

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL



A QUICK GUIDE TO THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2006-07

CONTENTS

<i>CONTENTS</i> _____	- 1 -
<i>INTRODUCTION</i> _____	- 2 -
<i>HOW WE HAVE DONE</i> _____	- 3 -
<i>WHAT WE HAVE SPENT IN 2006-07</i> _____	- 4 -
<i>WHAT WE ARE DOING NOW</i> _____	- 5 -
<i>The detail for 2006-07</i> _____	- 5 -
<i>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</i> _____	- 6 -
<i>BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2007</i> _____	- 7 -
<i>DERBYSHIRE PENSION FUND</i> _____	- 8 -
<i>FEEDBACK</i> _____	- 9 -

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

- Our website www.derbyshire.gov.uk/council/council_tax/
- Call Derbyshire on 08 456 058 058.

INTRODUCTION

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

Inspectors say we're one of the top performing 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 a lot more to do.

We are continually assessed by a number of independent watchdogs. The Audit Commission assesses each local authority at regular intervals through a Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA). In 2006/07 the authority was re-assessed on its Use of Resources as part of the annual review of its CPA score and scored 3 out of 4, the same score as previously. 3 out of 4 is classed as "performing well" and helped to contribute to the maintenance of the Council's overall 4 star CPA rating, the maximum score. In 2006 the Council implemented an action plan to deliver a Use of Resources score of 4 out of 4 by 2009; the Council has made progress towards achieving this score and in consequence has been held up nationally as an exemplar of good practice for its Financial Standing.

Overall the Audit Commission stated that: -

"The Council is maintaining a good level of performance and making improvements in its priority areas. Key services, such as adult social care and services for children and young people are performing strongly. Improvements have been made in recycling and reducing waste. Satisfaction with the Council overall has notably improved. However the Council has had less success in maintaining improvement and meeting targets against other priorities, such as outcomes for looked after children.

Access to services has improved through the development of the Council website and call centre and also through the introduction of local area forums. However, physical access to Council buildings remains relatively poor, and approaches to engaging with 'hard to reach' groups require further development.

The Council is providing good value for money, and works effectively with partners to deliver joint priorities. Efficiency targets have been significantly exceeded. The Council has effective leadership, robust arrangements for planning and delivering services, and sound finances. It is well-placed to maintain improvements in its services for local people."

WHAT WE HAVE SPENT IN 2006-07

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.

The 2006-07 council tax increase of 4.5% – 62p a week for the average household - was one of the lowest of any county council in the country. 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
- meet debt charges on capital expenditure
- meet extra insurance premiums and waste disposal taxes
- invest an extra £7.0 million to further improve services.

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. The Council achieved £6m of cash releasing efficiency savings which it used to help achieve its service improvements.

The council is responsible for: -

- Pays for more than 430 schools and 12,700 staff to educate nearly 115,000 pupils
- Provides a free home help service to 14,700 vulnerable people
- Delivers 725,000 meals on wheels
- Supplies over 18,700 aids and adaptations to disabled people
- Carries out nearly 1,000 child protection investigations
- Invests over £25m repairing and improving over 3,500 miles of roads and pavements
- Organises free and half price school transport for 35,000 pupils
- Spends £1.7m on books, CDs and DVDs for our 59 libraries
- Look after 3,200 miles of footpaths, five country parks, wildlife sites and information centres
- Dispose of over 360,000 tonnes of household waste collected by the district councils and brought to recycling centres
- Provides 60,000 b-line cards offering discounts to young people and 175,000 Gold cards offering free travel and discounts to older and disabled people

WHAT WE ARE DOING NOW

Yet again we set one of the lowest council tax increase of any county council in the country for 2007/08. It meant a 3.9% increase - or 57p 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, and we know we face major challenges in the future such as the growth in the elderly population, landfill tax and penalties, climate change and the need to continue our successful efficiency drive.

We're also investing nearly £9 million more in important local services particularly those for children, vulnerable and disabled people. And to help us balance the books we're constantly looking into ways to deliver efficiency savings. It means we're doing more with the same - giving you even better value for money.

The detail for 2006-07

This is how much it cost to deliver all county council services between 1 April 2006 and 31 March 2007.

	£000	£000
Education		641,439
Social Services		315,320
Highways, Roads and Transport		77,068
Cultural, Environmental and Planning		50,108
Central		30,979
Corporate & Democratic Core		7,621
Courts		1,048
Interest Paid		19,584
Pensions Interest Cost and Expected Return On Assets		11,192
Other Costs		7,089
Total Expenditure		1,161,448
Financed by: Council Tax Payers	240,990	
General Government Grant	20,901	
Non Domestic Rates	109,255	
Specific Government Grants	559,854	
Interest Received	12,302	
Other Income	188,610	
Total Income		1,131,912
Deficit Transferred from Balances		29,536

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

We're spending more money than ever buying, developing and maintaining our buildings, roads and other assets. Between 1 April 2006 and 31 March 2007 there were big improvements to our schools, youth centres, older people's homes, roads and pavements.

	£000	£000
Expenditure		
Schools	52,227	
Highways	18,246	
Reclamation of Derelict Land	10,060	
Social Services	6,169	
Change Management	3,424	
Youth and Community Education	1,337	
Other	<u>5,266</u>	
		96,729
Financed by		
Capital Grants and contributions	53,348	
Long Term Loans	35,234	
Capital Receipts & other internal funds	<u>8,147</u>	
		96,729

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2007

Assets	£000	£000
Land, Buildings and Infrastructure	1,520,995	
Vehicles, Plant and Equipment	52,071	
Amounts owed to the Council	116,228	
Cash and Temporary Investments	263,399	
Stocks and Work in Progress	4,368	
	<u> </u>	1,957,061
Less Liabilities		
Long Term Borrowing	-420,136	
Amounts owed in short term by the Council	-157,776	
Government grants received but not yet used	-112,813	
Provisions	-16,761	
	<u> </u>	-707,486
Net Assets		<u><u>1,249,575</u></u>
Represented by:		
Capital Balances and Reserves		1,145,056
Revenue Balances Reserves		104,519
		<u><u>1,249,575</u></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 34,847 people paying in to the fund and 30,103 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 £2.1 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.

	£000
Amounts paid by contributors	128,535
Less Pensions paid	-84,479
Investment Income	55,406
Increase in the value of assets	77,414
Less Administrative and Management Expenses	<u>-3,401</u>
Increase in value of the Fund at 31 March 2007	173,475
Value of the Fund at 31/03/07	2,087,881

FEEDBACK

We want you to have the information you want about us. To help us improve the information you receive about us please tell us what you think of this summary.

- Does it give you the information you want?
If no, what else would you want included?
- Is it easy to read and understand?
If no, how do you think it could be improved?
- Are you happy with the design and layout?
If no, how do you think it could be improved?
- How did you get hold of your copy of this summary?
- Would you like more information about our spending and budget?

Any other comments

Name:

Address: (optional)

.....
.....
.....

Telephone:

Please return to Freepost, Derbyshire County Council, County Hall,
Matlock, Derbyshire DE4 3AG or email your comments to:

peter.handford@derbyshire.gov.uk