

#NAW2021 Closing Remarks From Councillor Bob Deering, Hertfordshire County Council

We invited Councillor Bob Deering, Hertfordshire County Council and East of England Local Government Employers Panel portfolio holder for Training, Development and Apprenticeships, to give his closing remarks on our week-long celebration of apprenticeships in local government:

“As the National Apprenticeship Week 2021 celebrations comes to a close, I have been extremely impressed to read such inspiring case studies from apprentices across the East of England, in a wide variety of roles, showcasing their talents, and highlighting the real benefits that apprenticeships bring to their local authorities, the economy and the wider community.

“As a result of the pandemic, National Apprenticeship Week celebrations have been a little different this year. Indeed, apprentices have often been central to helping councils adapt and build, during a difficult year. Many newly recruited apprentices during 2020 have had to be particularly resilient to not only take on a new role, but also adapt quickly to new ways of working, and the heavy reliance on technology to support remote working.

“Apprenticeships are a fantastic way to learn, whilst earning a wage and gaining a recognised qualification. There are so many exciting career paths that an apprenticeship in local government can lead to. Whether you are just leaving education, changing career or returning to work, an apprenticeship in local government provides a chance to receive excellent training and personal development.”

Sally Hopper, Assistant Director of HR, Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) has greatly valued the support of Councillors such as Bob Deering in making Apprenticeships a key part of HCC’s skills strategy.

To close this week’s celebrations, Councillor Deering said: “My thanks to all those who have been involved in making national apprenticeship week 2021 a success, particularly to those apprentices who have shared their story, which will no doubt inspire others who read them.”