

Pro-Chancellor,

As former Head of Planning and Regeneration for the Borough of Poole, Stephen Thorne's career has left a lasting legacy on the physical landscape of our region. Stephen was a key partner in the creation of Bournemouth University's Estates Development Framework, which is transforming our campuses.

Stephen began his working life as an Ordnance Survey draughtsman. Over the course of eight years he completed a degree and postgraduate qualification in town planning at London South Bank University, which led to his first planning position with East Hampshire District Council. His public sector career took him to Salisbury, Southampton and Telford before he joined the Borough of Poole as Head of Planning and Regeneration in 2009.

Stephen is proud to have worked with Bournemouth University on the development of its Estates Development Framework. The process involved working with multiple stakeholders, and marrying the university's aspirations with the borough's core strategy. It has led to the construction of the Student Centre and Fusion Building, which have provided students with new spaces in which to learn, work and socialise. A further key element, the Poole Gateway Building, is currently under construction and will provide facilities for media production and cross-faculty collaboration.

Alongside his public sector work, Stephen has enjoyed a long career with the Royal Naval Reserve. Having started out as a radio operator, he went on to command the Maritime Reserves at the rank of Commodore. The role required Stephen to oversee the management and training needs of some 3,000 personnel. Stephen reflects that the command structure of the Navy provided him with a welcome contrast to the political structures of local government. He is proud to have been able to combine these interests when he secured a permanent site for Poole's D-Day Memorial, as part of the new Dolphin Quays development.

Pro-Chancellor, I have the honour to present Stephen Thorne, and I ask you to confer upon him an Honorary Fellowship of Bournemouth University.