

## BCSC at Party Conference 2009

This year BCSC attended both the Liberal Democrat and the Conservative Party Conferences, hosting fringe events in partnership with the Local Government Association (LGA) at both.

The events were both on the theme “Regeneration through Partnership: Public Private Engagement” and provided BCSC with an opportunity to directly engage with key political stakeholders on behalf of the BCSC membership on this core issue.

The Liberal Democrat event was hosted by Dan Rogerson MP, member of the Lib Dem CLG team. Keynote speakers included Councillor Stuart Bray, leader of Hinckley and Bosworth Council and Charles Miller, King Sturge and Martyn Chase, BCSC.

Dan Rogerson MP indicated that he had found the event to be extremely informative and BCSC will be working closely with him and his CLG team going forward. Further to this event, the LGA and BCSC will be meeting to discuss areas of potential partnership for the future.

The Conservative Party event was hosted by Stewart Jackson MP, Shadow Minister with responsibility for regeneration. Joining Stewart were; Jeremy Collins, President of BCSC, Martyn Chase, DTZ, Councillor Andrew Carter, Leader of Leeds City Council, and Peter Miller, Westfield Chief Operating Officer.

This event was extremely well attended, drawing in a number of local councillors, planning experts and partner stakeholders. Within the session, a number of topics were discussed, including:

- Development finance
- Regional planning
- Occupancy costs
- Local Government empowerment (resource and training/up-skilling)
- The proposed abolishment of regional spatial strategies

Within his closing remarks, Stewart Jackson sought to remind the industry that the final version of the Conservative Green Paper on Regeneration would soon be published.

For more details of BCSC’s recent response to the Conservative’s draft Green Paper on Regeneration please contact Philippa Latimer on [philippa.latimer@bcsc.org.uk](mailto:philippa.latimer@bcsc.org.uk) or 0207 227 3455.

Complimentary to the key fringe event in Manchester, BCSC also held a number of meetings with both research bodies and Prospective Parliamentary Candidates. These meetings were positive, and BCSC will be further developing these relationships over the coming months.

### **Next steps**

- Provide further briefing to the Conservative Party Shadow CLG team on planning and development
- Develop proposal for a forum to facilitate knowledge exchange between councils seeking to improve their development offer and those that have already successfully attracted inward investment
- Promote BCSC membership and BCSC conference to fringe attendees
- Explore research opportunities with research bodies (Bow Group, Centre for Cities and Policy Exchange)