

To whom it may concern

**Simon Bailey**

I was Chief Executive of East Dorset District Council for 22 years from 1<sup>st</sup> August 1987 to the 31<sup>st</sup> July 2009 and during that time I had the pleasure of employing Simon Bailey on four separate occasions to carry out work for the authority on Revenues and Benefits.

The first time was in 1998 when the Council was faced with testing the market for Revenues and Benefits. Simon was appointed as an external consultant to work with the in house team on their bid for the Revenues and Benefits Contract which included bid price and production of bid documents/method statements. Simon was thorough, working exceptionally well with the staff gaining their confidence and together they delivered a successful in house bid.

The outcome was a streamlined staffing structure with the Head of the Section leaving. This left a void and the Council had no hesitation in asking Simon with his wealth of experience in managing a Revenues and Benefits Section to carry out an interim management placement. Simon ran the section professionally whilst implementing the contract, and setting up reporting methodologies as well as working with myself to appoint a successor.

My next involvement with Simon was in 2003/4 when the Council after making the decision to move from an in house system agreed to use outside help to evaluate the different Revenues and Benefits systems available. Simon with his wide experience in the Revenues and Benefits field carried out this role and made a recommendation to procure an appropriate package system. The District Council followed the advice and Academy was installed which has proven to be an excellent system.

Last year East Dorset along with its neighbours Christchurch Borough Council and North Dorset District Council agreed to work together on Revenues and Benefits and Simon Bailey as an independent consultant was invited to work with the three authorities to produce a business case and model for the revenues and benefits partnership. Simon completed the first stage successfully. He has now taken on the project management so that the partnership can go live in October 2010. He has total support and respect from the three authorities Leaders and Chief Executives as well as the staff of those authorities.

It has been a pleasure to work with Simon over the years. He has always met his deadlines and never failed to deliver. He is a nice person to have working for you who gets on well with staff and I would have had no hesitation in employing him at East Dorset.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A Breakwell', written in a cursive style.

A Breakwell