

NLGN ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2015

LOOKING FOR A NEW ENGLAND?

BUILDING A NEW SETTLEMENT FOR THE CITIES AND SHIRES

09:30 – 16:15, Tuesday 10th February 2015

Livery Hall, Guildhall, 71 Basinghall Street, London, EC2V 7HH

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GROUP

The English question is back on the table as never before. Councils across the country are sending bids to Whitehall demanding more powers and offering new governance arrangements in return. The Conservatives and Liberal Democrats have set a devolutionary direction of travel in government and Labour has promised a new deal for England from opposition. Many believe that a big step towards greater devolution to the cities and shires is imminent.

This conference brings senior leaders from across local government together to take stock just a few months before an unpredictable but critical election. Does the sector have a clear ask for the centre? Is the centre really ready to loosen its control of localities? What might the cost be in terms of new governance structures and risks for localities? Join us to debate the issues with senior politicians and thinkers.

9.30 REGISTRATION AND MORNING COFFEE

10.00 INTRODUCTION FROM: LOOKING FOR A NEW ENGLAND?

Simon Parker

Director, NLGN

10.20 KEYNOTE SPEECH TBC

11.00 COFFEE BREAK

11.20 BREAKOUT SESSIONS:

A new settlement for the cities and shires must involve two critical policy areas.

The first is new powers to drive and shape economic growth. We need to see further devolution of capital investment, new powers over skills and

infrastructure and a greater say in the welfare system. Our panel will set out how best to create a new settlement for growth.

NEW DEAL FOR THE ECONOMY

Max Nathan

Deputy Director, What Works Centre for Local Economic Growth

Cllr Paul Carter

Leader, Kent County Council

Cllr Sir Richard Leese

Manchester City Council.

Emma Burnell

Head of External Affairs, NLGN

The second is a new settlement for public services, with greater support for councils to drive the integration of health and social care, welfare and skills. This panel will explore the best way to give cities and shires real control over the services they use.

NEW DEAL FOR PUBLIC SERVICES

Robert Pollock

Director, Public Service Transformation Network

Laura Wilkes

Head of Policy and Research, NLGN

12.30 LUNCH

What do the political parties have to offer, is it ambitious enough and does it stack up? This is a chance to hear from, and quiz, leading politicians and thinkers from the two main traditions.

13.30 DEVOLUTION WITH LABOUR

Lisa Nandy MP

Shadow Minister for Civil Society

Andy Harrop

General Secretary, Fabian Society

Cllr Peter John

Leader, London Borough of Southwark

14.15 DEVOLUTION WITH CONSERVATIVES

Greg Clarke MP

David Skelton, Director, Renewal

15.00 COFFEE BREAK

15.30 KEYNOTE SPEECH

16.15 CLOSE OF CONFERENCE