

# A guide for county council candidates

**Elections – 4 June 2009**

# Introduction

**Derbyshire County Council is about people.** It's about what we can do to make local life better. It's about making sure our communities get the services they need, when and where they need them. And it's about making the best possible use of council tax payers' money.

We've got a national reputation for providing top quality schools and nurseries, home and residential care services, libraries, public transport and roads.

And we couldn't provide the best possible services for local people without the help, support and direction provided by our elected councillors.

We hope that the information in this booklet will be useful for those thinking about standing to become a councillor.

## What we do

We provide over 300 different services for local people. These services touch all aspects of daily life and include schools and lifelong learning, care for children in need, care for older and disabled people, roads and public transport and libraries and trading standards. Our services include:

- 425 schools and 8,000 teachers to educate 110,000 pupils
- A free home help service to 10,000 vulnerable people
- A meals on wheels service delivering meals to 3,800 vulnerable people
- b\_line – 60,000 cut-price student travel and discount cards
- Foster homes for more than 500 children and young people
- Nearly 1,300 child protection investigations each year
- Over £25 million of repairs and improvements to 3,500 miles of roads and pavements a year
- 3,000 miles of footpaths, 7 nature reserves and five country parks
- Free and half price school transport for 35,000 pupils
- Free internet access in our 45 libraries
- The disposal and recycling of 400,000 tonnes of waste collected by district councils and our seven household waste and recycling centres every year

Our headquarters are at County Hall, Matlock and the administrative area includes the Boroughs of Amber Valley, Chesterfield, High Peak and Erewash and the Districts of Bolsover, Derbyshire Dales, North East Derbyshire and South Derbyshire.

The council has been Labour-controlled since 1981 and following the May 2005 elections there are 38 Labour, 15 Conservative, 10 Liberal Democrat and 1 Independent councillor.

Our vision is to *“improve life for local people by delivering high quality services.”*

And our current goals are to:

- Provide direction and leadership, and manage and improve the council’s resources, in order to ensure high quality and value for money services.
- Create an environment where all children can be healthy, stay safe, enjoy and achieve, make a positive contribution and achieve economic wellbeing.
- Improve the health, wellbeing and choices of older people and vulnerable adults, and support them to live independently.
- Create well connected communities with transport services
- Make places where people want to live and work now and in the future.
- Strengthen the local economy and tackle deprivation within the county.
- Promote safer communities and protect local people.
- Improve access and encourage participation in leisure, recreation, information, lifelong learning and culture.
- Promote Derbyshire in order to increase confidence, investment and resources.

Day-to-day work is carried out by employees working in our six departments, which each look after particular services we provide.

These are:

- Chief executives
- Corporate resources
- Cultural and community services
- Children and younger adults
- Environmental services
- Adult social services.

**Chief executives** is responsible for creating plans to improve life for local people. This includes finding ways to combat poverty, support businesses, promote the use of public transport and protect the environment. Staff also make sure we're communicating clearly with residents so people know about our services.

**Corporate resources** provides legal, personnel, IT, property and finance services.

**Cultural and community services** covers libraries, Derbyshire record office, Buxton Museum and Art Gallery, the arts, the schools' library service and the county's trading standards service.

**Children and younger adults** looks after social services and education for children, young people and their families. We head Derbyshire Children's Trust, which is responsible for coordinating all services that we and our partner organisations provide for youngsters across the county. We also manage the safeguarding and protection of children on behalf of the local safeguarding children's board.

**Environmental services** focuses on providing a good transport network throughout the county and helping residents to enjoy the countryside. Teams include public transport, the countryside service, planning and roads and highways.

**Adult social services** manage support for older people, disabled people, people with a learning disability and people with mental health problems. These services help people live independently and enjoy a high quality of life.

To help residents use all these services and contact us easily we set up **Call Derbyshire**. By calling **08456 058 058** people can speak to an advisor who can help them with any enquiries they might have.

## About Derbyshire

Derbyshire is in the centre of England. We are bordered by four county councils (Cheshire, Staffordshire, Leicestershire, and Nottinghamshire) and seven metropolitan districts (Barnsley, Sheffield, Rotherham, Kirklees, Oldham, Stockport, and Tameside). We also circle Derby City Council.

Derbyshire covers an area of over 255,071 hectares. Around 754,000 people live here. Our major urban area is Chesterfield where 100,455 people live. The rest of the county is made up of smaller towns and villages, mostly down the eastern and north western edges of the county. The centre of the county is sparsely-populated much of which is at altitudes of 300m or more and includes a major part of the Peak District National Park.

# How decisions get made

The council's cabinet, which is made up of the council's leader and nine council members, is responsible for making key executive decisions.

Each cabinet member is responsible for one of nine portfolios:

- **Strategic policy and budget**
- **Children's services**
- **Schools**
- **Services for older people and vulnerable adults**
- **Environmental services**
- **Regeneration**
- **Community safety**
- **Culture**
- **Neighbourhood services**

Cabinet is supported by four improvement and scrutiny committees which examine key council decisions and make recommendations to bring about improvements. The committees each look at areas of the council:

- **Resources**
- **Healthier communities**
- **Services for children**
- **Safe and sustainable communities**

# How we're financed

Our total budget is just over £1 billion each year. This includes the money that the Government gives us to pass on to schools. The following figures are for the financial year 2009/10

## Where the money comes from

- £32.8 million – Government Grant
- £142.4 million – Business Rates
- £34.4 million – Area Based Grant
- £270.4 million – Council Tax

**Total £480.0 million**

A further £660.0 million – mainly funded by government grants – has to be spent on specific services such as schools. This takes the total spending by Derbyshire County Council to **£1.104 billion.**

## Where it goes

- £131.6 million – Children's services
- £192.8 million – Adult services
- £52.0 million – Roads, lights and paths
- £10.7 million – Public Transport
- £3.3 million – Planning
- £25.7 million – Waste disposal
- £2.8 million – Trading standards
- £16.8 million – Cultural and community services
- £26.2 million – Other services including: recreation and tourism, registrars, emergency planning, coroners, administration of justice, central administration and a levy to the Environment Agency for flood defence works.
- £13.5 million – contingency
- Less £7.8 million – internal financing and receipts
- Add £12.4 million – capital accounting adjustment (asset rentals less borrowing charges)

**Total £480.0 million**

**For every person in Derbyshire during 2009/10 we will spend:**

£173 – on children’s services

£254 – on adult services

£68 – on roads, lights and paths

£14 – on public transport

£4 – on planning

£35 – on waste disposal

£4 – on trading standards

£22 – on libraries, cultural and community services

£35 – on other services

£18 – on contingency

*Less* £10 – on internal financing and receipts

*Add* £16 – on capital accounting adjustments

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**Total spending on services for each  
Derbyshire resident for 2009/10 is £633.**

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