

Annual

2008 - 2009

Report

Our best year yet!

This year has been another success story for North East Derbyshire District Council - in fact, it shaped up to be our best year yet!

It began in May 2008, with confirmation that we were the first local authority in history to leap straight from being classed as a 'weak' council, to an 'excellent' council under the Audit Commission's inspection system - a truly monumental achievement!

Fast forward eleven months and we also ended the year on a high, as finalists in two top government awards - the Local Government Chronicle's 'Most Improved Council of the Year,' and the Municipal Journal's 'Most Effective Political Team Achievement of the Year' category.

These accolades are not about collecting trophies for the shelf. We value them because they give us external confirmation that we're getting it right for our residents; that our service is of the excellent standard you should expect from your local authority.

They were just two of the highlights in a busy, challenging, yet rewarding year for us.

Our successes have been many and varied - including the launch of innovative projects, developing a stronger involvement with our communities, transforming working practices both within the Council and with our partners, and reviewing the way the authority works to provide improved value for money.

Our 'excellent' Comprehensive Performance Assessment rating from the Audit Commission has put us in the spotlight. Many of our teams have received national awards, and councils from around the UK (and even Japan!) are coming to learn how we turned things around in such dramatic fashion.

They've asked what's our secret? It's simple - people are at the heart of our progress.

The people that make up our communities are our focus, and the people within the Council are the driving force behind this; our Members are challenging and supportive, and managers and staff are motivated to achieve our vision for North East Derbyshire.

Plus, feedback from our communities shows our services are getting better - residents are involved in democracy and feel this is a great place to live, visit, work and do business.

Looking forward, it's no secret that times are difficult for councils - we are not immune to the impact of the changing economic climate.

However, throughout 2008/09 we have maintained a clear focus on improving our services while providing value for money and making the Council more efficient.

This focus will continue, whilst delivering our ambitions for local people - and that means the next 12 months promise to be just as busy as the last!



Mike Goodwin
Chief Executive



Cllr. Graham Baxter
Leader of the Council



Our vision and ambitions

North East Derbyshire District Council is a strong, innovative and forward-looking organisation. We work efficiently - and alongside our partners - to meet the needs of our communities, whilst delivering national policies set out by the government.

Balancing all of this is a challenge but, through clear priorities and effective community involvement, we are well placed to meet this challenge and to ensure we deliver our vision for North East Derbyshire.

Our Vision for 2020

Working with our partners and diverse communities, we want North East Derbyshire to be a great place for all to live and work, where children have a good start in life and everyone can fulfil their potential. This will be a

district with a strong sense of civic and community pride, where people feel involved in ensuring that excellent public services are delivered and opportunities for education and skills development, employment, cultural and leisure activities are available for all throughout their lives.

Our Mission

To ensure that we deliver our vision we will:

- Make a difference by building thriving communities through partnership, community leadership and excellent service delivery.

Our Values

Underpinning every area of our work are our values:

- We are honest, open and accountable
- We value peoples' differences and we will treat everyone fairly and with respect

- We listen, involve and respond to all our communities
- We always look for new and better ways of working to improve quality and value

Our ambitions for North East Derbyshire:

We have developed five ambitions that will enable us to deliver our long-term vision for the district. Over the next three years, our attention and resources will be focused on creating and maintaining:

- Safe, healthy and respectful communities
- A thriving local economy
- Clean, green and attractive environment
- Decent and affordable homes for local people
- Excellent service, high performance and value for money.

Finance: Funding our Priorities

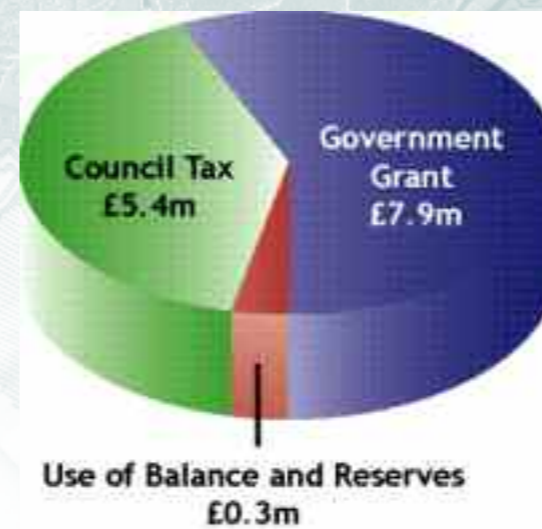
Although times are challenging, at North East Derbyshire District Council our aim remains the same: *to provide excellent, value for money services to our residents*

Here we look at where Council funding comes from, how much that adds up to and how is that money spent.

How do we receive our funding?

The Council's total income for 2008/9 was £15.9m. For 2009/10 this has reduced to £13.6m. This comes from a variety of sources, illustrated by the chart below.

Sources of income 2009/10 £million



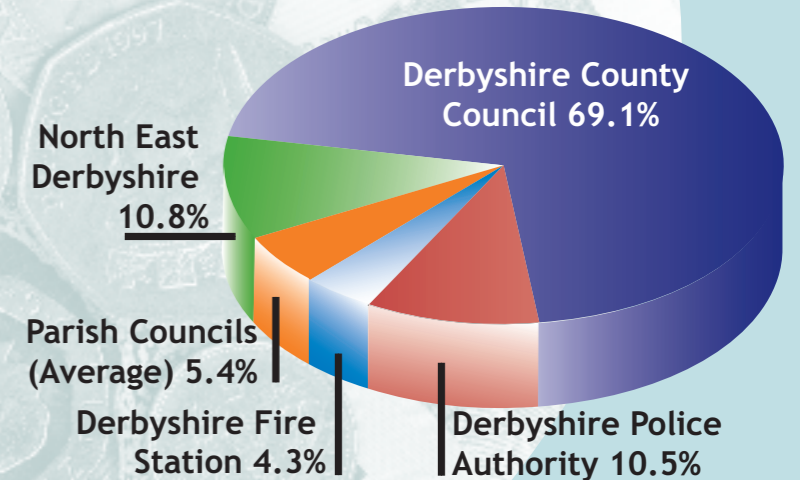
Council Tax

During our budget consultations residents asked us to keep Council Tax increases as low as possible, to help all households in the district through this difficult financial time.

We listened - setting an increase of just 2.9 %, which is below the national average.

As well as to fund our own services, we also collect Council Tax on behalf of other public authorities in the county, including Derbyshire County Council, Derbyshire Police Authority, Derbyshire Fire Authority and parish councils.

Council Tax band D 2009/10



The chart below shows exactly how your Council Tax is split between these authorities, but this roughly equates to:

- 70% goes directly to Derbyshire County Council to pay for things like schools and social care
- 11% comes to us at North East Derbyshire District Council
- 10% goes to Derbyshire Police Authority
- 5% goes to your parish council to fund specific community initiatives such as community halls and to provide and maintain recreational areas
- 4% goes to Derbyshire Fire Authority

For more detailed information about our where our budget is spent, please visit the website at www.ne-derbyshire.gov.uk/budget-spend