

**South  
Derbyshire  
District Council**

# Annual Report 2017-2018



The Diana, Princess of Wales, Memorial Garden in Swadlincote.  
Picture courtesy of Ashley Franklin Photography.

**People | Place | Progress**

[www.south-derbys.gov.uk](http://www.south-derbys.gov.uk)



**South  
Derbyshire  
District Council**



South Derbyshire continues to grow in all aspects. It is welcoming greater numbers of tourists year on year, businesses are continuing to invest and expand and more people are making it their home.

As the District continues to change for the better, the Council's values remain the same. It continues to listen to its residents and actively tries to resolve problems as they arise.

In October 2017 the Council launched its new website. It has a modern appearance with jargon-free content and an improved search facility.

The website is also device responsive, meaning people can interact and transact with the Council on a PC, laptop, tablet or smart phone. More than 65 easy to use on-line forms are another helpful feature that can be found.

With more and more people getting information via the internet, the Council has developed its social media platforms, such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube, to provide authentic, open and honest conversations about key services that matter to residents.

A major boost to service delivery came with the relocation of the Council's waste and cleansing depot to new premises on the Boardman Industrial Estate in Swadlincote.

Improving efficiency in areas such as refuse collection and recycling is vital in enabling the Council to move forward in the face of an ongoing expansion in visitor and resident numbers.

The Council is extremely proud of its achievements in 2017/18. Many examples of our work are provided on the pages that follow, but there is always more to be done.

Our Annual Report is designed to help you, as residents and members of the business community in South Derbyshire, find out what the Council does and how well it does it.

The Council's aim is to build on the strong foundations it has set down. The Council recognises the importance of acting upon what residents and businesses are saying to ensure that South Derbyshire continues to be a prosperous, attractive and growing District well into the future.

## Contents

- 2-3** Welcome to South Derbyshire
- 4-5** South Derbyshire – Changing for the better
- 6-7** People - Keeping residents healthy, happy and safe
- 8-9** Place - Creating vibrant communities to meet residents' needs
- 10-11** Progress - Encouraging inward investment and tourism
- 12-13** Outcomes - Work that underpins all of our activities
- 14-15** Get involved in the Council's work
- 16-17** Working in partnership
- 18-19** Summary of annual accounts



**Cllr Martyn Ford - Leader**  
South Derbyshire District Council



**Frank McArdle - Chief Executive**  
South Derbyshire District Council



## The Council's Corporate Plan 2016-21

The Corporate Plan 2016 – 2021 was approved following extensive consultation into South Derbyshire's needs. It groups the Council's work under four key themes: People, Place, Progress and Outcomes.

The Corporate Plan is central to the Council's work - setting out its values and vision for South Derbyshire and defining priorities for delivering high quality services. The Council aspires to be an 'excellent'

Council to make sure it meets the expectations of local communities.

This Annual Report demonstrates how work and activities under the People, Place, Progress and Outcomes themes have contributed to that in 2017/18.



## The Council's vision

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

## The Council's values



Put residents first



Actively listen and resolve problems



Set clear targets



Develop staff



Act decisively



Be driven by economy, effectiveness and efficiency



Lead for success

## What the Council does



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



Employ Safer Neighbourhood Wardens to make communities cleaner and safer.



Collect household waste and work to encourage recycling in innovative ways.



Provide a 24-hour, 365-days-a-year emergency Careline service.



Manage and maintain more than 3,000 Council homes and offer homelessness prevention service to those in need.



Support voluntary groups, cultural activities and crime prevention work.



Carry out street cleaning, pest control and work to prevent pollution.



Work with partners on a wide variety of community projects for the benefit of residents.



Deal with planning applications, building regulations, tree preservation orders, listed buildings and heritage.



Collect Council Tax and Business Rates, pay Housing Benefits.



Work to ensure that the food and drink served in South Derbyshire's restaurants, cafes and pubs are safe to consume.



The following pages provide a snapshot of what has been achieved in 2017/18 under the Council's Corporate Plan themes.

## People - Keeping residents healthy, happy and safe



Examples of what the Council achieved:

402kgs of **waste** were collected per head of population (the target was to collect less than 480kg per person). This figure continues to reduce year on year, driving down the amount of waste being sent to landfill.

**Green Bank** and **Etwall Leisure Centres**, managed in partnership with Active Nation, have each had upgrades in the past few years. In 2017/18, more than a million visits were made to the two centres, against a target of 681,616.

The Waste less, Save more project scooped a hat-trick of prestigious accolades at the Houses of Parliament. At the annual **Green Apple Awards**, Fab Foods, Picnic Rescue and Menu Magic were all named as winners.

The **RISE** project, an initiative designed to build confidence and aspiration in young people, was launched. Award-winning film director Deborah Haywood, who hails from Swadlincote, has been named as ambassador.

There were 6,928 attendances at **holiday activity sessions** delivered in the parks throughout the District by the Council's Sport and Health Team to get young people active and reduce anti-social behaviour.

The Council's third **outdoor gym** was completed. Nine pieces of equipment, including a double leg press, chest press and surfer were installed around the perimeter of Swadlincote's Eureka Park as part of continuing efforts to improve the facilities on offer.

August saw the launch of **SnapBox**, a scheme designed to make asking for leftovers in cafes, pubs and restaurants easier by providing free boxes in which to take them home. SnapBox was developed with the Council's Waste less, Save more partner Sainsbury's.

Over the last two years, **2,132** Council tenants have been **visited in their homes** to be given support and advice to help maintain their tenancies.



The average time for processing new **Benefit claims** in 2017/18 was 15.8 days – well below the national average of 18 days.

97% of tenants were satisfied with the quality of their **new Council home**, up from 92% in 2016/17.

More than 88kg of **unsold gourmet food** from the Swadlincote International Food and Drink Festival was **donated** to the Bank House, South Derbyshire Mental Health Association. The Council's Environmental Health Team carried out health checks and provided food safety information before the food was distributed.

The **Safer South Derbyshire Partnership** supported the Op Zao Knife Crime Seminar at Burton Albion Football Club, which all four South Derbyshire secondary schools attended.

A coffee morning, information sessions and 'virtual tours' were among the events lined up in South Derbyshire as part of **Dementia Awareness Week** 2017. The programme of activities was part of the District's commitment to being a Dementia Friendly Community.





Examples of what the Council achieved:

The Council delivered **176 affordable homes** across the District as the result of working closely with partners.

Fly-tipping incidents **reduced by 9%** compared to the previous year. New powers to deal with fly-tipping have been adopted and enforced.

The Council's **Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Policy** was launched. It demonstrates the Council's commitment to victims of ASB and to vulnerable people.

The Council used its **powers of enforcement** to take action against those causing damage to South Derbyshire's environment. An 80-tonne fly-tip offender got a six-month suspended jail sentence, a Swadlincote firm was fined £20,000 for inappropriate waste management and an Overseal man was fined for illegal waste burning.

Church Gresley's Maurice Lea Memorial Park was given the honour of receiving the **Green Flag** award for the third year running, officially ranking it among the finest in the UK. The park hosts a range of activities and events, including the annual South Derbyshire Festival of Leisure.

The Council's **Licensing Team** carried out 211 inspections of premises, seven hearings were held (Licensing Act applications or consideration of private hire driver's licences) and dealt with 50 complaints during 2017/18.

An **outdoor learning shelter** was officially opened at Rosliston Forestry Centre. It is now being used for training and teaching while allowing those doing conservation work to have sheltered breaks.

Thousands of people flocked to Swadlincote for its annual **International Food and Drink Festival**. The three-day celebration brings food and drink together from around the world and again proved a major success.

**15 Community Protection Notices** were issued. These are designed to help prevent unreasonable behaviour having a negative impact on the quality of life for local communities.

Consultation on the Council's **Affordable Housing** Draft Supplementary Planning Document, which included a series of drop-in events, took place between June and August.

More than 300 people attended the first ever **eUREka event** – a high-octane mixture of music, art, sport and food for those aged 11 to 19. There were DJ workshops, drumming and acoustic music sessions, graffiti, face painting and body art at Eureka Park in Swadlincote.

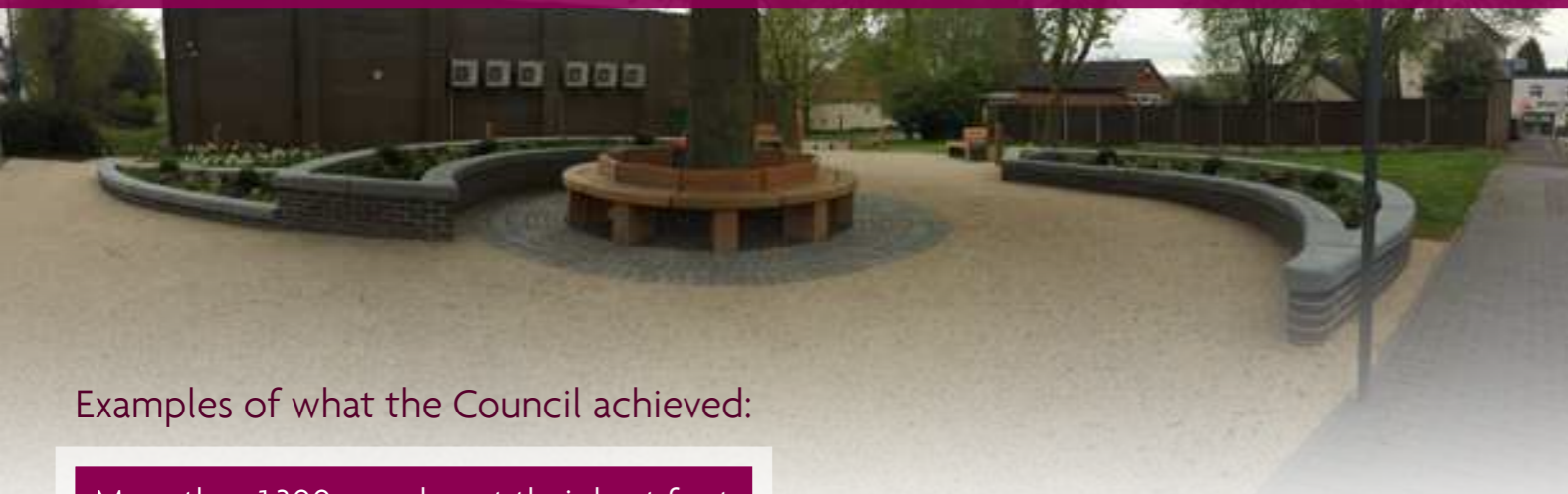
The Council's Environmental Health team worked in partnership with OLIO to develop a food safety management system for the **Food Waste Heroes** programme, which takes unsold surplus food from businesses and distributes it to the local community.

From April to September, **allotment maintenance and planting sessions** were organised in Midway. Attendees were encouraged to grow their own fruit and vegetables and donate them to worthwhile causes across the District.

New processes were put in place to ensure the Council was prepared for the introduction of the **Homelessness Reduction Act**. This new legislation places additional duties on the Council to provide advice and support to those threatened with homelessness.



## Progress - Encouraging inward investment and tourism opportunities



Examples of what the Council achieved:

More than 1,300 people put their best foot forward for the **National Forest Walking Festival**. Celebrating its tenth anniversary, the 12-day event featured 92 walks with all ages and abilities catered for.

The first **Makers' Market**, a specialist market selling a wide variety of arts, crafts, food and drink, was held in Swadlincote.

The Council's independent **Business Advice Service**, which offers budding entrepreneurs and existing businesses access to expertise and support, offered guidance to 221 people and organisations over the year.

Several shop fronts in Swadlincote, including the former Co-op, have been given facelifts and restored to their former glory as part of the Heritage Lottery-funded **Townscape Heritage** Scheme.

Work was completed on refurbishing the Diana, Princess of Wales, **Memorial Garden** in Swadlincote. Using Heritage Lottery funding, the space was enhanced with new paths, a landscaped seating area, architectural lighting and timeline of key milestones.

Thousands of visitors attended **high profile events** in Swadlincote Town Centre, including the Christmas Lights switch-on and the International Food and Drink Festival.

**Inward investments** during the year included TopHat Industries being attracted to Dove Valley Park in Foston to manufacture modular homes.

Work was undertaken to further develop the night time economy, with a Victorian Christmas Market and carols evening held in Swadlincote and the stories behind **award-winning venues** such as the Chip and Pin in Melbourne, voted best Micro Pub in the UK by the Times, being highlighted as part of a wide-ranging publicity campaign.

Dozens of organisations attended a Tourism and Rural Business Advice Workshop at Swadlincote Tourist Information Centre as part of **National Tourism Week**.

Construction of the **£3m Piazza development** at Mercia Marina, Willington, was completed and businesses started to move in. The four-storey complex will become pharmaceutical firm Bionical's global headquarters and has become home to an Indian-style tapas restaurant, a hairdresser, art gallery and two new shops.

A South Derbyshire **Business Breakfast** organised by the Council's Economic Development Team at Calke Abbey Stables in Ticknall focused on increasing business productivity and how it can be achieved through investment and workforce development.

The National Association of British Market Authorities (NABMA), which leads the Love Your Local Market initiative, bestowed a 'Special Recognition' award on **Swadlincote Markets** for a youth initiative which involved Year Seven pupils from William Allitt School in Newhall setting up their own stall.

More than 60 employers, including The Army Reserve, Keystone Group and UPS, took part in our popular **Jobs and Skills Fair**, showcasing the variety of roles they had available to those out of work or looking for a new position.

**83.4%** of the District's 800+ food businesses had a Hygiene Rating Score of five, the highest possible.



# Outcomes - Work that underpins all of the Council's activities



For the tenth successive year, the Council was certified with the flagship **ISO14001 Standard**, which recognises the efforts of businesses and organisations in managing and minimising their environmental impact. The Council was one of the first organisations globally to achieve the revised standard in 2015, with the re-certification confirming the Council's commitment to working innovatively and sustainably for the benefit of South Derbyshire residents.

The Council opened its **new Depot** on the Boardman Industrial Estate in Swadlincote. It accommodates 13 refuse vehicles, 47 staff parking spaces and 12 delivery spaces, as well as motorcycle/cycle facilities, a vehicle wash, fuel tank and external storage. The Depot can now generate new business by undertaking MOT tests, testing HGV brakes and headlamps and storing more litres of diesel than before.

Examples of what the Council achieved:

**Budget savings** and additional income of £850k were achieved, meeting the target set and supporting the Council's overall aim of doing more with less.

Following feedback, the number of options **available to those phoning** the Civic Offices was cut and the messages shortened. It now takes an average of 32 seconds from entry to the system to reach Customer Services, compared to the 80 seconds previously.

The Council Offices in Swadlincote were accredited as a **Safe Place**, providing vulnerable adults with a temporary place of safety if they get into difficulty when they are out.

For the seventh year in a row, the Council was a **Gold Medal** winner at the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) Health and Safety Awards. This demonstrates ongoing commitment to making South Derbyshire a safer place to be.

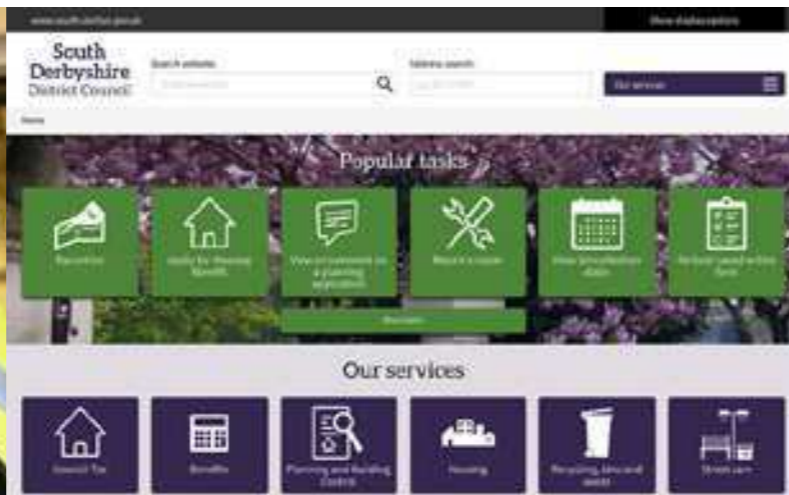
The Council's **new website** was launched with a fresh look, simpler navigation, streamlined, jargon-free content and an improved site search facility. It's also device responsive, so users can interact and transact with the Council on a PC, laptop, tablet or smart phone.

During 2017/18, the Council received 159 **compliments**. This was a significant increase on 2016/17, when it received 61. Praise came in about everything from Cultural Services and Customer Services to Street Scene.

The Council collected rental income of £12,326,983, placing it in the top quartile of landlords across the country. This **money is invested** into providing effective services and supporting tenants.

Preparations for the arrival of **Universal Credit** were made to ensure advice and support would be available for Benefit claimants.

More than 2,000 new people in the District **registered to vote** ahead of the General Election on June 8, with the Council's Elections Team handling these as well as hundreds of new requests for postal votes.



## Having your say at Area Forums

Residents are encouraged to attend the Council's Area Forum meetings so that they can have a say on key community issues.

The local police team, Council officers and District and county councillors are on hand to update attendees about issues such as crime, anti-social behaviour, bin collections, community building projects and Derbyshire County Council matters such as highways and potholes.

Area Forums are designed to spark a sense of community spirit as well as inspire ideas among people at the heart of local matters. They are also a chance for residents to learn more about the latest 'hot topics' affecting their area through open conversations.

Meetings also provide attendees with the opportunity to be kept up to date with local projects and initiatives.

They take place up to four times a year in each of the following areas:

<b>Swadlincote Area Forum</b>	Covering Swadlincote, Woodville, Church Gresley, Hartshorne.
<b>Etwall Area Forum</b>	Covering Etwall, Hilton, Hatton, Burnaston, Egginton, Foston.
<b>Melbourne Area Forum</b>	Covering Melbourne, Aston, Weston, Shardlow, Thulston, Elvaston.
<b>Linton Area Forum</b>	Covering Overseal, Linton, Netherseal, Coton, Walton, Rosliston.
<b>Repton Area Forum</b>	Covering Willington, Findern, Repton, Bretby, Stenson Fields, Ticknall.
<b>Newhall Area Forum</b>	Covering Newhall, Midway, Stanton.

Different locations are used within the areas to help as many different people as possible to attend.

The dates of Area Forums, agendas and minutes are on our website at: [www.south-derbys.gov.uk](http://www.south-derbys.gov.uk).

## Attending Council meetings

Any member of the public can attend Council meetings.

Pauline Jas, from Midway, has attended several meetings. She said: "I would encourage people to go and see democracy in action, to witness it live. It is very interesting.

"You get to see the debate between different parties and councillors, and where there is general agreement or disagreement on key issues and approaches.

"What comes across most of all is how everyone wants to do the best for South Derbyshire."

You can attend Full Council meetings and committee meetings, the dates of which are in the Council's online calendar.

With notice you can ask a question at most of them too – with the exception of our Planning Committee, Standards Committee or Licensing and Appeals Sub-Committee.

If you want to ask a question, please let the Council know no later than noon, two days before the date of the meeting.

Once a question is received, it will be entered into a book open to public inspection and sent to the relevant Elected Member. Further information is available on our website.

## Social media

An increasingly popular way for residents to contact the Council and ask questions is via social media.

The Council uses Facebook and Twitter, as well as YouTube, and saw follower numbers rise rapidly during 2017-18.

These sites allow the Council to share information, photos and videos with people in real time to keep them up to date with latest news, activities and work.



## Your District Councillors

<b>Aston-on-Trent</b>			<b>Church Gresley</b>			<b>Etwall</b>		<b>Willington &amp; Findern</b>		<b>Hatton</b>	<b>Hilton</b>		<b>Linton</b>	<b>Melbourne</b>			
<b>Neil Atkin</b>	<b>Hilary Coyle</b>	<b>Peter Watson</b>	<b>Gordon Rhind</b>	<b>Trevor Southerd</b>	<b>Stuart Swann</b>	<b>Lisa Brown</b>	<b>David Muller</b>	<b>Martyn Ford</b>	<b>Andrew MacPherson</b>	<b>Andrew Roberts</b>	<b>Andrew Billings</b>	<b>Julie Patten</b>	<b>John Grant</b>	<b>John Harrison</b>	<b>Jim Hewlett</b>		
<b>Midway</b>			<b>Newhall &amp; Stanton</b>			<b>Repton</b>		<b>Seales</b>		<b>Stenson</b>		<b>Swadlincote</b>		<b>Woodville</b>			
<b>Paul Dunn</b>	<b>Robert Pearson</b>	<b>John Wilkins</b>	<b>Sean Bambrick</b>	<b>Kevin Richards</b>	<b>Linda Stuart</b>	<b>Peter Smith</b>	<b>Michael Stanton</b>	<b>Margaret Hall</b>	<b>Patrick Murray</b>	<b>Manjit Chahal</b>	<b>David Shepherd</b>	<b>Robert Coe</b>	<b>Neil Tilley</b>	<b>Sandra Wyatt</b>	<b>Kim Coe</b>	<b>Ray Tipping</b>	<b>Steve Taylor</b>



# Working in partnership



By working with others and supporting the voluntary sector, South Derbyshire District Council continues to achieve far more than it could alone.

The Council works to strengthen existing partnerships and to enter into new ones that will benefit the people who live, work in and visit South Derbyshire.

New partnerships established in 2017 include a ground-breaking agreement to create a smartphone app, OLIO, as part of the Sainsbury's Waste less, Save more project. It works by allowing neighbours, friends, cafes, shops and restaurants to share surplus or unwanted food by posting pictures of it and inviting each other to collect what might otherwise have been binned. This partnership has been endorsed by the Secretary of State.

Other key partners with whom the Council works include:

### Active Nation

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

### Derbyshire County Council

Both organisations join forces on a wide range of projects, including reducing household waste, tackling inequality and improving community infrastructure.

### Citizens Advice

The Council helps to fund the Citizens Advice Service, which provides vital support and advice on issues such as employment and debt.

### Active Derbyshire

The Council's joint aim, in conjunction with Active South Derbyshire, is to increase the number of people taking part in physical activity.

### Safer South Derbyshire Partnership

This, South Derbyshire's Community Safety Partnership, brings together agencies to reduce and prevent incidents of crime and anti-social behaviour in the District.

### South Derbyshire Council for Voluntary Service (CVS)

South Derbyshire CVS chairs the Strategic Volunteering Partnership to support all forms of volunteering in South Derbyshire.

### The National Forest Company

The National Forest Company is a co-sponsor with Rolls-Royce of the Environmental Education Project, which works to develop knowledge, respect and understanding of the environment. It also supports events, forest creation and walking schemes.

### South Derbyshire Partnership

This public, private and voluntary sector group delivers the Sustainable Community Strategy, which aims to improve the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of South Derbyshire.

### The Forestry Commission

The Council jointly owns Rosliston Forestry Centre.

Partnerships The Council works in conjunction with also include:

### Central Midlands Audit Partnership

NHS

### D2N2 Better Business Regulation Partnership

P3

### Derbyshire Constabulary

Parish councils

### Healthier South Derbyshire

People Express

### Law:Public

Public Health England

### Local Energy Area Partnership

Rolls-Royce

### Melbourne Sporting Partnership

South Derbyshire School Sports Partnership

### The National Lottery

Sport England



# Summary of accounts

## The Council's income

The Council's total income for 2017/18 was £52.1m, compared to £53.1m in 2016/17.

This came from grants, housing rents, Business Rates and Council Tax together with fees and charges. The main reason for the decrease is a reduction in grant income received from Central Government in the form of New Homes Bonus and Revenue Support Grant.

<b>£20.7m</b>	Government grants
<b>£0.5m</b>	Other grants
<b>£7.7m</b>	Fees and charges
<b>£0.1m</b>	Interest
<b>£12.4m</b>	Housing rents
<b>£10.7m</b>	Local taxation

**£52.1m** Total

## The Council's expenditure

The Council's revenue account shows the cost of running our services. In 2017/18, the Council spent £48.0m on delivering services. This was 3% more than the £46.6m spent in 2016/17. The increase was due mainly to the purchase of new refuse freighters and expenditure relating to planning and development contributions received in previous years.

## What the Council spent on services

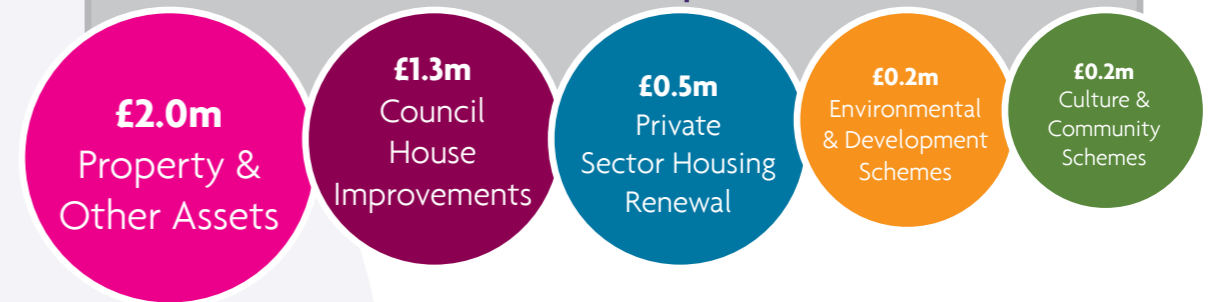
**£48 million total**



## What the Council spent on land and property

The Council's **capital account** sets out the money spent on buying and improving land and property so the Council can offer first-class public facilities. In 2017/18, the Council spent £4.2 million on land and property assets. The Council financed this through a mixture of grants and contributions, together with investing its own capital receipts and reserves.

**£4.2 million expenditure**



At the end of the financial year the Council draws up a balance sheet that shows how much land and buildings are worth, what the Council owes others, what others owe the Council and how much cash the Council has. Our net worth as at March 31 was valued at £84.2m, an increase from £72.1m in 2016/17. This was due to an increase in the value of Council houses, together with the addition of land and property being held for future investment in services.

## The Council's balance sheet: 31 March 2018

Revenue reserves & balances		Net Assets	
<b>£15.2m</b>	<b>General balances</b>	<b>£150.7m</b>	<b>Value of land &amp; property</b>
<b>£49.0m</b>	<b>Unusable reserves</b> <small>(offsets the values of the Council's assets and its pension deficit)</small>	<b>£32.9m</b>	<b>Liquid assets</b>
<b>£10.3m</b>	<b>Capital reserves</b>	<b>-£99.4m</b>	<b>Less money owed</b>
<b>£9.7m</b>	<b>Earmarked reserves</b>		
<b>£84.2m</b>	<b>Net worth</b>	<b>£84.2m</b>	<b>total</b>

## Statement from the Strategic Director (Corporate Resources)

The Accounts show that the Council achieved a surplus in 2017/18, mainly due to additional income from Business Rates and Council Tax. This reflects the continuing expansion and residential development in the District. A proportion of this money has been saved and set-aside to pay for an anticipated increase in the Council's services in the future as the local population continues to grow.

The Council's level of Reserves show a healthy position and this is currently forecast to continue over the next four to five years. However, the Council's longer-term financial plan does forecast that some budget savings may be required in the future to maintain a sound and stable position well into the next decade. Should this be the case, the Council, financially, remains in a strong position to react positively.

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



Follow us on:



@SDDC

@SDDCsport

@RFC1993

@RoslistonEnvEd

@SharpesMuseum

@SwadlincoteTIC

@SwadTeam

@MarketsSwad

@SDerbysBAS

@SDIWD

Follow us on:



South Derbyshire Environmental Health

South Derbyshire Sport

SDDC Housing

Safer South Derbyshire Partnership

Rosliston Forestry Centre

Roger Badger

Environmental Education Project at  
Rosliston Forestry Centre

Sharpe's Pottery Museum

Swadlincote Tourist Information

Swadlincote Waste less Save more

National Forest Walking Festival

Swadlincote Town Team

Swadlincote Markets

Swadlincote Townscape Heritage Scheme

Swadlincote Food & Drink Festival

Swadlincote Wedding Fairs

Pictures courtesy of:

Ashley Franklin Photography

The National Forest Company