

FSB THAMES VALLEY



POLICY ACTIVITY 2006/07

PROCUREMENT

- ✓ Events held with councils to raise understanding and awareness
- ✓ Meetings with councils to advise and encourage sign up to concordat
- ✓ Small business friendly award to council for procurement excellence
- ✓ Presentation at Central buying consortium conference

SMALL BUSINESS FRIENDLY AWARD FOR THAMES VALLEY COUNCILS

- ✓ Encourage councils to be small business friendly in their policies by introducing an annual award to councils



Linda Walton Thames Valley Policy Chair presenting Aylesbury Vale District Council with their Small Business Friendly Award

SMALL BUSINESS RATES RELIEF

- ✓ Wrote to all councils in the Thames Valley asking how they are informing small businesses of relief
- ✓ Raised profile of relief with members
- ✓ Carried out survey of local councils to identify most small business friendly in the area of SBRR

LOCAL AUTHORITY BUSINESS GROWTH INITIATIVE

- ✓ Written to councils asking them to confirm what they have spent grant on and how it will benefit the small business community

BUSINESS CRIME

- ✓ Regular meetings with Chief Constable and Deputy Chief Constable to discuss Business Crime and Neighbourhood Policing
- ✓ Working partnership with Thames Valley Police to promote greater engagement with small businesses

SOUTH EAST PLAN / RES

- ✓ Met with Thames Valley representative from SEEDA to discuss impact on Thames Valley Small Businesses

- ✓ Responded to Regional Economic Strategy

VISIT TO EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

- ✓ Met with James Ellis MEP in Brussels to discuss small business issues



Thames Valley delegates in the EU Parliament

- ✓ Held talks with the following MEPs Caroline

Lucas, Peter Skinner, Nerj Deva, Nigel Farage, Ashley Mote and Danial Hannan on key small business issues

LOCAL CONSULTATION RESPONSES

- ✓ Milton Keynes Expansion Plan
- ✓ Wycombe Economic Development Plan
- ✓ South Bucks Economic Development Plan
- ✓ Oxfordshire Economic Development Strategy
- ✓ Reading Town Centre Action Plan

BUSINESS CONTINUITY

- ✓ Responded to GOSE document on Business Continuity and its affects on small businesses
- ✓ Attend Berkshire Business Continuity Forum

INFLUENCING KEY DECISION MAKERS

- ✓ Members able to question David Cameron leader of opposition on small business issues at 2006 annual dinner



David Cameron addressing Thames Valley FSB members

Thames Valley's Leading Business Organisation

FSB THAMES VALLEY



POLICY ACTIVITY 2006/07

QUESTIONS IN PARLIAMENT

- ✓ Following meetings with our MPs we have had questions raised in parliament on issues including implementation of WEEE directive, budget, emissions targets, tax contributions and the Oxfordshire Small Businesses study



Boris Johnson MP with Linda Walton
Thames Valley Policy Unit Chair

ROAD PRICING

- ✓ Attended national FSB road pricing meeting
- ✓ Wrote to Reading Borough Council requesting information on their bid for funding on road pricing research
- ✓ Met with Reading Borough Council to discuss impact on small businesses and the need to ensure ongoing consultation with this sector
- ✓ Held survey of members in Reading & West Berkshire on road pricing

ROYAL MAIL

- ✓ Attend Post Watch meetings to represent needs of small businesses
- ✓ Campaigned to improve service during single day delivery introduction
- ✓ Provided evidence to FSB national on postal service enquiry
- ✓ Responded to Royal Mail consultation

MP & LOCAL AUTHORITY BRIEFING NOTES

- ✓ Send quarterly briefs to MPs and local authorities to raise awareness of small business issues

LOCAL ELECTIONS 2007

- ✓ Produced and distributed to members Thames Valley local election manifesto

VISIT TO HOUSE OF COMMONS

- ✓ Yearly visit to House of Commons to meet with MPs and ministers including Cheryl Gillan MP, Ed Vaisey MP, Caroline Spellman Shadow Secretary for local government

NURSERIES

- ✓ Carried out survey of members on effects of new regulation
- ✓ Provided evidence to National Policy Committee
- ✓ Provided support to local "save our nursery campaign"

OXFORDSHIRE STUDY

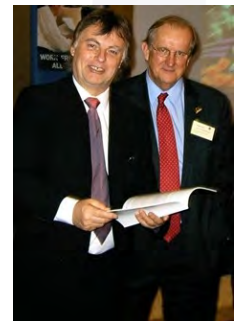
- ✓ Major study carried out into Oxfordshire small businesses and their involvement with local community

LOCAL EVENTS TO RAISE PROFILE OF CAMPAIGN ISSUES

- ✓ Launch of Oxfordshire study report
- ✓ Procurement event

REPRESENTING SMALL BUSINESSES

- ✓ Hold seats on Oxfordshire Economic Partnership, Bucks Economic Partnership, West Berkshire Strategic Partnership
- ✓ Established an ongoing dialogue with local authorities in Thames Valley
- ✓ Met with Ministers including Margaret Hodge Minister for Trade and Industry, George Osbourne Shadow Chancellor, Mark Prisk Shadow Small Business Minister and Caroline Spellman Shadow Minister for local government
- ✓ Met with MPs including David Cameron, Boris Johnson, David Lidington, Phyllis Starkey & Theresa May



Andrew Smith MP with Sandy Lovatt Oxfordshire Secretary at the launch of the Oxfordshire Study