

STATEMENT BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

21 FEBRUARY 2012

Cabinet took the decision on 24th January to end the 20 year relationship which has seen Council sitting on the board of management at Broadacres Housing Association. In 1992 Hambleton Housing Association, later to be known as Broadacres Housing Association, was created when HDC transferred its housing stock of approximately 4300 houses into their care.

This transfer has proved to be an excellent method of providing social housing for our Hambleton residents. It has also enabled over 500 houses to be sold under the Right to Buy policy giving people the independence which at times must have seemed beyond their reach.

Today, Broadacres own approximately 5300 house with 800 of these outside the Hambleton area. All tenures are offered with the majority in the category of social rented. The balance is made up of intermediate rent, shared ownership and shared equity properties. Right to Buy is still available. They have 3 Extra Care Schemes and also provide supported housing for people with learning difficulties and mental health problems. Broadacres has travelled a long way since 1992 and Hambleton District Council congratulate them and wish them further success in the years to come.

So why has this Council taken the decision to leave their Board of Management. In 2011 Broadacres took another significant step forward in their expansion and became developers and will be building some 400, much needed, affordable houses over the next 15 years at Sowerby Gateway. There are huge pressures for the provision of social housing with an estimated 85 homes required each year for the next 3 years in Sowerby and Thirsk alone. Much has been said about Sowerby Gateway, but the underlying fact is that we must provide all types of accommodation to meet not just the demands of to-day but for years to come.

In congratulating Broadacres on their success we do not forget the other Registered Social Landlords who operate in Hambleton. Jointly, their endeavours have made Hambleton a good place to live for so many people.