ANNUAL REPORT

2024/25



Introduction



Welcome to South Ribble Council's Annual Report 2024-25. This report provides an overview of the work we have undertaken over the last year to meet the needs of our communities and to deliver excellent council services.

Our 2024-25 Corporate Strategy set out our key objectives for advancing regeneration of the borough, bringing communities together, and providing opportunities for residents and businesses, and we are achieving against our priorities.

Alongside delivery of core day-to-day services, we have progressed a number of initiatives and projects to make sure South Ribble continues to be a place where people can live well, work, play, and thrive.

We have invested in local services, we are striving to improve the town centre, parks and open spaces and we are moving closer towards a Local Plan which will shape future land use and development across the borough, ensuring that we are able to meet the needs of people both now and in the future. Our fantastic Jubilee Garden extra care facility has been completed to provide support for independent living, our programme of active health initiatives has made a positive difference to people's physical and mental wellbeing and the support we have provided to those feeling the impact of the cost of living has helped to ease the pressure for so many families.

The people of South Ribble are at the heart of everything we do as a council, and we will continue to enhance the places they call home and support everyone who lives and works here, fostering thriving communities, furthering a sense of pride, and belonging.



Councillor Matthew Tomlinson

Leader of South Ribble Borough Council

Our vision:

A listening, engaging and responsive Council that makes the best use of its resources to enable every person and community to thrive in a vibrant, green and fair borough.



Our priorities:

Healthy and Happy Communities

Places where:

- Residents have positive mental health
 - People get involved and have a sense of belonging
 - Communities can access services and support when they need them

Green and Clean Neighbourhoods

A borough with:

- A choice of decent, affordable housing
- Commitment to protecting the local environment
- A choice of quality recreational activities

Opportunities for Everyone

Communities that:

- Can access training and jobs
- Are supported to grow sustainable businesses
- See investment in improving the borough

An Exemplary Council

A council that:

- Delivers high performing services that represent value for money
 - Understands the community and works with partners to make things better
- Is open and transparent in its activities



Healthy and Happy Communities highlights...



Investing in health and inspiring change

Over the past year, we have championed residents' health and wellbeing through our collaboration with Lancashire County Council to deliver adult and childhood healthy weight services, including the family focused Play and Skills at Tea-time (PASTA) initiative. Through this partnership, 101 adults received tailored guidance on healthier eating and physical activity, and 69 families gained nutritional education and cookery skills to support healthier habits and routines at home.

We strengthened our commitment to active lifestyles through active travel initiatives, including Bikeability training and the Big Bike Revival. These programmes offered practical cycling support for all ages, from learn-to-ride sessions to Sofa2Saddle courses and free Dr. Bike cycle servicing. We received national recognition, winning the Bikeability Large Organisation of the Year award, having trained over 1,500 young people.

Our refreshed Active Schools programme engaged 54 schools with high-quality physical and mental wellbeing activities. The School Games programme offered sporting experiences for children aged 4–16, with 3,500 pupils in inter-school competitions and 19,653 children participating in whole-school and festival-style events. We also partnered with Panathlon to create inclusive opportunities for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) to participate in mainstream sporting events.

Beyond sports participation, 177 young people volunteered to help plan and officiate school sports events, building leadership and confidence. This holistic approach was celebrated at the South Ribble Sports Awards in November 2024, attended by 138 guests from local clubs, schools, and the council. The event celebrated sporting excellence and volunteer contributions across 11 categories, reinforcing our commitment to wellbeing and community pride.

Helping to ease the pressures of the cost of living

In response to cost of living challenges, we have supported residents through our Cost-of-Living Action Plan, working with local organisations to deliver practical initiatives that eased financial pressures and improved household resilience.

Healthy and Happy Communities

highlights...



In 2024/25, we distributed £577,509 via the Household Support Fund (HSF), providing 5,753 households with food, utilities, clothing, and other essentials. An additional £92,985 HSF funded affordable warmth improvements provided 49 households with energy-saving home adaptations such as boiler replacements, insulation, and window upgrades, creating long-term savings and safe, warm homes.

The Step Up Grants scheme provided £69,614 to 72 households, supporting access to furniture, white goods, and help with housing arrears. The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme provided 11,400 free holiday camp places across Easter, Summer, and Winter, supported by £185,641 in funding, keeping children active, nourished, and engaged during school breaks.

In September 2024, the Together Roadshow returned, bringing support directly to communities. This mobile hub connected residents with services across the borough, from Progress Housing Group, Unify Credit Union, Citizens Advice, and our Social Prescribing team, addressing issues from money, housing to mental health and employment. The roadshow helped 53 households, totalling £7,743 of support.

To ease back to school pressures, we allocated £5,461 to the School Uniform Shop, helping 617 households access uniforms, advice, and practical support.

Helping families to flourish

We have supported Tippytoes and Finley's Families throughout the year via the Household Support Fund grants, helping expand their provision and build long term sustainability.

Tippytoes Baby Bank supported 1,272 families, while 446 registered families accessed Finley's Families service. Every month, 33 play sessions are delivered, including a weekly Special Educational Needs (SEN) session (Amazing Acorns), alongside 8 community breakfast sessions, offering toast, cereal, and drinks to families in need of a warm start to the day.

Tippytoes and Finely's Families have also been able to make use of the South Ribble Family Wellbeing Centre in Lostock Hall, opening in 2024 to provide a warm, multi-use space for families to connect, play and thrive.

Since April 2024, 100% satisfaction with the sessions has been recorded across 119 feedback forms. Parents and carers have

shared heartfelt comments including "Amazing for my mental health", "Best baby group by far", and "Always feel welcome and leave feeling refreshed". The support provided has helped to improve community wellbeing, ensuring that children and families can flourish.

Bringing communities together through the power of music

On Bank Holiday Sunday in May 2025, the historic Worden Park in Leyland came alive with the sounds of the 80s and 90 as we hosted the 'Music in the Park' event for the fourth consecutive year. Hosted by pop icon Nathan Moore, the stage welcomed legendary acts including The Boomtown Rats, B*Witched, Chris Moyles, Roland Gift, Hue & Cry, Chesney Hawkes, Five Star, Rozalla, and Boomin.

More than a musical showcase that brings communities together, the event was also a platform for local businesses to trade, drawing in crowds from across South Ribble and beyond, and shining a light on local artisan food and drink vendors and creative festival traders offering flower crowns, face painting, and more.

Healthy and Happy Communities highlights...

Transforming leisure facilities to aid

fitness, fun and living well

We are investing £3.6 million to enhance the leisure facilities across the borough, creating modern, energy-efficient, and inclusive spaces for residents to get fit, have fun, and live well. Phase one of the Leisure Centre Improvement Programme began in 2024, focusing on essential infrastructure and decarbonisation works, ensuring our centres remain operational and sustainable. Upgrades are complete at all four sites, Leyland Leisure Centre, Bamber Bridge Leisure Centre, Penwortham Leisure Centre, and South Ribble Tennis and Fitness Centre, including improvements to power supply, heating, hot water systems, ventilation, LED lighting, solar panels, and fire safety enhancements.

The second phase is now underway, focusing on visible, user-focused improvements. Residents can expect refurbished gyms, updated equipment, improved pools, changing and shower facilities and reception areas. Improvement works are scheduled for completion towards the end of 2025, reinforcing our commitment to creating high-quality, accessible leisure spaces that support healthier lifestyles and community wellbeing.









Investment

- £577,509 invested through the Household Support Fund (HSF) to provide financial assistance to residents to meet the rising costs of energy, food and other household essentials.

Healthy and Happy Communities outcomes...





visitors to our Leisure Centres. including Leyland, Bamber Bridge, Penwortham and South Ribble Tennis and Fitness Centre.

555

referrals received into the social prescribing service providing residents with financial. health and wellbeing and housing support.

£577,509



Household Support Fund payments to 5,753 households who needed short term financial assistance to meet the costs of energy, food and other household essentials.

Awarded Large Organisation of the Year 2024 by the Bikeability Trust.



of clients of the social prescribing service reported an increase in their overall

wellbeing and 84% of clients reported a reduction in loneliness.

74%

837

signpost and referrals made via the social prescribing service to 110 partner agencies.

4,629

wellbeing sessions



Delivered the Bikeability Programme to 1,333 primary school children (level 1 & 2) and 175 secondary school young people (level 3) throughout South Ribble.

Delivered 4,211 active school sessions, engaging 11,355 children in after-school clubs and 3,417 engaged in curriculum-based PE delivery.

Delivered 18 Cook, Eat and Play courses, supporting 69 families to complete the Family Weight Programme (PASTA).

Delivered activities to

18,508 residents.

Delivered 18 active lifestyle courses, supporting 101 participants to complete the Adult Healthy Weight programme. The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme provided £185,641 to support 11,400 free holiday camp places for children eligible for free school meals across Easter, Summer, and Winter.





Green and Clean Neighbourhoods highlights...



Delivering sustainable growth

Significant progress has been made on the Central Lancashire Local Plan (CLLP), which sets out a long-term strategy for managing and delivering development across the area of South Ribble, Chorley, and Preston up to 2041. South Ribble Borough Council approved the draft plan for consultation in January 2025 and ran a public consultation from February to April, providing South Ribble residents and key stakeholders with an opportunity to share their views.

The plan was submitted to the Secretary of State on the 30 June 2025 and will be adopted by the end of next year. The plan sets out a clear approach to delivering both residential and employment development, other infrastructure and protecting the environment across central Lancashire. Once adopted, the Local Plan will ensure that we attract investment and use land effectively to meet the current and future needs of our people and places.

Breathing new life into Tardy Gate play area

Following a comprehensive consultation with 156 residents, progress continued on the Tardy

Gate play area initiative in Lostock Hall, with £275,000 allocated to create a vibrant, inclusive play space for toddlers (2–6), juniors (7–12), and teenagers (13–18).

The soon to be completed play area will feature a wheelchair-accessible roundabout, a sensory zone, four types of swings, a skyrail, and a large multi-use games area, offering something for every age and ability. Seating and picnic benches will provide a welcoming space for families to relax and enjoy the outdoors together.

This investment breathes new life into a well-used community space, creating a safe, inclusive, and exciting environment for children and young people to play, grow, and thrive for years to come.

Jubilee Gardens scheme wins Excellence Award

Our flagship Jubilee Gardens extra care project in Leyland won the prestigious North West 2025 RTPI (Royal Town Planning Institute) for Excellence in Planning for Communities, recognising our commitment to supporting older residents and creating inclusive communities.

Green and Clean Neighbourhoods highlights...

The award celebrates our inclusive and sustainable planning approach, recognising the strong leadership, resident and stakeholder engagement, and commitment to biodiversity enhancement.

Opening in September 2025, Jubilee Gardens offers 75 modern apartments for residents aged 55 and over, combining independent living with 24/7 onsite care and support. The extra care provision ensures that residents can gain access to high quality housing which allows them to maintain their independence whilst at the same time ensuring access to vital support. The development also includes a cafe and hair dressers, open to everyone, helping residents remain independent, active, and connected within their community.

This achievement reflects our commitment to creating places that support independence, wellbeing, and sustainability for our residents, now and into the future.

Delivering Our Climate and Biodiversity Commitments

We continue to take meaningful steps to address the climate emergency and protect the borough's natural environment. In September 2024, we adopted a new Air Quality Strategy, setting out clear steps to improve air quality over the next five years, positively impacting on health and supporting wider environmental goals.

To strengthen green infrastructure, 21 electric vehicle charging points (42 bays) were installed across key locations including Leyland, Farington, Seven Stars, Samlesbury, Walton, Middleforth, Penwortham, and Lostock Hall. The DEFRA-funded Clean Air Crew project also expanded, with 18 new schools signing up and 13 school visits delivered air quality education and community engagement.

In support of our Biodiversity Strategy, July 2024 saw the approval of the Hedgehog Highways Action Plan, enhancing habitats for hedgehogs through ecological connectivity, planning integration, and public education. A pond maintenance programme was also established, following condition assessments of 64 ponds across the borough, resulting in a long-term care and improvement plan.

The tree planting programme has made a significant impact, with 47,664 trees planted since November 2024, including community giveaways at Worden Park, Penwortham Community Centre, and St Catherine's Hospice. Events like Nature Day at Withy Grove Park and Farington Park Fun Day, engaged residents in pond dipping, bug



Investment

- £20.5m investment as part of our commitment to provide more affordable housing, the council will deliver the Jubilee Gardens development.
- £275k investment to make improvements to Tardy Gate Play Area enhancing the facilities to help reduce Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and to attract younger residents.

hunts, and hedgehog highways pledges, with over 30 pledges received and hedgehog boxes awarded through competitions.

These initiatives reflect our commitment to sustainability, biodiversity, and community-led climate action, ensuring South Ribble remains a healthy, vibrant place for generations to come.

Green and Clean Neighbourhoods outcomes...





Created 4.7

wildflower mini meadows and introduced **112** rewilding areas (grass left unmown) to improve biodiversity across the borough.





42%

of household waste sent for reuse, recycling, or composting.



Improvements made to parks and opens spaces (King George V, New Longton Play Area, Margaret Road Play Area, and Withy Grove Sand Play).



5

Green Flag parks including Longton Brickcroft, Hurst Grange Park, Withy Grove Park, Worden Park and Farrington Park.





Opportunities for everyone

highlights...



Transforming Leyland Town Centre

Town centres are the beating heart of our communities and through the multi-million pound Town Deal, we are delivering a once-in-a-generation transformation of Leyland town centre into a vibrant multi-use destination.

Over the past year, we have made significant strides in bringing our vision to life. Following the demolition of the former Iddon's factory, site clearance was completed in January 2025, and construction is now underway on 22 new homes along Quin Street. Enabling works, including drainage, foundations, retaining walls, and a new public car park are complete, with housing expected to finished by Spring 2026.

Leyland Market continues to thrive in its temporary home at Kings Court, while early refurbishment works begins on the original market building. Once complete, traders and shoppers will be welcomed back to a revitalised space with a bigger and better offer.

As part of the wider Leyland Town Deal, the scheme will also deliver a new public square,

commercial and residential developments, a business hub for skills and events, flexible workspaces, and modern office accommodation, boosting the town centre's appeal, supporting economic growth and community pride. The full scheme is expected to be completed by the end of 2026, marking a major milestone in Leyland's journey towards becoming a thriving, future ready town centre.

Supporting greener business with our energy efficiency scheme

As part of our commitment to becoming a carbon neutral borough, we have continued to deliver our Business Energy Efficiency (BEE) Scheme, helping eligible businesses to reduce energy usage and costs, while contributing to our wider carbon reduction targets.

Through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), businesses accessed fully funded energy audits identifying opportunities for investment in energy saving measures. Grants of up to £2,000 supported the purchase of recommended equipment, including LED lighting, new windows, wall insulation, air source heat pumps, solar

Opportunities for everyone highlights...

panels and more, all aimed at improving energy efficiency and reducing carbon emissions.

Over the past year, the BEE Scheme distributed £66,000 to 36 eligible businesses across South Ribble, helping reduce operational costs and advancing our progress towards a greener, more sustainable borough.

Connecting people to skills and employment opportunities

Through our Economic Strategy, we have continued to support local businesses and put people at the heart of economic growth. Our People and Skills programme connects employers, skills providers, and residents to ensure South Ribble has the talent needed to meet future business demands. A key focus has been removing barriers to employment and ensure inclusive access to opportunities.

Over the past year, we have delivered 7 careers fairs and 7 mock interview sessions in local schools. To support workforce development, the Employment and Skills Grant offered businesses up to £1,250 per employee to train new recruits or upskill

existing staff. Since its launch, 67 businesses have accessed the grant, supporting 158 employees to gain new qualifications.

UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) funding has enabled targeted employability programmes, helping 25 residents gain public health qualifications, 34 into employment through job search support, and 8 trained in areas such as mental health support, neurodiversity, and supporting parents and carers. In addition, 120 residents completed mentoring and digital skills programmes, and 193 participants engaged with Multiply programmes to improve numeracy skills.

These initiatives reflect our commitment to inclusive economic growth, equipping residents and businesses with the skills and opportunities needed to thrive.



Investment

- Over £30m to continue the investment in our town centres and delivery of the Town Deal for Leyland Town Centre and the surrounding area.
- £170k investment in the development and implementation of a People and Skills Programme to ensure there is a range of employment and skills provision available in the borough, to promote future career pathways and develop the future skills pipeline to meet the needs of local enterprise.

Opportunities for everyone outcomes...





2,558m²

of employment floorspace created for economic use.



79% overall employment rate.



845

business engagements/ support provided.



Awarded

£66,000

paid to **36** eligible businesses through the Business Energy Efficiency (BEE) Scheme.



133

£326k of grant funding to improve the appearance and energy efficiency of premises and upskill their staff.



An Exemplary Council highlights...



Investing in the voluntary and community sector

Strong communities are built through collaboration, trust, and shared ambition, and we continue to champion our community groups and the voluntary, community, faith, and social enterprise (VCFSE) sector to ensure that South Ribble has communities that can thrive.

At the heart of this approach are our Community Hubs, where residents, Councillors and Hub leads come together to shape priorities, access funding, and drive local action. Through community conversations, we have deepened engagement and empowered residents to shape services and decisions that affect their lives. The hubs also support community groups and third sector bodies grow stronger, more connected, and self-sustaining.

Thanks to £100,000 invested from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), our Community Spaces programme has delivered 12 inspiring projects that strengthen local civic infrastructure and community group capacity.

Here are just a few highlights:

- UDEVELOP is coaching young people and adults not in education, employment or training (NEET)to build confidence and find their path.
- Guardians of Nature is delivering nature-based education to Penwortham, through an Education Hub across four woodland sites.
- Home-Start Central Lancashire's 'Budding Spirits' is nurturing early years development in Leyland, Bamber Bridge, and Penwortham, supporting families with speech, language, emotional intelligence, and social interactions.
- Red Rose Recovery Lancashire is delivering daily support groups to residents around substance misuse, mental health, and reintegration after custody.
- Blue Elephant Theatre's 'Way Back When' Tour brings live theatre to South Ribble, intergenerational storytelling in a powerful and engaging way.

An Exemplary Council

highlights...



From Scout Hut refurbishments to wellness cafés, community allotments, and radio station upgrades, each project has made a meaningful difference, improving facilities, enhancing wellbeing, and creating spaces where people feel welcome and supported.

A collaborative approach to early years

Recognising the importance of giving every child the best start in life, the Chorley and South Ribble Partnership established an Early Years Task Group to explore how local services could work more effectively together to improve school readiness.

We mapped existing early years provision by engaging with a wide range of stakeholders, from childcare providers and health professionals to organisations offering employment and financial advice to parents.

This collaborative approach has strengthened sector relationships and provided a clearer picture of the support available, which includes universal and targeted services focused on good parenting, child health, learning and development. Key facilities

include Family Hubs at West Paddock, Wade Hall, Walton-le-Dale, and Kingsfold Primary School, alongside the newly opened Family Wellbeing Centre in Lostock Hall (2024), which further enhances the borough's early years offer.

High quality childcare places are well provided and supported by pre-school transitional resources that help parents and early years settings prepare children for school.

The findings confirmed that the current services align well with local needs, laying the groundwork for continued collaboration to ensure ensuring that families receive the right support at the right time to help their children thrive.

Creating modern spaces for public services

We continue to invest in creating modern, inclusive workspaces that support new ways of working and strengthen democratic engagement. A permanent Council chamber is being established, with completion expected in September 2025.

Designed for accessibility, it features level access entrances and automated doors. High definition audio visual (AV) technology, including 65 inch screens, camera tracking software, and infrared assistive listening system, will support clear, inclusive participation both in person and online via webcasting and Microsoft Teams.

We have reviewed the use of the Civic Centre to ensure that it remains a vital public service hub, continuing to host organisations which support our residents such as the Job Centre and Citizens Advice and welcoming new tenants such as the NHS to support access to services.

These improvements reflect our commitment to future proofing council buildings to meet the needs of our staff, partners, and the wider community.

Championing equality, diversity and inclusion

Our new Equality Strategy was launched at the start of 2025 setting out clear objectives over the next four years. The strategy ensures that we are meeting our public sector duties

An Exemplary Council





The council website ranks 50 of 125 councils on the Skilltide Index, a global accessibility league table that compares websites. We are proud to report that we have achieved an accessibility score of 98%.

Transforming how we work to be a fit for the future council

Over the past year, we have developed the Fit for the Future programme, a strategic initiative designed to modernise the organisation, strengthen financial resilience, and prepare for future challenges and opportunities. The programme supports efficiency savings, innovation and sustainable growth.

- Digital, Data and Intelligence we are investing in technology to enable efficient working, informed decision making, and easier access to services.
- Commercial and Assets we aim to maximise resource value and generate income to support long term sustainability.
- 3. Services and Processes by streamlining operations to reduce duplication and improve customer experience, making services more responsive and accessible.
- 4. **People and Culture** building a skilled, high performing workforce, underpinned by strong leadership and a positive organisational culture to help drive change and innovation.

Together, these elements form a forward thinking programme that ensures we remain modern, efficient, resilient, and responsive to the needs of our communities.



Reimagining how we recruit talent

Through the delivery of the 'Reimagining Recruitment' project, we have transformed our approach to recruitment, ensuring we attract the very best people to deliver high quality services. Our innovative project delivered key improvements including a new recruitment website that broadens reach, and a streamlined application process that improves the experience for both candidate and employer.

We are proud to be the first winner of the newly introduced Best Practice Imitation Award at the iNetwork Awards. The impact has been significant; the average time to hire reduced by 10%, application numbers per vacancy has increased, and 90% of roles are now filled on the first attempt.

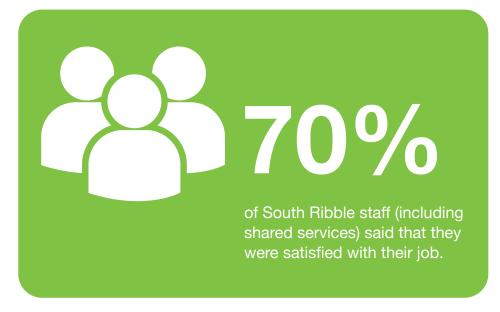
As a UK visa sponsor, a forces friendly council, and a disability confident employer we demonstrate that our recruitment practices are inclusive. These positive outcomes highlight the important of a modern recruitment strategy in building a strong, diverse public sector workforce.

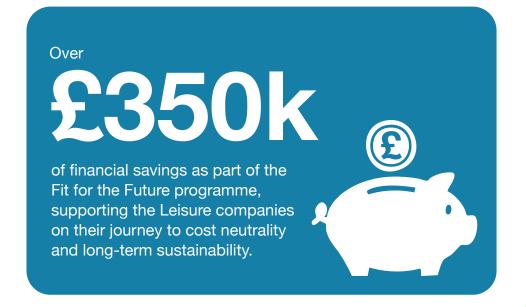
An Exemplary Council outcomes...











Delivering great services

A year of highlights...



April **2024**

Opportunities for Everyone

50 Years of Volunteering Excellence

As part of South Ribble Borough Council 50th year anniversary we hosted a spectacular 50th Anniversary Volunteer Awards celebration, honouring the borough's most selfless and inspiring volunteers. Held at the council's Civic Centre in Leyland, the evening was a heartwarming tribute to the unsung heroes whose tireless efforts make South Ribble a better place for all. From young fundraisers to dedicated green champions to outstanding neighbours, the awards recognised the breadth of voluntary work that enriches the borough.

May **2024**

An Exemplary Council

Democracy engagement through elections

We successfully delivered two major elections in 2024, reinforcing our commitment to democratic participation. In May, the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) election was held with a 23% turnout, ensuring local policing remains accountable to community needs. In July, the Parliamentary General Election saw a strong turnout of 64%, reflecting high levels of civic engagement across South Ribble.

June 2024

Opportunities for Everyone

South Ribble Annual Recruitment Roadshow

We hosted our annual Recruitment Roadshow at the Civic Centre, welcoming 27 exhibitors and approximately 200 visitors. The event connected local employers with jobseekers and showcased opportunities to support workforce development across the borough.

July **2024**

Healthy and Happy Communities

Penwortham Live 2024

Over 5,000 people attended Penwortham Live, a vibrant weekend of live music across 25 venues, featuring more than 120 acts. The event expanded into Middleforth and Kingsfold for the first time, supported by free shuttle buses. It brought communities together, boosted the local night-time economy and showcased South Ribble's thriving creative scene.

Delivering great services

A year of highlights...



August **2024**

Green and Clean Neighbourhoods

Play Area refurbishment enhance local spaces

In preparation for the summer holidays, we refurbished King George V play area in Penwortham (June) and Longton Play Area on School Lane (July). Both sites feature modern equipment for toddlers and juniors, including climbing, swinging, and balancing activities, alongside new surfacing for safety and accessibility. These improvements are part of a wider programme that also saw upgrades at New Longton, Withy Grove, and Margaret Road, supporting active lifestyles for children and families.

September 2024

Healthy and Happy Communities

A Taste of Leyland

Leyland Town Centre came alive as thousands attended A Taste of Leyland, celebrating the borough's best food and drink. The event featured local traders, live cooking demos, fairground rides, and musical entertainment. The British Commercial Vehicle Museum offered discounted entry, and The Box Bar Company was named standout stall by the Mayor of South Ribble.

October **2024**

Healthy and Happy Communities

Operation Hail: Tackling Hate Crime in the Workplace

We joined Lancashire Police to visit over 25 premises across the borough as part of Operation Hail. The initiative aimed to raise awareness of hate crime in the workplace, particularly affecting taxi drivers, takeaway staff, and licensed premises. We have also signed up as a 'Third Party Reporting Centres', helping victims access support and report incidents confidently.

November 2024

Healthy and Happy Communities

Leyland Christmas light switch on

In partnership with the Leyland Town Team, we hosted the 2024 Christmas Lights Switch-On at Hough Lane. Thousands attended the festive celebration, featuring market stalls, children's attractions, street food, and live music. Special guests Tony Maudsley and Nathan Moore led the countdown to the lights. The event brought festive cheer to the town centre, supported local businesses, and created a memorable experience for families across the borough.

Delivering great services

A year of highlights...



December 2024

An Exemplary council

Launching our Corporate Strategy

We adopted our refreshed Corporate Strategy, setting out our priorities to ensure we meet the needs of our communities and continue delivering high performing council services. Key projects include leisure centre improvements, delivery of Penwortham Masterplan, and the development of commercial, cultural, and housing strategies. The strategy provides a clear roadmap for delivering inclusive growth and ensures that South Ribble remains a place where people can live well, work, and thrive.

January 2025

Green and Clean Neighbourhoods

Tree planting

With the support from residents, schools, landowners, community groups and businesses, we planted 47,664 trees across the borough over the past year. Since our 2019 pledge to plant one tree per resident, the total number planted has reached 220,861, double the original target. This achievement enhances biodiversity and demonstrates our commitment to environmental sustainability.

February 2025

An Exemplary council

Setting the budget: Investing in South Ribble

We approved a balanced budget for 2024/25, responding to rising costs and reduced government funding the budget enables continued delivery of vital services and investment in our priorities. This budget reflects our strong financial position and a commitment to supporting residents, businesses, and communities to thrive.

March **2025**

Green and Clean Neighbourhoods

Small electrical waste recycling scheme

By the end of the year, the small electrical waste collections scheme had successfully gathered 140 items, totalling 164kg, from five dedicated drop-off points across the borough. Residents responsibly recycled gadgets and appliances with plugs, batteries, or cables, helping to reduce the environmental impact.

Delivering great core business outcomes...



Collected domestic waste from

52,024

households across the borough.

19,000+

people attend council events across the brough, including Music in the Park, Penwortham and Longton Live, A taste of Leyland and Christmas Light Switch On.



100%

of major and 95%

minor planning

applications

decided on time.

1,422

licensing applications processed, including premises, taxi, street café, personal licences, temporary events, and inspections.



Elections turnout:

- 23% turnout for the Police and Crime Commissioner election (May 2024)
- 64% turnout for the UK Parliamentary election (July 2024)

9,443

face to face contacts via the contact centre.

1,000

planning applications determined.



73,385

calls answered via the customer contact centre.

15,823

email received via the customer contact centre.



Collected 476.35kg

per household of residual household waste.

Facilitated **258** Mayoral engagements supporting our communities and promoting South Ribble.



Held
Council and committee
meetings, task groups, informal
working groups and other
Member meetings.



Delivering social value in South Ribble

We believe that every pound we spend should work hard for our communities. That is why we have embedded social value into all major contracts over £100k, ensuring that investment in our borough delivers more than just bricks and mortar. It delivers value, opportunity, support, and a lasting impact.

Over the past year, our contractors and their supply chains have generated an impressive £1.284 million in Social Value, a testament to our commitment to making every project count for the people and places across South Ribble.

Here's what that looks like in action:

- £1,156,743.91 spent with local businesses in the supply chain, boosting our economy and supporting jobs.
- £5,329 donated and 269 hours of volunteering with community groups, strengthening local networks.

- 84 hours of volunteering support for students in local schools and colleges.
- equivalent (tCO₂e) emissions saved through greener, more sustainable practices. To put that into perspective, that's roughly the same amount of carbon saved as driving over 2,600 miles in an average petrol car.

Initiatives to highlight: As part of their work on the Leyland Town Deal, Tyson Construction launched the 'Quin Street Community Fund'. This initiative invited local community groups to apply for funding to support vital community projects. Seven groups across the borough benefitted, including the Dementia Community Connection, helping improve the quality of life for residents living with dementia and their careers, and a project providing warm packs to help vulnerable people stay safe and comfortable during the colder winter months.

Meanwhile, WSP, who are delivering the Penwortham Masterplan, collaborated with the Leyland Job Centre to offer a personalised employability session for residents receiving Universal Credit. The session focused on careers in design and engineering, and offered peer-to-peer mentoring and expert advice. It was well attended and received glowing feedback from both participants and Job Centre work coaches, helping to build confidence and open up new career pathways.

By embedding social value into our contracts, we're not just delivering projects, we are creating a circular economy where investment flows back into our communities. From supporting local businesses to empowering residents and protecting the environment. Our approach ensures that every contract leaves a legacy.





A personal journey with active health

As part of our commitment to helping residents live healthier, more active lives, no matter their age, ability or starting point, the Active Lifestyles programme continues to inspire positive behaviour change and deliver real lasting change in our communities.

One of the most inspiring examples comes from a newly retired resident in her mid-50s, who joined the programme after a routine wellness check with her GP. Despite living with osteoarthritis in her spine and rheumatoid arthritis in both knees, having spent most of her working life seated at a desk, she was determined to make a change.

After being referred to the Active Health team, she joined a tailored course that focused on nutrition, physical activity, and building confidence. The sessions were designed to be inclusive and adaptable, ensuring that all participants, even those with health conditions could still take part and benefit. The course revealed eye opening facts about everyday food and helped participants visualise the impact of their choices. It also provided practical

guidance on reading food labels and understanding nutritional information in a simple, accessible way.

The programme went beyond education. It offered hands-on support in local gyms, with staff demonstrating how to safely use equipment and adapt exercises to individual needs. For someone who had never felt comfortable in a gym, this was transformative.

Since joining the programme, this resident has:

- Lost 26 lbs through a combination of improved diet and regular exercise.
- Gained confidence to use gym equipment and even purchased a treadmill for home use.
- Changed her mindset, now viewing food as fuel and embracing exercise as part of daily life.
- Built resilience, learning not to be discouraged by setbacks and to stay motivated.

She now uses her treadmill for up to an hour each day and continues to attend Active Health sessions. Her goal is to regain flexibility and eventually return to cycling, something she never thought possible before. As she says, joining the

course was the best decision she's made for herself. After years of trying faddy diets, she's found that success comes from understanding food, embracing exercise, and having a bit of guidance and motivation along the way.

With the right support and guidance, South Ribble residents are making sustainable positive changes to their health and wellbeing. We remain committed to investing in health and wellbeing initiatives that deliver real impact and make a difference. Active Lifestyles is not just a fitness programme, it's about changing lives, one step at a time.





A journey to confidence and the power of community

When a client self-referred into the Social Prescribing Service for support, she was facing a deeply personal challenge. Identifying as transgender, she was experiencing low mood, anxiety and was struggling with a sense of identity and isolation. Her heartfelt goal was simple yet powerful: "to feel more like myself".

Through the Social Prescribing Service, tailored support was provides connecting her with a range of services designed to build confidence, improve wellbeing, and further community connections:

- LGBT Lancashire: Access to online groups, 1-to-1 support, and webinars,
- UDevelop: Confidence-building sessions provided a safe space to grow,
- Couch to 5K: With help from the Household Support Fund, she received running shoes and clothing, enabling her to take the first steps towards a healthier lifestyle,

- Volunteering: She began giving back through Guardians of Nature and Friends of Worden Park, finding purpose and pride in her contributions,
- The Wave Project: Employment support opening new doors for her future.
- Cook, Eat and Learn: Practical cooking sessions helped her build life skills and independence,
- Link Worker Support: Through motivational interviewing and health coaching, helped increase her confidence and resilience.

Where They Are Now:

Although support is still ongoing, the transformation in just six sessions includes:

- She has started leaving the house as her true self.
- She's using her preferred name, registered at her local library, signed up for a gym membership and joined a running club. Since support started, she has lost 2 stone in weight.
- Her confidence has increased, and feels a marked improvement in her mental health

- She has made some new friends and has even arranged attending a games group to make new friends
- Has set a new goal of volunteering for services that help people, so she can help people like how the Social Prescribing Service has helped her.

In her own words:

"I'm starting to feel more confident and more myself. Some of the things I've done, I would never have been able to do before you started helping me."





Supporting recovery through compassionate housing

A local resident was referred to us following a hospital admission under Section 2 of the Mental Health Act. The sudden loss of a parent, who had been their lifelong carer, triggered a significant decline in mental health and daily functioning. Diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia and type 2 diabetes, the individual had ceased taking prescribed medication and was experiencing family conflict and emotional distress following the sale of the family home.

We responded quickly, accepting the Duty to Refer and placing the individual in temporary accommodation, first in a hotel, then in hostel accommodation. It soon became clear that independent living would not be sustainable due to limited life skills and cognitive challenges. A home visit revealed further concerns, including difficulties with budgeting, meal preparation, memory, and communication. These observations, supported by Mental Health Services, led to a referral to Adult Social Care. A joint assessment confirmed the need for

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Adult Social Care recommended sheltered accommodation with a bespoke support package. Given the complexity of the case, a suitable property was carefully identified and offered directly, rather than through the usual housing application process. This helped ensure the accommodation met their specific needs and reduced the stress of moving.

Throughout the process, regular visits were made to provide reassurance and help manage the transition. Initially, there was resistance to moving, with a preference to remain in familiar temporary accommodation.

However, through patient engagement and careful explanation, the individual agreed to view a sheltered property located near their former family home. Despite initial anxiety, they consented to move in.

The individual is now settled in their new home, supported by:

- The housing association's tenancy support officer
- Adult Social Care
- The Council's Social Prescribing Service

Essential furniture was sourced and delivered to help create a comfortable and welcoming environment. Ongoing support is in place to help maintain the tenancy, manage health needs, and build confidence in daily living. Through strong partnership working and a compassionate approach, a vulnerable resident has been supported from crisis to stability, demonstrating the impact of collaborative and responsive public services.



