



BOARD MEETING

13 FEBRUARY 2024

SDP/1. PRESENT

Local Authority Sector

County Councillor David Muller (Derbyshire County Council), Councillor Gordon Rhind (SDDC), Councillor Stephanie Marbrow (DALC).

Other Public Sector

Inspector Michael Sisman (Derbyshire Constabulary), Vicky Smyth (Derbyshire County Council – Public Health), Michelle Oliphant (Principal of Granville Academy).

Private Sector

Colleen Hempson (East Midlands Airport), Chris Beech (Sharpe's Pottery Heritage and Arts Trust), Louise Driver (National Forest Company), Julie Langley (Toyota UK).

Voluntary/Community Sector

Hollie Benton (South Derbyshire CVS) (Vice Chair), Revd Mike Firbank (Churches Together in Swadlincote).

Also in Attendance

Councillor Amy Wheelton (Observing), Tracy Bingham, Sean McBurney, Mike Roylance, Sally Cope (South Derbyshire District Council), Kay Symcox (Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service), Adrian Moore (SDCVS).

SDP/2. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from:

Councillor Robert Pearson (Chair) (SDDC).
 Heidi McDougall (SDDC Strategic Director – Service Delivery).
 Chief Inspector Chris Thornhill (Derbyshire Constabulary).
 John Beaty (Burton and South Derbyshire College).
 Justin Holford (Derbyshire County Council).
 Chris Smith (South Derbyshire District Council).
 Councillor Daniel Corbin (South Derbyshire District Council).

SDP/3. INTRODUCTIONS, APOLOGIES, SUBSTITUTES

Hollie Benton (Vice Chair) welcomed the Board Members to the meeting and introductions took place. Substitutes/Representatives noted as follows:

Chief Inspector Chris Thornhill substitute Inspector Michael Sisman.

Apologies noted.



BOARD MEETING

13 FEBRUARY 2024

SDP/4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of interest: Hollie Benton wished to note a Declaration of Interest regarding Agenda Item 9 – an application from South Derbyshire CVS for funding.

SDP/5. MINUTES OF MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 24 October 2023 were taken as read and approved as a true record.

SDP/6. MATTERS ARISING

Social Prescribing final report has not yet been published, once available this will be reported to a future meeting.

Agenda Item 6: Mikey Heald from Collective Revolution CIC was not available today to present on the Collective Hub.

Item 10 – Action complete - Hollie and Michelle Oliphant had been in touch to look at how the schools can get involved in supporting the Food Bank.

Locality funding arrangements – Vicky to pick up in Healthier Communities update.

SDP/7. SOUTH DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL - BUDGET 2024/25

Tracy Bingham had been invited to update on the Council's forthcoming budget plans.

Background was provided on how the Council sets its budget. The new administration along with the Council's Leadership Team and Heads of Service have been preparing a draft Council Plan for the period 2024-28, setting out the priorities, aims and ambitions for the next four years. The budget is based upon the local government finance settlement, which is where the Government sets out the Council's funding for the forthcoming year. The Council has a statutory duty to consult on the budget, including with Business Rate payers, the public and parish councils.

An update was provided on the Revenue Account and General Fund which encompass everything that the Council does except Council Housing. The Council's costs have risen dramatically because of rising inflation impacting on fuel, utilities, staffing, contracts and supplies along with additional service pressures linked to the growth of the District, particularly in terms of household waste and recycling. Cost pressures are forecast to continue in the year ahead.

Background was provided on the Council's funding being a proportion of that collected through Council Tax, with the Council responsible for collecting Council Tax in the area, though only retaining 9% of the income. The remainder of the funding goes to partners - Derbyshire County



BOARD MEETING

13 FEBRUARY 2024

Council, the Police & Crime Commissioner and the Fire Authority. The District Council is proposing, subject to Member approval, to raise its Council Tax charge next year by 2.99%.

In terms of Business Rates, the Valuation Office Agency set rateable values for business premises and on an annual basis, rates are varied by something called the multiplier, usually increasing in line with inflation. Next year, the Government has frozen the multiplier for small businesses. There is a general increase of 6.7%, although the Government has extended relief for retail, hospitality and leisure businesses.

In terms of other funding, the Council continues to receive New Homes Bonus because of the housing growth in the District.

The Government has committed to undertake a review of local government funding in the next Parliament which could have implications for the amount of funding the Council receives in the future.

A summary of the Council's financial position was provided, which remains stable. The Council is currently working on a medium term financial strategy, setting out a plan for managing the anticipated future budget gaps linked with its assumptions regarding local government funding reform.

An update was provided on the housing revenue account and expected overall budget gap of around £1.2 million next year. Rents are proposed to increase by 7.7% in line with central government's social rent policy. This will lead to an average increase of £6.72 a week, which will be invested back into the delivery of housing services.

A summary of the capital programme was provided – a multi-million pound investment in new or existing assets is proposed in the District in the coming year. The Council has been provisionally awarded £1.1 million of Levelling Up Funds to further improve Swadlincote town centre. A significant investment in the fleet is proposed. Other schemes include a £1 million play area refurbishment programme and four-year programme to refurbish parks and green space infrastructure, together with a cemetery infrastructure replacement programme.

A question was raised by Stephanie Marbrow (DALC representative) regarding the need for clarification for parishes which had taken on additional responsibilities - and funding towards maintenance. Tracy to obtain further details and provide a response back to the Board and SM.

ACTION: TB

SDP/8. BEAT THE STREET EVALUATION, REVITALISING ROSLISTON AND UPDATE ON ACTIVE SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP AND EVERYONE ACTIVE

Sean McBurney provided a verbal update on the '**Beat the Street**' project including a post-game report. Headline outcomes were provided and the detailed report will be circulated with the minutes. **ACTION: SMcB/SC**



BOARD MEETING

13 FEBRUARY 2024

An update was given on plans for this year's Beat the Street game taking place across the whole District. Each area will have its own mini game with beat boxes near schools and around local streets, parks and areas of interest. Participants can travel to other parts of the District to get more points. The game will start on 15 May to coincide with the National Forest Walking Festival and run through to 26 June 2024.

The next update was on revitalising **Rosliston Forestry Centre**. A public consultation has been undertaken receiving just under 600 responses. A copy of the report to be circulated.

ACTION: SMCB/SC

The Council is also working with Huq to look at mobile phone data. Using anonymised data they can look at where people visiting a particular site over a period of time have travelled from. It also records the volumes of people coming through – for the last 12 months, this averaged 468 visitors a day, or 170,000 visits for the year. The caveat is that this does not include those without a mobile phone or smartphone, so adding in children for example would be expected to boost this to some 200,000. This is informing current investment including footpath signage and refurbishment of lodges. The Council will be working up a more detailed business plan for the site for the future.

The Council's **active school's partnership** delivers PE, school games, Bikeability, holiday activity funds and other activities. Delivering school swimming programmes is a particular challenge. Performance on this is reviewed by Ofsted. The possibility of hiring a mobile pool is being explored to enable schools to undertake crash courses.

Everyone Active has been awarded the leisure contract to operate Greenbank Leisure Centre and Etwall Leisure Centre from the 1st of April this year. They will bring some new investment into the centres, including new gym kit, redecoration and redesigning the layout of some of the areas. There will also be new offers, for example, anyone living with Parkinson's will have a free membership and up to three carers will get free memberships to accompany them. Any children that are in care and any care leavers up to the age of 25 will also get free membership.

SDP/9. CORPORATE VOLUNTEERING

Adrian Moore gave a presentation on the corporate volunteering initiative, which was launched in March 2023, supporting businesses to achieve their Corporate Social Responsibility and community engagement aims. To date, 86 individuals have been placed in volunteering opportunities, such as decorating and ground works, on projects such as Findern Footpaths wildflower meadow.

Feedback from companies, volunteers and beneficiary charities has been positive: 76% of volunteers would volunteer again; 24% would consider volunteering again.

Julie Langley highlighted that Toyota have apprentices looking for volunteering opportunities. They also provide £2,000 to each project towards the cost of materials.

Adrian will circulate his presentation slides. **ACTION: AM/SC**



BOARD MEETING

13 FEBRUARY 2024

SDP/10. THEME UPDATE

Theme Group Leads provided an overview of their update reports.

Safer Communities – Inspector Michael Sisman provided an overview on how the Derbyshire Police rural crime team have evolved; with their pro-active approach to help prevent farm machinery theft. An update on the Safer Internet Day and the recently refreshed DCC free digital MOT tool to keep you safe online. An update on the excellent community event held at Repton in January, something that the neighbourhood team would like to recreate elsewhere in the district.

Details were provided on projects funded by the Safer Neighbourhood small grant scheme which community groups and associations can apply for. Partners are asked to promote the available grant scheme. The application form is linked below:

https://www.southderbyshire.gov.uk/forms/ShowForm.asp?fm_fid=69

Or contact Chris Smith for further information:

chris.smith@southderbyshire.gov.uk

Stronger Communities – Hollie Benton provided an update on continued support and work delivered in terms of health and wellbeing services. Funding had been secured to enable the development of a group in Hilton to replicate the excellent work being done in Swadlincote. Continuing to seek food bank donation points across the district.

Support in promoting the Walk Derbyshire Development Apprentice opportunity and the Time Swop Service was requested.

Healthier Communities – Vicky Smyth provided updates, currently working with the new leisure centre operators to refine the supported exercise scheme, Exercise by Referral offer for the district. A short update was provided on the support offered on the warm and welcoming spaces.

A request to support the promotion of the South Derbyshire Small Grants Scheme.

Children & Young People – No update.

Sustainable Development – Mike Roylance provided a summary on the unemployment figures in South Derbyshire and the delivered support through the South Derbyshire Business Advice Service.

Details were provided on the 25th Anniversary of the relationship between Derbyshire and Toyota City and the East Midlands Investment Zone programme.

Shared Prosperity Fund – The Fund is currently in year two of the three-year programme, with around £650,000 of funds to distribute this year.

**BOARD MEETING****13 FEBRUARY 2024**

Public realm works are underway in Swadlincote town centre. Community and business grant schemes are operating. Town centre promotional activities and events are being supported and a dedicated Community Safety Enforcement Officer (Town Centres) has been appointed. A programme of business support, including workshops, training and green audits has been launched under the 'South Derbyshire Accelerator' branding. 'Beyond Barriers South Derbyshire' has commenced providing tailored employability support to individuals who are economically inactive.

SDP/11. BUDGET UPDATE

Mike Roylance provided an update on the Partnership budget outlining the financial position.

Members considered and voted on four grant applications as follows:

South Derbyshire Environmental Forum and Rosliston Rangers 2023/24 (Environmental Education Project). Request for £2,000.

Voting: 9 responses; 9 For

Approved

Rosliston Repair Café (Environmental Education Project). Request for £1,050.

Voting: 9 responses; 9 For

Approved

Summer Skateboard Coaching (South Derbyshire District Council). Request for £1,440.

Voting: 9 responses; 8 For; 1 Abstain

Approved

Swad Live (South Derbyshire CVS). Request for £5,198.

Voting: 10 responses; 9 For; 1 Abstain

Approved

Supporting the above projects leaves the Partnership with a positive balance of some £8,500.



BOARD MEETING

13 FEBRUARY 2024

SDP/12. FEEDBACK, FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Future Agenda Items.

1. Deferred Agenda Item 6 Collective Revolution CIC and Collective Hub.
2. Concluding report – Derbyshire Social Prescribing Scheme.

Members to email any future Board Agenda items to:

economic.development@southderbyshire.gov.uk

The date of the next Board meeting will be 27 June 2024.

The Chair thanked everyone for participating/presenting and closed the meeting.