



South Derbyshire District Council

Annual Report 2020/2021

Our Environment | Our People | Our Future

www.southderbyshire.gov.uk



**South
Derbyshire**
District Council

Contents

4-5	Introductions by the Council Leader and Chief Executive
6	Our Corporate Plan
7	COVID-19 response
8-9	Our Environment
10-11	Our People
12-13	Our Future
14-15	Community engagement and consultation
16-17	Working in partnership
18-19	Summary of annual accounts

South Derbyshire District Councillors

as at 1 September 2021

Conservative Labour Independent Group

Aston-on-Trent



Church Gresley



Etwell



Hatton



Hilton



Linton



Melbourne



Midway



Newhall and Stanton



Repton



Seales



Stenson



Swadlincote



Willington and Findern



Woodville



Another successful year for South Derbyshire

I am unbelievably proud of South Derbyshire District Council. The area has been named as one of the best places to live in England and who are we to argue? Without doubt, it is a uniquely beautiful place.

South Derbyshire was judged 12th in the whole of England, ahead of South Cambridgeshire, Rugby and Tonbridge and Malling. Whether you are from Swadlincote, Melbourne, Ticknall, Newton Solney, Repton, or any other area in our District, there are many reasons for us all to be proud.

We are dedicated to ensuring South Derbyshire continues to thrive, that we become stronger, with everyone having the opportunity to achieve their potential. We pledge to work tirelessly for the residents of South Derbyshire - using our resources wisely to protect and enhance our unique environment, create more homes and jobs for our residents, and ensure that South Derbyshire is a great place to live, visit and invest.



Councillor Kevin Richards
Council Leader

During my time as Leader, I have had a unique insight into the daily issues affecting many residents' lives and have had the opportunity to see first-hand the work that is done by the Council's dedicated staff in making a difference to people and safeguarding our most vulnerable.

We are doing well: we are achieving our aims and ambitions as set out in our Corporate Plan. However, I know there are improvements that need to be made, and this will only be achieved through being made aware of what needs to change. Your feedback is welcomed and helps us to continually improve our services.

We have many challenges ahead of us, particularly as we have faced probably one of the most challenging and difficult periods any of us has experienced. Working with partners, we will strive to make the District's future sustainable by creating an environment that supports job creation and provides affordable housing is to enable our young people to find work and live locally.

Sustainability is not just about jobs and housing. It is about protecting our natural environment and ensuring the Council can continue to meet its financial obligations, while continuing to deliver high-quality services. This year, we will continue to reduce the impact the Council has on the environment and help residents and businesses to do the same.

I look forward to working together to create a stronger, sustainable South Derbyshire we can all be proud of.



An ambitious plan for South Derbyshire's future

At the beginning of 2020 no one could have imagined the impact that COVID-19 pandemic would have on our everyday lives.

During the year 2020/21 we have worked hard to maintain vital services to residents and local businesses.

We continue to make significant progress in delivering the aims and objectives of our Corporate Plan for the benefit of our residents, customers and partners.

Substantial investment will continue, including the regeneration of Swadlincote Town Centre, the delivery of new social and affordable homes and improvement of existing Council homes. The Council has made a strong commitment to continue to support and value our communities by promoting health, wellbeing, cultural, community safety and environmental initiatives. To help us to do this we will work with a wide range of partners and other agencies.

I would like to thank all who serve the Council for the dedication and commitment during one of the most difficult years in the Council's history.

The Council will continue on its journey to make South Derbyshire a great place to live, visit and invest.



Frank McArdle
Chief Executive

Corporate Plan

The Council's Vision:

“To make South Derbyshire a great place to live, visit and invest.”



Covering the period 2020-24, this plan seeks to ensure that South Derbyshire remains a great place to live, visit and invest.

Information on the Council's performance against its objectives is available on the Council website: www.southderbyshire.gov.uk/performance.

Key aims for 2020-2024 are:

Keeping a clean, green District for future generations

- Improve the environment of the District
- Tackle climate change
- Enhance the attractiveness of South Derbyshire

Working with communities and meeting the future needs of the District

- Engage with our communities
- Supporting and safeguarding the most vulnerable
- Deliver excellent services

Growing our District and our skills base

- Develop skills and careers
- Support economic growth and infrastructure
- Transforming the Council



COVID-19 response

2020/21 has been dominated by COVID-19. South Derbyshire District Council has been committed to providing vital services to residents and local businesses during the pandemic.

The Council was one of very few in Derbyshire to continue providing all waste and recycling collections throughout the pandemic. Many residents left messages to the Waste and Recycling teams to thank them for their efforts.

Staff working in the Council's Parks and Open Spaces teams also worked hard to ensure that burials were able to take place and support was given to families when they had suffered a bereavement.

The Council followed Government guidelines and opened our parks, play areas and open spaces when it was safe to do so.

Positive action was taken to shift our resources and supported our partners with providing vital services to our residents, including those who were isolated and vulnerable.

Several rounds of Government grants were available to local businesses including those who had been forced to close during the pandemic and those who had remained open but whose business had been affected.

During the year, the Council was responsible for distributing £24 million in grants with further grants offered during the summer of 2021.

Environmental Health officers carried out inspections of premises including shops, cafes, restaurants and factories to ensure COVID-19 control measures were in place to protect both staff and customers.

Licensing officers also worked to provide pavement licences in line with Government guidance to businesses who met the criteria to improve capacity when social distancing measures were in place.

The Council accepted funding to employ two COVID-19 marshals to protect the public.

Working closely with Derbyshire County Council and Joint Military Command (East), the Council provided the first walk-in coronavirus testing centre in Derbyshire at Grove Hall in Swadlincote which opened in December 2020.

The Council also provided further testing sites at Midway Community Centre and Gresley Old Hall which allowed people over the age of 11 without symptoms to take a test to find if they had COVID-19.

The Council worked closely with South Derbyshire CVS to distribute food parcels to elderly and vulnerable residents who were in need.

The Council also worked in partnership with Derbyshire County Council and other agencies to produce a leaflet which went to every home in South Derbyshire with details of how people could access support such as benefits or help with making Council Tax or council housing rent payments as well as support to help with health and wellbeing.



Our Environment

Waste and recycling collections

One impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the national lockdowns was an increase in the waste and recycling from each household.

During the year, the Operational Services team collected 47,055 tonnes of waste and recycling – an increase of 16 per cent on 2019/20. This is the equivalent of an extra one and a half trucks per day.

Fifty two per cent of the additional waste was recycled or composted. This led to an increase of seven per cent of waste recycled or composted during 2020/21.

We have continued to carry out all regular bin collections during the year.

47,055 tonnes
of waste and recycling collected

52%
additional waste has been recycled

Satisfaction with the town centre has increased by **6%**

Fly tipping

The COVID-19 pandemic saw a large increase in fly tipping nationally.

The Community Safety Team was unable to prosecute due to court closures and also unable to carry out face-to-face interviews under caution and introduced major adaptations to their processes for carrying out investigations.

Despite the challenges faced, the money collected in fixed penalty notices for fly tipping was reinvested into sourcing additional equipment, such as surveillance CCTV – to help us better meet future our challenges.

Increase of **16%** on 2019/20
equivalent of extra **1½ trucks per day**

One of very few councils to continue with **all bin collections**

Estimated **5,000** homes brought up to energy efficiency standards

100% of new homes met water efficiency targets

Tackling climate change

The Public Protection and Housing Standards team has enforced new laws requiring private rented properties to meet legal minimum standards for energy efficiency which came into effect on 1 April 2020 – at the beginning of the first lockdown.

Despite the many challenges posed because of COVID-19 restrictions, all but eight of the estimated 5,000 private rented properties in South Derbyshire have been bought up to standard.

100 per cent of new homes met the water efficiency targets of 110 litres of potable water usage per person per day.

During 2020/21, the Council took steps to make South Derbyshire carbon neutral by 2030, achieving nine long-term actions from the South Derbyshire Climate and Environmental Action Plan 2021-24.

These include:

- launching the Healthy Homes Assistance Fund and Derbyshire Healthy Homes Programme
- the Council's new electricity contract is produced from 100 percent renewable, non-nuclear sources (wind, hydro, geo-thermal and solar)
- a revised Procurement Strategy and Guidance Manual has been approved to promote more sustainable and environmentally requirements for contractors to achieve.

100% of the actions in the Climate and Environment action plan carried out

Parks awarded with prestigious **Green Flag status**

55% of residents

recommend Swadlincote Town Centre as a place to visit

Enhance the attractiveness of South Derbyshire

The Town Centre User Survey was carried out for the second time in autumn 2020.

Fifty five per cent of respondents would recommend a visit to Swadlincote Town Centre an increase from 49 per cent in May 2019.

Green Flag status parks

South Derbyshire retained a prestigious Green Flag award at two of its parks: Maurice Lea Memorial Park in Church Gresley and Swadlincote's Eureka Park. Swadlincote Woodlands has been submitted for judging in 2021, taking the number of sites submitted to three.

By 2024 we aim to have four Green Flag awards for parks in South Derbyshire.

Our People

Anti-social behaviour

The COVID-19 pandemic saw the number of anti-social behaviour reports almost double on previous years. In response, the Council and Derbyshire Constabulary established a weekly tasking group to identify and target COVID-19 related anti-social behaviour.

The Council's Business Compliance Team developed an innovative outbreak mapping process to link outbreaks with breaches of COVID-19 regulations. This was recognised by the Local Government Association as an example of national excellence.

26
Property Level
Flood Resilience
grants issued



148
legal notices issued to
private sector landlords



276
fuel poverty
interventions
carried out



Homelessness and
rough sleeper
review completed



Supporting and safeguarding the most vulnerable

The Council carried out 276 fuel efficiency interventions to directly contribute to reductions in the numbers of families living in fuel poverty in South Derbyshire. We also issued 148 legal notices to private landlords to improve the energy performance of their properties.

Following the damage caused by Storm Ciara and Storm Dennis in February 2020, 26 Property Level Flood Resilience Grants were issued to residents and businesses who had been affected.

Following the launch of a new Healthy Home Assistance Fund (HHAF) in May 2020. £116,000 was spent in 24 properties making improvements to private homes occupied by vulnerable people, plus a further 23 improvements to domestic homes have been made through referrals to Derbyshire County Council's 'healthy properties' scheme to meet legal standards.

£ 116,000
spent to make
improvements
in 24 private
homes



153 community
groups supported

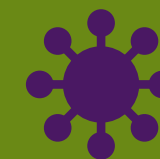
Secured
temporary
accommodation
for rough sleepers



**Social media
followers
increased by
10,000**



**COVID-19
information on
Council website**



19.5%
of Council
buildings
surveyed



22,242
customers
interacted
with the
Council
digitally



**Continued
with planned
housing
repairs for
tenants**



Supporting the homeless and rough sleepers

The Council completed a comprehensive review of its Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Services and a new Homelessness Strategy was approved.

During the COVID-19 pandemic the Government introduced a rough sleeping initiative 'Everybody In'. The Council successfully secured sufficient temporary accommodation to use when bed and breakfast and other accommodation were not available.

The Council continued its planned maintenance programme of repairs including the safe delivery of roofing, boiler replacements, heating works, gas safety inspections, kitchens, bathrooms and rewiring renewals. This achieved a satisfaction level of 91 per cent for planned improvement works.

Detailed inspections of all 149 of the Council's assets are due to be carried out between 2020 and 2024. The target of completing 20 per cent in year one has been achieved, including the Civic Offices, Green Bank Leisure Centre, Depot, Town Hall and Melbourne Assembly Rooms.

Delivering excellent services

We introduced a COVID-19 section on the South Derbyshire District Council website to keep residents informed on changes to services and introduced weekly COVID-19 briefings for staff to keep them informed of important changes as they were happening.

We supported campaigns to enable staff to access mental health support services.

The total number of customers who interacted digitally with the Council rose from 14,844 to 22,242 during the year.

We have also seen an increase of 1,065 Facebook followers across all accounts seeing the total number of social media fans rise from 33,888 in 2019-2020 to 43,850 in 2020-21.

Our Future

Business grants

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Council has worked to distribute more than £24 million in business grants to local businesses who had been adversely affected.


This included businesses which were forced to close including non-essential retail, pubs, restaurants and cafes as well as those offering services such as hairdressing, tattooists and nail bars.

Grants were also available for businesses which were able to remain open during the pandemic but who had also been affected.

 **£24 million**
distributed in business grants

Assisted parish councils with their

Neighbourhood Plans

 **100%**
of planning applications determined in time/with extensions

Planning activities

The Council has continued year on year to increase the number of planning decisions made and new dwellings built. This included 174 new affordable homes.

We assisted parish councils with their Neighbourhood Plans with the Hilton Neighbourhood plan at examination stage and Melbourne at formal submission.

The Council saw good appeal success throughout the year particularly for the larger schemes with a non-policy compliant housing scheme for 28 homes dismissed at Weston on Trent.

Despite pressures on planning delivery resources, the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic and difficulties in obtaining timely responses from consultees, proactive dialogue with applicants has seen 100 per cent of decisions issued in time and/or with agreed extension to determination periods.

Ninety-eight per cent of planning applications were determined within the statutory period, well above national indicator of 65 per cent. These application types capture the largest proportion of investment within the District.

 **174**
new affordable homes built

Continued success in
planning appeals


Transforming the Council

The Business Change and Transformation Plan 2020- 2024 was delayed in its sign off due to the COVID-19 response and came into effect in late July 2020.

Despite this later start, the projects involved have delivered impressive results:

- A newly developed brand and digital marketing website 'Destination South Derbyshire' has been implemented.
- A business case to upgrade the Finance system was approved in September with the product being fully installed and used six months later to accord with the new financial year.
- Route optimisation business case was built and approved to procure a solution to reduce fuel and time in household waste collection by approximately 12 per cent.

An online booking solution has been procured and developed.

This means customers can interact with the Council such as booking school holiday activities and leisure bookings such as log cabins at Rosliston, to virtual business advice meetings to aid the local economy in its recovery.

New online booking system
procured and developed



Destination South Derbyshire website launched



Route optimisation business case built to reduce fuel for bin collections
by 12%

Business case to upgrade financial systems improved


Community engagement and consultation

One of the key priorities is 'Our People'.

The Council is committed to ensuring residents' views are taken into account when decisions are made and provides various ways for people to make their views known.

During 2020/21, several consultations were carried out to allow local people to have their say before decisions were made.

These included:

- Consultation on the Council's new Housing Maintenance and Repairs Strategy. 185 people took part by completing this survey
- Consultation on the new Economic Development Strategy
- Consultation on the new Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy
- Consultation on the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy and Action Plan, 19 consultation events held with 102 people involved in the consultation

Following approval of the Coronavirus Act 2020 and subsequent regulations, the Council moved its Committee and Council meetings online, using Microsoft Teams.

These meetings allowed members of the press and public to attend virtually and take part in the democratic process.

Elections

Elections to Derbyshire County Council and for the Derbyshire Police and Crime Commissioner due to take place in May 2020 were postponed and took place in May 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Residents on the Electoral Register were contacted to ensure their details were correct to allow them to vote in the May 2021 elections.

Swadlincote Town Centre Survey

In September 2020, residents were given the opportunity to have their say on Swadlincote Town Centre in an annual survey.

It asked for views of both town centre users and non-town centre users. The headline results show that more than half of the people who took part (55 per cent) would recommend Swadlincote Town Centre as a place to visit.

The results of the survey are used in a variety of ways, these include: developing regeneration projects, attracting funding, measuring the impact of events and festivals, creating town centre partnerships, planning projects and promoting investment.

Focus on equality, diversity and inclusion:

Key actions from the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy 2021-25:

Be a leader in equality, diversity and inclusion

- Using best practice to inform Council policies and activity
- Carry out an Equality Impact Assessment for changes to our services and policies
- Working with partners to be a leader in equality, diversity and inclusion



Enable a diverse workforce

- Access to training opportunities to enable a skilled workforce
- Monitor the workforce to reduce barriers to employment
- Promote and raise awareness of equality, diversity and inclusion



Deliver services that meet everyone's needs

- Enable access to our buildings, parks and open spaces
- Ensure Council services are accessible for customers
- Develop best practice to make homes in the District more accessible



Involve our diverse communities in decision-making

- Provide opportunities for individuals and groups to provide input to decision-making processes
- Ensure communications channels are accessible
- Continue to include individuals/groups in developing our plans



Understand our diverse communities

- Use feedback from our community to develop our services
- Host events which are inclusive
- To work with the community to reduce exclusion



Helping victims of domestic abuse

South Derbyshire District Council has worked in partnership to offer a scheme offering help to victims of domestic abuse.

The New Horizons service has provided seven family units of accommodation (three above contract requirement) along with community-based support services supporting an extra six people either in or fleeing abusive situations.

During 2020/21 New Horizons successfully supported 91 households, consisting of 91 adults and 36 children who have accessed a range of support.

Hospital Discharge Grant scheme

The Hospital Discharge Grant project has served as a lifeline for many of vulnerable residents specifically returning home from care settings or hospital or in some cases preventing hospital admission.

This year, the project has supported 20 people. Some cases are resolved by obtaining cookers and fridges, bedding etc to enable a care package to be possible.



Working in Partnership

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Council has actively worked in partnership with other organisations.

- Derbyshire County Council
- Public Health England
- NHS Derby and Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
- NHS Test and Trace
- University Hospital of Derby and Burton
- Central Government
- Local Resilience Forum (LRF)
- Joint Military Command (East)

This was vital in saving lives and helping stopping the spread of COVID-19.

Partnership working with other organisations allows the Council to achieve much more than it could on its own.

There were numerous local groups that we would like to thank in providing their dedicated support with testing, vaccinations and supporting residents and local businesses.

Other key partners the Council worked during the year include:

DHOG - Derbyshire Homeless Officers

The Council is a member of this group which was successful in obtaining funding for rough sleeping/homelessness and with COVID-19 homelessness issues.



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 together on 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.



Forestry England

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



Active Nation

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



D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership

South Derbyshire District Council is a member of the D2N2 Places and People and Skills Boards, which are made up of respected leaders from the area's businesses, skills and training providers, community and voluntary services organisations, and other councils to support a more prosperous and increasingly resilient and competitive economy.



Homefinder Partnership

South Derbyshire Homefinder is a partnership between the Council and various housing associations in the District which works to help people find an affordable home. During the year it reviewed its role and scope.



South Derbyshire Community Safety Partnership



This statutory partnership brings together agencies to reduce and prevent incidents of crime and anti-social behaviour in the District.

South Derbyshire Community Voluntary Support (CVS)

The Council, working in partnership with South Derbyshire CVS Food Bank, distributed over 350 food parcels to local residents facing financial hardship, many of which were delivered to local homes by the Council's Community Safety Enforcement team. Residents were also referred to Marches Energy Agency for help with gas and electricity bills.



South Derbyshire Skills & Employment Group



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

Active South Derbyshire

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



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 Active Schools Partnership



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

The South Derbyshire Partnership

This is a partnership of the public, private and voluntary sectors promoting South Derbyshire through five groups:

- safer communities
- sustainable development
- healthier communities
- children and young people
- stronger communities



Nottingham City Council

The Council started working with Nottingham City Council last year to review the carbon footprint of South Derbyshire District Council housing stock. Nottingham City Council completed Energy Performance Certificate Surveys for 700 Council properties. This work will help meet the challenges of the Climate Emergency.



Other partnerships the Council works in conjunction with include:

- Active Derbyshire
- Central Midlands Audit Partnership
- Derby County Community
- Derbyshire Traveller Issues Working Group
- Derbyshire Wildlife Trust
- Home Improvement Agency
- Local Energy Area Partnership
- People Express
- Primary Authority Partnerships
- Public Health England
- Safe and Sound Derbyshire
- Sharpe's Pottery Heritage & Arts Trust Limited
- Sport England
- The Football Foundation
- Trust for Conservation Volunteers

Summary of accounts



The Council's income

The Council's total income for 2020/21 was £55.30m, an increase compared to 2019/20 when income totalled £53.6m.

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

£18.30m	Government Grants
£0.30m	Other Grants
£10.00m	Fees & Charges
£0.40m	Interest
£12.00m	Housing Rents
£10.30m	Local Taxation
£4.00m	COVID-19 Government Grants
£55.30m	Total



The Council's expenditure

The Council's revenue account shows the cost of running our services. In 2020/21, the Council spent £53.6m on delivering services. This was more than the £47.8m spent in 2019/20 and reflects the continued growth of the District.

£13.20m	Housing Benefits
£10.90m	Housing Related Services
£8.30m	Support Services
£6.20m	Environmental & Regulatory Services
£4.90m	Culture & Community Services
£5.60m	Planning & Development
£1.00m	Highways & Transport
£0.70m	Corporate & Democratic Core
£2.80m	Grants Issued to the Public - COVID-19
£1.70m	Surplus

What the Council spent on land and property

The Council's capital account sets out the money spent on buying and improving land and property so the Council can offer first-class public facilities. In 2020/21, the Council spent £5.80 million on land and property assets. The Council financed this through a mixture of grants and contributions, together with investing its own capital receipts and reserves.

£0.50m	Property & Other Assets
£2.70m	Council House Improvements
£1.60m	Council House New Build
£0.50m	Private Sector Housing Renewal
£0.50m	Culture & Community Schemes
£0.00m	Environmental & Development Schemes
£5.80m	Expenditure

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

The Council's balance sheet: 31 March 2021

REVENUE RESERVES & BALANCES		NET ASSETS	
£21.60m	General Balances	£161.00m	Value of Land & Property
£43.30m	Unusable Reserves	£69.80m	Liquid Assets
£18.40m	Capital Reserves	£-126.00m	Less Money owed to us
£21.50m	Earmarked Reserves		
£104.80m Net Worth		£104.80m Total	

Statement from the Strategic Director (Corporate Resources)

The Accounts (subject to Audit) show that the Council achieved a budget surplus in the year. This was mainly due to additional income and Government grants received to support costs associated with COVID-19. This additional funding has been carried forward to next year to meet on-going costs associated with the Pandemic.

The Council's level of Reserves remains healthy, with money set-aside to meet future costs due to a growing population, together with amounts required by law to act as a contingency.

The Council's income and expenditure was affected by COVID-19 with additional costs incurred to ensure services could be delivered safely. Due to the closure of leisure facilities, income was reduced compared to a normal operating year.

However, these additional costs were covered by Government funding which was provided to support all councils.

Overall, the Council finished the year in a stable and sustainable financial position.

The Council's longer-term financial plans do highlight some potential challenges, but this is kept under close review which allows sufficient time in which to take remedial action if this is required.

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





South
Derbyshire
District Council

www.southderbyshire.gov.uk



@SDDC



@southderbyshiredc



[Copyright South Derbyshire District Council 2021. Contents accurate as of September 2021]
This report can also be viewed on our website www.southderbyshire.gov.uk