

STATEMENT BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

10 December 2013

Since May this year budgets have already been reduced by £250,000. Working with officers since the summer I have identified £750,000 of savings towards the £1million needed to balance the 2015-2019 Budget.

I will announce further details after Christmas. As a result I am confident that there will be no need to make any service cuts.

Hambleton District Council is in a strong financial position and I intend that this remains as it is through strategic financial planning and ensuring that we do not fritter away our balance and find ourselves in the position many other council's do.

I would like to reiterate that there have been no service cuts in Hambleton, and with a new saving of £1million there will not need to be any.

This has been achieved at a time that Council Tax has not risen for 5 years.

We have secured an additional one-off amount of £270,000 from over-performance in the collection of business rates which has been paid into the One-Off Fund. This money can be used to support further important Council initiatives such as the Apprentice Scheme.

Council Tax will be frozen for 2014/15 and 2015/16, consequently no increase for the whole of this Council.

The Capital Programme is on target and will deliver some important projects over the coming months, i.e. huge investment at our leisure centres.

***I would like to take this opportunity to
wish all Staff and Members a very
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year***

**Councillor Mark Robson
Leader of the Council**

