



## Leaders' Statement

This year has been the toughest, not only as a Council but also for our communities and businesses. However, as a Council we have done all we can to support those worst affected by the pandemic. Whether that be the expedient processing of business grants, welfare calls to our most vulnerable residents or contributions to our community food banks. Hambleton as always has risen to the challenge and delivered. In addition to this we have been dealing with the unnecessary, unwanted and ill-timed distraction of Local Government Reorganisation, the outcome of which should be known next year.

Despite our pandemic response and the distraction of local government re-organisation we continue to invest in and improve services for our residents. This includes; the successful completion of phase one of the Treadmills development with the C4DI and e-campus elements well underway and aiming to complete by the Spring 2021. Subject to approval today, the Cinema element of Treadmills will commence with Everyman giving a real boost to the hospitality sector in the district at a time when they most need it.

The development of Hambleton Crematorium at Maple Park is progressing well. Not only will this provide a new much needed service for our residents it will also be one of the first low carbon crematoriums in the country.

The £4m redevelopment of Thirsk and Sowerby Leisure Centre will commence in January having finalised the procurement process. This will provide residents with a state of the art 24/7 Gym facility as well as improving the infrastructure and aesthetics of the building.

These are just a few of the unique and innovative services this Council is achieving for the community it serves, whilst maintaining the third lowest Council Tax in the country.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a safe, happy and prosperous New Year.

Councillor Mark Robson  
Leader, Hambleton District Council  
15 December 2020

