

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL



A QUICK GUIDE TO THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2007-08

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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 2007/08 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 has delivered strongly against its over-arching priority of delivering high quality services. Service quality is very good. Derbyshire performs better than many county councils and is continuing to improve performance. With its partners it has delivered improved community outcomes in priority areas and achieved nine out of twelve stretch targets in its Public Service Agreement. The Council and its partners have been successful in making people feel safer and reducing burglaries. Focusing road safety measures on key routes has reduced fatal and serious motorcycle accidents by 29 per cent and neighbourhood projects are having a visible impact. The Council has been successful in engaging with older people through its 50+ forums, and supporting more vulnerable adults to live independently. Adult social care is rated as excellent. Outcomes for children in Derbyshire are good. Healthy lifestyles are promoted well and children and young people achieve well and are safe. Looked after children are well provided for, and while they continue to perform less well at school than other children the gap is narrowing. The Council has successfully worked with partners to improve recycling and rates in Derbyshire are on track to meet statutory recycling targets.

Derbyshire has a robust approach to financial management and, as a result, has strong financial capacity and sufficient levels of reserves to provide for the future. There is a strong focus on value for money (VFM) and an extensive change management programme has resulted in service improvements and savings. It has a robust approach to procurement and some effective approaches to securing improvements such as electronic purchasing and a local procurement initiative. Staff are enthusiastic, committed and many are long serving. "

WHAT WE HAVE SPENT IN 2007-08

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 2007-08 council tax increase of 3.9% – 57p 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.

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 is responsible for: -

- Pays for more than 431 schools and 12,734 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 363,000 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 increases of any county council in the country for 2008/09. It meant a 3.5% increase - or 52p a week - for the average household.

Our 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 £8 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 2007-08

This is how much it cost to deliver all county council services between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2008.

	£000	£000
Education		603,266
Social Services		316,251
Highways, Roads and Transport		69,147
Cultural, Environmental and Planning		51,365
Central		23,108
Corporate & Democratic Core		7,842
Courts		1,128
Interest Paid		18,378
Pensions Interest Cost and Expected Return On Assets		9,764
Other Costs		18,428
Total Expenditure		1,118,677
Financed by:		
Council Tax Payers	251,759	
General Government Grant	19,769	
Non Domestic Rates	117,796	
Specific Government Grants	570,542	
Interest Received	17,029	
Other Income	123,411	
Total Income		1,100,306
Surplus Transferred from Balances		(18,371)

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

We're spending more money than ever buying, developing and maintaining our buildings, roads and other assets. Between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2008 there were big improvements to our schools, youth centres, older people's homes, roads and pavements.

	£000	£000
Expenditure		
Schools	50,896	
Highways	26,880	
Reclamation of Derelict Land	17,883	
Social Services	8,728	
Change Management	2,688	
Youth and Community Education	1,381	
Other	<u>4,530</u>	
		112,986
Financed by		
Capital Grants and contributions	71,513	
Long Term Loans	21,764	
Capital Receipts & other internal funds	<u>19,709</u>	
		112,986

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2008

Assets	£000	£000
Land, Buildings and Infrastructure	1,609,337	
Vehicles, Plant and Equipment	49,787	
Amounts owed to the Council	115,458	
Cash and Temporary Investments	289,479	
Stocks and Work in Progress	4,558	
	<u> </u>	2,068,619
 Less Liabilities		
Long Term Borrowing	(420,169)	
Amounts owed in short term by the Council	(174,023)	
Government grants received but not yet used	(157,317)	
Provisions	(13,095)	
	<u> </u>	(764,604)
Net Assets		<u><u>1,304,015</u></u>
 Represented by:		
Capital Balances and Reserves		1,181,798
Revenue Balances Reserves		122,217
		<u><u>1,304,015</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 73 other local councils and organisations. There are 35,966 people paying in to the fund and 32,139 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	133,931
Less Pensions paid	(93,848)
Investment Income	68,187
Increase in the value of assets	(121,563)
Less Administrative and Management Expenses	(3,549)
Increase in value of the Fund at 31 March 2008	<u>(16,842)</u>
Value of the Fund at 31/03/08	2,077,445

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)

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Telephone:

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

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