

## **LEADER'S STATEMENT - COUNCIL 7 JULY 2016**

EU Referendum - The decision by our country to leave the EU is one of the biggest changes that most of us will have seen in our lifetime and will have far reaching consequences. I believe it is the start of a new and exciting chapter in the history of our country and will provide opportunities which we, as a council, must be ready to take advantage of. We will need to continue to work with our officers to evaluate the impact on our council.

Tonight on our agenda we have items that are very relevant for the future wellbeing of our district. They now have to be viewed alongside the decision to leave the EU. For the time being I believe they remain relevant and in the best interests of our community.

Our corporate business plan - Delivering the Council's priorities - ensures that we focus on those core priorities - the things that matter to Ryedale and its residents.

Our Budget Strategy and Efficiency Statement sets out our plan to deliver the savings required to live within our budget - working towards 2020.

Our Policy & Resources Committee is recommending the use of reserves to fund the transformation programme that we have in place. Sometimes it is necessary to spend to save, and this is one of those occasions. We have been really clear that any underspend has to be returned to the NHB reserve.

Following tomorrow's LEP Board meeting there is a meeting of LGNY&Y Leaders and CEXS when we shall be discussing - again - Combined Authorities, Devolution and single tier authorities - all viewed now in the light of our exit from Europe and what that will mean. We will be working through some very uncertain times in the coming months and possibly years, so we will need to remain really clear about what our residents and businesses need. Our Chief Executive has coined a phrase "Delivering what matters for Ryedale" and in these difficult financial times it is never more relevant.