



**North East
Derbyshire**
District Council

Council Plan 2023 - 2027

A summary of progress for the period
April to June 2025 (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.

- Sustained and high-impact promotion of the Clay Cross Active launch generated over 1 million views on the Clay Cross Active Facebook page in the 28 days leading up to the opening. Ongoing promotion of community events, such as Snap and Chat, has also continued throughout.

- **New Clay Cross Active facility opened to the public on 18th June 2025** offering a diverse range of activities and facilities to meet the needs of residents across the District. This has been a cross cutting project involving external partners and internal support teams such as ICT, Property, Estates and Assets.

- Working with the Arts Derbyshire and The Arts Council to develop co-operation on locally focused initiatives.

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

- Development of the Older People's Co-ordinator role continued, with a focus on

raising awareness of local services, groups, and amenities, and improving access—particularly for underserved and vulnerable communities. The role is intended to be hosted externally.

- **Led the launch of the UKSPF Inclusive Communities Fund, totalling £233,776. This included the extension of existing initiatives:**

- Citizens Advice NED - Specialist Energy and Debt Advisors
- Derbyshire Voluntary Action - Feeling Connected project and Social Connector
- In addition, four new projects were funded:
- Derbyshire Unemployed Workers Centre - Outreach benefits advice
- Chesterfield FC Community Trust - Youth engagement activities
- Citizens Advice NED - Income Maximisation Advice
- First Art - Pop-up community activities





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

- Launched grant schemes for Luncheon Clubs, Clubs for Disabled People, and Older People's Clubs. To date, 11 grants totalling £2,800 have been awarded.
- Under the Community Action Grants programme, 10 grants were awarded in this period, amounting to £3,545. Funded activities included VE80 celebrations, Armed Forces Support Day, and community litter-picking events.

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

- We are actively progressing governance assurance assessments with the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) following the award of £5.1 million through the Warm Homes Local Grant scheme. The funding will support energy performance upgrades, low-carbon heating installations, and solar panel provision for privately owned and rented households in targeted priority areas.
- There has been a rise in anti-social behaviour (ASB) incidents impacting individuals' mental health. In this period, one ASB Case Review has been conducted—primarily involving neighbour disputes with significant mental health implications. In response, action plans have been implemented, formal warnings issued, and a Closure Order has been extended to address persistent ASB.
- Three decent homes inspections carried out to assess structural concerns and integrity issues raised by Rykneld Homes.
- Collaborated with Rykneld Homes to pursue warrants to facilitate access for gas and electric inspections as quicker more cost effective means of gaining access to properties. Pre action warrant applications have successfully resulted in access being given in four properties.

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

- Liaison with Yorkshire water to deal with ongoing sewage flooding incidents. Working with Rykneld Homes to upgrade a private sewer to prevent internal flooding to bungalows in Grassmoor.

• Ten infectious disease notifications were received (4 Salmonella, 3 Cryptosporidium, 2 E. coli, 1 Legionella).

Investigations linked the Cryptosporidium cases to an animal attraction site, which has responded positively and is implementing improved infection control measures. Guidance was issued to all primary schools and animal attractions in the district, with inspections scheduled. A public advisory was also shared via Facebook to raise awareness and help prevent further spread.

- Guidance was emailed to all pubs ahead of the bank holiday on safety requirements for hiring inflatables. Similar advice is being sent to organisers of known private events. For public events, checks are carried out to identify inflatable use, and relevant documentation is verified where applicable.
- All high risk food premises have been inspected as planned during the quarter.



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

- The Housing Strategy Team is actively collaborating with Housing Associations and developers to deliver affordable housing on new build sites. They are ensuring a mix of tenures, including affordable rent, social rent and affordable homeownership options (to help residents buy homes at discounted rates). A total of 667 affordable housing units are planned for delivery over the coming years, with 392 units already underway. Progress is also being made with P3 on a new supported housing service. P3 has appointed a contractor to carry out works on two previously void Council homes in Clay Cross.

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

- Embrace our place events including visible clean-ups and community estate walkabouts held at Grassmoor, Dronfield and Holmgate.

- **The Dronfield Mural Project was successfully completed**, transforming the Gosforth underpass—a site previously targeted by repeated graffiti—into a vibrant, community-inspired artwork. Since installation, no graffiti has returned. The mural was developed in consultation with local schools, with children's ideas embedded into the design, and supported by funding from UKSPF. The County Council has committed to maintaining the installation, which has significantly improved the safety and appearance of the area.



Well maintained public realm that connects our communities.

- Design works for the public realm in Clay Cross Baileys Square ongoing. Snagging work for Dronfield Civic Centre improvements undertaken, improving pedestrian access through overflow car park.
- **With funding from the UKSPF, planning has begun for further public realm improvements, including:**
 - Enhancements around Southgate shops in Eckington. These works aim to enhance the public realm in front of 10-14 Southgate and will include resurfacing, the installation of decorative resin surfacing with tree protection pits, additional seating, safety bollards, and an upgraded planter.
 - Removal of outdated, decommissioned CCTV cameras in Clay Cross
 - Installation of town centre maps in Eckington, Killamarsh, and Clay Cross
- A61 consultation for proposed traffic light signals at the junction with Mill Lane took place. Results collated and will be passed onto Derbyshire County Council the project owner.



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

- Continued promotion of the Leisure Facilities in line with priorities identified in the Marketing and Service plans. Clay Cross Active performance has been excellent with over 2,200 new memberships and 100 junior memberships with weekly growth in our swimming lessons.

- **Play area improvements programme continues with consultation results shaping scheme improvements to be funded by UKSPF.**

- Overflow parking has been marked out and sign posted at Clay Cross Active to assist with the increased number of visitors to the new facility.

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

- Promotion of leisure memberships and leisure wider offer across all communication channels including the new leisure website and Instagram account.

- **Planning is underway for the UKSPF-funded Exploring the District project, aimed at promoting local attractions and encouraging residents and visitors to discover more of North East Derbyshire. Q1 promotional activity included:**

- A Dog Friendly Guide campaign, which attracted over 17,000 views on social media.
- Production and release of three short videos showcasing local walks and attractions.
- Participation in National Gardening Week, celebrating the district's garden centres.
- Cross-promotion of Clay Cross Active and the Clay Cross Games to boost visibility.
- Continued promotion of the Food and Drink Trail, encouraging people to explore local venues and enjoy the outdoors.

A great place to live well

Metric	Target	Quarter 4 Value	RAG
Increase participation in leisure activities at leisure centres by 5000 visits per year.	196,000	Awaiting data See note	
Achieve 1600 monthly attendance through community-based activity.	4800	4,650	
Bring 6 long term empty properties back into use per year.	6 per annum	1	
Number of targeted proactive littering/dog fouling patrols carried out.	36	19	
Number of proactive community patrols or events focussing on litter, waste, and dog fouling.	4	3	

Metric	Comments
Number of targeted proactive littering/dog fouling patrols carried out.	The team continues to be affected by staffing issues however recruitments have been made.

Note: Currently unable to download attendance data from the new Clay Cross Active Centre. This issue will be resolved for Q2 reporting.





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.

- The Derbyshire Accelerator Programme for 2025/26 is now underway, with initial funding provided by East Midlands Chamber while the Council awaits UK Shared Prosperity Fund support. So far this year, 44 businesses have received non-financial support—towards an annual target of 60. Additionally, 44 enterprises have adopted new technologies or processes, already exceeding the yearly target of 20.
- Regular promotion of council and partner job vacancies to over 3,000 email subscribers. These updates consistently achieve open rates above 50%, showing strong interest and engagement from our subscribers.

- **We continue to support local businesses through regular networking opportunities.** In Quarter 1, we hosted two key events: the Clay Cross Business Network on 5 June, attended by 23 representatives from 16 businesses, and the Manufacturing Supply Chain Cluster on 6 May, with 12 attendees from 8 businesses. In addition, our Tourism Officer has engaged with 10 tourism-related businesses through ad hoc meetings and direct contact.



- We've welcomed a T Level student from Chesterfield College, who will be gaining hands-on experience and supporting our Engineering team over the next year as part of their placement.
- Establishing the £1m UK Shared Prosperity Fund programme for 2025/26 with internal stakeholders whilst awaiting the receipt of funding.

Attract and support new businesses to the area which bring new jobs.

- Marketing of business units at Baileys Square, Clay Cross is ongoing in partnership with commercial property consultants Fisher Hargreaves Proctor. Three units are currently at the legal stage, two are progressing through Heads of Terms, and four others have registered interest. The goal is to have all units under offer by autumn 2025.
- **We've developed and updated a standard lease agreement to support businesses using Council-owned facilities.** This ensures a consistent, clear, and efficient process for setting up agreements—making it easier for businesses to access and use our spaces while ensuring legal and operational requirements are met.

Progress against our objective:



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

- Preparations for the next phase of the district-wide Shop Front Enhancement Scheme were carried out during this period in anticipation of receiving UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) support. Once funding is

received, the scheme will reopen for new applications—offering grants to help improve the appearance of high street shopfronts and business premises across North East Derbyshire.

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

- Digital Skills project to continue for 2025/26 when UK Shared Prosperity funding is received. Proposed target to deliver digital training to 40 people from new businesses. Training offer includes AI, digital marketing and cybersecurity.





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.

- Led the launch of the UKSPF Inclusive Communities Fund, totalling £233,776. This included the extension of existing initiatives:
 - Citizens Advice NED - Specialist Energy and Debt Advisors
 - Derbyshire Voluntary Action - Feeling Connected project and Social Connector
- In addition, four new projects were funded:
 - Derbyshire Unemployed Workers Centre - Outreach benefits advice
 - Chesterfield Football Club Community Trust - Youth engagement activities
 - Citizens Advice NED - Income Maximisation Advice
 - First Art - Pop-up community activities
- Dissemination of partner communications, including messages from the Environment Agency, Derbyshire County Council and the UK Health Security Agency., covering topics such as heat-health alerts and drought conditions.

- **Communities Scrutiny Committee received presentations from three voluntary sector organisations** that detailed how their funding from the Council was spent. This increases awareness and nurtures partnerships that support local communities.

Collate and analyse district wide data to inform improvements

- We're continuing to develop the MyMaps GIS system and ArcGIS to make local data more accessible and useful. This includes publishing interactive maps and providing tools that help council officers and residents explore and understand information about their area.
- Following analysis of our communications campaigns we have reduced the number of daily social media posts from several to just three. This adjustment has boosted our social media engagement rates showing that less can be more when it comes to reaching our intended audience - customers, residents, businesses.

Progress against our objective:



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

Directly assist residents and businesses to access all available public services and support

- Bulletins and e-newsletters to local businesses has grown again in this period with monthly subscribers to our main business e-zine reaching 3,081 from 2,896.

Additionally, our new 'Business First' e-zine, launched last quarter, has seen subscriber numbers rise from 62 to 84.

A great place to access good public services



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

Fiscally responsible and efficient

- Major ICT Systems review completed to inform efficiencies, maximisation of current systems and procurement priorities.

- Brought majority of external outsourced legal work back in house, particularly s106 debt recovery work. This can be accommodated now and will reduce cost.
- Statement of Accounts for 2024/25 completed and published 20 June, ahead of statutory deadline of 30 June 2025.
- Reviewed commercial waste fees and charges and introduced incentives for businesses to use all council collection services.



Listen to customers (Residents and Businesses) to improve services

- Four play area consultations have been completed with the results and findings being considered for the improvement programme.



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

- The draft report for the Young Persons Sport and Physical Activity consultation has been shared with stakeholders for review. With 320 responses received, the findings will offer the Leisure Team valuable insights into what motivates young people to engage in physical activity, as well as the barriers that may be preventing participation—helping to shape more effective and inclusive programmes.
- The A61 Mill Lane / Nottingham Drive Consultation closed with 451 responses. A report of the results has been compiled for the project lead Derbyshire County Council to consider.
- To ensure Warm Homes Local Grant scheme is delivered responsibly, the Council is actively progressing through Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) governance assurance assessments, with a strong focus on fraud prevention and data protection measures.
- The Council's Constitution was updated at Annual Council in May following a programme of review by the Standards Committee.

Modernise and innovate services to continually improve

- **Our new Community Recycling Officer is now in post and actively forging links with schools and community groups.** Bookings are already confirmed for the upcoming academic year, supporting greater awareness and engagement around recycling and sustainability.

- We're in the process of ordering digital poster leaflet holders that will display QR codes linking to key service booklets. These will provide easy access to core information for both the Council and Rykneld Homes.
- We are trialling the use of iPads to digitally capture signatures for Disabled Facilities Grant contracts. This move away from paper-based documentation is designed to streamline the process, reduce administrative overheads, and improve cost efficiency.

Ensure good governance and transparency in all we do

- One complaint was received by the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGSCO) this quarter concerning the council. The case has now been closed and will not be investigated further.

- **Internal audit of our cyber security governance arrangements concluded with a rating of reasonable assurance,** confirming that key controls are in place and operating effectively.

- **Implementing a new Virtual Desktop Infrastructure system.** This technology allows staff to securely access their work desktops and applications from any device, whether they're in the office or working remotely.



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

Maintain a motivated and skilled workforce

- Service Reviews are encouraging career graded posts and are being innovative in filling posts to support succession planning.
 - Further courses have been rolled out on the Learning Management Platform, to support continuous learning.
 - Staff Summer Event and Awards held on 3 June 2025 at Dronfield Active, well attended and good feedback from employees.
 - £20k funding secured through UKSPF to provide Leisure training (Lifeguard, Swim Teacher & Gymnastic Coach) for both internal and external candidates.
- The Council has started its fourth Leadership Academy programme, offering two distinct development pathways—Level 3 and Level 5 cohorts. These are designed to support staff at different stages of their leadership journey:
 - Level 3 Cohort: Typically aimed at emerging leaders or those new to management roles.
 - Level 5 Cohort: Geared towards more experienced managers preparing for senior leadership positions.
 - The programme is part of the Council's broader Talent Pipeline Strategy, which focuses on developing leadership skills, behaviours, and confidence across all levels of the organisation. Participants engage in mentorship, coaching, and hands-on project work to build their capabilities and prepare for future leadership roles. This initiative supports the Council's "One Team" culture and its commitment to "growing our own" leaders from within.

A great place to access good public services

Metric	Target	Quarter 4 Value	RAG or Trend
Average Time to process new Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction claims (days).	20	15.27	
Average time to process change in circumstances for Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction claims (days).	6	2.05	
Council Tax collected %.	Annual target 96.14%	28.52%	
NNDR Collected %.	Annual target 96.66%	28.42%	
Total number in Temporary Accommodation.	Decrease	10	<div>↓</div> <div>13</div> <div>Q4 2024/25</div>
Total number in Bed & Breakfast.	Decrease	1	<div>↔</div> <div>1</div> <div>Q4 2024/25</div>
% of formal complaints responded to within 15 working days.	98%	97%	Within target
% of internal reviews responded to within 20 working days.	85%	75%	
% of abandoned calls (01246 231111).	5%	1.3%	
% calls answered within 30 seconds (01246 231111).	80%	87%	
Capital receipts to be achieved from disposal of surplus land and property assets (£) (Cumulative).	Increase	Nil	<div>↑</div> <div>£1,044,250</div> <div>2024/25</div>

% of internal reviews responded to within 20 working days.	There were 12 Internal Review complaints this quarter and 3 were out of standard = 75 %. These related to the Planning Department.
Capital receipts to be achieved from disposal of surplus land and property assets (£) (Cumulative).	No receipts yet as no sales have completed.





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.

- Derbyshire Accelerator business support service commissioned for 2025/26 using UK Shared Prosperity Fund. This will no longer include specific business de-carbonisation plans, instead focusing on the introduction of new technologies or processes which may include reducing impact on climate change.

- **Work underway to deploy the £5.1m Warm Homes Local Grant scheme to fund energy performance upgrades,** low carbon heating installations and solar panels to privately owned or privately rented households in targeted priority areas.

- We've begun a monitoring exercise on the Council's Climate Change Action Plan. Progress on delivering actions during this period was limited due to capacity challenges - previously unsuccessful in appointing a dedicated Sustainability Officer and the need to prioritise the setup of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund programme for 2025/26.
- Communication campaigns around Earth Day and Food Waste Action Week promoted sustainable behaviours such as reducing waste and composting, helping to lower carbon emissions.



- Three Council-owned car parks have been shortlisted for new rapid electric vehicle chargers, as part of a county-wide rollout funded by Derbyshire County Council through the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure scheme. This will provide residents and visitors with more EV charging options within the district.

- **Initial findings from the Carbon Disclosure Project regarding the Council's emissions have been published.** These results are currently being analysed to identify opportunities for improved efficiency and further emissions reductions.

Continually reduce the Council's own carbon emissions.

- Removal of unnecessary hardware phones in council offices completed and staff transferred to softphone to reduce power consumption and provide consistent remote working tools.



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 pollution.

- One Community Action Grants awarded to support Eckington Litter Pickers, grant total £463.



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

- No outcomes to report this quarter.

Directly and with partners and residents, reduce litter and pollution from waste.

- A notable enforcement action was publicised in June 2025, where a Morton resident was issued a £100 fixed penalty notice for discarding a cigarette butt from a vehicle.

- **Our new Community Recycling Officer is now in post and actively forging links with schools and community groups.** Bookings are already confirmed for the upcoming academic year, supporting greater awareness and engagement around recycling and sustainability.



This quarter, the following progress has been made on ***increasing biodiversity across the district***

Assist and influence other public partners, residents, and businesses to utilise their assets to improve biodiversity

- **Communication campaigns around Community Garden Week**

and No Mow May supported local biodiversity by promoting green space use and creating habitats for pollinators. Great Big Green Week celebrated community-led environmental action, including initiatives that protect and enhance local ecosystems.

- No Mow May has now concluded, with over 30 new sites added to support pollinators and promote biodiversity. However, due to extremely dry conditions, the growth of wildflowers and other species was limited this year. Residents can continue to support the initiative by nominating future sites through our online form.



Where appropriate, utilise Council assets to improve biodiversity.

- Biodiversity plans are in place for Clay Cross Active facility and 3G pitch. Tree planting and other associated grounds works won't be undertaken until October when conditions are more suitable.