



Clockwise from left: Planning permission was secured for a cinema at the proposed Mulberry Place development, work was completed on the Rainsbrook Crematorium, the new Hi-Force warehouse was opened and Daventry University Technical College welcomed its first intake.



This special section of Daventry Calling highlights some of the services, projects and activities carried out by Daventry District Council during the 2013/14 financial year

It sets out how this work contributed towards the objectives we set to help achieve our Vision to Develop a Better District – to Improve our Business Economy, Learning and Skills, to Protect and Enhance our Environment, to Promote Healthy, Safe and Strong Communities and Individuals and to be an Effective and Efficient Council.

There's also a summary on the money the Council received in the last financial year and how this was spent on services, facilities and equipment, as well as a flavour of the many activities and projects still to come this year.

Improving our Business Economy, Learning and Skills

- Planning permission was secured for the proposed Mulberry Place retail development, cinema and library north of High Street and for a supermarket with petrol station north-west of the town centre and we continued to work with our development partner Henry Boot on moving these schemes forward.
- We continued to move forward with proposals for the Daventry Waterspace mixed-use development off Eastern Way, Daventry, consulting local groups and organisations on a revised layout and exploring options for a hotel development.
- We completed building work on the new Rainsbrook Crematorium, a joint project with Rugby Borough Council to serve communities across Daventry District and the Rugby area.
- Our work with partners on building Daventry's new University Technical College (UTC) came to a successful fruition, with the premises opening its doors to its first intake of students in the new year.
- We continued the momentum to improve local education facilities by supporting proposals to deliver a new campus for Northampton College in Daventry town centre.
- We helped to accommodate the business expansion of international manufacturing company Hi-Force by building a new warehouse next to their existing premises on the Royal Oak Industrial Estate
- We supported national initiatives aimed at helping small retailers, including Small Business Saturday and adopting a national retail relief scheme.
- Further work and consultation took place on the Community Infrastructure Levy, a new levy that local authorities can choose to charge on new developments in their area to help fund infrastructure.

Protecting and Enhancing our Environment



Clockwise from above: The free public charging point for electric vehicles, a dog mess spraying trial proved successful, and Daventry Country Park won the coveted Green Flag award.



- We installed a free public charging point for electric vehicles – the first of its kind in Daventry District – to encourage greater use of this low carbon mode of transport.
- We achieved the national Investors in the Environment's Green Award – the highest level of accreditation – for work on minimising our own environmental impact and making improvements to the local community. In 2013/14, we reduced carbon emissions by 160 tonnes compared to the previous year.
- More than 30 communities district-wide joined in our Big Poppy Plant, a project aimed at commemorating the First World War Centenary and enhancing local biodiversity. Over 100 people were involved in planting a total area of 2,100m² of poppies and wild flowers.
- We encouraged residents to make their homes more energy efficient by taking advantage of the national Green Deal Home Improvement Fund and free national external wall insulation scheme.
- We built new housing for rent at Middlemore, Daventry to high environmental standards, ensuring they were designed in line with Levels 3 and 4 of the national Code for Sustainable Homes.
- Daventry Country Park proved itself to be among the best open spaces nationally, achieving the Green Flag Award for the 13th time in 14 years.
- We held six action days district-wide with partners including parish councils, the police, and local landlords, to promote responsible dog ownership and discourage environmental crimes such as littering.
- Our environmental crime enforcement officers issued 75 fixed penalty notices targeting littering and dog fouling. We acted on reports from residents, including prosecuting a dog owner who routinely let his pet roam unsupervised on the village green at Creaton. He was fined £420 by magistrates for dog fouling and not having his pet under control.
- We successfully trialled a new approach to tackling dog fouling by providing nearly 30 parishes with paint cans to spray dog mess in their local parks and opens spaces in a bid to shame irresponsible pet owners into cleaning up.



Promoting Healthy, Safe and Strong Communities and Individuals



The new skate park at the New Street recreation ground and (centre) the Family Cinema Day at Daventry Country Park.

- Our work with the police and other organisations as part of the Community Safety Partnership in 2013/14 helped to achieve a 9% reduction in crime in rural parts of the district and a 5% reduction in domestic violence. We also staged Days of Action in Daventry including Southbrook, The Hollows, and the town centre aimed at tackling anti-social behaviour.
- We built 45 new homes for rent on land at Middlemore, Daventry, including 13 affordable properties, to help address local housing need.
- Our strategies for housing, homelessness and empty homes were reviewed and brought together to ensure they reflected our priorities to address local needs and we continued to survey parishes across the district to gain valuable feedback on these issues. We also reviewed our approach to allocating social housing.
- We supported parishes with their neighbourhood planning by approving applications for Neighbourhood Development Areas at Barby and Onley, Braunston, Kilsby, Weedon and West Haddon and provided a briefing for our parish councils on the latest policy issues at a special Housing Summit.
- Our work on combatting noise issues included introducing a free keyholder registration scheme for residents to help tackle the nuisance of faulty house alarms.
- We worked with partners to provide a new skate park and play area at Daventry's New Street recreation ground as a lasting legacy for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee
- We awarded nearly £180,000 of grant funding to over 40 voluntary and community sector organisations. This included revenue grants of £67,500 for Citizen's Advice Bureau and £22,500 for DACT, awarding over £70,000 of capital grants to help fund 10 projects district-wide, and sharing nearly £10,000 between 20 local groups and organisations to help them deliver one-off community events.
- More than 1,000 children took part in our Wicked Wednesdays and Mini Monday summer activities, with hundreds more attending a series of sports activities staged by Everyone Active over the school holidays.
- We supported Everyone Active's continued improvements to Daventry Leisure Centre and a £294,000 refurbishment of swimming facilities including new lockers, cubicles and showers.
- Residents of all ages visited Daventry Leisure Centre more than 391,000 times in 2013/14 for a range of sports activities – exceeding usage targets by 45%.
- Over 400 people attended our Stay Strong, Go Steady roadshows in Daventry, Moulton, Pitsford, and Weedon, to raise awareness of falls amongst the elderly population. We

continued to support the Daventry District Over Fifties Forum, teaming up for the Christmas Helping Hampers campaign, which saw more than 1,000 food donations for elderly and vulnerable families.

- Hundreds of families enjoyed our third outdoor cinema day at Daventry Country Park, delivered in partnership with Daventry Town Council, with many more also flocking to our annual Countryside Day and Cyclefest events.
- We worked with partners district-wide to plan a series of events aimed at commemorating the centenary of the First World War.



First World War commemorations

- We set the wheels in motion for building a cycleway and footpath extension along the former Daventry to Braunston railway track at Middlemore.
- The Care and Repair service helped nearly 400 people in Daventry District

An Effective and Efficient Council



Job Centre Plus office opens

- In 2013/14 we collected 98.28% of Council Tax and 99.11% of Business Rates, exceeding our targets.
- We reviewed our Corporate Strategic Plan to Develop a Better a District over the next three years, seeking feedback from residents to help shape our objectives and priorities for the services we deliver.
- We worked towards developing a new Community Strategy with our partners, to ensure that all organisations are working towards

common goals and priorities for improving Daventry District.

- During 2013/14 we made significant progress in delivering a range of projects aimed at achieving positive outcomes for the local community whilst helping to generate revenue income, with examples including the Rainsbrook Crematorium development and new homes for rent at Middlemore.
- We improved the speed with which we dealt with major planning applications, such as town developments, charting a significant increase in the number of applications handled within required timescales.
- We exceeded our targets for recovering housing benefits payments that were wrongly or fraudulently claimed, continuing to take a hard line on fraudsters with prosecutions.
- Our officers have continued to explore and identify ways of saving money through the purchasing of goods and services.
- Benefits services for Daventry District residents are now all under one

roof after JobCentre Plus relocated from its premises in Oxford Street to new facilities at Daventry District Council's Lodge Road offices.

- We developed communications channels, including a new web app and our presence on social media sites, to increase access to information about our services and opportunities to engage with local residents



Access to online services improved

we increased awareness of new scrap metal licensing laws district-wide and supported local businesses through the process. As a result, 10 scrap metal sites and 7 mobile scrap metal collectors have been licensed so far.

- Our Environmental Health Officers visited several large local events, including the Hollowell Steam Rally and Crick Boat Show to help ensure that visitors remained safe and well.
- We investigated 144 reports of infectious disease, such as food poisoning, to help ensure that the cause was identified and put right so that they don't cause harm again.
- We sampled 61 items of food from local food businesses to help certify that the food that they sell is safe to eat.

- We successfully prosecuted a former local food business who failed to ensure the safety of their gas equipment; the director received a suspended custodial sentence.



Christmas Helping Hampers campaign

to continue to live independently in their own homes by providing minor works and repairs to their properties and delivering projects through disabled facilities grants.

- In response to sustained levels of crime associated with metal theft,

Summary of Accounts 2013/14

Our revenue spending for 2013/14

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 2013/14?

The table on the right shows the net expenditure for 2013/14 compared to the previous year and what amount of this was met from local and national tax income – for example Council Tax, localisation of Business Rates and the Revenue Support Grant the Council receives from Central Government.

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

We received a total of £3.830m from Council Tax – which equates to £135.72 per household* and 9.9% of your total Council Tax Bill. The remainder of the Council Tax went to Parish Councils (4.1%), Northamptonshire County Council (72.4%) and Northamptonshire Police and Crime Commissioner (13.6%).

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

In 2013/14 we collected 98.2% of Council Tax and 99.1% of Business Rates.

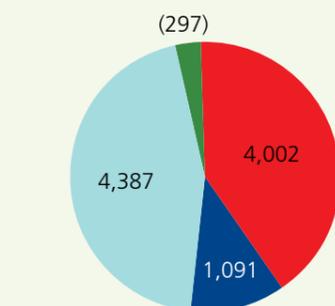
Where did the money come from?

After allowing for income such as rents and investments, fees and charges from services we provide, a total of £8.466m was spent on running services that was financed using local and national taxes.

The charts to the right show where this money came from:

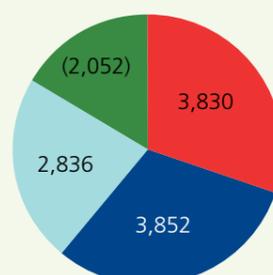
What We Spent - Running our services (Revenue)	2012/13 £'000	2013/14 £'000
Central Service to the public (e.g. Electoral Registration, Land Charges, Financial Services regarding Council Tax, Business Rates and Benefits)	800	704
Cultural & Related Services	1,069	1,035
Environmental Services	2,819	2,528
Planning and Development Services	1,972	1,279
Highways, Roads and Transport	57	571
Housing Services	1,466	1,792
Corporate and Democratic Core (e.g. External Audit Fees and Management Costs)	1,692	1,530
Non Distributed Costs	45	72
Net Cost of Services	9,920	9,511
Other Operating Expenditure	(2,649)	(2,280)
Investment Income	(500)	(462)
Capital Expenditure financed from Revenue	216	33
Money taken to/(from) Earmarked Reserves for future use	2,196	1,664
Cost of Local Services met by Local and National Taxes and General Reserves	9,183	8,466

How we paid for Services 2012/13 £'000



■ Local Taxes - Council Tax
■ National Taxes - Government Grant
■ Business Rates
■ General Reserves

How we paid for Services 2013/14 £'000



■ Local Taxes - Council Tax
■ National Taxes - Government Grant
■ Business Rates
■ General Reserves

Did we have any money left over?

The table to the right shows the net cost of services resulted in a surplus of £2.052m in 2013/14.

Future years, due to continuing central government funding cuts, show an underlying deficit position. The Council will be addressing the budget deficit, and the affordability and sustainability of future services as part of the 2015/16 budget preparation process and the Medium Term Financial Plan.

Income & Expenditure Account	2012/13 £'000	2013/14 £'000
Cost of Services	9,183	8,466
Income from Local and National Taxes	(9,480)	(10,518)
(Surplus)/Deficit for the Year	(297)	(2,052)

Our Capital Spending for 2013/14

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 2013/14?

The table to the right shows the net expenditure for 2013/14 compared to the previous year

What we spent - investing in our property and land (capital)	2012/13 £'000	2013/14 £'000
Improvement to dwelling	624	738
Environmental improvements	33	11
Leisure	678	828
Offices	36	190
Economic Development & Regeneration	3,470	2,786
Information Technology	187	175
Cemetery & Crematoria	132	2,069
Total Capital Expenditure	5,160	6,797

Where did the money come from?	2012/13 £'000	2013/14 £'000
Use of Capital Receipts	4,508	5,988
Use of External Contributions and Government Grants	436	776
Contributions from Revenue	216	33
Total Funding for Capital Expenditure	5,160	6,797

What are we worth?

At the end of each year we draw up a balance sheet, which represents:-

How much our property and land is worth (i.e. the value of our assets);

How much cash and money we have invested;

What money is due to be paid to the Council;

What money is due to be paid out by the Council

Total Net Worth	2012/13 £'000	2013/14 £'000
Value of Land and Property	53,855	55,326
Cash Investments and Cash at Bank	37,681	35,253
Money Owed to Daventry District Council	2,695	9,162
Money Owed by Daventry District Council	(7,199)	(6,028)
Pension Liability	(23,290)	(25,713)
Other Long Term Liabilities	(277)	(1,083)
Total Assets less Liabilities	63,465	66,917

Resources Statement

As Daventry's statutory Chief Financial Officer, I can confirm that this year's statement of accounts has been prepared in line with the CIPFA 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, KPMG.

A full audited statement of accounts will be available as soon as the audit is complete on the Daventry website at www.daventrydc.gov.uk/accounts
Audra Statham Chief Financial Officer

What's in store for 2014/15



- We will start work on a second Homes for Rent scheme in Daventry, in response to the continued local needs for private rental and affordable housing.
- Work will continue to secure delivery of the proposed Mulberry Place retail development, cinema and library north of High Street as well as a supermarket with petrol station north-west of the town centre.
- We will continue to work with Northamptonshire County Council to move forward plans for the Daventry Development Link Road, a scheme which recently secured government funding, which will bypass Weedon, Flore and Upper Heyford and enable the future sustainable growth of Daventry.
- Work will continue to relocate community groups in preparation for town centre developments, with construction due to start on new premises for Daventry Cadets and MIND.
- We will endeavour to secure the future and restoration of Overstone Hall and Weedon Depot, two important heritage sites for our District.
- Work will progress on plans to build a new primary school to serve Monksmoor in northern Daventry, funded by money paid to DDC by the estate developer under planning obligations.
- Plans to improve the District's leisure facilities will continue, with improvements to the swimming pool

at Daventry Leisure Centre. We will also pursue options and seek people's views on plans for another leisure centre in the eastern part of Daventry District.

- We will begin to undertake a programme of works to the fabric of our commercial units to improve their energy performance.
- We will continue to inspect local food businesses, give out advice and provide training, to help make sure that the food you eat is safe.
- We will continue to help improve the health of the public through the use of many initiatives, including the introduction of a new healthy eating award scheme.
- We will extend our environmental initiative with parishes and local groups to spray paint dog fouling after participants reported a reduction in fouling as a result of the scheme.



Overstone Hall

- We will continue to support fledgling businesses in our District, funding the launch of a new scheme by the Fredericks Foundation to provide start-up loans for local people who are having difficulties borrowing from the banks.
- The adventure play area at Daventry Country Park will be enhanced with a variety of new play equipment for toddlers.
- We will team up with Daventry and District Over Fifties Forum to repeat the success of our Coats for Christmas and Helping Hampers charity campaigns
- We will strive to achieve another Green Flag Award for Daventry Country Park and will continue to work towards the Natural England Accreditation for the park.
- Our work to tackle environmental crimes such as littering and dog fouling will be stepped up with a range of new initiatives forming part of our Clean Up My Community campaign.
- We will continue to look at ways of increasing the use of electric vehicles in Daventry District, including plans to purchase electric vans for our officers.
- Work will continue on delivering even more community projects and activities, including the outdoor cinema, Wicked Wednesdays, Monday mini-adventures, Cyclefest, plus many more. ■

Investment will help develop a better District

Major projects in Daventry District are set to forge ahead after £12.5m of Government investment was secured to help deliver them

Plans for a new college campus in Daventry town centre received £6.5m, while a further £6m was invested in the Daventry Development Link, paving the way for the future growth of Daventry.

Further good news for Daventry arrived in the form of Government approval for the expansion of the Daventry International Rail Freight Terminal, in a move expected to create a further 9,000 new jobs.

Daventry Calling looks in more detail at what the schemes will mean for our District:

College campus to strengthen education offering

Daventry District Council, Northampton College and Northamptonshire County Council have been working with the South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP) to help deliver the new campus.

A replacement for Northampton College's current Daventry Centre in Badby Road West, the new campus will be located in the town centre, forming part of Daventry District Council's ambitious Town Centre Vision.

Construction is expected to get under way next May with the campus creating 700 new jobs as well as catering for 700 students, of which 200 will be apprenticeships.

The college curriculum will focus on vocational training and there will also be programmes and support for local businesses, start-ups and social enterprises.

The money was secured by SEMLEP from the Government's Local Growth Deal.

Chris Millar, Leader of Daventry District Council, said: "We have ambitious regeneration plans for Daventry and education is at the heart of our masterplan.

"The Northampton College Daventry campus will ensure we continue to develop a skilled workforce so that new jobs in Daventry district can be filled with local talent."

Link road will enable sustainable development

Investment of £6m towards the Daventry Development Link project was secured by the Northamptonshire Enterprise Partnership (NEP), with backing from SEMLEP.

The plans by Northamptonshire County Council (NCC), with support from DDC, will see the construction of a new road off the A45, by-passing Weedon and Flore.

The project aims to improve access to Daventry from the M1 motorway, playing a major role in developing the infrastructure of the town in the face of significant future growth.

The majority of the funding for the £36m project is to come from local sources such as the New Homes Bonus and developer contributions, subject to government clearance of the borrowing arrangements required. NCC expects to apply for planning permission for the road this year.

Councillor Chris Over, Economic, Regeneration and Employment Portfolio Holder, said: "The Council welcomes this important contribution from government towards the road's development and we will continue to work with Northamptonshire County Council to deliver this as soon as possible."

Above, the link road will reduce traffic in Weedon and, below, DIRFT III will deliver a major jobs boost to the District.



Terminal expansion to deliver major jobs boost

The DIRFT III project will involve the construction of a new rail link at the site and up to 731,000 square metres of new distribution storage for businesses, along with operational facilities and a lorry park. Once completed, the project is expected to provide employment for up to 9,000 people.

Rugby Radio Station Ltd Partnership and Prologis UK submitted the application to the Planning Inspectorate which recommended the Secretary of State give development consent.

Following the granting of that consent in July, future decisions on reserved matters relating to the project will for the most part be made by DDC.

Councillor Alan Chantler, Daventry District Council's Strategic Planning Portfolio Holder, said: "We support the principle of DIRFT III and welcome the decision by the Secretary of State.

"The Council has been in close contact with the developer throughout and further development of rail link distribution on this site is envisaged in the joint core strategy." ■

