

Hero of the Left to quit politics

TOP Labour councillor Dave Hill is quitting politics to concentrate on his career.

Coun. Hill, 42, has been on both Brighton Council and East Sussex County Council. He has twice stood as Parliamentary Labour candidate for Brighton Pavilion.

He will not defend his seat at Stanmer, Brighton, in next year's county elections.

He is a senior lecturer at the West Sussex Institute of Higher Education at Bognor and hopes to gain promotion. It would also enable him to work abroad.

Since last year's lively General Election campaign, Coun. Hill has been concentrating hard on his job and has already co-written a book on education. He is also writing a series of articles on teacher training.

He says giving up his work as a councillor — which often takes more than 20 hours a

week — will help his career.

He said: "For the next few years I shall concentrate on work. But this is not my political obituary. People do get raised from the dead."

Coun. Hill started in politics early, joining the Young Socialists. He eventually became Labour leader on East Sussex County Council.

In each of his General Election campaigns he achieved a good result for Labour in a difficult seat after high-profile campaigning.

He said: "We got along in an atmosphere of fun and entertainment. Politics can be fun."

On the serious side, he has enjoyed helping people — like the boy who visited the West Indies to play cricket, thanks to a grant.

One of the high spots of his political life was the campaign to get a fair deal for school meals staff at East Sussex who had their contracts changed.

As a vote winner, he was almost unrivalled and during the 1979 local elections got the highest total ever recorded by a Labour candidate in Brighton.

He paid tribute to the many people who have helped him in his career, not least his wife Marylyn — a former councillor — and their daughters.

And he said: "I remain deeply committed to the Labour Party. There are many people in it who are selfless rather than selfish.

"I may seek re-election at some time in the future.

Coun. Hill will also remain active at both local and

