



# Derbyshire County Council Council Plan 2026-2029

Committed to Reforming Services for Derbyshire

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# Introduction

We are pleased to present our new Council Plan for 2026-2029, which sets out a clear direction for Derbyshire County Council and the difference we want to make for local people. The Plan reflects our ambition to make Derbyshire a place where people can thrive, communities are strong, and businesses prosper.

Our approach to service delivery is built on equality before the law, fairness and consistent access to statutory services based on need. British Values—democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect, and tolerance—provide a strong foundation, and we will extend these principles into every aspect of our work. This means designing services that are accessible, responsive, and shaped by the voices of our communities, without adopting ideological approaches or non-statutory agendas.

We have taken the opportunity to look closely at what we do to ensure it reflects our priorities and values. We are building on what works well, while bringing in new ideas where change is needed.

Our focus is on Derbyshire - protecting local interests and the countryside, supporting our economy, strengthening communities and working efficiently to deliver the services that matter most.

This revised Plan outlines a pragmatic and no-nonsense approach to local government, prioritising core statutory services, cutting bureaucracy and prioritising delivery of services that matter most to local people, while working towards maximum efficiency.

There is also particular focus on priority areas which include working with partners to improve services for children with special educational needs and disabilities and continuing to improve the condition of roads across Derbyshire.

We recognise the challenges ahead. Rising costs, growing demand for services, and funding constraints mean we must use our resources wisely and focus relentlessly on outcomes. The Council will concentrate on its statutory responsibilities and will not take on functions or obligations that properly sit with national government.

The Council will not voluntarily participate in the accommodation or support of asylum seekers or migrants where this would place additional pressure on local services, housing, education, or social care. These matters remain the responsibility of national government.

## Our Vision

**Working together to improve lives across Derbyshire, through strong local leadership, efficient services and local control.**

We want Derbyshire to have:

- Communities where people live safe, healthy, independent lives
- Great places to live and work
- Local, high-quality council services

## Our Customer Commitments

In delivering the Plan we will:

- Be responsible, open and honest in our decision making
- Work together with residents and partners where it delivers clear benefit
- Listen to resident and respect local views
- Deliver services efficiently, transparently and with a clear focus on outcomes

We reaffirm our commitment to efficient, value-for-money service delivery, public safety, and community empowerment with our approach going forward being to concentrate on Derbyshire and not bearing responsibilities that belong to national government.

Together with residents and local partners, we will build a secure and prosperous future for Derbyshire, grounded in commonsense, fairness and local control.



Cllr Alan Graves  
**Leader – Derbyshire  
County Council**



Neil Crittenden  
**Chief Executive  
Derbyshire County Council**

**Committed to Reforming Services for Derbyshire**



# Our Context – Derbyshire

## The Council



Has 64 elected members



Employs more than 10,500 people



Serves a population of over 822,000 people



An annual budget of over £769 million

## Our Residents

Council services residents consider the most important:

- Roads, transport and infrastructure (e.g. buses, potholes, street cleaning)
- Waste and recycling
- Partnerships with local NHS services to improve population health
- Environmental Health and Trading Standards
- Adult Social Care and support



## Our Services

- Handle over 350,000 calls to our call centre each year
- Support more than 6,700 people to identify their health and wellbeing needs
- Support 12,000 adults with long-term care needs
- Manage over 700 Child Protection Plans and care for over 1,000 Children
- Protect vulnerable residents from over 32,000 nuisance and scam calls
- Manage 400 tonnes of waste and 9 recycling centres
- Run 45 libraries and a mobile service
- Maintain 3,361 miles of roads



## Our County



Derbyshire's £19.8 bn economy is driven by strong manufacturing and advanced engineering sectors



Our population is aging faster than the national average: 23% are 65+ vs 19% in England



Over 42,200 Derbyshire residents live in England's 10% most deprived areas



Health inequalities are a key issue across the county

# Our Vision and Outcomes

## The Council's Vision is:

Working together to improve lives across Derbyshire, through strong local leadership, efficient services and local control.

## Outcomes

We want Derbyshire to have:

### Communities where people live safe, healthy, independent lives

- Children thrive at home, in school, and in their communities.
- Everyone has the chance to live healthy and independent lives.
- People who use social care and support have choice and control.
- Children and adults who need care and support are protected from harm.
- People feel safe, included and connected to their local community.



### Great places to live and work

- A strong local economy with good jobs.
- Safe, attractive towns and villages.
- Travel is safe, reliable, and accessible for all.



### Local, high-quality council services

- Everyone has fair, consistent access to our services, wherever they live in Derbyshire.
- Services are joined up and responsive to local needs.
- People and businesses receive good customer service and clear communication.



To achieve these outcomes, we will deliver the essential statutory services that residents rely on every day, such as adult social care, education, children's safeguarding, public health, highways, waste management, libraries, and trading standards. We will also work with partners, communities, residents and businesses on the priorities shown on the next pages to improve lives across Derbyshire.

# Communities where people live safe, healthy, independent lives

## Outcomes

- Children thrive at home, in school, and in their communities.
- Everyone has the chance to live healthy and independent lives.
- People who use social care and support have choice and control.
- Children and adults who need help, care and support are protected from harm.
- People feel safe, included and connected to their local community.

## What We'll Do

### Give children the best start in life

- Improve health visiting and early years support.
- Prioritise SEND services, improving timeliness, capacity, and outcomes.
- Focus on prevention and early intervention to reduce long term demand.
- Protect vulnerable residents from harm, fraud, and exploitation.
- Support carers and promote independence wherever possible.
- Work with partners to strengthen family hubs in communities.

### Help families early so they can thrive

- Put prevention at the heart of everything we do.
- Strengthen family help services with partners.
- Make sure families get support before problems escalate.

### Support children in care to achieve their best

- Provide enough suitable homes so children in care have the right home when they need it.
- Create and support more local foster placements.
- Offer more opportunities for children in care, with support from the whole council family.

### Improve education and prioritise SEND services

- Support children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) through timely assessment and help.
- Provide a range of learning and support options for children with SEND.
- Increase the number of school places for children with SEND.
- Listen to children, young people, parents, and carers.
- Work with education partners so that pupils attend school and achieve well.

### Promote good physical and mental health

- Help people tackle the biggest health risks – smoking, drinking, poor diet, and lack of exercise.

- Lead mental health and suicide prevention programmes and develop additional support for children and young people to feel more positive about their mental health.
- Focus on priorities to make communities feel safer and target health support where it's needed most.

### **Tackle poverty and prevent crisis**

- Improve access to affordable food.
- Support people to find work, especially those with health conditions or disabilities.
- Help people claim benefits they're entitled to and access emergency funds if needed.
- Provide more protection to people from scams and rogue traders.

### **Support residents to improve their independence, employment and financial resilience**

- Support carers in their caring role.
- Support people by focusing on what they can do, not just what they find difficult.
- Work with partners to improve community support, reduce hospital stays, and help people regain independence.
- Support young people moving into adulthood to live independently and achieve their goals.

### **Work with partners to improve care services**

- Integrate more closely with Derbyshire Community Health Services.
- Work with care providers to ensure quality and manage the market effectively.

- Buy and arrange adult care services jointly with health partners.
- Work with voluntary sector partners to prevent, reduce or delay the need for social care.

## **The Difference This Will Make**

- Children start school confident, healthy and ready to learn.
- Families get help early, so more children stay safely at home.
- Children in care have stable, loving homes close to their communities and more chances to succeed in education, training and work.
- Children with SEND get timely support and more choice, with better access to mainstream and specialist schools.
- Pupils achieve well in schools or settings regardless of their starting point.
- People are supported with their health and wellbeing, with risks spotted earlier and support focused where it's needed most.
- Fewer people experience financial crisis because they can access affordable food, benefits and work opportunities.
- People feel Derbyshire is a safe place to live, work and visit.
- More people live independently in their own homes, with the right support and stronger community connections.
- People with care and support needs have greater choice and control over how they live their lives.
- Residents are offered a choice of good-quality care options.
- Carers feel supported and know where to get the right advice and information.

# Great places to live and work

## Outcomes

- A strong local economy with good jobs.
- Safe, attractive towns and villages.
- Travel is safe, reliable, and accessible for all.

## What We'll Do

### **Boost the economy, working with the East Midlands Combined County Authority**

- Improve the way in which people travel around the county.
- Bring investment and funding into Derbyshire.
- Lead regeneration projects.
- Support local businesses to grow.
- Help people gain skills and find jobs.

### **Protect and improve our environment and public spaces**

- Put libraries at the heart of communities.
- Improve Derbyshire's natural environment and heritage.
- Work with district and borough councils to reduce waste and boost recycling.
- Invest in infrastructure and manage the county's waste in the safest and most cost-effective way.
- Champion energy security, efficiency and clean energy.
- Support energy security and efficiency, including clean energy where it is reliable, affordable, and delivers clear benefits to residents without increasing costs or reducing local choice.
- Work with partners to maintain and, where necessary, improve Derbyshire's air quality.

### **Keep Derbyshire's roads safe and well maintained**

- Target our investment in the network effectively.
- Improve the quality and efficiency of repairs.
- Respond quickly to road defects and emergencies.
- Improve our Highway drainage and its impact on communities.

### **The Difference This Will Make**

- More money into improving transport and travel, jobs and skills across Derbyshire.
- Market towns and public spaces are improved and more attractive with better air quality.
- More local businesses are supported to start up, grow and create jobs.
- More people using our libraries and increased satisfaction with our library service.
- Increasing funding to deliver regeneration projects.
- More cycle and walking routes across the county.
- Bus services are more reliable, providing improved journey times and passenger satisfaction.
- Faster, more efficient road repairs and fewer potholes.
- Improved highway condition.
- Better recycling services across the county.
- Less waste being sent to landfill.
- Nature and wildlife thrive, with more trees and greener spaces.

# Local, high-quality council services

## Outcomes

- Everyone has fair, consistent access to our services, wherever they live in Derbyshire.
- Services are joined up and responsive to local needs.
- People receive good customer service and clear communication.

## What We'll Do

### Improve access to services and customer experience

- Make sure everyone can easily access services that meet their needs.
- Listen to residents and involve them in shaping services.
- Work closely with partners – including health, schools, police and voluntary organisations – to provide joined-up support in communities, only where it improves outcomes, reduces costs and preserves democratic accountability.
- Provide clear, accessible information and advice.
- Use technology to help deliver modern, accessible services and create a better customer experience.

### Create an organisation ready for the future

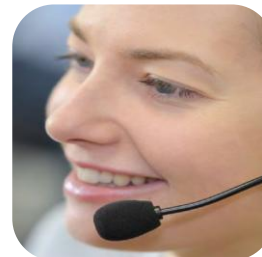
- Transform the Council into a more streamlined, efficient organisation by integrating and automating our business processes.
- Build a skilled, adaptable workforce.
- Manage our finances well and achieve our budget savings.
- Transform the Council's estate so that it offers better value and is fit for future service delivery.

### Simplify local government in Derbyshire and empower communities

- Simplify local government by reducing the number of councils in Derby and Derbyshire.
- Pursue simpler, more accountable local government structures where they deliver efficiency, clarity, and better value for residents.
- Explore ways that people can be more involved in decisions that affect them locally.

## The Difference This Will Make

- Residents have improved satisfaction with their contact with the Council and with our services.
- External assessments rate the Council as good or better, so residents have confidence and trust in the Council.
- The Council has reduced costs through efficiency and innovation and has more resources available to protect frontline services.
- Everyone who works for us has access to the support and skills to deliver on the Council's long-term goals.
- More residents feel involved in decisions that affect them locally.



# Monitoring the Plan

Progress will be monitored through the Delivery Framework, Financial Plan, and regular performance reporting.

Performance information will be published transparently so residents can see how the Council is delivering against its priorities.

For further information, the Financial Plan, Delivery Framework, Departmental Plans and Quarterly Performance Reports on Council Plan progress are available on the Derbyshire County Council website.

We have shaped our Council Plan by listening to service users and residents through our annual residents survey, Your Council Your Voice. We would very much welcome your views on the Plan.

**If you would like to talk about the Plan, get involved, share your views, or ask more information, please contact:**

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