

South Derbyshire District Council

Annual Report 2021/2022

Our Environment | Our People | Our Future

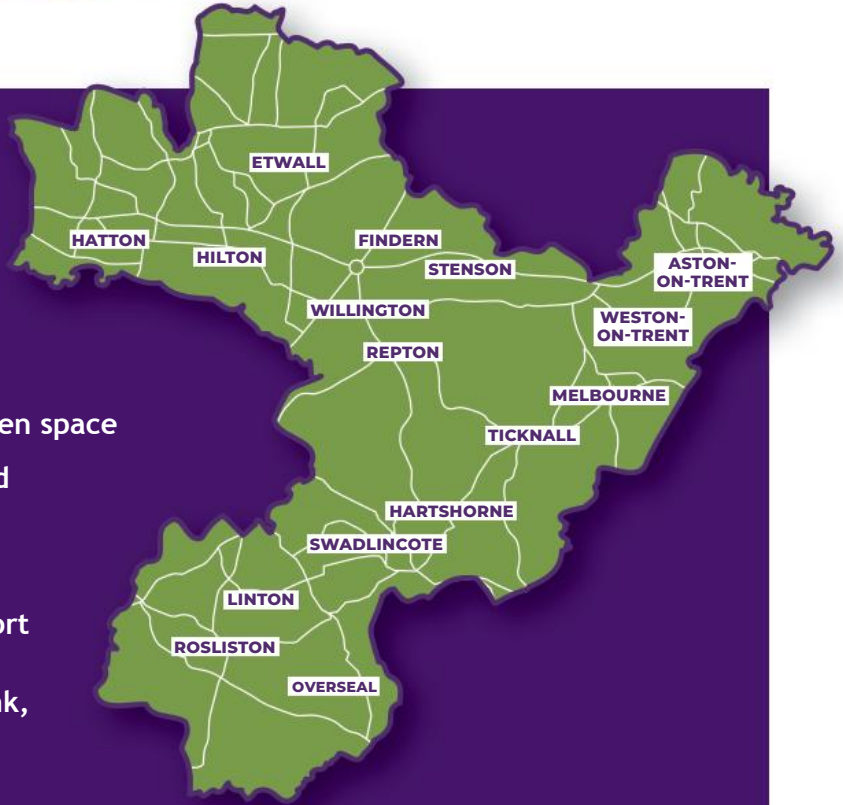
www.southderbyshire.gov.uk



South
Derbyshire
District Council

About South Derbyshire

- Over 107,200 people live in South Derbyshire
- Fastest growing population in the county
- South Derbyshire covers over 100 square miles
- Over 2,392 hectares of green space
- The district contains a third of the National Forest
- Home to 3,800 businesses
- Key sectors include transport equipment manufacturing, construction, food and drink, the visitor economy and transport and logistics



Obtaining alternative versions of this document

If you would like this document in another language, or if you require the services of an interpreter, please contact us. This information is also available in large print, Braille or audio format upon request.

General enquiries: Call 01283 595795 or visit www.southderbyshire.gov.uk/contact

Jeśli chcieliby Państwo otrzymać ten dokument w innym języku lub potrzebują Państwo usług tłumacza, prosimy o kontakt. Informacje te są również dostępne na życzenie w wydaniu dużym drukiem, w alfabecie brajla lub w wersji audio.

如果你需要这份文件的中文翻译，或者需要传译员的帮助，请联系我们。这些数据也备有大学体印本、盲人点字和录音带，欢迎索取。

ほかの言語でこの文書をご希望の場合、もしくは通訳サービスをご希望の場合はご連絡ください。

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यदि आपको ये दस्तावेज किसी दूसरी भाषा में चाहिये, या किसी दुभाषिये की सेवाओं की जरूरत है तो हमें सम्पर्क करने की कृपया करें। ये जानकारी माँग करने पर बड़े अक्षरों, ब्रेल या आडिओ के रूप में भी उपलब्ध करवाई जा सकती है।

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਹ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਕਿਸੇ ਦੂਸਰੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਚਾਹੀਦਾ ਹੈ, ਜਾਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਦੁਭਾਸ਼ੀਏ ਦੀਆਂ ਸੇਵਾਵਾਂ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਸਾਡੇ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰਨ ਦੀ ਕ੍ਰਿਪਾ ਕਰੋ ਜੀ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਮੰਗ ਕਰਨ ਤੇ ਵੱਡੇ ਅੱਖਰਾਂ, ਬ੍ਰੇਅਲ ਜਾਂ ਆਡਿਉ ਦੇ ਰੂਪ ਵਿਚ ਵੀ ਉਪਲੱਬਧ ਕਰਵਾਈ ਜਾ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੈ।

اگر آپ یہ ڈاکیومنٹ کسی اور زبان میں چاہتے ہوں، یا اگر آپ کو کسی ترجمان کی خدمات درکار ہوں، تو براہ کرم ہم سے رابطہ کریں۔ درخواست کرنے پر یہ معلومات بڑے پرنٹ، بریل یا آڈیو فارمیٹ میں بھی دستیاب ہیں۔

Your councillors by ward

as at October 2022

Aston-on-Trent



Church Gresley



Etwall



Hatton



Hilton



Linton



Melbourne



Midway



Newhall and Stanton



Repton



Seales



Stenson



Swadlincote



Willington and Findern Woodville



Introduction

Our annual report gives a summary of just some of the activity we have carried out in the last year, how we have spent the money we receive, and the progress made against the ambitions and commitments set out in our Corporate Plan 2020-2024.

As we outline our achievements for 2021/22, we're proud to have maintained excellent public services and pushed forward with ambitious plans for the future.

2021/22 was another challenging year for the council as we led our recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

In all our activities, the safety and wellbeing of everyone has been paramount.

You can see this through the number of activities carried out in promoting and distributing more than £30 million in grant funding to residents and businesses across South Derbyshire who had been affected by the pandemic, in the patrols by the COVID marshals and running the South Derbyshire COVID-safe scheme.

Despite many national and global challenges in recent years, we remain innovative, resilient, and steadfast in our determination to make South Derbyshire a great place to live, visit and invest.

We continue to ensure the needs of our residents, communities and staff are recognised and responded to, put arrangements in place to secure on-going improvement, delivered vital public services to the highest of standards and provided better value for money each year.

We have supported vulnerable members of our community; led emergency responses and built resilience; prevented and tackled homelessness; helped people to live in good quality, safe housing; worked with the police to prevent and tackle crime and anti-social behaviour; encouraged our residents to live healthier, more active lifestyles; protected and enhanced our parks and green spaces; cleaned streets and continued delivering waste and recycling services; promoted and lobbied for infrastructure improvements; improved our air quality; secured investment in the district and held community events all across South Derbyshire.



Frank McArdle
Chief Executive

We are proud to have supported the development of our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy and Action Plan that sets down how we make our services accessible and inclusive to all.

During the year, we have continued to work with partners and community groups to identify areas where we can do more to support people and raise awareness of exclusion and tackle any form of discrimination.

The report demonstrates the huge breadth of work we undertake with our staff, partners and the voluntary sector to make a positive difference to the lives of South Derbyshire residents, and to ensure the district is well prepared for the future.



Councillor Kevin Richards
Council Leader

How your money is used

From the Council Tax you pay, South Derbyshire District Council keeps only nine per cent to fund vital services including bin collections, street cleaning, maintaining award-winning parks and open spaces, environmental protection, customer services including revenues and benefits, economic development, markets, planning, town centre events and tourism.

Full details of spending and budgets is available at:
www.southderbyshire.gov.uk/spending-and-budgets.

You may also wish to read our service plans with details of our priorities for 2022/23. Find these at: www.southderbyshire.gov.uk/performance.



The council's income

The council's total income for 2021/22 was 58.97m, an increase from 55.30m in 2020/21.

12.56m	Government grants
0.63m	Other grants
13.24m	Fees and charges
0.23m	Interest
12.17m	Housing rents
16.81m	Local taxation
3.34m	COVID-19 Government grants
58.97m	Total



The council's expenditure

The council's revenue account shows the cost of running our services. In 2022/21, the council spent £51.97m on delivering services, a reduction from the £53.6m in 2020/21.

12.10m	Housing benefits
10.30m	Housing-related services
9.74m	Support services
6.23m	Environmental and regulatory services
5.07m	Culture and community services
3.49m	Planning and development
1.34m	Highways and transport
3.54m	Corporate and democratic core
0.15m	Grants issued to the public - COVID-19
7.00m	Surplus

What the council spent on land and property

The council's capital account sets out the money spent on buying and improving land and property. In 2021/22, we spent 5.43m on land and property assets.

0.17m	Property and other assets
2.81m	Council house improvements
0.23m	Council house new build
0.91m	Private sector housing renewal
0.58m	Culture and community schemes
0.73m	Environmental and development schemes
5.43m	Expenditure

The council's balance sheet: 31 March 2022

At the end of the financial year, the council draws up a balance sheet that shows how much land and businesses are worth, what the council owes others, what others owe the council and how much the council has in its account:

REVENUE RESERVES AND BALANCES		NET ASSETS	
20.97m	General Balances	Value of land and property	174.34m
79.12m	Unusable Reserves		
13.45m	Capital Reserves	Liquid assets	75.83m
26.59m	Earmarked Reserves	Less money owed to us	-110.05m
140.12m	Net worth		140.12m total

Statement from the Strategic Director (Corporate Resources)

The council achieved a surplus in the year of £7 million, mainly due to lower costs compared to the costs budgeted, together with additional income.

A proportion of this income has been set-aside to meet expected demand for services in future years due to the expected increase in South Derbyshire's population.



Overall, our financial position remains strong with a good level of reserves to fund commitments in the medium-term. Similar to many councils, we are experiencing additional costs of rising energy and fuel prices, together with the uncertainty of future Government funding.

However, the council's position means that it can face any downturn in its finances in a timely and planned manner.

Kevin Stackhouse

Strategic Director (Corporate Resources)

Achievements in 2021/22

April

- Easter activities: walks, guides and pursuits in the district
- Green Bank and Etwall Leisure Centres reopen as COVID-19 lockdown restrictions eased

May

- Litter picks organised as part of the Great British Spring Clean campaign
- Local launch of ShopAppy supporting local businesses
- Climate and Environment Action Plan launched

June

- 16 new electric vehicle charging points installed
- Community Heroes awards held

July

- Consultation held on CCTV in private hire vehicles
- Activities held for Love Parks Week

August

- Music in the Park event returns after two years
- Applications open for COVID-19 business grants

September

- Hilton, Marston-on-Dove and Hoon Neighbourhood Plan adopted following referendum
- New mapping portal launched to help residents access council services

October

- Plant a tree for the Jubilee scheme launched
- Swadlincote Woodlands received first Green Flag Award
- Let's be COVID safe scheme launched

November

- Launch of The Snowman™ and The Snowdog sculpture trail

December

- Events held for Small Business Saturday
- Successful Christmas events held in Swadlincote town centre

2022

January

- Council marks Holocaust Memorial Day
- Climate Change Action Plan named best in the East Midlands

February

- Tree planting events to mark the beginning of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee year
- COVID-19 Omicron variant Rescue Grant scheme launched

March

- The Gruffalo event held in Swadlincote town centre
- Council shows support following invasion of Ukraine
- £150 Council Tax rebate distributed to residents



Our Environment

Encouraging recycling

Encouraging our residents to recycle effectively has long been one of our key priorities. This year saw us work with Podback to become one of only two councils in the UK to offer a scheme which allows people to recycle their used coffee pods. People can leave their used pods in a bag on top of their black or brown bins on the usual collection day.

Following consultation with residents in areas affected by the changes earlier in the year, we closed waste and recycling sites in South Derbyshire in October. The sites had seen issues with vandalism and contamination. All residents are encouraged to recycle items in their green bin or take items to the Bretby Household Recycling Centre run by Derbyshire County Council.

Award winning climate change plan

Tackling climate change and becoming carbon neutral by 2030 remains a key aim for the council to reduce in-house carbon emissions and also to influence the reduction of district-wide carbon emissions. In January, this plan was named as the highest scoring plan from a district or borough council in the East Midlands by the independent body Climate Emergency UK.

During the year, we installed 16 new electric vehicle charging points in the district and we are committed to providing more of these as funding becomes available.

604
fly tipping
incidents recorded



75.6%
of new homes
meet water
efficiency
targets



416kgs
(per head of population)
of household
waste collected



46%
(estimate)
of collected
waste recycled
and composted

First Green Flag for Swadlincote Woodlands

Swadlincote Woodlands achieved a prestigious Green Flag Award for the first time this year. A Green Flag Award is the sign that green spaces are well maintained and have good quality facilities.

The site is maintained by the council in partnership with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust and local conservation volunteers. The award is thanks to the hard work of these staff and volunteers.

This brings the number of Green Flag award winning parks in South Derbyshire to three with Maurice Lee Memorial Park in Church Gresley and Eureka Park in Swadlincote also retaining their Green Flag Awards.

Our ambitious plans do not stop there: we aim to have four Green Flag Award parks in South Derbyshire by 2024.

Croft Orchard in Overseal was also given a Green Flag Community Award thanks to the efforts of volunteers.

Increase in Swadlincote town centre satisfaction

This year saw an increase in the number of people who said they would recommend Swadlincote as a place to visit.

In an annual survey, held in September, 60 per cent of people polled said they would recommend a visit to Swadlincote town centre. This is an increase from 55 per cent in 2020 and on 49 per cent in 2019. Work to improve the town centre with enhancements to the Delph and new open-air facilities to replace the Market Hall car park, Bank House and Sabine's Yard are to be carried out in the coming year.



Our People

Supporting our residents and businesses

As we emerged from the COVID-19 pandemic, we continued to support our residents and businesses by promoting and distributing Government grants.

Our staff provided support in distributing food parcels through the foodbank for people in need.

We also continued to award grant funding to support our communities. Project applications were received from churches, parish councils, recreational clubs and arts organisation and Citizens' Advice Mid Mercia. During 2021/22, eight Community Partnership Grants and eight Safer and Stronger Grants were awarded to community groups in the district.

Equality, diversity and inclusion

Through our Disabled Facilities Grants scheme, we provide adaption works for elderly and disabled householders to remain safe, secure and protected in their own homes.

These include installing of walk-in showers, stairlifts, ramped access facilities and specialist equipment such as person hoists.

We will continue to increase our understanding about the make up of our district, the needs of our communities and the barriers that exist. This will help to identify how we can make services fairer and more accessible and open to all.

Promote health and wellbeing

The pandemic made clear to our community how important open spaces are to having a happy and healthy life. Together with our team at the Rosliston Forestry Centre we've continued to provide excellent open spaces across the district. Work in the past year has included improving play areas with resulting increases in use by children and their families.



210
interventions
to prevent
fuel poverty

261

homelessness
cases prevented



89.1%
of Planned
Maintenance Housing
programme delivered



24,405

customers interacted
digitally as a first choice



49,181
social media
followers

Keeping our people safe

The council is a key partner in the South Derbyshire Community Safety Partnership which works to reduce crime and the fear of crime.

From April to December 2021, we intervened in 29 per cent more cases of anti-social behaviour compared to the previous year.

In October, we promoted Hate Crime Awareness Week and supported the 16 Days of Action Domestic Abuse Campaign during November and secured over 162 properties through the CVS-run Safer Homes Scheme for South Derbyshire residents who are fleeing domestic abuse.

Return of events

2021 saw the return of events following the COVID-19 pandemic. Because of concerns for the safety of elderly and vulnerable residents, instead of holding the usual Liberation Day event in May,

we sent out packs to residents aged 60 and over with details of support agencies available.

July and August saw the return of in person events with a series of popular Music in the Park events held in the open air with COVID-19 advice in place.

Events were also held in-person for the first time in two years to mark Armistice Day, Remembrance Sunday and Holocaust Memorial Day allowing people to come together and remember those who lost their lives.

New Housing waiting list

Over 700 housing applicants were re-registered onto our new Housing allocations and lettings system. This makes it quicker and simpler for people to join our housing waiting list. Support was given to elderly and vulnerable residents to make sure they were able to use the system and retained their position on the list.



Our Future

Planning activities

The Hilton, Marston on Dove and Hoon Neighbourhood Plan was formally adopted by the council in November. This means that this Neighbourhood Plan and its planning priorities will be considered alongside the district's Local Plan when decisions are made on planning matters.

A consultation was held on the draft Melbourne Neighbourhood Plan in autumn 2021 for a referendum to be held in summer 2022.

We received four new bungalows in Repton and seven new houses at Overseal to add to our housing stock.

Work was carried out on the construction of five new council homes at Orchard Street in Newhall to add to our own housing stock and provide more choice for people needing accommodation.

Work has been carried out to develop a new Local Plan during 2021/22 to set out the planning priorities in South Derbyshire for consultation on the issues and options for the new Local Plan to be carried out in autumn 2022.



90.5%

**of planning applications
determined within
statutory period**

Getting local people into work

During the year, we continued to support local people in finding jobs and volunteering opportunities.

We held a series of events which allowed people to find work both virtually and in-person including events on setting up your own business for people who may have lost their jobs or decided to take a different direction in their careers.

We developed our Supporting Aspirations action plan to support disadvantaged young people in South Derbyshire to realise their aspirations.

We are working with schools and other partners on a range of interventions that will enhance the skills and abilities of young people to support when seeking employment or when at work.

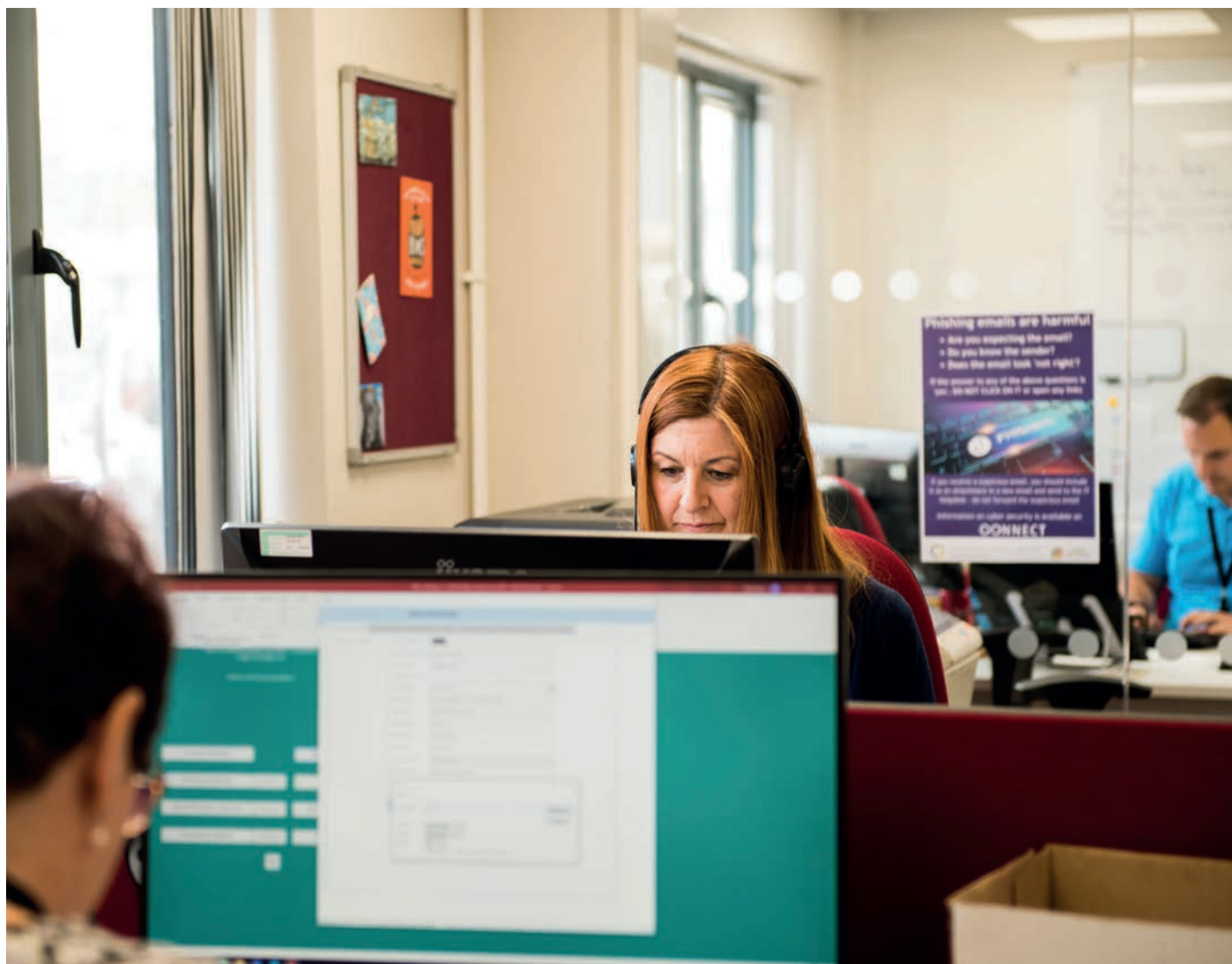
Improvements to our digital services

We launched a new mapping portal on our website which allows residents to put in their postcode and find out what local services are on offer including which ward they live in, who their local councillors are and when their bins will be collected.

We launched a new online booking system allowing customers to interact with us to book appointments with

officers, book school holiday activities and leisure bookings such as log cabins at Rosliston, to business advice meetings.

The new Destination South Derbyshire website is now live. This is a companion site to the Visit South Derbyshire website and centres on business investment and marketing South Derbyshire for activities other than tourism. A new website for Rosliston Forestry Centre was also developed during the year.



COVID-19 recovery

2021/22 was a year dominated by the recovery from COVID-19.

We continued to provide resources to for community testing centres to be held at Midway Community Centre allowing residents without symptoms to be tested for COVID-19 to reduce the spread of the virus.

We worked with partners and local businesses to give advice on trading safely and continued to offer information to residents, businesses and our staff on the changing COVID-19 restrictions.

COVID-19 grants

The council has distributed more than £30 million in Government grants to local businesses which have been adversely affected by COVID-19.

This included grants for small and medium-sized businesses, grants for businesses in the hospitality, leisure and accommodation sector and businesses affected by the Omicron variant.



Welcome Back Fund

South Derbyshire was allocated £95,419 from the Government's Welcome Back Fund to encourage people back to the high streets.

This funding was used to employ COVID marshals who supported local businesses by providing free COVID-19 guidance, audits of their premises and support at events. They also assisted the work of the public health services by providing weekly reports on how the COVID-19 rules were followed.

The funding was also used for promotion and events to allow an increase in footfall and spending on high streets in South Derbyshire, to hire equipment and promote events.

This funding was used to:

- Support the Melbourne Festival
- Support the Swad in Bloom Autumn Fayre and Garden Show
- Place advertising in the Visit Peak District & Derbyshire Autumn Welcome Back Campaign
- Developing a promotional map and guide for Melbourne town centre
- Printing a food and drink guide for Melbourne town centre
- Updating and printing a promotional map and guide for Swadlincote town centre
- Purchasing new equipment to support Swadlincote Market and local event organisers
- Creating promotional videos to promote Swadlincote and Melbourne markets and Swadlincote high street retailers.



Focus on The Snowman™ and The Snowdog Sculpture Trail

As part of our COVID-19 recovery, we hosted a very special sculpture trail in Swadlincote over the Christmas and New Year period in 2021-22.

Mindful of the potential risk of transmission of COVID-19, the council developed the trail which would be in place from 20 November 2021 to 16 January 2022. Visitors were able to complete the trail in Swadlincote town centre over a longer period and many local retailers reported a major increase in footfall throughout November and December.

This was largely due to the special events organised by the council each weekend from 20 November to 11 December including film shows, live entertainment, festive characters, competitions and giveaways, arts and crafts and carol singing. A further event on 15 January allowed people to say farewell following a successful festive period.

The trail of 12 specially-designed sculptures of The Snowman™ with a further six sculptures of The Snowdog was brought to Swadlincote in partnership with Wild in Art and Penguin Ventures, part of Penguin Random House UK.



Dawn Ramsell, of family-owned Baumgartners Jewellers in Midland Road, said:

“It has been absolutely wonderful. The Snowman™ and Snowdog trail was a brilliant way to get people walking around the town and the programme of events was fantastic too, with something new and exciting to look forward to every weekend.

“I would like to say a big thank you and well done to everyone who helped to make it happen.”

Tina Holmes, owner of Stan's Pals pet deli in Midland Road, said:

“The events were brilliant. Before the sculpture trail arrived, we were worried that Christmas just wasn't going to happen.

“The sculptures made people smile and that was needed during such difficult times.”

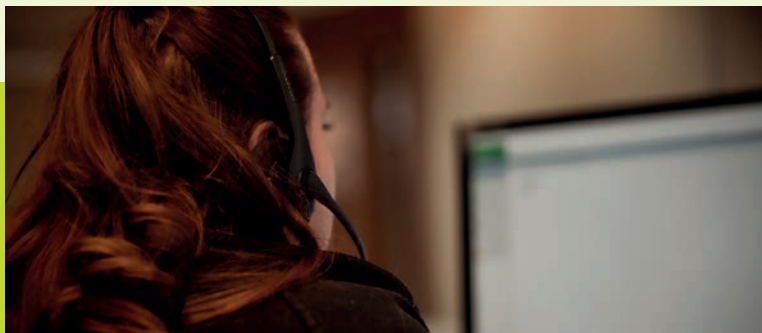
Things to look out for in 2022/3

- Continue to provide apprenticeships and help create jobs and skills opportunities for local people

- Look at further innovative ways to identify efficiencies to help us continue to deliver the essential services to our residents while balancing our budget



- Continue to improve play areas and increase the areas that we manage as grassland meadows in order to support wildlife



- Look at bringing more services online to improve our self-service offer for our customers

- Work with partners to support residents in the current economic climate



- Develop a pipeline of new homes and more housing support to our residents and tenants

- Continue to promote cycling and walking and seek funding for improvements



**South
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