



**South
Derbyshire**
District Council

South Derbyshire District Council

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

Community and Planning Service Plan 2013-2014

March 2013 Version 1

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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 Investor's 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, Etwall 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 £250,000. 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 £3 million in external funding over the past 12 years and now attracts around 200,000 daytime and overnight visitors annually.
- **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 Councils 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 Councils 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.
- **Developing Talent:** support is provided to clubs and individuals in the form of grants and access to training facilities to help them reach their sporting potential.

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 ‘Local Plan’ sets out 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 planning reforms were introduced in March 2011 through the National Planning Policy Framework and the emergence of ‘localism’ meant that the policy team have consulted with local communities about shaping their neighbourhoods. The policy team also work closely with adjacent authorities in the wider Derby Housing Market Area on strategic issues such as housing, transport and the Green Belt.
- Commissioning and undertaking evidence needed to demonstrate the soundness of the Local 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 represent 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 including advising on technical aspects of environmental impact assessments and habitat regulations assessments.
- Providing specialist advice and support in relation to 713 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.
- Providing heritage services such as arranging open days for historic properties and supporting the Sharpes Pottery Museum.

Development Management and Building Control

- The Development Management team dealt with 1100 planning applications in 2012/13. (1154 - 2010/11) and (1103 in 2011/2012) The diverse nature of the District means that a wide variety of applications are 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 Planning Committee Members. Planning fees are currently set nationally and were increased in November 2012. Free informal advice is provided to developers and householders. Development Management also deals with planning appeals, of which there are around 30 received each year along with Tree Preservation Orders and also consents for works to trees.

- An average of 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. The Building Control team dealt with 951 applications in 2010/11, 881 in 2011/2012 and 958 in 2012/13. 3783 Inspections have been carried out in 2012/2013. 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, whilst the downturn in the economy has affected fee income, revenues still remain buoyant.
- 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

- 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 31 March 2013, there were 58.57 full time equivalents (FTEs) within Community & Planning Services

During 2012/13, 6.35 FTE days sickness was lost

Workforce priorities for 2013/14:

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 2013/14 are outlined below:

Net Revenue Budget 2013/14

Service Area	£
Community Development and Support	547,537
Economic Regeneration	278,742
Environmental Education	69,774
Leisure and Recreational Activities	113,497
Leisure Centres and Community Facilities	639,713
Parks and Open Spaces	708,314
Planning	599,870
Town Centre	71,466
Total	3,028,913

Capital Budget 2012/13

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

Melbourne Sporting Partnership (Cockshut Lane Recreation Ground) – working with clubs from 5 sports to develop a pavilion, playing fields and play facilities costing £2,500,000. SDDC funding of £1,000,000 has been augmented with £250,000 from the County Council and £50,000 from Sport England.

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

Eureka Park – Heritage Lottery Funding of over £550,000 has been secured for the refurbishment of the Park

Green Bank Leisure Centre –refurbishment and enhancement of community areas within the Centre, project cost £499,000. SDDC has funded £250,000 and Sport England has awarded £150,000.

Etwall 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 of £220,000 has been added to with a grant of £240,000 from the Football Foundation.

Rosliston Forestry Centre - £130,000 project to enhance the Centre including the provision of toilets at the Glade In The Forest performance area and improvements to allow greater access by families with disabled children... SDDC funds of £70,000 have been provided.

Summary of Assets NBV by Service Committee as at 31 March 2013

	Sum of Net Book Value (as at 31 March 2013) (£)
Environmental and Development Services Committee	
Land & Buildings	45,000
Plant / Vehicles / Equipment	643,891
Total	£688,891
Housing and Community Services Committee	
Community	1,336,774
Land & Buildings	10,149,652
Total	11,486,425
Grand Total	£12,175,316

3.0 Service Performance

3.1 Key Achievements 2012/13

Corporate Plan Theme: Sustainable Growth and Opportunity

- Burton-Swadlincote-Utttoxeter **Business Awards** 2012 launched in July, with a good number of applications. The winners were announced at an awards evening in October and included Chameleon School of Construction, Crescent Motoring Services, John Bowler Group, Northgate, Swadlincote Market and WT Parker.
- **'Better Never Stops'** business breakfast held at Sharpe's Pottery Museum in September attracting some 60 attendees.

- **'Ready Mixed Business Support'** business breakfast for the property and construction sector held at Burton & South Derbyshire College's Construction & Sustainability Academy in Swadlincote in December attracting some 50 attendees.
- Support provided by South Derbyshire District Council for **Melbourne's Christmas Shopping Evening** on 23 November, with a 'Twelve Days of Christmas' theme.
- Pilot **Farmers' Market** programme successfully launched in June with Geraud Markets, operating on the last Thursday of the month. 2 awards won.
- Town centre **Scarecrow Hunt** staged in August with the Chamber of Trade, with some 45 predominantly independent retailers taking part.
- Biggest ever **National Forest Walking Festival** staged in May with support from the National Forest Company, National Trust and many local groups and organisations.
- The **2020VISION Street Gallery** - a stunning outdoor exhibition of more than a hundred breathtaking images celebrating nature, wildlife and people working together in the UK on display in Swadlincote (The Delph Market Square) from 18 March - 7 April 2013.
- South Derbyshire **Business Advice Service** has been providing support to entrepreneurs and companies. This is a free, independent, one-to-one advice service for new and existing businesses.
- **'Thinking of Starting a Business?'** workshop was held with fourteen attendees at Sharpe's Pottery Museum in March.
- **Swadlincote Youth Training Fair** in partnership with the Jobcentre held at the Town Hall/The Delph in June attracted some 200 people, predominantly aged under 24, interested in the job, apprentice and training opportunities on offer, plus the chance to try new skills on the day.
- **Sharpe's Pottery Museum** extension opened in May, providing a larger ground floor café and outdoor play zone that have contributed to a significant rise in visitor numbers.
- **National Apprenticeship Week** – Mobile Business Breakfast staged in Melbourne in March in partnership with the National Apprenticeship Service
- Summer Nights **Outdoor Film Festival** at Rosliston Forestry Centre – Grease and The King's Speech
- Working with landowners and other partners, supported the funding and creation of a mile long avenue of **Lime Trees** providing a new gateway to Rosliston village.

- Developed a **national education programme for the Queen's Jubilee** and have been paid to deliver over 110 Jubilee activities across the Midlands for the Woodland Trust including one for Princess Anne over the Jubilee weekend

Corporate Plan Theme: Safe and Secure

- Funded 18 local **Safer Neighbourhoods projects** including Swadlincote Boxing academy, Youth of Hatton, Etwall Neighbourhood Watch, Willington Arts Festival, William Allitt Debate group, Granville Friday Night Project and Melbourne Assembly rooms
- **Business Watch** extended to include Hepworth Site businesses. Alertboxes installed in Iceland, Store 21, Aldi and Home Bargains.
- **Number plate security** operations held in Melbourne Willington, Overseal, Newhall with over 200 vehicles having theft resistant screws fitted. These will continue during spring and summer 2013.
- **Property Marking** operation carried out with PCSO's in Willington to reduce thefts of Scrap metal.
- Work commenced on **Melbourne CCTV** system in March 2013, due to complete by end of April 2013.
- **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 information on how to keep themselves safe and secure and enjoy the Olympic themed event.
- **'Prison Me No Way'** events funded and held at all 4 secondary schools, giving Year 11 students a taste of what prison life is like.
- £1000 funding secured from NHS to promote **Brighter biking** with high visibility packs given out to young people in Overseal, Hilton, Hatton and Swadlincote.
- £15,000 funding secured from the Police and £4,000 secured from Derbyshire Cllr Gill Farrington to improve and develop **Swadlincote Sk8 park**. DCC have also agreed to fund new lighting at the Sk8 park
- Funding secured from DCC to improve **lighting in Eureka Park** from footpath off Belmont street. Lighting scheduled to be installed April/May 2013
- **Summer Vibe** took place during the 6 week summer holidays, Activities were provided daily at 2pm in Newhall and Hilton, Over 300 young people attended the sessions.
- Permanent **OZbox Gym** opened at the Woodville Youth Centre, with sessions taking place on Weds and Fridays. Sessions also taking place at Hilton on Friday nights at Willington.

- Delivered **hate crime awareness** raising campaign in Newhall and Swadlincote, encouraging fast food outlets, Taxi ranks and off licences to report all hate crimes.
- 2 xs **Domestic Abuse Awareness** raising weeks held at Burton and South Derbys College.
- 2 **ASBO's** obtained on prolific offenders & 6 young people successfully completed acceptable behaviour contracts
- 21 members of **Pubwatch** took part in Christmas campaign where pubs offered free soft drinks to designated drivers.
- Achieved the **Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge** in March 2013, demonstrating the delivery of high quality and safe learning experiences – including safe use of tools and campfires with school groups.

Corporate Plan Theme: Lifestyle Choice

- **Free school visits** for South Derbyshire schools to Rosliston and to local woodlands to plant trees, funded by the Woodland Trust and the National Forest Company.
- **Olympic inspired events** such as: **The Big Row** challenge at Swadlincote Town Hall to mark 100 days till the Games began; the **Derbyshire Cycle Torch Relay**; **Olympicnic** at the Julius Caesar show at The Glade at Rosliston Forestry Centre; 5 villages taking place in **alternative**.
- **Play schemes**- Over 6570 participations over 139 Sessions
- **Physical Activity**- Funding to run 10 **Sportivate projects** including horse riding, climbing, cricket, trampolining and mountain biking. With 134 participants having 905 participations **Santa Fun Run**, **Street Games Programmes** and **Back To School Olympic Inspired** sessions.
- **School Sports Partnership** School competition to design the South Derbyshire **Olympic inspired torches**. Numerous **competitions and festivals** delivered by the partnership engaging 1000's of young people.
- **Village Games** - With over 8,000 participations this year, with a wide range of events including a Youth Olympics, and a giant Olympicnic in Melbourne.
- **Health Lifestyles** - 7 contracts secured and commissioned to SDDC through NHS Derbyshire County worth over £120,000. An additional £29,000 is allocated to local Voluntary and Community sector groups to deliver a range of health and wellbeing initiatives to the local community. 292,539 hits on the Healthier South Derbyshire Website
- **Get Active in the Forest**- delivered a wide range of new walks as part of the Walking for Health Project with 1000's of participations. **Out and Active** has given young people the opportunity to try a whole host of activities as has the

Schools Enrichment Programme offers skill development in climbing, archery and mountain biking to name a few!

- **Dance in the Forest** -at The Glade, Rosliston Forestry Centre with over 350 in the audience watching almost 200 dancers on the main stage with their Olympic inspired performances.
- **South Derbyshire Day** had an Olympic theme with an Olympic style village of stalls outside the stadium, a parade around the pitch by Podium Athletes,
- The **Australian and Canadian Olympic Badminton Teams chose Etwall Leisure Centre** as their pre-camp training ground. Their week long visit culminated in an exhibition match with over 400 local spectators enjoying the matches between Australia and an All-Star Britain Team.
- The **Festival of Leisure** had a new Olympic Village for 2012 with free taster sessions for all to try. Several clubs came to support the day offering a whole host of sports tasters including martial arts, fencing, football, mini Olympics and
- A **Band Stand Marathon** took place at Maurice Lea Park to mark the end of the Paralympics Games.
- **National Play Day** - included the Great Hula Hoop Challenge and over 1600 coming down to take part in a wide range of activities including mini-Olympics, environmental activities, soft play, Fire service and children's centre activities to name a few.
- The **English Schools Cross Country Championships** held at Catton Hall in March saw over 2000 athletes take part in the sport with several thousand spectators.
- **Sports Awards-** Saw nominations for every category and some fantastic achievements.
- **Last Night of the Proms** continued the Jubilee and Olympic theme with bunting, flags, games and festivities with Ross Davenport awarding gold medals and telling the audience about his experience at the Games.
- **Swadlincote Pancake Races** hit a new high with 120 children from Belmont Primary School taking part before the main event, 7 mascots and just under 40 local business teams running around the specially made track, which also included a chicane for 2013.
- Lots of **Jubilee celebrations** took place, such as: community tree planting, Princess Anne planting the first tree at the **Diamond Woods**; a **Jubilee beacon** was lit at Rosliston Forestry Centre; a **Jubilee Street Party** on The Delph with Churches Together; flowers, bedding plants and hanging baskets around Swadlincote's **parks and roundabouts** were given the royal theme;
- **Healthier South Derbyshire** Event held at Greenbank Leisure Centre with over 40 providers, numerous taster sessions and approx. 500 people throughout the 4 hours came to see how they could lead healthier lifestyles and get physically active.
- **£29,000** allocated to local Voluntary and Community sector groups to deliver a range of health and wellbeing initiatives to the local community.
- Cockshut Lane – worked with **Melbourne Sporting Partnership** to secure £250k funding from Derbyshire County Council Community Buildings Fund to contribute towards Clubhouse. Submitted further funding applications to

Football Foundation and Rugby Football Union for pitch improvements and clubhouse development...

- **Eureka Park** – secured £550k from Heritage Lottery Fund towards £830k project to restore historic features on the park, and to employ a Community Engagement Officer to deliver the five year activity plan.
- **Newhall Park** – helped the Friends of Newhall Park to reform, and consult with local people on potential improvements on the park. Developing proposals for skate park on the park with pupils from William Allitt School, and identifying projects to engage other organisations.
- **Maurice Lea Memorial Park** – retained Green Flag for fifth year. Progressed Outdoor Gym project, in consultation with key user groups, to be delivered in Spring 2013, partially funded from £3250 Choosing Health grant.
- **Coton Local Nature Reserve** – Environmental events such as guided wildlife walks and bat walks organised and led by local wildlife volunteers. Working with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust to secure Highland Cattle herd for grazing of meadow areas free of charge, as part of conservation management plan.
- **Woodville Jubilee Meadow** – working with Parish Council to sow wildflower seeds and plant orchard trees with 100 pupils from Woodville Infants & Junior Schools to create a new wildlife area.
- **Woodville Recreation Ground** - working with Parish Council and Woodville Rangers to commission a feasibility study on improving the football pitches. Facilitated a grant application to Sport England for £50k to Protecting Playing Fields fund.
- **Etwall Artificial Grass Pitch** – worked with John Port School, Active Nation and Hilton Harriers to secure £250k from Football Foundation towards the provision of an Artificial Grass Pitch. Work began on site in January.
- **Gresley Old Hall** – working with Trustees to oversee spend and project delivery of facility improvement projects, using £550k Section 106 funding. New car park, grounds maintenance store, refurbished bowls pavilion (re-located from Maurice Lea Memorial Park), and improved changing facilities provided.
- **Hilton Open Space** – landscaping project to turn a derelict piece of land into a community garden, with new paths, gates and fencing funded by Section 106 monies, and supported by the Parish Council.
- **Skatepark project** – working with Community Safety Team to consult with young people and develop proposals to improve the skate park at Woodhouses. £40k funding secured to date towards £100k project.
- **Conservation Volunteer** projects – working with partners to deliver conservation projects on nature areas, including land at Swadlincote Woodlands, Swan Hill Mickleover, and Coton Park Local Nature Reserve.

Over 2,000 hours of volunteer time have been delivered, at 20 conservation work day events.

- **Hilton Village Hall** - Building of Phase 1 commenced November 2012. This has been a real community led development and has been identified as a good example for what can be achieved through Growth Point funding.
- **Assembly Rooms Melbourne** - The transfer of the Bill Shone Centre to community operation during 2012 has involved many people throughout the Council. .
- Supported **Swadlincote Boxing Academy** to locate a training facility onto the Woodhouse site.
- Supported Rosliston Parish Council to increase community usage of **Strawberry Lane playing fields** via use by the Scouts and a local football team.
- Secured **£86,710** from Derbyshire County Council's Aiming High Fund for facility improvements aimed at supporting families with children with disabilities including new specialist play equipment, new archery and laser clay facility, revamped crazy golf, specialist bed etc.
- **Swadlincote Christmas Lights Switch On** - Crowds were entertained by local primary schools and bands throughout the day, and then a bumper crowd turned out to witness the switch on of the Christmas lights.
- Market operation won 2 awards. One from **Burton Mail Business awards** for raising the profile of East Staffs and South Derbyshire and one from the National Association of British Market Authorities for Best Small Outdoor Market.
- Worked in partnership with the County Council registrar service to licence the **Town Hall** as a wedding venue, jointly upgrade the facilities and started to use it to hold weddings and civil partnership ceremonies.
- Implementation of **£100,000 revenue funding** stream following Scrutiny review of Voluntary Sector payments. Wide publicity and highest number of applications received for the Community Partnership Scheme

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 – 2013/14 - 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 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 an 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 its 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

- 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 Partnership 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
Etwell 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.

Partnership	Main purpose
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.

A summary of the proposed consultation and publicity /communication campaigns planned for 2013/14 can be found at Appendix C.

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 will help deliver the outcomes communities need and want at a cost that the Council can afford.

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

A second tranche of theme based and cross cutting reviews are now being explored, these are:

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

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

8.0 Managing Risks

The process set out in the Council's Risk Management Strategy has been followed. The risk registers can be found at Appendix D.

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.