

Chair's Tribute to Jeffrey Greenwell

Now, I'd like to take a moment to mark a truly significant milestone.

Today, we honour the retirement of **Jeffrey Greenwell** from his role as **President of Northants CALC**, a position he has held with distinction and dignity. Jeffrey's involvement in local government in Northamptonshire spans **many decades**, and his impact has been nothing short of extraordinary.

Jeffrey's career began in County Durham and took him from National Service in Germany to legal training in Newcastle and Birmingham, before he joined Hampshire County Council. But it was in **1973**, with the reorganisation of local government, that Jeffrey was appointed the **first Chief Executive of the new Northamptonshire County Council**—a role he embraced during a time of rapid population growth and structural change.

His leadership was not only local but national. He served as **Honorary Secretary and later President of the Society of Chief Executives**, and as **Chairman of the Association of County Chief Executives**. His expertise was recognised by the Home Secretary, who appointed him to chair a **Committee on Juvenile Delinquency**, whose recommendations were largely adopted by government.

Jeffrey also served internationally, appointed by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office as an **Election Supervisor in Southern Rhodesia** during the pivotal 1980 elections. His commitment to governance extended into the professional sphere, where as **President of the Institute of**

Chartered Secretaries and Administrators, he led reforms to modernise its governance and expand its global reach.

In 1991, Jeffrey was appointed **Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE)** for services to local government, and he has served as **Deputy Lieutenant for Northamptonshire**.

At Northants CALC, Jeffrey has been a **guiding force**, offering wisdom, encouragement, and a steady hand through times of change. His support for parish councils, his advocacy for democratic engagement, and his belief in the power of local voices have shaped our organisation and inspired us all.

Now, as part of our governance modernisation programme, the role of President is being retired—and with it, Jeffrey steps down from his official duties. But while the role may be discontinued, **Jeffrey's legacy will endure**. His contributions will continue to inspire us for years to come.

On behalf of everyone at Northants CALC, and indeed the wider local government family in Northamptonshire, I want to express our heartfelt thanks. Jeffrey, your service has been extraordinary, and your presence among us has been a gift.

And speaking of gifts... we have a small token of our appreciation to present to you now. It comes with our deepest gratitude and warmest wishes for a well-earned and joyful retirement.

Invite Jeffrey to say a few words...