

# **Kent County Council**

## **Apprenticeships Select Committee**

### **Hearing 2**

**Friday 11th January 2013**

#### **Biography**

#### **Tony Allen, South East Area Relationship Director, Skills Funding Agency**

Tony Allen is the South East Area Relationship Director for the Skills Funding Agency (SFA).

Prior to the creation of the Agency in April 2010, Tony held a number of appointments with the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). These included; Area Director for Kent and Medway, and also Skills Director for the South East Region. Tony joined the LSC in 2002.

During the ten years within the LSC/ SFA, Tony has been actively involved in employer and skills work. He led the very successful Employer Training Pilot in Kent & Medway, and in addition to his local responsibilities, was jointly responsible for the implementation of regional skills initiatives such as the Action for Business College programme.

The Skills Funding Agency is a partner organisation of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and it exists to fund and promote adult further education (FE) and skills training in England.

Each year BIS sets out its policy priorities for the skills sector in a Skills Investment Statement (SIS), detailing the overall level of funding available to the sector to deliver the policy intentions of government. The Agency's task is to implement BIS's policy, as set out in the SIS, consistent with the Chief Executive's statutory duty to promote and secure reasonable adult FE in England. To achieve this, they influence and support the capacity and quality of the FE system so they can fund the expected demand for high-quality skills training.

Additionally, the SFA houses the National Apprenticeship Service, with a field force located across the country, working to develop the relationship with business to drive forward the government's ambition for increasing Apprenticeships.