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## PRESS RELEASE

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From Hampshire Association of Local Councils

### **CELEBRATING 70 YEARS!**

The Hampshire Association of Local Councils celebrated its 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a reception and lecture at the Great Hall, Winchester on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2017.

VIP Guests included the Chief Executives of the National Association of Local Councils, Society of Local Council Clerks and Hampshire County Council as well as the Leader of Winchester City Council. Other County Association Chief Officers also attended, as well as many representatives from Hampshire parishes and towns.

Speakers included the Leader of Hampshire County council Cllr Roy Perry, who subject to Cabinet and Council approval announced a new grant funding pot to support local innovation, and encourage local councils to enhance community resilience and self-help in their communities.

Professor Colin Copus (of De Montfort University), as keynote speaker outlined the recent Councillor Commission, and its findings, praising the Parish Commissioner Cllr Mike Evans of Whiteley Town Council, whom is also the ALC's Chairman. Hampshire has been fully involved with this process as one of the few areas to hold two interactive workshops over the last 18 months. Colin said, "It inspires to see Hampshire and others at first level of local government leading the way in calling for transparent and business-like processes for councillors operating in the modern environment." A Parish Summit is now planned with Colin and Mike on a Friday daytime in the first quarter of 2018, to discuss how some of the findings can be made reality.

- Ends -

See the Councillor Commission at <https://www.nalc.gov.uk/news/entry/850-giving-more-of-a-voice-to-councillors>

Contact Steven Lugg at the ALC for further comment and analysis  
*Picture shows attendees listening to Colin Copus at the Great Hall.*