

## **Richard Bennett**

Richard Bennett was trained as a schoolmaster and began his working life as a teacher of Chemistry.

In 1987 he gave up teaching and began establishing himself as a successful businessman. He now owns a small chain of children's day nurseries.

Also in 1987 he was first elected as a Councillor. From 1991 – 2001 he was Leader of the majority group of Reigate & Banstead Borough Council.

Since stepping down from the Leadership, Richard has been very active at the LGA being:

- A Member of the Strategy & Finance Committee since 2001
- Vice-Chairman of the Urban Commission from 2001 – 2004
- A Board Member of Lacors from May 2005- 2008.

Richard has also led 3 major projects for the LGA:

- The first, which was published in July 2003 entitled 'Tackling Pockets of Deprivation', led to a change in the way in which Government funded areas of deprivation.
- The second, published in February 2005, looked into the future of Road Pricing and is seen as a leading paper in the debate over how we tax the motorist and road usage.
- The third, published in June 2006, investigated the current shortfall in provision for Gypsies & Travellers and is seen, along with the report from CRE, as leading the debate over treatment of unauthorized encampments and developments and the need to provide equally for all sections of society.

Richard was also a member of the CLG's Gypsy & Traveller Enforcement Task Group.

In his spare time, Richard is a church organist. He is also a Member of the Institute of Groundmanship and he maintains over 2 hectares of common land for residents and his local cricket club.

Richard has been married for over 30 years and has two adult sons.