



# South Derbyshire District Council

Annual Report 2022/23

Our Environment | Our People | Our Future

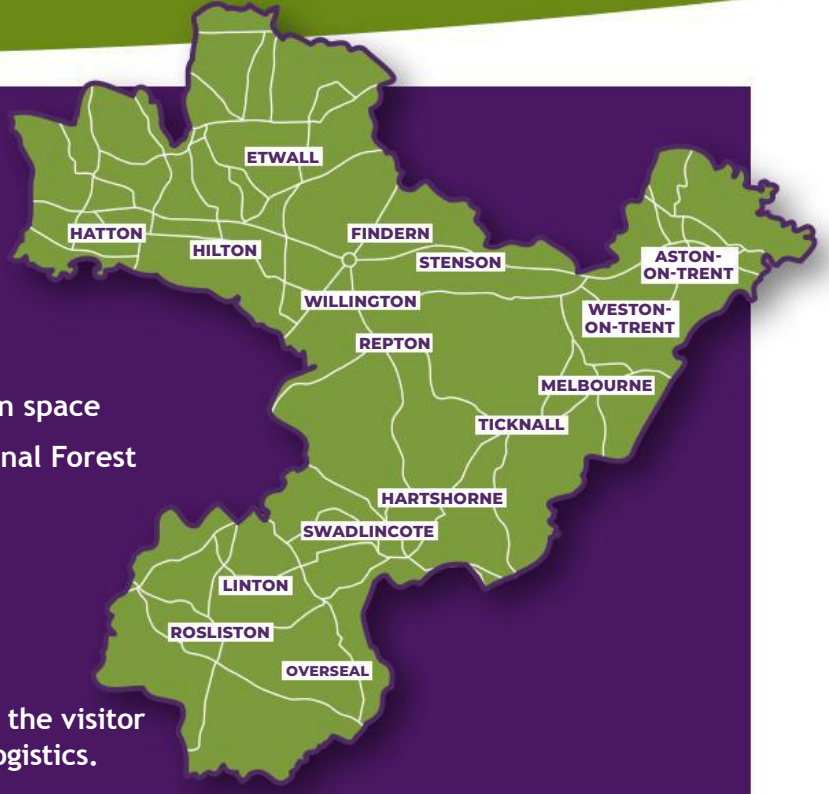
[www.southderbyshire.gov.uk](http://www.southderbyshire.gov.uk)



South  
Derbyshire  
District Council

# About South Derbyshire

- Over 107,200 people live in South Derbyshire
- Fastest growing population in the county
- South Derbyshire covers over 100 square miles
- Over 2,392 hectares of green space
- Contains a third of the National Forest
- Home to 3,800 businesses
- Total number of employee jobs: 31,471
- Key sectors include transport equipment manufacturing, construction, food and drink, the visitor economy and transport and logistics.



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**General enquiries:** Call 01283 595795 or visit [www.southderbyshire.gov.uk/contact](http://www.southderbyshire.gov.uk/contact)

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यदि आपको ये दस्तावेज किसी दूसरी भाषा में चाहिये, या किसी दुभाषिये की सेवाओं की जरूरत है तो हमें सम्पर्क करने की कृपया करें। ये जानकारी माँग करने पर बड़े अक्षरों, ब्रेल या आडिओ के रूप में भी उपलब्ध करवाई जा सकती है।





































ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਹ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਕਿਸੇ ਦੂਸਰੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਚਾਹੀਦਾ ਹੈ, ਜਾਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਦੁਭਾਸ਼ੀਏ ਦੀਆਂ ਸੇਵਾਵਾਂ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਸਾਡੇ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰਨ ਦੀ ਕ੍ਰਿਪਾ ਕਰੋ ਜੀ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਮੰਗ ਕਰਨ ਤੇ ਵੱਡੇ ਅੱਖਰਾਂ, ਬ੍ਰੇਅਲ ਜਾਂ ਆਡਿਓ ਦੇ ਰੂਪ ਵਿਚ ਵੀ ਉਪਲੱਬਧ ਕਰਵਾਈ ਜਾ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੈ।

اگر آپ یہ ڈاکیومنٹ کسی اور زبان میں چاہتے ہوں، یا اگر آپ کو کسی ترجمان کی خدمات درکار ہوں، تو براہ کرم ہم سے رابطہ کریں۔ درخواست کرنے پر یہ معلومات بڑے پرنٹ، بریل یا آڈیو فارمیٹ میں بھی دستیاب ہیں۔

# Your councillors by ward

as at September 2023

■ Conservative
 ■ Labour
 ■ Liberal Democrats
  Independent

Aston-on-Trent			Church Gresley			Etwell	
							
Neil Atkin	Daniel Corbin	Peter Watson	Alan Haynes	Gordon Rhind	Ben Stuart	Andrew Kirke	David Muller
Hatton		Hilton		Linton		Melbourne	
							
Julie Jackson	Grahame Andrew	Jayne Davies	Sundip Meghani	Daniel Pegg	Alistair Tilley	Jane Carroll	Martin Fitzpatrick
Midway			Newhall and Stanton			Repton	
							
Alan Jones	Louise Mulgrew	Dr Robert Pearson	Sean Bambrick	Sarah Harrison	Kalila Storey	Kerry Haines	James Lowe
Seales		Stenson		Swadlincote			
							
Gareth Jones	Amy Wheelton	David Shepherd	Lakhvinder Pal Singh	Mick Mulgrew	Vonnie Redfern	Neil Tilley	
Willington and Findern		Woodville					
							
Martyn Ford	Ian Hudson	Angela Archer	Malcolm Gee	Stephen Taylor			

# Introduction

## Welcome to the council's annual report for 2022/23.

**This report gives only a flavour of some of the activity we have carried out in the past year. It shows how we have carefully spent the funds we receive and the progress we have made against the ambitions in the third year of our four-year Corporate Plan which runs until March 2024.**

In listing our achievements during the past year, we are proud to once again say we have continued to provide excellent public services to the people of South Derbyshire and have also continued to forge our plans for an ambitious future for the district.

Following the lifting of lockdown restrictions, we have been able to host a series of popular events during the summer including Liberation Day, Festival of Leisure and Music in the Park events. We were also able to hold a Christmas lights event for the first time since 2019. All of these were well attended and are thanks to the efforts of our staff in organising them and keeping people safe on the day.

The autumn also saw the district mark the death of Queen Elizabeth II and the accession of King Charles III. Thousands came to see the King's proclamation in Swadlincote Town Centre and sign books of condolence.

During the last year, we have continued to support vulnerable members of our communities, helped prevent local people from falling into homelessness, provided good quality housing, worked with the police and other partners to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour.

We have provided opportunities for our residents to lead healthier, more active lifestyles, increased the number of award-winning parks, been recognised for our commitment to the environment and continued to clean the streets and provide waste and recycling services.

Following the retirement of the council's chief executive, Frank McArdle in March and the local elections held in May 2023, we now have a new leadership team and political leadership.

We are proud of all the work that has been carried out so far and we are looking to build on this in the future.

The coming year is an exciting one where we will develop a new four-year Corporate Plan, effective from April 2024.

Despite the change in leadership, we remain committed to ensuring the needs of our staff, residents and communities are recognised and responded to.

We will continue to ensure that our services are delivered to the highest standards and that we provide value for money for our residents.

We are also committed to the regeneration of the district with exciting new projects in Swadlincote Town Centre as well as the investment in the East Midlands Freeport which will offer employment opportunities for local people as well as supply chain opportunities for local businesses.

We are excited about the future for South Derbyshire and its people and we hope you will share in this and help us build a prosperous future for us all.



**Dr Justin Ives**  
Chief Executive



**Councillor Robert Pearson**  
Council Leader

# How your money provides vital services

When you pay your Council Tax, we keep only nine per cent to fund vital services including bin collections, street cleaning, maintaining award-winning parks and open spaces, environmental protection, customer services including revenues and benefits, economic development, markets, planning, town centre events and tourism.

Full details of spending and budgets is available at: [www.southderbyshire.gov.uk/spending-and-budgets](http://www.southderbyshire.gov.uk/spending-and-budgets).

You may also wish to read our service plans with details of our priorities for 2023/24. You can read these at: [www.southderbyshire.gov.uk/performance](http://www.southderbyshire.gov.uk/performance).



## The council's income

The council's total income for 2023/23 was 56.9m, a decrease from 58.9m in 2021/22.

11.27m	Government grants
0.77m	Other grants
14.61m	Fees and charges
0.86m	Interest
12.88m	Housing rents
16.27m	Local taxation
0.24m	COVID-19 Government grants
<b>56.90m</b>	<b>Total</b>



## The council's expenditure

The council's revenue account shows the cost of running our services. In 2022/23, the council spent £58.16m on delivering services, an increase on the £51.97m in 2021/22.

11.15 m	Housing benefits
13.73m	Housing-related services
11.06m	Support services
7.54m	Environmental and regulatory services
6.12m	Culture and community services
5.99m	Planning and development
1.85m	Highways and transport
0.71m	Corporate and democratic core
0.01m	Grants issued to the public - COVID-19
<b>-1.26m</b>	<b>Surplus</b>

## 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. In 2022/23, we spent 6.48m on land and property assets.

1.23m	Property and other assets
2.46m	Council house improvements
0.00m	Council house new build
1.06m	Private sector housing renewal
1.35m	Culture and community schemes
0.38m	Environmental and development schemes
<b>6.48m</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>

## The council's balance sheet: 31 March 2023

At the end of the financial year, the council draws up a balance sheet that shows how much land and businesses are worth, what the council owes others, what others owe the council and how much the council has.

REVENUE RESERVES AND BALANCES		NET ASSETS	
26.26	General balances	Value of land and property	181.45
117.32	Unusable reserves	Liquid assets	69.47
11.51	Capital reserves	Less money owed to us	-68.49
27.34	Earmarked reserves		
<b>182.43</b>	<b>Net worth</b>		

## Statement from the Strategic Director (Corporate Resources)



In 2022/23, the council achieved a deficit of 1.26 million. This deficit was met from reserves which had been set aside to meet expected demand for services in future years due to the expected increase in South Derbyshire's population.

The councils' financial position remains strong with a good level of reserves to fund commitments in the medium-term. Similar to many councils, we are experiencing additional costs of rising energy and fuel prices, together with the uncertainty of future Government funding.

However, the council's strong and stable ongoing position means it remains well-equipped to face any downturn in its finances.

**Tracy Bingham**  
Strategic Director (Corporate Resources)

# Key events and achievements 2022/23

## April

- Electric car charging points installed in Melbourne, Hilton and Hatton
- New dipping pond launched at Rosliston Forestry Centre with several partners
- Promotional campaign for Melbourne launched
- Trial for hydrogen-powered refuse vehicles agreed

## May

- Launch of Jubilee-themed town centre trail
- Opening of Swadlincote Innovation Centre at Bob Wheeler House
- Liberation day event held
- Work begins at Cadley Park

## June

- Plans submitted for redevelopment of Swadlincote Town Centre
- Festival of Leisure event takes place

## July

- Summer wildlife activities launched
- Energy rebate scheme launched
- Music in the Park events held
- Council retains three Green Flag Awards for parks

## August

- Rosliston Forestry Centre included in national promotional campaign
- Plans approved for transformation of Swadlincote Town Centre

## September

- Books of condolence opened for Queen Elizabeth II
- Proclamation of King Charles III held in Swadlincote Town Centre



## October

- Local Plan consultation opens
- New play area opens in Newhall

## November

- Remembrance Sunday parade and service held
- Swadlincote Christmas lights event takes place

## December

- Christmas events held in Swadlincote Town Centre
- Energy efficiency works begin in council homes

2023

## January

- Work begins on the Delph in Swadlincote

## February

- Event held to mark 25 years of partnership with Toyota City

## March

- Beat the Street campaign launched in South Derbyshire
- New affordable housing for Newhall
- New gully tanker named following competition



# Our Environment

## New urban park opened

The year saw the construction and opening of Cadley Park, the new urban park in Swadlincote.

The former Cadley Colliery site off William Nadin Way was transformed into the new park and includes newly-created wildflower meadows, network of footpaths and cycle tracks. It was named Cadley Park to reflect the history and heritage of the site's former colliery.

The £1 million investment in the new park was funded by money received by developers and council funds with a Sport England grant for the pump track - with support from British Cycling

Each of our three Green Flag Award-winning parks (Swadlincote Woodlands, Maurice Lea Memorial Park

in Church Gresley and Eureka Park in Swadlincote) retained the prestigious awards. This saw images of the three parks used by the national charity Keep Britain Tidy on their website and social media channels.

## Redevelopment of Swadlincote Town Centre

Work also began on the redevelopment of Swadlincote Town Centre with a multi-functional event space being created on the site of the former covered market in Midland Road.

Events such as theatre and performance, specialist markets and open-air cinema can take place on the site, which can also be used for free car parking.

**590**  
fly tipping  
incidents recorded



**86%**  
of new homes  
meet water  
efficiency  
targets



**395kgs**  
(per head of population)  
of household  
waste collected



**43%**  
(estimate)  
of collected  
waste recycled  
and composted

The plans also include work to be carried out to clear the former Sabine's Yard site off Belmont Street and demolish the former Bank House building off Midland Road. This will allow the creation of a pocket park with a small wildflower meadow, a picnic lawn, trees, a play area and a considerable amount of free public parking at the northern part of the site.

A further 63 additional free public car parking spaces will be provided on the site of the former Bank House building. However, the five large trees on the approach from Civic Way will remain and be protected.

### New electric vehicle charging points

The year also saw us install 24 new electric vehicle charging points in Melbourne, Hilton and Hatton. These charging points were installed following successful bids for funding from the Office for Zero Emissions Vehicles and brings the total number of charging points in council car parks to 42.

The funding is aimed at providing residents with easily accessible charge

points so they can recharge vehicles when they are not at home. The additional benefit of having them in public car parks is that other people can use them when residents are not.

### New vehicles introduced

We also began a £700,000 trial of two new refuse vehicles and close collaboration and support with ULEMco, BOC and Toyota Motor Manufacturing (UK) Ltd.

The trial is testing the performance efficiency of these new hydrogen/diesel refuse vehicles which includes a temporary base for a mobile hydrogen refuelling point at the council's depot. This is a vital step for the Council to cut carbon emissions and to help meet our commitment to become carbon neutral by 2030.

The autumn also saw us take delivery of a new £160,000 vehicle to more efficiently clean the gullies of debris such as fallen leaves. We held a competition to name the new vehicle which saw scores of entries and saw the name 'Gulliver' chosen.



# Our People

## Energy efficiency works for vulnerable tenants

2022/23 saw work including new energy efficient windows and doors installed in the council's sheltered and general needs housing stock with energy efficiency measures under the first wave of the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund programme.

This is a £1.6 million co-funded project between the Department of Business and Industrial Strategy and the council.

When the Government announced a £150 energy rebate for people living in homes in Council Tax bands A to D in response to the cost of living crisis, we worked to allow people to apply for the rebate and put systems in place to allow for the payments to be made quickly.

## Promote health and wellbeing

We have worked hard to provide activities to promote health and wellbeing for people of all ages, including regular sessions in local schools and playschemes during the summer holidays. We also work with elderly and vulnerable tenants providing chair-based exercise sessions to keep them active longer.

We also continue to provide regular sessions at Rosliston Forestry Centre including a series of wildlife activity sessions during the summer holidays. We signed a new lease for Rosliston Forestry Centre during the year to show our commitment to providing these facilities for local people and visitors. The centre remains a popular attraction and featured in a national advertising campaign in the summer.



**52,685**  
social media  
followers



**198**  
interventions  
to prevent  
fuel poverty

**182**

homelessness  
cases prevented



**89.29%**

of Planned Maintenance  
Housing programme delivered



**25,856**  
customers  
interacted  
digitally as a  
first choice

## Equality, diversity and inclusion

We remain committed to the principles of equality, diversity and inclusion.

We adopted a new diversity calendar recognising key dates. This included producing videos with personal stories for Black History Month and also LGBT+ History Month in February.

Our Disabled Facilities Grants scheme continues to provide adaption works for elderly and disabled householders to remain safe, secure and protected in their own homes including installing of walk-in showers, stairlifts, ramped access facilities and specialist equipment such as person hoists.

## Tackling anti-social behaviour

We continue to work with Derbyshire Constabulary and others through the South Derbyshire Community Safety Partnership to keep our residents safe.

Although the number of reports of anti-social behaviour has not changed substantially, we are working to take action quicker with 175 formal interventions compared to 95 in 2019/20.

We have continued to support national campaigns such as Hate Crime Awareness Week in October and Days of Action for Domestic Abuse in November.

## Success of events

During the year we welcomed thousands of people into our town centres and parks with some events held again for the first time since 2019.

Successful events we have held included: Liberation Day, aimed at people aged 60 and over in South Derbyshire, the Festival of Leisure, Music in the Park, Remembrance Sunday parade and service and Christmas Lights switch-on event.

See pages 16-17 for a more in-depth look at these events and stunning images.



# Our Future

## New innovation centre opens its doors

May 2022 saw the opening of Swadlincote Innovation Centre at Bob Wheeler House, named after the former council chair by his wife, South Derbyshire MP, Heather Wheeler.

The innovation centre is a significant investment in the local economy, offering budding entrepreneurs and small businesses affordable premises, with access to facilities and support in the early stages of their business journey.

Bob Wheeler House is handily located on the George Holmes Business Park just off the A444 in Swadlincote and boasts modern office suites, a bookable meeting room with boardroom-style facilities, free on-site car parking and shared facilities.

For more information, visit:  
[www.swadlincoteinnovationcentre.co.uk](http://www.swadlincoteinnovationcentre.co.uk).

## Solidarity with Ukraine

During the year, we worked to support Derbyshire County Council in providing support for refugees displaced as a result of the Ukraine conflict.

We have worked to help find and inspect homes for people forced to flee their homes and administered Government grants for people who have taken in refugees.

In addition to the regular job fairs and events held in the district, The South Derbyshire Business Advice Service hosted an event for Ukrainian refugees interested in starting their own business.

Support was available from business support agencies and people attending had the opportunity to network with other members of the Ukrainian community and find out more about running a business in South Derbyshire.

## Planning referendum held in Melbourne

The majority of residents in Melbourne voted that the council should adopt a Neighbourhood Development Plan for the town in a referendum held in July.

The Local Plan gives people a greater say in the types of development that will and will not be allowed in Melbourne and Kings Newton.

Similar Neighbourhood Development Plans are already in place in Hilton, Marston on Dove and Hoon; Willington and Etwall.



# 83%

of planning applications determined within statutory period



### Improvements to digital services

We continue to make improvements to our digital services to make it easier for our customers to contact and interact with us.

During the year, work was carried out to develop a platform for housing tenants which makes it easier for them to pay their rent, report repairs and anti-social behaviour.

### New Visitor Information Centre

We opened a new visitor information centre in Swadlincote Tow Centre. The new centre supports the work of the Visit South Derbyshire website and offers a one-stop shop in a central location for people to find out more about events in the district and provides information about accommodation and services in the district.

During the year, we also worked with a local social media influencer to promote the businesses and attractions in Melbourne Town Centre. This used funding the council received from the Welcome Back Fund which we received to help encourage people to use local high street businesses and services following the COVID-19 pandemic.

To find out more, visit:  
[www.visitsouthderbyshire.co.uk](http://www.visitsouthderbyshire.co.uk).



# Return of spectacular events programme

With the lifting of all lockdown restrictions, 2022/23 saw several events return to South Derbyshire for the first time since 2019.



A specially-themed Liberation Day event was held in May to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II. Derbyshire Lord-Lieutenant, Elizabeth Fothergill attended the event which saw the launch of the Jubilee flag which flew at the Civic Offices in Swadlincote during the Jubilee celebrations.

This was the first time the event, open to all South Derbyshire residents aged 60 and over, had been held in person since 2019 and offered a free afternoon of live entertainment and valuable information. The council provided free transport to the event, exclusive goodie bags and refreshment vouchers.

The Platinum Jubilee was also marked with an augmented reality trail in Swadlincote Town Centre, alongside family-friendly entertainment, and exhibiting local artists and crafters.

The extremely popular Festival of Leisure returned for the first time since 2019 with a successful two-day event held at Maurice Lea Memorial Park in Church Gresley.

Lots of local community groups and organisations took part entertaining visitors, including G's Studio and Crown Kick Boxing, professional stunt and display shows involving gundogs, motorcycles, sheepdogs, ducks, bikes and horses.

There were also performances from the Rolls Royce Derby Brass Band and the Woodville Whirlwinds Women's Institute served refreshments. People also took part in traditional village games – such as three legged and sack races.

The free-to-attend festival also included traditional stalls, fairground rides, inflatable fun and a Jubilee street party picnic area.



The Music in the Park events also returned. The free events saw performances including Uttoxeter Town Brass Band, Caribbean Steel Band and Proms in the Park event including performances from local singer Sophie Dangerfield and Newhall Brass Band with their traditional prom favourites.

November saw South Derbyshire's remembrance parade return for the first time since 2019.

The Royal British Legion and the 1211 (Swadlincote and District) Squadron ATC together with other uniformed groups and members of the public, paraded through the town.

A commemoration took place outside the gates of Eureka Parks followed by the playing of the The Last Post and two-minute silence, prayers, and wreath-laying.

Also in November, thousands of people flocked to Swadlincote Town Centre for the Christmas lights switch-on event also held for the first time in three years.

Special guest Callum Worker and two of his Miles for Smiles colleagues assisted the council's chair in switching on the lights.

The evening also included fairground rides, Rolls Royce Band performing Christmas carols and the Rotary Club of Swadlincote with Santa and his sleigh as well as entertainment.

This was followed by a series of events held each weekend in the run-up to Christmas bringing people into Swadlincote Town Centre and supporting local businesses.



# South Derbyshire remembers Queen Elizabeth II

With the lifting of all lockdown restrictions, 2022/23 saw several events return to South Derbyshire for the first time since 2019.

Books of condolence were made available to sign at the Civic Offices in Swadincote, Etwall Leisure Centre and Melbourne Assembly Rooms.

A special area was made available at the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Garden in Swadlincote for people to lay flowers in the Queen's memory. As well as flowers, Paddington Bear toys and jars of orange marmalade were left echoing Her Majesty's sketch with the bear from Peru at her Platinum Jubilee in the summer.

A ceremony was also held at Swadlincote Town Hall where the then council chair, Councillor Paul Dunn, formally proclaimed the accession of King Charles III to a large crowd who had gathered to witness the historic occasion.

To ensure all of these events ran smoothly, a group of council employees from different service areas worked together to ensure buildings were open, flags lowered and raised, books of condolence prepared and publicised.

A special event was also held in March at Rosliston Foresty Centre where we dedicated trees as part of the Queen's Green Canopy, an initiative to plant trees across the Commonwealth to mark the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Trees were also planted and dedicated to mark the accession of King Charles III.



# Things to look out for in 2023/24

- We will continue to provide apprenticeships and help local people develop skills to help them in the job market

- We will continue to make it easier, quicker and simpler to access council services digitally, saving you time



- We will provide community events for residents and visitors

- We will ensure our tenants live in comfortable homes with modern, energy efficient facilities



- We will continue to support local businesses and look to create local supply chain opportunities

- We will invest in leisure facilities in South Derbyshire.





South  
Derbyshire  
District Council

[www.southderbyshire.gov.uk](http://www.southderbyshire.gov.uk)

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