

Investment in Sport & Activity

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
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... the challenges

- Councils have been the backbone of local sporting infrastructure
 - Budget cuts of 40% plus since 2010
 - Pressures to maintain statutory services
 - Sports participation rates still lower amongst certain groups
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...the opportunities

- Councils still the biggest public sector investor in sport
 - The sport/physical activity sector has the passion and skills to re-position sport and physical activity
 - Focusing on prevention can help reduce costly health & social care costs
 - The LGA is working closely with DCMS, Public Health England, Sport England and other partners to better connect sport/physical activity with public health policy
 - Addressing inactivity will require greater collaborative working between public, private and voluntary sector providers of sport & physical activity
 - The LGA is working with DCMS and Sport England to ensure councils remain at the heart of their strategy's implementation
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Role localism and devolution can play

- Councils need to be at the heart of localism and devolution
 - Localism can help empower local communities
 - Majority of grassroots participation occurs in council owned/managed facilities
 - Devolution is still developing, but offers opportunities for sport and physical activity
 - Councils and partners, such as County Sports Partnerships have important leadership role
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Going forward

- Together we can deliver
 - We have a world class elite sport system... what we need to do is create a world class grassroots participation system
 - Local government leadership, with support from the sports sector can help us to achieve this
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Thank you

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