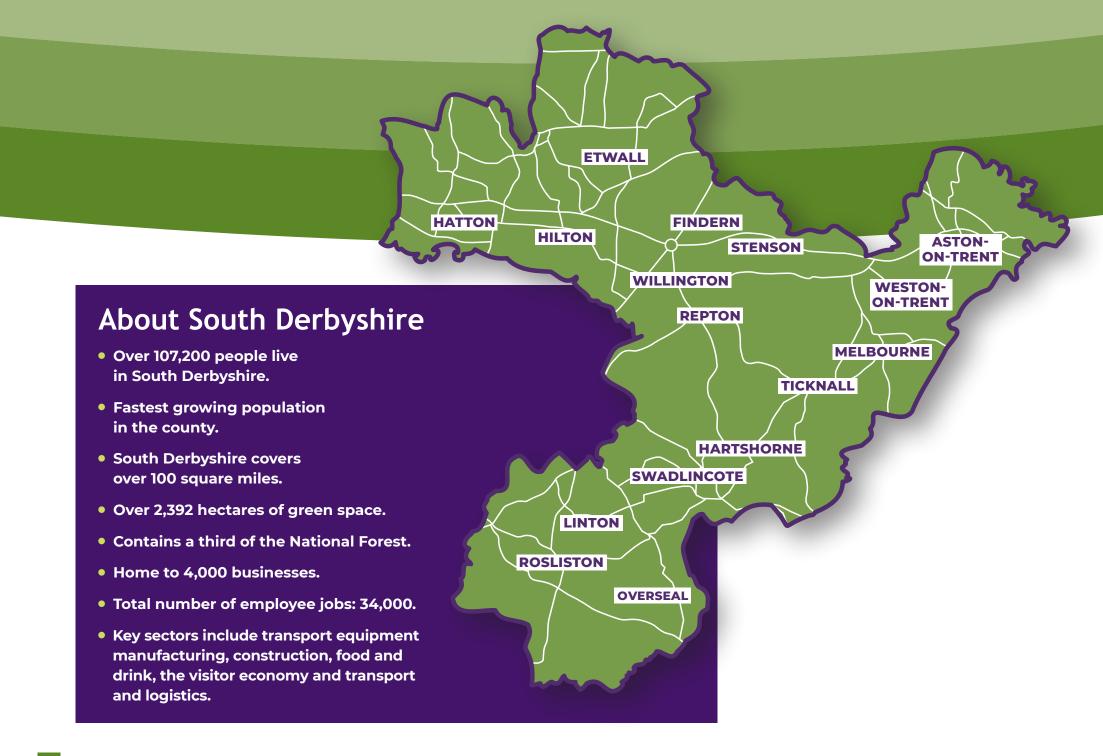


South Derbyshire District Council

Annual Report 2023/24





Your Councillors by ward

as at October 2024

Conservative

Labour

Liberal Democrats

Independent

Aston-on-Trent



Neil **Atkin**



Daniel Corbin



Peter Watson





Church Gresley

Alan Haynes



Gordon Rhind

Midway



Ben **Stuart**

Etwall



Andrew Kirke



David Muller



Julie **Patten**



Grahame Andrew



Jayne **Davies**



Sundip Meghani

Linton



Daniel Pegg



Alistair Tilley





Jane Carroll



Matthew **Gotheridge**



Swadlincote

Alan **Jones**



Louise Mulgrew



Robert **Pearson**



Newhall and Stanton

Sean **Bambrick**



Sarah Harrison



Kalila Storey



Kerry Haines



James Lowe

Seales



Gareth Jones

Amy Wheelton

Stenson



David Lakhvinder **Shepherd** Pal Singh



Mick Mulgrew



Vonnie Redfern



Neil Tilley

Willington and Findern



Martyn

Ford

lan



Hudson



Woodville

Angela Archer



Malcolm Gee



Stephen Taylor

Foreword

Welcome to the Council's annual report for 2023/24.

This is the final year of our four year Corporate Plan 2020-24 and, like in past years, we are proud our of achievements over the year and after 50 years of serving South Derbyshire residents, businesses and partners, we look forward to continuing to deliver high quality and cost focused services.

As a Leadership Group, Members and Officers work collaboratively to serve our community and share our ideas and ambitions on how we can best deliver services either with partners or by ourselves. With this in mind, it is important that we listen to feedback and use this to shape our future. We have a stable financial position and will continue to manage our resources in a sensible and practical way whilst taking opportunities to invest in our services. Over the past twelve months, we have taken this approach to build resilience and capacity in our workforce at all levels, progress our ambitions to enhance and protect our environment, supported the growth of businesses and investment into the area and worked with partners to increase the mixed provision of Housing across our District.

This is our report to you. We do not stand still and will continue to transform our services and put you at the heart of everything we do.



Dr Justin Ives Chief Executive



Councillor Robert Pearson
Council Leader

Corporate Plan 2020/2024

Our Corporate Plan 2020/2024 focused on three corporate priorities

- 1 Priority 1 Our Environment
- 2 Priority 2 Our People
- **3** Priority 3 Our Future



Priority 1 - Our Environment

What we said we would focus on and do:

- Keeping a clean, green District for future generations.
- The Council to play an important role in protecting the environment and promoting responsible behaviour.
- The framework we have in place is accredited and to promote continual improvement of our environmental performance.
- We will work with partners locally and regionally to help the Council achieve carbon neutrality by 2030, making South Derbyshire cleaner and greener for future generations.

Our key aims to deliver this priority: Improve the environment of the District by:

- Reducing waste and increase composting and recycling.
- Reducing fly tipping and litter through education, engagement and zero tolerance enforcement action where appropriate.
- Enhancing biodiversity across the District.





Tackle climate change by:

- Making South Derbyshire District Council carbon neutral by 2030.
- Working with residents, businesses and partners to reduce their carbon footprint.

Enhance the attractiveness of South Derbyshire by:

- Enhancing the appeal of Swadlincote town centre as a place to visit.
- Improving public spaces to create an environment for people to enjoy.

What we did - the year's highlights and achievements:

Fly Tipping

At the outset of the Corporate Plan, we committed to "Reduce fly tipping and litter through education, engagement, and zero tolerance enforcement action where appropriate." We are pleased that we have made significant progress in this area. In 2023/24, the number of reported fly tipping incidents was 562, the lowest since 2014/15 and the second lowest since our records began in 2006. Our Community Safety **Enforcement Officers have conducted** numerous investigations to disrupt the activities of individuals involved in extensive fly tipping, often linked to organised crime. As a result, fly tipping believed to be attributable to these individuals has ceased. and legal cases are to be pursued.

In late 2023, law changes enabled us to introduce higher fixed penalty notices for fly tipping offences, increasing the maximum penalty from £400 to £1000. Additionally, our Officers conducted nearly 200 visits to local businesses to ensure compliance with their duty of care in properly disposing of commercial waste.

We successfully persuaded National Highways to fund work restricting access to a long-term fly tipping hotspot on Burton Road, Findern, significantly reducing incidents at this location. Furthermore, we have been collaborating with local farmers, landowners, and communities in areas such as Shardlow and Barrow on Trent to protect land against fly tippers.

Investment in **new surveillance** cameras enhanced our ability to use technology to identify vehicles linked to offences. We conducted interviews under caution with 30 individuals related to waste offences, seized two vehicles associated with fly tipping, and completed two successful prosecutions. Our Officers also worked with colleagues from the Derbyshire Police Rural Crime team on an anti-theft tagging programme with over £3.4million of farm vehicles marked.

We published a revised Climate and Environmental Action Plan containing 60 actions aimed at reducing carbon emissions from our activities and those within the District. This Action Plan was independently assessed by Climate Emergency UK as the best across Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire, the fourth best in the East Midlands, and 18th out of 158 District Councils across England. We are currently on track to deliver 90% of these actions.

To achieve Carbon Net Zero by 2030, we identified eight transformational actions related to emissions from our buildings and transport fleet, prioritising their delivery over the next four years. Our Operational Services led a pilot project testing hydrogen/diesel hybrid engines on two refuse collection vehicles, funded by the D2N2 Innovation Fund, garnering national interest. The findings will guide Councils nationwide on decarbonising waste collection vehicle fleets. All of our fleet are now using Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) which is expected to reduce fleet emissions by about 87%, and the fleet replacement plan will see all vehicles under 3.5 tonnes electrified by 2028.



Additionally, six of our public car parks now have EV charge points to use, with some specifically accessible for disabled people, and we are actively bidding for more for our District.

On September 14, 2023, we declared an ecological emergency to formally recognise the ongoing threat to wildlife and ecosystems in our District. Declaring the ecological emergency unites several key commitments to help restore the natural world and address unsustainable practices for future generations. The welfare of South Derbyshire and its residents remains our primary concern, and the Council is dedicated to making ecological considerations central to all our future decision-making processes.



Parks and Open Spaces

We successfully increased the number of Green Flag Awards from two to four adding the newly open Cadley Park to those awarded to Maurice Lea Memorial Park, Swadlincote Woods, and Eureka Park. The Orchard in Overseal also retained its Green Flag Community Award.

The annual local environmental quality survey achieved 97.9% rating of Grade B or above, up from 89.67% Grade C or above.

A comprehensive program of public events was delivered, including the Festival of Leisure, Music in the Park Events, Liberation Day, and Memorial and Remembrance events. The free tree scheme distributed over 400 packs, and we developed new community woods at Oversetts and Woodhouse recreation grounds in partnership with the National Forest.

A range of projects were delivered including, an **irrigation system** installed at Eureka Park Bowling Green, supporting the enhancement of park amenities. We supported **Love Parks Week** and **No Mow May** and created a wildflower meadow in



Church Gresley Cemetery. New signage was installed at Swadlincote Woodlands and other parks, enhancing the accessibility and enjoyment of these green spaces for all users and visitors.

A range of environment projects were delivered. The **Purple Emperor Butterfly Project** was launched, and public consultations were conducted for improvements to Oversetts Recreation Ground with over 300 responses. The overwhelming issue (with over 86%) was to protect the remaining green space from any development; and a five-year plan for Rosliston Forestry Centre, where the Council has secured a new 30-year lease from the Forestry Commission – Footpaths and signage were high on people's priorities.

Priority 2 - Our People

What we said we would focus on and do:

- Working with communities and meeting the future needs of the District.
- Put the people who live and work in our District are at the heart of everything we do, and we will work hard to ensure the many services we provide meet the needs of everyone and are of the highest quality.
- We will improve methods of engagement, enable independent and affordable living and provide opportunities for everyone to enjoy social, leisure and cultural activities.
- Support will be provided to help people achieve the very best quality of life, at home and at work.



Our key aims to deliver this priority:

Engage with our communities by:

- Supporting and celebrating volunteering, community groups and the voluntary sector.
- Helping tackle anti-social behaviour and crime through strong and proportionate action.

Supporting and safeguarding the most vulnerable by:

- Working with partners to encourage independent living and keep residents healthy and happy in their homes.
- Promoting health and wellbeing across the District.
- Improving the condition of housing stock and public buildings.
- Supporting social mobility to ensure people have the opportunity to access skilled jobs, higher and further education.

Deliver excellent services by:

- Ensuring consistency in the way the Council deals with its service users.
- Having in place methods of communication that enable customers to provide and receive information.
- Ensuring technology enables us to effectively connect with our communities.
- Investing in our workforce.



What we did - the year's highlights and achievements:

Community support

We supported local community groups by providing advice and support with their operations, to secure external funding, and facilitating training and coaching. In 2023-2024, 203 groups received support, contributing significantly to the community across South Derbyshire.

We allocated £94,465 from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Rural England Prosperity Fund Community Grants. Funding was awarded to seven projects, including Barrow on Trent Village Hall for solar panels, laptops for Citizens



Advice volunteers, a new kitchen and improvements at St Matthews Church and Community Centre in Overseal, a partial new roof for Melbourne United Reformed Church Hall, storage for the CVS food bank, a new mower for Aston and Weston Bowls Club, and cricket nets for Etwall Cricket Club.

£11,725 was allocated to 11 Safer Neighbourhood Projects, supporting Speed Watch Groups, CCTV for fly-tipping and anti-social behaviour, the Swadlincote Youth Hub, and solar-powered lighting at Strawberry Lane, Rosliston.

Health and wellbeing

We awarded a new leisure centre contract to Everyone Active, who will manage Green Bank and Etwall Leisure Centres starting April 1, 2024. This decision followed a robust procurement process, ensuring value for money and excellent service. The five-year contract, with a possible two-year extension, will use Everyone Active's experience managing over 230 centres nationwide, to enhance our sport and leisure offerings and encourage more people to take part in health and wellbeing activities.

The first **Beat the Street games** in South Derbyshire concluded with 6,367 participants walking, cycling or running an impressive 50,187 miles to different points in the District.

The **Summer Play Scheme** offered 90+ sessions, six skateboard coaching sessions, and five Project Park Sessions, for 11-17 year olds engaging 5,606 participants.

Youth activities included the Wednesday Night Project with 21 sessions (584 participations), the Friday Night Project with 31 sessions (424 participations), and support for the Hilton Youth Group with 30 sessions.

The **Talent Academy** supported 43 local athletes, providing free gym memberships and specialized workshops by the Derbyshire Institute of Sport. Additionally, South Derbyshire led the Walk Derbyshire Pilot project, securing £20,000 in funding.



Healthy and happy in your home

An investment of nearly £2millon was made in maintaining council homes, including new kitchens, bathrooms, roof repairs, rewires, fire protection, doors, windows, and heating installations. Additionally, Wave 1 of the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund Social was invested in over 80 properties in the District, with Wave 2 of the fund commencing. This means many residents will benefit from upgrades to their heating – this includes new heating systems, energy efficient doors and windows and upgraded insulation.

Recent reports indicate that 11.5% of South Derbyshire's population is in fuel poverty, below the regional average of 14.3% and the national average of 13.1%. We have conducted 203 fuel efficiency interventions to improve residential fuel efficiency and reduce fuel poverty. All 5,800 private rented properties in South Derbyshire now meet legal energy efficiency standards, thanks to innovative use of legal powers by our Environmental Health team.

We have worked with 962 households over the last four years to either prevent households from becoming homeless or helping to secure accommodation for those who are homeless.

Our **Strategic Housing Team** delivered 271 affordable homes across the District.

Tackling anti-social behaviour

Reports of anti-social behaviour (ASB) to the Police in 2023/24 were 26% lower than in 2019/20, while reports to the Council increased by 41% over the same period. However, the overall number of ASB reports to both the Police and the Council in 2023/24 was approximately 20% lower than in 2019/20.

Key actions include a new Public Spaces
Protection Order (PSPO) in Swadlincote
town centre, allowing the Police and
Council to effectively address ASB,
particularly among young people during
the summer. An additional Community
Safety Enforcement Officer was appointed
for two years, funded by the Shared



Prosperity Fund, to further combat ASB in the town centre with a new three-year PSPO for Eureka Park, giving Police and the Council more authority to enforce ASB.

The Council issued 38 Community
Protection Notice Warnings (CPNWs)
for persistent ASB, seven Community
Protection Notices (CPNs) for breaches of
CPNWs, and two fixed penalty notices for
CPN breaches. We also sent 55 ASB warning
letters to young people in Swadlincote town
centre and issued six Acceptable Behaviour
Contracts to repeat offenders.

Priority 3 - Our Future

What we said we would focus on and do:

- Growing our District and our skills base
- Building and attracting
 new homes, drawing in
 investment from new and
 existing businesses and
 working to provide improved
 infrastructure will be key aims
 over the next four years.
- Being open to innovation and embrace new technology to maintain exemplar services.
- We will work in partnership with others to build a future of which we are proud.

Our key aims to deliver this priority:

Develop skills and careers by:

- Attracting and retain skilled jobs in the District.
- Supporting unemployed residents back into work.

Support economic growth and infrastructure by:

- Encouraging and support business development and new investment in the District.
- Enabling the delivery of housing across all tenures to meet Local Plan targets.
- Influencing the improvement of infrastructure to meet the demands of growth.

Transforming the Council by:

- Providing modern ways of working that support the Council to deliver services to meet changing needs.
- Sourcing appropriate commercial investment opportunities for the Council.







What we did - the year's highlights and achievements:

Supporting business and enterprise

We have undertaken initiatives to boost business growth and attract new investments. This included celebrating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the international relationship with Toyota City in Japan, marked by events like the Toyota City Junior Marching Band performing at Music in the Park and Japan Fest at the Festival of Leisure. These events promoted Japanese culture and strengthened ties between the communities.

To support local entrepreneurs, the South Derbyshire Business Advice Service introduced 'Introduction to Marketing' workshops at the Swadlincote Innovation Centre. These workshops, along with the 'Thinking of Starting a Business' sessions, have been popular, helping entrepreneurs identify their target audience, set marketing goals, and choose effective strategies.

We have secured 10 new apprenticeships for young people in the District and will continue collaborating with local academic centres to create more opportunities.

Infrastructure improvements included opening a new public car park with electric vehicle charging points and a landscaped seating area in Swadlincote town centre, funded partly by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

There was significant net growth of 82,792 sqm of commercial floorspace with new projects like the Pallet Network at Tetron Point and the MEG Group bottling plant at Dove Valley Park now operational, evidencing our commitment to fostering business development and economic growth.

Groundwork Five Counties continued to deliver the Beyond Barriers South Derbyshire project, providing one-to-one employability support and Work Club session at the Old Post Centre, Newhall to economically inactive residents.

Businesses were promoted with opportunities for apprenticeships, support for people with disabilities or long-term health conditions, jobs fairs in Burton, Swadlincote and at the East Midlands Airport, volunteering, recruitment to emergency services, health and social care, and courses to improve numeracy skills.



Key events 2023/24

2023

April

- The first Beat the Street games in South Derbyshire took place with 6,367 players walking, cycling and running around the District.
- The start of a District-wide carbon-reduction trial to explore ways to reduce emissions.
- A new Chief Executive for the Council is appointed -Dr Justin Ives.

May

- Young entrepreneurs from The William Allitt School in Newhall run their own stalls in Swadlincote Market as part of Love your Local markets celebrations.
- Local elections are held, resulting in an overall Labour Party majority and Labour Councillor Robert Pearson announced as the new Leader of the Council.

June

 Japan Fest stars at Swadlincote's Festival of Leisure as part of the 25th anniversary celebrations, bringing a unique flavour of Japan in the form of anime, artwork, crafts, stationary, clothing, sweets, food and drink.

July

- Music in the Park live music events take place at Maurice Lea Memorial Park.
- Cadley Park is awarded a prestigious Green Flag Award.

August

- Swad Live a new community festival of live music takes place in Swadlincote town centre organised by South Derbyshire CVS.
- The Toyota City Junior Marching Band joined in the annual Music in the Park.

September

- The Council declares an ecological emergency to formally recognise the ongoing threat to wildlife and ecosystems in our District.
- A storage container at Swadlincote Woodlands gets sensationally transformed into a beautiful graffiti-style piece of art.

October

- The Free Tree scheme celebrates its 23rd consecutive year and keeps growing from strength to strength.
- Storm Babet hits and the Council responds with support and recovery activities to protect and help residents.

November

- The Council obtains a provisional award of up to £1,108,000 to invest in Swadlincote town centre as part of the Government's Levelling Up Fund.
- The Council backs a 'Growth and Development Plan' put forward by Sharpe's Pottery Museum.
- Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday parade and service held.

December

- Conservation initiative launches to welcome the Purple Emperor butterfly at Rosliston Forestry Centre.
- The annual Christmas events are held in Swadlincote Town Centre.

2024

January

- A thought-provoking exhibition at the South Derbyshire Visitor Centre focuses on the theme of this year's Holocaust Memorial Day.
- The Council appointed a leading gym, swim and activities provider, Everyone Active to take over the management of its two leisure centres from April 2024.

February

- Our apprenticeship success highlighted as part of the National Apprenticeship Week 2024 campaign.
- The My South Derbyshire online accounts launched, enabling customers to access personalised information, including local Councillor contact details and waste collection schedules.

March

- The Council opened a free-to-use, 54-space public car park and 'pocket park' in Swadlincote town centre with eight electric vehicle charging bays, three of which are Blue Badge/ accessible spaces.
- The new 2024-2028 Council Plan is completed and approved giving us a new vision and priorities for the next four years. Our focus is on the Environment, the Economy, Our Communities and Transforming the Council.





Finance

When you pay your Council
Tax, we keep only 10% to fund
vital services including waste
and recycling collections, street
cleansing, maintaining awardwinning parks and open spaces,
environmental protection,
customer services including
revenues and benefits, economic
development, markets, planning,
town centre events and tourism.
The rest of your Council Tax goes
to fund services provided by
Derbyshire County Council, the
Fire Service and the Police.

2023/24



The Council's Income

£m	Council's Income
12.03	Government Grants
0.54	Other Grants
10.87	Fees & Charges
3.85	Interest
13.48	Housing Rents
17.33	Local Taxation
0.00	COVID-19 Government Grants
58.09	Total



The Council's Expenditure

£m	Council's Expenditure
11.22	Housing Benefits
17.88	Housing Related Services
7.68	Support Services
8.22	Environmental & Regulatory Services
7.25	Culture & Community Services
3.04	Planning & Development
3.04	Highways & Transport
1.02	Corporate & Democratic Core
0.00	Grants Issued to the Public - COVID-19
1.25	Deficit

What the Council spent on land and property.

£m	Council Spend Land & Property
2.07	Property & Other Assets
2.60	Council House Improvements
0.53	Council House New Build
1.47	Private Sector Housing Renewal
0.44	Culture & Community Schemes
0.58	Environmental & Development Schemes
7.69	Expenditure

Revenue Reserves & Balances

£m	Revenue Reserves & Balances	
21.94	General Balances	
137.29	Unuseable Reserves	
25.21	Capital Reserves	
10.93	Earmarked Reserves	
195.38	Net Worth	

Net Assets

Net Assets	£m
Value of Land & Property	192.57
Liquid Assets	58.68
Liabilities	-55.87
Net Worth	195.38

Full details of spending and budgets is available at: www.southderbyshire.gov.uk/about-us/financial-information





Looking Forward

Our Vision for the next four years is to;

Work together to shape our environment, drive our economy and support our communities.

We have a new Council Plan 2024-28 that continues and accelerates our commitments to delivering the best for our residents, customers, and communities with the support of our partners and dedicated employees.

We have listened to feedback, reviewed our performance and looked ahead to identify the opportunities we need to take and the challenges we need address over the next four years to make your District Council one of which we all are proud.

We have developed our Plan into four key priorities which are to; Shape our Environment, Drive our Economy, Support our Communities and Transform our Council. Under each of these we have set ourselves ambitious targets to deliver on your behalf. Some of these include;

- Becoming Carbon Neutral by 2030.
- Improving our Waste and Recycling service performance.
- Raising the social mobility and employment of our young people.
- Attracting more investment into our District.

- Providing access to affordable homes.
- Improving the health and wellbeing of our residents.
- Providing accessible and excellent levels of customer service.
- Raising our profile at a local, regional and national level.

For information on our new Council Plan 2024-2028 and our priorities for South Derbyshire, please visit: www.southderbyshire.gov.uk/about-us/the-council-plan-2024-2028



We will achieve more by working together, taking time to listen, learn and being open and transparent about our performance and achievements. We will describe our journey not only in our regular performance reports but through our workforce who have told us the seven corporate values that they will work to in delivering services.

We look forward to serving you over the next four years.

If you need an alternative version of this document

If you would like this document in another language, or if you require the services of an interpreter, please contact us. This information is also available in large print, Braille or audio format upon request.

General enquiries:
Call 01283 595795 or visit
www.southderbyshire.gov.uk/contact

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如果你需要这份文件的中文翻译,或者需要传译员的帮助,请联系我们。这些数据也备有大字体印本、盲人点字和录音带,欢迎索取。

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ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਹ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ ਕਿਸੇ ਦੂਸਰੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਚਾਹੀਦਾ ਹੈ, ਜਾਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਦੁਭਾਸ਼ੀਏ ਦੀਆਂ ਸੇਵਾਵਾਂ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਸਾਡੇ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰਨ ਦੀ ਕ੍ਰਿਪਾ ਕਰੋ ਜੀ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਮੰਗ ਕਰਨ ਤੇ ਵੱਡੇ ਅੱਖਰਾਂ, ਬ੍ਰੇਅਲ ਜਾਂ ਆਡਿਉ ਦੇ ਰੂਪ ਵਿਚ ਵੀ ਉਪਲੱਬਧ ਕਰਵਾਈ ਜਾ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੈ।

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