

Welcome to our Annual Review and Summary of Accounts for 2014/15

Over the next seven pages we highlight some of the work Daventry District Council carried out during the past financial year towards its vision to 'Develop a Better District'.

Not only do we intend to give you a flavour of the many services, projects and activities carried out during 2014/15, but also an outline of the money our Council received and spent towards achieving these outcomes.

All the work we do contributes to the four key objectives we set to help achieve our vision. 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.

Looking back on 2014/15, we can be enormously proud of what the Council and its partners achieved. But it is also important to look forward, and you will find on page 10 a summary of what's in store for 2015/16.

Councillor Chris Millar

Leader - Daventry District Council



An Efficient and Effective Council

- We successfully introduced Individual Electoral Registration across Daventry District, which involved major national changes to modernise the way people register to vote.
- With the number of people using self-service on our website rising by over a third, we took steps to make it even easier to access online services. This included introducing new web accounts for benefits and Council Tax customers, more mobile-friendly web pages, improving forms and our online committee library.
- We continued to develop communications channels, increasing our reach and presence on social media to inform and engage a wider audience and setting out new guidance for people wishing to record our public meetings.



- In 2014/15 we collected 98.07% of Council Tax and 99.17% of Business Rates, achieving our targets for the year.
- We worked closely with JobCentre Plus on the successful rollout of the first stage of Universal Credit across Daventry District.
- We consulted residents on a broad range of issues, from reviews on polling stations and the Council Tax Support Scheme to housing needs surveys and events and improvements at Daventry Country Park.

- Our strong workplace values and commitment to customers and staff were recognised with the national Investors in People Silver Award.
- We reduced our CO2 emissions by 9% in 2014/15 and secured government funding to buy electric vehicles (pictured left) and install more vehicle charge points.
- Our Development Control Service performed effectively during an extended period of high demand for planning services and changes to national policy in 2014/15. ●



Our Aim



Promote Healthy, Safe and Strong Communities and Individuals

- We trail-blazed the Eat Out Eat Well scheme, a new countywide initiative for local authorities to help encourage food businesses to offer healthier options on their menus.
- A number of play areas were enhanced for youngsters, including a new adventure playground at Daventry Country Park and a new play area and improved equipment in areas of Middlemore.
- We awarded over £165,000 of grant funding to 50 voluntary and community sector organisations, including revenue grants of £60,000 for Citizen's Advice Bureau and £20,000 for DACT. Over £65,000 of capital grant money was awarded to 13 groups for projects district-wide and 21 local groups shared over £10,000 to deliver one-off community events. For every £1 we provided towards these events, community groups were able to raise £5 towards their good cause.
- We worked with partners to successfully deliver a range of community events including Wicked Wednesdays, Countryside Day, Cyclefest and the Family Cinema Day at Daventry Country Park, which attracted more than 1,000 people.
- The Christmas Helping Hampers and Clothes for Christmas campaigns with the Daventry & District Over Fifties Forum were a great success, with more than 1,000 food donations converted into 70 hampers and over 2,000 items of clothing collected for people in need.
- An effective multi-agency approach to improving community safety included a range of activities from Days of Action at Daventry, Moulton and Brixworth to the launch in Daventry of the Young Citizen Scheme and the Street Art Project.
- We worked with organisations including Daventry Town Council and Danetre and Southbrook Learning Village on a variety of events and activities to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the First World War, including a centenary fete and sports day, schools wartime commemoration exhibition and remembrance event.
- Our Care and Repair service helped over 450 people during 2014/15 to carry on living independently in their own homes by providing repairs and minor works to their properties. The Council also distributed more than 200 Homes Repair Assistance and Disabled Facilities Grants and 288 households were found homes through our Choice Based Lettings service.
- Following on from the successful New Homes for Rent scheme, we embarked on feasibility work for another project in Daventry to help meet local demand for housing.
- We supported Everyone Active's continued improvements to Daventry Leisure Centre including a £70,000 upgrade to the swimming pool. This enabled separate temperature controls for the two pools, creating a much warmer teaching pool for youngsters.
- Residents of all ages visited Daventry Leisure Centre more than 393,000 times in 2014/2015 for a range of sports activities, exceeding usage targets by 54%.
- Everyone Active provided a comprehensive range of sports activities throughout the district catering for people of all ages, fitness levels and abilities, including things such as under 5 gymnastics, trampolining, Nordic walking, street football and dancing. A total of 17048 sports development contacts were made, exceeding targets by 34%.



Cyclefest at Daventry Country Park



Young Citizen Scheme



Family Cinema day

- We adopted a new Community Strategy with our partners to ensure that all organisations are working towards common goals and priorities for improving Daventry District.
- The Council negotiated with developers to deliver 82 affordable homes across the District, including 11 at Walgrave supported by £110,000 of Council funding.
- We prepared for the introduction of a new way to charge on new developments to help fund infrastructure - the Community Infrastructure Levy. This included a public consultation on the draft charging schedule.
- We reviewed our approach to allocating social housing to ensure people in housing need were able to access support and ran housing needs surveys in Kilsby, Norton and Weedon. ●

Our Aim

Protect and Enhance our environment



Volunteers took part in clean-up days as part of our Clean Up My Community campaign

- The West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy was adopted in December 2014, providing a high-level strategy for the area, including policies on the built and natural environment, economy, retail and the housing requirements for the period to 2029.
- We launched a Clean Up My Community Campaign, working with residents, parishes and community groups to tackle the blight of litter, dog fouling and fly-tipping. We supported a series of clean-up days and encouraged a growing number of volunteer groups to stage local litter picks by providing them with equipment, such as bags and grabbers.
- Motorists who throw their rubbish out of vehicles on the roads and laybys of Daventry District were targeted by the Don't be a Tosser Campaign, run by local authorities countywide including DDC.
- Our successful scheme to shame irresponsible dog owners into clearing up after their pets continued, with 28 parishes and four residents groups nominating volunteers to spray paint poop in their local communities. We also supported Keep Britain Tidy's national We're Watching You dog fouling initiative.
- We issued 56 fixed penalty notices including 49 targeting littering, three to address fly-tipping and three in response to dog fouling.
- The launch of our Big Switch initiative enabled more than 280 households to change their energy suppliers, to help them save an average of £225 on their energy bills.
- We achieved national recognition for our green credentials by retaining the Investors in the Environment Green Award for the second year running.
- Volunteers from 25 communities across Daventry District took part in our Big Poppy Plant, planting more than 2,800 square metres of wildflower meadows
- Daventry Country Park continued to be among the best open spaces nationally, achieving the Green Flag Award for the 14th time in 15 years.



Daventry Country Park secured another Green Flag Award



The Big Poppy Plant

Our Aim

Improve our Business Economy, Learning and Skills

- We continued to work with Northamptonshire County Council to bring forward plans for the Daventry Development Link Road, including an innovative funding package for its delivery and supporting the planning application.
- We pledged our support for 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.
- Planning permission was granted for a 30,000sq ft extension of Hambleside Danelaw's national headquarters at Long March, Daventry, which will be built by DDC and leased to the company on a long-term basis to enable the expansion of its business.
- More than 50 local businesses attended a 'Meet the Buyer' networking event supported by partners including DDC to highlight supply chain opportunities for public sector construction projects across Northamptonshire.
- We continued to support plans to improve education facilities in Daventry, providing land off Eastern Way/Ashby Road as the site for the new Daventry Hill School for children with special educational needs and agreeing to help forward-fund Northampton College's new Daventry campus with £2.9m which will be reimbursed from developer contributions. We also agreed to fund the design and construction of the proposed primary school at Monksmoor, Daventry, with work to deliver the school ongoing.
- Construction work started on purpose-built new premises for Daventry MIND off the Old Gas Works Car Park, which will enable their relocation from North Street to pave way for the Mulberry Place shopping development. We also continued preparations for the new shopping development and supermarket proposals (also known as Town Centre Vision Sites 1 & 5) by acquiring land of unknown ownership required for the schemes using a Compulsory Purchase Order.
- We stepped up our commitment to our district's rural economy by joining the North and West Northamptonshire Local Action Group, whose grant funded LEADER programme successfully secured more than £1.8m of EU funding to award to businesses in the county's rural parishes.
- We worked with our local enterprise partnerships SEMLEP and NEP to support successful bids for government funding towards significant local projects. This included Local Growth Fund money for the Daventry Development Link Road (£6m), Northampton College's Daventry campus (£6.5m) and for a new Food and Drink Technology Centre at Moulton (£3.5m).



Hambleside Danelaw extension

- Fresh opportunities were created for attracting new businesses into Daventry on land owned by the Council after planning permission was granted for 2,700m2 of research and development space at The Knoll in South March.
- Plans to extend and enhance the Phoenix Youth Centre moved forward with the approval of a business plan.
- We pursued options and sought people's views on plans for another leisure centre in the eastern part of Daventry District, starting work on a feasibility study into the proposals.
- We stepped up efforts to promote our District as an excellent place to live, work and visit with the launch of 'Love Daventry', a campaign and website aimed at showcasing all the good things on offer for residents, businesses and visitors.
- We continued to engage with the owners of Overstone Hall in order to secure its future restoration.



The new premises for Daventry MIND

Summary of Accounts 2014/15

Our revenue spending for 2014/15

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 2014/15?

The table on the right shows the net expenditure for 2014/15 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 £3.852m from Council Tax – which equates to £138.41 per household* and 9.7% of your total Council Tax Bill. The remainder of the Council Tax went to parish councils (4.3%), 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 2014/15 we collected 98% of Council Tax and 99.17% of Business Rates.

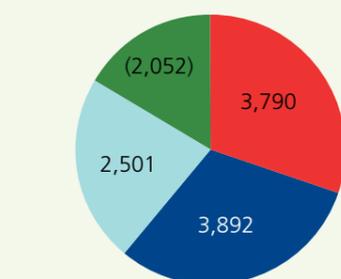
Where did the money come from?

After allowing for income such as rents and investments, fees and charges from services we provide, a total of £8.578m was spent on running services that were financed using local and national taxes.

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

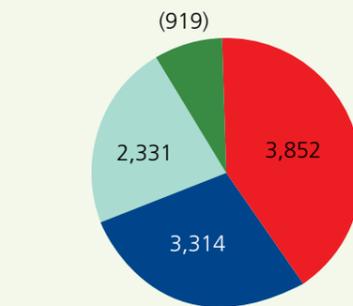
What We Spent - Running our services (Revenue)	2013/14 £'000	2014/15 £'000
Central Service to the public (e.g. Electoral Registration, Land Charges, Financial Services regarding Council Tax, Business Rates and Benefits)	704	695
Cultural & Related Services	1,035	921
Environmental Services	2,528	2,591
Planning and Development Services	1,279	1,824
Highways, Roads and Transport	571	1,115
Housing Services	1,792	1,545
Corporate and Democratic Core (e.g. External Audit Fees and Management Costs)	1,530	1,839
Non Distributed Costs	72	2
Net Cost of Services	9,511	10,532
Other Operating Expenditure	(2,615)	(3,464)
Investment Income	(462)	(486)
Capital Expenditure financed from Revenue	33	179
Money taken to/from Earmarked Reserves for future use	1,664	1,817
Cost of Local Services met by Local and National Taxes and General Reserves	8,131	8,578

How we paid for services 2013/14 £'000



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

How we paid for services 2014/15 £'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 £0.919m in 2014/15.

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 2016/17 budget preparation process and the Medium Term Financial Plan.

Income & Expenditure Account	2013/14 £'000	2014/15 £'000
Cost of Services	8,131	8,578
Income from Local and National Taxes	(10,183)	(9,497)
(Surplus)/Deficit for the Year	(2,052)	(919)

Our Capital Spending for 2014/15

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 2014/15?

The table to the right shows the net expenditure for 2014/15 compared to the previous year.

What we spent - investing in property and land (capital)	2013/14 £'000	2014/15 £'000
Improvement to dwelling	738	828
Environmental improvements	11	14
Leisure	828	203
Offices	190	22
Economic Development & Regeneration	2,786	907
Information Technology	175	209
Cemetery & Crematoria	2,069	79
Total Capital Expenditure	6,797	2,262

Where did the money come from?	2013/14 £'000	2014/15 £'000
Use of Capital Receipts	5,988	1,735
Use of External Contributions and Government Grants	776	348
Contributions from Revenue	33	179
Total Funding for Capital Expenditure	6,797	2,262

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	2013/14 £'000	2014/15 £'000
Value of Land and Property	55,326	57,172
Cash Investments and Cash at Bank	35,253	39,409
Money Owed to Daventry District Council	9,162	8,613
Money Owed by Daventry District Council	(6,028)	(6,773)
Pension Liability	(25,713)	(32,024)
Other Long Term Liabilities	(1,083)	(2,632)
Total Assets less Liabilities	66,917	63,765

Resources Statement

As Daventry District Council'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 District Council's website at www.daventrydc.gov.uk/accounts

Audra Statham Chief Financial Officer