

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

**19 February 2013**

**Council Tax**

At this time of the year most of my time is involved in finalising the report regarding the level of Council Tax for 2013/14. This has been, more than usual, a time of great uncertainty. Following the Government Finance Settlement in December various statements and announcements have been made regarding the 50 lowest charging Councils. All this has done is create a further period of uncertainty. We are also anticipating further cuts in the Financial Settlement for 2014/15.

Nevertheless, we are presenting to Council a robust financial strategy even if midterm has considerable uncertainties.

**Electoral Reform of Hambleton**

My latest understanding is that the Commission is due to publish its recommendations in late March and following that the appropriate order will be laid before Parliament.

**I.C.T.**

As Members will undoubtedly be aware a new manager for I.C.T has been appointed. She is Helen Kemp.

**Changes to Benefits and Council Tax**

This is a highly complicated area and a presentation will be given following Full Council regarding this matter.

**Councillor Ron Kirk**

Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Resources