

Autumn 2013

# Working together

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# Welcome to the autumn edition of Working Together.

The last few months have seen significant moves in our three authorities: the Bolsover and North East Derbyshire strategic alliance continues to make significant savings – as you can see in the alliance’s annual report.

Chesterfield and District Crematorium was awarded a prestigious Green Flag Award for the first time this summer – after the opening earlier in the year of the Never Land memorial garden, created by members of Chesterfield SANDS, the stillbirth and neo-natal death charity.

The months since have seen closer links with Chesterfield SANDS with the new memorial garden featuring in a television documentary.

The next few months will see changes made with the way we continue to work together with new

arrangements for procurement put in place and the results of the consultation on the Sheffield City Region announced – meaning closer collaboration with the other authorities in the LEP.

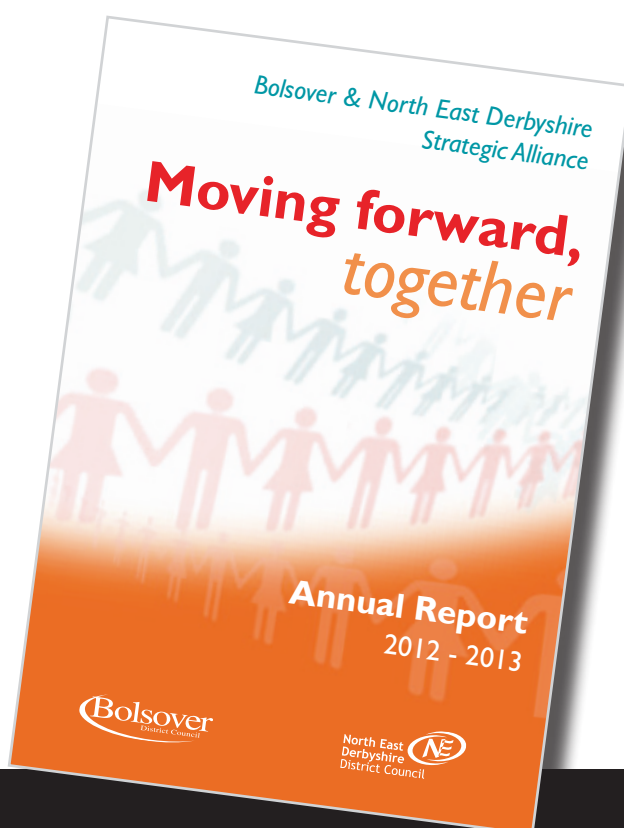
The year has seen us commended for our efforts to promote tourism in the region and this has continued with the launch of the new website for tourism in the region, a microsite of [visitpeakdistrict.com](http://visitpeakdistrict.com). Hopefully this new site will see a further increase in the number of visitors we receive each year and help boost the local economy.

## Alliance Annual Report

The ground-breaking Strategic Alliance between Bolsover District Council and North East Derbyshire District Council has now passed its second anniversary, and continues to deliver sizeable efficiencies for the two authorities.

Following the appointment of joint senior managers and the sharing of some services and processes, a total of £1.746m worth of savings have been identified across the two councils to date.

The second Strategic Alliance Annual Report (2012 – 2013) has now been published and is available to view at [www.ne-derbyshire.gov.uk/alliance](http://www.ne-derbyshire.gov.uk/alliance)







# Green Flag success for Crematorium

Chesterfield and District Crematorium has received a prestigious Green Flag Award. The crematorium is run by the Joint Chesterfield and District Crematorium partnership on behalf of Chesterfield BC, Bolsover DC and North East Derbyshire DC.

The Green Flag is awarded by the environmental charity Keen Britain Tidy and recognises the best parks and green spaces in the country.

It is the sign to visitors that the space boasts the highest possible standards, is beautifully maintained, and has excellent facilities.

This year saw a Never Land Memorial Garden opened in the grounds of the crematorium in conjunction with the still birth and neonatal death charity, Chesterfield SANDS.

The garden features a Peter Pan memorial for parents who have lost a little boy, a Tinkerbell memorial for parents who have lost a little girl and a Lost Ones memorial for parents who have lost

babies before knowing the sex of the child.

As many parents who have lost a child have other children, there is also a Wendy house for the children to play while the parents visit the memorials.


Crematorium staff and Chesterfield SANDS have also taken part in filming with Big Buddha Films for the documentary Still Born, Still Loved.

An emotional service saw the candles in the baby garden in the crematorium grounds.

The candles will be left to burn for an hour in memory of all babies who have died.

For more information on the documentary, visit: [www.stillbornstillloved.co.uk](http://www.stillbornstillloved.co.uk).





# New way forward for procurement

Departures from the three councils' shared procurement unit (SPU) will lead to changes in procurement from this autumn.

Bolsover DC, Chesterfield BC and North East Derbyshire DC entered into the SPU in 2007 hosted by Bolsover DC. Ashfield DC and Mansfield DC joined the consortium in 2011.

The SPU was originally set up to offer the following benefits:

- Reduced operating costs
- Opportunities to aggregate spending and maximise savings
- Standardising documentation
- Sharing best practice.

Over the last six years, the SPU has reduced operating costs for member councils and significant savings have been made, while some aggregation of spending has been achieved, this has been slower than hoped.

By July 2013, all three procurement officers have left the shared procurement unit for new challenges elsewhere, leaving the future of procurement at a crossroads.

The partners have been approached by Bassetlaw DC, who has offered to provide a shared procurement service for all five councils within the existing costs.

Chesterfield BC's cabinet discussed the issue at their meeting in July and decided that, with several high profile projects coming up, such as building the new Queen's Park Sports Centre, the best way forward for the authority was to employ a new in-house procurement team.

Chesterfield's cabinet members were keen, though, to maintain informal links with the SPI to maximise opportunities from aggregating spending and strategic business transformation savings.



# Sheffield City Region consultation



This summer saw the Government launch a public consultation on plans for a combined authority for the Sheffield City Region (SCR).

All three authorities are members of the local enterprise partnership, which also includes Barnsley, Bassetlaw, Derbyshire Dales, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield.

The consultation asks for public views on the document which would create a combined authority to cover all nine local authority areas.

Each of the local authorities submitted a proposal to the Government earlier this year to say they wanted to work more closely together to boost economic growth and create jobs.

This new authority, to be known as the Sheffield City Region Authority, would have responsibility for transport, economic development and regeneration and would also replace the South Yorkshire Integrated Transport Authority.

Each of these authorities have a long history of working together and setting up the SCR Authority will put into legislation a partnership which has been in place for some time.

Councillor Sir Stephen Houghton CBE, Leader of Barnsley Council and Chair of the 'shadow' SCR Authority said: "We welcome the Government's

intention to formally recognise the Sheffield City Region Authority.

"This arrangement comes at no extra cost to tax payers and involves no powers being given up by individual local authorities. This is about having robust, democratically accountable structures in place at a City Region level. These structures mirror and complement the private sector-led LEP of which each local authority Leader is an active member.

"This step puts the Sheffield City Region ahead of the game compared with other areas of England. We will be ideally placed to secure devolved powers and funding which Government seek to hand down.

"Leaders from the Sheffield City Region will be considering the detail of the Government's document and put forward a response as a shadow combined authority."

The consultation closed on Monday 7 October. The results will be published in the autumn.

For more details, see here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/councils-combine-for-economic-growth.#sthash.fSQ3Vaxi.dpuf>



# Local transport major projects announced

This summer saw the Local Transport Body (LTB) publish a list of major projects which will have the biggest impact on jobs and economic growth in the Sheffield City Region in the next 10 years.

Seventeen projects have been ranked according to the benefit it is likely to have on economic growth and jobs in the area.

These projects include Chesterfield Northern Gateway and Chesterfield Waterside developments.

Two further projects, including Markham Vale – Seymour Link Road have also been identified as needing further testing before their gross value added (GVA) score can be decided.

Analysis shows that if the LTB were able to invest in all 19 schemes across the Sheffield City Region, then the combined projects could boost the local economy between £5 and 7 billion.

Sheffield City Region made an agreement with the Government in 2012, through the ‘City Deal’ programme – meaning that it is one of only four places in the UK to secure a 10 year allocation of funding of transport and infrastructure projects.

The LTB will be analysing the projects on the list to make sure the impact of investment decisions

are spread across the Sheffield City Region, which covers Barnsley, Bassetlaw, Bolsover, Chesterfield, Derbyshire Dales, Doncaster, North East Derbyshire, Rotherham and Sheffield.

LTB Chair, Councillor Sir Stephen Houghton CBE, said:

“Through this process, the LTB has compared the largest transport and infrastructure projects across the City Region and ranked their impact on economic growth and jobs.

“This analysis shows the huge scale of opportunity to boost economic growth in the Sheffield City Region. Investing in these 19 schemes has the potential to increase the City Region’s economic output by over 20 per cent and create almost 4,500 sustainable new jobs.

“This massive return on investment reveals the incredible untapped potential in the Sheffield City Region.”

# Share your success stories

The stories in this edition of *Working Together* show the number of positive joint working stories in the three councils.

Chesterfield Borough Council is responsible for co-ordinating publicity for joint-working stories until June 2014.

If you are working on a joint project which you feel doesn't get the publicity it deserves – we'd like to hear from you.

If you have any joint-working stories you would like to share with your colleagues in neighbouring councils, please contact James Taylor, public relations officer, Chesterfield Borough Council on **01246 345250** or e-mail [james.taylor@chesterfield.gov.uk](mailto:james.taylor@chesterfield.gov.uk).

We look forward to hearing from you.

Follow us  
on Twitter



You can keep up with the latest news and events from all three councils by following them on Twitter:

**@BolsoverDC**  
**@ChesterfieldBC**  
**@nedDC**



## Residents have their say through housing survey

Thousands of residents across Chesterfield and Bolsover have been asked for their help to identify future housing needs.

Working with GL Hearn, Chesterfield Borough Council and Bolsover District Council have sent out a housing needs survey to a sample of 20,000 households across the area. The survey was designed to capture a current picture of local housing and needs of its residents.

The results will provide an insight into the kinds of housing local people want and need, and will be used to help shape the two council's services over the coming years.

The two councils also held a consultation event for developer's and housing associations' at Dunston Innovation Centre in July. More than 50 representatives attended the consultation.

Results of the survey will be revealed in autumn.





# New audio trails

## People invited to step out on a summer discovery in North Derbyshire

From protestors who changed the national landscape to wartime tragedies and icons of the industrial age, the hidden sights and sounds of North Derbyshire are brought to the life in a series of free audio trails.

The series of 16 'Hidden Gem' trails – which features walks from Bolsover, Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire - is now complete, and all are free and available to download from the website at [www.ne-derbyshire.gov.uk/hidden-gems](http://www.ne-derbyshire.gov.uk/hidden-gems)

A handy guide to the walks has also been produced, helping people to plan their discovery of the district – available from community venues and also on the website.

Bringing to life the history and heritage of the district through narration by, and interviews with, local people, the trails have been put together with the help of a variety community organisations, groups and parish councils.

Ranging from two to 11.5 miles the trails take in beautiful landscape, wildlife havens, interests of Special Scientific Interest and historical spots.

The project was launched thanks to £50,000 worth of funding from the Bolsover, North East Derbyshire Leader Programme.

The trails focus on the following locations:

- Ashover Light Railway
- Brackenfield
- Chesterfield Canal
- Five Pits Trail
- Grassmoor
- Hollinhill and Markland Grips
- Holmesfield
- Holymoorside
- Linacre Reservoir
- Moss Valley
- North Wingfield
- Shirland & Higham
- South Chesterfield Way
- Tupton
- Wingerworth
- Woolley Moor

The trails are available to download for free on to an mp3 player, mobile phone or iPhone.

## New Micro Site for Tourism

A new tourism website for Chesterfield is also due to launch in autumn 2013. Chesterfield BC has been working with the tourism board for the Peak District and Derbyshire.

The new site will become a micro-site on [www.visitpeakdistrict.com](http://www.visitpeakdistrict.com), but will keep its own address at [www.visitchesterfield.info](http://www.visitchesterfield.info).

New features of the site will have a higher level of functionality and ease of access. Browsers will be able to search for accommodation on availability by date and make reservations directly from the site. Additional searches can be refined by quality grading, price, and specific facilities on offer. Detailed searches are also available for attractions, events, shopping, activities, and places to eat.