

WILLIAM MCKEE

Accessible Retail Chief Executive, William McKee, has been a leading figure in the property for the last ten years. From 1993 until February 2002, he was Director General of the British Property Federation and from 1996-2002, Chairman of the European Property Federation. From 2000-2001 he was Chairman of the CBI Trade Association Council, a member of the CBI President's committee and Vice-chairman of the National Planning Forum. Currently, he is Chairman of Tilfen Land, Chairman of Weber Shandwick UK Property and a member of the Advisory Board of Hotbed Property Fund

Over the last decade, he has been a member of numerous Government review bodies including those examining: the efficiency of the construction industry, construction performance benchmarking, the compulsory purchase regime, leasehold reform, the introduction of commonhold, the review of English Heritage, privity of contract reform, electronic property transfers, stamp duty reform and revitalising town centres. Most recently, he was a member of the joint working party which produced the 2002 Code of Practice for Commercial Leases in England and Wales. Membership of industry bodies has included the Bank of England Property Committee and the Service Charges Good Practice Working Party.

A town planner, traffic engineer and chartered surveyor by professional qualification, he was Chief Executive of the London Borough of Merton 1981-92. Since 1970, he has lectured regularly at various universities including Reading University where he is currently visiting Fellow, and he has published many articles and contributions to books and conferences on all three disciplines. In this year's Queen's Birthday Honours List, he received the CBE for services to the property industry.

William McKee identifies two main priorities for Accessible Retail during 2002/2003. First, growing the membership and maintaining AR as the key industry representative body for the sector, and second, persuading Government to recognise the importance of the retail park sector to the economy and to society and, as a consequence, to amend PPGs 6 and 13 to enable it to play its full role.