

## **Leader's Statement**

### **"Back to basics"**

This is the shortest Leader's Statement so far - but I hope to use it to make an important point.

Politicians, even at a local level, increasingly seek to demonstrate their political prowess with mammoth projects. They aim to construct permanent and expensive landmarks with a gold plaque bearing their name and attesting to their legacy.

But as we know politicians on Ryedale District Council are not quite the same as those elsewhere. We act, think, look and operate in a slightly different way.

This is now no longer a "new council" and we cannot hide behind "historical issues" or be shackled by the decisions of our predecessors. We have looming over us key questions on major projects and we need to find a way forward, but whatever decisions we take must be rooted in reality, be achievable and not distract us from our core duty: to protect the public purse and deliver value for money to the taxpayers of Ryedale.

As we commence outlining our priorities and knuckle down to business, we should not lose sight of the fundamental services we are here to deliver. We need to go "back to basics" and focus on ensuring we can give the very best service to the public in everything we do.