

STATEMENT BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

20 SEPTEMBER 2011

In August, I attended a meeting of North Yorkshire local authority Leaders and Chief Executives to discuss sharing services and future partnership working. It is not until you sit down and listen to others that you realise how progressive and far thinking Hambleton District Council is – a fact recognised by many. We are the only Council locally, with an LDF approved by the Secretary of State. Like everywhere in the country, Hambleton needs to build houses. We can now confidentially look forward to providing a policy of having homes built for local people to own, rent or have shared ownership participation. Together with housing, we have made provision for employment, and enquiries from the private sector are already being made. We embarked on Shared Services with Richmondshire District Council before the economic need became paramount, and are currently doing a second sweep of shared services, looking for further joint savings to be added to the £2m already found. In sharing a Chief Executive with Richmondshire District Council and introducing Shared Services, a stimulus has been created for future co-operation elsewhere.

At the meeting of Leaders and Chief Executive that I referred to, a common desire was expressed for all Councils to work together and share the responsibility for taking North Yorkshire forward in these troubled times; particularly economic growth. I gave my total support with examples of our present direction of travel. I came away with an approach from another authority interested in working with us on CCTV. Much work needs to be done on this and towards the end of this year a report to Cabinet may outline progress.

It is my intention to continue providing the best possible service for our customers and work moves at a pace to succeed in this endeavour.