



Highlights from 2014/15



Uttoxeter Leisure Centre reopened following a £3.85m refurbishment and now boasts a 50 station Fitness Suite, new Dance Studio, and wet and dry changing facilities, including a disabled “changing-rooms” facility. The improvements to the swimming pool have received endorsement from Commonwealth and European swimming champion Adam Peaty, who will be using the pool hall, named in his honour, as part of his training regime.

Burton’s indoor Market Hall reopened its doors in June 2014, following a £1.6m refurbishment to modernise the retail units. The outdoor market ‘moved home’ to the Market Place bringing the market offering back together in a central location. Thanks to the Rotary Club, Burton now also has a **regular Farmers’ Market** on the second Thursday of every month.



Carters Square, the Asda anchored retail centre on Uttoxeter’s High Street, was completed and opened to the public in May.

Over the past 12 months, the Council has undertaken a variety of projects across East Staffordshire. A selection of projects that have been completed over the last 12 months have been listed below.

The Broomhouse Arts Centre opened a **new café and bar** in partnership with Derby Quad and Marstons. Visitors can now enjoy great food and drink all served by friendly staff. The venue has also increased the number of **professional performances each season**, marking it out as the new place to go for entertainment.



Phase 3 of the **Inner Burton Initiative**, to improve the external appearance of 34 properties along the north end of Burton’s High Street, was completed in November, significantly enhancing the kerb appeal of the retail and business units opposite the Bargates site, a key gateway into Burton Town Centre.

The Council will have **refurbished eight play areas** this year (in Uttoxeter, Rocester, Tutbury, Yoxall, Outwoods and Branston).



Following on from delivering a **fully renovated public convenience offer** at Stapenhill gardens last year, we will have completed the **refurbishment of toilets at Bramshall Park** by the end of March 2015

The Council invested £150,000 to support **21 local businesses** through its Business Development Fund, **creating 66 new permanent jobs** for local people, and an estimated £1.1m of wealth across East Staffordshire.

The Council has progressed plans for **development schemes at Pennycroft Lane and Dove Way**, which will provide Uttoxeter with 49 new homes and a large business park, both on brownfield land.



We have **further improved customer services** through the introduction of new telephony routing features, a fast track target for processing Benefits, and a **new website** designed to adapt to the type of device being used.

The Council’s Neighbourhood Working Team has assisted in the delivery of **25 community projects**, including St Joseph’s Church Hall in Winhill refurbishment, Branston Scout Hut improvements, Mayfield First Responders Vehicle, Trim Trail and Teen Equipment at Bramshall Park, Barton Library Landscaping Project and Rocester Church Heating Project.

At Stapenhill cemetery, the **forget-me-not garden** and **water feature** have received a complete makeover. We have also created an **on-line database of burial records** which allows people to access details without the need to visit the office.



The Council will be continuing to help keep household payments low by reducing its portion of the overall Council Tax bill by 1% for 2015/16 with a freeze as we move into 2016/17. This is despite the unprecedented funding reductions from central government of 52%, or £4.3m this parliament.

The Council's corporate plan sets out the Council's plans and objectives for the next 12 months. Some of these objectives are listed on this page.

Plans for 2015/16

The Council will continue to make improvements to its customer service with the introduction of self-service arrangements, for example **enhanced E-Revenues and E-Benefits functionality**.



The **Brewhouse Improvement Plan** was implemented following a six month collaboration with Derby QUAD in 2014/15. For 2015/16 there will be further opportunities to build upon and **develop the activity programme** at the Brewhouse. These developments will include an **improved workshop programme**, a varied 'live' performance programme, and the development of thriving day time arts based opportunities. A new Brewhouse website will also be launched in 2015.



The Council has invested considerable sums of money over the past two years, in essential works to the fabric of the **Civic Function Suite in Burton Town Hall**. Further phases will be identified which relate more to the operational usage of the building

Following the implementation of the Outdoor Sport Delivery and Investment Plan and the identification of **Shobnall Leisure Complex** as a key '**sporting hub**', plans to **develop the changing rooms to serve the outdoor pitches** will be taken forward during 2015/16. Specifically, we will work with the design and project management team to design and build a new set of changing room facilities at the Complex.



Following the **examination of the Local Plan during 2014/15**, the Inspector's report is anticipated early summer. The Local Plan's Progress will be determined by the timescale of the Inspector.

The Council will continue to ensure there is a **firm and stable financial footing** for the Council and that there are suitable and appropriate arrangements for ensuring **value for money and financial resilience**.



In December the Council began the tendering exercise to appoint a contractor to construct a **new roundabout and access road off Dove way**, to support the delivery of a new business park next to the A50. Work on the scheme will start this Spring, using an investment of **£750,000 secured from the GBSLEP**.

The Bargates site has been the subject of increased developer interest over the last few months. To support delivery of a scheme, the Council will be **producing a scheme that links the High Street to the Washlands** with an attractive boulevard which, when delivered, will service the inner parts of the site.

With Stapenhill Gardens and Bramshall Park enjoying **brand new public conveniences**, attention now falls on the toilets at **Duke Street, Tutbury**, which will be refurbished in the Winter of 2015.



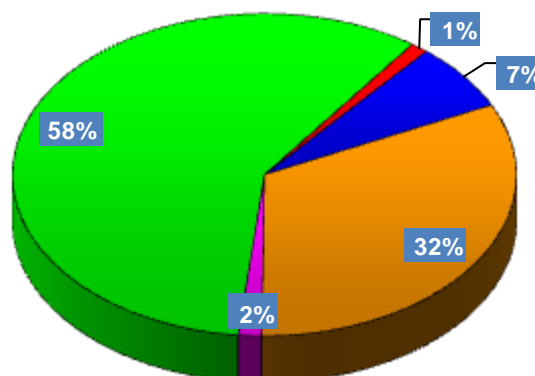
The second round of the Council's **Business Development Fund** will continue to be delivered. A second phase of the fund has now been launched, with a further £200,000 of total grant monies available to local enterprises.

What your Council Tax is spent on

The Council's total budgeted expenditure for 2015/2016 amounts to £51m compared to £52m for 2014/15. This is divided amongst the main services of the Council as follows:

Where the budget comes from (From East Staffordshire Borough Council only)

- Central Services £3.5m
(2014/15 £3.5m)
- Cultural, Environmental & Planning Services £16.5m
(2014/15 £17.3m)
- Highways, Roads & Transportation £0.8m (2014/15 £1m)
- Housing Services (primarily Housing Benefits) £29.7m
(2014/15 £28.8m)
- Trading Services £0.5m
(2014/15 £1m)



	2015/16 £'000	2014/15 £'000
Gross Expenditure (analysed above)	51,074	51,729
Income	(39,089)	(38,086)
Reversal of capital charges and IAS19 pension costs included above (to ensure no impact on council tax charge)	(52)	(925)
Budget Requirement	11,933	12,718
<i>Less</i>		
Central Government support	(2,306)	(3,255)
Council Tax surplus from previous year	(177)	(85)
Retained Business Rates	(3,243)	(3,255)
Special Expenses	(446)	(439)
To be raised from Council Tax	5,761	5,684
<i>Divided by</i>		
Tax Base	34,436.07	33,635.06
<i>To give</i>		
Tax Rate for a Band D Property (£)	167.30	168.99

Parish and Town Councils

Parish and Town Councils tell the Borough Council how much income they need from Council Tax (their "Precept"). This is paid for from the Borough Council's General Fund and is recovered by setting a Parish Tax for each Parish / Town Council.

Stretton Parish Council

	2014/15 Expenditure		2015/16 Expenditure	
	£ Gross	£ Net	£ Gross	£ Net
Highways	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
Planning & Economic Development	-	-	-	-
Recreation & Tourism	96,060	74,565	101,254	74,865
Environmental Health	5,340	5,340	6,091	6,091
Corporate and Other Income	64,775	55,279	78,296	55,679
Amount of Precept		150,184		151,635

Uttoxeter Parish Council

	2014/15 Expenditure		2015/16 Expenditure	
	£ Gross	£ Net	£ Gross	£ Net
Highways	7,717	7,717	8,224	8,224
Planning & Economic Development	39,333	11,271	39,845	12,619
Recreation & Tourism	141,299	100,231	146,484	107,936
Environmental Health	126,413	84,338	134,648	87,889
Corporate Management	154,244	56,105	216,857	77,748
Amount of Precept		259,662		294,416

Pay your Council Tax in 12 monthly instalments

You can choose to pay your Council Tax over 12 monthly instalments within the same financial year. Please contact us if you would like to request we increase your instalments from 10 to 12 each year.

How the Council has been able to reduce Council Tax this year

Despite unprecedented reductions in central government funding to local authorities, the Council has been able to reduce its share of the Council Tax. This is sixth year in a row where the Council has either reduced or not increased its element of the charge. The Council has been able to achieve this whilst still protecting frontline services.

The table below sets out the most significant budget pressures the authority is managing together with the savings built into the budget for 2015/16.

	£'000
Raised from Council Tax in 2014/2015	5,684
Significant Savings	
- Grounds and Terms Maintenance Savings	(120)
- Planning staffing and consultancy costs	(186)
- Other staffing savings across the authority	(416)
- Re-alignment of Planning income and the introduction of pre-application charges	(130)
- Procurement, other savings and increased income generation	(331)
-	
Significant Pressures	
Re-alignment of Burton Market Hall Budgets	235
Central Government Funding Reduction	1,025
Raised from Council Tax 2015/2016	5,761