

# Putting policy into practice

Local Government leading sport & physical activity

**Councillor Ian Stephens**

Chairman, LGA Culture, Tourism and Sport Board

# The successes.....

- ❖ Government and Sport England sport and physical activity strategies
  - ❖ Rio 2016 - Most successful combined Olympic and Paralympic team performance ever
  - ❖ Very successful 2012 Games
  - ❖ Councils still biggest public sector investor in sport/physical activity – over £1.0 billion per year
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# The challenges.....

- ❖ Councils have been the backbone of local sporting infrastructure
  - ❖ Budget cuts of 40 per cent plus since 2010
  - ❖ Pressures to maintain statutory services
  - ❖ Sport/Physical activity participation rates still lower amongst certain groups
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# The opportunities.....

- ❖ Councils are the biggest public sector investor in sport/Physical activity
  - ❖ The LGA is working with DCMS, Public Health England, Sport England to connect sport/physical activity with public health policy
  - ❖ Addressing inactivity with greater collaborative working between public, private and voluntary sectors
  - ❖ The LGA is working with Sport England to ensure councils remain at the heart of their strategy's implementation
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## Role of localism and devolution.....

- ❖ Localism and devolution empower local communities
  - ❖ Grassroots participation in council owned facilities
  - ❖ Devolution can develop opportunities for sport/Physical activity
  - ❖ Councils and County Sports Partnerships have a leadership role
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# Going forward.....

- ❖ Together we can deliver
  - ❖ We need to create a world class grassroots participation system
  - ❖ Local government with support from the sports sector can help us to achieve this
  - ❖ Create a nationwide culture of activity
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# Thank you.....

Contact:

❖ [ian.stephens@iow.gov.uk](mailto:ian.stephens@iow.gov.uk)

❖ [cts@local.gov.uk](mailto:cts@local.gov.uk)

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