



Statement by the Leader of the Council

11 December 2018

As we approach the end of this Council I would like to touch upon our achievements. Indeed it has been one of, if not the most successful Council in terms of not only investing in the delivery of excellent services, but also delivering a wide range of specific projects. These were identified in the 2015-2019 Corporate Plan at the start of this Council.

In total 11 projects were identified in the Council Plan 2015-2019 and we have delivered or are well on the way to delivering 10 of them. Some of these projects are summarised below:

- North Northallerton - a scheme which will deliver almost 1,000 homes, a new primary school, shops and a link between Darlington and Stokesley Road.
- Central Northallerton - redevelopment of the former HMP Northallerton into a multi-use scheme to include retail, office, housing, leisure and a cinema. Planning permission was granted in November and the scheme will complement to the vibrancy of North Yorkshire's County Town.
- Dalton Bridge - a new bridge is now in place at Dalton that will allow 24/7 access to the industrial estate without the risk of flooding. This scheme has protected jobs and given the businesses on the estate the confidence to invest significantly.
- Sowerby Gateway - the new multi junction onto the A168 will be open in the New Year allowing the progression of Phase 3 of the Housing Scheme. In addition the Sports Village has started with the laying of the new recreational sports pitches.
- Northallerton Leisure – A new state of the art Gym and toning suite with 24/7 access. We are the first Council in the Country to operate a 24/7 Gym.

The only project that has not been delivered upon is Bedale Gateway Car Park and this is as a result of conversations with a number of third parties about facilities that would complement the car park and bring more visitors to Bedale. These discussions are still ongoing.

However, what is truly remarkable is that this has all been delivered through a period of continued austerity whilst maintaining the Council's financial resilience, the integrity of its unique 10 year financial strategy and the fifth lowest Council Tax in England.

However, we may be approaching the end of the Council, but it is only the beginning of our aspirations for the district. We are in the process of developing exciting plans for the next Council that will continue our vision for Hambleton as "a place to grow"; obviously these will depend upon the election results in May 2019.

Finally, I would like to take the opportunity to thank my Officers and Members for their hard work, not only over the last year but over the life of this Council, and wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Councillor Mark Robson
Leader of the Council

