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Our Ref
Your Ref

16th February 2021

Dear Councillor,

Council

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to attend the Virtual Meeting of the **Council** to be held via Microsoft Teams, on **Wednesday, 24 February 2021 at 18:00** to transact the business set out on the attached agenda.

Yours faithfully,

Chief Executive

To:-

Labour Group

Councillors Bambrick, Dunn, Gee, Mrs. Heath, Mulgrew, Dr. Pearson, Pegg, Rhind, Richards, Shepherd, Singh, Southerd, Mrs. Stuart, Taylor and Tilley.

Conservative Group

Councillor Muller (Chairman), Councillor Atkin (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors Mrs. Bridgen, Mrs. Brown, Churchill, Corbin, Ford, Mrs. Haines, Hewlett, Mrs. Patten, Dr. Perry and Watson.

Independent Group

Councillors Angliss, Dawson, Fitzpatrick, MacPherson and Roberts.

Non-Grouped

Councillor Mrs. Wheelton.



AGENDA
Open to Public and Press

- | | | |
|-----------|---|-----------------|
| 1 | Apologies. | |
| 2 | To receive any declarations of interest arising from any items on the Agenda | |
| 3 | To appoint the Deputy Leader of the Council for the remainder of the municipal year. | |
| 4 | To receive any announcements from the Chairman, Leader and Head of Paid Service. | |
| 5 | To receive any questions by members of the public pursuant to Council Procedure Rule No.10. | |
| 6 | To receive any questions by Members of the Council pursuant to Council procedure Rule No. 11. | |
| 7 | ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER FOR YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2020 | 4 - 31 |
| 8 | EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN 2021-2025 | 32 - 58 |
| 9 | COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME REGULATIONS 2021 | 59 - 62 |
| 10 | TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2021-22 | 63 - 88 |
| 11 | ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECTION 151 OFFICER | 89 - 97 |
| 12 | COUNCIL TAX SETTING 2021-22 | 98 - 109 |
| 13 | To receive and consider the Open Minutes of the following Area Forums: | |

Linton Area Forum 21.01.20	110 - 121
Newhall Area Forum 22.01.20	122 - 135
Etwall Area Forum 28.01.20	136 - 144
Swadlincote Area Forum 29.01.20	145 - 157
Melbourne Area Forum 06.02.20	158 - 168
Repton Area Forum 11.02.20	169 - 179

- 14 To review the compositions of Committees, Sub-Committees and Working Panels for the remainder of the municipal year.
- 15 To review the compositions of Substitute Panels.
- 16 To review representation on Outside Bodies.
- 17 To review Member Champions.

Exclusion of the Public and Press:

- 18 The Chairman may therefore move:-
That in accordance with Section 100 (A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the Meeting as it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that there would be disclosed exempt information as defined in the paragraph of Part I of the Schedule 12A of the Act indicated in the header to each report on the Agenda.
- 19 To receive any Exempt questions by Members of the Council pursuant to Council procedure Rule No. 11.

REPORT TO:	COUNCIL	AGENDA ITEM: 7
DATE OF MEETING:	24th FEBRUARY 2021	CATEGORY: RECOMMENDED
REPORT FROM:	EXTERNAL AUDIT	OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	KEVIN STACKHOUSE (01283 595811) kevin.stackhouse@south-derbys.gov.uk	DOC: u/ks/audit/EY audit letters/covering report
SUBJECT:	ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER FOR YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2020	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE:

1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 That the Annual Audit Letter for 2019/20 is considered and approved.

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 For Ernst and Young LLP (EY) as the Council's appointed auditors, to present their Annual Audit Letter for 2019/20.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 The Annual Audit Letter aims to communicate to Elected Members and external stakeholders, including members of the public, the key issues arising from the Auditor's work, which they consider should be brought to the attention of the Council.
- 3.2 The Auditors have previously reported their detailed findings from their audit work in their 2019/20 Audit Results Report to the Audit-Sub Committee on 9 December 2020.
- 3.3 The Auditors have not repeated those detailed findings in this letter. The matters reported here are considered to be the most significant for the Council.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 None directly.

5.0 Corporate Implications

- 5.1 None directly.

6.0 Community Implications

6.1 None directly.

7.0 Background Papers

None

South Derbyshire District Council

Annual Audit Letter for the year
ended 31 March 2020

January 2021

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Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd (PSAA) have issued a 'Statement of responsibilities of auditors and audited bodies'. It is available from the Chief Executive of each audited body and via the PSAA website (www.psaa.co.uk).

This Statement of responsibilities serves as the formal terms of engagement between appointed auditors and audited bodies. It summarises where the different responsibilities of auditors and audited bodies begin and end, and what is to be expected of the audited body in certain areas.

The 'Terms of Appointment (updated April 2018)' issued by PSAA sets out additional requirements that auditors must comply with, over and above those set out in the National Audit Office Code of Audit Practice (the Code) and statute, and covers matters of practice and procedure which are of a recurring nature.

This Audit Results Report is prepared in the context of the Statement of responsibilities. It is addressed to the Members of the audited body, and is prepared for their sole use. We, as appointed auditor, take no responsibility to any third party.

Our Complaints Procedure - If at any time you would like to discuss with us how our service to you could be improved, or if you are dissatisfied with the service you are receiving, you may take the issue up with your usual partner or director contact. If you prefer an alternative route, please contact Hywel Ball, our Managing Partner, 1 More London Place, London SE1 2AF. We undertake to look into any complaint carefully and promptly and to do all we can to explain the position to you. Should you remain dissatisfied with any aspect of our service, you may of course take matters up with our professional institute. We can provide further information on how you may contact our professional institute.



A blurred background image showing a pair of hands holding a tablet computer. The hands are positioned as if presenting the device, with the fingers wrapped around the edges. The tablet screen is visible but out of focus. The overall scene is brightly lit, suggesting an indoor office or meeting environment.

Section 1

Executive Summary

Executive Summary

We are required to issue an annual audit letter to South Derbyshire District Council (the Council) following completion of our audit procedures for the year ended 31 March 2020. Covid-19 had an impact on a number of aspects of our 2019/20 audit. We set out these key impacts below.

Area of impact	Commentary
Impact on the delivery of the audit	
► Changes to reporting timescales	As a result of Covid-19, new regulations, the Accounts and Audit (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 No. 404, have been published and came into force on 30 April 2020. This announced a change to publication date for final, audited accounts from 31 July to 30 November 2020 for all relevant authorities. We worked with the Council to deliver our audit in line with the revised reporting timescale.
Impact on our risk assessment	
► Valuation of Property Plant and Equipment	The Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS), the body setting the standards for property valuations, issued guidance to valuers highlighting that the uncertain impact of Covid-19 on markets might cause a valuer to conclude that there is a material uncertainty. Caveats around this material uncertainty have been included in the year-end valuation reports produced by the Council's external valuer. We consider that the material uncertainties disclosed by the valuer gave rise to an additional risk relating to disclosures on the valuation of property, plant and equipment.
► Disclosures on Going Concern	Financial plans for 2020/21 and medium term financial plans will need revision for Covid-19. We considered the unpredictability of the current environment gave rise to a risk that the council would not appropriately disclose the key factors relating to going concern, underpinned by managements assessment with particular reference to Covid-19 and the Council's actual year end financial position and performance.
► Events after the balance sheet date	We identified an increased risk that further events after the balance sheet date concerning the current Covid-19 pandemic will need to be disclosed. The amount of detail required in the disclosure needed to reflect the specific circumstances of the Council.
Impact on the scope of our audit	
► Information Produced by the Entity (IPE)	<p>We identified an increased risk around the completeness, accuracy, and appropriateness of information produced by the entity due to the inability of the audit team to verify original documents or re-run reports on-site from the Council's systems. We undertook the following to address this risk:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► Used the screen sharing function of Microsoft Teams to evidence re-running of reports used to generate the IPE we audited; and ► Agree IPE to scanned documents or other system screenshots.
► Consultation requirements	Additional EY consultation requirements concerning the impact on auditor reports. The changes to audit risks and audit approach changed the level of work we needed to perform.

Executive Summary (cont'd)

The tables below set out the results and conclusions on the significant areas of the audit process.

Area of Work	Conclusion
Opinion on the Council's:	
► Financial statements	Unqualified - the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Council as at 31 March 2020 and of its expenditure and income for the year then ended
► Consistency of other information published with the financial statements	Other information published with the financial statements was consistent with the Annual Accounts.
► Concluding on the Council's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness.	We concluded that you have put in place proper arrangements to secure value for money in your use of resources.

Area of Work	Conclusion
Reports by exception:	
► Consistency of Governance Statement	The Governance Statement was consistent with our understanding of the Council.
► Public interest report	We had no matters to report in the public interest.
► Written recommendations to the Council, which should be copied to the Secretary of State	We had no matters to report.
► Other actions taken in relation to our responsibilities under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014	We had no matters to report.

Area of Work	Conclusion
Reporting to the National Audit Office (NAO) on our review of the Council's Whole of Government Accounts return (WGA).	The Council is below the specified audit threshold of £500mn. Therefore, we did not perform any audit procedures on the consolidation pack.

Executive Summary (cont'd)

As a result of the above we have also:

Area of Work	Conclusion
Issued a report to those charged with governance of the Council communicating significant findings resulting from our audit.	Our Audit Results Report was issued on 25 November 2020.
Issued a certificate that we have completed the audit in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the National Audit Office's 2015 Code of Audit Practice.	Our certificate was issued on 11 January 2021.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Council's staff for their assistance during the course of our work.

Helen Henshaw
Associate Partner
For and on behalf of Ernst & Young LLP

Section 2

Purpose and Responsibilities

Purpose

The Purpose of this Letter

The purpose of this annual audit letter is to communicate to Members and external stakeholders, including members of the public, the key issues arising from our work, which we consider should be brought to the attention of the Council.

We have already reported the detailed findings from our audit work in our 2019/20 Audit Results Report to the 9 December 2020 Audit Sub-Committee, representing those charged with governance. We do not repeat those detailed findings in this letter. The matters reported here are the most significant for the Council.

Responsibilities

Responsibilities of the Appointed Auditor

Our 2019/20 audit work has been undertaken in accordance with the Audit Plan that we issued on 16 March 2020 and the updated plan tabled at the 16 September 2020 meeting of the Audit Sub-Committee, and is conducted in accordance with the National Audit Office's 2015 Code of Audit Practice, International Standards on Auditing (UK), and other guidance issued by the National Audit Office.

As auditors we are responsible for:

- ▶ Expressing an opinion:
 - ▶ On the 2019/20 financial statements; and
 - ▶ On the consistency of other information published with the financial statements.
- ▶ Forming a conclusion on the arrangements the Council has to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.
- ▶ Reporting by exception:
 - ▶ If the annual governance statement is misleading or not consistent with our understanding of the Council;
 - ▶ Any significant matters that are in the public interest;
 - ▶ Any written recommendations to the Council, which should be copied to the Secretary of State; and
 - ▶ If we have discharged our duties and responsibilities as established by the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and Code of Audit Practice.

Alongside our work on the financial statements, we also review and report to the National Audit Office (NAO) on your Whole of Government Accounts return. The Council is below the specified audit threshold of £500mn. Therefore, we did not perform any audit procedures on the return.

Responsibilities of the Council

The Council is responsible for preparing and publishing its statement of accounts accompanied by an Annual Governance Statement (AGS). In the AGS, the Council reports publicly each year on how far it complies with its own code of governance, including how it has monitored and evaluated the effectiveness of its governance arrangements in year, and any changes planned in the coming period.

The Council is also responsible for putting in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

Section 3

Financial Statement Audit

Financial Statement Audit

Key Issues

The Council's Statement of Accounts is an important tool for the Council to show how it has used public money and how it can demonstrate its financial management and financial health.

We audited the Council's Statement of Accounts in line with the National Audit Office's 2015 Code of Audit Practice, International Standards on Auditing (UK), and other guidance issued by the National Audit Office and issued an unqualified audit report on 11 January 2021.

Our detailed findings were reported to the 9 December 2020 Audit Sub-Committee.

The key issues identified as part of our audit were as follows:

Significant Risk	Conclusion
Misstatements due to fraud or error The financial statements as a whole are not free of material misstatements whether caused by fraud or error. As identified in ISA (UK) 240, management is in a unique position to perpetrate fraud because of its ability to manipulate accounting records directly or indirectly and prepare fraudulent financial statements by overriding controls that otherwise appear to be operating effectively. We identify and respond to this fraud risk on every audit engagement.	We have not identified any material weaknesses in controls or evidence of material management override. We have not identified any instances of inappropriate judgements being applied. We did not identify any other transactions during our audit which appeared unusual or outside the Authority's normal course of business.

Financial Statement Audit (cont'd)

The key issues identified as part of our audit were as follows: (cont'd)

Significant Risk	Conclusion
<p>Risk of fraud in revenue and expenditure recognition</p> <p>Under ISA 240 there is a presumed risk that revenue may be misstated due to improper revenue recognition. In the public sector, this requirement is modified by Practice Note 10 issued by the Financial Reporting Council, which states that auditors should also consider the risk that material misstatements may occur by the manipulation of expenditure recognition.</p> <p>We focused on the following risk areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Inappropriate capitalisation of revenue expenditure and could result in a misstatement of cost of services reported in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement; and▶ Inappropriate cut-off of revenue expenditure and non-grant income at the year-end date resulting in transactions being recorded in the wrong financial period.	<p>We tested a sample of 22 additions to Property, Plant and Equipment in the year. No issues were noted in respect of inappropriate capitalisation of expenditure.</p> <p>We have reviewed receivable (income) and payable (expenditure) transactions for the one month prior to the year end and five months after the year end, examining evidence in support of all transactions over a threshold determined by our risk assessment. We have found no instances of transactions being recorded in the wrong financial period.</p> <p>Prior to preparation of the draft financial statements Management identified an error in the previous years' financial statements meaning that Housing Benefit Overpayment receivables being recovered from former claimants (and the associated bad debt provision) had been excluded from the financial statements. This resulted in a prior period adjustment being recorded in the 2019/20 draft financial statements. This effectively reflects income which has not been recognised in previous years. We have performed audit procedures to gain assurance that the prior period adjustment is supportable, and have been through our internal consultation processes in respect of the adequacy of the disclosures made in the financial statements. We are satisfied that the adjustment is appropriate and complete.</p> <p>Overall our audit work did not identify any material issues or unusual transactions to indicate any misreporting of the Authority's financial position.</p>

Financial Statement Audit (cont'd)

The key issues identified as part of our audit were as follows: (cont'd)

Significant Risk	Conclusion
<p>Valuation of property, plant and equipment</p> <p>The fair value of other land and buildings represents a significant balance in the Council's accounts and are subject to valuation changes, impairment reviews and depreciation charges. Management is required to make material judgemental inputs and apply estimation techniques to calculate the year-end balances recorded in the Balance Sheet for land and buildings in particular.</p> <p>The Council engaged an external expert valuer who will apply a number of complex assumptions to these assets. They performed a full revaluation of the asset base for 2019/20. Annually assets are assessed to identify whether there is any indication of impairment.</p> <p>As the Council's asset base is significant, and the outputs from the valuer are subject to estimation, there is a risk fixed assets may be under/overstated.</p>	<p>Management engaged their own specialist to value all land and buildings owned by the Council as at 31 March 2020. We have assessed the competency of Management's valuer. We have assessed the inputs used by the valuer in their calculations.</p> <p>We have used our own internal valuation specialist to review a sample of 5 of the assets in detail and have concluded that the valuations are acceptable.</p> <p>We have been able to take this assurance and apply it to the remainder of the land and buildings on the Council's balance sheet.</p> <p>We have concluded that the valuation of land and buildings is free from material misstatement.</p>

Financial Statement Audit (cont'd)

Other Key Findings	Conclusion
Going Concern Disclosures	<p data-bbox="817 400 1995 464">The Council's level of usable reserves totals £53m as at 31 March 2020. This includes unallocated contingencies and specific reserves.</p> <p data-bbox="817 480 2092 608">The Government has provided un-ringfenced funding of £1.4m to the Council to meet additional costs due to Covid-19. It is currently estimated that the aggregated loss of income and additional costs highlighted above, will total no higher than £0.5m. This leaves some contingency before the Council needs to use its own reserves</p> <p data-bbox="817 624 2085 687">We have reviewed the Council's cash flow forecast out to the end of February 2022. Over that period the lowest cash balance is £29.2m.</p> <p data-bbox="817 751 2078 847">We have complied with EY internal consultation requirements and are satisfied with the disclosures made in the financial statements. No modification will be required to our audit report in respect of going concern.</p>
Pension Liability Valuation	<p data-bbox="817 868 1413 900">At 31 March 2020 the net liability totals £27.6m.</p> <p data-bbox="817 900 2078 995">Management obtained revised actuarial reports to reflect the recent McCloud remedy consultation which resulted in a revised liability figure of £27.4m (a reduction of £249k). Due to the immaterial size, management have chosen not to amend the financial statements.</p> <p data-bbox="817 995 2069 1059">We received an assurance letter from the auditors of the Derbyshire Pension Fund on the results of their procedures. This raised two matters which impact the disclosures of South Derbyshire District Council:</p> <ul data-bbox="817 1059 2092 1251" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="817 1059 2018 1155">• A difference between 'benefits paid' used by the actuary and that confirmed by the auditor of the Derbyshire Fund of £497k. This is a disclosure misstatement only. Dr pension assets £497k, Cr Pension liability £497k. <li data-bbox="817 1155 2092 1251">• The auditors of the Derbyshire Pension Fund reported an unadjusted (downward) error in their audit of the Derbyshire fund in respect of unquoted investment assets. South Derbyshire's share of this error is estimated as £120k. <p data-bbox="817 1251 1727 1283">Management have not adjusted the financial statements for these amounts.</p>

Financial Statement Audit (cont'd)

Our application of materiality

When establishing our overall audit strategy, we determined a magnitude of uncorrected misstatements that we judged would be material for the financial statements as a whole.

Item	Thresholds applied
Planning materiality	<p>We determined planning materiality to be £988k, which is 2% of gross operating expenditure reported in the accounts of £46.3m adjusted for other operating expenditure and interest payable.</p> <p>We consider gross operating expenditure to be one of the principal considerations for stakeholders in assessing the financial performance of the Council</p>
Reporting threshold	<p>We agreed with the Audit Sub-Committee that we would report to the Committee all audit differences in excess of £50k.</p>



Section 4

Value for Money

Value for Money

We are required to consider whether the Council has put in place 'proper arrangements' to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. This is known as our value for money conclusion.

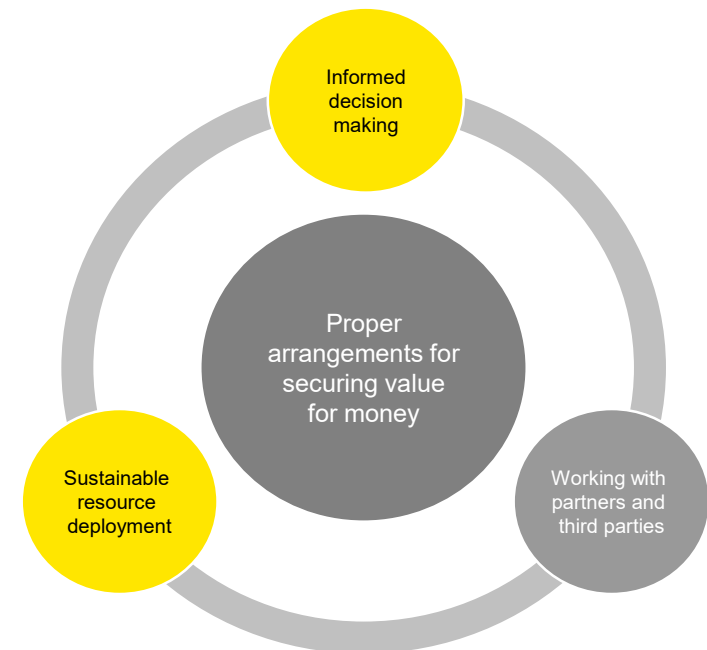
Proper arrangements are defined by statutory guidance issued by the National Audit Office. They comprise your arrangements to:

- ▶ Take informed decisions;
- ▶ Deploy resources in a sustainable manner; and
- ▶ Work with partners and other third parties.

On 16 April 2020 the National Audit Office published an update to auditor guidance in relation to the 2019/20 Value for Money assessment in the light of Covid-19. This clarified that in undertaking the 2019/20 Value for Money assessment auditors should consider NHS bodies' response to Covid-19 only as far as it relates to the 2019-20 financial year; only where clear evidence comes to the auditor's attention of a significant failure in arrangements as a result of Covid-19 during the financial year, would it be appropriate to recognise a significant risk in relation to the 2019-20 VFM arrangements conclusion.

We identified one significant risk in relation to these arrangements. The table below presents the findings of our work in response to the risk identified.

We have performed the procedures outlined in our audit plan. We did not identify any significant weaknesses in the Council's arrangements to ensure it took properly informed decisions and deployed resources to achieve planned and sustainable outcomes for taxpayers and local people.



Value for Money (cont'd)

We therefore issued an unqualified value for money conclusion on 11 January 2021.

Significant Risk	Conclusion
Securing financial resilience Review of the updated of the medium term financial strategy (MTFS) reported to Finance and Management Committee on 13 February 2020, outlines that the Council has forecasted budget deficits from 2020/21 to 2024/25, ranging from £0.76m to £1.4m, respectively. These gaps will require the Council to will require a draw its general fund reserves. The impact is the general fund reserve will fall from £8.5m to 2.1m, over that period but remaining above the Council's minimum level threshold of £1m.	<p>Based on the results of our procedures we are satisfied that the Council has appropriate arrangements in place to manage its financial resources and plans. Our work noted that the Council uses reasonable assumptions, such as pay and price inflation rates, in its budgeting processes. The Council monitors the revenue, including general fund, Housing Revenue Account and capital position on a monthly basis and reports to members quarterly. The Council reports also include a quarterly refresh of the MTFS, noting changes to the overall reserves position.</p> <p>The latest iteration of MTFS reports that from 2021/22 the Council has forecasted general fund deficits of £0.383m rising to £2.7m in 2025/26. These budget gaps are planned to be funded by contributions from the general fund reserve which during the same period will reduce from £10.7m to £1.5m. In addition to the general fund reserve, the Council has a number of earmarked reserves which as at 31 March 2020 totalled £16.2m.</p> <p>The Council has been adversely affected covid-19 through loss of income and incurring additional expenditure. We have observed that members have received covid-19 updates from management including the financial impact on the Council's revenue budget and collection fund which covers business rates and council tax. To date the Council has received financial support from Central Government which includes £1.4m to assist with the revenue budget which has supported additional expenditure of £0.75m.</p> <p>Although the General Fund reserve levels are above the minimum reserve threshold, the Council's MTFS continues to show financial pressures. In the absence of confirmed funding from central government and potential challenges post-Covid 19, the Council will need to continue scrutinising its financial plans and consider whether a savings plan will be required to address forecast budget deficits to minimise the risk of requiring additional general fund reserves contributions.</p>

A blurred background image of a business meeting. Several people in professional attire are gathered around a wooden conference table. A woman with blonde hair is leaning forward, resting her chin on her hand, looking intently at documents on the table. Other people's hands and arms are visible, some pointing at papers. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a modern office environment.

Section 5

Other Reporting Issues

Other Reporting Issues

Whole of Government Accounts

The Council is below the specified audit threshold of £500mn. Therefore, we were not required to perform any audit procedures on the consolidation pack.

Annual Governance Statement

We are required to consider the completeness of disclosures in the Council's annual governance statement, identify any inconsistencies with the other information of which we are aware from our work, and consider whether it is misleading.

Report in the Public Interest

We have a duty under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 to consider whether, in the public interest, to report on any matter that comes to our attention in the course of the audit in order for it to be considered by the Council or brought to the attention of the public.

We did not identify any issues which required us to issue a report in the public interest.

Written Recommendations

We have a duty under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 to designate any audit recommendation as one that requires the Council to consider it at a public meeting and to decide what action to take in response.

We did not identify any issues which required us to issue a written recommendation.

Objections Received

We did not receive any objections to the 2019/20 financial statements from members of the public.

Other Powers and Duties

We identified no issues during our audit that required us to use our additional powers under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

Independence

We communicated our assessment of independence in our Audit Results Report to the Audit Sub-Committee on 25 November 2020. In our professional judgement the firm is independent and the objectivity of the audit engagement partner and audit staff has not been compromised within the meaning regulatory and professional requirements.

Other Reporting Issues (cont'd)

Control Themes and Observations

As part of our work, we obtained an understanding of internal control sufficient to plan our audit and determine the nature, timing and extent of testing performed. Although our audit was not designed to express an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control, we are required to communicate to you significant deficiencies in internal control identified during our audit.

The matters reported are shown below and are limited to those deficiencies that we identified during the audit and that we concluded are of sufficient importance to merit being reported.

Description	Impact
<u>Authorisation of manual journal entries</u> Posting of manual journal entries in the general ledger are not authorised in the system. The Council's key control for authorisation is that all manual journals are recorded in a central journal log to be reviewed and updated by the Head of Finance to evidence the authorisation. Our review of the journal processes, using our data analytics tool to check the completeness of the log identified that during the financial year 285 journals had not been recorded and therefore were unauthorised. It should be noted that none of the excluded journals was material in value. We recommend that the jog log is regularly reviewed for completeness to ensure all manual journals for the financial year are recorded and authorised.	We have noted no issues in the approval of manual journals during our audit procedures for 2019/20.
<u>Related parties and declarations of interest</u> We reviewed the Council's arrangements to capture and evaluate declarations of interest for senior managers and elected members. We identified that seven members had not completed the required declaration in accordance with Council's procedures. We undertook further checks and were satisfied that the missing declarations did not have any undisclosed material related party transactions.	There are 15 declarations of interest outstanding in relation to the 2019/20 financial year from Members. We therefore consider that this issue remains, and Members should be reminded of their legal obligation under the Localism Act 2011 which states that it is a criminal offence not to register interests within 28 days. Therefore the year end declaration for the purposes of completing the financial statements should be no additional burden to the process they are already following.

Section 6

Focused on your future

Focused on your future

The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom introduces the application of new accounting standards in future years. The impact on the Council is summarised in the table below.

Standard	Issue	Impact
IFRS 16 Leases	<p>It was proposed that IFRS 16 (Leases) would be applicable for local authority accounts from the 2021/22 financial year, deferred a year due to the impact of Covid-19.</p> <p>Whilst the definition of a lease remains similar to the current leasing standard; IAS 17, for local authorities who lease a large number of assets the new standard will have a significant impact, with nearly all current leases being included on the balance sheet.</p> <p>However in response to the ongoing pandemic and its pressures on council finance teams, the CIPFA LASAAC Local Authority Accounting Code Board has announced that the implementation of IFRS 16 in the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the UK (the Code) will be deferred until the 2022-23 financial year. This decision brings the Code in line with the decision by the Government's Financial Reporting Advisory Board to put back the effective date for the implementation of the standard to 1 April 2022.</p> <p>CIPFA LASAAC has indicated that the deferral is limited to one year only and that there is no intention to grant any further extensions based on a lack of preparedness.</p> <p>The announcement is available on CIPFA's website.</p>	<p>There are transitional arrangements within the standard and It is assumed this will be reflected in the 2021/22 Accounting Code of Practice for Local Authorities when published. CIPFA have issued some limited provisional information which begins to clarify what the impact on local authority accounting will be. Whether any accounting statutory overrides will be introduced to mitigate any impact remains an outstanding issue.</p> <p>However, what is clear is that the Council will need to undertake a detailed exercise to identify all of its leases and capture the relevant information for them. The Council must therefore ensure that all lease arrangements are fully documented.</p>

Section 8

Audit Fees

Audit Fees

Our fee for the 2019/20 audit is made up of the scale fee set out by the PSAA plus our estimate of the increase needed to the scale fee to reflect the additional professional and regulatory requirements for the audit of South Derbyshire District Council (as discussed at the Audit Sub-Committee meeting of 13 July 2020) plus specific one-off costs incurred in delivering the 2019/20 external audit

Description	Final Fee 2019/20 £	Planned Fee 2019/20 £	Final Fee 2018/19 £
Audit Scale Fee - Code work	37,942	37,942	37,942
Changes in work required to address professional and regulatory requirements and scope associated with risk.	24,616*	24,616*	-
Additional specific one-off work required for Covid-19 considerations and current year errors (note 1).	16,003	-	4,000
Total Audit Fee	78,561	62,558	41,942
Non-audit work - Housing Benefit Subsidy Claim	TBC	18,500	15,500
Non-audit work - Pooling of housing capital receipts	TBC	TBC	2,000
Total Fees	TBC	TBC	59,442

*At the meeting of 13 July 2020, the Audit Sub-Committee did not agreed this amount and it will be therefore presented to the PSAA for a decision to be made.

Note 1:

We have performed additional work during 2019/20 as a result of Covid-19 and other one-off issues. These are noted below.

Going Concern (including internal consultations and disclosure review/revisions)	£6,372
Prior Period Adjustment (including required internal consultations and disclosure review/revisions)	£3,062
C-19 (risk assessment updates)	£3,246
Use of Valuation specialists to support the audit of property, plant and equipment	£3,323
Total	£16,003

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ED None

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REPORT TO:	FULL COUNCIL	AGENDA ITEM: 8
DATE OF MEETING:	24th FEBRUARY 2021	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	FRANK McARDLE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE	OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	FIONA PITTAM fiona.pittam@southderbyshire.gov.uk	DOC:
SUBJECT:	EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN 2021-2025	
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE: FM16

1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 That the Council approves the Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy and Action Plan for 2021-2025 as detailed in Appendix A.
- 1.2 That the Council endorse Member Champions supporting and monitoring performance against the approved Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Action plan.
- 1.3 That an annual report is presented to Full Council on the progress and outcomes that have been achieved and any changes or developments to the approved action plan.
- 1.4 That the support provided by voluntary, community and faith-based groups, partners who work with the Council in delivering services and individuals whose responses and support during the extensive period of consultation has enabled the completion of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy and Action Plan for 2021-2025 is acknowledged.

2.0 Purpose of the Report

- 2.1 To seek approval for the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy and Action Plan 2021-25.

3.0 Executive Summary

- 3.1 The Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy and Action Plan 2021-25 sets out the Council's equality commitments for the next four years.
- 3.2 The Equality Act 2010, places a duty on public bodies to consider the needs of all individuals in its day-to-day work when developing policies, delivering services and in relation to its own employees.

- 3.3 It also places a legal duty on the Council to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and foster good relations between different groups of people. In particular, to work towards making a fairer society for all and remove discrimination of all forms. Under the Act, there are people that receive legal protection, and these are grouped in nine protected characteristics namely;
- age,
 - disability,
 - gender,
 - race,
 - religion or belief,
 - sexual orientation,
 - gender reassignment,
 - pregnancy and maternity,
 - marriage or civil partnership.
- 3.4 This Strategy will build on the work that the Council and its partners have undertaken in promoting fair and accessible services to the local community and bring a focus and increased visibility on the actions that are being taken to contribute to a fairer society in South Derbyshire.
- 3.5 The Council will report annually on its performance and outcomes and communicate this publicly to residents; community, voluntary and faith-based group groups, and partners. This will enable continued engagement with Council plans and provide the continued opportunity for feedback to help shape and influence future.

4.0 Details

- 4.1 Equality, diversity and inclusion are an integral part of everyday life at South Derbyshire District Council, in the services provided and the communities the Council serves. The Council is committed to putting these issues at the centre of its decision-making processes to ensure the Council can best meet the needs of its residents.
- 4.2 One of the Council's corporate values is "We have respect for everyone" and through the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy and Action Plan 2021-25, the Council aims to embed this in everything it does.
- 4.3 In line with the Equality Act 2010, every four years the Council is required to publish an action plan to show how it will meet the duties detailed in the Act.
- 4.4 The Council is determined to do more than just meet its statutory obligations and will ensure that through its work, either directly or delivered with partners, the Council makes a full and continued contribution to making a fairer society for all.
- 4.5 A Corporate Equalities and Safeguarding Plan was published in 2016 which set the objectives and actions over four years. A report was submitted annually to show the work completed and progress in meeting the Council's equality objectives over lifecycle of this Plan.

- 4.6 The proposed Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy and Action plan (in Appendix A) sets out the Council's plans for 2021-2025.

Developing the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy and Action Plan 2021-2025

- 4.7. An internal working group was setup and tasked with taking the appropriate actions to develop a Strategy and Action Plan that was robust, took full account of the Council's statutory duties and reflected the needs and issues that are important to the local community. A detailed action plan was developed that set down the information, consultation and engagement work that was needed to complete this task.
- 4.8 Information was researched and obtained from local, national, and regional bodies relating to the current and projected profile of the District and actions being progressed by different public, voluntary, community and private bodies to advance equality and fairness.
- 4.8 An ambitious and extensive programme of consultation was scheduled and successfully executed. This enabled the gathering of evidence of key concerns and issues that residents and other groups considered were important to them. This has enabled a clear focus on the actions that have been proposed in the action plan.
- 4.9 In total, 19 consultation events with 102 people were completed. This included employees, trade union representatives, elected members, residents, customers, and partners from the community, voluntary, faith- based groups as well as organisations in the private and public sector.
- 4.10 In addition to this, the Council's proposed Strategy and Action Plan was then published on the Council's website for a period of six weeks to enable further comments and information to be obtained from residents or any other interested part. 10 responses were received and responded to during this period.
- 4.11 From all the information received, five key equality objectives have been identified for the next four years. They are to:
- Encourage and enable a skilled and diverse workforce, to build a culture of equality, diversity, and inclusion in everything we do
 - Demonstrate inclusive leadership, partnership, and a clear organisational commitment to being a leader in equality, diversity, and inclusion in the District
 - Involve and enable diverse communities to play an active role in society and put the residents' voice at the heart of decision-making
 - Deliver responsive services and customer care that is accessible and inclusive to individuals' needs and respects cultural differences
 - Understand the District's diverse communities and embed that understanding in how policy and practice are shaped across the Council.
 -

4.12 The Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy and Action Plan will:

- Work towards eliminating discrimination and promoting good relations between people of different backgrounds, equality groups and the wider community in line with the Council's commitment to effective community engagement and community cohesion
- Seek to achieve a workforce that reflects our diverse population and promotes an inclusive working culture based on respect
- Identify roles and responsibilities on the actions identified in the plan
- Show how the Council will measure its progress.

4.13 The Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Strategy 2021-2025 (Appendix A) provides the blueprint for the actions, commitments, and initiatives that the Council will take in playing a full role in making society fairer for all. This Strategy has its foundations and actions built on robust evidence on what is most important to residents in South Derbyshire.

4.14 It is recognised that the Council cannot complete all this work independently. A lot of the actions, around digital exclusion, will need strong and collaborative working relationships to be established with multi-agency bodies to make real progress. Through the development of this Plan, these relationships have been established and nurtured and will continue to be used to realise mutually beneficial outcomes.

4.15 Most important, are the actions and behaviours taken by our workforce, Elected Members and those working on the Council's behalf when delivering services. The action plan provides for numerous activities to increase awareness, provide training and information to ensure that a shared understanding is established and that all work towards making the Council a role model for advancing equality not only in the community but also regionally and nationally.

5.0 Financial Implications

5.1 There are no direct financial implications associated with this report. Resources will be used from existing service areas to progress actions.

6.0 Corporate Implications

Employment implications

6.1 These have been considered and incorporated into the proposed Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy and Action Plan 2021-25.

Legal Implications

6.2 Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy and Action Plan will ensure that the Council meets its statutory duties under the Equality Act 2010.

Corporate Plan Implications

- 6.3 Equality, Diversity and Inclusion is at the heart of everything the Council has stated it will achieve in its Corporate Plan. This Strategy will support the delivery of all the key themes and actions.

Risk Impact

- 6.4 These have been considered and incorporated into the proposed Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy and Action Plan 2021-25. Aside from legal risks as detailed in the Equality Act 2010, action can also be taken against the Council as an employer or provider of services. The Strategy sets down a clear framework and commitment to advance equality that will minimize the risk of any actions being successful.

7.0 Community Impact

Consultation

- 7.1 Extensive consultation has been completed in the development of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy and Action Plan 2021-25 as detailed in the report.

Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Impact

- 7.2 The outcomes and impact are detailed in the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy and Action Plan 2021-25. These will be reported on an annual basis to Full Council and made available to the public to ensure transparency and openness with the delivery of the Plan and any further actions that are proposed.

Social Value Impact

- 7.3 The Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy and Action Plan 2021-25 will demonstrate how the Council is advancing equality, meeting its statutory obligations and make society fairer for everyone.

Environmental Sustainability

- 7.4 None directly arising from this report.

8.0 Conclusions

- 8.1 The Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy and Action Plan 2021-25 is ambitious, challenging and built on the needs and issues that are most important to the local community. The Council has clearly stated the role it can play to make a difference to lives of people in the community in the services it can provide directly and indirectly with partners.
- 8.2 Progress on actions will be actively monitored by employees, trade union representatives, elected members, residents, customers, and partners from the community, voluntary, faith-based groups as well as organisations in the private and public sector.

9.0 **Background Papers**

Appendix A – Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy and Action Plan 2021-2025



Draft Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy 2021-2025



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Definitions

Throughout this document equality, diversity and inclusion are referenced.

Equality, diversity and inclusion are different things, but they need to be progressed together. Equality of opportunity will only exist when we recognise and value difference and work together for inclusion.

Below are our definitions:

Equality means fairness: we must ensure that individuals, or groups are not treated less favourably or differently.

We must also ensure that those who may be disadvantaged can have access to the same and fair opportunities.

Diversity is recognising, respecting and celebrating each other's differences. A diverse environment is one with a wide range of backgrounds and mindsets, which allows for an empowered culture of creativity and innovation.

Inclusion means creating an environment where everyone feels welcome and valued.

Foreword

Equality, diversity, and inclusion are an integral part of everyday life for us at South Derbyshire District Council in the services we provide and the communities we serve. We are committed to putting these issues at the centre of our decision-making processes to ensure we can best meet the needs of our residents.

One of our corporate values is; “We have respect for everyone” and through this strategy and action plan, we aim to embed this in everything we do.

We are pleased with the positive response to the engagement events we organised in partnership with South Derbyshire CVS, a local charity working to improve the quality of life for people in South Derbyshire. It shows that people and community groups place a lot of importance on promoting equality, diversity and inclusion in our society and we share its commitment.

We will continue to engage with our community groups and residents – both longer-established and our new arrivals, those who are vulnerable and those at risk of being marginalised. We want to ensure all voices are heard.

This strategy and action plan outlines the work we have done to embed equality, diversity and inclusion throughout our Corporate Plan and our values. We have made progress. However, it is clear from the information we have collected and the feedback we have received, that there can be a difference in experience and outcomes for certain groups. We are committed to playing our part in bringing about changes to ensure everyone is treated fairly. To support this, we have gathered information and consulted on our strategy and the development of our plan to understand what we can do to make improvements so that everyone is treated fairly.

Our strategy presents the outcomes of this work and our commitment to improvement. We want to make a difference and we will continue to involve as many stakeholders as possible to ensure that this strategy has a positive impact on staff, residents, customers, and partners.

On behalf of the Leadership Team, Elected Members and Council Officers, we look forward to carrying out this work so that we can deliver even fairer, more accessible, and inclusive services for everyone that live, visit, and invest in South Derbyshire.



Frank McArdle
Chief
Executive



Councillor
Kevin Richards
Council Leader



Councillor Andrew
Churchill
Leader,
Conservative Group



Councillor Martin
Fitzpatrick
Leader,
Independent Group

About South Derbyshire

South Derbyshire is a local government district in Derbyshire. The population at the 2011 Census was 94,611 and according to Derbyshire Observatory estimates, had risen to 107,261 in 2019.

The population is further estimated to increase to 108,600 by 2025 – this is a 23 per cent increase from the 88,000 residents in 2005. It is the fastest growing District in Derbyshire and one of the fastest in England.

South Derbyshire is a thriving, attractive place to live, work and invest with a mixture of well-developed urban areas and historic rural settlements. It has been transformed during the past few decades from a clay and mining area to a successful District with tourist attractions that bring in more than two million visitors each year, modern community and leisure facilities and activities for residents and visitors alike to enjoy. It contains a third of the National Forest.

The District boasts 3,500 business enterprises, among them international names such as JCB, Nestle and Toyota Motor Manufacturing UK.

Population

The most recent figures (from the Office for National Statistics survey 2019) shows:

- The population of South Derbyshire was 107,261 and with a gender split of approximately 51 per cent females and 49 per cent males (these figures have been rounded). The remainder either have not specified or do not identify as either male or female.
- The average age of people is 40, while the median age is also 40.
- By religion, the population includes 64.0 per cent Christian, 26.4 per cent no religion, 1.5 per cent Sikh, 0.3 per cent Muslim, 0.3 per cent Hindu, 0.2 per cent Buddhist. 6,221 people did not state a religion.
- 93.6 per cent of people living in South Derbyshire were born in England. 98.3 per cent of people living in South Derbyshire speak English. The other top languages spoken are 0.4 per cent Punjabi, 0.3 per cent Polish, 0.1 per cent German, 0.1 per cent Chinese, and 0.1 per cent French.
- 52.3 per cent of people are married, 13.4 per cent cohabit with a member of the opposite sex, 0.7 per cent live with a partner of the same sex, 19.3 per cent are single and have never married or been in a registered same sex partnership, 7.8 per cent are separated or divorced. There are 4,399 widowed people living in South Derbyshire.

Occupations of South Derbyshire residents

The top occupations listed by people in South Derbyshire are:

- Skilled trades
- Managers, directors and senior officials
- Associate professional and technical
- Administrative and secretarial
- Process, plant and machine operatives
- Caring, leisure and other services

Accessing services digitally

In an increasingly digital age, those who are not engaging with the digital world are at risk of being left behind. Digital skills are increasingly important for connecting with others, accessing information, services and job opportunities. Lack of digital access disproportionately affects vulnerable and low-income groups, the elderly and those more marginalized communities within our society. Although the number of adults who do not use the internet has been declining, 7.5 per cent of adults in the UK still do not use the internet (down from 8.4 per cent in 2018).

- In Derbyshire, the figure is slightly higher at 10.4 per cent for East Derbyshire (Chesterfield, Bolsover, North East Derbyshire)
- 8.9 per cent in South and West Derbyshire (South Derbyshire, High Peak, Derbyshire Dales, Erewash, Amber Valley)
- This equates to 62,000 people across the County who have not accessed the internet in the last 3 months.
- The groups vulnerable to social digital exclusion include people who are older, socially isolated, living in poverty, homeless, substance misusers, young people, those with low literacy levels and those with language barriers, people living with dementia, learning disability, learning difficulties and people with long term health conditions.
- Nationally, there is a distinct gap in internet usage between the age categories of 16 to 64 and 65 years and over. Over 90 per cent of people aged between 16 and 64 use the internet compared to 83.2 per cent aged 65 to 74 and only 47 per cent aged 75 and over.
- Nationally, the ethnicity gap in internet usage has narrowed over time as the proportion of internet non-users has declined. In 2019, the highest percentage of adults to use the internet were of Chinese Asian/Asian British ethnic background at 98.6 per cent and the lowest percentage of adults to use the internet were of Northern Irish background at 86.7 per cent.
- Nationally, in 2019 the number of disabled adults who were recent internet users reached over 10 million for the first time, this has increased 14 per cent since 2014 to 78.3 per cent. In comparison 94.8 per cent of adults who were not disabled accessed the internet.

To address digital inclusion the Council recognises the need to ensure that services which are provided digitally are accessible, efficient and easy to use. In addition, and equally important, is the need to support and signpost people to gain the skills, confidence and access to equipment and Wi-Fi required to be able to access information and services digitally.

Significant progress has been made around the digital inclusion agenda. At South Derbyshire District Council, we have transformed our services so that our customers can access a range of services using a variety of methods including website, on-line forms, and social media. We have introduced a system for customers to make payments to the Council using an online payment system or calling a touchtone payment line.

In the District, there have been upgrades to telephone exchanges and roadside cabinets that contain the technology needed to give homes and businesses access to fibre broadband. Delivered as part of the Digital Derbyshire project, the work means residents and businesses in

the areas concerned can now order fibre broadband from an internet service provider of their choice, providing them with faster speeds and smoother service delivery.

Residents not benefitting from broadband upgrades are being encouraged to apply to the Better Broadband Subsidy Scheme which provides grants to help improve broadband services. South Derbyshire District Council has worked with partners including Digital Derbyshire to support businesses to improve their digital capabilities.

South Derbyshire District Council will continue to develop digitally inclusive services and the key focus will be:

- Making sure our online systems are easy to use and working with our partners to provide the skills and opportunity to use them, so they can get the service they want when they want it.
- Using a range of approaches, not just online, to communicate to everyone about our services.
- Continue to work with key partners on internet connectivity for residents and supporting local businesses to have the digital/online tools they need to create jobs and prosperity helping us offer a better quality of life to the people of South Derbyshire.
- Giving the employees of South Derbyshire District Council the skills and equipment they need to work flexibly and putting digital skills at the heart of recruitment and training.

South Derbyshire District Council cannot complete all this work independently. A lot of the actions, in particular around digital exclusion, will need strong and collaborative working between South Derbyshire District Council with multi-agency bodies to make real progress. However, South Derbyshire will continue to seek out opportunities to increase digital inclusion.

About the Council

South Derbyshire District Council was formed in 1974 as a merger of the Swadlincote Urban District along with Repton Rural District and part of South East Derbyshire Rural District.

The Civic Offices are in Swadlincote and the Council provides local services, including waste collections and recycling, street cleansing, maintaining award-winning parks and open spaces, housing services including council housing, repairs and supporting vulnerable tenants, environmental protection, customer services including revenues and benefits, planning, economic development, markets and town centre events and tourism in partnership with other organisations. Each of these services are supported by corporate functions such as Human Resources, Communications, Policy and Performance, IT, Customer Services, Finance, Property Services and Legal and Democratic services.

The Council's workforce

The Council employs around 340 people in full, part-time, and temporary posts across a wide range of occupations.

It is important to the Council that we are an inclusive employer, and we attract, appoint and retain the best workforce, that reflects the diversity of the communities we serve. We monitor our workforce to find out whether it broadly reflects our community and to ensure our practices are free from discrimination, helping us to deliver appropriate and accessible services.

The Council collects equality information on its workforce to provide an overview of our progress and identify areas for further action. This includes meeting the requirements in the Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Duty, where we are required to publish workforce information.

The Council makes its recruitment and selection process fair and transparent to encourage applications from under-represented groups and offers a range of different flexible working options to recognise the different needs of our current and future workforce. The Council is a Disability Confident employer.

Through apprenticeships and other national and local schemes, the Council offers paid and unpaid on-the-job training placements to provide people and those who need to gain support before entering or re-entering employment with opportunities to get valuable work experience.

The Council publishes a gender pay gap report each year on its website.

Our commitment to Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion

The Chief Executive is ultimately responsible for the delivery of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy and Action Plan.

The Council's Leadership Team and Elected Members lead and actively drive our commitment to equality, diversity, and inclusion. This ensures that all services are fair, inclusive, and accessible and that we work with partners, businesses and other groups to promote, influence and raise awareness across the District.

The Leadership Team has responsibility for managing the Council and works with Heads of Service to oversee progress made and outcomes achieved against the Council's Corporate Plan. The delivery of the equality actions is a responsibility shared by all Elected Members and Officers, contractors, partners, stakeholders, and residents.

Corporate Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Steering Group

A Corporate Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Steering Group will plan and monitor our work.

The group will be led by a member of the Leadership Team and include Elected Member Equality Champions and Officers of the Council. It will also include representatives from community, voluntary and faith-based groups.

The group will:

- Monitor the Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Action Plan
- Publish an annual report on Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion to inform people of our progress, celebrate our achievements and to continue engagement with our future, as well as meeting our legislative requirements
- Advise, monitor, and review equality impact assessments

- Share information and learning across the Council relating to Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion
- Recommend and monitor Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion training
- Engage with community, voluntary and faith-based groups, partners, and residents to raise awareness of equality, diversity, and inclusion and to work together on actions to reduce exclusion, discrimination, and victimisation.

Equality for South Derbyshire residents

Being equal means making sure that life is fair for everyone. This is supported through the Equality Act (2010) that requires all public bodies to demonstrate how they will give “*due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities.*” This is called the Equality Duty.

Under the Equality Duty, the Council needs to:

- Make sure that people are treated fairly and do not experience discrimination, harassment, or victimisation
- Give special thought to make life fairer for everybody and ensure everyone has opportunities; and
- Help people who are different from one another to understand each other.

There are some groups who are treated less fairly than most. These groups need support and understanding to make life fairer. These are defined as people with ‘protected characteristics’ under the Equality Act. The protected characteristics are:

- Gender – male, female, or non-binary
- Disability – physical or mental impairment which has a substantial, long-term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities
- Age – people of different ages
- Race – people who come from different cultures, who may live in a different way or have a different skin colour
- Religion or belief – people of different religions and those with no religious beliefs
- Pregnancy and maternity – someone who is pregnant or breastfeeding
- Sexual orientation – a person's sexual orientation towards persons of the same sex, persons of the opposite sex, or persons of either sex.
- Marriage or civil partnership – a person who is married or in a civil partnership
- Gender reassignment – any person who is undergoing, proposing to undergo, or has undergone a process (or part of a process) of reassigning their sex/gender.

People can experience discrimination or disadvantage because of other things that contribute to their identity. Creating an inclusive District also means recognising and minimising other causes of inequality or exclusion, such as low income, social or geographical isolation, living in poor housing or suffering poor health.

In line with the Equality Duty, the Council must also publish information to show how it is meeting this duty in its role as an employer and a service provider and how this affects people with protected characteristics. The Council will report on the progress made every year.

Developing the Draft Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy and Action Plan

Between April and November 2020, the Council carried out a series of internal and public consultation events in partnership with South Derbyshire CVS. These included using multi-media platforms as well as audio conferencing, telephone calls and emails.

Information, to inform the Council's approach, was gathered from different sources including information that was available to us from services we deliver and details on our own workforce.

Workshops took place with Council Officers, Trade Unions and Elected Members. The Council wanted to ensure our actions were focused and would influence and shape the way we deliver the services for the future.

People taking part in the public consultation events included voluntary, community and faith-based groups; neighbouring councils, partners who work with us delivering services and individuals who have a particular interest in equality, diversity, and inclusion.

The consultation showed our proposed actions should focus on areas of inequality. It is important to be clear on our actions and the need for us to signpost and raise awareness of other services that are available in our District and wider. The Council does not wish to duplicate the work of others, but to add value and make a real difference to people's lives.

This work has led to the development of our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy and Action Plan which includes our equality objectives. These objectives will enable us to focus on improving aspects of equality, diversity, and inclusion.

Our equality objectives for the next four years are as follows:

1. Encourage and enable a skilled and diverse workforce, to build a culture of equality, diversity, and inclusion in everything we do
2. Demonstrate inclusive leadership, partnership, and a clear organisational commitment to being a leader in equality, diversity, and inclusion in the District
3. Involve and enable diverse communities to play an active role in society and put the residents' voice at the heart of decision-making
4. Deliver responsive services and customer care that is accessible and inclusive to individuals' needs and respects cultural differences
5. Understand the District's diverse communities and embed that understanding in how policy and practice are shaped across the Council.

The equality objectives reflect the themes in the Council's Corporate Plan.

Equality, diversity, and inclusion is viewed as "business as usual" but further, targeted work will address specific inequalities for different groups. Taken together, these five high-level equality objectives relate to each aspect of the Council's role as an employer, a provider of services and our role in bringing communities together. [Page 47 of 179](#)

Monitoring and reporting on progress

The Council wants to be the best it can be in equality, diversity, and inclusion. It is committed to working to improve and to address inequality in South Derbyshire.

To ensure this happens the Council will:

- publish information explaining the progress it is making towards achieving our equality objectives and review how we are doing
- listen to and understand the diverse needs of communities and improve how we collect information across different services to better understand the impact of our actions
- be open and transparent about our progress, sharing information and learning from experience
- review our equality objectives every four years or more regularly where a clear need has been identified
- use Equality Impact Assessments as part of our decision-making process by Committees and Officers to determine the equality impact of our initiatives
- collect information about residents and service users to inform policies and services we directly provide for the community
- use staff surveys to collect information about our employees and use it to check that employment procedures and practices are fair, inclusive, and transparent and continues our commitment towards creating a skilled and diverse workforce
- share best practice with partners so that we can collaborate, learn from others, and continually improve.

Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion action plan

Appendix A outlines each of our proposed equality, diversity and inclusion objectives and actions for the next four years. If you would like to provide any feedback or suggestions then please email equalities@southderbyshire.gov.uk

Our Equality Objectives

After consulting about our plan, we have decided on five equality **objectives**.

An **objective** is a goal we are aiming to achieve.

Our equality objectives are:

- Enable a diverse workforce
- Be a leader in equality, diversity, and inclusion
- Involve our diverse communities in decision-making
- Deliver services that are accessible and inclusive to individual's needs
- Understand our diverse communities

To help achieve these, we have set actions for each. These are set out on the following pages.

Where this document says “we” or “our”, it is referring to South Derbyshire District Council.

Enable a diverse workforce

Training

- Review and deliver equality, diversity and inclusion training for Council Officers and Elected Members.
- Promote employment and training opportunities.
- Continue to deliver an apprenticeship programme in partnership with local colleges and other providers.

Monitoring

- | | |
|---------|--|
| Actions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify under-representation in the Council's workforce that is reflective of the working age of our community and develop positive action initiatives to promote diversity in the workplace. |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish a gender pay gap report and report on any issues and actions taken. |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the Stonewall workplace equality index to assess achievements and progress in LGBTQ+ inclusion. |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce a set of standard equality and diversity monitoring categories so that Council Officers, residents, and customers can declare information in a consistent manner. |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review our recruitment process to ensure we proactively encourage diversity when people apply for jobs at the Council. |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design and deliver an annual employee engagement survey. |

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to carry out an employee risk assessment should an employee's circumstances change in relation to any of the protected characteristics and put in place reasonable adjustments where necessary.
Promotion and raising awareness	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish an annual report on progress made, achievements and further actions to deliver on the key outcomes in the Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Action Plan 2021 - 2025.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the Access to Work scheme and any other national/local schemes that enable financial or other support for current or future employees.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collate and maintain data on equality, diversity, and inclusion as a shared resource available on the Council's internal and external web pages.

Be a leader in Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion

Leadership

Actions

- Use equality, diversity, and inclusion best practice to inform Council activity.
- The Council's Leadership Team and Elected Members lead and actively drive equality, diversity, and inclusion.
- Review the Corporate Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion Steering Group governance and terms of reference.

Policy, Strategies and Planning

- Develop and implement an Equality Impact Assessment Framework.
- Carry out an Equality Impact Assessment when considering new or changes to existing policy, service, or processes.

Involve our diverse communities in decision-making

Communication

Actions

- Review our website and Council information and implement a set of standards to ensure it is accessible.
- Develop a programme of targeted communications to celebrate the diversity of our communities.

Decision making process

Actions

- Review the involvement of diverse communities within the District with guidance on how they may be involved in the democratic processes of the Council.
- Review planning consultation practices to encourage and enable groups that are not currently engaged in the planning process to get involved.
- Review and evaluate the Community Grants programme for voluntary, community and faith-based groups.
- Produce the Communications and Engagement strategy to enable residents, partners, and customers to be involved in the development of the Council's Plans that have an impact on the District.

Deliver services that meet everyone's needs

Accessibility

Actions

- Use building regulation to ensure that developments meet the necessary standards for disabled access and other accessibility standards.
- Use the Council's Local Plan to develop best practice in terms of accessible homes.
- Review parks and open spaces to enable access for people with a disability.
- Review Council-owned public buildings to enable access for people with a disability.
- Make portable hearing loops available for Council meetings.
- Implement and promote initiatives such as SignLive and the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower scheme to enable people with a disability to access Council services.
- Make available appropriate communication channels to inform staff, residents, customers and our partners of ongoing and future work.

Signposting	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop the Council's website to signpost people to services that are delivered in partnership with other organisations.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an approach with partners to use community programmes to reduce social isolation and improve mental health.
Protecting	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop internal safeguarding information to assist Council Officers with making safeguarding referrals.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver the Safer Homes and Sanctuary Scheme services to improve home security for victims of crime and domestic abuse.

Digital Inclusion	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance the on-line process for applying to join the Housing Register and for viewing and expressing an interest in vacant Council properties.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide direct on-line access to housing rent accounts and repair ordering.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Host the multi-agency welfare group which will continue to support tenants and other residents through the on-line Universal Credit process to minimise delays in processing claims.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a Customer Access Strategy that will make it easier and quicker to gain access to Council services and takes into account the needs of service users.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with partners to raise awareness and support action around digital exclusion.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signpost our staff, residents, customers and partners to digital support services.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop online systems that are user friendly for our staff, elected members, residents, customers and partners to gain access to Council services.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To work with partners to develop a joined up Telecare service that enables vulnerable or elderly people to retain their independence.

Understand our diverse communities

Engagement

- Report on our comments, compliments and complaints and take positive action to address any equality, diversity and inclusion issues.
- Continue to promote inclusion and develop support for children and young people from marginalised groups.

Reduce hate crime

- | | |
|---------|---|
| Actions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor and analyse data collected on harassment and hate crime and take appropriate action to address issues identified. |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to provide information and raise awareness on how to report hate crime and where to get support. |

Reduce exclusion

- | | |
|---------|---|
| Actions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the older persons survey, to address the specific needs of the elderly population particularly around housing, social care and health and wellbeing. |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work in partnership with transport services to improve accessibility in rural areas as part of planning proposals for new developments or new site allocations. |

Events	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold at least one annual equality, diversity and inclusion community event.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the Council delivers cultural events which are inclusive and reflect the diverse community.

REPORT TO:	COUNCIL	AGENDA ITEM:9
DATE OF MEETING:	24th FEBRUARY 2021	CATEGORY: RECOMMENDED
REPORT FROM:	STRATEGIC DIRECTOR CORPORATE RESOURCES	OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	KEVIN STACKHOUSE (01283 595811) Kevin.stackhouse@south-derbys.gov.uk	DOC: u/ks/council tax and precepts/council tax support scheme/scheme 2021 22/SDDC local scheme regulations 2021
SUBJECT:	COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME REGULATIONS 2021	REF
WARD (S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE: Article 4.02 paragraph 7

1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 Under Section 10 of the Local Government Finance Act 2012, a Local Council Tax Support Scheme for South Derbyshire is adopted for the financial year commencing 1 April 2021.
- 1.2 Regulations are approved and cited as the Council Tax Reduction Scheme Regulations (South Derbyshire District Council Local Scheme 2021) and come into force on 25 February 2021.
- 1.3 These regulations amend the Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013, as amended, set out in the Schedule to those Regulations for the purposes of paragraph 4 of Schedule 1A to the Local Government Finance Act 1992, by:
 - Continuing the insertion of Section 18a Class G: exempt persons who are not pensioners.
 - Continuing the insertion of Section 18b Class H: persons who are not pensioners.
 - Continuing the amendment to Regulation 32 to vary the maximum entitlement in prescribed cases, i.e. to give effect to the designation of war pensioners and the disabled as protected groups (in addition to pensioners under the Prescribed Requirements) and to reduce benefit entitlement in non-protected groups by 8.5% for persons on passported benefit and by 10% in all other cases.
 - Continuing the amendment to Schedule 8 (20) to ensure the disregard of war pensions, to include other payments made under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme.

- Continuing the insertion at Part 12 Chapter 6 the provision to increase the period of extended payments (as defined in the Regulations) from 4 to 8 weeks.

1.4 That the amounts of pensions, tax credits, income related and non-income related welfare benefits and allowances, component parts, applicable amounts, premiums, and deductions are uprated in accordance with the 2013 Regulations in 1.3 above as set out in Housing Benefit Circular HB A01/2021

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 To adopt the detailed regulations for the proposed Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme for South Derbyshire for the financial year 2021/22.
- 2.2 This is based on the recommendation of the Finance and Management Committee of 11 February 2021, to continue with the existing scheme for a further year with no changes.
- 2.3 As a billing authority, the Council is statutorily required to adopt a local scheme before 11 March 2021. The Regulations would come into force immediately and will be effective from 1 April 2021.

3.0 Detail

Council Tax Reduction Scheme

- 3.1 The South Derbyshire Regulations are based on the previous national scheme that applied to Council Tax Benefit prior to 2013/14.
- 3.2 In summary, the Local Scheme largely incorporates the previous parameters and thresholds for calculating Council Tax Reduction for claimants, adjusted to reflect the following parameters:
- That working age claimants currently receiving 100% benefit are deducted 8.5% from their entitlement calculated under the Local Scheme.
 - That all other working age claimants are deducted 10% from their entitlement calculated under the Local Scheme.
 - That full Council Tax Reduction for claimants entering work is extended from 4 weeks to 8 weeks in the Local Scheme.
 - That working age only claimants receive the full child personal allowance for all children.
- 3.3 Within the Local Scheme, certain claimants are protected and continue to receive the same level of support as existed under the previous national scheme. Protection is afforded to the following groups:
- All claimants of pensionable age (this is a statutory requirement).

- All households who qualify for benefit through disability premiums.
- Working-age claimants with more than two children.
- All war widow and war disabled claimants.
- All military compensation payments are fully disregarded in calculating Council Tax Reduction.

3.4 The Local Scheme will also apply to all new claimants after 1 April 2021.

3.5 The detailed regulations, guidance and supporting information will be published on the Council's web site.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 Detailed implications were considered by the Finance and Management Committee on 11 February 2021. The cost of the Local Scheme is currently being contained within the Council's Budget and it is anticipated that this will continue for 2021/22.

5.0 Corporate Implications

Employment Implications

5.1 None

Legal Implications

5.2 None

Corporate Plan Implications

5.3 None directly, although the provision of Discounts helps to support the most vulnerable people. The administration of Council Tax support is a statutory obligation on the Council.

Risk Impact

5.4 None

6.0 Community Impact

Consultation

6.1 None required.

Equality and Diversity Impact

6.2 A full Equality Impact Assessment was undertaken in August 2012 on the Council's Local Scheme. A local discretionary scheme that is awarding financial assistance has the potential to discriminate against one of the nine protected characteristics under the 2010 Equality Act and in particular those relating to age and disability.

- 6.3 A person's age and whether they are of working age, together with disability, are factors that are considered in awarding some benefits as this data is collected in assessing entitlement.
- 6.4 Under the Council's Local Scheme, Pensioners receive statutory protection, and the Council has used its discretion to protect disability households. Additional liability falls on working age claimants.
- 6.5 It is not considered that the other seven characteristics are affected as they are not relevant to the calculation of Council Tax reduction (*this includes gender reassignment, marriage/civil partnership, pregnancy/maternity, race, religion/belief, sex or sexual orientation*).
- 6.6 In addition, the Local Scheme provides additional support to war widows and war disabled claimants under the Armed Forces Covenant.

Social Value Impact

- 6.7 As highlighted above.

Environmental Sustainability

- 6.8 None

7.0 Background Papers

- 7.1 None

REPORT TO:	COUNCIL	AGENDA ITEM:10
DATE OF MEETING:	24th FEBRUARY 2021	CATEGORY: RECOMMENDED
REPORT FROM:	STRATEGIC DIRECTOR (CORPORATE RESOURCES)	OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	VICKI SUMMERFIELD (01283 595939) victoria.summerfield@southderbyshire.gov.uk	DOC: s/finance/committee20-21/Council/Feb
SUBJECT:	TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2021-22	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE: FM 08

1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 The Treasury Management Strategy for 2021/22 is approved.
- 1.2 The Prudential Indicators and Limits for 2021/22 to 2025/26 are approved.
- 1.3 The Investment Policy for 2021/22 including the associated counterparty (lending) list is approved.

2.0 Purpose of the Report

- 2.1 To detail the Council's Prudential Indicators for its expected treasury operations for the medium-term financial planning period, 2021/22 to 2025/26. This is in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2003, updated for provisions contained in the Localism Act 2011. Three main areas covered are:
 - The CIPFA Prudential Code (2017) which requires the reporting of the Indicators for Capital Finance in Local Authorities.
 - The Treasury Strategy in accordance with the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management.
 - The Investment Strategy in accordance with Central Government guidance.

3.0 Summary

The Prudential System for Capital Finance

- 3.1 The Council is required to manage its treasury and capital expenditure activities under a National Code. The main aims of the National Prudential System are to ensure that:

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- Capital investment plans of local authorities are affordable and sustainable.

- Treasury management decisions are taken in accordance with best professional practice.
- Financial planning and asset management are integrated into the Council's overall corporate planning arrangements.

3.2 Treasury operations are measured within a set of prudential indicators. The main purpose of these indicators is to provide the limits and benchmarks to control the level of capital expenditure, borrowing and investment. The Council is expected to operate comfortably within these limits.

3.3 The Prudential System allows councils the freedom to borrow on a prudential basis. Any new borrowing has to be accommodated within any maximum debt limits or caps set by Central Government and the Council has to demonstrate that it can afford to service and repay the debt within its financial plans.

The Treasury Management Strategy

3.4 The Strategy aims to provide transparency for treasury decisions including the use of counterparties, together with assessing how risk is managed on a day- to-day basis.

Prudential Indicators

3.5 The relevant indicators required under the regulations are detailed in the statement.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 As detailed in the report.

5.0 Corporate Implications

5.1 None directly

6.0 Community Impact

6.1 None directly

7.0 Background Papers

7.1 Treasury Management in Public Services and the Code of Practice (CIPFA Publication – November 2011)

7.2 Local Government Act 2003 (Part 1)

7.3 Localism Act 2011 – Part 7 Chapter 3



**South
Derbyshire
District Council**

**Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2021/22
February 2021**

Introduction

Treasury management is the management of the Authority's cash flows, borrowing and investments, and the associated risks. The Authority has borrowed and invested substantial sums of money and is therefore exposed to financial risks including the loss of invested funds and the revenue effect of changing interest rates. The successful identification, monitoring and control of financial risk are therefore central to the Authority's prudent financial management.

Treasury risk management at the Authority is conducted within the framework of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice 2017 Edition (the CIPFA Code) which requires the Authority to approve a treasury management strategy before the start of each financial year. This report fulfils the Authority's legal obligation under the Local Government Act 2003 to have regard to the CIPFA Code.

Updates on treasury activity are reported to the Finance and Management Committee on a quarterly basis. A further annual report is produced alongside the final accounts each July to detail all activity for the year.

Responsibility for Treasury Management

The Finance and Management Committee is responsible for setting and monitoring treasury activity at the Council. Under its terms of reference, this includes ensuring that the Council does not breach its borrowing limit.

The Committee is advised by its Section 151 (Chief Finance) Officer who is the Strategic Director (Corporate Resources). This Officer is responsible for the oversight of activity and to ensure that treasury strategy and associated policies are met.

The day-to-day operational activity is undertaken within the Financial Services Unit at the Council. The main officers who have responsibility for daily transactions are the Chief Accountant and the Service Accountants.

The Authorising Officers for transactions are the Strategic Director (Corporate Resources), and the Head of Finance. Any new borrowing or investment has to have the prior approval of the Strategic Director (Corporate Resources).

External Support for Treasury Activity

All designated officers involved in treasury activity are covered under the Council's Crime insurance. Officers are also supported by external treasury advisors who provide research material, news bulletins, together with general advice and guidance.

Audit Arrangements

The Council's Internal Audit function audits treasury policies and procedures, together with treasury activity and transactions at least once every two years. This is a requirement of External Audit. Any matters raised concerning any governance or control matters, are considered and monitored by the Council's Audit Sub-Committee.

Scrutiny and Training

Scrutiny is undertaken by the Finance and Management Committee as part of their role of agreeing policy and monitoring performance. The Audit Sub-Committee review internal audit reports regarding any procedural or wider control matters.

The Elected Members involved in reviewing Treasury Management have previously received training outside of formal reports and briefing papers. To strengthen the role of Members and to supplement their understanding, it is planned to deliver a further briefing/training session during the year for Members.

The Strategy

This strategy covers:

- The management of debt
- The Council's debt and investment projections
- The expected movement in interest rates
- The Council's borrowing and investment strategies
- Treasury performance indicators
- Specific limits on treasury activities
- Any local treasury issues

External Context

Economic background: The impact on the UK from coronavirus, lockdown measures, the rollout of vaccines, as well as the new trading arrangements with the European Union (EU), will remain major influences on the Authority's treasury management strategy for 2021/22.

The Bank of England (BoE) maintained Bank Rate at 0.10% in December 2020 and Quantitative Easing programme at £895 billion having extended it by £150 billion in the previous month. The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) voted unanimously for both, but no mention was made of the potential future use of negative interest rates. In the November Monetary Policy Report (MPR) forecasts, the Bank expects the UK economy to shrink -2% in Q4 2020 before growing by 7.25% in 2021, lower than the previous forecast of 9%. The BoE also forecasts the economy will now take until Q1 2022 to reach

its pre-pandemic level rather than the end of 2021 as previously forecast. By the time of the December MPC announcement, a COVID-19 vaccine was approved for use, which the Bank noted would reduce some of the downside risks to the economic outlook outlined in the November MPR.

UK Consumer Price Inflation (CPI) for November 2020 registered 0.3% year on year, down from 0.7% in the previous month. Core inflation, which excludes the more volatile components, fell to 1.1% from 1.5%. The most recent labour market data for the three months to October 2020 showed the unemployment rate rose to 4.9% while the employment rate fell to 75.2%. Both measures are expected to deteriorate further due to the ongoing impact of coronavirus on the jobs market, particularly when the various government job retention schemes start to be unwound in 2021, with the BoE forecasting unemployment will peak at 7.75% in Q2 2021. In October, the headline 3-month average annual growth rate for wages were 2.7% for total pay and 2.8% for regular pay. In real terms, after adjusting for inflation, total pay growth was up by 1.9% while regular pay was up 2.1%.

GDP growth rebounded by 16.0% in Q3 2020 having fallen by -18.8% in the second quarter, with the annual rate rising to -8.6% from -20.8%. All sectors rose quarter-on-quarter, with dramatic gains in construction (41.2%), followed by services and production (both 14.7%). Monthly GDP estimates have shown the economic recovery slowing and remains well below its pre-pandemic peak. Looking ahead, the BoE's November MPR forecasts economic growth will rise in 2021 with GDP reaching 11% in Q4 2021, 3.1% in Q4 2022 and 1.6% in Q4 2023.

GDP growth in the euro zone rebounded by 12.7% in Q3 2020 after contracting by -3.7% and -11.8% in the first and second quarters, respectively. Headline inflation, however, remains extremely weak, registering -0.3% year-on-year in November, the fourth successive month of deflation. Core inflation registered 0.2% y/y, well below the European Central Bank's (ECB) target of 'below, but close to 2%'. The ECB is expected to continue holding its main interest rate of 0% and deposit facility rate of -0.5% for some time but expanded its monetary stimulus in December 2020, increasing the size of its asset purchase scheme to €1.85 trillion and extended it until March 2022.

The US economy contracted at an annualised rate of 31.4% in Q2 2020 and then rebounded by 33.4% in Q3. The Federal Reserve maintained the Fed Funds rate at between 0% and 0.25% and announced a change to its inflation targeting regime to a more flexible form of average targeting. The Fed also provided strong indications that interest rates are unlikely to change from current levels over the next three years

Former vice-president Joe Biden won the 2020 US presidential election. Mr Biden is making tackling coronavirus his immediate priority and will also be reversing several

executive orders signed by his predecessor and take the US back into the Paris climate accord and the World Health Organization.

Credit outlook: After spiking in late March as coronavirus became a global pandemic and then rising again in October/November, credit default swap (CDS) prices for the larger UK banks have steadily fallen back to almost pre-pandemic levels. Although uncertainty around COVID-19 related loan defaults lead to banks provisioning billions for potential losses in the first half of 2020, drastically reducing profits, reported impairments for Q3 were much reduced in some institutions. However, general bank profitability in 2020 and 2021 may be significantly lower than in previous years.

The credit ratings for many UK institutions were downgraded on the back of downgrades to the sovereign rating. Credit conditions more generally though in banks and building societies have tended to be relatively benign, despite the impact of the pandemic. Looking forward, the potential for bank losses to be greater than expected when government and central bank support starts to be removed remains a risk, suggesting a cautious approach to bank deposits in 2021/22 remains advisable.

Interest rate forecast: The Authority's treasury management adviser Arlingclose is forecasting that BoE Bank Rate will remain at 0.1% until at least the first quarter of 2024. The risks to this forecast are judged to be to the downside as the BoE and UK government continue to react to the coronavirus pandemic and the new EU trading arrangements. The BoE extended its asset purchase programme to £895 billion in November while keeping Bank Rate on hold and maintained this position in December. However, further interest rate cuts to zero, or possibly negative, cannot yet be ruled out but this is not part of the Arlingclose central forecast.

Gilt yields are expected to remain very low in the medium-term while short-term yields are likely to remain below or at zero until such time as the BoE expressly rules out the chance of negative interest rates or growth/inflation prospects improve. The central case is for 10-year and 20-year to rise to around 0.60% and 0.90% respectively over the time horizon. The risks around the gilt yield forecasts are judged to be broadly balanced between upside and downside risks, but there will almost certainly be short-term volatility due to economic and political uncertainty and events.

Local Context

On 31st December 2020, the Authority held £57.423m of borrowing and £71.750m of treasury investments. Forecast changes in these sums are shown in the balance sheet analysis below.

Balance sheet summary and forecast

	31.03.20 Actual £m	31.3.21 Estimate £m	31.3.22 Forecast £m	31.3.23 Forecast £m	31.3.24 Forecast £m
<u>Housing Revenue Account</u>					
Debt Outstanding	57,423	57,423	47,423	47,423	37,423
Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)	61,584	61,584	51,584	51,584	41,584
Statutory Debt Cap	66,853	66,853	66,853	66,853	66,853
Borrowing Capacity (Cap less Debt Outstanding)	9,430	9,430	19,430	19,430	18,430
<u>General Fund</u>					
Debt Outstanding	0	0	0	0	0
Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)	4,988	4,667	4,409	4,214	4,026
Borrowing Capacity (Cap less Debt Outstanding)	4,988	4,667	4,409	4,214	4,026
Total Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)	66,572	66,251	55,993	55,798	45,610

The underlying need to borrow for capital purposes is measured by the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), while usable reserves and working capital are the underlying resources available for investment. The Authority's current strategy is to maintain borrowing and investments below their underlying levels, sometimes known as internal borrowing.

The Authority's current strategy is to maintain borrowing and investments below their underlying levels, sometimes known as internal borrowing, in order to reduce risk and keep interest costs low.

The Authority's current capital expenditure plans do not imply any need to borrow over the forecast period. Investments are forecast to fall by £4.25m as capital receipts are used to finance capital expenditure.

Borrowing Strategy

The Authority currently holds £57.423 million of loans. These loans were taken out by the Authority in 2011/12 for the purpose of HRA self-financing. The principal element of these loans is repayable in full on maturity, with interest being paid each March and September.

Objectives: The Authority's chief objective when borrowing has been to strike an appropriately low risk balance between securing low interest costs and achieving cost certainty over the period for which funds are required, with flexibility to renegotiate loans should the Authority's long-term plans change being a secondary objective.

Strategy: Given the significant cuts to public expenditure and in particular to local government funding, the Authority's continues to address the key issue of affordability without compromising the longer-term stability of the debt portfolio. The Council has not identified a requirement to borrow in the medium term.

The benefits of internal borrowing will be monitored regularly against the potential for incurring additional costs by deferring borrowing into future years when long-term borrowing rates are forecast to rise modestly.

The Authority has previously raised all of its long-term borrowing from the PWLB but the government increased PWLB rates by 1% in October 2019 making it now a relatively expensive option. A HM Treasury consultation on lowering PWLB rates concluded in July 2020 but the government has yet to publish its response.

Alternatively, the Authority could arrange forward starting loans, where the interest rate is fixed in advance, but the cash is received in later years. This would enable certainty of cost to be achieved without suffering a cost of carry in the intervening period.

In addition, the Authority may borrow short-term loans to cover unplanned cash flow shortages.

Sources of borrowing: The approved sources of long-term and short-term borrowing are:

- HM Treasury's PWLB lending facility (formerly the Public Works Loan Board)
- any institution approved for investments (see below)
- any other bank or building society authorised to operate in the UK
- any other UK public sector body
- UK public and private sector pension funds (except Derbyshire County Council Pension Fund)
- capital market bond investors

- UK Municipal Bonds Agency plc and other special purpose companies created to enable local authority bond issues

Other sources of debt finance: In addition, capital finance may be raised by the following methods that are not borrowing, but may be classed as other debt liabilities:

- leasing
- hire purchase
- Private Finance Initiative
- sale and leaseback

Municipal Bonds Agency: UK Municipal Bonds Agency plc was established in 2014 by the Local Government Association as an alternative to the PWLB. It plans to issue bonds on the capital markets and lend the proceeds to local authorities. This will be a more complicated source of finance than the PWLB for two reasons: borrowing authorities will be required to provide bond investors with a guarantee to refund their investment in the event that the agency is unable to for any reason; and there will be a lead time of several months between committing to borrow and knowing the interest rate payable. Any decision to borrow from the Agency will therefore be the subject of a separate report to Full Council.

LOBOs: LOBO (Lender's Option Borrower's Option) loans where the lender has the option to propose an increase in the interest rate at set dates, following which the Authority has the option to either accept the new rate or to repay the loan at no additional cost.

Short-term and variable rate loans: These loans leave the Authority exposed to the risk of short-term interest rate rises and are therefore subject to the interest rate exposure limits in the treasury management indicators below. Financial derivatives may be used to manage this interest rate risk.

Debt rescheduling: The PWLB allows authorities to repay loans before maturity and either pay a premium or receive a discount according to a set formula based on current interest rates. Other lenders may also be prepared to negotiate premature redemption terms. The Authority may take advantage of this and replace some loans with new loans, or repay loans without replacement, where this is expected to lead to an overall cost saving or a reduction in risk.

Treasury Investment Strategy

The Authority holds £71.750m invested funds, representing income received in advance of expenditure plus balances and reserves held. In the past 12 months, the Authority's treasury investment balance has ranged between £59.226m and £71.750m, and similar levels are expected to be maintained in the forthcoming year.

Objectives: Both the CIPFA Code and government guidance require the Authority to invest its funds prudently, and to have regard to the security and liquidity of its treasury investments before seeking the optimum rate of return, or yield. The Authority's objective when investing money is to strike an appropriate balance between risk and return, minimising the risk of incurring losses from defaults and the risk of receiving unsuitably low investment income.

In furtherance of these objectives, and given the increasing risk and falling returns from short-term unsecured bank investments, the Authority has undertaken greater detailed cash flow forecasting which has enabled it to enter into longer-term deposits with other Local Authorities, therefore securing a higher rate of return.

Negative interest rates: The COVID-19 pandemic has increased the risk that the Bank of England will set its Bank Rate at or below zero, which is likely to feed through to negative interest rates on all low risk, short-term investment options. Since investments cannot pay negative income, negative rates will be applied by reducing the value of investments. In this event, security will be measured as receiving the contractually agreed amount at maturity, even though this may be less than the amount originally invested.

Strategy: Given the increasing risk and very low returns from short-term unsecured bank investments, the Authority has opened additional money market funds to mitigate the risks of negative and zero interest rates. The majority of the Authority's surplus cash is currently invested in short-term unsecured bank deposits, and money market funds. The remainder of the Authorities surplus funds are invested in other Local Authorities.

Approved counterparties: The Authority may invest its surplus funds with any of the counterparty types below, subject to the limits shown.

Treasury investment counterparties and limits

Sector	Counterparty Limit	Time Limit	Sector Limit
The UK Government	£20m	364 days	n/a
Local authorities & other government entities	£5m	364 days	Unlimited
Banks (unsecured)*	£3m	35 days	Unlimited
Building societies (unsecured)*	£2m	35 days	£5% ^m
Money Market Funds*	£2m	60 days	£14m
Strategic Pooled Funds	£4m	n/a	£4m
Other Investments*	£1m	35 days	Unlimited

This table must be read in conjunction with the notes below

*** Minimum credit rating:** Treasury investments in the sectors marked with an asterisk will only be made with entities whose lowest published long-term credit rating is no lower than A-. Where available, the credit rating relevant to the specific investment or class of investment is used, otherwise the counterparty credit rating is used. However, investment decisions are never made solely based on credit ratings, and all other relevant factors including external advice will be taken into account.

Government: Loans to, and bonds and bills issued or guaranteed by, national governments, regional and local authorities and multilateral development banks. These investments are not subject to bail-in, and there is generally a lower risk of insolvency, although they are not zero risk. Investments with the UK Government are deemed to be zero credit risk due to its ability to create additional currency.

Banks and building societies (unsecured): Accounts, deposits, certificates of deposit and senior unsecured bonds with banks and building societies, other than multilateral development banks. These investments are subject to the risk of credit loss via a bail-in should the regulator determine that the bank is failing or likely to fail.

Money market funds: Pooled funds that offer same-day or short notice liquidity and very low or no price volatility by investing in short-term money markets. They have the advantage over bank accounts of providing wide diversification of investment risks, coupled with the services of a professional fund manager in return for a small fee. The Authority will take care to diversify its liquid investments over a variety of providers to ensure access to cash at all times.

Strategic pooled funds: Bond, equity and property funds that offer enhanced returns over the longer term but are more volatile in the short term. These allow the Authority to diversify into asset classes other than cash without the need to own and manage the underlying investments. Because these funds have no defined maturity date, but are available for withdrawal after a notice period, their performance and continued suitability in meeting the Authority's investment objectives will be monitored regularly.

Other investments: This category covers treasury investments not listed above, for example unsecured corporate bonds and company loans. Non-bank companies cannot be bailed-in but can become insolvent placing the Authority's investment at risk.

Operational bank accounts: The Authority may incur operational exposures, for example through current accounts, collection accounts and merchant acquiring services, to any UK bank with credit ratings no lower than BBB- and with assets greater than £25 billion. These are not classed as investments but are still subject to the risk of a bank bail-in, and balances will therefore be kept below £3m. The Bank of England has stated that in the event of failure, banks with assets greater than £25 billion are more likely to be bailed-in than made insolvent, increasing the chance of the Authority maintaining operational continuity.

Risk assessment and credit ratings: Credit ratings are obtained and monitored by the Authority's treasury advisers, who will notify changes in ratings as they occur. Where an entity has its credit rating downgraded so that it fails to meet the approved investment criteria then:

- no new investments will be made,
- any existing investments that can be recalled or sold at no cost will be, and
- full consideration will be given to the recall or sale of all other existing investments with the affected counterparty.

Where a credit rating agency announces that a credit rating is on review for possible downgrade (also known as "negative watch") so that it may fall below the approved rating criteria, then only investments that can be withdrawn will be made with that organisation until the outcome of the review is announced. This policy will not apply to negative outlooks, which indicate a long-term direction of travel rather than an imminent change of rating.

Other information on the security of investments: The Authority understands that credit ratings are good, but not perfect, predictors of investment default. Full regard will therefore be given to other available information on the credit quality of the organisations in which it invests, including credit default swap prices, financial statements, information on potential government support, reports in the quality financial press and analysis and advice from the Authority's treasury management adviser. No investments will be made with an organisation if there are substantive doubts about its credit quality, even though it may otherwise meet the above criteria.

When deteriorating financial market conditions affect the creditworthiness of all organisations, as happened in 2008 and 2020, this is not generally reflected in credit ratings, but can be seen in other market measures. In these circumstances, the Authority will restrict its investments to those organisations of higher credit quality and reduce the maximum duration of its investments to maintain the required level of security. The extent of these restrictions will be in line with prevailing financial market conditions. If these restrictions mean that insufficient commercial organisations of high credit quality are available to invest the Authority's cash balances, then the surplus will be deposited with the UK Government, or with other local authorities. This will cause investment returns to fall but will protect the principal sum invested.

Liquidity management: The Authority uses a cash flow forecast to determine the maximum period for which funds may prudently be committed. The forecast is compiled on a prudent basis to minimise the risk of the Authority being forced to borrow on unfavourable terms to meet its financial commitments. Limits on long-term investments are set by reference to the Authority's medium-term financial plan and cash flow forecast.

The Authority spreads its liquid cash over at least 10 providers (e.g. bank accounts and money market funds) to ensure that access to cash is maintained in the event of operational difficulties at any one provider.

Treasury Management Indicators

The main indicator the Council uses to measure its return on short-term investments to average over the year, is the Average 7-Day Money Market Rate. This is a standard measure of performance. Performance in recent years is shown in the following table.

	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
7-Day Rate (target)	0.50%	0.36%	0.35%	0.65%	0.65%	0.54%
Actual Rate	0.32%	0.25%	0.39%	0.66%	0.66%	0.42%

As at 31st December 2020 the Council's investment portfolio is as follows:

	Current Rate(s)	Balance at 31.12.2020 £000
Local Authorities	0.01% - 1.05%	39,000
DMO	0.01%	13,000
Money Market Funds	0.005%	11,000
CCLA Property Funds	4.44%	4,000
Banks	0.0%	4,750
TOTAL		71,750

Other Options Considered

The CIPFA Code do not prescribe any particular treasury management strategy for local authorities to adopt. The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources), having consulted the Finance and Management Committee, believes that the above strategy represents an appropriate balance between risk management and cost effectiveness. Some alternative strategies, with their financial and risk management implications, are listed below.

Alternative	Impact on income and expenditure	Impact on risk management
Invest in a narrower range of counterparties and/or for shorter times	Interest income will be lower	Lower chance of losses from credit related defaults, but any such losses may be greater
Invest in a wider range of counterparties and/or for longer times	Interest income will be higher	Increased risk of losses from credit related defaults, but any such losses may be smaller
Borrow additional sums at long-term fixed interest rates	Debt interest costs will rise; this is unlikely to be offset by higher investment income	Higher investment balance leading to a higher impact in the event of a default; however long-term interest costs may be more certain
Borrow short-term or variable loans instead of long-term fixed rates	Debt interest costs will initially be lower	Increases in debt interest costs will be broadly offset by rising investment income in the medium term, but long term costs may be less certain
Reduce level of borrowing	Saving on debt interest is likely to exceed lost investment income	Reduced investment balance leading to a lower impact in the event of a default; however long-term interest costs may be less certain

Arlingclose Economic & Interest Rate Forecast – December 2020

Underlying assumptions:

- The medium-term global economic outlook has improved with the distribution of vaccines, but the recent upsurge in coronavirus cases has worsened economic prospects over the short term.
- Restrictive measures and further lockdowns are likely to continue in the UK and Europe until the majority of the population is vaccinated by the second half of 2021. The recovery period will be strong thereafter, but potentially longer than previously envisaged.

- Signs of a slowing UK economic recovery were already evident in UK monthly GDP and PMI data, even before the second lockdown and Tier 4 restrictions. Employment is falling despite an extension to support packages.
- The need to support economic recoveries and use up spare capacity will result in central banks maintaining low interest rates for the medium term.
- Brexit will weigh on UK activity. The combined effect of Brexit and the after-effects of the pandemic will dampen growth relative to peers, maintain spare capacity and limit domestically generated inflation. The Bank of England will therefore maintain loose monetary conditions for the foreseeable future.
- Longer-term yields will also remain depressed, anchored by low central bank policy rates, expectations for potentially even lower rates and insipid longer-term inflation expectations. There is a chance yields may follow a slightly different path in the medium term, depending on investor perceptions of growth and inflation, or the deployment of vaccines.

Forecast:

- Arlingclose expects Bank Rate to remain at the current 0.10% level.
- Our central case for Bank Rate is no change, but further cuts to zero, or perhaps even into negative territory, cannot be completely ruled out, especially with likely emergency action in response to a no-deal Brexit.
- Gilt yields will remain low in the medium term. Shorter term gilt yields are currently negative and will remain around zero or below until either the Bank expressly rules out negative Bank Rate or growth/inflation prospects improve.
- Downside risks remain, and indeed appear heightened, in the near term, as the government reacts to the escalation in infection rates and the Brexit transition period ends.

	Mar-21	Jun-21	Sep-21	Dec-21	Mar-22	Jun-22	Sep-22	Dec-22	Mar-23	Jun-23	Sep-23	Dec-23	Mar-24
Official Bank Rate													
Upside risk	0.00	0.00	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30
Arlingclose Central Case	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10
Downside risk	0.30	0.40	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
3-month money market r.													
Upside risk	0.05	0.05	0.10	0.10	0.15	0.20	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30
Arlingclose Central Case	0.10	0.10	0.15	0.15	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20
Downside risk	0.30	0.40	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1yr money market rate													
Upside risk	0.05	0.05	0.10	0.10	0.15	0.20	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40
Arlingclose Central Case	0.15	0.15	0.25	0.25	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30
Downside risk	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15
5yr gilt yield													
Upside risk	0.40	0.40	0.45	0.45	0.50	0.50	0.55	0.60	0.60	0.65	0.65	0.70	0.70
Arlingclose Central Case	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.10	0.15	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25
Downside risk	0.40	0.45	0.50	0.55	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60
10yr gilt yield													
Upside risk	0.30	0.35	0.40	0.45	0.50	0.50	0.55	0.60	0.60	0.65	0.65	0.70	0.70
Arlingclose Central Case	0.25	0.30	0.35	0.35	0.40	0.40	0.45	0.45	0.50	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.60
Downside risk	0.50	0.50	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55
20yr gilt yield													
Upside risk	0.40	0.40	0.45	0.45	0.50	0.50	0.55	0.60	0.60	0.65	0.65	0.70	0.70
Arlingclose Central Case	0.70	0.70	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.80	0.80	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.90	0.90
Downside risk	0.30	0.30	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40
50yr gilt yield													
Upside risk	0.40	0.40	0.45	0.45	0.50	0.50	0.55	0.60	0.60	0.65	0.65	0.70	0.70
Arlingclose Central Case	0.60	0.60	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.70	0.70	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.80	0.80
Downside risk	0.30	0.30	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40

PWLB Certainty Rate (Maturity Loans) = Gilt yield + 0.80%

PWLB Infrastructure Rate (Maturity Loans) = Gilt yield + 0.60%



**South
Derbyshire
District Council**

Prudential Indicators 2021/22

February 2021

Introduction

The Local Government Act 2003 requires the Authority to have regard to the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (the Prudential Code) when determining how much money it can afford to borrow. The objectives of the Prudential Code are to ensure, within a clear framework, that the capital investment plans of local authorities are affordable, prudent and sustainable, and that treasury management decisions are taken in accordance with good professional practice. To demonstrate that the Authority has fulfilled these objectives, the Prudential Code sets out the following indicators that must be set and monitored each year.

Estimated Capital Expenditure and Financing

This is the approved capital investment programme for the General Fund, together with stock investment proposals included in the HRA Business Plan. The programme is summarised in the following table.

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Estimated Capital Expenditure	£	£	£	£	£	£
General Fund	5,850,741	3,620,423	1,191,545	926,420	1,569,814	1,916,760
HRA	5,042,905	2,719,673	2,470,000	2,182,186	2,477,000	2,743,503
TOTAL	10,893,646	6,340,096	3,661,545	3,108,606	4,046,814	4,660,263
Financed by						
Grants and Contributions	3,080,850	1,728,440	423,072	400,000	400,000	400,000
Council Resources	7,812,796	4,611,656	3,238,473	2,708,606	3,646,814	4,260,263
TOTAL	10,893,646	6,340,096	3,661,545	3,108,606	4,046,814	4,660,263

The current year estimated expenditure on the General Fund relates to significant investment into the asset base of the Council. Approval for a capital bidding round and scoring of bids following recommendations from the Service and Financial Planning Working Group was granted at Finance and Management Committee on the 9th July.

Twenty bids were submitted with fourteen receiving approval to be funded from capital receipts totalling £2.34m. Along with the capital projects approved on 8th October 2020, the Council continues to invest in its ICT Strategy and vehicle replacement programme. The Council is also delivering projects across the District funded through the Better Care Fund.

Subsequent years' expenditure relates to the phasing of the larger Capital projects, continuing asset replacement program and investment onto the Council's ICT Strategy.

The general downward trend of HRA expenditure relates to the reduction in New Build Properties and a reduction in major works due to the need to set-aside funds for the repayment of debt. Current plans are to complete on the purchase of twelve new homes by the end of 2020/21, having completed the purchase of nine earlier in the year. The major repairs have a five-year plan for improving Council properties to decent homes standard.

Overall, the capital expenditure programme is financed from Government grants, external contributions, Council reserves and capital receipts.

The table highlights that the five-year investment programme is fully funded. If all financing is not secured, expenditure will need to be curtailed or other resources and reserves identified.

Due to the current level of reserves and cash on deposit, current policy is that any longer term borrowing is undertaken only as a last resort to meet any shortfall; any new borrowing will only be undertaken prudentially within the Council's debt limits.

The Council's Borrowing Need or Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)

The CFR is a measure of the Council's underlying need to borrow for capital investment and is based on the net value of fixed assets contained in the Council's Balance Sheet.

The CFR does not necessarily represent the amount of actual external debt outstanding. This is due to the fact that not all borrowing previously allowed has in effect taken place against this requirement, but is being financed internally through cash deposits and reserves.

Capital expenditure that has not been immediately paid for increases the CFR through additional borrowing, including internally. The CFR is reduced following debt repayment or through setting-aside revenue sums to repay internal borrowing.

The Council is required to pay off an element of the accumulated General Fund CFR each year through a revenue charge called the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP). In addition, a Voluntary Revenue Provision (VRP) is made where borrowing has taken place on a prudential basis.

There is no requirement to make a MRP for the HRA. However, money is being set-aside to repay HRA debt in accordance with the maturity profile. This strategy is reflected in the HRA's Financial Plan.

A summary of the CFR estimates is shown in the following table.

Expected CFR	2020/21 £'000	2021/22 £'000	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000	2025/26 £'000
CFR b/fwd	66,572	66,251	55,993	55,798	45,610	45,455
Add New Financing	0	0	0	0	0	0
Less MRP	-190	-182	-175	-168	-155	-148
Less VRP	-131	-76	-21	-21	0	0
Less Debt Repayment	0	-10,000	0	-10,000	0	0
CFR c/fwd	66,251	55,993	55,798	45,610	45,455	45,307
General Fund Proportion	4,667	4,409	4,214	4,026	3,871	3,723
HRA Proportion	61,584	51,584	51,584	41,584	41,584	41,584
	66,251	55,993	55,798	45,610	45,455	45,307

The VRP has reduced to zero due to the repayment of previous internal borrowing schemes relating to the purchase of receptacles to extend the kerbside recycling scheme in 2013, together with the repayment of the internal borrowing for the Grove Hall Extreme Sports projects.

Debt Pools

The Council operates two separate Debt Pools, one for the General Fund and one for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA). There is no external debt currently outstanding on the General Fund, although it has a positive CFR representing an underlying borrowing need.

The General Fund CFR is reduced each year by a statutory revenue charge known as the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP). In addition a Voluntary Revenue Provision (VRP) is made where borrowing has been undertaken on a prudential basis.

There is no requirement to make a MRP or VRP in the Housing Revenue Account. The HRA has debt outstanding of just over £57m. This represents the debt inherited under the self-financing framework for Council Housing.

Although no MRP is required for the HRA, money is being set-aside to repay the HRA debt in accordance with the maturity profile. This strategy is reflected in the HRA's Financial Plan. The expected CFRs over the current financial planning period to 2025/26 are detailed in the following table.

Expected CFR	2020/21 £'000	2021/22 £'000	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000	2025/26 £'000
General Fund	4,667	4,409	4,214	4,026	3,871	3,723
HRA	61,584	51,584	51,584	41,584	41,584	41,584

The CFR on the General Fund will continue to reduce over the medium-term due to MRP/VRP being applied. These charges for all years are included in the Council's base budget.

Effectively, the MRP/VRP creates a cash amount in the Council's budget in order to write down the underlying borrowing requirement.

The larger CFR on the HRA is forecast to remain fairly static until such time as any new borrowing is undertaken or until the first repayment of £10m self-financing debt in 2021/2022.

Limits to Borrowing Activity

The Council is required to set limits on overall borrowing (net of investments). This controls borrowing and ensures that the Council does not, except in the short term, exceed the total of the CFR in the preceding year, plus the estimates of any additional CFR for the current and the next two financial years.

A short term deviation is allowed for flexibility if a limited amount of borrowing was required to meet temporary shortfalls in cash flow. The estimated position is detailed in the following table.

Estimated Borrowing Compared to the CFR	2020/21 £'000	2021/22 £'000	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000	2025/26 £'000
Gross Borrowing - HRA	57,423	47,423	47,423	37,423	37,423	37,423
Gross Borrowing - General Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Gross Borrowing	57,423	47,423	47,423	37,423	37,423	37,423
Total CFR	66,251	55,993	55,798	45,610	45,455	45,455

The above table shows that as gross borrowing is likely to remain below the CFR, the Council will comply with this Prudential Indicator.

The Authorised Limit for External Debt

This is the limit beyond which external debt is prohibited. It is the statutory limit determined under section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2003. The debt cap for HRA self-financing was removed by the Government in 2018/19.

The Operational Boundary for External Debt

This represents the expected external debt during the course of the year, but it is not a limit. It is designed to aid the Chief Finance Officer to manage treasury activity on a daily basis and acts as an early warning sign of any potential issues. It includes a provision for temporary borrowing of £5m. As in recent years, it is not expected that any temporary borrowing will be required, but is included as a contingency should cash flow become negative in the short-term.

The Limit and Boundary are summarised in the following table.

Debt Limits	2020/21 £'000	2021/22 £'000	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000	2025/26 £'000
Authorised Limit - General Fund	4,667	4,409	4,214	4,021	3,858	3,703
Authorised Limit - HRA	66,853	66,853	66,853	66,853	66,853	66,853
Operational Boundary	62,423	52,423	42,423	42,423	42,423	42,423

As noted above, there is no longer a debt cap on the HRA and therefore borrowing is no longer restricted but it must remain affordable over the plan.

To ensure affordability, the Chief Finance Officer has retained the former limit.

Cost of Debt to Finance Capital Expenditure

This indicator shows how much per year the costs of borrowing impact upon each household (at Band D Council Tax rate) in the District and for each council tenant (HRA).

As there is no actual debt on the General Fund, the impact on Council Tax is positive as this represents interest on cash deposits.

Cost of Servicing Debt	2020/21 £'000	2021/22 £'000	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000	2025/26 £'000
Estimated Net Interest Received - General Fund	-180,000	-180,000	-169,000	-129,000	-111,960	-110,000
Estimated Band D Properties (per MTFP)	34,474	35,218	35,962	36,731	37,576	38,469
Cost per Band D Property	-£5.22	-£5.11	-£4.70	-£3.51	-£2.97	-£2.86

Estimated Net Interest Payable - HRA	1,713,000	1,738,000	1,738,000	1,738,000	1,738,000	1,738,000
Estimated Dwellings (per MTFP)	2,931	2,949	2,929	2,911	2,893	2,875
Annual Cost per Dwelling	£584.44	£589.35	£593.38	£597.05	£600.76	£604.52

The Use of the Council's Resources and the Investment Position

The Council has available at any one time, reserves and balances which are held to finance future expenditure commitments or to act as a contingency sum as recommended by the Council's Chief Finance Officer.

These balances are available for investment on a short-term basis in accordance with the Investment Strategy. The expected level of reserves and balances is shown in the following table.

Estimated Usable Reserves	2020/21 £'000	2021/22 £'000	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000	2025/26 £'000
General Fund	12,605	11,626	10,951	9,381	7,123	4,548
Earmarked	16,316	17,010	17,237	17,643	17,958	18,279
Capital Receipts and Grants	1,434	574	517	516	516	522
Debt Repayment	765	1,444	1,594	1962	1,546	1487
HRA General Reserve	8,431	6,785	4,724	3,001	2,132	1,747
TOTAL	39,551	37,439	35,023	32,503	29,275	26,583

The above table shows that overall the level of resources is expected to decrease over the financial period and it assumes in particular, that forecasted deficits on the General Fund will be financed from general reserves until budget savings or additional income are identified. When identified, the level of resources will remain higher.

It is estimated that the current level of earmarked reserves will gradually increase over the planning period due to S106 receipts and provisions for growth. The level of capital receipts is estimated to fluctuate due to the timing of receipts from council house and planned land sales, together with the timing of actual capital expenditure payments.

Based on this level of reserves, it is estimated that the Council will continue to have funds available for investment each year. In accordance with the Investment Strategy, these investments will continue to be held in short-term (less than 364 days) deposit accounts.

Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream

This indicator shows the trend in the net cost of borrowing (allowing for investment income) against the net revenue stream, i.e. Council Tax for the General Fund and Rent Income for the HRA. Estimates are included in the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and are shown in the following table.

Financing Ratios	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
	£	£	£	£	£	£
General Fund						
Estimated Council Tax Income	5,704,748	5,941,508	6,185,333	6,440,675	6,717,435	7,011,134
Net Interest Receivable	-180,000	-180,000	-169,000	-129,000	-111,960	-110,000
Proportion	-3.15%	-3.02%	-2.57%	-2.73%	-1.67%	-1.57%
HRA						
Estimated Rental Income	12,168,000	12,385,000	12,577,000	12,838,000	13,141,000	13,450,000
Estimated Interest Payable	1,713,000	1,738,000	1,738,000	1,738,000	1,738,000	1,738,000
Proportion	14.08%	14.03%	13.82%	13.54%	13.23%	12.92%

With no debt on the General Fund, the indicator is negative. The ratio reflects the level of “gearing” - how much of the Council's revenue is tied up in borrowing costs. Although the proportion for the HRA is greater in percentage terms, this is a relatively fixed cost but affordable within the HRA's Financial Plan.

COUNTERPARTY LIST 2020/21
(as at February 2021)

Treasury investment counterparties and limits

Sector	Counterparty Limit	Time Limit	Sector Limit
The UK Government	£20m	364 days	n/a
Local Authorities & other Government entities	£5m	364 days	Unlimited
Banks (unsecured)*	£3m	35 days	Unlimited
Building societies (unsecured)*	£2m	35 days	£50m
Money Market Funds*	£2m	60 days	£14m
Strategic Pooled Funds	£4m	n/a	£4m
Other Investments*	£1m	35 days	Unlimited

This table must be read in conjunction with the notes below

*** Minimum credit rating:** Treasury investments in the sectors marked with an asterisk will only be made with entities whose lowest published long-term credit rating is no lower than A-. Where available, the credit rating relevant to the specific investment or class of investment is used, otherwise the counterparty credit rating is used. However, investment decisions are never made solely based on credit ratings, and all other relevant factors including external advice will be taken into account.

Government: Loans to, and bonds and bills issued or guaranteed by, national governments, regional and local authorities and multilateral development banks. These investments are not subject to bail-in, and there is generally a lower risk of insolvency, although they are not zero risk. Investments with the UK Government are deemed to be zero credit risk due to its ability to create additional currency.

Banks and building societies (unsecured): Accounts, deposits, certificates of deposit and senior unsecured bonds with banks and building societies, other than multilateral development banks. These investments are subject to the risk of credit loss via a bail-in should the regulator determine that the bank is failing or likely to fail.

Money market funds: Pooled funds that offer same-day or short notice liquidity and very low or no price volatility by investing in short-term money markets. They have the advantage over bank accounts of providing wide diversification of investment risks, coupled with the services of a professional fund manager in return for a small fee. The Authority will take care to diversify its liquid investments over a variety of providers to ensure access to cash at all times.

Strategic pooled funds: Bond, equity and property funds that offer enhanced returns over the longer term but are more volatile in the short term. These allow the Authority to diversify into asset classes other than cash without the need to own and manage the underlying investments. Because these funds have no defined maturity date, but are available for withdrawal after a notice period, their performance and continued suitability in meeting the Authority's investment objectives will be monitored regularly.

Other investments: This category covers treasury investments not listed above, for example unsecured corporate bonds and company loans. Non-bank companies cannot be bailed-in but can become insolvent placing the Authority's investment at risk.

Operational bank accounts: The Authority may incur operational exposures, for example through current accounts, collection accounts and merchant acquiring services, to any UK bank with credit ratings no lower than BBB- and with assets greater than £25 billion. These are not classed as investments but are still subject to the risk of a bank bail-in, and balances will therefore be kept below £3m. The Bank of England has stated that in the event of failure, banks with assets greater than £25 billion are more likely to be bailed-in than made insolvent, increasing the chance of the Authority maintaining operational continuity.

REPORT TO:	FINANCE and MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM: 11
DATE OF MEETING:	24 FEBRUARY 2021	CATEGORY: RECOMMENDED
REPORT FROM:	STRATEGIC DIRECTOR (CORPORATE RESOURCES)	OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	KEVIN STACKHOUSE (01283 595811) Kevin.stackhouse@southderbyshire.gov.uk	DOC: u/ks/budgets/budget 2021 22/Section 25 Report 2021Final Council
SUBJECT:	ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECTION 151 OFFICER	
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE: FM 08

1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 That the Annual Report of the Section 151 Officer is considered and noted.
- 1.2 That the Council has due regard to the Annual Report when approving the Budget for 2021/22 and when considering future proposals for new spending and the utilisation of resources.
- 1.3 That no new spending commitments are added to the Base Budget and Medium-Term Financial Plan approved by the Finance and Management Committee on 11 February 2021, pending the outcome of the Government's Fair Funding Review.
- 1.4 That the Medium-Term Financial Plan is reviewed and updated following details emerging from the Government's Fair Funding Review which is expected in autumn 2021.

2.0 Purpose of the Report

- 2.1 In their role as the Council's Section 151 (Chief Finance) Officer, the Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) is required, under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003, to provide an overall opinion on the robustness of the estimates included in budgets and the adequacy of Council reserves.
- 2.2 In doing so, the Report also includes an assessment of the Council's financial sustainability based on its spending plans and projected resources available, as set out in its Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP).
- 2.3 It is recommended that Elected Members of the Council pay due regard to the Annual Report when approving the Budget for 2021/22 and when considering proposals for new spending and the utilisation of resources.

3.0 Executive Summary

Overall Opinion of the Section 151 Officer

- 3.1 Based on the Budgets submitted for approval and the latest MTFP, the Council's current financial position continues to look healthy ahead of 2021/22.
- 3.2 However, over the planning period to 2025/26, the position could deteriorate based on current spending, together with projections regarding funding, with the MTFP highlighting the General Fund falling below its minimum balance of £1.5m by 2025/26. Significant budget deficits are forecast after 2021/22 which will reduce the current General Fund Reserve from approximately £11.6 million in 2021 to £1.27 million by 2026.
- 3.3 On the positive side, projected spending allows for growth associated with residential development and other provisional expenditure such as additional waste collection costs, vehicle and IT replacements, etc. The MTFP also continues to assume that current service provision is maintained over the planning period, with allowances for inflation on pay and contracts, etc.
- 3.4 Although the Council can control its expenditure base and has time to take corrective action in a timely and planned manner if necessary, it cannot as easily control its external funding and in particular that provided by Government which accounts for approximately 60% of the Council's funding (the remaining 40% is met from Council Tax).
- 3.5 The biggest uncertainty and consequently the main risk to the Financial Plan, is Government funding from April 2022. As previously reported, this will depend on the final outcome and details of the Government's Fair Funding Review, including any changes to the redistribution of Business Rates and the replacement for the New Homes Bonus.
- 3.6 During 2020/21, the Council's "Financial Resilience Index" (*compiled by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy*) compared to other shire districts broadly confirmed the Council's position.
- 3.7 This Index highlighted that the Council's current level of Reserves places the Council at a lower risk of financial difficulties with its sustainability measure being high in comparison to many other authorities. Indeed, the Council's position appears to have strengthened compared to other authorities from that reported in 2019/20.
- 3.8 However, the updated Index for 2020/21, also highlighted that the Council continues to be at a higher risk when it comes to the reliance on Government funding.
- 3.9 An additional and independent study, commissioned by the Society of District Treasurers in 2020, highlighted the Council's strong position compared to other district councils. This study also highlighted the Council's resilience and ability to better recover from the effects of Covid-19, compared to many other authorities.
- 3.10 As reported during 2020/21, the Council has incurred additional costs and a reduction in income due to Covid-19. However, Government funding received to-date should, based on current estimates, compensate the Council without any longer-term effect on the MTFP; this is being kept under review.

- 3.11 Although the Council remains in a positive Financial position, it should guard against complacency and continue to operate with a certain degree of caution. Where-ever possible, opportunities to generate efficiency and budget savings should be pursued with the concept of providing Value for Money being at the core of all Council spending.
- 3.12 The Section 151 Officer is aware that there may be proposals to meet certain spending pressures, which are not included in the MTFP. Re-directing current resources and/or using earmarked reserves should be considered where there may be greater pressure to spend.
- 3.13 In the meantime, until the Council's future funding position is more certain, it is recommended that no further financial commitments, beyond the proposed Budget and MTFP recommended by the Finance and Management Committee on 11 February 2024, should be made.

4.0 Detail

Basis of the Opinion

- 4.1 The Opinion is given within the general context detailed below, followed by a summary of each of the Council's main accounts and their financing. Reference is made to the separate budget reports considered by the various Policy Committees during January and February 2021.
- 4.2 The opinion also considers a broad independent analysis of the Council's financial resilience.

General Context

- 4.3 It is considered that estimates of income and expenditure included in the Base Budget and longer-term financial forecasts are prudent. They provide for inflation and other known variations (pensions, pay awards, etc.) together with provisions that recognise current cost pressures, Corporate Plan priorities and potential costs associated with Growth of the District.
- 4.4 The Budget for 2021/22 and forward projections are based on the most up-to-date economic forecasts for inflation and interest rates, etc. The Budget does not assume a vacancy rate for staffing and prudently assumes that all posts on the Council's Establishment are filled throughout the year.
- 4.5 In addition, a realistic but prudent view has been taken regarding projected income levels from fees, charges and short-term investments. This also includes a prudent reduction in Government funding in the form of Retained Business Rates and the New Homes Bonus (or its replacement) pending the outcome of the Government's Funding review.
- 4.6 Forward projections for Council Tax receipts are based on an increase in property numbers which are less than those contained in the Local Plan. Given the impact of Covid-19, they have also been scaled back for 2021/22 and 2022/23 compared to previous forecasts.
- 4.7 The compilation of detailed budgets has been undertaken in conjunction with service/budget managers and reviewed by the Council's senior management.

- 4.8 It is recognised that the Council has well established performance and budget monitoring arrangements in place to help ensure that Council finances are monitored effectively. This includes quarterly reports to the Finance and Management Committee, in addition to statutory reports regarding the Annual Accounts and the Annual Budget.
- 4.9 The Council has traditionally spent within budget and generated additional income over that estimated. Although this is no guarantee of future performance, it does provide some comfort that budget preparation and budget management is sound.
- 4.10 The Council's Financial Strategy directs the Council to plan its spending over a 5-year rolling period for the General Fund and 10 years for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA). This provides an indication of the sustainability of spending plans and the projected level of Reserves. Consequently, this allows sufficient time in which remedial action can be implemented to address any issues in a planned and timely manner.
- 4.11 A full risk assessment, with mitigating actions, is considered alongside the MTFP for both the General Fund and the HRA.

Financial Resilience

- 4.12 The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) published a Financial Resilience Index in December 2019. This was updated in January 2021. The Index sets out the Council's position on a range of measures associated with financial risk, with a comparison to similar authorities.
- 4.13 The Index was based on 8 measures, although they can be distilled down to 3 categories to illustrate the Council's position as shown below.

Financial Stress Indicator	Comparison Rating
Level and Sustainability of Reserves	Lower Risk
Debt level and interest payable	Higher Risk
Financing	Higher Risk

Reserves

- 4.14 The Council's current level of Reserves highlights that the Council is in a much stronger position compared to many other shire districts.

Debt Level and Interest

- 4.15 The Council does have a high level of debt associated with the HRA which it inherited from the Government under the "self-financing system" in 2012/13. It is considered that the comparison with other authorities is influenced by the fact that many shire districts do not have their own housing stock, with over 50% of all authorities having transferred their stock to a Registered Social Landlord/Housing Association. There is a risk that this could skew the comparison.

- 4.16 Nevertheless, the level of outstanding debt for a district council is large at £58m. However, the cost of the debt and its repayment remains affordable within the HRA's Financial Plan and the financial model for the HRA is designed to ensure sums are set-aside on an annual basis to repay the debt. £30m is due to be repaid over the life of the current Financial Plan.

Financing

- 4.17 The Council is placed at a higher risk due to its reliance on the Government's funding system. Although the Council does not receive any Revenue Support Grant, its level of income from Business Rates, due to Growth, is considerably above its Baseline Level set by the Government in the current funding system.
- 4.18 Therefore, the Council is at risk to changes in the funding system and in particular if/when the Baseline Level is reset. If the Council's need is assessed as far less than that currently due to its Growth, then the Council could be penalised through an increase in its Levy.
- 4.19 This would be exacerbated if the Council were not part of the Derbyshire Business Rates Pool as no Levy (50%) is paid on Growth above the Baseline.

(Note: The Levy is effectively the amount that the Council pays to the Government from its 40% share of local Business Rates as part of the redistribution system of local authority resources)

- 4.20 The Index also highlighted that the Council does not generate as much income from fees and charges compared to other authorities. Again, this comparison may be influenced by the fact that the Council does not charge for car parking and will be in a minority of authorities who don't charge.
- 4.21 Perversely however, this has had a positive impact on the Council compared to other authorities during Covid-19 as income losses have not been as acute and impacted on the financial position.

Vulnerability and Recovery Index

- 4.22 In August 2020, the Society of District Council Treasurers commissioned Grant Thornton UK LLP to undertake analysis and the development of a Covid-19 Vulnerability and Recovery Index for all districts in England.
- 4.23 This was to understand the potential impact of Covid-19 on district councils, together with the vulnerabilities which need to be considered in any recovery plans. This formed part of a submission to Government regarding the allocation of future resources and to highlight the pressures specific to district councils.

(Note: The published report was contained in the Council Agenda on 5 November 2020 for information but was not fully considered at that time due to the on-going pandemic)

- 4.24 Six key indicators made up the Index, including one specifically relating to the financial vulnerability of each authority. The Council was ranked as one of the top three (least vulnerable) in England regarding financial vulnerability, i.e. its financial position shows itself to be strong and more likely to be resilient to the pressures of Covid-19, compared to other district councils.

General Fund Revenue Account

- 4.25 The Base Budget for 2021/22 highlights a budget deficit as previously forecast, which will be financed from the General Fund Reserve, as planned.
- 4.26 Increasing budget deficits are forecast in the next four years of the MTFP, potentially becoming significant by 2025/26. This is based on current expenditure increasing and current funding decreasing and is perhaps a worst-case scenario.
- 4.27 As highlighted above, this is mainly due to the uncertainty regarding Government funding beyond 2021/22.
- 4.28 As a Growth area, the Council should continue to benefit from any system based on the delivery of new housing and business. However, this will depend on Government priorities and how much funding is awarded to shire districts for distribution.
- 4.29 As the Resilience Index highlights, the Council is at risk from changes in the current funding system and the current uncertainty makes future planning more difficult. The MTFP prudently assumes that overall funding will fall towards its baseline funding assessment and if this is the outcome for the Council, potential deficits will need to be addressed early in the planning period.
- 4.30 Growth also brings additional demand on the Council's services and it is noted that the MTFP continues to set-aside (as yet unallocated) sums in the Base Budget to meet future costs.

General Fund Reserve

- 4.31 The current level of the Reserve continues to remain healthy. The projected level of the Reserve over the medium-term planning period is summarised below.

2020/21	£11.6 million
2021/22	£10.8 million
2022/23	£9.2 million
2023/24	£6.9 million
2024/25	£4.3 million
2025/26	£1.2 million

- 4.32 The above table shows that the General Fund Reserve is projected to reduce quite significantly over the current planning period. This allows the financing of committed capital projects and asset replacements, together with budget deficits, which include provisions to increase spending arising from Growth.
- 4.33 Under statute, the Council has to maintain an unallocated contingency in its General Reserve. The Council has set a minimum level of £1.5 million (around 10% of net expenditure) to be maintained. As the above table highlights, the Reserve could fall below that figure by 2025/26 based on current projections.
- 4.34 The Budget Report considered by the Finance and Management Committee on 11 February highlighted more significant deficits projected from 2022/23. Therefore, the position will need to be kept under review in order that the Council does not become over reliant on reserves, unless they are replenished.

Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

- 4.35 The HRA also remains in a healthy position and the current 10-year Financial Plan shows a sustainable position. It is noted that the Plan is based on a rent increase of 1% for 2021/22 and CPI + 1% from 2022/23. The HRA General Reserve is currently forecast to remain at or above the minimum contingency level of £1 million over the life of the planning period.
- 4.36 Resources have been set-aside to deliver a capital programme of works and to maintain services at their current levels.
- 4.37 Although the HRA Plan currently appears sustainable, the Social Housing White Paper is likely to increase the need for additional capital works to ensure enhanced safety in all dwellings, for example, carbon monoxide monitoring and higher levels of electrical safety. The capital programme includes budgets for works of this nature although potentially not at the level required.
- 4.38 The Council is also expected to deliver improvements to dwellings to reduce the carbon footprint. This aim is contained within the Council's Corporate Plan, but the costs associated with improvements of this type have not been factored into the Financial Plan and could be significant. Grant funded is expected to be available to assist but may not cover the costs in full.
- 4.39 Resources have also been set-aside to repay debt. It is noted that the financial model for the HRA is designed to generate sufficient surpluses to maintain the original debt repayment schedule approved in 2012/13 as highlighted earlier in the Report.
- 4.40 The HRA's risk analysis shows that the main issues potentially are the continuing level of Right to Buys, future Government policy on Rents beyond 2023/24 and the external financing of the Supporting People Programme.
- 4.41 Complete loss of funding for Supporting People will result in a £1.3m reduction in income across the 10-year Plan. An added risk with Supporting People is the aging software. An upgrade will be required to transfer the service from analogue to digital which potentially will result in one-off costs of up to £0.5m. This is not included within the Financial Plan at this stage.
- 4.42 However, given the current position of the HRA, any remedial action required can be achieved in a planned and timely manner, although a more detailed review of resources may be required if the risks impact as highlighted above.

Capital Expenditure and Financing

- 4.43 All capital projects both in the General Fund and the HRA, have sufficient resources set-aside to finance the associated expenditure.
- 4.44 The Council still has access to a level of uncommitted General Fund receipts, and it is expected that potential asset sales over the MTFP period, will generate further resources. This will be driven from the Council's Asset Management Plan and Economic Development Strategy.
- 4.45 Overall, there are no major concerns currently associated with capital expenditure and its financing.

Treasury Management

- 4.46 The General Fund is currently debt free. Council expenditure is not reliant on any borrowing and given the current level of reserves and cash on deposit, it is unlikely that the Council will need to enter into any form of borrowing over the financial planning period.
- 4.47 The HRA debt is mainly at fixed interest rates and provision is being made in the HRA's financial plan to repay loans in accordance with a repayment schedule. A proportion of variable rate debt is currently costing significantly less than that budgeted so this provides some contingency should interest rates increase. This loan is due to be repaid in March 2022.
- 4.48 The Council is not reliant on interest rates increasing to generate a return on investments. A prudent assessment has been made in the MTFP for interest and dividends on investments and this is below the amount actually being generated. An increase in rates would be beneficial for the MTFP.
- 4.49 The Treasury Management Strategy includes a Lending Policy and Counterparty List. This is designed to ensure the liquidity and security of investments, rather than yield, although during Covid, this has come under some pressure as interest remain near to, or even below zero,
- 4.50 Besides the level of interest rates and the risk of negative rates becoming the norm, there are no other concerns associated with the Council's current treasury management position.

Other Usable and Earmarked Reserves

- 4.51 The Council maintains various reserves that are used to meet one-off/known commitments or to defray expenditure over a number of years, for example, ICT upgrades, vehicle replacements and community development projects.
- 4.52 Reserves held to finance on-going community and sports development spending, will need to be kept under careful review if external and partnership contributions significantly reduce. On-going contributions to asset replacement reserves are provided for in the MTFP.
- 4.53 Overall, it is considered that current reserves will remain sufficient to meet commitments over the life of the current MTFP. In addition, they should continue to be reviewed on an on-going basis to determine whether they are still required or can be reassigned to meet emerging cost pressures.

5.0 Financial Implications

- 5.1 None as a direct result of this report.

6.0 Corporate Implications

Employment Implications

- 6.1 None.

Legal Implications

6.2 None.

Corporate Plan Implications

6.3 None. The production of the Section 25 Report is a statutory requirement.

Risk Impact

6.4 None.

7.0 Community Impact

Consultation

7.1 None required.

Equality and Diversity Impact

7.2 None.

Social Value Impact

7.3 Not applicable.

Environmental Sustainability

7.4 Not applicable.

8.0 Background Papers

8.1 None

REPORT TO:	COUNCIL	AGENDA ITEM: 12
DATE OF MEETING:	24th FEBRUARY 2021	CATEGORY:
REPORT FROM:	STRATEGIC DIRECTOR (CORPORATE RESOURCES)	OPEN
MEMBERS CONTACT POINT:	KEVIN STACKHOUSE (01283 595811) kevin.stackhouse@southderbyshire.gov.uk	DOC: s/finance/committee/2020-21/Feb/Council/Council Tax setting
SUBJECT:	COUNCIL TAX SETTING 2021-22	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE:

1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 That the formal Council Tax resolutions for 2021/22 at **Appendix 1** are approved.

2.0 Purpose of the Report

- 2.1 To set out the statutory resolutions to enable the Council to calculate and set the Council Tax for 2021/22. This is in accordance with regulations under the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended by the Localism Act 2011.
- 2.2 The Council Tax for District (South Derbyshire) Services is based on budgeted spending levels for 2021/22, as recommended by the Finance and Management Committee on 11th February. The Finance and Management Committee have recommended a Council Tax increase of 1% for 2021/22, which has been reflected in the resolutions for approval.
- 2.3 The report is set out in the following sections / appendices:
- **Section 3: Executive Summary** – summarising the proposed Council Tax level for South Derbyshire residents including charges set by other precepting authorities, together with an explanation of the technical resolutions.
 - **Appendix 1:** The formal Council Tax resolution to meet statutory requirements.
 - **Appendix 2:** The detailed Tax Base, Precept and Band D rates for Parish Councils, together with the level of Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) Grant allocated to Parish Councils.

- **Schedules A to C:** These detail the level of Council Tax by Preceptor and by band, aggregated for each part of the District.

3.0 Executive Summary

- 3.1 The Council is required to calculate a Council Tax Requirement (CTR) for the forthcoming financial year, 2021/22. Not only is this the basis for the local Council Tax rate, the CTR is used to test whether an increase in Council Tax from year to year is excessive in accordance with criteria laid down by the Secretary of State.

Precepts

- 3.2 The precept levels of other precepting bodies have been received and these are detailed below.

Parish Councils

- 3.3 Parish Council precepts for 2021/22 as notified to the Council under Section 41 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 are detailed in **Appendix 2** and total £929,527.

Derbyshire County Council

- 3.6 Derbyshire County Council met on 3rd February 2021 and set their precept at £48,708,959. This results in a Band D Council Tax of £1,383.07 for 2021/22 (£1,349.34 in 2020/21). *This includes a specific Precept to fund Adult Social Care.*

Police and Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire

- 3.7 The Derbyshire Police and Crime Commissioner confirmed their precept on 10th February 2021 at £8,508,669. This results in a Band D Council Tax of £241.60 (£226.60 in 2020/21).

Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service

- 3.8 The Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Authority met on 11th February 2021 and set their precept at £2,791,731. This results in a Band D Council Tax of £79.27 (£77.73 in 2020/21).

Overall Council Tax Level 2020/21

- 3.9 The recommendations of the Finance and Management Committee for District Council services are set out in the formal Council Tax Resolution in **Appendix 1**. If this resolution is approved, the total Band D Council Tax for 2021/22 will be as follows:

Overall Band D Council Tax (per year)	2020/21 £:p	2021/22 £:p	Increase £:p	Increase %
South Derbyshire District Council	165.48	167.13	1.65	1.00%
Derbyshire County Council	1,349.34	1,383.07	33.73	2.50%
Police and Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire	226.60	241.60	15.00	6.62%
Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service	77.73	79.27	1.54	1.98%
TOTAL	1,819.15	1,871.07	51.92	2.85%

3.10 An explanation of the resolutions in **Appendix 1** is provided below.

Resolution 1 - Council Tax Base

3.11 This is the District Council's Tax Base, which was approved by Full Council at its meeting held on the 14th January 2021. The Tax Base was set at **35,218** and is known as **Item T**.

Resolution 2 – The Council Tax Requirement (CTR)

3.12 This is the amount of revenue expenditure to be met from Council Tax. It is the Council's Band D rate (excluding Parishes) multiplied by its Council Tax Base, as follows:

$$£167.13 * 35,218 = \underline{\underline{£5,885,984}}$$

Resolution 3 (a)

3.13 This is the Council's estimated gross expenditure for 2021/22 including the Housing Revenue Account and Parish Precepts and totals £44,365,291.

Resolution 3 (b)

3.14 This is the Council's estimated income for 2021/22. It includes all fees and charges, together with housing rents, specific government grants, contributions from reserves and declared surpluses on the Collection Fund. The total is £37,549,780.

Resolution 3 (c)

3.15 This is the difference between 3 (a) and 3 (b), i.e. £6,815,511 and is known as **Item R**. It represents the CTR for the year of £5,885,984 (Resolution 2) together with Parish Precepts of £929,527.

Resolution 3 (d)

3.16 This is the basic amount of Council Tax for 2021/22, including Parish Precepts and is item R divided by item T. i.e.

$$£6,815,511 / 35,218 = \underline{\underline{£193.52}}$$

Resolution 3 (e)

- 3.17 This is the total amount of Parish Precepts as detailed in **Appendix 2**, i.e. £929,527.

Resolution 3 (f)

- 3.18 This is the basic amount of Council Tax for areas where no Parish Precept applies, i.e.

$$£193.52 - (£929,527 / 35,218) = \underline{\underline{£167.13}}$$

Resolutions 4 and 5

- 3.19 These confirm the precepts levied by Parish Councils together with those notified to the Council by the County, Police/Crime Commissioner and Fire authorities. The equivalent tax rates by property band are shown in Schedules A and B.

Resolution 6

- 3.20 This is the aggregate amount of Council Tax for South Derbyshire as detailed in **Schedule C**.

Resolution 7

- 3.21 Schedule 5 of the Localism Act 2011, makes provision for a referendum to be held if an authority increases its Council Tax by an amount exceeding principles determined by the Secretary of State.
- 3.22 The Secretary has determined that for 2021/22, a Council Tax will be *deemed excessive* (and subject to a local Referendum) for shire district councils if the authority's relevant basic amount of Council Tax (i.e. Band D) for 2021/22 is:
- (a) *2% greater than its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2020/21; and*
- (b) *£5 greater than its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2020/21.*
- 3.23 As shown in the table in **paragraph 3.9**, the District's Band D rate will increase following the recommendation of the Finance and Management Committee on 11th February 2021, by 1%. Therefore, under the principles set out by the Secretary of State, the Council's increase is not deemed excessive.

Appendix 1

The Council is recommended to resolve as follows:

1. It be noted that on 14th January 2021, the Full Council calculated the Council Tax Base 2021/22:
 - (a) For the whole area as 35,218 (Item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended by the Localism Act 2011).
 - (b) For dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish Precept relates as 24,019.
2. Calculate that the Council Tax Requirement for the Council's own purpose for 2021/22 (excluding Parish Precepts) is £5,885,984.
3. That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2020/21 in accordance with Sections 31 and 36 of the Localism Act 2011:
 - (a) £44,365,291

Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils.
 - (b) £37,549,780

Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (3) of the Act.
 - (c) £6,815,511

Being the amount by which the aggregate of 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate of 3(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A (4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the Act).
 - (d) £193.52

Being the amount at 3(c) above (Item R) all divided by Item T (1a above) calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish Precepts).

(e) £929,527

Being the aggregate amount of all Parish Precepts referred to in Section 34 (1) of the Act.

(f) £167.13

Being the amount at 3 (d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3 (e) above by Item T (1a above) calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 34 (2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no Parish Precept relates.

4. To note that Parish Councils have issued precepts to the Council in accordance with Section 41 of Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each category of dwellings in the Council's area as indicated in **Schedule A**
5. To note that the County Council, the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Fire and Rescue Service for Derbyshire, have issued Precepts to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each category of dwellings in the Council's area as indicated in **Schedule B**.
6. That the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in **Schedule C**, as the amounts of Council Tax for 2021/22 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings, this being the aggregate of Schedules A and B.
7. That in accordance with Section 52 (ZB) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the Council determines that the amount of council tax shown at 3 (f) of £167.13 **is not** excessive compared to 2020/21 and therefore there is no requirement for a local referendum.

ANALYSIS OF PARISH PRECEPTS, TAX BASE AND BAND D RATES

Parish	Precept 2020/21 £	Precept 2021/22 £	Tax Base 2020/21	Tax Base 2021/22	Band D 2020/21 £	Band D 2021/22 £	LCTR Grant 2020/21 £	LCTR Grant 2021/22 £
Aston-on-Trent	34,068	34,749	724	720	47.06	48.26	1,317	1,317
Barrow-on-Trent	11,551	11,551	241	239	47.93	48.33	452	452
Bretby	3,586	3,658	407	414	8.81	8.84	73	73
Burnaston	8,770	8,945	690	691	12.71	12.95	148	148
Castle Gresley	25,309	25,309	626	626	40.43	40.43	2,876	2,876
Church Broughton	12,650	7,650	241	242	52.49	31.61	151	151
Coton-in-the-Elms	7,117	7,116	277	275	25.69	25.88	989	989
Dalbury Lees	1,600	1,600	125	132	12.80	12.12	102	102
Egginton	11,783	11,783	257	256	45.85	46.03	199	199
Elvaston	13,820	40,950	1,062	1,131	13.01	36.21	210	210
Etwall	47,286	56,753	1,131	1,179	41.81	48.14	2,751	2,751
Findern	35,682	41,371	1,168	1,366	30.55	30.29	1,135	1,135
Foston & Scropton	8,568	8,568	247	244	34.69	35.11	433	433
Hartshorne	8,200	8,350	1,079	1,091	7.60	7.65	1,783	1,783
Hatton	58,742	58,742	883	877	66.53	66.98	2,100	2,100
Hilton	172,900	172,900	2,735	2,792	63.22	61.93	5,484	5,484
Linton	44,407	44,407	748	752	59.37	59.05	3,325	3,325
Melbourne	79,709	82,100	1,996	1,994	39.93	41.17	2,568	2,568
Netherseal	10,242	10,700	328	337	31.23	31.75	1,141	1,141
Newton Solney	6,000	6,000	336	361	17.86	16.62	171	171
Overseal	31,930	33,000	864	884	36.96	37.33	2,801	2,801
Repton	42,272	42,272	1,172	1,171	36.07	36.10	693	693
Rosliston	10,000	11,000	290	302	34.48	36.42	378	378
Shardlow & Great Wilne	20,917	21,335	424	424	49.33	50.32	1,399	1,399
Smisby	5,213	5,474	127	124	41.05	44.14	164	164
Stenson	3,000	32,000	1,500	1,489	2.00	21.49	736	736
Ticknall	12,450	13,500	303	305	41.09	44.26	822	822
Walton-on-Trent	6,378	7,378	311	310	20.51	23.80	607	607
Weston-on-Trent	13,500	13,500	567	615	23.81	21.95	535	535
Willington	40,740	45,740	1,016	1,025	40.10	44.62	4,392	4,392
Woodville	59,635	61,126	1,661	1,651	35.90	37.02	3,692	3,692
TOTAL PRECEPTS / AVERAGE BAND D	848,025	929,527	23,536	24,019	34.22	35.70	43,627	43,627

SCHEDULE A - DISTRICT COUNCIL TAX 2021/22

<u>Part of Council's area:</u> <u>Parish of</u>	<u>Valuation Band and Proportion to Band D</u>							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	6/9 £:p	7/9 £:p	8/9 £:p	1.00 £:p	11/9 £:p	13/9 £:p	15/9 £:p	18/9 £:p
Aston-on-Trent	143.60	167.53	191.46	215.39	263.26	311.12	358.99	430.79
Barrow-on-Trent	143.64	167.58	191.52	215.46	263.34	311.22	359.10	430.92
Bretby	117.31	136.86	156.41	175.97	215.07	254.17	293.28	351.93
Burnaston	120.05	140.06	160.07	180.07	220.09	260.11	300.12	360.15
Castle Gresley	138.37	161.44	184.50	207.56	253.68	299.81	345.93	415.12
Church Broughton	132.49	154.58	176.66	198.74	242.91	287.07	331.24	397.48
Coton-in-the-Elms	128.67	150.12	171.56	193.01	235.90	278.79	321.68	386.01
Dalbury Lees	119.50	139.42	159.33	179.25	219.08	258.92	298.75	358.50
Egginton	142.10	165.79	189.47	213.16	260.53	307.89	355.26	426.31
Elvaston	135.56	158.15	180.74	203.34	248.52	293.71	338.89	406.67
Etwall	143.51	167.43	191.35	215.27	263.10	310.94	358.78	430.53
Findern	131.61	153.55	175.48	197.42	241.29	285.16	329.03	394.83
Foston & Scropton	134.83	157.30	179.77	202.24	247.19	292.13	337.07	404.49
Hartshorne	116.52	135.94	155.36	174.78	213.62	252.47	291.31	349.57
Hatton	156.07	182.09	208.10	234.11	286.14	338.16	390.18	468.22
Hilton	152.70	178.16	203.61	229.06	279.96	330.86	381.76	458.11
Linton	150.79	175.92	201.05	226.18	276.44	326.71	376.97	452.36
Melbourne	138.87	162.01	185.16	208.30	254.59	300.88	347.17	416.61
Netherseal	132.59	154.69	176.78	198.88	243.08	287.27	331.47	397.76
Newton Solney	122.50	142.92	163.33	183.75	224.58	265.42	306.25	367.50
Overseal	136.31	159.02	181.74	204.46	249.90	295.33	340.77	408.92
Repton	135.49	158.07	180.65	203.23	248.39	293.55	338.72	406.46
Rosliston	135.70	158.32	180.94	203.55	248.79	294.02	339.26	407.11
Shardlow & Great Wilne	144.97	169.13	193.29	217.45	265.77	314.09	362.42	434.90
Smisby	140.85	164.32	187.80	211.27	258.22	305.17	352.12	422.54

Stenson	125.75	146.71	167.66	188.62	230.54	272.45	314.37	377.24
Ticknall	140.93	164.42	187.90	211.39	258.37	305.34	352.32	422.78
Walton-on-Trent	127.29	148.50	169.72	190.93	233.36	275.79	318.22	381.86
Weston-on-Trent	126.05	147.06	168.07	189.08	231.10	273.12	315.14	378.16
Willington	141.17	164.70	188.23	211.75	258.81	305.87	352.92	423.51
Woodville	136.10	158.79	181.47	204.15	249.52	294.89	340.26	408.31
All other parts of the Council's area	111.42	129.99	148.56	167.13	204.27	241.41	278.55	334.26

SCHEDULE B - MAJOR PRECEPTING AUTHORITIES COUNCIL TAX 2021/22

Precepting Authority	<u>Valuation Band and Proportion to Band D</u>							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	6/9 £:p	7/9 £:p	8/9 £:p	1.00 £:p	11/9 £:p	13/9 £:p	15/9 £:p	18/9 £:p
Derbyshire County Council	922.05	1,075.72	1,229.40	1,383.07	1,690.42	1,997.77	2,305.12	2,766.14
Police and Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire	161.07	187.91	214.76	241.60	295.29	348.98	402.67	483.20
Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service	52.85	61.65	70.46	79.27	96.89	114.50	132.12	158.54

SCHEDULE C - AGGREGATED COUNCIL TAX FOR SOUTH DERYSHIRE 2021/22

Valuation Band and Proportion to Band D

Part of Council's area:	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
<u>Parish of</u>	£:p	£:p	£:p	£:p	£:p	£:p	£:p	£:p
Aston - on - Trent	1,279.56	1,492.81	1,706.07	1,919.33	2,345.85	2,772.37	3,198.89	3,838.67
Barrow - on - Trent	1,279.60	1,492.87	1,706.13	1,919.40	2,345.93	2,772.47	3,199.00	3,838.80
Bretby	1,253.27	1,462.15	1,671.03	1,879.91	2,297.66	2,715.42	3,133.18	3,759.81
Burnaston	1,256.01	1,465.34	1,674.68	1,884.01	2,302.68	2,721.35	3,140.02	3,768.03
Castle Gresley	1,274.33	1,486.72	1,699.11	1,911.50	2,336.28	2,761.06	3,185.83	3,823.00
Church Broughton	1,268.45	1,479.86	1,691.27	1,902.68	2,325.50	2,748.32	3,171.14	3,805.36
Coton - in - the - Elms	1,264.63	1,475.40	1,686.17	1,896.95	2,318.49	2,740.03	3,161.58	3,793.89
Dalbury Lees	1,255.46	1,464.70	1,673.95	1,883.19	2,301.68	2,720.17	3,138.65	3,766.38
Egginton	1,278.06	1,491.08	1,704.09	1,917.10	2,343.12	2,769.14	3,195.16	3,834.19
Elvaston	1,271.52	1,483.44	1,695.36	1,907.28	2,331.12	2,754.96	3,178.79	3,814.55
Etwall	1,279.47	1,492.72	1,705.96	1,919.21	2,345.70	2,772.19	3,198.68	3,838.41
Findern	1,267.57	1,478.83	1,690.09	1,901.36	2,323.88	2,746.40	3,168.93	3,802.71
Foston and Scropton	1,270.79	1,482.59	1,694.38	1,906.18	2,329.78	2,753.38	3,176.97	3,812.37
Hartshorne	1,252.48	1,461.23	1,669.98	1,878.72	2,296.22	2,713.71	3,131.21	3,757.45
Hatton	1,292.03	1,507.37	1,722.71	1,938.05	2,368.73	2,799.41	3,230.08	3,876.10
Hilton	1,288.66	1,503.44	1,718.22	1,933.00	2,362.55	2,792.11	3,221.66	3,865.99
Linton	1,286.75	1,501.21	1,715.66	1,930.12	2,359.04	2,787.95	3,216.87	3,860.24
Melbourne	1,274.83	1,487.30	1,699.77	1,912.24	2,337.19	2,762.13	3,187.07	3,824.49
Netherseal	1,268.55	1,479.97	1,691.40	1,902.82	2,325.67	2,748.52	3,171.37	3,805.64
Newton Solney	1,258.46	1,468.20	1,677.95	1,887.69	2,307.18	2,726.66	3,146.15	3,775.38
Overseal	1,272.27	1,484.31	1,696.36	1,908.40	2,332.49	2,756.58	3,180.67	3,816.80
Repton	1,271.45	1,483.35	1,695.26	1,907.17	2,330.98	2,754.80	3,178.62	3,814.34
Rosliston	1,271.66	1,483.61	1,695.55	1,907.49	2,331.38	2,755.27	3,179.16	3,814.99

Shardlow and Great Wilne	1,280.93	1,494.41	1,707.90	1,921.39	2,348.36	2,775.34	3,202.32	3,842.78
Smisby	1,276.81	1,489.61	1,702.41	1,915.21	2,340.82	2,766.42	3,192.02	3,830.42
Stenson Fields	1,261.71	1,471.99	1,682.28	1,892.56	2,313.13	2,733.70	3,154.27	3,785.12
Ticknall	1,276.89	1,489.70	1,702.52	1,915.33	2,340.96	2,766.59	3,192.22	3,830.66
Walton - on - Trent	1,263.25	1,473.79	1,684.33	1,894.87	2,315.95	2,737.03	3,158.12	3,789.74
Weston - on - Trent	1,262.01	1,472.35	1,682.69	1,893.02	2,313.69	2,734.36	3,155.04	3,786.04
Willington	1,277.13	1,489.98	1,702.84	1,915.69	2,341.40	2,767.11	3,192.82	3,831.39
Woodville	1,272.06	1,484.07	1,696.08	1,908.09	2,332.11	2,756.14	3,180.16	3,816.19
All other parts of the Council's area	1,247.38	1,455.28	1,663.17	1,871.07	2,286.86	2,702.66	3,118.45	3,742.14

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

LINTON – AREA 6

Tuesday, January 21, 2020 at Linton Brick Room

PRESENT: -

South Derbyshire District Council representatives

Councillor Amy Wheelton (Chair), Councillor Andrew Brady (Vice Chair),
Councillor Melanie Bridgen, Councillor Dan Pegg

Frank McArdle – Chief Executive Officer
Mary Bagley – Head of Cultural and Community Services
Ian Hey – Community Partnership Officer
Debbie Ward – Service Assistant

Derbyshire County Council representatives

Councillor Pat Murray

Derbyshire Police representatives

PCSO Dave McMillan

Parish Council/ Meeting representatives

Councillor Sheila Jackson, Councillor Janice Pallett, Councillor Oliver Pallett (Castle Gresley Parish Council), Councillor Karen Bradford (Coton in the Elms Parish Council), Councillor John Powell, Councillor Jane Summers, Councillor Kevin Tizzard (Linton Parish Council), Councillor David Savory, Councillor John Taylor (Netherseal Parish Council), Councillor Steve Sharpe (Overseal Parish Council), Councillor Paul Marbrow, Councillor Stephanie Marbrow (Rosliston Parish Council), Councillor Andrea Barnes (Walton on Trent Parish Council)

Stella Collishaw – South Derbyshire CVS

Members of the public

Olivea Allegrini-Jones, Gwen & Robert Beginn, Tim Bidder, Pat Brown, S. Bullock, Mac Cummings, Katy Fieldhouse, John Grant, Mandy & Rob Hodson Walker, Ali Husain, Helen Kreft, Mervyn John, Margaret Leech, Becky Lees, Iain Liston-Brown, Clare Morton, Rosemary Palmer, Jane Summers, Josh Vause, Dave Williams, Paul Woolaway, Geoff Wright

LA/15 **Open meeting**

- **Introductions and apologies**

None.

- **Declarations of interest**

None.

- **Chair's announcements**

Community Partnership Grants

The Community & Environment Partnership Scheme offers the chance for community groups, charities and volunteer organisations to apply to receive funding.

This is available for a wide variety of organisations and projects, from parish councils and sporting groups to arts, heritage and environmental schemes. In the past, the scheme has helped with the cost of new buildings and supported improvements to community spaces.

Grants of between £1,000 and £25,000 will be awarded as matched funding to support capital projects with a value of £4,000 and above. Those applying must demonstrate that being awarded the funding would improve the quality of life of residents in South Derbyshire.

The Sunflower Scheme

Anyone with a hidden disability (or their carer) can wear a Sunflower lanyard or pin, and organisations that recognise the scheme train their staff to look out for the Sunflower sign and how to offer additional help to those who wear it.

At January's Council meeting Councillors voted unanimously in favour of adopting the Sunflower scheme. As a result, the Council will be rolling out training to staff and members this spring and the lanyards will be available to pick up from the Council's reception from February 2020.

Sign Live

Sign Live is a solution that offers customers British Sign Language (BSL) translation 'on-the-go'. Users of BSL can use a mobile device to access an interpreter who will translate what they are saying to the service provider and sign back any responses.

At January's Council meeting Councillors voted unanimously in favour of trialling Sign Live with our customers to see if it is well used and easy to use, before rolling it out wider.

Job Opportunities Day

There is a Job Opportunities Day taking place in Burton on Wednesday, January 29, 2020 for those seeking jobs, training and other support for their

future career. The next one due to be held in Swadlincote will be on Tuesday, March 31, 2020 from 3pm until 6pm at Sharpe's Pottery Museum.

Thinking of Starting a Business

A 'Thinking of Starting a Business' session will be taking place on Wednesday, February 26, 2020, 5.30pm at Sharpe's Pottery Museum for any budding entrepreneurs!

- **To receive the minutes of the last meeting**

Councillor Amy Wheelton provided a verbal update on behalf Richard Kay, Managing Director of the Drakelow Park Group in respect to the Walton bypass bridge as follows: -

"We are aware of the importance of the bridge to the local community and the wider area.

During the last 18 months significant effort has been made into exploring different configurations for the Drakelow site in order to overcome some of the obstacles that we have faced and thus enable the bridge and development works to get started. South Derbyshire District Council, Derbyshire County Council, Staffordshire County Council, Homes England, and a number of investors/ developers have been all been involved in this process.

We are working to a solution that would enable commencement of works on the site and, in turn, commencement of the works on the bridge, albeit at this time it is too early to confirm timescales.

We will update you with more information as and when we are in a position to do so.

As always with these projects there are a lot of hurdles to get over and the team at Drakelow is working hard to progress things"

A Walton resident asked what SDDC's policy is for granting future planning permission.

Frank McArdle responded to say that SDDC's planning policy remains the same and that planning applications are taken at their face value and unless there is a good reason to refuse then providing the application meets the relevant criteria then there is nothing to stop future development plans from being submitted and approved.

A member of the public queried whether DCC plan to make wear and tear repairs to the existing bridge?

Councillor Pat Murray responded to say that there is no provision at this point in time but would take the matter back to DCC Highways for further investigation.

ACTION: Councillor Pat Murray to follow-up with DCC the request for maintenance repairs to be made to the existing Bailey bridge.

A Drakelow resident added that the improvement of the Walton bypass bridge seems to be focused only on the Drakelow development and challenged that it also affects the quality of life of both Walton and Rosliston residents and that this should also be taken into consideration.

ACTION: Frank McArdle to write to DCC regarding the installation of a new Walton bypass bridge.

A Netherseal resident raised ongoing concerns about the 7.5 tonne weight limit signage situated by the junction off the A444 towards Netherseal and proposed that a more substantial sign clearly indicating 'Unsuitable for HGVs' should be erected which would be more impactful than another 7.5 tonne weight limit sign which appear to be largely ignored.

ACTION: Councillor Pat Murray to follow-up with DCC Highways the request for an 'Unsuitable for HGV's' sign and report back.

Councillor Dan Pegg raised concerns regarding a recent incident in Castle Gresley whereby some heavy metal parts came loose from a Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) travelling through a restricted 7.5 tonne weight limit area.

Councillor Pat Murray responded to say that DCC cannot be held responsible for parts dropping off passing lorries.

Councillor Janice Pallet of Castle Gresley Parish Council suggested that the 7.5 tonne weight limit sign currently situated at the bottom Mount Pleasant Road be moved to either Linton Road or moved further forward to just as you exit from the A444 just off the Toon's roundabout.

A member of the public suggested that Richard Hanbury should be invited to the next meeting.

ACTION: Councillor Pat Murray to follow up with DCC Highways a request to move an existing 7.5 tonne weight limit restriction sign situated at the bottom of Mount Pleasant Road and report back.

ACTION: Councillor Pat Murray to invite Richard Hanbury to the next meeting.

A resident suggested that the police should act and set-up a Protection, Observation, Support and Arrest (POSA) check station regarding the HGVs and other safety concerns raised in the local area.

ACTION: Communities Team to pass on the POSA check station request to the Police.

LA/16 Police Safer Neighbourhood report

PCSO Dave McMillan provided the following update: -

- Inspector Kate Bateman will be retiring mid-February and will be replaced by Chris Thornhill.
- Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) Sgt Tarj Nizzer is now responsible for areas 4, 5 and 6 (Swadlincote, Newhall and Linton)
- There was a successful warrant at Cadley for Class C drugs
- A cannabis grow was uncovered at Station Street, Castle Gresley
- Tool marking and van security events have been held at The Beehive Honey Pot Tearoom (Rosliston) and Screwfix (Swadlincote).
- Cuppa with a Coppa event held at Linton Village Hall – to which nobody turned up.
- PC Joanna Saddington is now covering areas 4, 5 and 6 (Swadlincote, Newhall and Linton)
- A Crime Action Group (CAG) team has been set up to focus specifically on following up drug related intelligence.

Councillor Jane Summers queried why there is no longer a police presence at Parish Council meetings.

PCSO Dave McMillan responded to say that no invites had been received to his knowledge but would be happy to attend a future meeting.

A member of the public raised concerns regarding an increase in car thefts in and around Swadlincote.

PCSO Dave McMillan responded to say that the cars which are being stolen are generally high-performance cars with keyless ignitions and encouraged residents who have cars with keyless ignitions to obtain faraday bags which block the signal when not in use. PCSO Dave McMillan further explained that there have been thefts in various locations across the district and that the police cannot predict where will be hit next.

A member of the public asked whether it is local people committing these crimes and whether there would be any additional police resource provided to help address the increasing level of crime in the area.

PCSO McMillan responded to say that most auto related crimes are committed by organised crime groups that are not from this area and updated that there is now a Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) Sgt plus ten SNT officers covering the whole of South Derbyshire and that a further two PCSO's and one PC are due to start mid-February time.

A local resident asked whether there was any further update regarding the recent spate of sheep worrying incidents in the area and queried whether stray hounds from the local hunt could be responsible?

PCSO Dave McMillan replied that there were no further leads. Councillor Amy Wheelton added that the local hunt had been contacted and that the times and dates did not tally and therefore could not be held responsible.

Councillor Amy Wheelton raised awareness about an event due to be held on Thursday, February 6, 2010 at 6:30pm at Locko Park near Derby where there will be a speaker from Gosford Police giving a talk about initiatives to tackle poaching and hare coursing which can be linked to cashpoint robberies and is another type of organised crime.

A member of the public raised concerns about County Lines and asked what the police are doing to tackle the problem.

PCSO Dave McMillan advised that the police are pro-actively looking at County Lines but do rely on intelligence received from the public and encouraged residents to report any suspicious activity via 101 or 999 in an emergency. Alternatively matters of concern can also be reported anonymously via CrimeStoppers.

Councillor Melanie Bridgen queried when the next Cuppa with a Coppa event would be held and how the event could be better publicised to improve future attendance.

PCSO Dave McMillan responded to say that a date and venue was still to be set and that events are usually publicised via the Swadlincote SNT Facebook page and Derbyshire Alert. Suggestions were welcomed for a suitable venue for the next event.

Councillor Jane Summers asked how people without internet get to know about things and suggested that events such as Cuppa with a Coppa should be displayed on Parish Council notice boards.

PCSO Dave McMillan agreed that putting a notice up on Parish Council notice boards around the area would be a good idea to reach the wider community and would action prior to future events.

LA/17 South Derbyshire Community Safety Partnership update

Ian Hey provided the following update: -

Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) on Maurice Lea Park

A period of consultation has recently closed which asked for opinions on the Council implementing a Public Space Protection Order on Maurice Lea Park to combat anti-social behaviour (ASB) which became a regular issue during the Summer Holiday period.

Reports were received by both the Council and the Police regarding groups of youths drinking, being abusive to staff and members of the public, smashing glass and littering and causing damage to trees and play equipment.

The PSPO prohibitions will enable Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) for anyone caught dropping litter and will give additional powers to both the Police and Council officers to remove individuals off the park for 24 hours and to confiscate alcohol.

The Consultation has received 100% support from those who responded, and a report will be submitted to Committee in March to ask for approval for the order.

Digital MOT

Safer Derbyshire have launched a campaign to invite members of the public to take a quick survey (less than 5 minutes) to see how secure their mobile devices and laptops are and find out how to be safer online.

The Digital MOT is a cyber security assessment tool developed by the Community Safety Unit at DCC, in partnership with the Cybercrime Unit at Derbyshire Constabulary.

Phones, computers, and tablets are now part of everyday life - online banking, shopping, email and social media. But the longer you spend online, the more risks you are exposed to. So, it is more important than ever to take steps to protect your accounts, data and devices from cyber criminals.

To take the MOT please visit the website:
<https://www.saferderbyshire.gov.uk/MOT>

Safer Neighbourhoods and Community Funding

<u>Area 6 - Linton</u>						
Project Name	Ref.	Project Lead	Organisation	Amount Applied for	Total Project Cost	Amount Granted
Stay & Spray	A6:01	Hema Mistry	People Express - Sharpe's Pottery Museum	£2,500.00	£5,000.00	£2,500.00
Community Container	A6:02	Steph Lloyd	Castle Gresley Parish Council	£2,500.00	£5,970.00	£2,500.00
Total				£5,000.00	£10,970.00	£5,000.00

The whole amount allocated to Linton Area Forum has been allocated on two projects that were approved at previous meetings. No additional applications have been received.

Further money (£4000) will be available from April 2020. However, applications can still be received at any time up until the end of March as there is still an underspend on 2019/ 20 money across other parts of the district.

Any ideas contact Chris Smith, Ian Hey or Debbie Ward.

LA/18 **Local authority update**

Frank McArdle provided the following update: -

The Council's income base continues to benefit from increasing numbers of properties and business development. Any extra income generated is now being set aside to meet increased costs of services such as waste collection, street cleansing and grounds maintenance. There are no proposed cuts in services.

Overall spending is due to increase by at least inflation. Additional funding has been approved for parishes through concurrent functions to recognise growth. The coming years Council Tax increase proposed at 1.95% (adding £3.17 per year to a band D property). All proposals are still subject to Council ratification on 26.02.20.

There will be no capping for parishes, the government were considering this but are keeping their options open. Generally, the local authorities budget position is good, but we are not complacent and are mindful of future budget pressures including our commitment to climate change.

In the near future waste collection and recycling may also put pressure on budgets for 2021-22. The main concern for many Councils is around the uncertainty regarding government funding beyond 2021. The government is intending to review the distribution system and the amount of money divided between different types of authority and we are keeping a close eye on that. In the meantime, the Councils overall financial position remains sound with a good level of general reserves.

Mary Bagley provided the following update: -

ISO14001

South Derbyshire District Council was awarded the prestigious ISO14001 standard for Environmental Management for the twelfth successive year in December following an extensive four-day audit.

The audit covered all the Council's five main operational centres – Civic Way offices, the depot on the Boardman Estate, Greenbank and Etwall Leisure centres and Rosliston Forestry Centre.

The auditors highlighted a handful of minor non-conformities which are being addressed as well as making over 20 additional observations to help the Council continue to improve its environmental performance.

Mention was made of the environmental, biodiversity, education and well-being programmes at Rosliston. Also, the approach of the Housing, Planning & Economic Development Services to ensure that existing and planned developments are managed with protection of the environment as one of the main pillars.

Keep Britain Tidy Campaign

Between March 20 and April 13 this year there will be a national Keep Britain Tidy campaign and we will be doing a lot of local work linking to this initiative, putting information on our website and encouraging communities to join in.

Keen litter-pickers can get involved with an ever-growing list of clean-up events taking place across the District.

Keep an eye on our usual communication channels for further information.

Green Spaces Plan

The Council is seeking to protect around 150 Local Green Spaces across the District through a Local Green Spaces Plan. Following the hearing in September the Council is preparing to consult on several modifications to the Plan, subject to Committee approval. After this consultation, the Inspector will write her report, which it is hoped will lead to the Plan's adoption by late spring.

Tim Peake Space Sapling lands at Rosliston Forestry Centre

South Derbyshire District Council's Environmental Education Project at Rosliston Forestry Centre is very proud to be a recipient of one of eight young trees from the pips from Isaac Newton's apple tree that were blasted into space with British European Space Agency (ESA) Astronaut Tim Peake.

Apple pips from the iconic Newton tree were taken on the Principia mission in 2015 by British astronaut Tim Peake to the International Space Station. The pips then spent six months floating in micro gravity as part of the 'Pips in Space' project, before returning to Earth in 2016.

A local resident raised an issue about delayed bin collections at Oak Close, Castle Gresley and that it resulted in litter blowing everywhere.

ACTION: Communities Team to feedback the issue reported about delayed bin collections at Oak Close, Castle Gresley to Operational Services.

A member of the public asked whether SDDC could make more use of brown field sites and encourage development by incentivising developers by way of a reduced section 106 agreement or some such.

Frank McArdle responded to say that this would not be possible and that to effectively buy planning permission by way of inducements is highly illegal.

Linton Parish Council raised concerns over flooding in respect to the Woodland Trust and has been reporting instances of severe flooding since March 2019.

ACTION: Councillor Pat Murray to take back the concerns raised regarding the ongoing severe flooding in respect to the Woodland Trust to DCC for further investigation.

A member of the public queried what was the plan for SDDC's reserves and asked what can be done about the major issue of dog fouling in Linton.

Frank McArdle responded to say that there is a district wide public order on dog mess but ultimately it is up to the community of South Derbyshire to report irresponsible dog owners and hot-spot areas. SDDC have previously erected illuminated notices as part of the 'We're Watching You' campaign to try and tackle the problem.

A Netherseal resident raised the issue of the A444 traveller site and asked could we have an indication of how effective SDDC feels the enforcement action has been in respect to the development. It appears that development continues unlawfully. Having gone through the new planning application it appears that the whole contents of the application have been implemented.

Mary Bagley provided an update on the second planning application that is due to be considered and encouraged residents to provide comments by January 31, 2020.

A member of the public raised awareness about a traveller site in Aston that was approved and went to appeal and queried why SDDC are not using an existing accommodation assessment covering Derbyshire/ Derby/ Peak District and East Staffordshire. The same member of the public also raised that there is a South Derbyshire Allocation Development Plan due to be completed by November 2021 and queried whether that means that any appeal between now and then will be overturned because we cannot show that we have a five-year supply of pitches?

Frank McArdle responded to say that on Thursday, January 23, 2020 at the Environment and Development Services (EDS) Committee we are about to launch that consultation so that we can better protect ourselves in future and urged anyone that was interested to visit the SDDC website for more details.

An Overseal resident raised highway resurfacing issues in the area, as they are not fit for purpose.

Councillor Pat Murray replied to say that a full report has been done by DCC Highways regarding this matter which has been sent to Overseal Parish Council Clerk, John White.

A copy of the action plan in respect to the report was subsequently requested.

ACTION: Councillor Pat Murray to request an action plan from Richard Handbury following a DCC Highways report that was written in response to concerns raised over highways in the Overseal area being unfit for purpose.

Netherseal Parish Council raised that they are still awaiting a response from Councillor Pat Murray following their September 2019 parish meeting.

ACTION: Councillor Pat Murry to provide a response to Netherseal Parish Council following a Parish Council meeting held back in September 2019 where it was agreed that Richard Handbury would attend the next meeting.

Frank McArdle raised awareness about setting up a Parish meeting following an expression of interest received from a Drakelow resident. For more information, please contact Frank McArdle's office.

Frank McArdle responded to concerns raised by residents of the new Drakelow housing development in respect to the absence of dog fouling bins and explained that it is the responsibility of the developer to install the bins in the first instance. However, SDDC officers have requested these today on behalf of Drakelow residents so hopefully they will be installed by the developer very soon.

LA/19 **Local community and voluntary sector projects/ update**

Stella Collishaw, Development Officer for South Derbyshire CVS provided a brief overview of the services that CVS offer which include the Food Bank, Public Community Fridge and Safer Homes South Derbyshire.

For more information regarding South Derbyshire CVS, you can get in touch by calling 01283 550163 or visit their website (sdcv.org.uk). Alternatively, you can contact Stella direct on 01283 219761 or email: StellaC@sdcv.org.uk

LA/20 **Summary of agreed actions**

- Councillor Pat Murray to follow-up with DCC the request for maintenance repairs to be made to the existing Bailey bridge.
- Frank McArdle to write to DCC regarding the installation of a new Walton bypass bridge.
- Councillor Pat Murray to follow-up with DCC Highways the request for an 'Unsuitable for HGV's' sign and report back.
- Councillor Pat Murray to follow up with DCC Highways a request to move an existing 7.5 tonne weight limit restriction sign situated at the bottom of Mount Pleasant Road and report back.
- Councillor Pat Murray to invite Richard Hanbury to the next meeting.
- Communities Team to pass on the POSA check station request to the Police.

- Communities Team to feedback the issue reported about delayed bin collections at Oak Close, Castle Gresley to Operational Services.
- Councillor Pat Murray to take back the concerns raised regarding the ongoing severe flooding in respect to the Woodland Trust to DCC for further investigation.
- Councillor Pat Murray to request an action plan from Richard Handbury following a DCC Highways report that was written in response to concerns raised over highways in the Overseal area being unfit for purpose.
- Councillor Pat Murry to provide a response to Netherseal Parish Council following a Parish Council meeting held back in September 2019 where it was agreed that Richard Handbury would attend the next meeting.

LA/21 **Close and date of next meeting**

TBC

Councillor Amy Wheelton
CHAIR

The meeting terminated at 7:54pm

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

NEWHALL – AREA 5

Wednesday, January 22, 2020 at St. John's Church Newhall

PRESENT: -

South Derbyshire District Council representatives

Councillor Paul Dunn (Chair), Councillor Sean Bambrick (Vice Chair),
Councillor Linda Stuart

Kevin Stackhouse – Strategic Director, Service Delivery
Chris Smith – Communities Team Manager
Max Boyce – Community Safety Enforcement Officer
Debbie Ward – Service Assistant

Derbyshire County Council representatives

Councillor Sean Bambrick

Derbyshire Police representatives

PCSO Lee Walker

Parish Council/ Meeting representatives

Councillor Jim Seaton (Hartshorne Parish Council)

Elsbeth Frudd (South Derbyshire CVS)

Members of the public

A. Argent, Pat Bambrick, Eddie Bisknell, Rev. P. Douglas, Lucy Felthouse,
Pamela & Howard Foy, Linda Harris, Ian Haynes, Paul Hedges, Alan Hillier, Mr
& Mrs Hobson, Steve Hobster, Richard House, Don Hughes, David James, C.
Maddock, Richard Smith, Glenys Tagg, R. Trim, Andrew Wakeling, B. Woods,
J. Woods

NA/15 **Open meeting**

a. Introductions and apologies

Ian Bottrill, Graham Hall, Bill Parker, Councillor Robert Pearson, Councillor
Kevin Richards, Mary Richards

b. Declarations of interest

None.

c. Chair's announcements

Councillor Bambrick reminded attendees to sign the attendance register and to provide an email address where possible to cut down on the number of paper copies being printed and sent out by post.

Community Partnership Grants

The Community & Environment Partnership Scheme offers the chance for community groups, charities and volunteer organisations to apply to receive funding.

This is available for a wide variety of organisations and projects, from parish councils and sporting groups to arts, heritage and environmental schemes. In the past, the scheme has helped with the cost of new buildings and supported improvements to community spaces.

Grants of between £1,000 and £25,000 will be awarded as matched funding to support capital projects with a value of £4,000 and above. Those applying must demonstrate that being awarded the funding would improve the quality of life of residents in South Derbyshire.

For more information contact Ian Hey, Community Partnership Officer.

The Sunflower Scheme

Anyone with a hidden disability (or their carer) can wear a Sunflower lanyard or pin, and organisations that recognise the scheme train their staff to look out for the Sunflower sign and how to offer additional help to those who wear it.

At January's Council meeting Councillors voted unanimously in favour of adopting the Sunflower scheme. As a result, the Council will be rolling out training to staff and members this spring and the lanyards will be available to pick up from the Council's reception from February 2020.

Sign Live

Sign Live is a solution that offers customers British Sign Language (BSL) translation on the go. Users of British Sign Language can use a mobile device to access a BSL interpreter who will translate what they are saying to the service provider and sign back any responses.

At January's Council meeting Councillors voted unanimously in favour of trialling Sign Live with our customers to see if it is well used and easy to use, before rolling it out wider.

Job Opportunities Day

There is a Job Opportunities Day taking place in Burton on Wednesday, January 29, 2020 for those seeking jobs, training and other support for their

future career. The next one due to be held in Swadlincote will be on Tuesday, March 31, 2020 from 3pm until 6pm at Sharpe's Pottery Museum.

Thinking of Starting a Business

A 'Thinking of Starting a Business' session will be taking place on Wednesday, February 26, 2020, from 5.30pm at Sharpe's Pottery Museum for any budding entrepreneurs!

Swadlincote Pancake Races

The 2020 Swadlincote Pancake Races will take place on Shrove Tuesday, February 25, 2020 from 12pm until 2pm at The Delph Market Square in aid of Sport Relief. Teams of four people can enter the Pancake Relay Races for £4 per team with all proceeds going to Sport Relief. You can be from a business, organisation or just a group of friends.

Open Mic on The Delph

Up to thirty-minute slots are available on Saturday, January 25, 2020 and Saturday, February 29, 2020 for any musicians, singers, MCs, bands or buskers who would like to showcase their talents. To book a free slot contact John Beer on 07799 666522 or visit the Swadlincote Markets Facebook page.

d. To receive the minutes of the last meeting

The minutes were approved as a true and correct record of the meeting.

e. Matters arising from last minutes

A member of the public raised the area of land at the end of Oversetts Road, Newhall.

Councillor Paul Dunn updated that Gaynor Richards, Planning Enforcement Officer, has been in contact with the landowner and that the area of land in question is going to be cleared and security fenced in the coming weeks.

Councillor Paul Dunn provided a verbal report back in respect to the anti-social behaviour/ vandalism at Newhall Park raised at the last meeting and confirmed that he had spoken to both the Head of The William Allitt School and the Lead of Safeguarding and Behaviour who have both assured that any reports that go back to the school will be taken very seriously and dealt with accordingly. The message regarding bad behaviour not being tolerated outside of school has also been reiterated during morning assemblies.

NA/16 **Police Safer Neighbourhood report**

PCSO Lee Walker provided the following update: -

- Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) Sgt David Walker has now moved on to another position within the Police and has been replaced by Sgt Tarj Nizzer, covering areas 4, 5 and 6. A press release will be made in due course.
- PCSO Harriet Dunn left the SNT to join the regulars in November 2019.
- PCSO Reece Beattie is now covering the Newhall area having previously covered the Swadlincote area. There will also be an additional member of the team due to join mid-February time.
- There has been an increase in arrests made in relation to traffic offences, such as driving without insurance and drink driving.
- A Newhall male was arrested for drink driving at Swadlincote Lights and was issued with a ban. Two days later the same individual was arrested again (for drink driving) and is now in prison.
- Six disqualified drivers have been caught and will be facing a prison sentence as well as a further period of disqualification. PCSO Lee Walker reiterated that the Police rely on intelligence from the public regarding these matters and urged people to report if you know or suspect that someone is driving whilst disqualified.
- Three warrants to search premises in Newhall and Midway were conducted, although nothing was found it shows that the police are acting on intelligence received.
- Two County Lines drug dealers from Birmingham were arrested on Wellwood Road last week. PCSO Lee Walker gave a brief explanation as to what County Lines is and encouraged members of the public to report anything out of the ordinary to the Police.

A local resident asked whether the Police still patrol the area of land along Park Road, Newhall (by Swadlincote Rifle and Pistol Club) as nuisance off-road motorcycles are starting to cause issues again. The resident added that vans from outside of the area are also bringing bikes and parking in the layby nearby. The resident advised that the bikes are usually there on a Saturday and some evenings. Last Saturday, January 18, 2020, the bikes were there at around 2:30pm in the afternoon.

PCSO Lee Walker advised that if the matter is reported to the Police via the official channels then the Police can look at using drones to investigate further.

ACTION: Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) to increase patrols in the area around key times and consider drone deployment if persistent.

Councillor Jim Seaton raised speeding issues on Sandcliffe Road, Lower Midway and updated that Hartshorne Parish Council were now looking into purchasing their own speed gun. However, support from the Police by way of an occasional presence at peak times would be greatly appreciated. Councillor Seaton advised that the issue of speeding along Sandcliffe Road is an ongoing one that has been reported to CREST on numerous occasions.

ACTION: PCSO Lee Walker to arrange for some enforcement action to be taken on Sandcliffe Road, Lower Midway over coming weeks.

Councillor Seaton asked whether it would be possible to have a Police presence at a future Parish meeting.

PCSO Walker confirmed that this could be arranged outside of the meeting.

Councillor Paul Dunn extended thanks to PCSO Lee Walker for his helpful attitude.

A resident queried whether the Police were aware of residents with mental health issues living at Honeysuckle Court on Meadow Lane. The resident explained that there had been a recent incident where one of the residents became quite intimidating and threatening when another local resident pointed out they had dropped something on the floor.

PCSO Lee Walker advised that if neighbouring residents feel threatened or intimidated that they should get to a place of safety and report it to the Police. It was also suggested that the resident concerned may be able to find out more about the flats in question by contacting the relevant Housing Officer at South Derbyshire District Council (SDDC).

A resident of Willow Drive, Newhall asked what can be done about loud revving cars early in the morning.

ACTION: SNT to arrange a visit to the property reported by a resident on Willow Drive in respect to loud revving cars early in the morning.

NA/17 **Safer South Derbyshire Partnership update and Safer Neighbourhood grants**

Chris Smith provided the following update: -

Digital MOT

Safer Derbyshire have launched a campaign to ask members of the public to take a quick survey to see how secure their mobile devices and laptops are.

The Digital MOT is a cyber security assessment tool developed by the Community Safety Unit at Derbyshire County Council, in partnership with the Cybercrime Unit at Derbyshire Constabulary.

The assessment takes less than 5 minutes to complete and will identify how to be safer online.

To take the MOT please visit the website - www.saferderbyshire.gov.uk/MOT

Criminal Behaviour Orders

We have been successful in extending and varying the existing Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO) on Jordan Burgess, a Town centre shoplifter and street drinker. Due to him continuing to cause ASB in the town centre, including letting off fireworks in Swadlincote high street during the daytime the original two-year order has been extended until 2021 and now bans him completely from entering the Town centre.

On Tuesday 14th January we were back in court with Andrew Hogg who is one of our main Town Centre ASB perpetrators. Mr Hogg appeared for two breaches of the Town Centre Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) on the 30.08.19 and 14.10.19. Mr Hogg pleaded guilty to both offences. On the back of this we applied for a three-year CBO, which we have been successful in obtaining.

CBO prohibitions are as follows: -

1. Not to act in a manner that causes or is likely to cause a nuisance (harassment, alarm or distress) to one or more persons not of your household within DERBYSHIRE.

2. Not to carry or consume alcohol in an open vessel in any public place other than a licensed premise within DERBYSHIRE.

DJ Taff would not give us the Town Centre ban, but he has told Mr Hogg that if he breaches this CBO he is going to prison.

If Mr Hogg breaches this order we will go back to court and vary the application for a full Town Centre ban, which the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) believe we would get next time.

Additionally, Mr Hogg was given a two-year Conditional Discharge, £85 costs and a £21 Victim Surcharge.

Police Speeding Campaign

Over the next two weeks officers will be focusing on speeding drivers across the county as part of a national campaign.

One of the so called “Fatal Four” – collisions where speed was a factor killed 596 people, and seriously injured 2,686, across the UK in 2018.

Over the next two weeks officers from the Roads Policing Unit, the CREST team, Community Speed Watch, Specials and local policing units will be undertaking speed enforcement at various locations around the county.

If you are concerned about speeding in your area, then you can report this online here:

<https://www.crestderbyshire.org/about-us/report-a-speeding-concern/>

It is also possible for residents concerned about speeding in their area to set up, or participate in already active, Community Speed Watch groups. More information about the scheme can be found here:

<https://www.crestderbyshire.org/in-the-community/community-speed-watch/>

Safer Neighbourhoods and Community Funding

Area 5 - Newhall							
Project Name	Ref.	Project Lead	Organisation	Amount Applied for	Total Project Cost	Amount Granted	Date Offer Letter Issued
Tuesday Night Club	A5:01	Kalila Storey	People Express - Sharpe's Pottery Museum	£2,500.00	£5,500.00	£2,500.00	19/06/2019
Ball Stop Net	A5:02	Steve Davies	Friends of Newhall Park	£1,500.00	£2,135.00	£1,500.00	23/07/2019
Tuesday Night Club	A5:03	Kalila Storey	People Express - Sharpe's Pottery Museum	£500.00	TBC		
Total				£4,500.00	£7,635.00	£4,000.00	

Further money (£4000) will be available from April 2020. Applications can be received at any time as there is still an underspend on 2019-20 funding.

Public Space Protection Order on Maurice Lea Park

A period of consultation has recently closed which asked for opinions on the Council implementing a PSPO on Maurice Lea Park to combat anti-social behaviour (ASB) which became a regular issue during the summer holiday period.

Reports were received by both the Council and the Police regarding groups of youths drinking, being abusive to staff and members of the public, smashing glass, littering and causing damage to trees and play equipment.

The PSPO prohibitions will enable Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) for anyone caught dropping litter and will give additional powers to the Police and Council officers to remove individuals from the park for 24 hours and to confiscate alcohol.

The Consultation has received 100% support from those who responded, and a report will be submitted to Committee in March to ask for approval for the order.

A resident asked if a leaflet can be produced to give people advice on how not to be victims of telephone scams.

ACTION: Communities Team to look at what material is already in circulation in respect to scams and bring leaflets to the next meeting.

NA/18 **Local authority issues**

Kevin Stackhouse provided the following SDDC update: -

Keep Britain Tidy Campaign

Between March 20 and April 13 this year there will be a national Keep Britain Tidy campaign and we will be doing a lot of local work linking to this initiative, putting information on our website and encouraging communities to join in. Keen litter-pickers can get involved with an ever-growing list of clean-up events taking place across the District – two of these are Castleton Park, Church Gresley on the Sunday, March 24 and Swadlincote Town Centre on Monday, January 27, 2020.

Keep an eye on our usual communication channels for further information.

Green Spaces Plan

The Council is seeking to protect around 150 Local Green Spaces across the District through a Local Green Spaces Plan. Following the hearing in September the Council is preparing to consult on a number of modifications to the Plan, subject to Committee approval. After this consultation, the Inspector will write her report, which it is hoped will lead to the Plan's adoption by late spring.

Climate Emergency

Following the declaration of a Climate Emergency in June 2019, A Climate and Environment Strategy and Action Plan was approved by Full Council on 16th January 2020.

The aspiration of the Strategy is to strive to make all the Council's activities carbon neutral over the next 10 years. It also commits to working with others to tackle the estimated 800,000 tonnes of carbon emitted every year from all communities and businesses across South Derbyshire.

The Action Plan set out some of the early measures the Council will be taking, such as a carbon review of the Council's own housing stock, the implementation of a Staff Travel Plan and the phased reduction of plant and machinery with electric alternatives.

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The auditors highlighted a handful of minor non-conformities which are being addressed as well as making over 20 additional observations to help the Council continue to improve its environmental performance.

Mention was made of the environmental, biodiversity, education and well-being programmes at Rosliston. Also, the approach of the Housing, Planning & Economic Development Services to ensure that existing and planned developments are managed with protection of the environment as one of the main pillars.

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Apple pips from the iconic Newton tree were taken on the Principia mission in 2015 by British astronaut Tim Peake to the International Space Station. The pips then spent six months floating in micro gravity as part of the 'Pips in Space' project, before returning to Earth in 2016.

2020 Budget Briefing

The Council's Finance and Management Committee met a couple of weeks ago to put its proposals forward for next year's budget. The Council is in quite a good position financially, generating a lot of income, mainly from the development going on. The pressure for the Council is to keep its existing services going (and there are no proposals to reduce any services). In fact, there will be some services that will be expanded to recognise and go alongside the growth of the district. Some of the money being generated now will be put to one side to cover the additional waste collection and grounds maintenance required once all the new houses are fully occupied.

Beyond next year's budget there are two things on the horizon. There is a Bill going through Parliament that is going to put extra pressure on all local councils to increase the amount and type of waste being recycled, which in turn will cost the Council money to implement.

There is a lot of uncertainty for all councils about what the new central government will do regarding the funding that it supplies to all local councils from 2021-22. SDDC do not currently receive any general grant from central government. The money that SDDC gets to spend is generated through Council Tax and a 'New Homes Bonus' which is a grant available to authorities where there is a lot of development going on. This money will be taken away next year and replaced with something else which will be critical to this area and so we are trying to get into the government directly to find out what is going on and if we can, to try and influence some of the proposals that might be on the table so that we can continue to receive our fair share of funding in this area.

There is a Local Council Tax increase proposal due to be debated and agreed at a meeting with Full Council at the end of February. The Council has proposed an increase of 1.95% to keep pace with inflation which would equate to approximately £3 per year on a Band D property in South Derbyshire. The proposed increase is just the districts share of the Council Tax bill.

Councillor Sean Bambrick added that Derbyshire County Council (DCC) planned not to increase their share of the Council Tax bill this year but will use the Social Care increase which is up to 2%.

A member of the public asked what has happened to the Sinfin Incinerator.

Councillor Bambrick advised that there is an incentive between DCC and Derby City and would provide an update in due course.

A member of the public reported that the public footpath between Meadow Lane, Newhall, across the field to William Nadin Way, Swadlincote has been blocked off with fencing with no alternative route provided.

Councillor Bambrick advised that the fencing would have been erected for Health and Safety purposes but that an alternative route should have been provided.

ACTION: Kevin Stackhouse to report the blocked off footpath back to the Planning Development team for further investigation.

A resident queried whether there were any further planned developments for the rest of the land situated around the golf course.

Councillor Paul Dunn advised that to the best of his knowledge there are no further planned developments on the land in question apart from the development of 16 houses that will be built on the land situated opposite Garden King/ Buildbase.

A resident asked what happens if a council tenant abuses their property.

Chris Smith updated that Housing do have powers to serve notice but rely on neighbours and other tenants reporting issues.

A resident asked about the land ownership of the old railway line situated behind Garden King as he would like to look at opening it up as a public footpath.

Councillor Bambrick responded to say that in the first instance the landowner would need to be identified and contacted for permission, it would then fall to DCC to maintain if opened as an official footpath.

ACTION: Councillor Sean Bambrick to make enquires in respect to the land ownership of the old railway line situated behind Garden King and report back.

Chris Smith stated that Ian Hey may be able to assist with the project if permission is granted by the landowners.

Councillor Jim Seaton raised the response received from Simon Trantor, Principal Engineer - Traffic and Safety at DCC.

Councillor Paul Dunn suggested that Councillor Seaton email Councillor Linda Chilton and Gary Musson asking the same question as the issue raised would be a County Council matter to investigate.

A member of the public queried what the Council's policy is on verges being ripped up by cars. In particular, the verge near to the telephone box on South Drive, Newhall is in a particularly bad state.

Councillor Paul Dunn advised that verges would fall under the County Council's remit.

ACTION: Councillor Bambrick to report the issue raised in respect to verge situated on South Drive to DCC Highways.

A resident asked whether the council was still interested in properties that have been standing empty for a long period of time due to there being a property that has been stood empty for six years and is falling into disrepair.

ACTION: Kevin Stackhouse to make enquiries into the property raised which is understood to have stood empty for circa. six years.

A resident complained about drains all over Newhall being blocked by leaves in Autumn. The drains along Burton Road between the Chesterfield pub and Hillcrest Fish bar were highlighted as being particularly bad.

ACTION: Communities Team to establish how often the road sweepers are deployed over the Autumn period.

A resident stated that there was a build-up of moss and leaves on the Council owned land near to her property on Browning Road.

ACTION: Communities Team to raise the reported build-up of moss and leaves on Browning Road with Direct Services.

A resident stated that the verge by Newhall Wood used to be maintained by Lakes (and mowed fortnightly) but since Buildbase/ Garden King has been there it has just been left and now looks an unsightly, overgrown mess.

Chris Smith responded to say that concerns were raised at the last meeting regarding the verge along Park Road (outside of Garden King/ Newhall Woods) and explained that our Planning Enforcement Officer, Gaynor Richards visited the area in question and did not feel that the verge was overgrown to the detriment of the amenity of the area and that it is in fact better to encourage wildlife and ecology by not cutting it back on a regular basis.

However, whilst there was no breach of planning control, there was an element of littering that could be addressed. Gaynor has since been in touch with the Manager of Garden King who has agreed to have it litter picked.

NA/19 Local community and voluntary sector projects/ update

Elsbeth Frudd provided a brief introduction to South Derbyshire CVS and the vast range of services it offers.

Safer Homes – if you have been a victim of crime in South Derbyshire you can refer into this service and have your home assessed to see how safe it is and have measures put in place to make it safer. During 2019, 545 homes were assessed resulting in 1784 window locks and 154 door chains being fitted as part of the Safer Homes Derbyshire scheme.

Food Bank – help with food on a short-term basis. Food parcels covering 2-3 days are available. Food Bank opening hours have changed and are now Mon-Thurs, 10am-4pm and Friday, 10am-3:30pm. During 2019, a massive 1144 food parcels were given out.

Connect Befriending Service - this service is available for anyone over the age of 18. Volunteers are needed across all areas of the district to help tackle isolation and loneliness.

Social Car scheme – assistance is available to anyone who lives in South Derbyshire and is unable to use any other form of transport. Enquiries and bookings can be made Mon- Fri mornings (9:00am - 12:00pm) and transport is available seven days a week subject to the availability of drivers. The scheme is non profit-making. However, there is a charge made to the client of £1 per journey booked, plus 45p per mile (which is paid to the driver to cover their expenses). During 2019, 51,000 miles were covered which equated to 550 GP appointments and 1000 hospital visits.

Community Forums – a Volunteer Management forum is coming up at the end of February and an Environmental Community forum is scheduled to take place in March/ April (exact date to be confirmed).

Volunteering – if anyone is interested in volunteering please contact Annette Jennison for a volunteering pack which will enable volunteers to be matched up with a volunteering opportunity to suit.

Funding Surgeries – help is available to assist with funding applications. Future planned surgeries include Foundation Derbyshire on Friday, February 14, 2020 and the National Lottery Community Fund on Monday, March 16, 2020.

Free Training – is available to Community Groups. For example, Mental Health and ISLAND Community Champions training; covering topics such as Safeguarding and how to identify people that might be lonely across all ages and walks of life.

New Social Connectedness project called Social Connections South Derbyshire. Please get in touch if you would like to have an influence on what is happening and needed in your local area.

For more information regarding South Derbyshire CVS, you can get in touch by calling 01283 550163 or visit their website (sdcv.org.uk).

A resident asked about usage at the Midway Community Centre (MCC) and if there was still a group looking at growing community involvement at the centre.

ACTION: CVS to provide feedback at the next meeting on MCC regarding when it used and the status of the Community Group.

Chris Smith updated that there is a meeting due to be held next week to discuss what is happening with MCC.

A member of the public raised awareness that Hill Street Baptist Church has a fantastic Clothing Bank.

Elsbeth Frudd added that the Hill Street Baptist Church is open on Friday afternoons and that they also provide a community meal that anyone can attend.

A resident asked how much the CVS Food Bank is being used and if a list of local food banks and drop-off points could be circulated.

ACTION: Communities Team to circulate list of local food banks and drop-off points.

Councillor Sean Bambrick added that members of the public can also provide monetary donations to the CVS in respect to the Food Bank as well as food and other groceries.

NA/20 Summary of agreed priorities/ actions

- Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) to increase patrols in the area around key times and consider drone deployment if persistent.
- PCSO Lee Walker to arrange for some enforcement action to be taken on Sandcliffe Road, Lower Midway over coming weeks.
- SNT to arrange a visit to the property reported by a resident on Willow Drive in respect to loud revving cars early in the morning.
- Communities Team to look at what material is already in circulation and bring leaflets to the next meeting.
- Kevin Stackhouse to report the blocked off footpath back to the Planning Development team for further investigation.
- Councillor Sean Bambrick to make enquires in respect to the land ownership of the old railway line situated behind Garden King and report back.
- Councillor Bambrick to report the issue raised in respect to verge situated on South Drive to DCC Highways.

- Kevin Stackhouse to make enquiries into the property raised which is understood to have stood empty for circa. six years.
- Communities Team to establish how often the road sweepers are deployed over the Autumn period.
- Communities Team to raise the reported build-up of moss and leaves on Browning Road with Direct Services.
- CVS to provide feedback at the next meeting on Midway Community Centre, in relation to when it is being used and the status of the Community Group.
- Communities Team to circulate a list of Food Banks.

NA/21 **Close and date of next meeting**

TBC

Councillor Paul Dunn
CHAIR

The meeting terminated at 8:00pm

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

ETWALL – AREA 1

Tuesday, January 28, 2020 at Sutton on the Hill Village Hall

PRESENT: -

South Derbyshire District Council representatives

Councillor Lisa Brown (Chair), Councillor David Muller (Vice Chair), Councillor Andy Billings

Frank McArdle – Chief Executive Officer
Ian Hey – Community Partnership Officer
Debbie Ward – Service Assistant

Derbyshire County Council representatives

Councillor Martyn Ford, Councillor Julie Patten

Derbyshire Police representatives

PCSO Andrea Thompson

Parish Council/ Meeting representatives

Councillor Viv Alexander, Councillor Jim Archer, Councillor Steve Trowbridge (Dalbury Lees Parish Council), Councillor Anne du Celliee Muller, (Etwall Parish Council), Councillor Robert Brooks (Hatton Parish Council), Councillor Sandra Stanton (Hilton Parish Council)

Annette Jennison (South Derbyshire CVS)

Members of the public

Eddie Bisknell, Nigel Lee, Jean Parkinson

EA/15 **Open meeting**

- **Introductions and apologies**

Councillor Sir Henry Every Bt., Councillor Miles Nesbitt (Egginton Parish Council), Councillor Andy Roberts, PCSO Supervisor Kerry Wallington-Waite

- **Declarations of interest**

None.

- **Chair's announcements**

Community Partnership Grants

The Community & Environment Partnership Scheme offers the chance for community groups, charities, and volunteer organisations to apply to receive funding.

This is available for a wide variety of organisations and projects, from parish councils and sporting groups to arts, heritage, and environmental schemes. In the past, the scheme has helped with the cost of new buildings and supported improvements to community spaces.

Grants of between £1,000 and £25,000 will be awarded as matched funding to support capital projects with a value of £4,000 and above. Those applying must demonstrate that being awarded the funding would improve the quality of life of residents in South Derbyshire.

The Sunflower Scheme

Anyone with a hidden disability (or their carer) can wear a Sunflower lanyard or pin, and organisations that recognise the scheme train their staff to look out for the Sunflower sign and how to offer additional help to those who wear it.

At January's Council meeting Councillors voted unanimously in favour of adopting the Sunflower scheme. As a result, the Council will be rolling out training to staff and members this spring and the lanyards will be available to pick up from the Council's reception from February 2020.

Sign Live

Sign Live is a solution that offers customers British Sign Language (BSL) translation on the go. Users of British Sign Language can use a mobile device to access a BSL interpreter who will translate what they are saying to the service provider and sign back any responses.

At January's Council meeting Councillors voted unanimously in favour of trialling Sign Live with our customers to see if it is well used and easy to use, before rolling it out wider.

Job Opportunities Day

There is a Job Opportunities Day taking place in Swadlincote on Tuesday, March 31, 2020 from 3pm until 6pm at Sharpe's Pottery for those seeking jobs, training, and other support for their future career.

Thinking of Starting a Business

A 'Thinking of Starting a Business' session will be taking place on Wednesday, February 26, 2020, at 5.30pm at Sharpe's Pottery Museum for any budding entrepreneurs!

- **To receive the minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes were approved as a true and correct record of the meeting.

- **Matters arising from last minutes/ comments from report back**

Councillor Lisa Brown raised the issue previously raised by Councillor Sir Henry Every Bt. in respect to Etwall/ Egginton crossroads. It was agreed that a copy of the email forwarded by Miles Nesbitt on behalf of Councillor Sir Henry Bt. On Tuesday, January 28, 2020 should be followed up on and included within the report back.

ACTION: Debbie Ward to forward on Councillor Sir Henry Every Bt.'s email to DCC and report back with their response.

SA/16 Police Safer Neighbourhood report

PCSO Andrea Thompson introduced herself as a new PCSO to the area and provided the following update on behalf of the Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT): -

Two incidents were dealt with by the SNT on Christmas Eve in relation to possession with the intent to supply cannabis and possession of cannabis in the Hilton area. PCSO Andrea Thompson went on to say that unfortunately the problem of cannabis use/ supply is a widespread issue throughout the South Derbyshire District and encouraged residents to report any drug related intelligence to the Police by calling 101 (or 999 if an emergency).

Councillor Anne Muller reported that the Linesman at King George V Playing Field, Etwall found 3-4 small plastic bags with sealed tops during a litter pick on Saturday morning, then on the following Monday morning a further 6-7 bags were found. It is also believed that there may drug dealing taking place outside of Etwall Primary School by lads on scooters with 'L' plates and money belts.

The Clerk of Etwall Parish Council has subsequently contacted Etwall Primary School to set up a liaison meeting. The school secretary has also allegedly asked groups of youths believed to be smoking drugs outside of the public toilets by the school to move due to concerns about the affects this may have on the children that attend the school.

PCSO Andrea Thompson reiterated that people need to report issues such as those raised so that there is a record of it and so that a bigger picture can be built to determine just how big or small a problem such as drugs is in a particular

area and so that it can be investigated accordingly with the appropriate resources.

The team carried out a Derbyshire Alert survey, signing up residents at a 'Cuppa with a Coppa' event held at Witham Close, Hilton on Tuesday, January 21, 2020. PCSO Andrea Thompson went on to further promote the Derbyshire Alert service and explained that by registering (for free), you can receive news and appeals, local crime information, and prevention advice direct to your email address.

There has also been a tool marking event at Hilton and a bike marking event held at John Port Spencer Academy School, Etwall. The bike marking event was particularly popular with circa. 40 bikes being security marked, following a recent spate of bike thefts in the area.

Any future events will be promoted via the Derbyshire Police Facebook page.

Talks were held at the 155th Etwall Scout Group, John Port Spencer Academy and Longdon Park Autism School covering general topics such as keeping safe, raising awareness amongst young people about the role of the SNT and covering more specific issues around bullying and how mediation can help to resolve issues.

The team have been busy completing Halloween/ Bonfire Night/ Remembrance Day Parade/ Polling Station/ Shop Lifting patrols together with giving advice in respect Christmas crime prevention and helping with the floods during November.

Tool thefts from vans has been on the increase throughout the district and subsequently the Police have distributed leaflets across the most affected areas to raise awareness and provide security advice.

Three separate vehicles were seized for not having car insurance with the use of a Police vehicle equipped with an ANPR camera.

Etwall Leisure Centre – two cars were ticketed w/c 20.01.20 for inappropriate parking. PCSO Andrea Thompson acknowledged that there continues to be a problem with vehicles parking dangerously and confirmed that the area will continue to be monitored closely and tickets issued accordingly. Going forward there will need to be liaison between the Police and Etwall Leisure Centre so that the issues raised around parking can be addressed jointly.

Councillor Brown raised issues on behalf of a local resident regarding the nuisance parking of cars and other vehicles which recently prevented access by emergency vehicles on Beech Drive, Etwall.

ACTION: Debbie Ward to pass on contact details provided by Councillor Brown to PCSO Andrea Thompson for further investigation.

EA/17 Safer South Derbyshire Partnership update and Safer Neighbourhood grants

Ian Hey provided the following update: -

Digital MOT

Safer Derbyshire have launched a campaign to ask members of the public to take a quick survey to see how secure their mobile devices and laptops are.

The Digital MOT is a cyber security assessment tool developed by the Community Safety Unit at Derbyshire County Council, in partnership with the Cybercrime Unit at Derbyshire Constabulary.

The assessment takes less than 5 minutes to complete and will identify how to be safer online.

To take the MOT please visit the website - www.saferderbyshire.gov.uk/MOT

John Port School – Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) visit

Claire Rawlins (SDDC ASB Officer) and PCSO Andrea Thompson visited John Port Spencer Academy in December to talk to a group of six young people who had been identified by the police and school as causing ASB in the local area. One of the six received a Community Protection Notice Warning (CPNW) and the others were all given a verbal warning and had it explained what would happen if their behaviour did not change.

Age UK Scams Advice

We have lots of people telling us they have been on the receiving end of a scam phone call or know a friend or relative who has. Fortunately, many people are now getting wise to them and just put the phone down as soon as they ask for personal details, however there are still some people who are very trusting and unfortunately still get scammed.

The Age UK webpage on Scams phone calls is certainly worth a read as it provides information on the most common types of phone scams, what to look out for and how to avoid becoming a victim. Remember never give your bank details or PIN out over the phone!! Just Google Age UK Scams.

SNT Funding - there have been no applications to date received from the Repton Area (Police Area 2) for this financial year 2019/2020. £4000 funding will be available again from April 2020 but applications for this year's underspend can be received up until the end of the February 2020.

EA/18 **Local authority update**

Frank McArdle updated: -

Budget update

The Council's income base continues to benefit from increasing numbers of properties and business development. Any extra income generated is now being set aside to meet increased costs of services such as waste collection, street cleansing and grounds maintenance. There are no proposed cuts in services. Overall spending is due to increase by at least inflation. Additional funding has been approved for parishes through concurrent functions to recognise growth.

The coming years Council Tax increase is proposed at 1.95% (adding £3.17 per year to a band D property). All proposals are still subject to Council ratification on Wednesday, February 26, 2020.

There will be no capping for parishes, the government were considering this but are keeping their options open.

Generally, the local authorities budget position is good, but we are not complacent and are mindful of future budget pressures including our commitment to climate change. In the near future waste collection and recycling may also put pressure on budgets for 2021-22.

The main concern for many Councils is around the uncertainty regarding government funding beyond 2021. The government is intending to review the distribution system and the amount of money divided between different types of authority and we are keeping a close eye on that. In the meantime, the Councils overall financial position remains sound with a good level of general reserves.

Keep Britain Tidy Campaign

Between March 20 and April 13 this year there will be a national Keep Britain Tidy campaign and we will be doing a lot of local work linking to this initiative, putting information on our website, and encouraging communities to join in.

Keen litter-pickers can get involved with an ever-growing list of clean-up events taking place across the District – one of these will be held at Castleton Park, Church Gresley on the Sunday, March 24, 2020.

Keep an eye on our usual communication channels for further information.

Green Spaces Plan

The Council is seeking to protect around 150 Local Green Spaces across the District through a Local Green Spaces Plan. Following the hearing in September the Council is preparing to consult on several modifications to the

Plan, subject to Committee approval. After this consultation, the Inspector will write her report, which it is hoped will lead to the Plan's adoption by late spring.

Climate Emergency

Following the declaration of a Climate Emergency in June 2019, A Climate and Environment Strategy and Action Plan was approved by Full Council on January 16, 2020.

The aspiration of the Strategy is to strive to make all the Council's activities carbon neutral over the next 10 years. It also commits to working with others to tackle the estimated 800,000 tonnes of carbon emitted every year from all communities and businesses across South Derbyshire.

The Action Plan set out some of the early measures the Council will be taking, such as a carbon review of the Council's own housing stock, the implementation of a Staff Travel Plan and the phased reduction of plant and machinery with electric alternatives.

ISO14001

South Derbyshire District Council was awarded the prestigious ISO14001 standard for Environmental Management for the twelfth successive year in December following an extensive four-day audit.

The audit covered all the Council's five main operational centres – Civic Way offices, the depot on the Boardman Estate, Greenbank and Etwall Leisure centres and Rosliston Forestry Centre.

The auditors highlighted a handful of minor non-conformities which are being addressed as well as making over 20 additional observations to help the Council continue to improve its environmental performance.

Mention was made of the environmental, biodiversity, education, and well-being programmes at Rosliston. Also, the approach of the Housing, Planning & Economic Development Services to ensure that existing and planned developments are managed with protection of the environment as one of the main pillars.

Tim Peake Space Sapling lands at Rosliston Forestry Centre

South Derbyshire District Council's Environmental Education Project at Rosliston Forestry Centre is very proud to be a recipient of one of eight young trees from the pips from Isaac Newton's apple tree that were blasted into space with British European Space Agency (ESA) Astronaut Tim Peake.

Apple pips from the iconic Newton tree were taken on the Principia mission in 2015 by British astronaut Tim Peake to the International Space Station. The pips then spent six months floating in micro gravity as part of the 'Pips in Space' project, before returning to Earth in 2016.

A member of the public queried whether any consideration has been given to asking the public to contribute more than the proposed 1.95% increase given the declared Climate Emergency.

Frank McArdle replied to say that to further increase Council Tax would be a last resort and that instead the Council is looking at better, more efficient ways of working.

A member of the public asked whether there is a list of small initiatives available for the public to view on the Council website.

Frank McArdle advised that the Environmental Sustainability Group have itemised all the initiatives that they are working on which can be accessed via the SDDC website.

EA/19 Local community and voluntary sector projects/ update

Annette Jennison provided a brief introduction to South Derbyshire CVS and the vast range of services it offers.

Safer Homes – during 2019, 545 homes were assessed resulting in 1784 window locks and 154 door chains being fitted as part of the Safer Homes Derbyshire scheme.

Food Bank – a massive 1144 food parcels were given out during 2019.

Social Car – assistance is available to anyone who lives in South Derbyshire and is unable to use any other form of transport. Enquiries and bookings can be made Monday - Friday mornings (9:00am - 12:00pm) and transport is available seven days a week subject to the availability of drivers. The scheme is non profit-making. However, there is a charge made to the client of £1 per journey booked, plus 45p per mile (which is paid to the driver to cover their expenses). During 2019, 51,000 miles were covered which equated to 550 GP appointments and 1000 hospital visits.

Travelling Lunch Club – The Travelling Lunch Club offers a chance to socialise with friends old and new by providing a trip out and lunch at a different venue each month. The club is open to any person over the age of 65, living in South Derbyshire who may feel lonely or isolated.

Practical Help - An NHS funded scheme which supports people who need a little help to stay healthy and at home in their local community. It aims to help reduce the number of hospital admissions, get patients home quicker and help them stay at home. Short term practical help can be provided for example:

- Giving someone a lift home from hospital
- Making sure they have basic food supplies
- Visiting to check they are ok for the first few days after they come home
- Taking someone shopping or doing the shopping for them

A referral will be required from a Health or Social Care professional for hospital discharge short term support.

Funding – help is available to assist with funding applications. Future planned “Funding Surgeries” include Foundation Derbyshire on Friday, February 14, 2020 and National Lottery Community Fund on Monday, March 16, 2020.

Connect Befriending Service - volunteers are needed across all areas of the district to help tackle isolation and loneliness.

Free Training – E.g., Mental Health, ISLAND Community Champions; covering topics such as Safeguarding and how to identify people that might be lonely across all ages and walks of life.

Volunteering – if anyone is interested in volunteering please contact Annette for a volunteering pack which will enable volunteers to be matched up with a volunteering opportunity to suit.

For more information regarding South Derbyshire CVS, you can get in touch by calling 01283 550163 or visit their website (sd cvs.org.uk).

Ian Hey added that there will also be an opportunity to attend funding workshops in relation to the Community and Environmental Partnership scheme, which covers capital projects across a wide range of funders and encouraged anyone that was interested to sign up with the CVS for email updates to keep abreast of any new opportunities as they arise.

EA/20 Summary of agreed priorities/ actions

- Debbie Ward to forward on Councillor Sir Henry Every Bt.’s email to DCC and report back with their response.
- Debbie Ward to pass on contact details provided by Councillor Brown to PCSO Andrea Thompson for further investigation.

EA/21 Close and date of next meeting

TBC

Councillor Lisa Brown
CHAIR

The meeting terminated at 7:53pm

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

SWADLINCOTE – AREA 4

Wednesday, January 29, 2020 at Oakland Village

PRESENT: -

South Derbyshire District Council representatives

Councillor Gordon Rhind (Chair), Councillor Malcolm Gee, Councillor Vonnice Heath, Councillor Mick Mulgrew, Councillor Trevor Southerd, Councillor Neil Tilley

Allison Thomas – Strategic Director - Service Delivery
Chris Smith – Communities Manager
Max Boyce – Community Safety Enforcement Officer
Debbie Ward – Service Assistant (Taking notes)

Derbyshire County Council representatives

Councillor Linda Chilton, Councillor Gary Musson, Councillor Stuart Swann

Derbyshire Police representatives

Sgt Tarj Nizzer, PCSO Lee Walker

Parish Council/ Meeting representatives

Councillor Jenny Burley Councillor Alan Jones, Councillor Maureen Mycock, Councillor Jim Seaton (Hartshorne Parish Council), Councillor Eric Parker, Councillor Don Redfern (Woodville Parish Council)

Bex Cox (South Derbyshire CVS)
Ingrid van der Weide (Swad in Bloom/ Swad Style)

Members of the public

Carl Barratt, Cathy Bates, Michael Barsby, C. Bowley, Ron Causer, Colin Dobson, Geoff Fox, Tracey Fullagar, E. Griffiths, Michael Hine, Helen Kreft, C. Moody, Dave Sharpe, G. Tubey

SA/15 **Open meeting**

• **Introductions and apologies**

Councillor Jane Perry, Councillor Steve Taylor

- **Declarations of interest**

None.

- **Chair's announcements**

Community Partnership Grants

The Community & Environment Partnership Scheme offers the chance for community groups, charities and volunteer organisations to apply to receive funding.

This is available for a wide variety of organisations and projects, from parish councils and sporting groups to arts, heritage and environmental schemes. In the past, the scheme has helped with the cost of new buildings and supported improvements to community spaces.

Grants of between £1,000 and £25,000 will be awarded as matched funding to support capital projects with a value of £4,000 and above. Those applying must demonstrate that being awarded the funding would improve the quality of life of residents in South Derbyshire.

For more information contact Ian Hey, Community Partnership Officer.

The Sunflower Scheme

Anyone with a hidden disability (or their carer) can wear a Sunflower lanyard or pin, and organisations that recognise the scheme train their staff to look out for the Sunflower sign and how to offer additional help to those who wear it.

At January's Council meeting Councillors voted unanimously in favour of adopting the Sunflower scheme. As a result, the Council will be rolling out training to staff and members this spring and the lanyards will be available to pick up from the Council's reception from February 2020.

Sign Live

Sign Live is a solution that offers customers British Sign Language (BSL) translation on the go. Users of British Sign Language can use a mobile device to access a BSL interpreter who will translate what they are saying to the service provider and sign back any responses.

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Job Opportunities Day

There is a Job Opportunities Day taking place in Swadlincote on Tuesday, March 31, 2020 from 3pm until 6pm at Sharpe's Pottery Museum for those seeking jobs, training and other support for their future career.

Thinking of Starting a Business

A 'Thinking of Starting a Business' session will be taking place on Wednesday, February 26, 2020, 5.30pm at Sharpe's Pottery Museum for any budding entrepreneurs!

Swadlincote Pancake Races

The 2020 Swadlincote Pancake Races will take place on Shrove Tuesday, February 25 (12-2pm) at The Delph Market Square in aid of Sport Relief. Teams of four people can enter the Pancake Relay Races for £4 per team with all proceeds going to Sport Relief. You can be from a business, organisation or just a group of friends.

Open Mic on The Delph

Up to thirty-minute slots are available on Saturday, February 29, 2020 for any musicians, singers, MCs, bands or buskers who want to showcase their talents. To book a free slot contact John Beer on 07799 666522 or visit the Swadlincote Markets Facebook page.

- **To receive the minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes were approved as a true and correct record of the meeting.

- **Matters arising from last minutes/ comments from report back**

Councillor Gary Musson updated that the streetlights on New Road are 12 watts. An electrical engineer will be visiting in the next few days to assess whether the lighting is technically fit for purpose and to check whether the wattage is appropriate for the type of road it is.

PCSO Lee Walker updated that following the last meeting there have been increased patrols around Goseley Estate in response to the reports made regarding nuisance bikes.

SA/16 **Police Safer Neighbourhood report**

PCSO Lee Walker introduced Sergeant Tarj Nizzer, Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) Sergeant and updated that there has been an increase in patrols around schools in response to concerns raised about dangerous parking and hot spot areas such as McDonalds/ Lidl due to youths causing anti-social behaviour (ASB).

Community Protection Notice Warnings (CPNW's) and Community Protection Notices (CPN's) have subsequently been issued to deal with the individuals concerned.

A member of the public asked what could be done about gangs of youths congregating around McDonalds and using foul language.

PCSO Lee Walker advised that concerns should be reported at the time so that the next available resource can be deployed to investigate and deal with the situation as it arises.

Sgt Nizzer encouraged residents to report any incidents including dates and key times so that patrols can be scheduled at opportune times to catch the individuals concerned.

A member of the public raised concerns about youths congregating at night nearby the Woodville Youth & Community Centre and at the bottom of the jitty near Brookdale Road, Woodville.

A Woodville resident asked whether the police would consider hosting a future bike marking event at Woodville Recreation Ground (WRG).

ACTION: SNT to look into planning a future bike marking event at WRG during Spring/ Summer 2020.

A member of the public extended thanks to the Police for the number of cars being seized due to having no tax and insurance and welcomed the feedback provided via the SNT Facebook page.

PCSO Lee Walker reminded residents that the Police do rely on information regarding criminals from communities and encouraged residents to continue to report. Information can also be given anonymously via CrimeStoppers.

A member of the public queried whether it is legal to ride an electric powered scooter on the pavement.

PCSO Lee Walker responded that it is not legal to ride an electric scooter on either the road or the pavement and asked people to report any incidents on 101 so that the individuals in question can be advised accordingly.

SA/17 **Safer South Derbyshire Partnership update and Safer Neighbourhood grants**

Chris Smith provided the following update: -

PSPO on Maurice Lea Park

A period of consultation has recently closed which asked for opinions on the Council implementing a Public Space Protection Order on Maurice Lea Park to combat ASB which became a regular issue during the Summer Holiday period.

Reports were received by both the Council and the Police regarding groups of youths drinking, being abusive to staff and members of the public, smashing glass, littering, and causing damage to trees and play equipment.

The PSPO prohibitions will enable Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN's) for anyone caught dropping litter and will give additional powers to the police and Council Officers to remove individuals from the park for 24 hours and to confiscate alcohol.

The Consultation has received 100% support from those who responded, and a report will be submitted to Committee in March to obtain approval for the order.

Digital MOT

Safer Derbyshire have launched a campaign to ask members of the public to take a quick survey to see how secure their mobile devices and laptops are. The Digital MOT is a cyber security assessment tool developed by the Community Safety Unit at Derbyshire County Council, in partnership with the Cybercrime Unit at Derbyshire Constabulary.

The assessment takes less than 5 minutes to complete and will identify how to be safer online.

To take the MOT please visit the website - www.saferderbyshire.gov.uk/MOT

Criminal Behaviour Orders

SDDC have been successful in extending and varying the existing Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO) on Jordan Burgess, a Town Centre shoplifter and street drinker. Due to him continuing to cause ASB in the town centre, including letting off fireworks in Swadlincote High Street during the daytime the original two-year order has now been extended until 2021 and bans him completely from entering the Town Centre.

On Tuesday, January 14, 2020 we were back in court with Andrew Hogg who is one of our main Town Centre ASB perpetrators. Mr Hogg appeared for two breaches of the Town Centre PSPO and pleaded guilty to both offences. On the back of this we also applied for a three-year CBO, which we have been successful in obtaining.

CBO prohibitions are as follows: -

1. Not to act in a manner that causes or is likely to cause a nuisance (harassment, alarm or distress) to one or more persons not of your household within DERBYSHIRE.
2. Not to carry or consume alcohol in an open vessel in any public place other than a licensed premise within DERBYSHIRE.

District Judge Taff told Mr Hogg that if he breaches the CBO he will be going to prison.

Additionally, Mr Hogg was given a 2-year Conditional Discharge, £85 costs and a £21 Victim Surcharge.

Police Speeding Campaign

Over the next two weeks officers will be focusing on speeding drivers across the county as part of a national campaign.

One of the so called “Fatal Four” – collisions where speed was a factor killed 596 people, and seriously injured 2,686, across the UK in 2018.

Over the next two weeks officers from the Roads Policing Unit, the CREST team, Community Speed Watch, Specials and Local Policing Units will be undertaking speed enforcement at various locations around the county.

If you are concerned about speeding in your area, then you can report it on the CREST website (www.crestderbyshire.org/about-us/report-a-speeding-concern/)

It is also possible for residents concerned about speeding in their area to set up, or participate in already active, Community Speed Watch groups. More information about the scheme can be found at www.crestderbyshire.org/in-the-community/community-speed-watch/

Pubwatch

Chris Smith raised awareness about South Derbyshire Pubwatch which is a successful licensing intervention group that has been running for several years.

Every couple of months the group meet to discuss and share information regarding problem individuals. During the meeting, a vote is taken regarding any names put forward to be banned from all premises participating in the scheme.

Currently there are 14 individuals that are banned from pubs in the area, with a further three to be added since the last Pubwatch meeting held on Tuesday, January 21, 2020.

Safer Neighbourhoods and Community Funding

Safer Neighbourhoods Funding – Projects funded to date 2019/20: -

Project Name	Ref.	Project Lead	Organisation	Amount Applied for	Total Project Cost	Amount Granted
Anti-loitering Mosquito Alarms	A4:01	Bob Ellis	Gresley Old Hall Community Welfare Centre	£950	£1275.99	£950

There is still money available for this financial year. Any ideas contact Chris Smith or Debbie Ward.

Further money (£4000) will be available from April 2020 for community-based projects that help prevent crime and disorder/ educate around crime and disorder/ allow set-up of diversionary activities/ improve security measures on community buildings. Applications can be received at any time as there is still an underspend on 2019-20 money.

SA/18 Local authority update

Allison Thomas gave the following update: -

Keep Britain Tidy Campaign

Between March 20 and April 13 this year there will be a national Keep Britain Tidy campaign and we will be doing a lot of local work linking to this initiative, putting information on our website, and encouraging communities to join in.

Keen litter-pickers can get involved with an ever-growing list of clean-up events taking place across the District – one of these will be held at Castleton Park, Church Gresley on the Sunday, March 24, 2020.

Keep an eye on our usual communication channels for further information.

Green Spaces Plan

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Climate Emergency

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The aspiration of the Strategy is to strive to make all the Council's activities carbon neutral over the next 10 years. It also commits to working with others to tackle the estimated 800,000 tonnes of carbon emitted every year from all communities and businesses across South Derbyshire.

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Mention was made of the environmental, biodiversity, education and well-being programmes at Rosliston. Also, the approach of the Housing, Planning & Economic Development Services to ensure that existing and planned developments are managed with protection of the environment as one of the main pillars.

Tim Peake Space Sapling lands at Rosliston Forestry Centre

South Derbyshire District Council's Environmental Education Project at Rosliston Forestry Centre is very proud to be a recipient of one of eight young trees from the pips from Isaac Newton's apple tree that were blasted into space with British European Space Agency (ESA) Astronaut Tim Peake.

Apple pips from the iconic Newton tree were taken on the Principia mission in 2015 by British astronaut Tim Peake to the International Space Station. The pips then spent six months floating in micro gravity as part of the 'Pips in Space' project, before returning to Earth in 2016.

Budget update

The Council's income base continues to benefit from increasing numbers of properties and business development. Any extra income generated is now being set aside to meet increased costs of services such as waste collection, street cleansing and grounds maintenance. There are no proposed cuts in services.

Overall spending is due to increase by at least inflation. Additional funding has been approved for parishes through concurrent functions to recognise growth. The coming years Council Tax increase proposed at 1.95% (adding £3.17 per year to a band D property). All proposals are still subject to Council ratification on Wednesday, February 26, 2020.

There will be no capping for parishes, the government were considering this but are keeping their options open. Generally, the local authorities budget position is good, but we are not complacent and are mindful of future budget pressures including our commitment to climate change.

In the near future waste collection and recycling may also put pressure on budgets for 2021-22. The main concern for many Councils is around the uncertainty regarding government funding beyond 2021. The government is intending to review the distribution system and the amount of money divided between different types of authority and we are keeping a close eye on that. In the meantime, the Councils overall financial position remains sound with a good level of general reserves.

A resident of Hall Farm Close raised concerns over the term 'communal gardens' and asked whether it would be possible for each resident to be given responsibility for their own patch of garden. Some residents have spent a great deal of time and money on improving their own patches of garden whilst others have no regard and leave their bins and mess all over the place.

ACTION: SDDC to investigate the request made in respect to the responsibility of individual garden areas on Hall Farm Close and report back.

A member of the public reported a damaged fence along by The Cutting in Hartshorne (from Hartshorne Road to Brookdale Road). The fence is on the verge of collapse and people are tipping rubbish over it. The issue has been reported numerous times to SDDC over the last four years.

ACTION: SDDC to investigate and report back in respect to the collapsing fence along by The Cutting, Hartshorne (located between Hartshorne Road and Brookdale Road).

A Woodville resident raised concerns regarding people parking on South Street, Woodville (Footpath nine) which is being ripped up by non-residents that are using the street to park.

Councillor Rhind explained that the road is unadopted and that unfortunately there is nothing more that either SDDC or DCC can do to help.

Councillor Swann reported that the lighting on the car park by the steps leading up to the Bus Park Café was poor and that the handrail was being partially covered by ivy.

ACTION: SDDC to report back to Property Maintenance the lighting and handrail in the Bus Park Café car park.

A member of the public raised the sunken block paving on Swadlincote High Street outside of Lloyds Bank which fills up with water when the weather is wet.

ACTION: SDDC to report the sunken block paving to DCC.

Thanks, were extended to refuse collectors across the district however, there were also reports that in certain locations such as Gresley Wood Road where bins are not being put back in the correct place following emptying.

ACTION: SDDC to feedback both the praise and comments raised regarding bins not being put back in the correct place to Waste Cleansing.

Allison Thomas encouraged residents to report any future issues through the SDDC website or by contacting Customer Services on the main number.

A resident raised recycling and suggested that SDDC look at an alternative contractor when the current contract expires due to the limited materials that are currently collected, namely pizza boxes and egg cartons.

Allison Thomas explained that the current recycling contract is up for renewal in October 2021 and that Councillors have approved a fundamental review of our waste services in the lead up to that date. It was also agreed that SDDC may need to put some interim arrangements in place as the government are making wide scale changes to the way in which they incentivise producers to produce packaging that is easier to recycle.

A full-scale review will be completed prior to agreeing on a specification for the new contract. Allison Thomas assured that SDDC are committed to ensuring that our recycling performance is up there amongst the best.

A resident of Hall Farm Close raised that the walk-through by their properties is pitch dark and requires better lighting.

ACTION: SDDC/ DCC to investigate concerns raised regarding the lighting between properties in Hall Farm Close and report back.

A member of the public raised concerns regarding the block paving and metal grid that is sticking up due to tree roots outside of Fast Cash on Swadlincote High Street.

ACTION: SDDC to report the raised block paving/ metal grid outside of Fast Cash to DCC.

A suggestion was made that rather than erecting an artificial Christmas Tree on Sainsburys island that it would look better to decorate the mature trees on the island that are already in situ.

ACTION: SDDC to feedback the suggestion regarding the Christmas Tree on Sainsburys Island to the Events team.

A member of the public raised the surface of The Delph and asked the following questions: -

1. Is there any feedback following a meeting that was scheduled to take place back in 2018 between Council Officers and the contractor concerned in relation to the quality of the materials that were used?
2. How much money have council taxpayers spent on repairing the surface of The Delph since it was installed in 2011?
3. Why hasn't SDDC sued the contractor concerned for breach of contract?

Allison Thomas advised that the deterioration of The Delph is very much on Chief Executive Officer, Frank McArdle's radar and that the surface is inspected on a regular basis to ensure that it continues to be safe for use by the public.

ACTION: Allison Thomas to take back the questions raised in respect to The Delph to Frank McArdle and report back.

A resident reported that the properties on Hall Farm Close's roofs were covered in moss, causing a slip hazard when it falls off in clumps onto the walkway beneath and is also clogging up the guttering.

ACTION: SDDC to refer the issue raised in relation to moss on the roofs of properties in Hall Farm Close to Housing for further investigation.

SA/19 Local community and voluntary sector projects/ update

CVS update

Bex Cox provided an update on South Derbyshire CVS's Active Travel Social Car scheme and explained that volunteers were needed to help people in need to attend doctor and hospital appointments. Assistance is available to anyone who lives in South Derbyshire and is unable to use any other form of transport. Enquiries and bookings can be made Mon- Fri mornings (9:00am - 12:00pm) and transport is available seven days a week subject to the availability of drivers. The scheme is non profit-making. However, there is a charge made to the client of £1 per journey booked, plus 45p per mile (which is paid to the driver to cover their expenses). During 2019, 51,000 miles were covered which equated to 550 GP appointments and 1000 hospital visits.

For more information on the range of services offered by CVS or to register your interest in becoming a volunteer, please visit the CVS website (www.sdcvs.org.uk) or call 01283 219761 or 01283 550163.

SwadStyle/ Swad in Bloom

Ingrid van der Weide gave a brief introduction into SwadStyle magazine which is now delivered on a monthly basis to 16,800 homes in the Swadlincote area.

Requests were welcomed from Community Groups to share any news/ requests/ performances on the Community News pages. Anyone interested in

making an insertion should contact Ingrid by around the 10th of the month in readiness for print/ distribution on the 17th.

Ingrid updated that the Swad In Bloom Community Group is now fully up and running as a not-for-profit organisation and plans to host Swadlincote's 1st Swad in Bloom Amateur Garden Show competition at this year's Festival of Leisure event. There will be nine classes of entry including Early Summer Flowering Plant Pots, Cake Competition with a Fruit or Vegetable Theme and Hand-Crafted Items for the Garden using fabric, yarn, wood, or recycled materials.

Swad in Bloom is also planning to run an Open Garden Weekend during July/ August, dates to be confirmed in due course.

In terms of projects, the group are looking at ways to enhance Swadlincote and surrounding areas with floral displays and art installations which will help to make the area a nicer place to live, work and visit.

Future ambitions include entering the annual Britain in Bloom competition. Ingrid welcomed volunteers to help achieve some of the projects that the group are keen to get going with.

For more information regarding SwadStyle or Swad in Bloom Community Group please visit their respective websites/ Facebook pages (www.swadstyle.co.uk) / @SwadStyle & Town Team / (www.swadinbloom.org) / @ Swad in Bloom or alternatively you can call Ingrid on 07727 257262.

Allison Thomas added that the Council has published a report which can be found on the SDDC website which is due to be considered by the Housing and Community Services Committee on Thursday, January 30, 2020. The report will outline the extent to which the Council can support and participate in the initiative.

SA/20 Summary of any agreed priorities/ actions

- SNT to look into planning a future bike marking event at WRG during Spring/ Summer 2020.
- SDDC to investigate the request made in respect to the responsibility of individual garden areas on Hall Farm Close and report back.
- SDDC to investigate and report back in respect to the collapsing fence along by The Cutting, Hartshorne (located between Hartshorne Road and Brookdale Road).
- SDDC to feed back to Property Maintenance the issues reported in respect to the lighting and handrail in the Bus Park Café car park.
- SDDC to report the sunken block paving on Swadlincote Hight Street to DCC.
- SDDC to feedback the comments raised to Waste Cleansing.
- SDDC/ DCC to investigate concerns raised regarding the lighting and report back.

- SDDC to report the raised block paving/ metal grid outside of Fast Cash to DCC.
- SDDC to feedback the suggestion regarding the Christmas Tree on Sainsburys Island to the Events team.
- Allison Thomas to take back the questions raised in respect to The Delph and report back.
- SDDC to take back the issues raised around moss on the roofs of properties in Hall Farm Close for further investigation.

SA/21 **Close and date of next meeting**

TBC

Councillor Gordon Rhind
CHAIR

The meeting terminated at 7:43pm

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

MELBOURNE – AREA 3

Thursday, February 6, 2020 at Melbourne Assembly Rooms

PRESENT: -

South Derbyshire District Council representatives

Councillor Jim Hewlett (Chair), Councillor Martin Fitzpatrick (Vice Chair),
Councillor Neil Atkin, Councillor Peter Watson

Kevin Stackhouse – Strategic Director of Corporate Resources
Claire Rawlins – Anti-Social Behaviour Officer
Debbie Ward – Service Assistant

Derbyshire County Council representatives

Councillor Neil Atkin, Councillor Linda Chilton

Derbyshire Police representatives

Sergeant Matt Ladd

Parish Council/ Meeting representatives

Councillor Jean Longley (Aston on Trent Parish Council), Catherine Blackmore
(Barrow on Trent Parish Council), Councillor Sheila Hicklin, Councillor David
Smith, Councillor Terry Summerlin (Melbourne Parish Council), Councillor Avril
Record (Weston on Trent Parish Council),

Helen Frudd – South Derbyshire CVS

Members of the public

Heather Bainbrigge, Eddie Bisknell, Andy Heafield, Frank Hughes, Paul
Sturges, Gayle Summerlin

MA/15 **Open meeting**

- **Introductions and apologies**

Councillor Nancy Hawksworth (Shardlow and Great Wilne Parish Council)

- **Declarations of interest**

None.

- **Chair's announcements**

Community Partnership Grants

The Community & Environment Partnership Scheme offers the chance for community groups, charities and volunteer organisations to apply to receive funding.

This is available for a wide variety of organisations and projects, from parish councils and sporting groups to arts, heritage and environmental schemes. In the past, the scheme has helped with the cost of new buildings and supported improvements to community spaces.

Grants of between £1,000 and £25,000 will be awarded as matched funding to support capital projects with a value of £4,000 and above. Those applying must demonstrate that being awarded the funding would improve the quality of life of residents in South Derbyshire.

For more information contact Ian Hey, Community Partnership Officer.

The Sunflower Scheme

Anyone with a hidden disability (or their carer) can wear a Sunflower lanyard or pin, and organisations that recognise the scheme train their staff to look out for the Sunflower sign and how to offer additional help to those who wear it.

At January's Council meeting Councillors voted unanimously in favour of adopting the Sunflower scheme. As a result, the Council will be rolling out training to staff and members this spring and the lanyards will be available to pick up from the Council's reception from February 2020.

Sign Live

Sign Live is a solution that offers customers British Sign Language (BSL) translation on the go. Users of BSL can use a mobile device to access a BSL interpreter who will translate what they are saying to the service provider and sign back any responses.

At January's Council meeting Councillors voted unanimously in favour of trialling Sign Live with our customers to see if it is well used and easy to use, before rolling it out wider.

Job Opportunities Day

There is a Job Opportunities Day taking place in Swadlincote on Tuesday, March 31, 2020 from 3-6pm at Sharpe's Pottery Museum for those seeking jobs, training and other support for their future career.

Thinking of Starting a Business

A 'Thinking of Starting a Business' session will be taking place on Wednesday, February 26, 2020 from 5.30pm at Sharpe's Pottery Museum for any budding entrepreneurs!

MA/16 **Police Safer Neighbourhood report**

Sgt Matt Ladd provided the following update: -

There has been an increase in Police numbers since the last meeting with the addition of two new PCSO's to cover Police Areas one (Etwall), two (Repton) and three (Melbourne).

One Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) camera has been moved from Swadlincote to Melbourne.

A 'Cuppa with a Coppa' event was hosted in Melbourne at the Assembly Rooms on Tuesday, February 4, 2020. Residents were encouraged to sign up to Derbyshire Alert and Derbyshire Talking to receive crime alerts, appeals, news bulletins and to provide feedback regarding any issues in the local area.

Sgt Ladd confirmed that South Derbyshire is a safe place to live and that crime is low in the area.

There have been increased patrols around Melbourne Cemetery in response to drug intelligence provided by the public.

Speeding issues should continue to be reported to CREST Derbyshire via their website (www.crestderbyshire.org).

The Police now have a Proactive Team consisting of four plain clothes officers covering the whole of South Derbyshire.

Several stop and search warrants have been issued since the last meeting and during December there were six recorded offences as a result in the Melbourne area.

In response to a query raised by a local resident Sgt Ladd advised that the direct messaging facility had been removed from the Melbourne and Mercia Police SNT Facebook page due to concerns over the type of crimes being reported and went on to say that if someone is in danger that people should continue to call 999 for emergencies and 101 for non-urgent matters.

Following a discussion around parking issues, i.e., parking on bends and over the pavement, Sgt Ladd confirmed that officers are encouraged to pay attention to these kinds of matters.

Councillor Peter Watson extended thanks to PCSO Emma Guest for all her efforts and asked whether she would remain in the area following the addition of two more PCSO's.

Sgt Ladd confirmed that PCSO Emma Guest would continue to cover Area 3.

Councillor David Smith raised a matter on behalf of a Melbourne parishioner who had reported aggressive behaviour and feeling threatened to the Police and had heard nothing since.

Sgt Ladd responded that the victim in question should be encouraged to come forward to the station to discuss the matter further.

Concerns were raised over an individual causing a nuisance on a push bike in Melbourne.

ACTION: Police to contact Melbourne Parish Council to obtain the CCTV footage of the individual concerned.

Councillor Linda Chilton raised concerns regarding an increase in the number of people reporting drug issues in the Melbourne area. Dangerous parking in the evening was also raised i.e., parking on bends and across the pavement on Potter Street, Melbourne.

Sgt Ladd responded to say that residents must report suspicious activity to the police by calling 101 or alternatively information can be given anonymously by contacting Crime Stoppers. Regarding dangerous parking, Sgt Ladd explained that officers are encouraged to pay attention to such matters but if the issue is ongoing then it would be advisable to call it in via 101.

Councillor Terry Summerlin raised concerns regarding County Lines and suggested that the Police should be present at key times around schools. Sgt Ladd responded to say the need to cover all times of day are recognised and shifts are worked accordingly with the resources available.

Councillor Martin Fitzpatrick extended thanks to PCSO Kerry Wallington-Waite and Chris Smith for their assistance with setting up the Melbourne Community Speed Watch (CSW) group.

Councillor Neil Atkin raised awareness that he recently attended a presentation given by the Chief Superintendent regarding crime types in Derbyshire and suggested that it might be useful to arrange two public meetings to share the presentation with members of the public.

ACTION: Chris Smith to investigate arranging two public meetings, one in the North and one in the South of the district so that the Chief Superintendent can deliver his presentation on Crime types within Derbyshire to members of the public.

MA/17 **Safer South Derbyshire Partnership update and Safer Neighbourhood grants**

Claire Rawlins provided the following update: -

Digital MOT

Safer Derbyshire have launched a campaign to invite members of the public to take a quick survey (less than 5 minutes) to see how secure their mobile devices and laptops are and find out how to be safer online.

The Digital MOT is a cyber security assessment tool developed by the Community Safety Unit at DCC, in partnership with the Cybercrime Unit at Derbyshire Constabulary.

Phones, computers and tablets are now part of everyday life - online banking, shopping, email and social media. But the longer you spend online, the more risks you are exposed to. So, it is more important than ever to take steps to protect your accounts, data and devices from cyber criminals.

To take the MOT please visit the website:
<https://www.saferderbyshire.gov.uk/MOT>

Age UK Scams Advice

We have lots of people telling us they have been on the receiving end of a scam phone call or know a friend or relative who has. Fortunately, many people are now getting wise to them and just put the phone down as soon as they ask for personal details, however there are still some people who are very trusting and unfortunately still get scammed.

The Age UK webpage on Scams phone calls is certainly worth a read as it provides information on the most common types of phone scams, what to look out for and how to avoid becoming a victim. Remember never give your bank details or PIN out over the phone!! Just Google Age UK Scams.

SNT Funding

Three applications have been received from the 'Big Pot'.

£500 has been granted to Melbourne Parish Council towards a new Town Centre CCTV Hard drive.

We have also received a further application from Melbourne Parish Council for £1000 towards the cost of a Speed Watch Camera and Electric sign for the Melbourne CSW group. This application has been supported in principle, although we are currently liaising with the Speed Watch Co-Ordinator in respect to the recommended equipment.

A third application has been submitted for £500 towards a total cost of £1200 for a new Security Gate with Digital Lock at Kings Newton Bowls Club. This project will increase the security of the site and discourage Anti-social behaviour (ASB), discourage criminal damage, and promote the Club as a good neighbour.

Projects for WIFI at Aston Heritage Centre and a Youth Club at Barrow are currently at the planning stage.

- Safer Neighbourhoods Funding – Projects funded to date 2019-20: -

Project Name	Ref.	Project Lead	Organisation	Amount Applied for	Total Project Cost	Amount Granted
Lighting at MAR	A3:01	Andy Heathfield	Melbourne Assembly Rooms	£529.00	£705.60	£529.00
Melbourne speed Watch Camera	A3:02	Jacqui Storer	Melbourne Parish Council	£1,000.00	£2,013.00	£500.00
Melbourne CCTV	A3:03	Jacqui Storer	Melbourne Parish Council	£695.00	£695.00	£500.00
Kings Newton Bowls Club Gate	A3:04	Gayle Summerlin	Kings Newton Bowls Club	£500.00	£1,200.00	£500.00
St. Wilfred's Youth Project	A3:05	Allison Hicklin	Barrow on Trent Parish Council	£1,250.00	£1,700.00	£1,250.00

Please contact Chris Smith or Debbie Ward with any ideas for future projects.

MA/18 **Local authority update**

Kevin Stackhouse updated: -

Keep Britain Tidy Campaign

Between March 20 and April 13 this year there will be a national Keep Britain Tidy campaign and we will be doing a lot of local work linking to this initiative, putting information on our website and encouraging communities to join in.

Keen litter-pickers can get involved with an ever-growing list of clean-up events taking place across the District.

Keep an eye on our usual communication channels for further information.

Green Spaces Plan

The Council is seeking to protect around 150 Local Green Spaces across the District through a Local Green Spaces Plan. Following the hearing in September the Council is preparing to consult on a number of modifications to the Plan, subject to Committee approval. After this consultation, the Inspector will write her report, which it is hoped will lead to the Plan's adoption by late spring.

Climate Emergency

Following the declaration of a Climate Emergency in June 2019, A Climate and Environment Strategy and Action Plan was approved by Full Council on 16th January 2020.

The aspiration of the Strategy is to strive to make all the Council's activities carbon neutral over the next 10 years. It also commits to working with others to tackle the estimated 800,000 tonnes of carbon emitted every year from all communities and businesses across South Derbyshire.

The Action Plan set out some of the early measures the Council will be taking, such as a carbon review of the Councils own housing stock, the implementation of a Staff Travel Plan and the phased reduction of plant and machinery with electric alternatives.

ISO14001

South Derbyshire District Council was awarded the prestigious ISO14001 standard for Environmental Management for the twelfth successive year in December following an extensive four-day audit.

The audit covered all the Council's five main operational centres – Civic Way offices, the depot on the Boardman Estate, Greenbank and Etwall Leisure centres and Rosliston Forestry Centre.

The auditors highlighted a handful of minor non-conformities which are being addressed as well as making over 20 additional observations to help the Council continue to improve its environmental performance.

Mention was made of the environmental, biodiversity, education and well-being programmes at Rosliston. Also, the approach of the Housing, Planning & Economic Development Services to ensure that existing and planned developments are managed with protection of the environment as one of the main pillars.

Tim Peake Space Sapling lands at Rosliston Forestry Centre

South Derbyshire District Council's Environmental Education Project at Rosliston Forestry Centre is very proud to be a recipient of one of eight young trees from the pips from Isaac Newton's apple tree that were blasted into space with British European Space Agency (ESA) Astronaut Tim Peake.

Apple pips from the iconic Newton tree were taken on the Principia mission in 2015 by British astronaut Tim Peake to the International Space Station. The pips then spent six months floating in micro gravity as part of the 'Pips in Space' project, before returning to Earth in 2016.

Affordable Housing

SDDC have built seven new houses located at Elmlands Close, Aston on Trent comprising: -

One x Two bed bungalow
Two x One bed houses
Two x Two bed houses
Two x Three bed houses

The properties have all now been offered and accepted by new tenants.

Budget update

The Council's income base continues to benefit from increasing numbers of properties and business development. Any extra income generated is now being set aside to meet increased costs of services such as waste collection, street cleansing and grounds maintenance. There are no proposed cuts in services. Overall spending is due to increase by at least inflation. Additional funding has been approved for parishes through concurrent functions to recognise growth.

The coming years Council Tax increase is proposed at 1.95% (adding £3.17 per year to a band D property). All proposals are still subject to Council ratification on Wednesday, February 26, 2020.

There will be no capping for parishes, the government were considering this but are keeping their options open.

Generally, the local authorities budget position is good, but we are not complacent and are mindful of future budget pressures including our commitment to climate change. In the near future waste collection and recycling may also put pressure on budgets for 2021-22.

The main concern for many Councils is around the uncertainty regarding government funding beyond 2021. The government is intending to review the distribution system and the amount of money divided between different types of authority and we are keeping a close eye on that.

In the meantime, the Councils overall financial position remains sound with a good level of general reserves.

A member of the Melbourne Footpaths Group (MFG) asked whether it would be possible for a public footpath to be created to link Swarkstone and Stanton by Bridge.

Councillor Neil Atkin advised that such a request would need to be made directly to Derbyshire County Council (DCC) and that following a recent re-organisation at County Hall, Richard Lovell is now in charge of Footpaths and Greenways.

Councillor Chilton stated that the land in question was owned by the Church Commissioners.

Councillor Peter Watson added that he would be in favour of a new public footpath and concurred that DCC are responsible for such matters.

Councillor Peter Watson provided the following update in relation to flooding in Melbourne and surrounding areas: -

Following the annual Flood Liaison meeting (FLM) held today, the Environment Agency (EA) advised that the flooding in Melbourne/ Sewage was a result of the Burton on Trent Pumping Station being inundated and foul sewage was subsequently pumped onto the land.

Also, the flood bank around Ambaston is at a critical level at one point. The EA plan to lift the flood bank during Summer 2020.

Councillor Avril Record of Weston Parish Council queried whether an invite to the FLM had been sent to the Weston on Trent Parish Council Clerk.

ACTION: Debbie Ward to double check whether Weston on Trent Parish Council were invited to the Flood Liaison meeting held on Thursday, February 6, 2020.

MA/19 Local community and voluntary sector projects/ update

Helen Frudd provided a brief introduction to South Derbyshire CVS and the vast range of services it offers: -

Safer Homes – during 2019, 545 homes were assessed resulting in 1784 window locks and 154 door chains being fitted as part of the Safer Homes Derbyshire scheme.

Food Bank – a massive 1144 food parcels were given out during 2019.

Social Car – assistance is available to anyone who lives in South Derbyshire and is unable to use any other form of transport. Enquiries and bookings can be made Monday - Friday mornings (9:00am - 12:00pm) and transport is available seven days a week subject to the availability of drivers. The scheme is non profit-making. However, there is a charge made to the client of £1 per journey booked, plus 45p per mile (which is paid to the driver to cover their expenses). During 2019, 51,000 miles were covered which equated to 550 GP appointments and 1000 hospital visits.

Travelling Lunch Club – The Travelling Lunch Club offers a chance to socialise with friends old and new by providing a trip out and lunch at a different venue each month. The club is open to any person over the age of 65, living in South Derbyshire who may feel lonely or isolated.

Practical Help - An NHS funded scheme which supports people who need a little help to stay healthy and at home in their local community. It aims to help reduce the number of hospital admissions, get patients home quicker and help them stay at home. Short term practical help can be provided for example:

- Giving someone a lift home from hospital
- Making sure they have basic food supplies
- Visiting to check they are ok for the first few days after they come home
- Taking someone shopping or doing the shopping for them

A referral will be required from a Health or Social Care professional for hospital discharge short term support.

Funding – help is available to assist with funding applications. Future planned “Funding Surgeries” include Foundation Derbyshire on Friday, February 14, 2020 and National Lottery Community Fund on Monday, March 16, 2020.

Connect Befriending Service - volunteers are needed across all areas of the district to help tackle isolation and loneliness.

Free Training – E.g., Mental Health, ISLAND Community Champions; covering topics such as Safeguarding and how to identify people that might be lonely across all ages and walks of life.

Volunteering – if anyone is interested in volunteering please contact Annette for a volunteering pack which will enable volunteers to be matched up with a volunteering opportunity to suit.

For more information regarding South Derbyshire CVS, call 01283 550163 or visit their website (sd cvs.org.uk).

Barry Summers of MFG praised the CVS for the valuable work that they do and relayed thanks for the grant that was made available to help get their group up and running.

MA/20 **Summary of agreed priorities/ actions**

- Police to contact Melbourne Parish Council to obtain the CCTV footage of the individual concerned.
- Chris Smith to investigate arranging two public meetings, one in the North and one in the South of the district so that the Chief Superintendent can deliver his presentation on Crime types within Derbyshire to members of the public.
- Debbie Ward to double check whether Weston on Trent Parish Council were invited to the Flood Liaison meeting held on Thursday, February 6, 2020.

MA/21 **Close and date of next meeting**

TBC

Councillor Jim Hewlett
CHAIR

The meeting terminated at 8pm

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE AREA FORUM

REPTON – AREA 2

Tuesday, February 11, 2020 at Findern Village Hall

PRESENT: -

South Derbyshire District Council representatives

Councillor Andrew MacPherson (Chair), Councillor Neil Atkin, Councillor Andrew Churchill, Councillor David Shepherd

Allison Thomas – Strategic Director of Service Delivery
Claire Rawlins – Anti-Social Behaviour Officer
Debbie Ward – Service Assistant

Derbyshire County Council representatives

Councillor Neil Atkin, Councillor Linda Chilton

Derbyshire Police representatives

PCSO Supervisor Kerry Wallington-Waite

Parish Council/ Meeting representatives

Councillor Steve Toone (Bretby Parish Council), Councillor Tammy Brown, Councillor Mike Ratcliffe (Findern Parish Council), Councillor David Dickson, Councillor Mel Thomas (Repton Parish Council), Councillor Christina Oppenheimer (Ticknall Parish Council)

Liz Gumbley – South Derbyshire CVS

Members of the public

David Barker, Tony Bates, Mary Goodall, Heather Hall, Fred Hill, John Orme, Fred Spencer, Joan Tidy

RA/15 **Open meeting**

- **Introductions and apologies**

Councillor Martyn Ford (Vice Chair), Councillor Kerry Haines, Sue Carter, Mrs Griffiths

- **Declarations of interest**

None.

- **Chair's announcements**

Community Partnership Grants

The Community & Environment Partnership Scheme offers the chance for community groups, charities and volunteer organisations to apply to receive funding.

This is available for a wide variety of organisations and projects, from parish councils and sporting groups to arts, heritage and environmental schemes. In the past, the scheme has helped with the cost of new buildings and supported improvements to community spaces.

Grants of between £1,000 and £25,000 will be awarded as matched funding to support capital projects with a value of £4,000 and above. Those applying must demonstrate that being awarded the funding would improve the quality of life of residents in South Derbyshire.

For more information contact Ian Hey, Community Partnership Officer.

The Sunflower Scheme

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Thinking of Starting a Business

A 'Thinking of Starting a Business' session will be taking place on Wednesday, February 26, 2020, from 5.30pm at Sharpe's Pottery Museum for any budding entrepreneurs!

- **To receive the minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes were approved as a true and correct record of the meeting.

- **Matters arising from last minutes**

A member of the public raised a response received from DCC re. High Street flooding outside Brook House which highlights a problem between the handover of responsibility between DCC and Severn Trent Water (STW).

AT responded to say that any problems related to STW should be raised directly with them using their hotline number as discussed in the recent Flood Liaison meeting held on Thursday, February 6, 2020.

A member of the public raised that the minutes of the previous meeting stated that Cliff Warner was a member of Willington Parish Council and that the SDDC website also shows this incorrect information.

ACTION: Debbie Ward to amend the minutes from the previous meeting in respect to Cliff Warner who is no longer a Parish Councillor and for Mr Warner's details to be removed from the Council's website.

RA/16 Police Safer Neighbourhood report

PCSO Supervisor Kerry Wallington-Waite updated that the team have been busy with patrols and engagements throughout all areas and provided the following report: -

- Street Meet, Derbyshire Alert surveys/ sign-ups and 'Cuppa with a Copper' events have been held in Repton and Willington.
- A 'Brew with the Crew' event (to be held in conjunction with the Fire Service) is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, March 3, 2020 between 10am and 12 noon at Willow Tree Tea Rooms, Mercia Marina, Willington.
- Tool marking event held in Willington.
- Bike marking event held at Willington Primary school.
- Engagement with schools in Repton, Willington and Stenson.
- Parking patrols in Repton, Newton Solney and Stenson.
- Dedicated patrols took place for Halloween and Bonfire night, Remembrance parades, Polling station patrols/ visits, Christmas crime prevention and shop lifting and also for the Repton Christmas light switch on.

- Numerous crime prevention messages have been communicated via Social Media channels, Derbyshire Alert, and the Police Media Team as well as a leaflet drop in Hilton targeting van owners.
- Safeguarding of vulnerable people throughout the area completed.
- Numerous flood related incidents and road closures were attended, and assistance provided.
- Two Community Protection Notice Warnings (CPNW's) were issued in Littleover for the use of off-road bikes in the Hopton Drive area.
- Two CPNW's were issued on Lowes lane for possession of Cannabis.
- Two new PCSO's will be joining the Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) on Monday, February 17, 2020.

Vehicles have been seized at various locations in and around the Repton area as follows: -

- A50 Slip Road - no insurance or MOT.
- B5008 Willington - no insurance.
- Twyford Road, Willington - no insurance.
- Castle Way, Willington - no license/ insurance/ keeper.
- Stenson - no license or insurance.
- Ticknall – stolen car found.

The Road Policing Unit (RPU) have also been busy dealing with traffic offences in the Repton Police area, examples of which include the following: -

- Willington – A vehicle was pulled for having no insurance and a bald tyre.
- Stenson – A male was arrested for having false plates.
- Findern – A HGV driver was arrested for driving without due care and attention following a road traffic collision (RTC) on the A38.
- Ticknall – A vehicle was pulled for having no licence or insurance.

A member of the public asked whether the speed limits around schools in Repton could be reduced to 20mph.

Allison Thomas advised that it would be DCC Highways that would be responsible for reviewing/ amending speed limits.

ACTION: Communities Team to feedback concerns raised regarding the speed limit around schools in Repton to DCC Highways for further investigation.

A member of the public queried what the British Transport Police's (BTP) specific concerns were regarding the Willington Level Crossing.

AT responded to say that there has been a recent notification regarding a change in timings from 30 seconds to 3 minutes which could be why there is an increased Police presence in the area around certain times of the day.

ACTION: Claire Rawlins to liaise with Richard Groves at SDDC/ BTP for further advice on why the Willington railway crossing has had the barrier timings extended from 30 seconds to 3 minutes.

A Newton Solney resident queried whether crime is on the rise in the area due to the number of alert messages received via Derbyshire Alert.

PCSO Kerry Wallington-Waite replied to say that crime is not on the up in the area and explained that the alerts that come through from Derbyshire Alert (DA) cover the whole of Derbyshire. Residents were reminded that if they are receiving too many messages or messages that are not relevant or of interest that the message settings within their DA profile can be amended as required.

A Findern resident raised concerns over a white van that has been parked close to a bend on Findern Lane for the last 12 months.

ACTION: PCSO Supervisor Kerry Wallington-Waite to check the vehicle details in respect to the white van parked on Findern Lane and report back.

Councillor Andrew MacPherson relayed thanks to the Police and Fire Service for their efforts throughout the recent flooding.

RA/17 **Safer South Derbyshire Partnership update and Safer Neighbourhood grants**

Digital MOT

Safer Derbyshire have launched a campaign to ask members of the public to take a quick survey to see how secure their mobile devices and laptops are.

The Digital MOT is a cyber security assessment tool developed by the Community Safety Unit at Derbyshire County Council, in partnership with the Cybercrime Unit at Derbyshire Constabulary.

The assessment takes less than 5 minutes to complete and will identify how to be safer online.

To take the MOT please visit the website - www.saferderbyshire.gov.uk/MOT

Age UK – Scam advice

We have lots of people telling us they have been on the receiving end of a scam phone call or know a friend or relative who has. Fortunately, many people are now getting wise to them and just put the phone down as soon as they ask for personal details, however there are still some people who are very trusting and unfortunately still get scammed.

The Age UK webpage on Scam phone calls is certainly worth a read as it provides information on the most common types of phone scams, what to look out for and how to avoid becoming a victim. Remember never give your bank details or PIN out over the phone!

For more information visit the Age UK website www.ageuk.org.uk/information-advice/money-legal/scams-fraud/#

John Port Bike Marking and High Vis Operation

In October, the Police Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) held a Bike marking registration and safety event at John Port School after a Councillor raised concerns about pupils riding bicycles in the dark with no lights. 40 pupils who ride their bikes to school received high-vis items and had their bikes security marked and registered.

John Port School Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) visits

Claire Rawlins (SDDC ASB Officer) and PCSO Andrea Thompson visited John Port School back in December to talk to a group of six young people who had been identified by the Police and the School as causing ASB in the local area. One of the individuals concerned received a CPNW and the others were all given a verbal warning and had it explained what would happen if their behaviour didn't change.

SNT Funding

There have been no successful applications to date for funding in the Repton Area (also known as Police area 2) this financial year. £4000 will be available again from April 2020 however in the meantime applications for this year's underspend can still be received up until the end of February.

Please contact Chris Smith or Ian Hey for further details.

RA/18 Local authority update

Allison Thomas updated: -

Keep Britain Tidy Campaign

Between March 20 and April 13 this year there will be a national Keep Britain Tidy campaign and we will be doing a lot of local work linking to this initiative, putting information on our website, and encouraging communities to join in.

Keen litter-pickers can get involved with an ever-growing list of clean-up events taking place across the District – one of which will be held at Castleton Park, Church Gresley on the Sunday, March 24, 2020.

Keep an eye on our usual communication channels for further information.

Green Spaces Plan

The Council is seeking to protect around 150 Local Green Spaces across the District through a Local Green Spaces Plan. Following the hearing in September the Council is preparing to consult on a number of modifications to the Plan, subject to Committee approval. After this consultation, the Inspector will write her report, which it is hoped will lead to the Plan's adoption by late spring.

Climate Emergency

Following the declaration of a Climate Emergency in June 2019, A Climate and Environment Strategy and Action Plan was approved by Full Council on Thursday, January 16, 2020.

The aspiration of the strategy is to strive to make all the Council's activities carbon neutral over the next 10 years. It also commits to working with others to tackle the estimated 800,000 tonnes of carbon emitted every year from all communities and businesses across South Derbyshire.

The Action Plan set out some of the early measures the Council will be taking; such as a carbon review of the Council's own housing stock, the implementation of a Staff Travel Plan and the phased reduction of plant and machinery with electric alternatives.

ISO14001

South Derbyshire District Council was awarded the prestigious ISO14001 standard for Environmental Management for the twelfth successive year in December following an extensive four-day audit.

The audit covered all the Council's five main operational centres – Civic Way offices, the depot on the Boardman Estate, Greenbank and Etwall Leisure centres and Rosliston Forestry Centre.

The auditors highlighted a handful of minor non-conformities which are being addressed as well as making over 20 additional observations to help the Council continue to improve its environmental performance.

Mention was made to the environmental, biodiversity, education and well-being programmes at Rosliston. Also, the approach of the Housing, Planning & Economic Development Services to ensure that existing and planned developments are managed with protection of the environment as one of the main pillars.

Tim Peake Space Sapling lands at Rosliston Forestry Centre

South Derbyshire District Council's Environmental Education Project at Rosliston Forestry Centre is very proud to be a recipient of one of eight young trees grown from pips taken from Isaac Newton's apple tree that were blasted

into space with the British European Space Agency (ESA) astronaut Tim Peake.

Apple pips from the iconic Newton tree were taken on the Principia mission in 2015 by the British astronaut to the International Space Station. The pips then spent six months floating in micro gravity as part of the 'Pips in Space' project, before returning to Earth in 2016.

Budget update

The Council's income base continues to benefit from increasing numbers of properties and business development. Any extra income generated is now being set aside to meet increased costs of services such as waste collection, street cleansing and grounds maintenance. There are no proposed cuts in services. Overall spending is due to increase by at least inflation. Additional funding has been approved for parishes through concurrent functions to recognise growth.

The coming years Council Tax increase is proposed at 1.95% (adding £3.17 per year to a band D property). All proposals are still subject to Council ratification on Wednesday, February 26, 2020.

There will be no capping for parishes, the government were considering this but are keeping their options open.

Generally, the local authorities budget position is good, but we are not complacent and are mindful of future budget pressures including our commitment to climate change. In the near future waste collection and recycling may also put pressure on budgets for 2021-22.

The main concern for many Councils is around the uncertainty regarding government funding beyond 2021. The government is intending to review the distribution system and the amount of money divided between different types of authority and we are keeping a close eye on that. In the meantime, the Councils overall financial position remains sound with a good level of general reserves.

Councillor Christina Oppenheimer of Ticknall Parish Council made a plea, following the recent precept increase, that consideration is given for parishes where the community is not necessarily increasing, such as Ticknall, but where the usage of facilities is considerable due to the number of visitors to the area.

Councillor Andrew MacPherson responded to say that the precept is determined by the parish itself and that concurrent functions is an element of proportion given to wards over and above what the district offers.

AT added that no parish is going to lose out and that the concurrent functions fund is to recognise growth in areas and that an extremely detailed report has been completed by the Finance team to ensure that both parished and unparished areas throughout the district are treated fairly.

A member of the public raised awareness of the Severn Trent Water (STW) Community Fund which aims to support projects linked to three key elements of community wellbeing: -

People: Projects that help people to lead a healthier life and gain new skills

Places: Projects that help to create better places to live in and use

Environment: Projects that will help look after our natural environment, give people greater access to that environment, or help look after water

There are three sizes of grants available, ranging from £2k up to £200k.

For more information visit the STW website at www.stwater.co.uk/about-us/severn-trent-community-fund/

Councillor David Shepherd raised concerns over school provision in the Stenson area and urged DCC to apply for the 14th wave of central government funding at the earliest opportunity to ensure that the relevant financing is there to support the additional circa. 3000 houses planned to be built in the area.

Councillor Linda Chilton provided the following response/ update provided by Jane Cressey, Members Secretary, DCC.

“The new secondary school is in response to the additional pupils likely to be generated by the significant housing growth in the area. To date, three major developments have received planning permission, namely Highfields Farm, Boulton Moor and New House Farm and a total of £9,511,957 has been secured in Section 106 developer funding towards the necessary education infrastructure. The Wragley Way planning application is under consideration at present and a further £10,092,000 has been requested which, if successful, will provide a total fund of £19,603,957. New secondary schools normally cost in excess of £20M therefore there may be a shortfall and that is likely to be funded from either the Department for Education (DfE) Basic Need grant or borrowings, subject to Cabinet approval. The timing of the school, balancing the demand against the receipt of Section 106 funding, will be challenging but the expectation is that the majority of the funds will have been secured from the developers.

In addition, there is a DfE Wave 14 Free School application under consideration at the moment whereby a multi-academy trust has applied directly to the DfE to open the school. If that were to be successful, the decision on the timing of the school and the shortfall in capital funding would be handled directly by the Government. The outcome of that application is due to be received in the summer of 2020.

The information on the Section 106 funding is public knowledge as it is recorded on the South Derbyshire District Council planning portal.”

Councillor David Shepherd raised concerns regarding the lack of medical provision within the Stenson Fields locality and urged DCC to follow this up with the Derbyshire NHS Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to identify suitable sites within walking distance of Stenson and Sinfin Wards as a matter of high priority.

ACTION: Communities Team to feedback the comments made re. school and medical provision in Stenson Fields/ Sinfin wards to DCC for further investigation.

A member of the public raised parking issues outside of Newton Solney Village Hall and near to the bus shelter on Doles Lane, Findern.

ACTION: Communities Team to report the parking issues raised outside of Newton Solney Village Hall and on Doles Lane, Findern back to DCC Highways for further investigation.

RA/19 Local community and voluntary sector projects/ update

Liz Gumbley gave an overview of the work that the South Derbyshire CVS (SDCVS) does and provided an update on the following new initiatives: -

Children & Young Peoples Mental Health & Emotional Wellbeing Network – funded through Futures in Mind. There will be four forums up to September 2020 which will provide a platform for voluntary and community organisations who work with children and young people and local schools to start working together and linking in with each other. There may also be an opportunity to secure further funding for the initiative depending on the success of the first four forums.

Isolation and Loneliness Action Network Derbyshire (ISLAND) project – three years funding has been secured from the National Lottery to provide a befriending network to reach people across Derbyshire who are lonely and isolated.

A large piece of work has been done in Stenson Fields and volunteers are needed to help with a new mother and toddler and youth groups.

Funding – the CVS are now working more closely with funders and have been running various funding surgeries to help voluntary community groups successfully apply for available funding.

South Derbyshire Awards – in partnership with SDDC an awards evening was held at Toyota on Friday, February 7, 2020 whereby around 120 people were in attendance. Awards were given to recognise and celebrate both sporting achievements and people who work hard for their communities across the district.

For more information about the support that South Derbyshire CVS can offer call 01283 550163 or visit their website (sdcv.org.uk).

RA/20 Summary of actions

- Debbie Ward to amend the minutes from the previous meeting in respect to Cliff Warner who is no longer a Parish Councillor and for Mr Warner's details to be removed from the Council's website.
- Communities Team to feedback concerns raised regarding the speed limit around schools in Repton to DCC Highways for further investigation.
- Claire Rawlins to liaise with Richard Groves at SDDC/ BTP for further advice on why the Willington railway crossing has had the barrier timings extended from 30 seconds to 3 minutes.
- PCSO Supervisor Kerry Wallington-Waite to check the vehicle details in respect to the white van parked on Findern Lane and report back.
- Communities Team to feedback the comments made re. school and medical provision in Stenson Fields/ Sinfin wards to DCC for further investigation.
- Communities Team to report the parking issues raised outside of Newton Solney Village Hall and on Doles Lane, Findern back to DCC Highways for further investigation.

RA/21 Close and date of next meeting

TBC

Councillor Andrew MacPherson
CHAIR

The meeting terminated at 8:00pm