

>> Thriving communities
in a thriving environment.



DERBYSHIRE DALES PLAN
2024-28

Welcome

From the Leader of Derbyshire Dales District Council



**Cllr Steve Flitter,
Leader**

It is my pleasure to present Derbyshire Dales District Council's new Corporate Plan, for the years 2024-28. In May 2023, the people of the Derbyshire Dales chose Councillors from the Green, Labour and Liberal Democrat parties to represent them and we formed the Progressive Alliance to work together for the people. This Plan sets out our aspirations, our priorities and the actions we will take to achieve them.

A thriving environment within the Derbyshire Dales is a key priority. We will re-invigorate climate change and biodiversity strategies working with businesses, farmers and the community to reduce carbon emissions and enhance the biodiversity of our varied landscape. We aim to tackle pollution by promoting zero carbon technology, greenways and rewilding. We want to create community orchards and allotments and reduce the use of pesticides and herbicides.

This environmental focus complements our aim of improving housing in the district so everyone will be able

to live and prosper in their own community and with a affordable housing stock fit for purpose and able to meet the challenges of climate change.

We want our communities to be prosperous and sustainable with jobs and financial stability for residents. We will work in partnership with other authorities and agencies to successfully attract inward investment opportunities and generate economic development.

Excellent local services are crucial to achieving these goals. The waste collection service is highly rated by residents and we aim to keep it so, whilst still seeking out ways to improve and refine it, including looking at alternative contract options.

We will strive for an open, inclusive and transparent way of working supported by an energised council management and workforce, listening and working together to create a fairer and more caring district. We will look at the capability to deliver services, match resources where we can or look for other opportunities.

We will also tackle difficult issues head-on. We will re-examine the public toilet provision, being open to all possibilities. We must look at how we can increase or make better use of our car parks. Rising costs have placed great strain on the Council leisure centres but we are committed to ensure that residents can continue to enjoy these facilities in the long term. Finally, we will take on the challenge, unsolved in decades, of finding permanent and temporary provision for Traveller families.

We will also continue to lobby on decisions that fall outside the realm of Derbyshire Dales District Council such as support for our GPs, education, highways and congestion, and the decision for the closure of tourist centres in the Peak District National Park.

In these ways, we will make the Derbyshire Dales beautiful, prosperous, safe and welcoming now and for the future.



What is the Derbyshire Dales Plan?

Our Corporate Plan sets out the vision, aims and improvement priorities of Derbyshire Dales District Council. It is the key strategy from which the District Council's Budget and Performance Plan, and every District Council strategy, plan and policy cascades. The targets set for 2024-28 are our top tasks for that period and main areas for service improvement.

This year, we have called it the Derbyshire Dales Plan to reflect our desire to work in partnership to protect and improve this beautiful area.

5 Themes

1. A thriving environment in the Derbyshire Dales

Overall aims:

- Protect and enhance the Derbyshire Dales environment
> Derbyshire Dales is a great place to live, work and visit; our decisions must secure that for future generations. Our Council will have sustainability at its heart: sustainable communities in a sustainable environment

PRIORITIES

- **Net zero and biodiversity net gain:** facilitate District net zero by 2040 and biodiversity net gain (BNG), including more than 10% BNG in new developments through policies in the revised Local Plan, working with other stakeholders and facilitating householders and businesses
- **Future of Dales agriculture and land management:** work with other stakeholders to help farmers adopt sustainable agricultural practices and contribute to the Dales carbon footprint reduction, biodiversity and water retention in the land
- **Landscape:** protect and enhance the landscape initially through policies in the revised Local Plan and a subsequent revised strategy
- **Pollution:** actively monitor, identify and proactively address air and water pollution sources in the Dales in conjunction with other authorities; encourage communities in monitoring through citizen science
- **Recycling:** increase recycling and reduce landfill particularly associated with organic waste, plastics, rare and dangerous elements
- **Homes and infrastructure:** work with utilities and infrastructure providers to facilitate householders reduce their carbon footprints, un-recycled rubbish; enforce planning conditions including on site management companies regarding biodiversity requirements



2. Housing that meets the needs of Dales residents

Overall aim:

- To deliver a 'whole District' Housing Strategy which has at its centre the belief that everyone should have the right and ability to live and prosper within their own community, and that the existing and future housing stock should be 'fit for purpose' in the context of the challenges of climate change

PRIORITIES

- Maximise the number of affordable homes built each year over the period of the plan, and beyond, to meet the determined District housing need with availability matched with local housing need across the whole District and available funds and land.
- Maintain our good track record on homelessness. Minimising homelessness within Derbyshire Dales.
- Stem the loss of housing stock to second and holiday homes so that they are managed and communities are not lost. This will be accomplished by utilising the council tax and planning system.
- Work to ensure that all rented housing, private and social, is fit to live in with a robust council team to support tenants.
- Noting the legal framework in which Home Options is provided, maintain the Home Options scheme and seek new ways of using housing services to maintain and enhance communities
- Provide support and guidance for improving the housing stock to cope with climate change and the cost of living
- Urgently work with communities, and the gypsies and travellers themselves, to provide safe, secure and properly serviced temporary and permanent sites for travellers and gypsies to comply with the law and the Local Plan



5 Themes

3. Prosperous and sustainable Dales communities and businesses

Overall aims:

- Encourage the provision of attractive well-paid employment and local career opportunities for residents through a focus on higher value adding and growth sectors
- Maintain support for existing sectors/individual businesses focused on advice, grant funding and investment for micro, small and medium-sized businesses
- Use the planning system to facilitate sustainable, thriving, resilient communities across the Derbyshire Dales



PRIORITIES

- Influence the mayoral authority to increase the attractiveness of Derbyshire Dales to high value adding, growing sectors and business decarbonisation by:
 - > Encouraging utilities to provide the required telecoms, electricity, water and transport infrastructure for housing and commercial use
 - > Facilitating increased opportunities for and take up of education, apprenticeships and training in higher value occupations by Derbyshire Dales residents
- Ensuring sites are available for housing and business use through the Local Plan
- Working with public and private stakeholders to access grant funding to bring brownfield sites back into use and to support the delivery of infrastructure
- Continue to improve the attractiveness of Dales towns and villages through targeted grant-funded redevelopment
- Maintain the business support delivery, alongside external partners, aimed specifically at achieving a high level of grant take-up
- Adopt a revised Local Plan to guide land development and facilitate sustainable, thriving, resilient communities

4. Resources and services to enable communities to flourish

Overall Aim:

Recognising the excellent work done under this theme already, provide resources and services that create resilience in communities and that enable individuals within them to live fulfilling lives

PRIORITIES

- **Play Areas:** Ensure that children across the district have access to safe and well-maintained District Council play areas.
- **Leisure Centres:** Continue to work closely with our partners at Freedom Leisure to ensure the Council's Leisure Centres are operated and maintained to a high standard and meet the needs of residents and visitors.
- **Wellbeing:** To promote and look to support the wider wellbeing offer.



- **Parks, Open Spaces and Street Environment:** Continue to maintain and improve District Council parks, open spaces and street environment, with a focus on enhancing community use, and where possible, have a positive impact on the environment.
- **Events:** Continue to provide and support events that bring together Dales communities and attracts visitors.
- **Markets:** To review and enhance the markets offer to the local community and businesses.
- **Public Toilets:** To ensure good provision of public toilets across the district for residents and visitors.
- **Car Parks:** To develop and implement a car parks improvement plan that supports communities and local businesses.
- **Waste & Recycling:** To provide an effective waste and recycling collection service with a focus on waste reduction.
- **Emergency Planning:** Maintain the Council's high standard of response to civil emergencies and incidents.
- **Community Safety Partnership:** To maintain the low levels of crime and Anti-Social Behaviour.



5. A financially sound, fair and responsive District Council

Overall aims:

- The Council is the champion of the Derbyshire Dales community when working with partner organisations in the public and private sectors and in the provision of its own services.
- The Council supports particular vulnerable groups for which it has a responsibility by taking a lead even when unpopular decisions have to be made.
- The Council takes actions to ensure that the Derbyshire Dales are an attractive working and leisure environment, including leading by example with conditions for its own workforce.

PRIORITIES AND OUTCOMES

1. Thriving Local Democracy – to strengthen the participation of residents and businesses to greater influence the work of the District Council
2. Future Workforce, Future Workplace– to improve the competitiveness of Derbyshire Dales as a place to work by enhancing the working environment for staff.
3. Sound Financial Management - to manage the financial affairs of the District Council responsibly and sustainably.



A thriving environment in the Derbyshire Dales

PROGRAMME	OUTCOMES
Climate change and biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A “web of green” is incorporated in all Council policies and functions with an emphasis on Clean and Green, Planning, Economic Development and Housing The climate action plan is extended to set a goal of net zero for the District by 2040 working with partners and stakeholders in business, housing and voluntary sectors
Dales agriculture and land management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farm diversification grants are allocated and implemented DDDC supports parish councils in gaining access to resources to increase the number of allotments
Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policies in the Local Plan address strategic landscape protection and enhancement Revision of the Landscape strategy SPD once the Local Plan is adopted
Pollution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The AQAP in Ashbourne is finalised and adopted as a priority action Measures to minimise the impact of vehicle and other sources of air pollution (including particulates) in the District are developed and implemented Severn Trent Water is proactively and assertively lobbied through all available means to reduce river pollution and over-topping of drainage and foul water sewers
Recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acknowledging the success of recycling in the Dales, higher targets and measures to achieve them are implemented 
Housing and infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insulation and heat pumps to reduce the Dales carbon footprint are in widespread use Developers are required to provide designs for critical infrastructure with applications Planning conditions and building regulations are enforced Standards for site management companies are adopted following work at a national level to which the District Council has contributed

Housing that meets the needs of Dales residents


PROGRAMME	OUTCOMES
Increasing the affordable housing stock 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A housing and related financial and land banking strategy to support maximising the delivery of affordable houses (2024) • An understanding of where new houses are needed and growth targeted to meet the local demand • Providers, experts, PDNPA and local groups have been brought together to input in delivering the housing strategy • The Housing development function is reinforced to support the growth activities • Affordable Housing delivery has been maximised year on year
Prevent and minimise homelessness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed and implemented the Homelessness Strategy due June 2024
Second and Holiday homes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provisions within the Local Plan that changes from residential to Holiday/Second homes require planning permission. These provisions apply across Derbyshire Dales and the Peak Park • Council tax premium will be in place and agreement on how the extra income is used to support the local communities
Improving Housing stock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver current fuel poverty schemes and bid for available new funding streams and work with partners to provide a 'one stop' retrofit advice service for residents who may be willing to pay for improvements and explore opportunities to grow the network of retrofit advisers in the district
Quality of Rental stock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Platform Housing Group and other registered providers to improve customer satisfaction
Housing allocation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the Home-Options Allocation Policy
Travellers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporary and permanent sites are found and a strategy developed for the future

Prosperous & sustainable Dales communities and businesses


PROGRAMME	OUTCOMES
Facilitate town centre regeneration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ashbourne Reborn programme successfully delivered Matlock's Bakewell Road site redeveloped successfully A pipeline of other town and large village centre regeneration projects has been enabled with a view to future funding opportunities
Unlock stalled brownfield sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A masterplan for the development of Ashbourne Airfield phases 1 and 2 Plans for other strategic brownfield sites prepared with support from Homes England and implementation partners in place
Support small and growing businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The business support role facilitates access to grant aid and financing from other agencies Focus in particular on manufacturing, engineering, knowledge-based and creative/digital industries, decarbonisation opportunities and the rural economy (including farm diversification)
Strategic framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised economic plan developed in conjunction with the mayoral authority Revised Local Plan adopted by end 2026 with related documents including the revised infrastructure plan
Implement the strategic plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The profile of Derbyshire Dales is raised regionally and with targeted sectors, and infrastructure provision and site availability improved

Resources & services to enable communities to flourish

PROGRAMME	OUTCOMES
Play areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake a review of play areas; identifying gaps in provision and appropriate management plans and develop a strategy to improve the provision of play areas across the district.
Leisure Centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To hold regular contract performance reviews and site inspections
Wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To maintain, manage and promote a variety of physical activity and wellbeing initiative across the district and in communities.
Parks, Open Spaces and Street Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To develop a parks and open space improvement plan, which encourages the engagement of community groups
Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure that events which take place on District Council owned land consider the impact on the local community and the environment. To help promote community events to encourage greater attendance to events in the district.

Markets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake a review of markets, with the aim of increasing stall occupancy and footfall, enhancing the visitor offer and promoting sustainable communities. 
Public Toilets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the provision of public toilets across the district and undertake a feasibility study to consider the reopening of toilets where there is an affordable and identified need.
Car Parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore opportunities to develop our Car Parks and consider differential charging within the district with local businesses and residents at the forefront.
Waste & Recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To consider alternative service delivery options and develop an implementation plan for the collection of household waste and recycling, following the end of the Serco contract. To develop a strategy to support the reduction of waste produced and collected.
Emergency Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to play an active role within the wider emergency planning partnership, including the Derbyshire Resilience Forum.
Community Safety Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to work with the Community Safety Partnership, including the Police, and improving communications with the community on crime and safety.

A financially sound, fair and responsive District Council

PROGRAMME	OUTCOMES
Thriving Local Democracy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review role and function of Area Forums Review and implement changes to the Council's Petitions scheme Complete a series of Scrutiny reviews into issues that matter to the public Deliver the Customer Access Strategy Strengthen District and Parish Engagement
Future Workforce, Future Workplace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review existing terms and conditions to ensure Derbyshire Dales remains a great place to work To continue engagement with One Public Estate in respect of the reconfiguration of Matlock Town Hall
Sound financial management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify measures required to enable a balanced budget to set for FY 2025/26

Recent achievements



>> A new link road to the A52 opened in Ashbourne in May 2023, as Phase 1 of the Ashbourne Business Park employment and housing development commenced. A brief for the site masterplan has been prepared to enable procurement to proceed via the Homes England Framework



>> The Council has secured grant funding of over £2.5m to decarbonise buildings and install electric vehicle charging points for fleet use. By 2022-23, emissions had reduced by 27% and are expected to reduce further in 2023-24.



>> In addition to enabling access to more services 24/7 online, we continue to maintain other customer access channels during opening hours. Every year, our teams take 46,500 contact centre telephone calls, with an average wait time of only 37 seconds. We have welcomed 3,200 people in person to our Town Hall reception.

>> A Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan was approved in October 2020 which set a pathway to net zero emissions from Council operations by 2030.

>> The District Council produced a Supplementary Planning Document on Climate Change, addressing environmental issues such as securing enhanced green infrastructure and improving building design and layout to meet the objectives. Clear checklists and required standards are provided for developers to follow.



>> The £1m Heritage Lottery Fund bid for the Hurst Farm Regeneration Project was submitted and comprised both revenue and capital projects. Revenue work is underway.

>> A total of 162 Dales businesses awarded grants of £1.7m through the Derbyshire Dales COVID Discretionary Grant Fund. A further 196 businesses awarded discretionary Additional Restrictions totalling £1.296m plus 11 businesses supported to access external grants totalling £242,646 to support growth.

>> Work to address the problem of empty homes has continued. From 2023, there is now a 3x council tax for properties empty for 5 years+ and a 4x council tax for properties empty for over 10 years.

>> The Second Homes Premium (2x council tax) will come into effect in April 2025.

>> We have launched our paid garden waste subscription scheme for a fourth year, where residents can have their garden waste taken away to be composted.

>> Derbyshire Dales is a safe place to live and has the lowest crime rate in all nine Districts within Derbyshire. The District Council and the Community Safety Partnership works hard to keep it that way. We recently conducted a second Community Safety Survey, which ran until the 30 April 2024 and the Community Safety Partnership will be holding their fourth community safety event in Matlock Hall Leys Park in July 2024.



>> Over 150 trees have been planted in Ashbourne as part of a community tree planting initiative.



>> Nineteen new Health Walk leaders have been trained and some of these leaders will lead on a new walk in Great Longstone, which started in January 2024. Other new walks include a dementia friendly walk in and around Bakewell / Hathersage with the Forget-Me-Not groups set up by Derbyshire Dales CVS. In partnership with the Peak District National Park, a number of walk leaders are being trained to deliver 'Nature Natters' with the focus being on what is around you rather than how far you go.

>> A total of 251 Disabled Facilities Grants have been provided and works completed, allowing many disabled people to continue to live in their homes.



>> The development of the tennis courts at Hall Leys Park. Matlock continues to grow. 379 paid and free sessions have been recorded since 1st August 2023. A Pickleball court has also been marked out at the ABC in Bakewell and there are regularly three back to back sessions fully booked.

>> A successful biodiversity project means that we enter 2024/2025 with 80 areas that are managed specially to enhance biodiversity.

>> Facilities in Ashbourne Recreation Ground have been greatly improved. A new pavilion has been built in Ashbourne and leased to a community group. A new bandstand has also been built and opened to the public, alongside a new storage area for sports clubs.



>> The review of the Derbyshire Dales Local Plan was completed and agreed by the Council in January 2022.

>> Debt and welfare advice was provided to 1,358 vulnerable households over the 4 year period.

>> 162 Dales businesses were awarded grants of £1.7m through the Derbyshire Dales COVID Discretionary Grant Fund. A further 196 businesses awarded discretionary Additional Restrictions totalling £1.296m plus 11 businesses supported to access external grants totalling £242,646 to support growth.



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Contact us

If you would like to find out more, or tell us what you think of the Derbyshire Dales Plan, please visit:

www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk/corporateplan

