

# **DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**



## **A QUICK GUIDE TO THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

**2005-06**

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## INTRODUCTION

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We know that your council tax bill is one of the biggest bills you get each year. That's why we keep a firm grip on our spending. We want to make sure you get the best possible deal for your money.

None of us likes paying taxes. We're no different from you. That's why we treat your money like it is our own. We don't want to waste it. We want to make it go as far as possible so you don't have to dig deeper to pay for your local services.

We have to make ends meet and that means making choices. We can't do everything we want to. But we try to make sure we deliver what you want. And, so we can do that little bit extra – we're always on the look out to do more with the same - giving you even better value for money.

We're not perfect. There's more work to be done. But we really are cutting out waste and red tape to protect your local services.

## HOW WE HAVE DONE

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Inspectors say we're one of the top five councils in the country. And we're one of the best when it comes to making the most of what we've got. It means we're giving you good value for money and we're getting better and better. We work hard to do our best for you but we know there's lots more to do.

Independent watchdogs - the Audit Commission - say we have "a very strong track record of improvement". And we have made "good use" of our resources – a key part of being an excellent council. Our external auditors KPMG check up on us too. Their most recent reports say:

- "The council continues to perform well."
- "Services have continued to improve."

## **WHAT WE HAVE SPENT IN 2005/06**

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We mean it when we say we keep a tight grip on our purse strings. And we take great pride in doing more with less. It's a good job too because - just like you at home - we haven't got a bottomless pit of money.

This year's council tax increase of 2.25% - 30p a week for the average household - was the lowest of any county council in the country. It has been for the last three years. But we know that it doesn't make it any easier to swallow.

But it meant we could:

- meet the cost of pay and price rises - £25 million
- boost school budgets by an extra £9.5 million
- invest an extra £9.2 million to support vulnerable people.

And it meant there was more money for:

- tackling crime
- Gold Card travel and discount card for the over 60s
- recycling and environmental projects.

We want to make your life easier and we don't want to burden you. That's why we are careful with your money. We're always on the look out for cheaper and better ways of doing things so we can put more into services for you and your family.

## WHAT WE ARE DOING NOW

Yet again we set the lowest council tax increase of any county council in the country for 2006/07. It meant a 4.5% increase - or 62p a week - for the average household. Now our council tax levels are well below the average for similar county councils.

Our new budget doesn't allow us to do everything we would like. But it does mean we can meet the extra cost of:

- pay and price increases
- waste disposal taxes
- debt charges for our road and school improvement programmes
- pensions and insurance.

We're also investing nearly £5 million more in important local services particularly those for children, vulnerable and disabled people. And to help us balance the books we're using around £10 million of efficiency savings. It means we're doing more with the same - giving you even better value for money.

### *The detail for 2005/06*

This is how much it cost to deliver all county council services between 1 April 2005 and 31 March 2006.

	£000	£000
Education		458,917
Central		7,082
Courts		563
Cultural, Environmental and Planning		41,799
Highways, Roads and Transport		59,022
Social Services		184,666
Other Income		-52,908
Corporate & Democratic Core		6,498
Interest Received		-9,675
Contribution to Reserves		8,285
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>704,249</b>
Financed by:		
Council Tax Payers	228,536	
Government Grant	249,792	
Non Domestic Rates	226,136	
Other Income	1,669	
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>706,133</b>
<b>Surplus Transferred to Balances and Reserves</b>		<b>-1,884</b>

## CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

We're spending more money than ever buying, developing and maintaining our buildings, roads and other assets. Between 1 April 2005 and 31 March 2006 there were big improvements to our schools, youth centres, older people's homes, roads and pavements.

	£000	£000
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Schools	54,583	
Highways	21,407	
Social Services	11,766	
Reclamation of Derelict Land	3,287	
Change Management	281	
Youth and Community Education	2,094	
Other	<u>5,289</u>	
		<b>98,707</b>
<b>Financed by</b>		
Capital Grants and contributions	37,102	
Long Term Loans	46,614	
Capital Receipts & other internal funds	<u>14,991</u>	
		<b>98,707</b>

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2006

<b>Assets</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Land, Buildings and Infrastructure	1,475,769	
Vehicles, Plant and Equipment	54,502	
Amounts owed to the Council	107,120	
Cash and Temporary Investments	231,576	
Stocks and Work in Progress	5,998	
	<u>                    </u>	1,874,965
<b>Less Liabilities</b>		
Long Term Borrowing	-384,496	
Amounts owed in short term by the Council	-151,862	
Government grants received but not yet used	-88,995	
Provisions	-17,262	
	<u>                    </u>	-642,615
<b>Net Assets</b>		<u><b>1,232,350</b></u>
<b>Represented by:</b>		
Capital Balances and Reserves		1,130,491
Revenue Balances Reserves		101,859
		<u><b>1,232,350</b></u>

- Our pension liability and reserve are not included.

## **DERBYSHIRE PENSION FUND**

We look after the pension fund for our own employees and also those employed by 84 other local councils and organisations. There are 33,259 people paying in to the fund and 28,174 people receiving a pension from it.

The value of the pension fund goes up and down depending on economic and stock market changes. Markets are currently rising and there's £1.5 billion in the fund. However, like many funds we believe we will need more cash to meet future pension demands. This may have to be raised through bigger contributions.

### **Who pays in and what's paid out.**

	<b>£000</b>
Amounts paid by contributors	106,385
Less Pensions paid	-67,713
Investment Income	48,193
Increase in the value of assets	328,334
Less Administrative and Management Expenses	<u>-2,313</u>
Increase in value of the Fund at 31 March 2005	412,174
<b>Value of the Fund at 31/03/05</b>	<b>1,920,422</b>

## CONTACT US

More information and our full statement of accounts is available from:

- the Derbyshire County Council website [www.derbyshire.gov.uk](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk)
- Call Derbyshire on 08 456 058 058.

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Derbyshire DE4 3AG or email your comments to: [richard.appleby@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:richard.appleby@derbyshire.gov.uk)