

EXTENDED SERVICES SELECT COMMITTEE

Hearing 2

Wednesday 28 April 2010

**Chris Hespe, Head of Sport, Leisure and Olympics, Communities
Directorate, Kent County Council**

Biography



Chris leads Kent County Council's work on sport, leisure and the olympics. Part of his role entails directing the Kent Sport, Leisure & Olympics Service.

He has worked for three district councils in sport and leisure, London Docklands Development Corporation, Sport England, Central Government and the British Olympic Association, and has been an advisor to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and the Local Government Association. Within Kent County Council, he has held positions outside the sport and leisure sphere, such as Organisational Change Manager, Business Manager for the Kent Environment and Planning Agency and Project Director of Kent History Centre. He

is Managing Director of Kent Institute of Sport, a Trustee of Kent Trust for Youth Sport and a member of the Kent and Medway Sports Board.

Chris holds Masters degrees in International Law and in Leisure Management, a degree in Sports Science and diplomas in management and sport and recreation. He is a fellow of the Chartered Management Institute, and a member of the Quest Industry Board, which leads the UK quality scheme for the sport and leisure industry. Chris is a Company Director and Trustee of ISPAL (the Institute for Sport, Parks and Leisure), in which he is the industry representative for local government in the UK and the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Chris was the first leisure professional to be appointed to an urban development corporation, and the first County Director of Sport nationwide. Chris founded the Kent Sports Development Unit and the Kent Campaign for the 2012 Games, which he chairs. He represents the counties of the South East on the Regional 2012 Partnership and is a member of the London 2012 Sports Legacy Commission.

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