

We're busy putting the finishing touches to our remaining reports for this year – watch out for work on social care commissioning, capital finance and the future of district councils.

But we're also looking ahead to 2012, and with that in mind we've been talking to our members about the key policy challenges for the year ahead. Growth tops the agenda, but renewing the role of local politics comes a close second. We'll be circulating our forward research programme in the next few weeks.

In December, we're holding the first of our new series of 'Pop Tanks' – or 'pop-up think tanks'. These are designed to turn NLGN inside out, so instead of us going away and writing a report, we're supporting our members to collectively develop their own recommendations for change. The first Pop Tank is on 8 December - get in touch to attend.

Best wishes,

Simon

Simon Parker, Director

sparker@nlgn.org.uk / [@SimonFParker](https://twitter.com/SimonFParker)

Upcoming Events:

CityCamp: Families

19 November 2011

Westminster

[Book now](#)

Social Care Commissioning launch

22 November 2011

House of Commons

[Book now](#)

Capital Futures report launch

7 December 2011

Westminster

[Book now](#)

'Pop Tank'

8 December 2011

Central London

[Book now](#)

NLGN Annual Conference 2012: Local Growth

Wednesday 25th January 2011,

Westminster

[Book now](#)

Research

Local Growth

Work is underway on our new Local Growth project, exploring the new role and responsibilities of councils, local enterprise partnerships and business partners in stimulating local economic growth. In particular, the research will focus on how councils and partners can shape skills and infrastructure delivery, including broadband.

Get involved: The first research seminar will take place in London mid-December and a second research seminar will take place in Newcastle in January. Dates and details to be circulated shortly but you can [register your interest](#) to attend.

Capital Futures

The launch of our research into Capital Finance, laying out our guidance for the future of strategic investment at a local level will take place on 7 December 16:00—18:00 at RICS, Parliament Square, Westminster. This launch represents the culmination of one of our core focuses this year, and booking is advised to secure a place at the event. Please RSVP to rsvp@nlgn.org.uk.

Social Care Commissioning

The launch of [The Future of Social Care Commissioning](#) will take place on 22 November 10:30—12:00, at the House of Commons. The morning will feature high-level contributions from Allan Bowman, Chair of the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) and Jim Graham, Chief Executive, Warwickshire County Council. Valuable insight will be provided into what future practice should look like during the challenging years ahead and a forum will be provided for discussion between social care providers

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[Book your place.](#)

Events

CityCamp: Families

10:00—19:00, 19 November, The Hub, Westminster

CityCamp Families is a barcamp conference designed to find new and better ways of providing services for families in the greatest need, offering people with an interest in services for families an opportunity to create and spread great ideas and practical solutions

Find out more and [book your place](#)

‘Pop Tank’: Introductory session

13:00—16:00, 8 December, WSP House, 70 Chancery Lane, London

The first session of ‘Pop Tank’ (a pop-up think tank experience) will create member-driven interest groups centred on a few key policy questions for the coming year, which are collectively agreed by NLGN members, forming the backbone of our research throughout 2012

RSVP to jcollins@nlgn.org.uk to reserve your place

Annual Conference

25th January, One Drummond Gate, Victoria, London

The NLGN annual conference is shaping up to be the key forum for identifying the solutions to 2012’s most pressing fiscal challenges. This year’s focus will be on driving growth for your community, with a streamed format to allow specific solutions to be discussed for both rural and urban areas. We have already confirmed a host of leading local government voices will be offering their insights, including **Rt. Hon. Eric Pickles MP**, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Shadow Secretary of State, **Rt. Hon. Hilary Benn MP**, and one of the UK’s most influential commentators, **Will Hutton**.

Learn more and [reserve your place](#)

News from the Network

Blaby District Council: Local Lend a Hand

NLGN went to visit Blaby District Council, finding out more about their ‘Local Lend a Hand Scheme’ in partnership with Lloyds TSB to help first-time buyers onto the housing ladder. The Council will help people to secure a house by guaranteeing up to 20 per cent of the total value of the mortgage taken out with Lloyds TSB. Blaby is the first district council in England to make this opportunity available to first-time buyers wishing to live in their district.

[Find out more](#) and [contact Jenna](#) if you would like to connect to Blaby about this scheme

New Communications Manager

This month saw the arrival of our new Communications Manger, Phil Baker. Following work with the LGC, Govnet and in various NGO’s, Phil is eager to engage with members and invites you to get in touch regarding any media matters on 020 7469 2665 or at Philip.baker@nlgn.org.uk

NLGN in the news

Daria’s input into a [Guardian Live Q&A](#) on shared services was selected by the newspaper’s website as a highlight in the year’s coverage of local government news.

[Public Finance](#) covered our Transforming Universal Services report.

[The Guardian](#) also devoted a long piece to our Future Councils report, recognising the possibilities for innovation that NLGN had identified in its research.

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[Public Finance](#) covered Simon's input at LibDem and Conservative autumn conference events.

[Public Finance](#) also covered NLGN's input into the current discussion of plans to localise business rates.

[The Guardian](#) devoted a long piece to our Future Councils report, recognising the possibilities for innovation that NLGN had identified in its research.

Latest on the blog:

Local Economic Growth: Lets shift the data debate

Two weeks ago the government's Open Data consultation closed. Launched by the Cabinet Office, the aim of the consultation was to find out how the government can 'best embed a culture of openness and transparency in our public services'.... [Click here to continue reading.](#)

FOR FEEDBACK OR TO UNSUBSCRIBE EMAIL INFO@NLGN.ORG.UK
2ND FLOOR, HOLLAND HOUSE, 4 BURY STREET, LONDON, EC3A 5AW
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