Lib Dem Shadow Chancellor, Vince Cable, and LGA Lib Dem Group Leader Richard Kemp, have urged all councils to follow the examples set by authorities led or run by Liberal Democrats in tackling the effect of the recession on their local economies.

Helping housing
“Smart Government for Hard Times”, launched with Camden Council Leader Keith Moffitt, listed a range of areas where councils are taking action. For instance, Oldham has a grant scheme for helping councils refurbish disused, under occupied property. Newcastle is one of several cities buying up empty properties from developers for use as council housing.

Supporting “Green Collar” jobs
Other good examples included Kirklees, where Lib Dem Councillors set up the Warm Zone scheme that aims to visit 170,000 households across the council’s area, offering advice on energy efficiency and installing insulation in 53,000 lofts and 35,000 cavity walls. It has already created 80 new jobs and helped households cut energy bills by about £1 million per year.

“Smart Government for Hard Times” is available on the LGA Lib Dem Group website www.libdemgroup.lga.gov.uk or by emailing libdem@lga.gov.uk

Helping Local Economies
- Lib Dem Camden Council Leader Keith Moffitt, Vince Cable MP and LGA Lib Dem Group Leader Richard Kemp launching “Smart Government For Hard Times”

Lib Dem Stockport held a “meet the buyer” event, bringing together 125 local companies with a whole range of buyers from the council, making it easier for local employers to win contracts.

Councils can help small businesses claim rate relief.

The Talent2Sheffield scheme and the Stockport Into Work job-matching schemes helps support employers and job-seekers.

Leeds City Credit Union is helping to create a special loan package to help local people who are refused bank loans - this helps people to start their own business.
Lib Dem Council Group of the Year winners!

Thank You to all groups who submitted entries to the LGA Lib Dem Group Council of the Year competition. Below we list the winners and the runners up - with just a few of their achievements.

Our thanks to Julia Goldsworthy MP for presenting the prizes! There is always a competition next year, and nomination forms will be sent out after the local elections of December 1st 2009. Details will also be on-line at www.libdemgroup.lga.gov.uk

Newcastle Lib Dem Council Group won Council Group of the Year. They now hold 50 seats on the council; and have a track record of winning by-elections while being in control.

Hinckley and Bosworth Lib Dem Council Group won the award for tackling Anti-Social Behaviour. They have received a Beacon council award for reducing re-offending and crime has fallen since Lib Dems won control.

Liverpool Lib Dems won the Green Council Group of the Year Award in recognition of the progress made to boost recycling rates, including recycling business waste, and working with schools to raise environmental awareness.

The other winners and runners up were:

Backbencher of the Year
Councillor John Marshall – councillor on North Yorkshire County Council for over 30 years service

London Councils Award for Innovation in Candidate Recruitment
Lib Dems in Lewisham. Their success was shown in 2 of those candidates, Duwayne Brooks and Jenni Clutton winning in a by-election just a few weeks ago.

Helping Children and Young People
Sheffield City Council Lib Dems. The Government were threatening to run the City’s schools from Whitehall. But by working with young people, teachers, schools and other partners such as the University who help with...
Lib Dem Council Group of the Year award. It is mentioned. chance to enter into the runs in June, with a deadline of teacher training and research and the Chamber of Commerce who help with work placements they have convinced the government to back off.

Improving Social Care Services
London Borough of Sutton Lib Dems Sutton is building new supported living accommodation to help disabled adults live more independent lives and is opening a new world class school for children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder.

Green Council Group of the Year Runner Up
Liberal Democrat Group on Cardiff Achievements include new council housing incorporating solar panels, grey water recycling and ground source heat pumps and were the UKs first city to organise a door to door weekly collection of kitchen and garden waste.

The LGA Lib Dem Group and the Association of Liberal Democrat Councillors made use of a chance to speak to the main session of the Lib Dem Spring Conference in Harrogate.

Kath Pinnock (pictured), deputy leader of Kirklees Council and ALDC Chair and Richard Kemp, LGA Lib Dem Group Leader, spoke to delegates about the work carried out by both groups and highlighted the achievements of Lib Dem led councils and thanked all Liberal Democrat Councillors for the hard work they do every day.

Council Group of the Year: Runners Up
Cambridgeshire County Council Lib Dem Group (Pictured: Group Leader David Jenkins) This group has won national acclaim for holding the Conservative administration to account, and has also worked hard to ensure the Lib Dem group had influence on the planning of new schools in the County. They frequently get told off by the ruling Conservatives for “being political”...

Liberal Democrat Group on Waltham Forest. They have been sorely tested over the last two years. One of their former councillors before 2006 was the subject of a vicious and untrue slander campaign promoted by the local Labour Party. The Lib Dem Group have shown that despite being part of the ruling coalition, they continue to thrive and win by-elections.
Latest publications...

- Produced with the Lib Dem Education Association and includes ideas from Lib Dem York and Stockport Councils, and a report back from the LGA Lib Dem Group Children and Young People Conference.

- “Cabinet member for Your Ward” and “Communities Actually” - working with your local community and the council to get things done

- “Smart Government for hard times” - how Lib Dem Councils are helping to tackle the recession

- Environmental good practice - useful examples from around the country

These are the latest publications from the LGA Lib Dem Group - available free of charge:
- From our website - www.libdemgroup.lga.gov.uk;
- emailing libdem@lga.gov.uk,
- writing to LGA Lib Dems, Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ or calling 020 7664 3235

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