

Pro-Chancellor,

Peter Harvey's career in the public sector has made a lasting, positive impact on the county of Dorset. As Chief Executive of Dorset County Council, and Chair of Poole Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Peter's leadership delivered significant improvements to services affecting thousands of people.

Peter is the first to admit that his own academic record was less than exemplary. Having failed to secure any of his three university choices following A-levels, he was eventually offered a place to read Law at the University of Liverpool two weeks before term started.

After graduating, he became a Trainee Articled Clerk with Isle of Wight County Council. At the time, local authorities were among the few organisations offering a salary for trainee legal roles. During his time on the Isle of Wight, Peter remembers watching Jimi Hendrix perform at one of the island's first pop festivals. Unfortunately, he also recalls being asked to draft legislation which would ban any future music festivals soon after.

Having qualified as a solicitor, Peter joined Bournemouth County Borough Council, and then became Deputy County Solicitor of Dorset County Council during a time of local authority re-organisation in 1974. Keen to progress, he subsequently took up the position of Chief Executive for eight years from 1991. Peter oversaw further significant changes in local government in the late nineties, when many of the county's powers transferred to new, unitary authorities. His leadership helped ensure that changes took place without disruption to local services and that council staff were supported throughout the transition.

During his career, Peter is proud to have helped shape the county's higher education provision, as Dorset Institute of Higher Education became Bournemouth Polytechnic, and then Bournemouth University in the early 1990s. On retirement, Peter became closely involved in university life, serving as a Pro-Chancellor for five years. He hosted a number of graduation ceremonies, addressing thousands of graduates as they celebrated the pinnacle of their university experience.

Peter's message to graduates entering public sector roles today is to be proud of the impact you will make on these vital services. He says that the sector offers hugely rewarding, if challenging careers, and that people are its greatest asset.

Pro-Chancellor, I have the honour to present Peter Harvey, and I ask you to confer upon him the degree of Doctor of Education, *honoris causa*.