

Roger Gough – Biography

Roger Gough took over as Leader of Kent County Council from Paul Carter on 17 October 2019. Roger has served as the Member for Darent Valley – now Sevenoaks North and Darent Valley – since 2005 and previously held the post of Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education as well as other Cabinet roles since 2006. He chaired the Kent Health and Wellbeing Board following its establishment in shadow form in September 2011.

Roger sits on the Local Government Association's Children and Young People Board and chairs The South East Strategic Partnership for Migration board.

Roger worked in investment banking for sixteen years until 2002, mainly as an investment analyst specialising in the banking industry. From 1988 to 1991, Roger lived and worked in Tokyo as an analyst of the Japanese financial sector; he was subsequently an analyst of the European banking industry. He was a Research Director of Policy Exchange from 2006 – 2009 and served as Rapporteur to Ken Clarke's Democracy Task Force from 2006 – 2008. He has written widely on policy issues, chiefly constitutional and local government matters. His study of international comparisons in local government 'With a Little Help from Our Friends' was published by Localis in 2009.

Roger's first book, 'A Good Comrade: János Kádár, Communism and Hungary' was published in September 2006. For this book he was awarded the Knights Cross of the Order of Merit of Hungary. His second book, 'Account Rendered' (co-authored with Stuart McCracken and Andrew Tyrie MP) was published by Biteback in July 2011 and examines Britain's role in the transfer of terror suspects for the American government.

Roger is married to Michelle and they have two children, a son and a daughter, and a menagerie of animals.