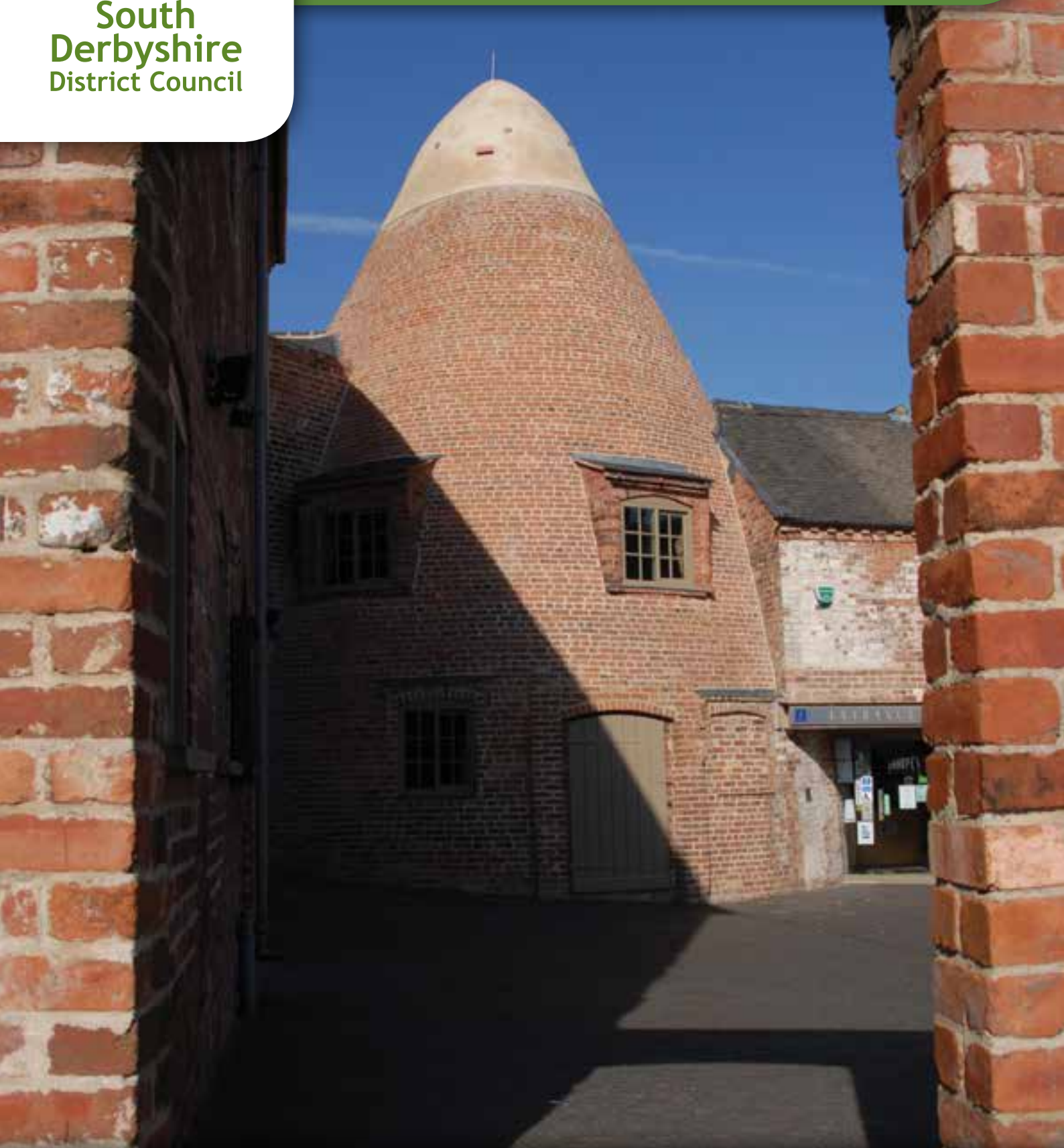


**South
Derbyshire**
District Council

Annual Report 2013-2014



South Derbyshire Changing for the better



Welcome to the South Derbyshire District Council

South Derbyshire is a largely rural district, home to nearly a third of The National Forest.

The town of Swadlincote and a host of villages and hamlets including Melbourne, Hilton, Hatton, Repton, Coton in the Elms and Shardlow form a key part of the district's make up.

South Derbyshire has been the fastest growing district in Derbyshire for over two decades as the population has increased by 13,049 since the 2001 Census, an increase of 16%.

It has become a real success story.

The district covers an area of approximately 34,000 hectares (340 sq km) and has a population of 94,611.

South Derbyshire is home to over 5,000 businesses and has attracted three quarters of a billion pounds in inward investment over the past five years.

In April 2014, only 1.4% of the working population were unemployed. This is one of the lowest rates in Derbyshire (the county average is 2.1%) and significantly below the national average of 2.7%.

The new Business Advice Service assisted 200 existing businesses and entrepreneurs starting new enterprises.

It is painting a nice picture, isn't it? South Derbyshire is a success story that is receiving recognition too.

For the sixth successive year, Maurice Lea Memorial Park, in Church Gresley, won the prestigious Green Flag award.

The Council's Environmental Education Project achieved the Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge, demonstrating the delivery of high quality and safe learning experiences.

Our Housing Service has long been recognised as a leader in the sector in performance, customer outcomes and new initiatives.

For the tenth consecutive year there has been a reduction in crime and in anti-social behaviour during the year, making South Derbyshire one of the safest places in the county.

This is all helping the district to become an even more attractive place to live, work and visit.

South Derbyshire District Council works hard to ensure that every penny paid to the Council benefits local people.

This is our Annual Report to show you how we are doing our bit to make life better in South Derbyshire.



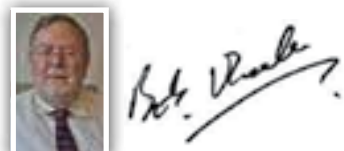
Annual Report

As you will read, we have worked closely with our partners to respond to residents' and local businesses needs.

We are committed to providing a wide range of value for money services, as this Annual Report details.

For the fourth year in succession, we have maintained a Council Tax freeze. We are all living in difficult financial times and do not want to add to the cost of household budgets. We continue to provide innovative and responsive services for the whole of our community, whilst keeping a firm grip on our finances.

As a District Council, our clear focus is on achieving the best for the people of South Derbyshire.



Bob Wheeler - Leader
South Derbyshire District Council



Frank McArdle - Chief Executive
South Derbyshire District Council



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Our V

- Put our customers first
- Set clear targets
- Act decisively
- Lead for success

What We Do

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

Collect household rubbish and continue to promote recycling.

Manage and maintain over 3,000 council homes and offer a homelessness prevention service to those in need.

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

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

Work to ensure that the food and drink in restaurants, cafes and pubs is safe to consume.

Employ Safer Neighbourhood Wardens to make our communities cleaner and safer.

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

Save money and the environment through energy efficiency schemes.

Support voluntary groups, cultural activities and crime prevention work.

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

Collect Council Tax, pay Housing Benefits and Council Tax Benefits.

Values

- Develop our people
- Treat people fairly
- Actively listen and resolve problems
- Maintain value for money through continuous improvement

Open for Business

This year has seen further expansion of the district's major employers, with the development of new facilities at the Nestlé coffee production factory in Hatton and booming sales at Toyota following the launch of the Auris Touring Sports model.

Government Minister, Chris Grayling MP, opened the new UK headquarters of the Keystone Group, in Swadlincote. The company made its name manufacturing and supplying insulated steel lintels to the British and Irish construction industries.

Nampak Plastics has increased its annual plastic bottle production at Dove Valley Park from 120 to 150 million, with bottles now fed directly into the adjacent dairy operated by Dairy Crest.

A further expansion of Hi Tech Fabrication at Bretby Business Park has taken its operations up to 86,000 sq ft. The company undertakes metal manufacture, fabrication and welding for various industries.

With the upturn in the economy, retail expansion has included a new Aldi supermarket at Hilton, a new Peacocks clothing store on Swadlincote High Street and a purpose-built new home for Massey's DIY and Gardening Store in Woodville.



Aston-on-Trent



Ann
Watson



Neil
Atkin



Peter
Watson



Benjamin
Stuart



Gordon
Rhind



Trevor
Southerd



John
Lemmon



Lisa
Brown



Andy
Roberts

Church Gresley

Etwall

Hatton

Linton

Melbourne

Midway

Newhall & Stanton



Bob
Wheeler



Charles
Jones



Jim
Hewlett



John
Harrison



John
Wilkins



Paul
Dunn



Robert
Pearson



Jean
Mead



Kevin
Richards

Get involved in the

Attending Council meetings

All the Council's committees report back to Full Council meetings where their work can be considered by every Elected Member.

If you would like to come to see a committee or the Full Council in action, you can find a full calendar of meetings, as well as agendas and the minutes which record what was decided, by visiting the Council and Democracy section of our website www.south-derbys.gov.uk.

Most of the meetings of the Council and its committees are open to the public. Occasionally some final agenda items are "exempt", which means that they can be discussed when only Councillors are present. Items are exempt due to specific legal and contractual reasons or where individuals are involved.

The Finance and Management Committee ensures that all Council services are organised and funded effectively and efficiently.

The Environmental and Development Services Committee, alongside the Housing and Community Services Committee, set out and monitor the work of Council staff to ensure the best possible services for the people of South Derbyshire.

The Council's Licensing and Appeals Committee handles licensing for entertainment, alcohol and private hire drivers as well as any appeals on employment issues by Council staff.

In 2013-2014 the Overview and Scrutiny Committee assisted the Finance and Management Committee to develop the Council's budget proposals and carried out an in depth analysis of crime and disorder, particularly in cases of domestic abuse.

The Planning Committee considers applications in relation to planning policy, the representations received from members of the public, consultation responses and the recommendations of the planning officer.

Tell us what you think

To tell us your opinions on Council services or how we have dealt with an issue, please contact Customer Services, found on our website www.south-derbys.gov.uk

If you wish to make a complaint about a Councillor, please visit the Standards Committee page

Councillors

Key:
■ Conservative
■ Labour

Hilton



Amy Plenderleith



Julie Patten



Michael Bale



Michael Stanton



Peter Smith



Margaret Hall



Steven Frost



David Shepherd



Manjit Chahal

Repton

Seales

Stenson

Aston

Swadlincote

Willington & Findern

Woodville



Sean Bambrick



Mick Mulgrew



Neil Tilley



Yvonne Heath



Ann Hood



Martyn Ford



Pat Murray



Roy Bell



Steve Taylor

The Council's work

Having your say at Area Forums

At these local meetings, local people can raise local issues. You can get involved in the decision-making process, find out more about Council services, express any concerns you might have as well as put forward your own ideas to add to your sense of community.

The quarterly meetings are held at Etwall, Linton, Melbourne, Newhall, Repton and Swadlincote. Each starts with a Safer Neighbourhood meeting at 6:15pm, where community safety issues are discussed, with local Derbyshire Police Officers and Police Community Support Officers taking part.

Through the commitment of people who attended these meetings 20 local Safer Neighbourhoods projects have been funded in 2013/14 including; CCTV Cameras at Hilton, Lullington, Newhall, Overseal and Barrow, property marking kits to Weston on Trent, youth activities in Etwall and Aston, lighting at Gresley Old Hall, a community project at William Allitt School and security measures at community facilities in Netherseal and Aston.

There is a second meeting, beginning at 7.30pm, which is dedicated to District and County Council matters. Senior and specialist staff take part in the meetings, which are usually attended by District, County and Parish Councillors.

Every year at the Area Forums, local residents are involved in the deliberations about the rate at which council tax should be set. In 2013-2014 people at Area Forums had their say on how the new localised Council Tax Reduction scheme should be put into practice in South Derbyshire.

The dates of Area Forums, agendas and minutes can be found on our website www.south-derbys.gov.uk/areaforums

About Council services

Customer Services. Alternatively download and complete the Comments, Compliments and Complaints form www.south-derbys.gov.uk

Standards and Behaviour section of our website www.south-derbys.gov.uk/standards

Sustainable Growth and Opportunity - Working to strengthen S



Following a successful pilot in 2012/13, the **South Derbyshire Business Advice Service** has been extended and is now providing advice to new and existing businesses. A total of 72 firms received crucial support to help them flourish in just three months, while 36 newcomers were given assistance to get up and running. 100 per cent of the beneficiaries rated the service as good or excellent, showering the scheme with high praise.



The **Swadlincote Farmers' and Producers' Market** continues to go from strength to strength thanks to fun and varied themes, while a plant market has also become a popular fixture during the summer months. The traditional market also participated in '**Love Your Local Market**' in May, a national initiative designed to attract new stallholders. In December a combined general and farmers' market was held with fairground rides, food tastings and entertainment. This attracted over 70 stalls and a high level of footfall.



The first ever **Swadlincote Festival of Transport** was staged throughout the town centre in May. The event, led by the Rotary Club of Swadlincote and the Box Motor Club, attracted some 150 classic and contemporary vehicles and thousands of visitors.

The **National Forest Walking Festival 2013** returned in May, attracting funding from South Derbyshire District Council, The National Forest Company and Leicestershire County Council. Now in its sixth year, the Festival featured over 100 walks and the support of 40 partner organisations, together with significant media coverage. Despite poor weather the number of walkers was up an impressive 10% on 2012 at 1,459.

South Derbyshire's economy in a clean and sustainable environment

South Derbyshire has been named as one of the best locations in the country for attracting inward investment and creating jobs. The district's expanding economy and ever growing potential was heralded by specialist publication the Municipal Journal.

A Youth Training Fair at Swadlincote Town Hall attracted over 100 young people. A key theme was the chance to try a new skill on the day, ranging from plastering to hairdressing. More than 25 organisations exhibited, promoting employment, education, training and business start-up opportunities. 96% of those attending found the event helpful.

Tourism is booming in South Derbyshire on the back of successful attractions. There has been an increase in day trips and overnight stays in the District and The National Forest this year. Enquiries handled by Swadlincote Tourist Information Centre have risen to more than 11,000.

The **What's On in South Derbyshire** publication has been further developed and is now published three times per annum in both printed form and online.

Conversations have been held with residents to shape the **Local Plan**, which is designed to help South Derbyshire grow and flourish up until 2028 by ensuring that the necessary infrastructure is in place for future generations.

The Burton-Swadlincote-Utttoxeter (Burton Mail) **Business Awards 2013** attracted a number of new corporate sponsors and a growth in entries.



Making our Communities safe and secure - Delivering a range



The **Safer South Derbyshire Partnership** worked with communities to reduce crime and the fear of crime in a low-crime district, funding 20 projects put forward by local groups at Safer Neighbourhood meetings.

Over 300 young people took part in daily **Summer Vibe** sessions in Hilton and Newhall as part of a drive to cut down on anti-social behaviour.

Two ASBO's were obtained to control prolific offenders with seven young people successfully completing Acceptable Behaviour Contracts.

Liberation Day was yet another glorious success with more than 350 over 60s taking part in the themed event, which focuses on how to stay safe and secure.

230 properties were secured through the **Safer Homes Scheme** run by the CVS. A further 60 properties were secured through the Sanctuary Scheme.

The four **South Derbyshire secondary schools** were paid visits to promote healthy relationships and raise awareness of Domestic Violence services during National Relationships Week.

South Derbyshire District Council has worked with the **Shout Out disability support group**, providing information on hate crime and how to report it and delivering crime education sessions to Granville School students.

The local Community Payback scheme, which sees offenders repay their wrongdoings, helped 27 out of 29 young people to stay on the right side of the law.



of affordable and decent housing in safe and clean neighbourhoods

Tamperproof number plate screws were fitted to cars in Castle Gresley, Hilton, Swadlincote and Etwall to deter criminals.

The Council offers a high standard of accommodation for its tenants, providing responsive services at affordable rents. 100% are satisfied with the levels of maintenance we provide. We involve tenants in decision making and support the **South Derbyshire Tenants' and Residents' Forum**.

The Council works with landlords to drive up standards of housing across the district, particularly in the private sector. We also support people who are homeless or threatened with homelessness.

Our **Careline Service**, which helps around 1,600 vulnerable people to remain independent, moved to the new Oakland Village, in Swadlincote. A total of 37,812 calls were efficiently dealt with.

Housing Services launched a business plan to invest £27 million in improving council homes over the next five years and £108 million over the next 30 years, ensuring that that the Council maintains and exceeds the **Decent Homes Standard**.

Dozens of young people were encouraged to become more involved in community activities through the Council's **Dreamscheme** by delivering hampers to vulnerable tenants at Christmas and gardening in communal areas.



Providing Lifestyle Choices - Improving the health



National Play Day was a great success with over 2,000 people take part in a wide range of activities from mini-Olympics to environment-themed entertainment.

The patriotic, rousing **Last Night of The Proms** played to hundreds of spectators at The Glade at Rosliston Forestry Centre.

Improvements to leisure facilities across the District are underway. The £550,000 refurbishment works are progressing and **Green Bank Leisure Centre** users are benefitting from the improvements.



Rosliston Forestry Centre has had over £80,000 of improvements to facilities supporting children with disabilities.

The Green Flag Award, recognising the best open spaces in the country, has been retained at Maurice Lea Memorial Park in Church Gresley for the sixth consecutive year.



Conservation volunteering projects at Swadlincote Woodlands and Coton Local Nature Reserve have delivered in excess of 280 volunteer days.

80 new trees have been planted in the urban Parks with funding assistance from The **National Forest Company**.

The **Playscheme** achieved over 7,500 participations. Activities included human table football, the Wacky SportsMobile and the Climbing Wall.

Health and wellbeing of our communities and residents

The annual **Festival of Leisure** weekend at Maurice Lea Memorial Park drew nearly 10,000 visitors with a wide variety of attractions.

The **Village Games Project** benefitted communities through a range of activities from chair based exercise to village youth group support.

South Derbyshire Day, a special pre-match extravaganza at Derby County's Pride Park, let football fans know of the great work carried out by community organisations and individuals to promote the District.

South Derbyshire has its own special **Sports Awards** to encourage and honour sportspeople and the volunteers that make things happen in the District. Canoe polo player Claire Mitchell, from Shardlow, was named Sportsperson of the Year after racking up an impressive medal haul with Team GB at the World Games and European Championships.

Weddings graced **Swadlincote Town Hall** with its transformation into an approved licensed venue for marriages and civil partnerships.

Funding of £149,000 has been allocated to local **Voluntary and community sector groups** to deliver a range of health and wellbeing initiatives to the local community.

South Derbyshire District Council achieved the acclaimed **ISO 14001** international standard for its work to reduce environmental impact. Energy consumption at the Civic Offices in Swadlincote is down 12 per cent annually as the Council looks to become a green role model.



Ensuring Value for Money - Upholding



Council Tax was frozen for the fourth consecutive year so that residents didn't feel more of the chill of the age of austerity.

Auditors Grant Thornton declared that South Derbyshire is offering value for money by “making proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.”

It means that we are in a good financial position to meet current and future needs.

The auditors praised our five year plan stating: “The Council has robust arrangements in place for ensuring that the Medium Term Financial Plan is kept up to date to reflect its response to the continued challenges presented by funding cuts.”

Praise was also afforded to the financial governance, planning and control in place at the Civic Offices.

Grant Thornton said: “The Council continues to take a long term approach to efficiency planning. This is made possible by having a strong understanding of both internal and external factors facing the authority.”

Cutting costs not services

South Derbyshire District Council is committed to doing more with less.

A detailed review by the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee highlighted proven value for money in waste, cleansing and grounds maintenance services.

By offering sustained support to voluntary and local groups and by working in partnership with funding organisations, South Derbyshire is able to attract external funding to community developments of all kinds.

A striking example is Eureka Park in Swadlincote, which is being lovingly restored with a grant of over half a million pounds awarded from the Heritage Lottery Fund and Big Lottery Fund through their Parks for People programme.

Long lost features, such as the Floral Clock, Rose Arch Walk and water cascades, are to be lovingly reinstalled. Footpath improvements are also in the pipeline, while colourful planting is to be put in place and recreational facilities enhanced.



Maintaining financial resilience

Significant efficiency savings continue to protect and improve vital services and balance the books.

Measures introduced include greater partnership working, streamlining senior management and a wide range of efficiency measures designed to reduce overhead and back office costs.

Through forward thinking and effective leadership, the Council has continued to invest in projects making a difference to the lives of residents.

For example, we introduced a new recycling scheme, which includes plastics and cardboard. Residents have recycled over 5,000 tonnes of waste since the Easy Green Recycling scheme began in October. This is more than double the amount collected in the same period in the previous year. Households have recycled 625 tonnes of plastic so far - three and a half times the amount previously going into recycling centres.

Even in the age of austerity, investments are also being made in leisure facilities in Swadlincote, Etwell, Melbourne and Rosliston. Almost £2 million in external funding is intended to ignite the legacy of the Olympics across South Derbyshire.

Improving customers' experience with the Council

All of the work of South Derbyshire District Council is focused on providing the best possible service for local residents and businesses.

The Council recognises that there are areas of service which can be further improved and uses its Overview and Scrutiny Committee to investigate specific areas and recommend new ways of working.

If you have a question or query, get in touch by calling **01283 595795** or emailing customer.
services@south-derbys.gov.uk.

Alternatively, visit **www.south-derbys.gov.uk**.





Northgate

Northgate Public Services has worked with the Council to provide its corporate services and deliver extra value for money. In its partnership with the Council, Northgate guaranteed to make Council savings of £2.1million and spend £1.9 million upgrading IT systems and services.

Law:Public

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

The South Derbyshire Partnership

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

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.

Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)

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

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.

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.

South Derbyshire Sport

Focussing on increasing sports participation by young people. This included supporting work on a £550,000 refurbishment of Green Bank Leisure Centre.

The Schools Sports Partnership

The partnership is managed by the Council's Sport and Health team. It has had great success with activities for young people including football leagues, wheelchair basketball, fencing and Bikeability.

Active Nation

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

Melbourne Sporting Partnership

South Derbyshire District Council is working with clubs from five different sports to develop facilities costing £2.5 million at Cockshut Lane Recreation Ground.

Village Games

Supports local community activity through a range of events, from chair based exercises to youth group support.

Derbyshire County Council / Parish Council

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

Other partnerships the Council works in conjunction with:

- **People Express**
- **The Community Partnership Scheme**
- **Sport England**
- **Public Health**
- **The National Lottery**
- **The NHS**
- **The Forestry Commission**
- **The Football Foundation**
- **Derbyshire Sport**
- **Rolls Royce**



Our income

Our total income for 2013-2014 was £45.8 million compared to £50.620 million in 2012-2013.

This came from government grants, housing rents, council tax, fees, recharges, Supporting People and interest.

£3.3m	Fees and Charges
£25.6m	Government Grants
£11.7m	Housing Rents
£0.1m	Interest
£0.3m	Supporting People Contributions
£4.4m	Council Tax
£0.4m	Recharges

£45.8m Total

In 2013-2014, our element of the Council Tax remained the same as 2012-2013. This gave a Band D Council Tax of £150.25, significantly less than the national average of over £170 for shire district councils. The figure for housing rents pays for local authority housing.

Our expenditure

Our revenue account shows the costs of running our services. In 2013-2014, we spent a total of £45.8 million on delivering services under our four themes. This was 9% less than the £50.620 million we spent on services in 2012-2013. The decrease was mainly due to some budget reductions, together with expenditure on housing benefits.

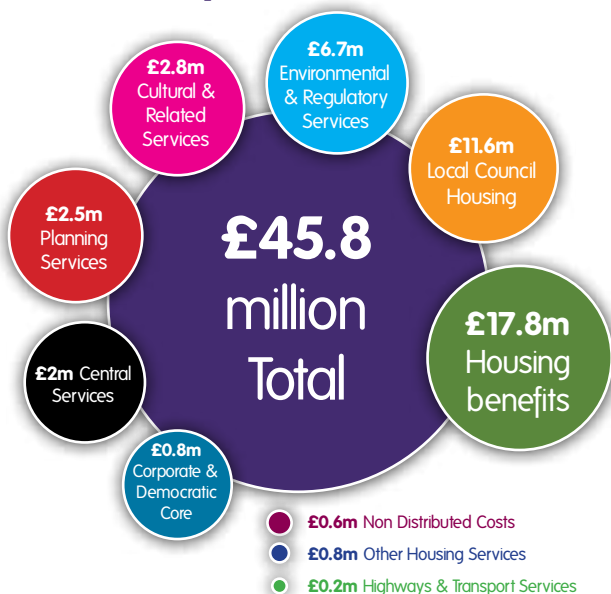
Our revenue also shows the costs of delivering our priorities and the amount left to be financed from local and national tax income.

£17.8m	Housing Benefits
£11.6m	Local Council Housing
£6.7m	Environmental & Regulatory Services
£2.8m	Cultural & Related Services
£2.5m	Planning Services
£2m	Central Services
£0.8m	Other Housing Services
£0.8m	Corporate & Democratic Costs
£0.6m	Non Distributed Costs
£0.2m	Highways & Transport Services

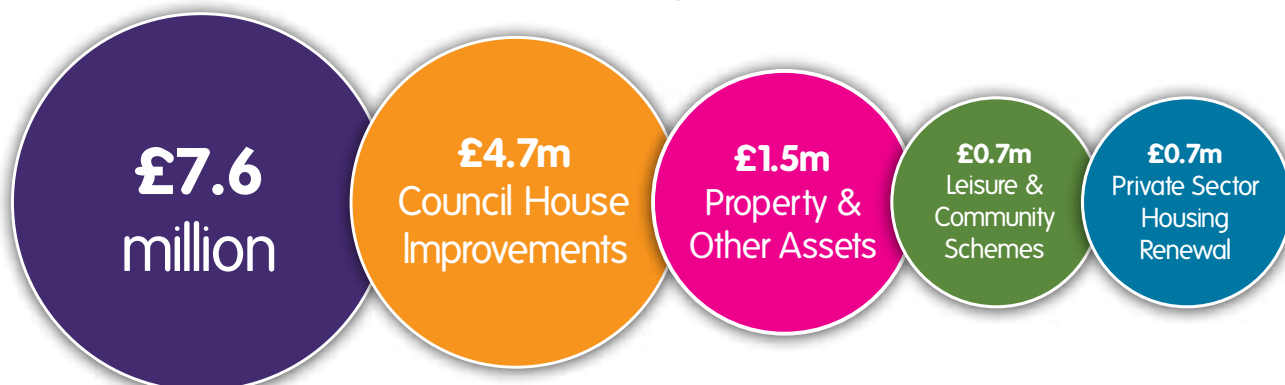
£45.8m Total

Our **capital account** sets out the money we spend on buying and improving our land and property so we can offer first class public facilities. In 2013-2014, we spent £7.6 million on our land and property assets. We financed this through £1.1 million of grants and contributions and £6.5 million from capital receipts and reserves.

What we spent on services



What we spent on land and property



At the end of the financial year we draw up a **balance sheet** that shows how much our land and buildings are worth, what we owe others, what others owe us and how much cash we have. Our net worth is £35.8 million.

Our balance sheet: 31 March 2014

Revenue reserves & balances		Net Assets	
£17.0m	Unusable Reserves	£108.4m	Value of Land & Property
£10.4m	General Balances	£7.5m	Cash in Bank & Investments
£5.2m	Capital Reserves	£5.3m	Money Owed to us
£3.2m	Earmarked Reserves	-£85.3m	Money Owed by us
£35.8m Net Worth		£35.8m Total	

The Director of Finance and Corporate Services' statement



As South Derbyshire statutory Chief Finance Officer, I can confirm that we prepared this year's statement of accounts in line with the Accounting Code of Practice. We have compiled the figures presented in this summary with proper regard to accounting practices. The Government's public spending watchdog, the Audit Commission, appointed Grant Thornton Accountants to review our 2013-2014 accounts. We received an unqualified audit opinion and Council approved our 2013-2014 accounts on 25th September 2014. A full copy of the audited statement of accounts is available on our website at:

http://www.south-derbys.gov.uk/council_and_democracy/council_budgets_spending/statement_of_accounts/default.asp

Kevin Stackhouse

Director of Finance and Corporate Services
South Derbyshire District Council

Follow us on:



South Derbyshire Sport

SDDC Housing

Safer South Derbyshire Partnership

Rosliston Forestry Centre

Roger Badger

**Environmental Education Project at
Rosliston Forestry Centre**

Sharpe's Pottery Museum

Swadlincote Tourist Information

National Forest Walking Festival

