

Leader's Statement – Full Council 31 October 2013

As we have a busy agenda this evening I only have a brief statement to make tonight. I know that other points I wish to raise will be picked up as agenda items.

Some of you will have seen the headline in the Gazette and Herald which states that the Council is considering putting up Council Tax by 7%. I must stress that this is absolutely not the case. We are considering a package of measures to manage our budget and finances which may result in putting up council tax by 7p per week.

The challenge period for our local plan ended on 17 October 2013. Members will be aware that the Council's solicitor informed us that there has been a challenge by Gladman's about the housing chapter. This challenge appears to be part of a national test case and our Officers are working very hard and are doing all they can to ensure that they obtain the best advise to assist us in this challenge. We will be kept informed by Officers.

I wish to update you on the governance of the Local Economic Partnership. (LEP). Since my last Leaders statement I can inform you that, work is on going to make sure that the Leaders of all Districts and all Council's in the LEP have a stronger part to play. It is has been proposed that a Leaders Board sits alongside the LEP Board This means that all Leaders from all the Authorities in the North Yorkshire, York and East Riding LEP have a place at the table and bearing in mind how much money is going to the LEP this is very important to Ryedale.