

# **STATEMENT BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

**10 APRIL 2012**

As we approach the end of this council year yet again the outstanding success has been that of shared services with Richmondshire District Council. As the Leader of that Council has said "It is the only game in town" and I whole heartedly agree. From a Hambleton perspective, savings over the last 2 years has amounted to approximately £1 million. But the time has come for a fundamental review of this method of working. Not only do we need to look for more savings, we also need to ensure our customers are getting value for money and that our staff are proportionately employed. Shared services are here to stay and I look forward to further successful ventures with Richmondshire District Council.

The last few months have seen considerable change to the Management Team and a different approach to responsibilities will emerge in the weeks to come, but the important message is that Hambleton District Council is still providing excellent customer services. There is still room for improvement in some areas and this is being addressed. I would like to thank all of our staff for their hard work, dedication and loyalty during this period of change.

In the next few weeks we will be welcoming a new Chairman. It is said at times that the Civic duties carried out by our Chairman are outdated. I do not agree. It is part of the tradition of our country. A tradition which I will uphold.