

## **Statement by the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Resources**

**24 July 2012**

### **Resources Director**

Members will probably already know that we have recently appointed a Resources Director. He is Justin Ives and is currently employed by Sunderland Council. Negotiations are in hand exploring an early commencement date with Hambleton District Council. There was a strong field of 16 applicants and 4 were short-listed for interview.

This now completes the management team of Directors and I am looking forward to working with Justin Ives.

### **Information Technology**

Following a report regarding IT, provisional early discussions are underway to explore new arrangements for the provision of this service. For a three month period management of the service is being provided by a fulltime equivalent secondment from North Yorkshire County Council. As a result of these arrangements a new way of working including Richmondshire District Council, North Yorkshire County Council and ourselves may emerge.

### **Changes to the District Council Tax Benefits Scheme**

Members are aware that Cabinet on Tuesday 17 July considered some recommendations regarding the localisation of financial support for Council Tax from April 2013. In summary:

1. The amount of funding to this Council to run such a scheme is cut by almost 12% (National average 10%)
2. Support for those of pensionable age will not be affected.
3. The main burden of the changes will fall on working age claimants.
4. Local schemes should, wherever possible, support work incentives and, in particular, avoid disincentives to work.
5. A comprehensive consultation must be carried out.
6. The scheme, set for one year, has to be approved by Full Council by 31 January 2013.

The scheme will be complex and, undoubtedly will meet with controversy

### **Councillor Ron Kirk**

Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Resources