

# FORWARD PROGRAMME



This document provides an overview of NLGN's forward programme of Research and Events for our members and partners.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### REPORT LAUNCH

#### LOCALISING EMPLOYABILITY SUPPORT

11:00 – 13:00, Thursday 20 October 2016

London



This is the launch of our research into the benefits of localising employability support. The report shows how some councils are already leading on this front, and sets out a new deal between DWP, combined authorities, and councils which focuses on locally-led and commissioned approaches offering a viable alternative to underperforming centralised methods.

### PUBLIC EVENT

#### THE AUTUMN STATEMENT – WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT?

Monday 28th November 2016, Time TBC

London

There is no doubt that this Autumn Statement will present local government with a range of new challenges and fresh opportunities. Indeed, the first statement by the new chancellor promises to be eventful, he has indicated he'll use this year's autumn statement to 'reset' economic policy. In order to analyse the impact of announcements from the statement on 23<sup>rd</sup> November, we are holding an event to review its impact on local government and key partners. The event will provide in-depth analysis from expert commentators and a provide relaxed environment to discuss all the implications with influential peers.

### CONFERENCE

#### BECOMING FLOOD RESILIENT: IMPROVING COUNCILS' FLOOD MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

12:00-16:30, Wednesday 30th November 2016

Leeds



Following the extensive disruption caused by last Winter's extreme weather NLGN are holding a conference in Leeds looking at how local authorities can improve their flooding resistance, resilience, and response strategies. This conference will bring together leading practitioners from

local government, national bodies, and the private sector to discuss how to maintain and improve effective flood-risk management across the country.

## REPORT LAUNCH

# TOWARDS A NEW DEAL FOR THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT WORKFORCE

Thursday 8th December 2016, Time TBC

London



Working for local government used to be considered a 'safe' option. What councils lacked in senior pay they more than made up for through job security, a clear career structure and good pensions. But our evidence shows this pattern shifting, the councils of tomorrow want a potent mix of innovation, enterprise, reflection and engagement from their staff. Some have argued that these new council workers may be increasingly mobile. Successfully attracting and retaining such a workforce would represent a substantial cultural shift for many councils, and it can only be achieved with the support of renewed recruitment, training, performance management and reward strategies. This groundbreaking new report will contain strong evidence and insight that councils can use to plan their own workforce strategies, as well as practical 'how to' lessons for those who have to implement change, or support councils in that change.

## PUBLIC EVENT

# BREXIT: THE SETTLEMENT LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEEDS

W/C 23rd January 2017, Date and Time TBC

London

The potential implications of Brexit are myriad and uncertain. How will this impact the commissioning process? How will the loss of EU funding affect existing regeneration projects? And of course, one thing is certain, Brexit will have different implications for the different regions of the UK. How do we arrive at a settlement which works for Birmingham as well as it does for Bermondsey? At this event, expert commentators from a range of backgrounds will analyze what we know about Brexit and Local Government so far, and seek to imagine an ideal settlement for local authorities across the country.

## CONFERENCE

# PLACE-BASED HEALTH CONFERENCE

W/C 30th January 2017, Date and Time TBC



The Place-Based Health Commission's Report in March this year made a significant intervention into the health debate. It presented a clear challenge to the system and its network of partners to take the starting point for reform as people and places rather than existing service boundaries. Almost a year on from the initial report this conference is an opportunity to assess progress and agree priorities

towards reaching our vision of a system which focuses the balance of energy and resource towards supporting health, rather than simply responding to illness. The conference will be one-day event held in central London, geared towards active learning and an opportunity to explore what's working and the emerging challenges.

## **CONFERENCE**

### **NLGN ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2017**

**09:30 – 16:30, Tuesday 21st February 2017**

London

The NLGN Annual Conference will as always seek to bolster local ambitions and help our high-level audience plan for their future. Last year saw over 130 Leaders, Chief Executives, Directors, policy makers and senior executives from local government and their partner organisations join us for a day of debate, exchange and networking.

## **DINNER**

### **CORPORATE PARTNER'S DINNER**

**March 2017, Date and Time TBC**

London

Our annual Corporate Partner's dinner brings together representatives from NLGN's corporate partners in an exclusive setting to discuss a high level issue in an intimate Chatham House dinner. Each year we consult with partners to ascertain the most pertinent topic for discussion and invite influential speakers. Previous speakers have included Peter John, Leader of Southwark Council and David Finch, Leader of Essex County Council. Always popular and memorable, the dinner provides corporate partners with a discreet setting to debate, exchange and learn.

## **REPORT LAUNCH**

### **FUTURE OF CIVIL SOCIETY**

**W/C 24th April 2017, Date and Time TBC**

London

This will be the conclusion of our work on the future of Civil society and will see us outline imaginative and practical ways that the relationship between funders and local government can be reshaped to be improve outcomes.

## **DRINKS RECEPTION**

### **ANNUAL SUMMER RECEPTION**

**June 2017, Date and Time TBC**

London

Our annual summer reception held at the House of Commons is a highlight of NLGN's year. Each year over 150 of local government's key figures attend. It is always a great opportunity to catch up and network with peers as well as hear from the most influential speakers in local government. Previous years' speakers have included the Rt Hon Greg Clark and Rt Hon Eric Pickles.

## UPCOMING RESEARCH

### COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER: A COMMON INTEREST



Local authorities are approaching community asset transfer in increasingly creative ways. This project considers how local government can, and is, enabling the success of community businesses through asset transfer. The report outlines how attitudes towards asset transfer have been affected by cuts to local authority budgets, and how community businesses are taking advantage of asset disposals to change the local public service offer. It provides a framework for a more cooperative approach between community businesses and councils to achieve success in these ventures.

### TOWARDS A NEW DEAL FOR THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT WORKFORCE



As local government's role is changing, so the workforce needs to adapt. NLGN asks what the requirements of the future workforce are and how councils can change the way they successfully recruit and manage a talented workforce over the next decade. The 'old' benefits of local government employment included job security, a clear career structure and good pensions. But this deal is increasingly being eroded by the pressures of austerity and changing ways of delivering public services. Meanwhile, council staff are increasingly expected to do more work, operate in different ways and use new skillsets. This ground-breaking research will set out a new deal for the future local government workforce.

### CREATING TOMORROW'S PLACES: SHAPING THE FUTURE OF LOCAL PUBLIC SERVICES USING SMART CAPABILITIES



New smart capabilities – technology-driven infrastructure, data analytics and networks have the potential to support more ambitious integrated service responses and change the relationship between the citizen and the state. We ask how new capabilities will shape the places of tomorrow. Our research and workshops we will create a vision for a smarter and more networked technological future, and set out a roadmap for local government to navigate its delivery of this change starting today.

### PRODUCING THE GOODS



Councils are facing another five years of seeking to do more with less and must continue to find ways to squeeze more impact out of every pound. Many of the obvious measures to increase productivity have already been taken: councils have shared services, held down pay and sweated assets and

staff to improve output per pound spent. The sector needs a fresh wave of thinking highlighting innovative yet realistic ways to increase the number of outputs to every input. It will use examples from technology, workforce reform, health and social care, and demand management. International examples will be considered, and we will examine how these could be applied in a UK context.

## THE FUTURE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN LONDON



The interface between civil society and local government is changing, and this project seeks to set out how a future renewed relationship can work in practice. Reductions in local authority budgets mean that third sector organisations are increasingly stepping into formerly statutory areas. We ask whether civil society funders should align their investment priorities with those of local government, and if so how the relationship would need to change.

**NLGN**  
**OCTOBER 2016**