Annual Report 2016/17

Green Flag Award 2016/17



ATOYOT



South Derbyshire District Council

South Derbyshire District Council Annual Report

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South Derbyshire continues to thrive - even more tourists are visiting, more businesses are moving in and more people are choosing to make it their home.

Providing services to meet the increasingly diverse needs of the District takes careful planning, and 2016/17 was a year in which we worked hard to set out the ways we will achieve this.

At the same time the year saw plenty of exciting events taking place and much high-profile work being completed.

Among the highlights were the opening of an outstanding sports facility in Melbourne, the long awaited unveiling of Midway Community Centre and the continued progress in constructing a new golf course in Swadlincote.

An exhibition celebrating the life of South Derbyshire boxing legend Jack Bodell brought around 1,500 visitors into Swadlincote and the Aviva Women's Tour 2016 saw camera crews and cycling fans gather along the eight-mile section from Elvaston to Bretby.

Behind this key strategies were launched and a new Corporate Plan created, covering the period 2016-2021. This plan sets out our vision and values for South Derbyshire, based on themes of People, Place, Progress and Outcomes.

> New ways of monitoring our progress were introduced to keep a close eye on performance, with a shared approach across all departments focused on making this District a better place to live, work and visit.

Our Housing Strategy 2016-2021 was introduced, with three key strategic priorities - improving access to and supply of housing; well-maintained, safer, greener homes; and enabling people to live independently.

Work was completed on dozens of new Council homes at sites in Linton, Swadlincote and Overseal. These were the first Council-owned housing developments in South Derbyshire for a generation.

Significant progress was also made on getting the District declared to be 'Dementia Friendly' and having the Civic Offices registered as a Safe Place for vulnerable people who need assistance.

Plans were put in place to create a 'cycling legacy' to make the District one of the most attractive places to travel on two wheels. The South Derbyshire Cycle Plan proposes a five-year programme of activities and infrastructure changes designed to get 50,000 extra women taking up cycling by 2030, as well as a 50 per cent increase in those who bike to work.

The South Derbyshire Economic Development Strategy 2016-2020 aims to set out an understanding of the economic challenges and opportunities facing the area and to put forward a vision for further development.



outh Derbyshire District Council



The District already serves as home to large, multi-national organisations including JCB Power Systems, Keystone Lintels, Nestle and Toyota Motor Manufacturing UK, as well as small and medium enterprises operating in a range of sectors.

The strategy has been designed to directly contribute to the achievement of the Progress objectives identified in the Corporate Plan.

The Local Plan Part 1 was adopted in June 2016, setting out the long-term vision, objectives and strategy for the spatial development of South Derbyshire and providing a framework for promoting and controlling development.

Our aim of increasing the amount of waste recycled was given a huge fun and educational boost by Waste less, Save more, a scheme which saw us work with partners between January and December 2016 to cut household waste and save families money. It was made possible thanks to a £1 million investment by Sainsbury's and has left us with a positive and lasting legacy.

While much to be proud of was achieved in 2016/17, we must now build on some excellent foundations to ensure that South Derbyshire continues to be a prosperous, attractive and growing District well into the future.



Frank McArdle - Chief Executive South Derbyshire District Council









INVESTOR IN PEOPL

South Derbyshire - Changing for the better

The Corporate Plan 2016-21

Our Corporate Plan is based on extensive research and consultation into South Derbyshire's needs. It groups our work under four key themes: People, Place and Progress, leading to successful Outcomes.

The Corporate Plan is central to our work it sets out our values and visions for South Derbyshire and defines our priorities for delivering high-quality services.

The Council aspires to meet the expectations of local communities. This Annual Report demonstrates how work and activities under the Corporate Plan themes have contributed to that in 2016/17.



Dreamscheme community pr

What we do

Our vision

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

Our values





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



Collect household rubbish and continue to promote recycling in innovative ways.



Manage and maintain more than 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 served in South Derbyshire's 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 partners on a wide variety of community projects for the benefit of residents.



Collect Council Tax and Business Rates and pay Housing Benefits.

People, Place, Progress

The following pages provide a snapshot of what has been achieved in 2016/17 under our Corporate Plan themes.

People - Keeping residents healthy, happy and safe

Examples of what we achieved:

The **average time for processing** changes in circumstances to Benefit claims was 6.7 days, well below the eight-day target.

A **Science Discovery Day** hosted by the Environmental Education Project challenged youngsters to enjoy some hands-on experiments and learning.

A South Derbyshire taxi firm boss was ordered to **pay more than £1,300** for operating a private hire vehicle with an unlicensed driver.

Members of the public were invited along to the Three Marinas Charity Walk to launch the **National Forest Walking Festival 2016**, which featured more than 80 walks catering for every age, taste and ability.

The first **outdoor table tennis** facility in the District was installed in Aston-on-Trent after the Council secured a £12,000 grant from supermarket giant Tesco under its Bags of Help initiative. The **Eureka Park Cycle Show** gave people of all ages the chance to try out cycling, as well as watch some of the world's finest riders race through the area as part of the Aviva Women's Tour 2016.

A new **cycling hub** designed to encourage more commuters to use pedal power was unveiled at Swadlincote's Green Bank Leisure Centre.

The Apex Climbing Centre – a state-of-theart **indoor climbing centre** at Swadlincote's Green Bank Leisure Centre – opened to the public.

Two fly-tippers were fined £400 each as the Council became one of the first UK local authorities to use new powers to issue **on-thespot fines** for small-scale offences.

Stickers urging people to think before throwing away food were applied to wheelie bins at **18,000 homes**.

Giant board games, Olympic-themed fun days and a variety of sports all formed part of the **Summer Activities 2016** programme to keep youngsters entertained.

Summer activities

Thousands of people flocked to Maurice Lea Memorial Park in Church Gresley for a **national Playday** celebration.

A comprehensive programme of **health walks** was put together to encourage people to take their first steps into exercise.

Swadlincote swimmer and Paralympic bronze medallist Lewis White was named both sportsman of the year and disabled sportsperson of the year at the District's annual **sports awards**, which recognise sporting talent, coaches and dedicated volunteers.

A **Sports Pass and Grant Scheme**, open to all budding South Derbyshire athletes, offered assistance in helping them to realise their potential by providing free use of leisure facilities in the area.

South Derbyshire's **Community Food Hub** project dished up its 1,000th meal, less than a year after it was set up.





Two Swadlincote cafes became the first businesses in South Derbyshire to pledge their support to making the District a 'Dementia Friendly Community'

by examining their working practices to better cater for those with dementia.

A scheme encouraging businesses and organisations to invite **breastfeeding mums** to use their facilities was relaunched.

92% of our tenants were very or fairly satisfied with the **quality of their new home**.

Breastfeeding mums



Examples of what we achieved:

Nine volunteers spent a combined 1,500 hours creating a patchwork quilt chronicling the heritage of Swadlincote's Eureka Park, under the Eureka Park Invisible Heritage Project.

A new wildlife and educational pond was created at Rosliston Forestry Centre, to be used as a teaching resource by involving schools, volunteers and community groups.

Details of Derbyshire's Domestic Abuse Support Line were printed on receipts at Swadlincote's Argos store thanks to the efforts of the South Derbyshire Domestic and Sexual Abuse Action Group, as part of an effort to stamp out domestic abuse during the football European Championship.

Forty-five new Council homes were unveiled across three sites to help meet the needs of a fast-growing population.

Church Gresley's Maurice Lea Memorial Park and Swadlincote's Eureka Park were given Green Flag Awards for the second year running, ranking them among the finest in the UK.

A deal to purchase 11 derelict former firefighters' properties in Swadlincote and turn them into affordable homes was completed.

A stage adaptation of popular author and comedian David Walliams's book Ratburger was brought to The Glade at Rosliston.

The £2.5 million state-of-the-art Melbourne Sports Park was officially opened. The facility features a new clubhouse, floodlit football and rugby pitches, floodlit tennis/netball courts, a floodlit artificial grass pitch and new car parking space.

Hilton Youth Group, catering for those aged 10 to 16, was founded to engage and entertain youngsters.

A Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) was introduced in Swadlincote town centre as part of a blitz on anti-social behaviour.

The new Midway Community Centre, two newly laid football pitches and a children's play area were unveiled, a development made possible thanks to a deal struck between the Council and housing developer Strata Homes Ltd.

An animated 'Mouldy Matters' film designed to help people keep their homes condensation and mould free was produced by the Council.



Midway Community Centre

Jack Bodell exhibition

New Council homes

The Council scooped the **Development of** the Year Award from the Chartered Institute of Housing at the Midlands regional awards ceremony in recognition of the 22 family homes and bungalows delivered across two sites in Swadlincote and Overseal.

A session designed to stamp out hate crime and provide information and support was held in Stenson Fields.

Newhall Park received a fresh injection of colour to add to its beauty thanks to a community tree-planting day.

A three-week exhibition celebrating the life of South Derbyshire boxing legend Jack Bodell attracted an estimated 1,500 visitors, with a new housing development in Newhall also named after the popular fighter.

The Council's Dreamscheme project, designed to engage young people, was shortlisted in the Excellence in Youth **Involvement** category at the Central **Tenant Participation Advisory Service** (Tpas) Awards.

> The Firefly Tattoo Parlour in Swadlincote became the first tattooing business in South Derbyshire to sign up to the **Tattoo Hygiene Rating Scheme** and be awarded a mark of 4 (very good).

Progress - Encouraging inward investment and tourism opportunities



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Examples of what we achieved:

The South Derbyshire **Economic Development Strategy 2016-2020** – a document pointing the way towards long-term economic prosperity for the District – was unveiled.

Hundreds of **career opportunities** offered by more than 40 employers were up for grabs at our annual jobs fair. Work-based 'have a go' skills were offered to youngsters to ignite their interest and highlight talents that could help them choose a future career path.

44,315 queries were handled by the Tourist Information Centre as the visitor appeal of the District continued to grow.

The '**Food Saver Champions**,' recruited under Sainsbury's Waste less, Save more project, became a familiar sight across the District as part of the drive to help families cut household bills by reducing food waste.

Town Crier

Karen Bailey was appointed as our **first town crier**. The role was introduced as part of the Swadlincote Townscape Heritage scheme project, which was made possible through Heritage Lottery Fund money and whose aim is to further improve the town centre and build on its history.

Special offers and free street entertainment were all part of the first '**Swadlincote Shopping Day**,' with businesses involved in the event promoting their new products and deals by using the hashtag #Swadoffers on social media. Celebrity chefs, a bake off challenge, live entertainment and the finest **flavours from across the globe** all formed part of the Swadlincote International Food and Drink Festival, which pulled in thousands of visitors.

Free help and advice was on offer at a **South Derbyshire Business Breakfast**, designed to support people in taking their businesses to the next level.

Courses to bring teachers and educators up to speed in the art of passing on **practical woodland craft techniques** to children were held in Rosliston.

People with ambitions of starting their own business were offered the chance to find out all they needed to know at a '**Thinking of Starting a Business?**' session.

The Swadlincote Town Centre Guide was unveiled – an encyclopaedia featuring more than 230 retailers and businesses that promotes **places to shop, eat and visit** in the market town of The National Forest.

Those hoping to find a new career were given a helping hand thanks to a series of **new work club sessions** in Etwall.

The first **Swadlincote Makers Market**, specialising in handmade products and incorporating the former farmers' market, was held.



An impressive 84.1% of food businesses achieved the **top hygiene rating of five**, thanks to positive publicity and the educational work of our Commercial team.

Makers Market

Swadlincote Town Centre Guide

Outcomes - Work that underpins all of our activities



Examples of what we achieved:

Designs were drawn up and content overhauled as part of a move towards a **new look Council website**.

South Derbyshire successfully **carried out its duties** as part of the Derbyshire Police and Crime Commissioner Election and the EU Referendum.

The Council was awarded a **Gold level award** – recognising its commitment to accident and ill-health prevention – by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA). It was the sixth consecutive year that we have achieved the gold standard.

Our Customer Services team met **grade of service** every month during 2016/17, with more than 80% of calls handled within 20 seconds.

The **South Derbyshire Local Plan Part 1** was officially adopted, a document that addresses development requirements in the District up to 2028. Members of the public were given their chance to have a say on the Local Plan Part 2 at a series of drop-in sessions.

Over a dozen **home visits** were carried out to those entitled to Benefits but unable to visit the Civic Offices to complete paperwork and provide documentary evidence.

S.D.D.C.

BALLOT BOX **Satisfaction** in responses to customer enquiries stood at 95.8% for phones and 97% for face to face. The Council received 44 compliments and two comments about services during 2016/17. All feedback will be used to further improve our work.

The Council joined forces with Derby City Council to help **fight fraud** by sharing resources, intelligence and state-of-the art detection techniques. The focus would fall on areas such as tackling illegal sub-letting, identifying false claims for Council Tax reduction and making sure people pay their Council Tax on time.

A legal process to determine potential **boundary changes and governance arrangements** in an area of rural South Derbyshire was completed. Following a Community Governance Review, it was resolved that Barrow upon Trent would transfer around 153.5 acres of land into the parish of Stenson Fields, while Stenson Fields would take in around 197 acres of land to the southwest, which previously sat in the unparished area of Twyford and Stenson.

Extensive local consultation took place to establish whether or not a **new parish council** should be created for Newhall and Stanton. 376 voted in favour of the idea and 514 against.



Local elections

Local Plan

The Council was again certified with the flagship **British Standard ISO14001**, which recognises the efforts of businesses and organisations in managing and minimising their environmental impact. We were one of the first organisations globally to achieve the revised standard two years previous, with the re-certification acting as confirmation of our commitment to working innovatively and sustainably for the benefit of South Derbyshire

residents.

Customer care

Attending Council meetings

All our committees report back to Full Council meetings, where their work can be considered by every Elected Member.

You are welcome 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 at 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 with only Councillors present.

Items are classified as exempt due to specific legal and contractual reasons, or where individuals are identified.

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

The Environmental and Development Services Committee, and the Housing and Community Services Committee, set out and monitor the work of Council staff to ensure we deliver 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 2016/17 the Overview and Scrutiny Committee assisted the Finance and Management Committee to develop the Council's budget proposals, looked into recycling and bulky waste collections and also focused its attention on how we support the voluntary sector.

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.

Our tenant participation work encourages individuals to make a real contribution to the decisions that affect their homes and communities. A directory of tenants details those interested in contributing to service delivery reviews. Participants are contacted when opportunities for involvement arise.

Publications such as the Housing Services' Annual Report, our tenants' e-bulletin Housing News and our suite of leaflets ensure people are kept well informed.

Having your say at Area Forums

At these meetings, people can raise issues concerning their own area, get involved in the decision-making process and find out more about Council services.

The meetings, held up to four times a year, cover the Etwall, Linton, Melbourne, Newhall, Repton and Swadlincote areas. Each starts with a Safer Neighbourhood meeting, where community safety issues are discussed with Derbyshire Police Officers and Police Community Support Officers.

Through the commitment of people who attended these meetings during 2016/17 the fight against crime and anti-social behaviour continued, with 14 local Safer Neighbourhood Projects funded.

Improvements to CCTV schemes at Melbourne, Aston and Barrow were among the recipients of the grant money available. Newhall Old Post Centre and Swadlincote's Bus Park Cafe also got new equipment to help with surveillance of their premises.

Grants were awarded to the Tuesday Night Project and Goseley Activity Project to give teenagers in the Swadlincote area night-time

Your District Councillors



entertainment and combat anti-social behaviour. A similar scheme in Hilton was also funded, as was Willington Arts Festival.

There is a second meeting, beginning at 7.30pm, which is dedicated to District and County Council matters.

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

Let us know

To tell us your opinions on Council services or how we have dealt with an issue, please contact Customer Services. Alternatively, go to our website at www.south-derbys.gov.uk where you can complete a form that comes directly to us. If you wish to make a complaint about a Councillor, please find all the details you need on the Councillors and Meetings section of our website.



Working in partnership



By working in partnership with other organisations and by offering sustained support to voluntary and other local groups, South Derbyshire continues to achieve more for less.

Partners with whom we work include:

Active Nation

Active Nation manages the Green Bank Leisure Centre in Swadlincote and Etwall Leisure Centre in partnership with the Council. Each of these centres has undergone extensive refurbishment work in recent times.

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.



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.

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.

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 antisocial behaviour in the District.

Sainsbury's

The national supermarket chain invested £1 million in Swadlincote in 2016 as part of its Waste less, Save more campaign, designed to reduce food waste and save families money. The project brought a range of partners together.

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.

Active South Derbyshire

South Derbyshire Sport focuses on increasing sports participation by young people. More than 7,000 young people attended the Summer Activities sessions held in the District's parks during the summer of 2016.

The Forestry Commission

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

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.

The South Derbyshire School 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 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 and health and wellbeing.



Other partnerships the Council works in conjunction with include:

- Aurora Country Developments Ltd
- Derbyshire Sport
- Derbyshire Police
- John Port School
- People Express
- Public Health England
- Rolls-Royce
- Central Midlands Audit Partnership
- Local Energy Area Partnership
- Home Improvement Agency
- Derbyshire Traveller Issues Working Group
- D2N2 Better Business Regulation Partnership
- Sport England

Melbourne Sports

Pavilion

- The Football Foundation
- The NHS



Safer South Derbyshire Partnership

Summary of accounts

Our income

Our total income for 2016/17 was £53.1 million. compared to £50.9 million in 2015/16.

This came from grants, housing rents and Council Tax, together with fees and charges. The main reason for the increase was income received from planning and development contributions, which the Council retains to pay for future expenditure.

Our element of the Council Tax increased by 1.95% from £150.25 (Band D) in 2015/16 to £153.18 in 2016/17. This was the first increase in the level of Council Tax for six years.

£22.2m	Government grants		
£0.6m	Other grants		
£9.1m	Fees and charges		
£0.1m	Interest		
£12.5m	Housing rents		
£8.6m	Local taxation		

Total

Our expenditure

£53.1m

Our revenue account shows the costs of running our services. In 2016/17, we spent £46.6 million on delivering services. This was 10% less than the £52.1 million spent in 2015/16. The decrease was mainly due to lower capital contributions required from housing revenues to finance the Housing New Build programme. This investment, which was substantially delivered in 2015/16, was completed in 2016/17.

What we spent on services



What we spent on land and property

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 2016/17, we spent £8.3 million on our land and property assets. We financed this through a mixture of grants and contributions, together with investing our own capital receipts and reserves.



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 as at March 31 was valued at £72.1m, an increase from £46.4m in 2015/16. 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.

Our balance sheet: 31 March 2016

Revenue	reserves & balances	Net Assets	5
£12.1m £45.9m £5.6m £8.5m	General balances Unusable reserves (offsets the values of the Council's assets and its pension deficit) Capital reserves Earmarked reserves	£148.5m £26.0m -£102.4m	Value of land & property Liquid assets Less money owed by us
£72.1m	Net worth	£72.1m total	

The Director of Finance's statement

The Council was able to achieve a budget surplus in 2016/17 of £6.6m. This was largely planned as additional resources were received from Council house rents, Council Tax and Planning Services.

This money has been set-aside in the Council's reserves to meet anticipated increases in future expenditure arising from the growth of the District, together with the requirement to repay Government debt previously passed over by the Government for investment in Council housing.

The accounts also show that the Council continues to invest in leisure facilities and in providing new Council Housing.

Although the Council's overall financial position remains healthy, it faces a financial challenge from 2018/19 to continue to 'balance the books'. This is mainly due to a reduction in Government funding and the cost pressures which are anticipated to arise from growth. The Council has already made some budget savings and has put money aside towards ensuring that the financial position remains healthy into the future.

Kevin Stackhouse

Director of Finance and Corporate Services, South Derbyshire District Council



Follow us on:



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IN PERSONNEL

South Derbyshire Environmental Health 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 Swadlincote Waste less Save more National Forest Walking Festival Swadlincote Town Team Swadlincote Markets Swadlincote Townscape Heritage Scheme Swadlincote Food & Drink Festival Swadlincote Wedding Fairs

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Pictures courtesy of: Toyota Manufacturing UK TwoTwenty staircase solutions The National Forest Company Sainsbury's Get Active in the Forest

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