

## **Leader's Statement – May 2010**

### North Yorkshire's Election Result

All North Yorkshire's Parliamentary Constituencies returned Conservative Members of Parliament in the general election held on May 6<sup>th</sup>. The remaining election for Thirsk and Malton will be held on May 27<sup>th</sup> following the death of the UKIP candidate. I have written to each of the successful candidates to congratulate them on their success.

It is clear that both nationally and locally we will be faced with very difficult financial and strategic decisions to make over the coming years but I anticipate being able to work productively with all our MPs on these issues. I will make sure they get regular information on our work and have given them an open invitation to make regular visits to County Hall to keep in touch with the major issues facing the County's residents.

### Local Government Elections

Members will note that the Conservative Party further consolidated their positions on Harrogate Borough Council and Craven District Council and we hope to continue to continue good partnership working for the benefit of local residents.

Members will also note that County Councillor Neville Huxtable has become Leader of Hambleton District Council and I wish him well in his new role.

### Westminster elections and the future of local government

As I write this statement it is not completely clear what form of government will have been negotiated at Westminster. What we do know is that all parties talked up the "localism" agenda in the run up to the election. It will be very interesting to see how these policy strands now work out in practice in respect of important local services against the background of a commitment to make serious reductions to Britain's budget deficit.

### Appointment of a new Chief Executive

Interviews of three candidates for the position of Chief Executive have now taken place. This has involved consultation with a range of Members, officers and other stakeholders. Members will today approve the recommendation of the Appointments Committee.