council also partnered with environmental group Keep Britain Tidy and with local businesses through Swadlincote Town Team to run successful clean-up events.

Other key partners with whom the Council works include:

Active Nation

Active Nation manages the Green Bank Leisure Centre in Swadlincote and Etwall Leisure Centre in partnership with the Council.

Active South Derbyshire

Active South Derbyshire is the collaborative approach by a wide range of partners who support and work together to improve opportunities within physical activity, health, sport and recreational opportunities and facilities across the District.

Citizens Advice

South Derbyshire District Council helps to fund Citizens Advice so that it can continue providing vital support and advice on issues such as employment and debt.

D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership

South Derbyshire District Council sit on the D2N2 Places and People and Skills Boards, which are made up of high profile and respected leaders from the area's businesses, skills and training providers, community and voluntary services organisations, and other local authorities to support a more prosperous, better connected, and increasingly resilient and competitive economy.

Derbyshire County Council/Parish Councils

South Derbyshire District Council, Derbyshire County Council and Parish Councils work in conjunction on a vast array of projects designed to benefit local people.

Forestry England

South Derbyshire District Council jointly owns Rosliston Forestry Centre in partnership with Forestry England.

Law:Public

When required, Law:Public offers the Council's legal team additional expertise across its broad range of legal services.

Melbourne Sporting Partnership

The Melbourne Sporting Partnership (MSP) was established in 2005 to drive improvements to the recreation site at Cockshut Lane, Melbourne. The Partnership includes local sports clubs, Melbourne Parish Council and ourselves.

The National Forest Company

The National Forest Company is a co-sponsor with Rolls-Royce of the Environmental Education Project, which works to develop knowledge, respect and understanding of the environment. It also supports events and walking schemes.

Safer South Derbyshire Partnership

This is the statutory Community Safety Partnership for South Derbyshire. It brings together agencies to reduce and prevent incidents of crime and anti-social behaviour in the District.

South Derbyshire Active Schools Partnership

The partnership is managed by the Council's Active Communities and Health team. It has had great success with activities for young people including competitions and festivals, school games, leadership and volunteering and Bikeability.

The South Derbyshire Partnership

This partnership of the public, private and voluntary sectors promotes South Derbyshire through three groups which focus on community safety, sustainable development, health and wellbeing, and stronger communities.

South Derbyshire Skills & Employment Group

South Derbyshire District Council coordinates a partnership of educational institutions (schools, colleges and universities), businesses, providers, Derbyshire County Council and D2N2 to develop and implement solutions to bridging the skills gaps, address social mobility and open up opportunities that will enable individuals to achieve their potential, and raise aspirations across South Derbyshire.

South Derbyshire CVS

South Derbyshire CVS chairs the Strategic Volunteering Partnership, which is assisted by the District Council, to support all forms of volunteering in South Derbyshire.

Other partnerships the Council works in conjunction with include:

Active Derbyshire

Central Midlands Audit Partnership

D2N2 Better Business Regulation Partnership

Derbyshire County Council Public Health - Adult Social Care and Health Directorate

Derbyshire Police

Derbyshire Traveller Issues Working Group

The Football Foundation

Home Improvement Agency

John Port Spencer Academy

Local Energy Area Partnership

National Forest Education Network

The NHS

People Express

Public Health England

Rolls-Royce

Sharpe's Pottery Heritage & Arts Trust Limited

Sport England

Summary of accounts

The Council’s income

The Council’s total income for 2018/19 was £52.7m, a slight increase compared to 2017/18 when income totalled £52.1m.

This came from grants, housing rents, Business Rates and Council Tax, together with fees and charges.

£19.30m	Government grants
£0.43m	Other grants
£9.50m	Fees and charges
£0.30m	Interest
£12.05m	Housing rents
£11.12m	Local taxation

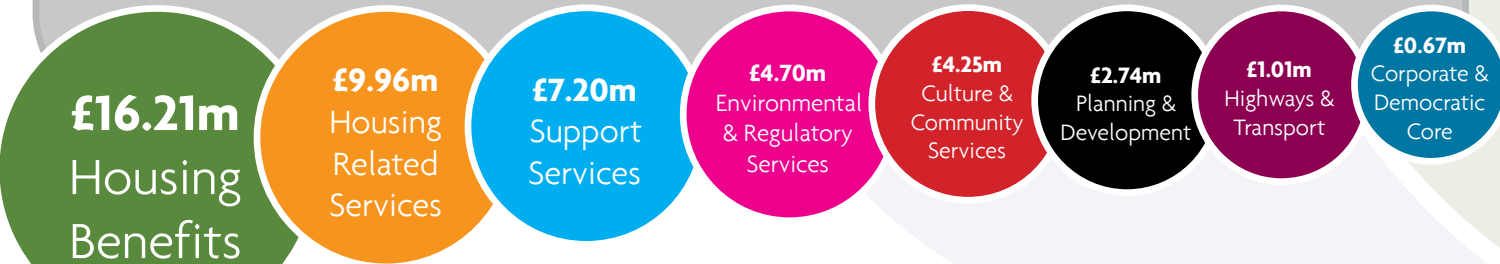
£52.7m Total

The Council’s expenditure

The Council’s revenue account shows the cost of running our services. In 2018/19, the Council spent £46.7m on delivering services. This was less than the £48.0m spent in 2016/17 and reflects the Council’s aim to make savings.

What the Council spent on services

£46.73 million total

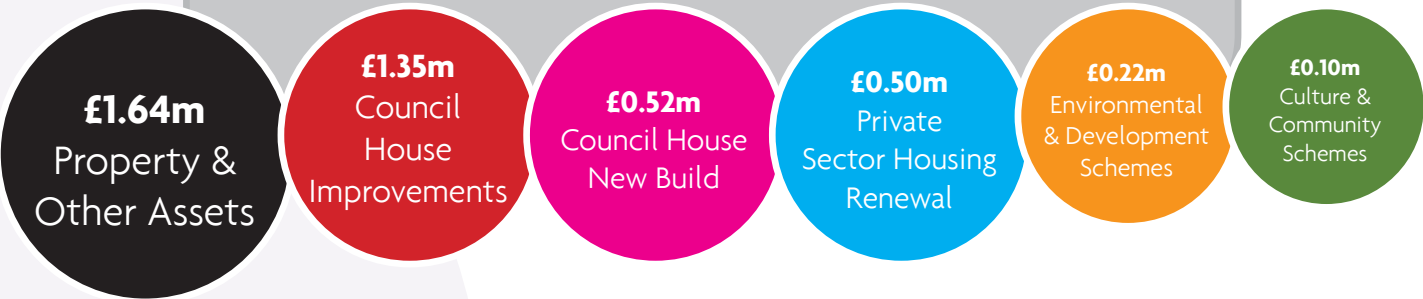


£5.97 million surplus

What the Council spent on land and property

The Council’s **capital account** sets out the money spent on buying and improving land and property so the Council can offer first-class public facilities. In 2018/19, the Council spent £4.3 million on land and property assets. The Council financed this through a mixture of grants and contributions, together with investing its own capital receipts and reserves. £4.3m expenditure

£4.33 million expenditure



At the end of the financial year the Council draws up a balance sheet that shows how much land and buildings are worth, what the Council owes others, what others owe the Council and how much cash the Council has. Our net worth as at March 31 was valued at £86.3m, an increase from £84.2m in 2017/18. This was due to an increase in the value of Council houses, together with the addition of land and property being held for future investment in services.

The Council’s balance sheet: 31 March 2019

Revenue reserves & balances		Net Assets	
£17.35m	General balances	£153.34m	Value of land & property
£41.88m	Unusable reserves <small>(offsets the values of the Council’s assets and its pension deficit)</small>	£41.26m	Liquid assets
£14.32m	Capital reserves	-£108.26m	Less money owed
£12.79m	Earmarked reserves		
£86.34m Net worth		£86.34m total	

Figures stated in this summary are based on the unaudited Statement of Accounts for 2018/19.

Statement from the Strategic Director (Corporate Resources)

The Accounts show that the Council once again achieved a surplus in 2018/19, mainly due to additional income from Business Rates and Council Tax. This reflects the continuing growth in residential and business development in the District.

A proportion of this money has been saved and set-aside to pay for an anticipated increase in the Council’s services in the future, such as Refuse Collection, Grounds maintenance and Housing, as the local population continues to grow. The Council’s level of Reserves show a healthy position, with money set aside to invest further in services and to act as a contingency should the financial position change.

The Council’s longer-term financial plan does forecast that some budget savings may be required in the future to maintain a sound and stable position. This will depend on funding from Central Government.

However, the Council overall remains in a relatively strong financial position with opportunities to invest in services whilst maintaining a prudent position

Kevin Stackhouse
Strategic Director (Corporate Resources), South Derbyshire District Council



Follow us on:



@SDDC

@ActiveSDerbys

@RFC1993

@RoslistonEnvEd

@SharpesMuseum

@SwadlincoteTIC

@SwadTeam

@SwadMarkets

@SDerbysBAS

Follow us on:



South Derbyshire District Council

South Derbyshire Environmental Health

Active South Derbyshire

South Derbyshire Housing

Safer South Derbyshire

Rosliston Forestry Centre

Swadlincote Townscape Heritage Scheme

Environmental Education Project
at Rosliston Forestry Centre

Swadlincote Waste less, Save more

Swadlincote Town Team

Swadlincote Markets

Pictures courtesy of:
Chris Beech
N1GOLF
The National Forest