

Prosperous communities



Quarter 2

2023/2024



Local Jobs Fair creates brighter futures in Cheslyn Hay

Local employers, training providers and job seekers attended the event on 21st September 2023 to support each other and their local community.

Some of the highlights captured included:

- » 91% of attendees rated the Skills and Jobs Fair either Good or Excellent and would recommend the fair to others.
- » 82% of attendees said they would be following up after the fair regarding a Job opportunity, Training or Apprenticeship.
- » 91% of attendees said they felt the Skills and Jobs Fair help in their job search activities.

Business Ambassadors Group

In September we launched our Business Ambassadors Group. These Ambassadors from across the district will help to shape and steer the business partnership and provide peer support to other businesses in South Staffordshire.



Food safety

The food and safety team have undertaken **120** food inspections over the last 6 months. The star ratings of all of these are available from the FSA website [Search for ratings | Food Hygiene Ratings](#). One business has been prosecuted and appeared in court in April and June 2023. A fine of £8000 was imposed by the Courts as well as the food business operator being prohibited from operating or having any involvement with any food business. The business has now been taken over by a new proprietor and reinspected.



We launched new online order forms for garden waste permits, and bulky waste collections in May 2023. Over 89% of people signing up for garden waste collections used our online booking system, and almost 100% of people booking bulky waste collections have used our online booking system.

- » So far this year we have collected over 22,000 tonnes of waste from South Staffordshire residents, and have re-used, recycled and composted over 50% of this.
- » Over 30,000 people have signed up for garden waste collections so far this year (with prices frozen for the 4th year running at £43.60).
- » So far this year we have emptied over 1.7 million bins.
- » Less than 3% of the recycling collected from South Staffordshire homes contains non-recyclable items, meaning we have been able to recycle 97% of all the recycling we collect.
- » We have started waste and recycling collections for 185 new South Staffordshire households.
- » We have provided 670 bulky waste collections, with all items either recycled or turned into electricity for the national grid.

South Staffordshire Council has been shortlisted for the UK Planning Authority of the Year award

It is among just seven authorities across the country to be in the running for the prestigious national accolade from the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI).

The shortlisting follows South Staffordshire Council's success in being named RTPI Planning Authority of the Year - West Midlands back in June. The summer ceremony also saw the authority scoop the RTPI Chair's Special Award for staff development and progression.

Lead planning manager at the council, Kelly Harris, has also been shortlisted for the national Inspirational Leader of the Year award by RTPI. She is among just eight leaders from across the UK to have made it to the shortlist.



Climate Change

The council has successfully reduced its carbon footprint by 43%.

The council began reporting carbon footprint figures in 2010 and is working towards becoming carbon-neutral by 2050. The reductions are primarily due to green energy in use at the Community Hub. The council has also supported 21 carbon-saving projects across the District's communities, including a green and active travel scheme in Kinver.

Animal Welfare

- » An unlicensed premises closed down following action by the Environmental Health and Licensing and Planning Enforcement. Planning consent was not in place for the exhibition of animals and animal welfare licence had not been sought by the operator.
- » At least 13 animal welfare licences have been issued.
- » Three major investigations involving animal welfare have been carried out with one interview under caution. Formal warnings have been given for operating without a licence to two businesses.

Vibrant communities



Quarter 2

2023/2024

Street Scene

In September the Street Scene team won 'Best Service Team: Street Cleansing and Streetscene Service' at the national Association for Public Service Excellence Awards (APSE). The award recognised the progress that has made in continuing to evolve and improve the grounds maintenance and street cleansing services to residents and adding additional functions to the team including tree works and environment crime.



Brighter Futures launch success

The Creating Brighter Futures team celebrated a successful launch last week at the Codsall Community Club.

Over 50 people attended event, as well as several local business who showcased their vacancies and volunteering opportunities.

Welfare and Benefits Manager, Michelle Kettles (left), led the proceedings in partnership with Enterprise Team Manager, Wayne Dutton, and Corporate Policy Manager, Kevin Hubery.

The presentation showcased the possibilities of the **#UKSPF** funding including the support for local residents (jobseekers and those looking to change career), businesses and community groups.

To find out how you can get involved and benefit from this program please contact the team peopleandskills@sstaffs.gov.uk or visit our website [UK Shared Prosperity Funding | South Staffordshire District Council](#)



Leisure Services

Leisure memberships have grown to over 3,700 this financial year.

The levels of membership achieved this year are the highest since leisure centres were able to reopen fully post pandemic and are in fact at a higher level than before the centres were required to close in March 2020.



Community events

The Environmental Health and Licensing team have worked with event organisers for over 20 large scale events over the summer season advising along with other agencies on delivering safe and successful events.

Almost 150,000 people have enjoyed safe and successful events across South Staffordshire this Summer and Autumn.

Air quality

Air quality across South Staffordshire continues to be very good.

We have not exceed any target levels for more than 10 years at any of the 17 monitoring stations across the district. Environmental Health have submitted the Annual Status Report to DEFRA as required by legislation.

