

Reviewing our year of progress

Welcome to our Annual Review and Summary of Accounts for 2015/16 - an overview of the many services, projects and activities carried out during the financial year, as well as a look at the money Daventry District Council received and spent.

All the work we do contributes to four key objectives we set to help achieve our vision to 'Develop a Better District'. These are: 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 efficient and effective council Council.

Over the next seven pages we highlight some of the work carried out during the 2015/16 financial year towards achieving those objectives. It is also important to look forward, and you will find on page 10 a summary of what's in store for 2016/17.

Councillor Chris Millar
Leader - Daventry District Council

Our Aim



To be an Efficient and Effective Council

- We organised and staged elections in our district for the Parliamentary seat for the Daventry Constituency, one-third of the seats on Daventry District Council, by-elections for Daventry Town Council and Spratton Parish Council, and a Neighbourhood Development Plan Referendum for West Haddon.
- Online services were further developed, including improved customer accounts for managing Council Tax, and developments to our mapping tool which allow users to view all undetermined planning applications in their area as well as the locations of polling stations.
- We successfully introduced the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), a planning charge which sees developers charged on the amount of floor space created by their development, with the money generated then used to fund improvements to local infrastructure.
- Council Tax discounts awarded to people who live on their own were reviewed across Daventry District as part of Northamptonshire-wide checks to reduce any inappropriate discounts awarded in the county.

529

The average number of reports and requests made through our online self-serve system per month.

- We adopted a revised Community Engagement Strategy, which sets out how we will involve local people in shaping the area where they live and the services they receive. Residents were also consulted on a wide-range of issues throughout the year.
- We reduced our CO2 emissions by 25% in 2015/16 and secured Government funding towards an electric vehicle for use as a pool car by staff travelling on essential business as well as a new fast electric charge point.
- We developed a Counter Fraud Strategy, setting out our approach to managing the risk of fraud and holding exercises to better understand the fraud threats facing the Council.
- We managed our finances prudently, delivering a balanced budget and continuing to work on a number of invest-to-save projects aimed at improving our communities and aiding economic growth while also generating revenue income to support the delivery of our services. ■



Votes are counted in the local elections

Promote Healthy, Safe and Strong Communities and Individuals



- We launched the Eat Out Eat Well scheme in Daventry District to help encourage food businesses to offer healthier options on their menus, with 28 firms earning awards in the first year, ten of those the highest gold standard. Local caterers also took part in a healthy baking competition, resulting in the publication of a healthy recipe book.
- Our Community Projects Team delivered 13 community events including Wicked Wednesdays, Monday Mini-Adventures, a Family Fun Day, Cyclefest, Easter, Halloween and Christmas activities and the free Family Cinema Day at Daventry Country Park.
- A total of 247 people across Daventry District changed their energy providers through our Big Switch scheme, saving on average £260 each – a combined saving of £62,000.
- An effective multi-agency approach to improving community safety included a range of activities such as Days of Action, the Operation Stay Safe summer safety campaign, and the continuation of the Street Art Project.
- A second Young Citizen event was run in Daventry District by the Community Safety Partnership, bringing to more than 1,000 the number of Year 6 pupils that have taken part in the scheme.
- Working in partnership with Daventry Jobcentre Plus we launched the MOJO (Moving On To Job Opportunities) scheme, helping 12 people on Employment and Support Allowance to return to work.
- Work started on two new Local Plans that will play an important role in shaping the future development of Daventry District - the Settlements and Countryside Local Plan and the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Local Plan.
- A Christmas campaign led by the Community Safety Partnership resulted in 24 comfort parcels and more than 100 Christmas gifts being wrapped up and donated to families living in refuges as a result of domestic violence.
- We awarded more than £163,000 of grant funding to more than 40 community and voluntary organisations, including revenue grants of £60,000 for the Citizen's Advice Bureau and £20,000 for Daventry Area Community Transport. A total of 39 other rewards were made to community groups across the district for capital projects, training and equipment, and one-off fundraising events.
- We supported the Daventry and District Forum for over 50s, organising five events which each attracted around 70 visitors.
- Everyone Active provided a comprehensive range of activities throughout the district, offering netfit, under 5s gymnastics, swimming, dancing, badminton, walking football and gym giraffes. A total of 18,090 sports development contacts were made, exceeding targets by 41%.
- Work continued on proposals for a new leisure centre in the east of our district, which included identifying the best location as well as the need for extra swimming and sports facilities.
- Work was completed on a £90,000 project to transform play equipment for youngsters at Wimborne Place, in Ashby Fields, Daventry. Playgrounds in Daneholme Park, Edgehill Drive, Dee Walk, The Severn, The Roundway and Grenadier Road also benefitted from £30,000 of new equipment or repairs to existing apparatus.



Wimborne Place play area



Christmas comfort parcels

- Successful court prosecutions underlined our work toward protecting the health and safety of residents. We successfully prosecuted a firm for health and safety failings after a contractor working there suffered severe injuries when a wooden pallet fell on him. Our Environmental Health Officers also removed 16 pallets of out-of-date meat destined for public consumption after discovering it in a cold store. The resulting investigation led to the company director being fined £10,500 by magistrates.
- Our Licensing Committee revoked a taxi driver's licence to operate after he was convicted of driving without due care and attention following a collision.
- A total of 90 affordable homes were provided across the district, and we completed housing needs surveys for Walgrave, Holcot, Old and Hannington, and started work on surveys for Norton and Crick.

1,400
the number of people who enjoyed last year's Daventry Family Cinema Day.

403,701
the number of visits to Daventry Leisure Centre, exceeding targets by 120%

£8
the amount of external funding levered in for every £1 committed to community building projects through our Capital Grants programme.



Eat Out Eat Well baking contest

**Our
Aim**



Protect and Enhance our Environment



Clean for the Queen litter picking

300

the estimated number of volunteers across the district who took part in the Clean for the Queen initiative.

200

the number of premises we treated to control rodents and insects.

3kg

the weight of wildflower seed handed out to communities as part of our Mini-Meadows project – enough to cover an area the size of five tennis courts.

- A total of 13 groups took advantage of our Energy Efficiency Grants for Community Buildings scheme to gain a free Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) assessment for their community building. The new scheme offers grants of up to £6,000 for renewable energy projects in eligible buildings.
- Daventry Country Park was awarded the Green Flag Award.
- Our spray-painting initiative to tackle dog fouling continued to yield results, with Brixworth Parish Council reporting a significant reduction in fouling following the introduction of the scheme there.
- Through our involvement in the Northamptonshire Waste Partnership, more than 250 residents across Daventry District signed up to the 'In to Win' initiative which aims to reward residents who recycle their food waste.
- The demolition of the former bowls club pavilion in Daventry town centre was completed, increasing the New Street Recreation Ground's usable space.
- We dealt with more than 50 complaints about poor housing conditions in the private sector and served ten formal notices on landlords requiring them to address poor standards.
- We introduced a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) to give enforcement officers broader powers to deal with dog owners who fail to properly control their pets in public open spaces across the district, including a new rule requiring dog walkers to carry a poop bag or other means for clearing up after their pet.
- Innovative approaches to tackling environmental crime earned the Council bronze in the small local authority category in the Clean Britain Awards organised by The Chartered Institution of Waste Management (CIWM).
- West Haddon became the first village in the district to have a Neighbourhood Development Plan 'made', after it received support from 91% of villagers who voted in a referendum. Neighbourhood plans were also progressed for Barby and Onley, Braunston, Brixworth, Flore, Kilsby, Moulton, Spratton, and Weedon Bec.
- The Council worked with partners to organise and support clean-up events as part of the national Clean for the Queen initiative ahead of her Majesty's 90th birthday. Hundreds of volunteers were involved in clean-ups across Daventry, when 142 bags of rubbish were collected. Events also took place in villages including Brixworth, Arthingworth, Crick, Kilsby, Moulton, Weedon and Whilton.
- Working with partners we organised a Smarter, Greener Businesses event, offering local firms networking opportunities as well as advice on how to save money and reduce their impact on the environment.
- The first Neighbourhood Forum in the District was designated at Charwelton which together with Welford and Crick were also designated as Neighbourhood Development Areas. The first Business area in the district was designated for part of Crick parish. We also adopted Village Design Statements for Arthingworth, Byfield and Yelvertoft.
- As part of our commitment to reducing noise nuisance we seized a home entertainment system from a resident who was making their neighbours' lives a misery with excessive noise. We resolved 300 noise complaints in total and consulted on the potential nuisance implications of more than 500 planning applications and a further 400 licensing applications. ■



Improve our Business Economy, Learning and Skills



The Festival of Education

- Councillors agreed to enter into a funding agreement with Northamptonshire County Council to deliver the Daventry Development Link Road. Construction is underway on the road, which will bypass the villages of Flore, Weedon and Dodford and pave the way for the sustainable growth of Daventry.
- Construction work on a large extension to Hambleside Danelaw's Long March headquarters got underway. We invested £3.178m of capital funding in the project and will lease the completed facility to Hambleside Danelaw on a long-term basis.
- We worked with partners to organise a Festival of Education in order to showcase the opportunities and celebrate successes of Daventry's schools and colleges.
- The Council completed the acquisition and registration of all of the land required to accommodate its Town Centre Vision regeneration projects.
- The Mind charity moved into a new home at the old gas works car park off Braunston Road in Daventry following the completion of an eight month construction. The charity was relocated from its former premises in North Street as part of preparations for the regeneration of Daventry town centre (also known as Town Centre Vision Site 1).
- Revised plans for a retail and leisure development to the north-west of Daventry town centre were approved by councillors. The site, in the Waterloo/Gasworks/Chaucer Way area of Daventry (also known as Town Centre Vision Site 5), could provide a range of retail units, fast food and sit-in restaurants, a hotel and retirement housing complex.
- Plans to regenerate Daventry town centre were showcased to potential investors worldwide after being included in a new prospectus of Midlands regeneration opportunities launched by the Government at an international real estate show in Cannes. Key projects, including the Daventry WaterSpace, Daventry Canal Arm and retail and leisure developments were included.
- We stepped in to take action to repair a dilapidated property in Warwick Street, Daventry, covering Council costs and the private owner's mortgage debt through the eventual sale of the property at auction.
- The Rural Transport and Economic Strategy 2015 -2020 was adopted to identify issues and help in the development of projects and actions to resolve them. ■

£35m
the approximate overall cost of the Daventry Development Link Road, more than £20m of which will come from local sources such as the New Homes Bonus and developer contributions.

30,000
the size in square feet of the new extension at Hambleside Danelaw's Long March HQ.



The Mind building opens

Summary of Accounts

Our revenue spending for 2015/16

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 2015/16?

The table on the right shows the net expenditure for 2015/16 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 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 £141.14 per household* and (9.9%) of your total Council Tax Bill. The remainder of the Council Tax went to Parish Councils (4.3%), Northamptonshire County Council (72.2%) and the Northamptonshire Police and Crime Commissioner (13.6%).

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

In 2015/16 we collected 97.76% of Council Tax and 99.42% of Business Rates.

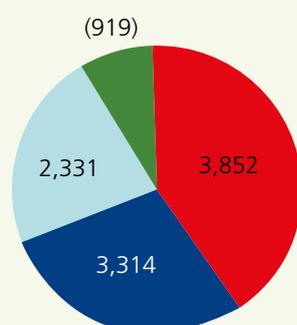
Where did the money come from?

After allowing for income such as rents and investments, fees and charges from services we provide, a total of £12.140m was spent on running services that were financed using local and national taxes.

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

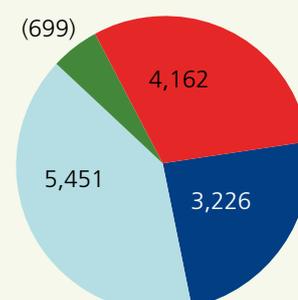
| What We Spent - Running our services (Revenue) | 2014/15 £'000 | 2015/16 £'000 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Central Service to the public (e.g. Electoral Registration, Land Charges, Financial Services regarding Council Tax, Business Rates and Benefits) | 695 | 789 |
| Cultural & Related Services | 921 | 803 |
| Environmental Services | 2,486 | 2,719 |
| Planning and Development Services | 1,824 | 1,741 |
| Highways, Roads and Transport | 1,115 | 1,057 |
| Housing Services | 1,545 | 1,595 |
| Corporate and Democratic Core (e.g. External Audit Fees and Management Costs) | 1,802 | 1,416 |
| Non Distributed Costs | 2 | (5) |
| Net Cost of Services | 10,390 | 10,115 |
| Pension inflation change | 0 | 0 |
| Other Operating Expenditure | (3,322) | (211) |
| Investment Income | (486) | (552) |
| Capital Expenditure financed from Revenue | 179 | 243 |
| Money taken to/from Earmarked Reserves for future use | 1,817 | 2,545 |
| Cost of Local Services met by Local and National Taxes and General Reserves | 8,578 | 12,140 |

How we paid for services 2014/15 £'000



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

How we paid for services 2015/16 £'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 that the net cost of services resulted in a surplus of £0.699m in 2015/16.

Future years, due to continuing 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 2017/18 budget preparation process and the Medium-Term Financial Plan.

| Income & Expenditure Account | 2014/15 £'000 | 2015/16 £'000 |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Cost of Services | 8,578 | 12,140 |
| Income from Local and National Taxes | (9,497) | (12,839) |
| (Surplus)/Deficit for the Year | (919) | (699) |

Our Capital Spending for 2015/16

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 2015/16?

The table to the right shows the net expenditure for 2015/16 compared to the previous year.

| What we spent - investing in property and land (capital) | 2014/15 £'000 | 2015/16 £'000 |
|----------------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Improvement to dwellings | 828 | 629 |
| Environmental improvements | 14 | 8 |
| Leisure | 203 | 311 |
| Offices | 22 | 30 |
| Economic Development & Regeneration | 907 | 3,511 |
| Information Technology | 209 | 113 |
| Waste Collection and Disposal | 0 | 0 |
| Cemetery & Crematoria | 79 | 43 |
| Total Capital Expenditure | 2,262 | 4,645 |

| Where did the money come from? | 2014/15 £'000 | 2015/16 £'000 |
|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Use of Capital Receipts | 1,735 | 4,003 |
| Use of External Contributions and Government Grants | 348 | 399 |
| Contributions from Revenue | 179 | 243 |
| Total Funding for Capital Expenditure | 2,262 | 4,645 |

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 | 2014/15 £'000 | 2015/16 £'000 |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Value of Land and Property | 57,126 | 60,142 |
| Cash Investments and Cash at Bank | 39,409 | 45,943 |
| Money Owed to Daventry District Council | 8,613 | 8,529 |
| Money Owed by Daventry District Council | (6,773) | (8,904) |
| Pension Liability | (32,024) | (25,184) |
| Other Long Term Liabilities | (2,632) | (2,705) |
| Total Assets less Liabilities | 63,719 | 77,821 |

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 LLP.

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

Our Aim



What's in store for 2016/17



Improved infrastructure for electric vehicles

- We will continue to make improvements to our website which will improve the experience for mobile and tablet users as well as allowing customers to pay online for a wider range of services.
- We will develop a Workplace Wellbeing Charter to improve the health and wellbeing of our staff.
- We will work with our partner organisations to tackle food fraud in the district.
- The 30,000 sq ft extension to Hambleside Danelaw in Daventry will be completed and will begin manufacturing operations.
- Construction work to extend the gymnasium and improve the Phoenix Youth Centre in Ashby Road, Daventry, will be undertaken.
- Further areas of roads and footways will be completed at Middlemore estate and an extension to the car park at Daventry Country Park will be completed.
- Daventry Town Centre Vision projects will continue to make progress, with the Council's development partner Henry Boot Developments Ltd due to submit a planning application for the revised retail and leisure scheme in the Waterloo/ Gasworks/Chaucer Way area. Work will also continue to progress a viable leisure-led scheme for land to the north of High Street.
- Plans for a primary school at the Monksmoor estate will continue to progress and both the new Northampton College campus in Daventry and the Daventry Hill School for pupils with special educational needs will open their doors to students.
- Plans to link the pocket park next to Mayfield Park Sports Club on the Timken housing estate in Daventry to the existing cycle track and footpath on the old railway line will make progress alongside work to explore the feasibility of extending the path to Braunston.
- Work to help secure the restoration of the Victorian Grade II-listed Overstone Hall will continue.
- Further information to support the planning application for the proposed Daventry Canal Arm will be submitted, with a view to achieving determination of the application.

- We will continue to work on a strategy for creating the infrastructure needed to support greater take-up of electric vehicles in the district, including the installation of further electric charge points at key locations.
- Work will continue to explore options for the delivery of waste and recycling services beyond the end of the current contract in June 2018.
- Further consultation will be undertaken on the Settlements and Countryside Local Plan and the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Local Plan.
- We will work to identify and investigate cases of fraud against the Council as well as launch a district-wide marketing campaign to raise awareness of the fraud threats affecting the Council and to promote the methods available to report fraud, bribery or corruption.
- Our Love Daventry campaign will continue to promote the District as a place to live, work and prosper. ●



Local Plan consultations



Town Centre Vision projects will progress



Love Daventry campaign