



**Fighting the recession**

# FIGHTING THE RECESSION

- Welcome
- What we're doing
- Why Wandsworth is still great
- Council webpage

<http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/recessionfighting>

# For residents

- Your customers
- Financial advice
- Benefit maximisation
- Help with bank accounts
- Advice days (e.g. later this month)

# For residents

## TRAINING

- Young black men (appointed Talent - > 100 people into work over the next 2 years)
- Apprenticeships (council taking on 36)
- Work Right Scheme - promoting employment of people with disabilities in the council
- Workstep (helping people with disabilities into work)
- Personal Best - improving skills through volunteering
- Battersea Power Station Job Shop

# For businesses

# BUSINESS SUPPORT

- Business Link in London, Malcolm Brabon.
- GLE One London
- Planning
- Business advice (Free events)

# For businesses

## HELP FROM THE COUNCIL

- Vacant shops
- Pilot scheme (grants up to £1000) to ensure they do not impact too much
- Red tape – enforcement concordat, e.g. pavements
- Business support
  - Aiming to help local suppliers bid for council contracts (see Business Charter)
  - Faster supplier payments
  - Private sector provision (cash office closure > 200,000 transactions into post offices)

# For businesses

# MONEY

- Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme
  - replaces Small Firm Loan Guarantee Scheme
  - Govt guarantees loans to viable businesses
  - Malcolm Brabon (BL) here.
- Economic Recovery Loan fund
  - From Boris
  - Loans of between £10 - 50k
  - Launched tomorrow, should be plenty of media coverage
  - Grants and Int. Free Loans

# For businesses

# MONEY

- TCIS
  - 61 businesses & 138 new jobs benefit in last 2 years
  - Leveraged £2.4m private sector investment
- Business Improvement Districts
  - 1st eg Garratt Business Park
  - £240k investment over five years

# For businesses

# BUSINESS RATES

- Spread payments (12/12 instead of 10/12)
- Promote small business rate relief
- 2,000 companies benefiting from over a million
- Campaign to cap increases
- end of transitional relief
- Govt now allows some of all of increase to be deferred
- Neil Burdett from the Valuation Office
  
- Hardship support
- First in London
- See Jenny Metcalfe afterwards

# Wandsworth's strengths

- Evidence we are not being hit as hard as other places
- Diversity of economic activity
- Skilled, flexible work-force
- Highly developed infrastructure

# Best Buy Wandsworth

- Ready for end of recession
- Low tax
- Quality services
- Pro-business authority
  - EDO well respected (see Business Charter for standards)
- Well located, good transport
- Lowest crime in inner London
- Five great town centres
  - Balham fastest growing
  - Each has TCM
- Nine Elms
- Bleak time & Wandsworth well placed to survive and prosper

# More information...

- Networking
- ID EDO staff
- Thank-you