



# Welcome to our 2010/11 Annual Review

The following eight pages provide you with an insight into how the Council has been working towards its four objectives to Build a Better District – to Improve our Business Economy; to Protect and Enhance the Environment; to support Healthy, Safe and Strong Communities and Individuals; and to be an Efficient and Effective Council.

The review highlights some of the many services we have delivered, how we have performed against our targets and summarises our financial position in 2010/11, including

the money we received and how it was spent.

The unprecedented financial challenges facing the Council, like all other local authorities, remained at the forefront in 2010/11 and we were successful in making significant savings while minimising their impact on frontline services.

However these challenges did not deflect us from our vision for a better district and during the course of the year we charted many improvements to services, embracing innovation and smarter ways of working to achieve this.

We stepped up our efforts for a cleaner and greener district, continued to make great progress in our plans to regenerate Daventry town centre and increased our support for the community with a range of events, schemes and initiatives.

I hope this annual review gives you a flavour of just some of the many successful outcomes of the last financial year and thank all staff and residents for their continued support. ●

**Councillor Chris Millar, Leader of Daventry District Council.**



**Call:** 01327 871100 (minicom 01327 312844)  
**Web:** [www.daventrydc.gov.uk](http://www.daventrydc.gov.uk)  
**Email:** [comments@daventrydc.gov.uk](mailto:comments@daventrydc.gov.uk)  
**Write:** Daventry District Council Lodge Road, Daventry NN11 4FP

# Improve our Business Economy

## Prospect of improvement

Outdated industrial units were revitalised with the completion of a £4.5million manufacturing base at Prospect Way, Daventry. The purpose-built premises enabled the expansion of local employer Hi-Force Ltd, with the creation of new jobs.



## Iconic achievement

During 2010/11 the iCon Environmental Innovation Centre was built off Eastern Way, Daventry. DDC donated land for the £8.5million national centre of excellence for sustainable construction and green technologies. It provides offices for up to 60 new businesses as well as a 300-seat conference hall and café.



## Job club success

A new club offering advice and support to jobseekers was spearheaded by the Council and its partners and has gone from strength to strength, with more than 130 members and helping, on average, one person per month get back into employment.



## Comments flow in for WaterSpace

Hundreds of people took part in a consultation on the revised Daventry Masterplan to shape plans for the WaterSpace - a mixture of leisure, residential, community, employment and educational facilities along with mooring basins linking to a new canal arm.



## Retail boost

Plans for new shops and leisure facilities moved forward when we agreed changes to the development agreement with Henry Boot PLC for Town Centre Vision sites 1 & 5 (land north of High Street and the former gasworks site), enabling the scheme to proceed despite the effects of the recession. DDC also began building a modern new band hall for Daventry Brass to improve community facilities and pave the way for Site 5.

## Exploring transport niches

We explored advanced transport systems such as Group Rapid Transit to link the regeneration of the town centre and in February 2011 successfully hosted a conference as part of the European Union Niches+ project to share innovation and ideas.

# Protect and Enhance the Environment

## Park protection

Daventry Country Park achieved its 10th Green Flag Award in 11 years and official park accreditation from Natural England. Following a public consultation, the conservation area was extended at the park to include Western Meadows.



## Support for villages

We worked with rural communities within the district, including Crick, Spratton and Weedon, on devising and developing village design statements to help guide future development in their areas.



## New windfarm policy

In 2010/11 the Council dealt with nine applications for wind turbines and windfarms and drew up new corporate guidelines to continue to improve the way these types of development are assessed in and around Daventry District.



## On target with planning

In 2010/11 we provided a more efficient development management service by meeting and exceeding performance targets for dealing with planning applications – 76% of major applications were determined within 13 weeks, 75% of minor applications were determined within 8 weeks and 85% of others were determined within 8 weeks.

## Greener ways of working and living

We supported 123 companies through the Environmental Business Network and devised a carbon management plan to cut our own CO2 emissions. We promoted greener living through initiatives including Bags4Life, Climate Week, bike-to-work and walk-to-work schemes, and encouraged residents to be more energy efficient through Chillout, Warmfront and Feed-in tariff schemes. Other initiatives included a free compost giveaway to residents in Daventry District, the development of a climate change strategy for Northamptonshire along with other local authorities in the county, and an Energy Monitor Loan Scheme.



# Healthy Safe and Strong Communities and Individuals

## Affordable housing support

We surveyed over 13,000 residents in two rural parishes - Weedon Bec and Norton - and Daventry town to gain valuable information about their housing needs, and were one of the first authorities in the East Midlands to back the National Housing Federation's Save our Villages campaign for affordable rural housing.

## Greater choice for tenants

Our new choice-based lettings scheme, Homechoice@Daventry, was launched in June 2010 to replace the traditional housing register and give people more choice about where they want to live and what vacant properties were available to them. We also charted a reduction in homelessness figures with an average of four households living in temporary accommodation at the end of March 2011 compared to 13 in 2010.



## Working to reduce crime



We continued to work with our partners on community safety initiatives including Have Your Say Days for residents and the Streetvibe Youth project in Southbrook and Long Buckby. Actual crime has reduced, with burglary, robbery and theft exceeding their 15% reduction target to 9 cases per 1,000 of the population compared to 15 last year. The local police attitude survey showed that 63% of respondents believe the Council and police are working together to deal with crime and anti-social behaviour locally.

## Standard to be proud of

For customer service, we were awarded the Government's national Customer Service Excellence Standard after passing a rigorous assessment involving the feedback of local people. We reduced our dropped call rate to under 5%, improved the system for handling customer enquiries and complaints and increased the self-serve features on our website to include a 'find my nearest' information map.

## Sports success

Nearly 1,500 people attended the first Daventry Open Weekend to celebrate the district's sport and cultural legacy in the run-up to London 2012, with plans for an even bigger event in 2011. Our health walks initiative became a national case study for Natural England. Youngsters took part in 475 play sessions and a total of 48,158 contacts were made during sports development sessions throughout 2010/11, including half-term activities, the Sport Unlimited scheme and the Daventry Sports Leadership Academy.



## Support for all ages

Money4Youth benefited over 20,000 young people by supporting local projects including Phoenix Music Studio, Phoenix Sailing Project, Daventry Area Community Transport, Moulton Magpies and a rock climbing programme. An older people's strategy was developed and the Daventry Over Fifties Forum went from strength to strength with over 350 members.



## Balancing the budget

In 2010/11 we continued to tackle our financial challenges by achieving a 15% reduction in our revenue budget. During the year we also identified an additional 10% of savings for 2011/12 and developed plans to tackle the budget deficit in future years, including a wider review of the organisation's structure. At the end of March 2011 the first restructure was implemented when the successful Corporate Board senior management model was replaced with a new managing director and director arrangement to achieve savings.



# Efficient and Effective Council

## Speeding up debt recovery

We reviewed and improved procedures for recovering debts to speed up the collection of revenue income and improve the consistency and transparency of the process.

## Council tax collection

In 2010/11 we collected 98% of Council Tax and 99% of Business Rates. Revenues staff are now also able to take payments directly by phone, saving time for the caller and staff.

## Better benefits access

The time taken to process new housing and council tax benefit applications and change of circumstances reduced to six days, beating our target and enabling residents to receive the benefits they are entitled to more quickly. We also improved benefits access at our One Stop Shop, adding an extra desk and private area. A survey gauged the effectiveness of these measures, finding that 92% of respondents waited less than 10 minutes and no-one waited more than 20 minutes to be seen.

## Improving the invoice system

A new financial system to cut down on the paperwork cost and time of the invoice process has been rolled out.

## Striving for more efficient frontline services

We undertook a joint procurement project with Northampton Borough Council to appoint a contractor for our environmental services to achieve better value for money for the taxpayer and improve their efficiency, yet keeping or improving high standards we set.



# Summary of Accounts 2010/11

## Our revenue spending for 2010/11

### What is revenue spending?

This is the money that is spent on the day-to-day running of services including employee, premises and supplies and services costs. Before the start of each year, the Council sets a budget to finance the services it provides.

### How was this money spent in 2010/11?

The table below shows the net expenditure for 2010/11 compared to the previous year and what amount of this was met from local and national tax income – for example Council

Tax, Business Rates and the Revenue Support Grant the Council receives from Central Government. As for all councils, the introduction of International Financial Reporting Standards on the 1st April 2010 has resulted in us having to re-state our 2009/10 accounts.

What We Spent - Running our services (Revenue)	Restated 2009/10 £'000	2010/11 £'000
Central Service to the public (e.g. Electoral Registration, Land Charges, Financial Services regarding Council Tax, Business Rates and Benefits)	983	864
Cultural & Related Services	838	1,661
Environmental Services	4,763	4,237
Planning and Development Services	3,244	3,381
Highways, Roads and Transport	728	757
Housing Services	1,530	1,708
Corporate and Democratic Core (e.g. External Audit Fees and Management Costs)	2,018	2,366
Non Distributed Costs	225	49
<b>Net Cost of Services</b>	<b>14,329</b>	<b>15,023</b>
Other Operating Expenditure	(2,739)	(3,609)
Investment Income	(781)	(372)
Capital Expenditure financed from Revenue	10	73
Money taken to/(from) Earmarked Reserves for future use	415	228
<b>Cost of Local Services met by Local and National Taxes and General Reserves</b>	<b>11,234</b>	<b>11,343</b>

### How much of my council tax bill went to Daventry District Council?

We received a total of £3.999m from Council Tax – which equates to £136.96 per household\* and 9.8% of your total Council Tax Bill. The remainder of the Council Tax went to Parish Councils (3.6%), Northamptonshire County Council (72.9%) and Northamptonshire Police Authority (13.7%).

\*based on DDC's proportion of the Council Tax bill from an average Band D Property

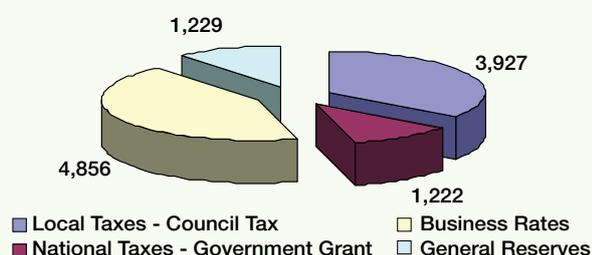
In 2010/11 we collected 98.1% of Council Tax and 99.37% of Business Rates.

### Where did the money come from?

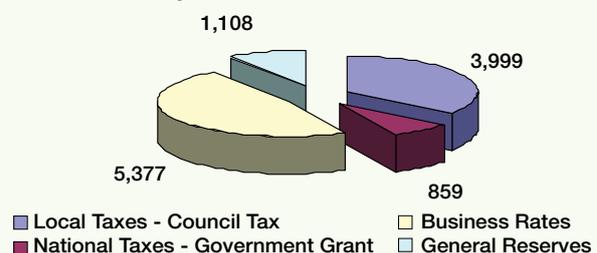
After allowing for income such as rents and investments, fees and charges from services we provide, a total of £11.343m was spent on running services that was financed using local and national taxes.

The charts below show where this money came from:

How we paid for Services Restated 2009/10 £'000



How we paid for Services 2010/11 £'000



### Did we have any money left over?

The table right shows the net cost of services resulted in a deficit of £1.108m in 2010/11. The Council addressed the underlying budget deficit, the affordability and sustainability of future services, as part of the 2011/12 budget preparation process and the ongoing Medium Term Financial Plan.

Income & Expenditure Account	Restated 2009/10 £'000	2010/11 £'000
Cost of Services	11,234	11,343
Income from Local and National Taxes	(10,005)	(10,235)
<b>(Surplus)/Deficit for the Year</b>	<b>1,229</b>	<b>1,108</b>

## Our capital spending for 2010/11

### What is capital spending?

This is money that we invest in land and property, for its purchase and improvement and is accounted for separately from the day-to-day revenue expenditure.

### How did we spend this money in 2010/11?

The table right shows the net expenditure for 2010/11 compared to the previous year.

What we spent - investing in our property and land (capital)	2009/10 £'000	2010/11 £'000
Improvement to dwelling	1,296	1,176
Environmental improvements	142	146
Leisure	142	152
Offices	187	0
Economic Development & Regeneration	3,232	3,465
Information Technology	356	257
Waste Collection and Disposal	993	190
Capitalisation of Icelandic Impairment	2,851	(322)
Total Capital Expenditure	9,199	5,064

Where did the money come from?	2009/10 £'000	2010/11 £'000
Use of Capital Receipts	7,669	3,694
Use of External Contributions and Government Grants	1,520	1,297
Contributions from Revenue	10	73
<b>Total Funding for Capital Expenditure</b>	<b>9,199</b>	<b>5,064</b>

## Resources Statement

As Daventry's statutory Chief Finance Officer, I can confirm that this year's statement of accounts has been prepared in line with the Local Authority Accounting Code of Practice. The figures in this summary of accounts have been

compiled from the full statement of accounts, which is currently being audited by our appointed auditor, the Audit Commission.

A full audited statement of accounts will be available as

soon as the audit is complete on the Council's website at [www.daventrydc.gov.uk/accounts](http://www.daventrydc.gov.uk/accounts)

**Nick Stringfellow**  
Chief Finance Officer

# What's in store for 2011/12?



**Throughout 2011/12 we will continue to make progress towards the four objectives that underpin our vision to build a better district. Here are just some of the things that we are planning to do in the forthcoming year:**

- 2011/12 sees the opening of two key buildings within the Council's plans to regenerate the heart of Daventry – the award-winning iCon building off Eastern Way and the new band hall for Daventry Brass in Daneholme Close.
- We will continue with plans to attract investment and increase commerce into the district by submitting planning applications for the WaterSpace and canal arm during the course of the year.
- Our work to develop the district's sport and cultural legacy in the run-up to London 2012 will continue with a range of activities, open days and programmes.
- We will support plans to bring a University Technical College to the town, a new concept in education for 14 to 19 year-olds and will learn the outcome of the bid submitted to the Department for Education.
- We will work with Rugby Borough Council on joint proposals to build a new crematorium, which will provide a public service closer to home for our residents.
- Working in partnership with Northampton Borough Council and our contractor Enterprise, we will deliver improved recycling services for residents, including the introduction of new weekly food waste collections.
- We will continue to support people back to work and increase employment opportunities.
- Our work on reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from our operations will continue through the agreed carbon reduction action plan and we will continue to ensure the cleanliness of our district and achieve the Green Flag for Daventry Country Park.
- We will continue to improve access to services by increasing customer self service and developing the website and supporting the voluntary and community sector in the district.
- We will continue to support vulnerable and elderly people within the district and help provide homes that are needed – this includes the provision of affordable homes and providing repairs and adaptations to enable people to live safely and independently.
- Our work with key partners such as the police will continue to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour.
- We will identify further savings and efficiencies to maintain a balanced budget for the future including increased income opportunities and providing effective services for local residents. ■

