

**Incoming Chairman's Report
Annual County Council Meeting
25 May 2017**

I thank you, fellow members of Hampshire County Council for electing me as your Chairman. My wife Marilyn and I hope to carry out our duties in representing Hampshire to the best of our abilities.

I would also like to thank our past Chairman, Keith Chapman and his wife Jennifer who have had a fantastic year and carried out many engagements on our behalf.

May I welcome all the newly elected members of this Chamber, especially two members from my own constituency, Councillor Pal Hayre and Councillor Stephen Philpott. You may have to excuse me in not putting a name to a new face at the moment, but we will get there.

My theme this year is the Armed Forces of Hampshire and Veterans. Hampshire has the largest number of serving members of the Armed Forces and also veterans. I hope to raise their profile at every opportunity in what they do and what they have achieved.

I would also like to congratulate our new Vice Chairman, Councillor Elaine Still.

Sadly, I must inform Members of the death of three former Members.

- Honorary Alderman John Bryant, a former Chairman of Hampshire County Council in 2004 to 2005 and a Councillor for Fareham North West from 1997 to 2005 and Fareham Town from 2004 to 2013.
- Honorary Alderman Harvey Cole, Councillor for Eastgate Division from 1985 to 1989 and Westgate Division from 1993 to 2001.
- Cllr Freddie Emery-Wallis who represented St Thomas Division from 1973 to 1985 and Stakes North Division from 1985 to 2001. He was also the Leader of HCC from 1976 to 1993 and 1997 to 1999. He was Chairman of Hampshire County Council from 1999 to 2001.

I will now ask the Leader, Cllr Roy Perry to say a few words and then open up to the chamber so that personal tributes may be given.

Members, please be upstanding while we think about and remember our former members.

ENDS
[Check against delivery]