



North East
Derbyshire
District Council

Council Plan 2023 - 2027

A summary of progress for the period
April to June 2024 (Q1)





A great place to live well

This quarter, the following progress has been made on *a community with lifelong good health*

Maximise opportunities for residents of all ages and abilities to participate in physical and social activity

- Killamarsh active has signed up to the Childrens University (childrensuniversity.co.uk) so children can collect codes for activities undertaken.
- New games social hub launched 11th June 2024 at Rumbles Coffee Lounge at the Bret Club, Clay Cross to encourage people to drop in, socialise and play games.
- Target met for number of people completing the 12-week exercise programme at 61 for this period.

• **Direct Debit Membership total for the Leisure Centres has increased by 25 members from the previous quarter to 5037 in total.** These are the highest ever recorded figures at Dronfield, Eckington & Killamarsh.

- Clay Cross Active development progressing well and due to be complete December 2024.
- 10 luncheon clubs, older people clubs and clubs for disabled people grant applications received, a total of £1,468 awarded.



- **8 Community Action Grant applications received** with 4 approved, totalling £1,511. Activity funded includes heritage activities, local summer community festivals, allotment tidy up and improved community venue lighting to improve usage and safety.

Directly or in partnership, reducing health inequality supporting Public Health, DCC and other partners to deliver targeted programmes in the district

- Healthy North East Derbyshire Partnership committed financial support to the Walking into the Communities officers (NEDDC employed) with additional funding of £27.5k allocated for three years (part of a match funding package).

- **Chesterfield Community Football Trust appointed to deliver Young People's Social Prescribing project** (£100k for 24 months from July 2024).



- Meeting held with the Integrated Care Board to develop intelligence around GP capacity and opportunities for extension, a process for information sharing and a 'call for sites' for new development land.

Assist residents in ensuring their homes are suitable and meet their health needs

- The Council's Planning Policy and Housing Strategy Teams has employed consultants (Iceni) to prepare a Housing Needs Assessment to give us a detailed understanding of the district's housing market and needs to inform the development of the new Housing Strategy and future Local Plan Review. This involved sending out a survey to 10,000 randomly selected households. The results of the survey, together with data available from other sources such as the 2021 Census and the Council's housing waiting list data, will provide us with evidence on overall housing need and affordable housing need of local people, including housing size, type, tenure and location. The needs of specific households, such as older people, disabled people, families, children in care, self-builders, and others, will also be explored.
- The Housing Strategy Team continue to work with Housing Associations and developers, to enable affordable housing schemes across the district. Two schemes (one in Killamarsh and Holmewood) are being considered with a planning application for 100% affordable housing submitted for the Holmewood scheme following the results of the needs study.
- A Council and Rykneld Homes inspection by the Social Housing Regulator has taken place. A report is expected in July 2024.
- 12 service requests about private rented housing received by Environmental Health and being progressed.

Protect the public from ill health caused by environmental factors and business operations

- 9 Infectious disease cases investigated in this quarter.

- **105 homes improved** as part of the external wall insulation social housing decarbonisation work in quarter 1.



This quarter, the following progress has been made on *a place to live that people value*

Develop and continually improve the quality and range of housing providing a nice home and area for all residents to meet all needs

- **Housing Strategy team currently working with the County Council to deliver a scheme of affordable housing for deaf people** following a consultation event that recognised a need for such a scheme. Currently looking at available land for development and identifying a suitable Housing Association to deliver this type of accommodation.
- Currently there are 14 people in bed and breakfast accommodation which has risen for the third consecutive month. New monthly Move-on meetings have been set up with relevant officers to give this issue more scrutiny. Actual spend on bed and breakfast for this quarter is down on the corresponding quarter last financial year. A new post of Move-on Officer to focus on this work is being recruited. Work continues on the properties at the Spinner, Draycott Road, North Wingfield to help ease the reliance on bed and breakfast accommodation.
- Future delivery of Disabled Facilities grants will be affected by Derbyshire County Council budget situation so work being undertaken to draft a council report on this matter.
- No enforcement notices needed to be served by Environmental Health under the Housing Act 2004 during this quarter.



Directly and with partners, improve where people live to ensure they are safe, clean, functional, and attractive

- There are currently 187 long-term empty residential properties which the Housing Strategy team are actively working on 21 of those.
- The annual review of the Emergency Plan and Universal Contact List has been completed.

- **Council bedding schemes reviewed to introduce sustainable plants.**

Well maintained public realm that connects our communities

- Dronfield public realm improvements have reached the technical design stage (UKSPF funded).



This quarter, the following progress has been made on ***a place where people enjoy spending time***

Improve and promote places and attractions to spend leisure time

- ITV filmed footage about the district's Food and Drink trail, which will be aired after the General Election. A further 10 businesses have been added to the trail with promotional videos added to the website. A new social media campaign is running throughout June and July to promote the new trail businesses.
- 6 Walking blogs promoted through The News and social posts in June.
- Replacement play area approved in Ashover (planning permission ref. 24/00266/FL).
- Official opening of the Killamarsh Skate Park held and publicised.



Develop and promote the local 'offer' to ensure a diverse range of high-quality activities and places to spend time

- Planning permission granted for demolition of existing youth centre, erection of café and installation of park equipment in Eckington (application ref. 24/00180/FL).

Metric	Target	Q1 Outturn	RAG
Increase participation in leisure activities at leisure centres by 5000 visits per year.	194, 750	180,898	Within 10% of target
Achieve 1600 monthly attendance through community-based activity.	4800	4126	
Bring 6 long term empty properties back into use per year.	6 per annum	0	
Number of targeted proactive littering/dog fouling patrols carried out.	36	42	
Number of proactive community patrols or events focussing on litter, waste, and dog fouling.	4	4	



A great place to work

This quarter, the following progress has been made on *a community with growing, commutable employment opportunities*

Support existing businesses (including the Council) to maintain and grow workforce

- 51 businesses have been supported through the vacancies ezine in this quarter.

• The Procurement Act 2023 which goes live in October 2024

has a strong focus on supporting local businesses. A review has begun including training relevant staff, refreshing policies, procedures and working practices and refreshing the Procurement Rules and Strategy.

- 19 businesses have been supported through the Food and Drink Trail.
- A Meet the Buyer event was undertaken for Inside Limited on 15th May (developer of Clay Cross Town Centre regeneration). 20 businesses attended on the day.
- Derbyshire Accelerator - 54 businesses supported this quarter. 45 of which received non-financial support and 9 received non-financial decarbonising support.
- "How's Business" survey sent out to businesses in early June. The survey is seeking business insight to enable the Council to support business effectively.
- Advice given to 36 businesses regarding food hygiene and 10 businesses regarding Health and Safety.



Support new business to start creating employment / Attract new businesses to the area which brings new jobs

- 31 new food business registration requests received.

• We have started to publish information on available commercial lets on the Council's website to increase ease of access to potential tenants. Rent free periods are beginning to be introduced to encourage early possession and also breaking the requirement for all unit fit-out work to be carried out by the Council.

- Negotiating terms for council units rather than being prescriptive. Also reaching out to attract new businesses, through marketing for example Coney Green, Clay Cross and units at the Baileys Square development, Clay Cross. Heads of Terms currently being prepared for three businesses interested in the new units at Baileys Square, Clay Cross.
- 2 business networks held in June. One in Dronfield where 9 businesses attended and one in Clay Cross where 8 businesses and 2 residents attended.

A great place to work

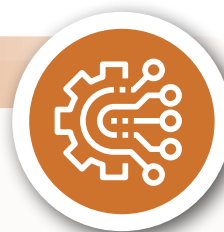


This quarter, the following progress has been made on ***a community with a diverse range of commutable employment that match the skills of residents***

Work with partners to match and develop local skills with local business employment need



- **Green Skills UKSPF project now in progress.** This works with existing trade businesses to diversify workforce with green skills to install energy efficiency initiatives such as solar photovoltaic and air source heat pumps.
- Digital Skills UKSPF project going through procurement for a supplier. Digital Skills element looks at providing Building Information Modelling (workflow management) and Auto CAD (Computer Aided Design) to optimise efficiency when designing for customers.
- Skills Plan delayed due to capacity issue and awaiting clarification of emerging national and EMCCA skills priorities, with the timescale initially extended to September 2024 for sign-off.
- 19 food handlers booked onto Food Hygiene courses.



A great place to access good public services



This quarter, the following progress has been made on *assist and influence other public partners to improve their services in the district*

Actively participate, nurture relationships, and maximise benefits for NEDDC residents in partnerships such as Health, Economy, Resilience, etc.

- Working with Parish Councils regarding flood preparedness by raising awareness of available training, information and support.
- Engineers and Planning working with Derbyshire County Council to assist Shirland residents in preventing future flooding incidents caused by land drainage issues.
- Healthy North East Derbyshire Partnership committed financial support to the Walking into the Communities officers (NEDDC employed) with additional funding of £27.5k allocated for three years (part of a match funding package).

- Citizens Advice North East Derbyshire appointed to deliver Digital Connect, to provide free digital training for residents all over the district (£70k for 24 months from July 2024.) Chesterfield Community Football Trust appointed to deliver Young People's Social Prescribing project (£100k for 24 months from July 2024).

Collate and analyse district wide data to inform improvements

- Nearing completion of analysing Residents' Survey results by demographics - gender, age, ethnicity, disability, and area cluster. This information will be published and shared to support data-based decisions and equality plan work.

- Town Centre football research data sent out to Parish Councils and other partners to share knowledge and inform plans.



This quarter, the following progress has been made on ***continually improve Council services to deliver excellence and value for money***

Fiscally responsible and efficient

- External Audit started to conduct interim audit at the end of June.
- Housing benefit applications and change of circumstances applications processed within standard at 17.27 days and 4.36 days (averages) respectively.

Listen to customers (Residents and Businesses) to improve services

- “How’s Business” survey out for completion until end of July 2024.

Ensure good governance and transparency in all we do

- Annual Data Protection Report for 2023/24 and work programme for 2024/25 taken to Internal Risk Group.
- Staff guidance on the use of pronouns published internally.
- Clay Cross Town Deal Governance review undertaken with Assistant Director of Governance and Chair of Clay Cross Town Board.
- Use of new Delegated Decision template is working well. This mechanism ensures decisions are correctly made taking into account all relevant matters.

- **Work progressed to increase ICT resilience against a cyber-attack** including working with front-line services and Cyber Assessment Framework training in progress which will help identify gaps in disaster recovery and business continuity plans.



- ICT security awareness module incorporated into the Council’s new online learning management suite.

Modernise and innovate services to continually improve

- **New digital systems introduced for monitoring playground safety and Memorial testing** (Cemeteries and Churchyards have headstones that require testing for safety purposes in case they fall).

- Work continues on rolling out Hybrid Mail service to last few remaining service areas.
- Rolling out TV screens and iPads to replace traditional notice boards.

Maintain a motivated and skilled workforce

- Employee Awards and Summer Social event was successfully held in on 26 June, with over 120 employees attending.
- Online Learning System rolled out for all corporate essential training.
- Level 3 and Level 5 Leadership courses entering the final phase with completion in early October 2024.

A great place to access good public services



- Two employees have successfully completed Apprenticeship and Professional qualifications.
- The Council's new People Strategy launched. This is the core document for how we develop and empower our workforce.

Metric	Target	Q1 Outturn	RAG or Trend
Average Time to process new Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction claims (days).	20	16.08	
Average time to process change in circumstances for Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction claims (days).	6	3.59	
Council Tax collected %.	Annual target 96.14	28.53	
NNDR Collected %.	Annual target 96.66	28.88	
Total number in Temporary Accommodation.	Decrease	20	↑ Q4 - 18
Total number in Bed & Breakfast.	Decrease	14	↑ Q4 - 6
% of Customers dealt with at first point of contact.	80	79	
% of formal complaints responded to within 15 working days.	100	91	
% of internal reviews responded to within 20 working days.	100	60	
Capital receipts to be achieved from disposal of surplus land and property assets (£).	Increase	100,000	↓ Q4 - £238,160
% Satisfaction with Leisure Services.	80	88.69	



This quarter, the following progress has been made on ***reducing carbon emissions and pollution across the district***

Assist and influence other public partners, residents, and businesses to reduce their carbon emissions

- 105 homes improved as part of the external wall insulation social housing decarbonisation work in quarter 1.
- Conditions added to planning permissions requiring cycle parking provision to be installed within developments e.g. 24/00284/RM - housing development at Calow. Conditions also added requiring renewable energy technologies to be installed within developments e.g. 24/00284/RM - housing development at Calow.
- Green Skills UKSPF project now in progress. This works with existing trade businesses to diversify workforce with green skills to install energy efficiency initiatives such as solar photovoltaic and air source heat pumps.

- **Ran a website promotion for the great big green week which received 415 views.** The aim of the week was to promote community activities to tackle climate change and protect nature.

Continually reduce the Council's own carbon emissions

- Climate Change Scorecard criteria has been revised by Climate Emergency UK (CE UK); a report is being prepared to highlight areas that may need to be addressed in order to meet new criteria.



Assist and influence other public partners, residents, and businesses to reduce pollution.

- Removal of loose materials and derelict structures at Bolehill Quarry, Wingerworth.

Develop policies and plans which require and encourage alternatives to car usage

- Cycle to work scheme promoted.

