

STATEMENT BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

8 April 2014

Hambleton Economic Study

The findings of the recent Economic Study carried out by GVA on behalf of this Council will be presented to all members on 15th April.

This is an opportunity for members to help pave the way and contribute towards shaping the future of not only our markets towns but the District as a whole.

A significant investment will be made to form part of our 10-year strategy. Details will be announced at the seminar next week.

Local Enterprise Partnership application

We have completed the application to the Local Enterprise Partnership which has gone to Government for a decision, due on 14th July. The main priority for the first funding phase (2015/16) is the bridge for the North Northallerton development. Securing this funding is vital in getting the development kick-started. It is also important to press forward with the relief road/bridge at Dalton to allow future expansion for many key businesses on the industrial estate. It is anticipated that this will be in the next round of funding (2016/17). Officers are currently working on this to ensure the best possible case is put forward.

We continue to have close dialogue with our businesses throughout the region and have regular meetings with them. The next Hambleton Strategic Business Forum will be held on 15th May at Bedale Hall. This was a very successful event last year. It is an ideal opportunity to network with the business community and share with them first-hand Hambleton's support over the past year and plans for continued support.

Living Wage

At the March meeting Cabinet agreed to introduce the Hambleton Living Wage, which will help our lower paid employees. This is a good news story – again, another example of this Council looking after our staff.

Restructure

The three Directors are now in place with Heads of Service and the restructure of all departments due to be complete by May this year. The introduction of a Deputy Chief Executive recommended to you today is a key part of the restructure and development of this authority.

I have asked the Chief Executive to present to you all the Directors along with Heads of Service at a future briefing. This is scheduled to take place before May Council. It is envisaged that the majority of Heads of Service posts will be filled by existing employees seeking to further their careers.

Again, another example of recognising the talents and experience of our staff.

Councillor Mark Robson

Leader of the Council