



**South
Derbyshire**
District Council

South Derbyshire District Council

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

Community and Planning Service Plan 2012-2013

April 2012
Final Version

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1.0 Introduction

This Service Plan brings together our priorities in relation to the Council's Corporate Plan 2009/14 and the Sustainable Community Strategy for South Derbyshire 2009/29

Our key priority outcomes in the Corporate Plan are:

- Developing economic and employment opportunities within the District
- Sustainable Planning
- Delivering a range of housing provision and services that address community requirements
- Safer communities
- Delivering community based recreational & cultural activities that promote a 'healthier lifestyle'

Our key priority outcomes in the Sustainable Community Strategy for South Derbyshire are:

- Adequate, appropriate and affordable housing for all, in well-served communities
- A robust and diverse economy, resistant to downturns and providing a strong base for sustainable growth
- Sustainable employment and support for people to access the skills required
- High quality development that minimises impact on the environment
- Improvements in the management of Open Space and local sites to benefit their value to people and wildlife.
- An increase in the percentage of people who feel South Derbyshire is an attractive place to live
- An increased number of people taking part in cultural activities
- The integration of all minorities into the wider community
- Reduced levels of crime and fear of crime
- To reduce the fear of crime and promote that South Derbyshire is a low crime area
- Increased levels of physical activity across communities

- Reduced levels of obesity
- Improved access to services for all and particularly older communities
- An enjoyable environment for children and young people in which they are able to achieve their potential

The Community and Planning Service will

- Positively contribute towards Council policies and procedures in the delivery of services
- Deliver continuous improvements in the performance of the Council
- Ensure compliance with relevant legislation
- Have a 'customer focus' in what we do
- Ensure a widespread understanding of the Council's core values, key aims, priorities and relevant performance measures, and encourage participation in their development
- Ensure that data quality principles are applied in order to conduct its business effectively
- Support the Council's Investors In People programme
- Encourage a positive health and safety culture

Head of Service: Stuart Batchelor

2.0 Scene Setting

2.1 Overview of the Service

Community and Planning Services play a key role in meeting the Council's strategic objectives for ensuring '**sustainable growth and opportunity**', improving '**lifestyle choices**' and enabling people to feel '**safe and secure**'.

As a result, this service area covers a number of services that directly impact on people and their communities, which are delivered by the following teams:

Culture and Community

- **Parks, Open Space & Cemeteries:** The Division has responsibility for the management of 3 urban parks covering an area of approximately 15 hectares, the 30 hectare Swadlincote Woodland Forest Park, public open space that currently occupies an area in the region of 60 hectares, 6 cemeteries, 11 football pitches, 8 allotment sites and large areas of common land. There is responsibility for the development of 47 equipped play areas. The Division also manages major public events including the Festival of Leisure, which attracts an estimated 10,000 people over a June weekend, and the switching on of the Christmas Lights in Swadlincote Town Centre.
- **Leisure Facilities:** Responsibility for the contracts that cover the management of the Green Bank Leisure Centre, Etwell Leisure Centre and Swadlincote Market plus responsibility for 4 directly managed village halls and Swadlincote Town Hall.
- **Land Drainage:** Responsibility for the Council's statutory and discretionary land drainage functions as Land Drainage Authority and ancillary services during flooding and for investigation after flooding events.
- **Revenue support to the Voluntary and Community Sector:** Revenue support is granted to nine organisations totalling over £220,000. The grants are managed through Service Level Agreements, which detail service and monitoring requirements. The detail of the Service Level Agreement is renewable annually, however the agreement to provide funding lasts for three years.
- **Community Partnership Scheme** provides support and advice to the voluntary and community sector in relation to funding (e.g. funding sources, bid writing and funding strategy) and project development.
- **Rosliston Forestry Centre** is managed in partnership with the Forestry Commission and National Forest Company. It has attracted over £2.5 million in external funding over the past 10 years and now attracts around 200,000 daytime and overnight visitors.

- **Cultural Regeneration:** The Division is responsible for the Council's role in arts development and is embarking on a programme of dance provision. Currently this involves limited work in Touring Theatre and the revenue support of the People Express community arts organisation plus dance development and supporting the Cultural Olympiad.
- **Environmental Education:** Based at Rosliston Forestry Centre the Environmental Education partnership between the Council, Rolls-Royce (£20,000 pa sponsors) and The National Forest Company aims to develop the knowledge, understanding and respect of the environment by young people and adults, in order to improve their quality of life and work towards a sustainable environment. The Service co-ordinate the District-wide Environmental Forum network and Forest School initiative and won a national contract to deliver a project for the Woodland Trust in 2011-12.

Safer South Derbyshire Partnership

- **Community Safety:** The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 placed a duty on the Police and local authorities to work in partnership to develop and implement a strategy to reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and fear of crime. The Safer South Derbyshire Partnership includes these statutory agencies as well as the NHS, Fire and Rescue Service, Council for Voluntary Services (CVS), Probation, Drug and Alcohol Action Team, Connexions, Youth Offending Service and others. The Partnership's Support Team is based in the Division and is responsible for the delivery of the 2012-13 Partnership Plan, which prioritises burglary & auto crime; violent crime and domestic abuse; criminal damage, community engagement and tackling anti-social behaviour
- The service also manages the Safer Neighbourhoods initiative, which coordinates 6 Safer Neighbourhood areas across the District and provides funding for local crime reduction projects.

Sport and Health

- **Sports Development:** This involves developing an infrastructure through partnership working, to enable local people to become involved in sport as a vehicle for health improvement, social inclusion and community development. This is principally undertaken through the Council's membership of Derbyshire Sport and South Derbyshire Sport and partnership with the School Sport Partnership based at Granville School. The later Partnership now being managed by the Council's Sport and Health Team. The team has been very successful in developing activities for young people; this includes a football league, mobile skateboard park, climbing wall and laser equipment and Community Dance. Adult activity is also a key aspect of the service offering body MOT's, a range of activities such as Nordic walking, jogging groups and 50+ activities in partnership.
- **Play Development and Provision:** Over 6500 participations are achieved annually, mainly through the Summer Holidays Playscheme where Parish Councils hire in a variety of themed sessions, including Extreme activities such as the Inflatable Laser or mobile climbing wall.

- **Health Development and Improvement:** The Division leads on health promotion and improvement with respect to physical activity and has responsibility for GP Exercise Referral schemes, including the management of the Get Active In The Forest project which has engaged local people in a range of activities including walking, cycling, outdoor pursuits, archery and environmental works across the District. It has received national accreditation for its work including the 2008 National Lottery Best Sports Project Award. In terms of events these include the National Forest Walking Festival, which will attract hundreds of participants to walks across South Derbyshire, the National Forest 10k Run and Healthier South Derbyshire Days. The team will also be managing and administering the Healthier Communities strategic partnership funding, and managing seven different contracts with the NHS.

Economic Development

- Working in partnership with local, sub-regional and regional agencies and partnerships to develop the local economy and the workforce.
- Promoting inward investment – attracting business and employment to the district through the marketing of the area and available sites and premises, together with the provision of assistance to potential investors.
- Supporting business development – providing advice and support to new and existing businesses directly and through the development of structures and support networks. This includes working closely with the Business Link service at George Holmes Business Centre in Swadlincote, in addition to supporting dedicated initiatives, in growing sectors such as forestry and tourism.
- Ensuring that the skills of the area's workforce meet the needs of local businesses.
- Developing and securing funding for projects, which contribute to the regeneration of the area. Recent successes include funding for the second phase works on the public realm in the town centre.
- Promoting and developing tourism – attracting visitors from the UK and overseas to South Derbyshire and The National Forest through marketing and promotion and the development of the tourism 'product' (attractions, accommodation, activities etc). The District has been successfully promoted as part of the National Forest through The National Forest & Beyond campaign and with the Visit Peak District and Derbyshire Destination Management Partnership.
- Providing information to visitors and local residents about events, attractions and accommodation through the operation of the Swadlincote Tourist Information Centre (TIC).
- Monitoring trends in the local economy and undertaking research to support the development of projects and proposals.

Planning Policy

- Preparing the statutory 'Development Plan' (currently known as the 'Local Development Framework') which sets the long-term growth strategy for South

Derbyshire in the context of being one of the fastest growing areas in the country. This includes identifying how essential infrastructure will be provided and funded. Major reforms are being introduced in 2011/12 and with the emergence of 'localism' we are working ever more closely with local communities in shaping their neighbourhoods. Equally, we co-ordinate with adjacent authorities in the wider Derby Housing Market Area on 'larger than local' issues such as housing, transport and the Green Belt.

- Commissioning and undertaking evidence needed to demonstrate the soundness of Development Plan policies e.g. flood risk, sewerage, renewable energy, housing, retail and employment needs, transport modelling, land availability, sustainability appraisals and environmental assessments
- Monitoring and reporting on development trends in the District
- Securing external capital and revenue 'growth funding' to unlock development in the District
- Working with partners to develop an Infrastructure Development Plan to capture future developer contributions to support growth
- Individually and with senior Members representing the Council on various steering groups across a variety of issues which impact on our communities e.g. East Midlands Airport, the Derby Housing Market Area Joint Advisory Board and the National Forest.
- Advising the Council on how to respond to changes in national and regional planning policies and on the plans of neighbouring authorities.
- Providing policy advice on how to deal with large and/or contentious planning applications
- Providing specialist advice and support in relation to 711 Listed Buildings and 22 Conservation Areas and on the quality of design of major proposals to secure design excellence.
- Operating modest repairs and improvement grant scheme for individual historic buildings in the District and, through the Partnership Scheme in Conservation Areas, Swadlincote Town Centre
- Devising and project managing special projects such as town centre public realm improvements which has levered in considerable finance from English Heritage, Derby & Derbyshire Economic Partnership (DDEP) and developers.

Development Management and Building Control

- When the economy was buoyant the Development Management team dealt with some 1,500 planning applications but this decreased to 1,150 in 2008/9, 1,170 in 2009/10, 1,154 in 2010/11 and 1,111 in 2011/2012. However, the diverse nature of the District has meant that a wide variety of applications are still received. Whilst application numbers are down, the complexity of planning applications is

continuing to increase with constant changes to legislation and more recently the introduction of the NPPF and Localism Act. Officers under the scheme of delegation determine approximately 90% of applications; the remainder are determined by Members at Planning Committee. Planning fees are currently set nationally. Free informal advice is provided to developers and householders. Development Management also deals with planning appeals, of which there is around 30 received each year along with Tree Preservation Orders and also consents for works to trees.

- An average of over 300 planning enforcement complaints regarding potential contravention of planning and associated legislation are investigated each year.
- In terms of Building Control, officers appraise schemes and monitor building works that require Building Regulation approval. When the economy was buoyant the team dealt with in excess of 900 applications per year. However, this decreased to roughly 720 during 2008/9, 739 during 2009/10, 744 in 2010/11 and 725 in 2011/2012. 4,633 inspections were carried out in 2011/2012. This work is won in competition with Approved Inspectors in the private sector. Fees are set locally (within guidelines established nationally) and are reviewed annually. The unit has continued to retain a high market share of business although the downturn in the economy has affected fee income.
- This unit also holds a register of work carried out under the Competent Persons Scheme, and a further register for work controlled by Approved Inspectors. The team has recently taken over responsibility for demolitions from Environmental Health Services in order to provide a seamless service to the customer. The unit is also responsible for the enforcement of Building Regulations. These functions are time consuming and regulatory and do not attract fees.
- The Building Control section deals with dangerous structures which in partnership with East Staffordshire Borough Council is now covered by a recently introduced out of hours service which delivers a continuous dangerous structures provision for both districts.
- The Building Control unit allocates street names and numbers, which in the past have been a non-fee generating function. From 1st April 2012 charges have been introduced for the service to cover costs incurred.

South Derbyshire Partnership

- The Service has the responsibility for coordinating the South Derbyshire Partnership including the development of the new Sustainable Community Strategy. Officers are key members of the Partnerships Theme Groups which are Health and Wellbeing, Sustainable Development and Safer Communities.

Other Partnerships.

- The Service officers are key members of a number of partnerships that help deliver improvements to the community of South Derbyshire, for example the Positive Activities for Young People.

A copy of the Community and Planning organisation charts can be found at Appendix A

2.2 Workforce Information

As at the 31st March 2012, there are 59.83 ftes within Community & Planning Services.

The table below provides summary details of the number of new starters/leavers in 2011/12 A summary of the full time equivalent (FTE) days sickness lost is also included.

New Starters 2011/12	Leavers 2011/12	Sickness 2011/12 (f.t.e. days lost)
0	1	5.07

Workforce priorities for 2012/13:

Workforce development and support is a key work area within the Community and Planning Service, a team culture with enthusiastic, customer orientated staff is key to maintaining a quality, value for money service.

An annual training and development plan is produced following Performance and Development Reviews and team building is continually supported. Some home working opportunities are provided and flexible working is considered crucial to motivate and engage high performing staff.

Succession planning is particularly important in the Planning / Building Control areas where experience and knowledge of the District is important to the continuing performance of this service.

2.3 Financial Information

Details of the Community and Planning budgets for 2012/13 are outlined below:

Revenue Budget 2012/13**Leisure & Community Development**

Detail	(£)
Revenue Expenditure	
Employment	1,072,405
Capital Charges	164,010
Other	1,048,140
Running Costs	389,646
Total Expenditure	2,674,201
Revenue Income	
Government Grants	(205,331)
Other Grants	(277,454)
Other Income	(555,785)
Sales Income	(23,000)
Total Income	(1,061,570)
Leisure & Community Dev. Net RevenueTotal	1,612,631

Planning

Detail	(£)
Revenue Expenditure	
Employment	1,225,981
Other	157,164
Running Costs	52,479
Total Expenditure	1,435,624
Revenue Income	
Government Grants	(171,418)
Other Income	(773,000)
Sales Income	(7,600)
Total Income	(952,018)
Planning Net RevenueTotal	483,605

Capital Budget 2012/13

Melbourne Assembly Rooms – £250,000 project working with the Community Group to refurbish and redevelop the building. SDDC funding £125,000

Melbourne Sporting Partnership (Cockshut Lane Recreation Ground) – working with clubs from 3 sports to develop a pavilion, playing fields and play facilities costing £2,500,000. SDDC funding £1,000,000

Gresley Old Hall – supporting the Committee to complete an outdoor facility refurbishment. Section 106 funding £550,000

Eureka Park – Heritage Lottery Fund refurbishment of the Park

Green Bank Leisure Centre –refurbishment and enhancement of community areas within the Centre, project cost £499,000. SDDC funds £215,000

Etwell Leisure Centre – a £1,000,000 project to provide an Artificial Grass Pitch, refurbish tennis courts, provide dance/exercise studios and extend the fitness gym. SDDC funding £220,000

Rosliston Forestry Centre - £70,000 project to enhance the Centre including the provision of toilets at the Glade In The Forest performance area. SDDC funds £50,000

Property & Land Assets

A summary of the assets held by Community and Planning Services are outlined in the table below

Asset	Number	Valuation (£) (as at 31st March 2012)
Operational Land		
Recreation Grounds,	17	114,056
Play areas,	8	
Skate Parks,	2	
Amenity Areas,	7	
Urban Parks, & Toilets	4	84,713*
Ecology Area,	1	
Common land,	4	
Public Open Space,	140	
Allotment Sites,	7	163,650
Cemeteries,	6	336,489
Small areas of garden/grazing land etc	4	97,500
Properties		
Green Bank Leisure Centre,	1	4,358,201
Melbourne Leisure Centre,	1	475,222
Rosliston Forestry Centre,	1	984,000
Rosliston Forestry Centre Business Units	4	180,000
Village Halls,	2	215,000
Swadlincote Town Hall,	1	208,000
Sports Pavilions,	12	760,817
Vehicles		
Vans	2	
Other		
Marquee,		
Climbing Wall,		
Exhibition Trailer,		
Mobile Skate Park		
Trailer		

3.0 Service Performance

3.1 Key Achievements 2011/12

Corporate Plan Theme: Sustainable Growth and Opportunity

- Undertook major public consultation on 'Options for Housing Growth' with around 500 people attending public meetings leading to the submission of around 800 individual comments
- Final completion of refurbishment of the Delph and West Street as part of the town centre improvements scheme.
- Hosted Royal Town Planning Institute's AGM in Melbourne including presentation on Station Road (Melbourne) development and study tour.
- Assisted County Council in completion of greenway from Wilne Lane, Shardlow to a new Long Horse Bridge.
- Secured Council response to Government consultations on the National Planning Policy Framework, travellers policy, High Speed Rail 2 and UK Aviation.
- Published Character Statements in nine conservation areas and secured the extension of Conservation Area boundaries in Lullington, Melbourne and Netherseal.
- A series of well-attended business events were held, aiming to raise awareness of advice and support available to smaller businesses. These included 'Survive & Prosper' providing financial advice and assistance to organisations in the third sector, 'Planning for Growth' promoting the creation of apprenticeships, and an 'Expert Clinic' offering one-to-one specialist advice to manufacturers and their support industries.
- Completion of a £400,000 investment in Sharpe's Pottery Museum to enhance its facilities and broaden its appeal to visitors. This included the extension of the site, construction of a new building to provide a larger café and installation of a 'Story of The National Forest' gallery, and has contributed to a significant rise in visitor numbers.
- The South Derbyshire Street Trees project successfully secured funding to plant almost 150 trees alongside main roads in The National Forest to enhance the area's visual and environmental quality. The planting included sixty trees at Netherseal to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the return of elm trees to the village of Coton-in-the-Elms.
- 'Burton & Swadlincote Employment Challenge 2012' was a major month-long initiative staged with partners and the Burton Mail to help employers create job opportunities and assist local people to access them.

- Cupcake Challenge - To mark the Town Hall's 150th birthday, a special party was arranged for members of the public to enjoy a cup of tea and slice of cake (an amazing edible, scaled down version of the Town Hall commissioned from Delicious Dishes) and take part in a fun 2-hour challenge to decorate 1200 cupcakes!
- Pancake Races 2012 - sponsored by Mainline Energy Solutions - More than 30 teams took part in the second Pancake Races in the Delph to raise proceeds for Sport Relief and saw local businesses flipping pancakes around our special course to get the quickest time around the track.
- Building Control service have delivered business events in order to develop new partnerships with architects/developers.
- Drakelow Development Section 106 Agreement signed that will provide an infrastructure to support the new community.

Corporate Plan Theme: Lifestyle Choices

- Play schemes- 6505 participations over 135 Sessions great numbers particularly over the summer, with numerous activities of PlayMobile, SportsMobile, Climbing Wall and Whacky SportsMobile.
- Physical Activity- Funding to run 12 projects ranging from cycling with Bank House to learning to ski and snowboard days. This saw a total of 190 participants being retained doing at least 6 hours / sessions.
- The Sport Relief event held at Swadlincote Woodlands saw 320 participants who ran, jogged or walked, 6, 3, or 1 mile.
- Village Games - With over 600 sessions and 10,000 participations this year the Village Games project has really taken off. Everything from jogging groups to tai chi are running in local communities.
- School Sport - From January to April 2012 has seen 10 schools competitions and festivals run, with 4 schools representing South Derbyshire at the County School Games event. 2 Dance showcase nights were held at Granville School where over 200 young people took part in showcasing their performance skills to full houses.
- Health Lifestyles - 7 contracts secured and commissioned to SDDC through NHS Derbyshire County. 150,000 hits on the Healthier South Derbyshire Website increasing from 100,000 hits last year! A Healthier South Derbyshire Event was held at Greenbank Leisure Centre with over 46 providers, numerous taster sessions and over 700 people throughout the 4 hours came to see how they could lead healthier lifestyles and get physically active.
- Green Bank Leisure Centre - Refurbished several elements of the centre including a total revamp of the wet side changing rooms, creating a pools side disabled changing room complete with specialist hoist and redecoration of the main sports hall and changing rooms.

- Cockshut Lane, Melbourne - worked with Melbourne Sporting Partnership to develop the site to the point where there is planning permission for the agreed design. In addition have commenced significant pitch levelling works and secured £50,000 of investment from Sport England for further pitch improvements.
- Bill Shone Leisure Centre, Melbourne - working alongside the local community have transferred the management of this asset from the Parish Council to Melbourne Community Group who have come together as an organisation for the express purpose of regenerating the building and its use by local people.
- Rosliston Forestry Centre - improved facilities for families with children with disabilities by refurbishing the soft play room with some specialist equipment and creating a new all abilities trail that links the top and bottom of the site and leads to some disabled fishing platforms.
- Eureka Park - installed circa £50,000 of new play equipment
- Dance In the Forest - a brand new and unique event for South Derbyshire, whereby an audience of over 500 enjoyed Ballet, Bollywood, Capoeira, Hip Hop, Jive, Street Dance and Tap with 28 different community dance groups performing throughout the evening, complemented by several professional dance and music acts.
- New evening dance classes at Swadlincote Town Hall - building on the successes of well-established dance sessions for older people, two new classes were launched to extend the dance offer to adults, and they have proved very popular.
- Festival of Leisure- Thousands came to enjoy one of the biggest events in South Derbyshire's calendar on Maurice Lea Memorial Park with young and old enjoying displays, demonstrations, music, fairground rides and inflatable's, craft marquee and a variety of trade, information and charity stalls.
- Christmas lights switch on - Crowds were entertained by local primary schools and bands throughout the day, then a bumper crowd turned out to witness the switch on of the Christmas lights with SDDC's Chairman Stanton, Derby County FC's Nathan Tyson and President and Chief Exec Tom Glick.
- South Derbyshire Day 2011 - An opportunity to let people know why South Derbyshire is such a special place to live, work and visit with exhibitions, a climbing wall, Melbourne Town Band, coaching demonstrations with local school children, pitch presentations, volunteers walking and riding from Rosliston Forestry Centre to Pride Park, and extensive coverage of South Derbyshire in the match day programme.
- Last Night of the Proms - Although the weather forecast wasn't promising, around 300 people still decided to attend and sat through bouts of the pouring rain to enjoy the rousing, flag waving favourites of the Proms by Newhall Band.
- Environmental Education Project - achieved their highest number of school visits to Rosliston, for the first time breaking into triple figures: 106 . The team also received and delivered their first National Commission - to develop the Woodland Trust's national schools Jubilee programme.

Corporate Plan Theme: Safe and Secure

- Funded 27 local Safer Neighbourhoods projects
- Introduced Photo ID album for local businesses involved in Shop watch which contains pictures and names of Prolific Shoplifters.
- 4x number plate security operations held in Willington, Swadlincote, Boulton Moor and Stenson with over 300 vehicles having theft resistant screws fitted. These will become a regular monthly event around the district
- Selecta DNA Op - Door to door operation carried out to offer Selecta DNA Property Marking kits to residents of Overseal, Linton and Church Gresley to target residents going away on holiday. Police, Partnership staff, Neighbourhood Wardens and CVS Safer homes workers distributed over 300 of the packs over the 4 day operation.
- £8,500 Funding secured for 7 CCTV cameras in Melbourne Town Centre
- Liberation Day - Another successful and busy Liberation Day held at the new venue of Green Bank Leisure Centre's sports hall. Over 350 over 65's were able to access the plenty of information on how to keep them safe and secure and enjoy the entertainment from the Paradise Steel Band and the Roll Out the Barrel mass sing-a-long.
- Out of Hours Dangerous Structure Call Out Service established with East Staffordshire Borough Council..

3.2 Key Strengths

The original Leisure and Community Service undertook the Cultural Single Improvement Tool external assessment that scored the service as 'excellent'. The areas identified as particular strengths were, partnership working, community engagement, leadership, strategy and policy.

These are also strengths within the Planning service and when combined as one service has provided a committed and flexible team with right blend of skills including essential specialist areas such as community development, event management, conservation, urban design and sustainability appraisal.

In terms of the future development of the District a local strength is the established political and technical joint working arrangements with wider Derby HMA.

3.3 Areas for Improvement

Work is continuing on fully integrating the diverse areas of work across the Service so that developers, businesses and communities are offered one joined up offer of support. Whilst service provision through leisure facilities has improved with the award of the management contract to Active Nation there is still significant progress to be made on the provision of quality facilities and marketing of the cultural offer.

More use of e-consultation and document management systems is a further practical improvement need.

3.4 Corporate Plan 2009/14 – 2012/13 Action Plan Monitoring

The Action Plans detail our key actions for the year, which are broken down into quarters to help us monitor and manage our performance effectively.

These actions directly contribute to our outcomes identified in the Corporate Plan. They are essential if the Council is going to achieve its ambitions. Complementing these actions is a set of performance measures. Again, the achievement of the targets set against these performance measures will tell us whether we are meeting outcomes and providing excellent services.

In some instance, proxy measures will be used. These are measures which are outside the Council's direct control but provide an indication of the 'overall health of the district.' For instance, the policies we have in put place to provide reduced services due to financial constraints or the implementation of those policies that will have positive impact on the area (such as the creation of employment opportunities etc.)

Since these changes are likely to take place over a long period of time, performance may not be measurable over a quarter or a year. Therefore, the status of proxy measures may suggest likely progress, while not specifically measuring a Council outcome.

The Community and Planning Service key performance measures against Corporate Plan outcomes can be found at Appendix B

3.5 Operational Action Plan Monitoring

The year ahead for the Service will be a challenge around increasing income and maintaining current service levels.

The income generated by the Development and Building Control Service is crucial to the overall sustainability of the Council and providing a efficient and customer orientated service to developers, builders and businesses will result in increased planning and building regulation fees. Achieving higher fee income than 2011/12 will enable the Service to maintain is wide delivery of community based activity and thus promote the District as a place to live, work and visit.

In terms of the Services operational plans these are based around the delivery of partnership action plans in the areas of, Sport and Health, Community Safety, Environmental Education and Community Strategy. There will also be an increasing focus on the development of Neighbourhood Management and Engagement, resulting from the Localism Act.

4.0 Key National, Regional & Local Strategies

There are a number of national, regional and local strategies which influence the work of the 'service area', some of which we need to respond to and others which we are involved in developing.

National/European

- Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC – requires assessments of plans and policies which would be likely to affect habitats of European-wide importance (such as the River Mease)
- European Directive 2001/42/EC Strategic Environmental Assessment – requires assessments of plans and policies which would be likely to have significant effects on the environment
- National Planning Policy Framework – the new NPPF is still being interpreted and will be subject to development through case law in the coming months.
- Be Active be Healthy – A Plan for getting the nation moving, Department for Health 2009
- Choosing Health: Making healthy choices easier, Department for Health 2004
- Grow, Sustain and Excel 2008-11 Sport England Strategy

Regional

- East Midlands Regional Plan 2009 – sets out minimum future build rates and other key policies for South Derbyshire with which we are required to conform in our development plans.
- Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership Proposal – an indicative strategy for the emerging local enterprise partnership which will take on some of the roles of the former East Midlands Development Agency in developing a dynamic economy.
- The National Forest Strategy – aims to create a major new wooded environment where new trees and woodlands make a significant contribution to enriching landscapes and wildlife habitats; stimulating a new woodland-related economy; providing for recreation, tourism and community involvement; and contributing to global environmental objectives such as reducing carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.
- National Forest Tourism Partnership - Vision and Action Plan – aims for The National Forest to be recognised and enjoyed as one of the top ten high quality sustainable destinations in the country, delivering long-term and sustainable growth in the value of the visitor economy.
- Derbyshire Partnership Forum - Derbyshire Sustainable Community Strategy – a plan which is shared by public and voluntary organisations across the county which aims to improve social, economic and environmental standards.
- Derbyshire Sport - Derbyshire Plan for Sport 2010/15 – a shared plan to increase participation and standards in sport and physical activity.
- Derbyshire Sport-Active Derbyshire Plan 2009-13

- Derbyshire Constabulary - Policing Plan – plan for Policing in the county which influences the work of the Safer South Derbyshire Partnership.
- Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service Area Community Strategy and Action Plan – supports the Councils community safety work.
- Derbyshire Drug and Alcohol Team - Drug and Alcohol Strategy – supports the Councils substance misuse work.
- Derbyshire Community Safety Agreement – a joint commitment for reducing crime and anti social behaviour.
- Derbyshire Independent Living Strategy: Preventative Home Support for Older People
- The All Derbyshire (including Derby City) Mental Health Promotion Strategy

Local

- South Derbyshire Economic Development Strategy – aims to promote greater economic wellbeing in South Derbyshire, in order that it becomes a healthier, more prosperous and safer place to live with better jobs and prospects for local people and businesses.
- South Derbyshire Partnership - Sustainable Community Strategy - a plan which is shared by public, private and voluntary organisations across the district which aims to improve social, economic and environmental standards.
- South Derbyshire Local Plan 1998 – now time expired (2001) but parts still set out local policies on matters such as the Green Belt and settlement boundaries
- Better Design for South Derbyshire’ – a guide for developers advising on standards of design the Council expects through planning applications
- ‘Affordable Housing in South Derbyshire – A Guide to Delivery’ – a guide for developers advising on the Council’s approach to affordable housing contributions
- South Derbyshire Sport -Sport and Health Strategy for South Derbyshire 2011-16– the plan for the delivery of sport and physical activity which is shared by local public and voluntary sector partners
- Safer South Derbyshire Partnership Plan
- South Derbyshire CVS Strategic Plan
- South Derbyshire and South Dales Children and Young People Plan

5.0 Partnerships

The process set out in the Council’s Partnership Policy has been followed. Our significant partnerships are summarised below

Partnership	Main purpose
South Derbyshire Partnership	Statutory partnership of public, private and voluntary sector to promote the District. The P'ship has theme groups which focus on health, community safety and sustainable development.
Safer South Derbyshire Partnership	Statutory partnership to reduce the level of crime and disorder
South Derbyshire Sport	Partnership of bodies having an interest in promoting sport and health in the District
Etwall Joint Management Committee	Partnership between SDDC, John Port School and County Council to operate the Leisure Centre.
Destination Management Partnership	Countywide partnership to increase tourism in the County.
National Forest and Beyond Partnership	Forestwide partnership to increase visitors to the area
South Derbyshire School Sport Partnership	Partnership approach to increasing sports participation by young people.
Rosliston Forestry Centre Executive	Partnership between SDDC and Forestry Commission to operate the Forestry Centre

6.0 Consultation & Communication

Consultation is a key part of our work and informs many of the services we deliver for the residents. A variety of methods to obtain information and comments are used, from questionnaires and phone calls to event debrief sessions and online surveys. Results are used to justify and improve work, which includes public and business events, our growth strategies as well as healthy activities and planning related sessions.

Communication is a high priority for our service. It is vital that services are marketed and achievements communicated to local communities and partners so that all are aware of and use the many facilities, advice, sessions and events that are available. The service has strong links with partner agencies and this is evident in marketing processes which enables partners to promote themselves in service publicity and this system is reciprocated. Again, a variety of marketing tools are used, from posters and leaflets to costumed characters and affinity days, such as the recent event held at Derby County Football Club where the opportunity arose to further strengthen links with Derby City and promote and celebrate some of the many attractions that make South Derbyshire a better place to live, work and visit.

Significant media coverage is achieved across the local media for all the service areas including; Business breakfasts / Comic Relief / local plan / Work on the Delph / Airtime on Radio Derby / Liberation Day / National Forest Walking Festival / ITV Central coverage on Breastfeeding Awareness Awards at Rosliston / Last Night of the Proms even t/ Free Tree campaign / South Derbyshire Sport-Sports Awards

The Service is continuing to monitor all communications during the coming year. Marketing plans are being produced and updated for key areas and promotional literature is continually being reviewed and where appropriate given a 'corporate' identity.

See Appendix C for planned consultation and communication in 2011/12.

7.0 Service Review / Transformation Programme

In order for Community and Planning to positively meet the challenges facing the Council, it will create and develop innovative solutions which it will deliver the outcomes communities need and want at a cost that the Council can afford.

These will be both achieved through working in partnership with NPS with active engagement with service users, communities and elected Members to refine the Council's outcome targets by identifying potential innovative solutions.

A commitment within the Northgate Partnership ensured that all Service areas participated in an efficiency review covering all aspects of the service they deliver. The completed reviews resulted in detailed transformation proposals aimed at improving efficiency and delivering savings that could be delivered through the Partnership.

Following the completion of the first round of efficiency reviews within Council's retained services a second tranche of reviews has been planned nearing completion. The second tranche of reviews will be theme based and cross cutting rather than being service specific. The initial themes to be explored are;

- Customer access and channel shift
- Electronic document storage and 'paper-lite'

These initial themes are being supported by additional and ongoing partnership activity in areas such as IT infrastructure improvements and analysis of current administrative support and functionality.

A series of tables at Appendix D represent the next three years actions for the Community and Planning Service. The actions will also form a key part of the authority's medium term strategy for both delivering the outcomes that communities want and need; and delivering its efficiency savings. The reviews that will be taking place in 2012/13 are built into the Service Action (SMART) Plan for 2012/13. The Partnership with NPS through the 'Retained Services Transformation' programme is expected to achieve cashable savings for this service area.

8.0 Managing Risks

The process set out in Council's Risk Management Strategy, which was approved in March 2010 has been followed.

Further details can be found via this link

http://harvey/corporate/organisationaldevelopment/policy/Service_Planning/supporting_info/RiskMgtStrat/view?searchterm=risk

The risk registers for the service area can be found at Appendix E.

9.0 Monitoring and Review

This Service Plan will be monitored on a quarterly basis as part of the Council's Performance Management Framework and will be used throughout the year to manage service delivery.