

## **Leader's Report**

### Death of serving County Council Officers

It is with great sadness that I have to inform you that Vicky Jolly passed away recently. Vicky was a highly competent and respected County Council Officer and I am sure she will be greatly missed. I know that the other elected Members will join me in sending our condolences and also in thanking the members of staff who have taken on the tasks which would normally have been carried out by Vicky. They have continued to offer an excellent and efficient service at an emotional and difficult time and I would be grateful if you could pass my thanks to them.

Keith Furlonger passed away on Tuesday 20th March, he was taken ill suddenly at work and despite the best efforts of First Aiders, Paramedics and Hospital staff he didn't survive.

Keith was employed by HCC for ten years initially in Premises and later in Facilities Management as a Senior Facilities Assistant. He worked on shift and would have been a familiar face around the complex, Keith was particularly proud of how clean and tidy he kept the outsides of our HQ Complex buildings and also his attendance record. Privately he had an encyclopaedic knowledge of Film and TV which he loved to share. One of our band of very loyal employees upon whom we so depend.

### Former County Council Officer

Former Chief Planning officer for Hampshire, Professor Gerald Smart CBE, has died at the age of 87. He was appointed County Planning officer for Hampshire, becoming one of the youngest planners to hold the post. He went on to become a Emeritus Professor of Planning at University College London, returning to live in Hampshire on his retirement. He became Chairman of Milford Parish Council, and was appointed a CBE in 1991 for his services to Strategic Planning.

### Deputy Leader of the Council

I report the appointment of Councillor Mel Kendal as Deputy Leader of the Council. My thanks to Councillor Roy Perry for his three years as Deputy Leader.

### Fostering Services get inspectors' seal of approval

Ofsted Inspectors have found Hampshire Fostering Services to be 'good with outstanding features'. The report said that children and young people live in homes where foster carers provide them with nurturing, stable and safe family environments' and they 'enjoy excellent relationships in their placements'.

The County Council currently has more than 600 children placed with more than 500 carers around the county. This latest inspection rating follows on from the consistently good rating given by Ofsted to the County Council's

## **Leader's Report**

adoption service and the overall excellent rating given to Children's Services in Hampshire earlier this year.

The service received good ratings for its strong provision in four of the six categories of the inspection with the other two found to have outstanding features. The outstanding ratings were in the areas of:

- helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do
- helping children make a positive contribution

### Hampshire to become a music hub

Hampshire County Council's Music Service is to be lead partner in a new Hampshire Music Hub following an announcement by the Arts Council.

The move is part of the Government's re-organisation of music education across the country. As lead partner Hampshire Music Service will head a partnership comprising of Hampshire schools and colleges, local arts venues including the Anvil in Basingstoke, the Turner Sims Concert Hall in Southampton and other regional arts centres as well as a range of music charities and organisations. The University of Winchester, Winchester College and Winchester Cathedral will also contribute to the work of the hub.

The Hampshire Music Hub has the backing of famed composer and leading impresario Andrew Lloyd Webber who has agreed to be its champion, a role similar to that of a Patron in a charitable organisation.

### Music For Youth 2012

2012 is a bumper year for the success of Hampshire Music Service students in the National Festival of Music for Youth. Following a network of regional performances we have seven area and county ensembles that have been invited to perform in Birmingham's Symphony Hall during the first week of July. We will be represented in this high profile, national celebration of the best of youth music by:

Hampshire County Youth Band  
The Hampshire String Quartet  
Hampshire Taiko - Japanese drums  
Basingstoke Area Youth Wind Orchestra  
North East Hampshire String Orchestra  
The Award Scheme Saxophone Quartet, and  
County Bands Percussion Ensemble

HMS teachers also support pupils in the four schools invited to take part - All Saints Junior, Portchester Community School, Wyvern Technology College and Alton 6th Form College.

### Hampshire and Oxfordshire Agree New ICT Partnership

### **Leader's Report**

Hampshire County Council and Oxfordshire County Council have officially signed a new ICT partnership to help generate savings and create improved and more resilient systems. The partnership will initially be centered on the SAP system that both Councils use for their main Human Resources and Financial Services. An agreement was made in principle in late 2011.

Oxfordshire County Council currently has a service contract in place with a private sector company that is due to end in 2012. Under the new proposed arrangements, Hampshire County Council will support Oxfordshire's SAP system, saving Oxfordshire County Council £1million over the next three years, and generating shared capacity for Hampshire County Council.

The agreement was formally signed at Oxfordshire County Council's Cabinet meeting on Tuesday, March 13 2012.

#### Webcasting of Council meetings

Members may be interested to know that our first webcast last February on the occasion of our budget setting attracted between 800 and 1,000 viewers to our site.

Many more than we could ever hope to accommodate in our Chamber.

END.