Give councillors a key role in crime fight

The Liberal Democrat Group at the LGA is backing calls for the role democratically elected local authorities have in tackling crime to be retained - and enhanced.

A motion at this year’s Lib Dem Conference in Bournemouth is calling for a range of measures that Liberal Democrats in Local Government strongly support, including:

• 10,000 more police on the beat - paid for by scrapping the ID cards scheme;
• an end to centralised targets that distort local police priorities
• command units to be aligned with local councils to ensure better partnership on crime reduction, along with an agreed local plan

Local Councillors are already directly elected!

But the LGA Lib Dem Group is proposing an amendment to the proposal for directly elected police authorities, saying that the police should be accountable through local councillors instead - who are of course already directly elected to their council.

Lib Dem Group Leader, Cllr Richard Kemp, said:

“We are pleased that the party has come up with good ideas to tackle crime. “But Chief Police Officers should be accountable through local authorities for their forces performance, not via a newly elected body which will mean more expense for the taxpayer”.

The debate takes place on Sunday 14th September at 15.35
Saturday 13th Sept
*09.15 – 12.30
Being an effective ward councillor
Mark Cole (ALDC) & Howard Sykes (Improvement & Development Agency)  Bayview 2, BIC
*14.30 – 17.30
Voter ID/Knocking on doors
John Bridges & Howard Sykes (ALDC) Bayview 2, BIC
*16.00 – 17.30
Running joint elections
Stuart Bray & Neil Fawcett (Campaigns Department) Franklyn Room, Connaught Hotel
20.00 - 21.15
PR for Local Government
Willie Rennie MP, Peter Black AM, Katy Wright (ERS). Chair: Paul Sample Branksome Room, BIC

Sunday 14th Sept
18.15 - 19.30
How Green is Your Council?
Steve Webb MP, Dirk Hazell, Cllr Alexis Rowell, Paul Burrall, Chair: Cllr Andrew Dakers
Mayrick Suite, BIC
20:00 - 21:15
Next Generation 2008 launch reception
Julia Goldsworthy MP, Tim Farron MP
DeVere Royal Bath, Mezzanine

Monday 15th
*09.15 - 10.45
Beyond Surgeries
Chas Leslie & Cllr Jeanette Sunderland BIC Bay View 2
*11.00 – 12.30
Group cohesion and management
Roger Symonds (ALDC) & IDEA Bayview 2, BIC
* 11.00 - 12.30
Finding candidates/building capacity
Cllr Laura Willoughby
BIC Bay View 2
*11.00 – 12.30
Lessons from the 2008 elections
Jon Aylwin, Tim Kent & Neil Trafford (Campaigns Department) Connaught 2, Connaught Hotel
*13.00 - 14.00
“Fair Trade” reception (ALDC members only) with Nick Clegg MP and Julia Goldsworthy MP.
Hermitage Hotel, Hardy Suite

There are a lot of events at this autumn’s Lib Dem Conference in Bournemouth that is of interest to local government - and just a few of these are listed below. Note that sessions marked with an asterix (*) are for party members only.
For a full list of Lib Dem Local Government events, visit www.libdemgroup.lga.gov.uk or the Association of Lib Dem Councillors - www.aldem.org

Cllr Richard Kemp, LGA Lib Dem Group Leader, is taking part in the Local Government Question Time at 18.15 on Monday
Monday 15th
22.00 to late
THE Local Government Reception
Supported by The Mersey Gateway, Highcliff Hotel, Dorchester

Tuesday 16th Sept
*09.15 – 10.45
Getting the political advantage out of your casework
Jackie Pearcey (ALDC) & IDeA
Bayview 2, BIC
13.00 - 14.00
Tackling violent crime
Lynne Featherstone MP, Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson
Disraeli Room, Royal Bath Hotel

13.00-14.00
Taking Flood prevention seriously
Co-hosted with APPG for flooding, Norman Baker MP, Cllr Carl Minns.
Bay View Room, Royal Bath Hotel

*14.30 – 15.45
Making sure you win in the 2009 county elections
John Bridges & Chris White (ALDC)
Bayview 1, BIC

*14.30 – 15.45
Councillors online
Tim Pickstone & Mary Reid (ALDC)
BIC Bay View 2

16.00-17.30
Lib Dem Political Support Officers
BIC Bay View 2

18:15-19:30
The Local Parliament
Mark Hunter MP, Baroness Ros Scott, Cllr Richard Kemp
Highcliff Hotel, Dorchester

20:00-21:15
Empowerment
David Howarth MP, Cllr Cathy Bakewell, Cllr Erica Kemp
Westcliff Brasserie, Marquee 2

This June saw the second ever Liberal Democrat Local Government Conference in Birmingham.

Over 300 delegates attended - more than last year - including speeches from Lib Dem Shadow Communities and Local Government Spokesperson, Julia Goldsworthy MP, Andrew Stunell MP, Party President Simon Hughes MP, Baroness Ros Scott, Chris Huhne MP and Steve Webb MP.

We were welcomed by Councillor Paul Tilsley, Birmingham’s deputy leader. The event also saw a meeting of Lib Dem Council Leaders and Group Researchers the previous day.

Get ready for next year!

The day itself had 20 different fringe meetings, ranging from good practice on Environmental issues to briefing sessions on the 2009 election campaign.

Details of next year’s conference will be available very soon; the timing had to be reviewed because of the very likely change in the date of next year’s local elections from May to June.

Thank you to everyone who attended and helped!
Don’t miss out!

We are organising a series of one-day specialist conferences and seminars for portfolio holders and other councillors with a specific interest in these areas.

**Friday 31st October**

Health & Adult Social Care, London

If you are interested or involved in the complex area of adult social care and health then this is the conference for you. Massive spending, tough decisions, cuts from the Government - these and many more topics are worked through and openly discussed. You really need to be at this if you work in this area.

Cllr David Rogers (LGA national lead on adult social care) will chair the conference with key input from shadow minister Norman Lamb MP.

**Monday 24th November**

Scrutiny, Groups & Standards, Manchester

This is a new venture and seeks to fill a gap in the market. We are looking to attract those often neglected members of scrutiny committees, group officers and those who serve on local standards boards. Supported by the Standards Board for England this should be a really useful and important conference to discuss key issues.

The conference will be chaired by Paul Burstow MP, Chief Whip of the parliamentary party (Commons).

**Friday 6th - Saturday 7th February 2009**

Children & Young Peoples Conference, Nottingham

The most successful and popular conference we run of all the portfolios - this is well established and much appreciated by all who attend it. Without a doubt this is the place to be if you have any interest in schools, young people and childrens issues - sometime controversial and always stimulating - don’t miss it.

With David Laws MP and the Parliamentary team

**Friday 3rd October**

Finance and Property, London

Liberal Democrats spend over £12billion in local councils and this is the only chance to openly and frankly discuss the day-to-day dilemma’s that face you in your work.

Vince Cable MP has been a regular at this event and it’s rewarding for all who have attended.

**Thursday 13th November**

Environment & Transport, London

This is a great conference that draws together campaigning, policy and best practice.

Led by Mayor Dorothy Thornhill (Watford) and Cllr Richard Knowles (Oldham) with Steve Webb MP and Norman Baker MP.

**Friday 28th November**

Police & Community Safety, London

This draws on a successful model and has proved to be the only forum in which Lib Dems have shared the best practice of what people are doing from a position of control in local Councils.

It’s the place to discuss the translation of policy into national themes with Chris Huhne MP.

If you think you should be on the e-mail lists for any policy areas please do let us know your interests and we can ensure that you are kept in touch with latest issues and thinking.

Please email us at libdem@lga.gov.uk

**And don’t forget....**

Friday 6th – Sunday 8th March 2009

Federal Spring Conference, Harrogate

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**Registration Costs**

- Finance Portfolio Holders: £25
- Health & Adult Social Care: £25
- Environment & Transport: £25
- Scrutiny, Groups and Standards: £25
- Police & Community Safety: £25
- Children & Young People’s: £135

**Return to Evelyn Mark, Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ**

Cheques payable to “Local Government Association”