

The volcanic eruption in Iceland has created a neat visual metaphor for those of us in public policy: after a big bang we're waiting for the dust to settle. The bang has of course come in the form of the General Election campaign and whilst the political parties make their pitch, NLGN is focused on interpreting, explaining and influencing the new political order from May 7<sup>th</sup>. Our [New Government, New Era?](#) conference will be one of the first opportunities post-election to take stock of potential changes to local government and its partners, whilst we will be publishing major new reports on [Financial Horizons](#) and the [Future of Assessment](#) over the next couple of months. Over the summer there will also be a raft of papers, events and briefings on a range of subjects from carbon reduction to digital inclusion to new models for local capital financing. Do keep up to date with our activities at [www.nlgn.org.uk](http://www.nlgn.org.uk) and as always we welcome your feedback. **James Hulme, Head of Communications, NLGN**  
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**Innovation Blog**



Good policy and best practice do not come on the back of reacting to the latest tragedy.  
*Peter Gilroy, Chief Executive, Kent County Council*

**Upcoming Events**

[Going Locally Green](#)

11th May 2010

[The Future of Assessment](#)

27th May 2010

[Safeguarding Children Annual Conference](#)

16th June 2010

[A New Government](#)

24th June 2010

**Current Research**

[Park and Green Space Service Organisation and Structure](#)

[The Future of Assessment beyond 2010](#)

[Modelling fiscal consolidation for local delivery](#)

[Duties and Entitlements](#)

**Recent Articles**

[How CRC should be the starting point for tackling climate change locally](#)  
*Luke Hildyard, New Start*

[Making Total Place a success: more than a leap of faith](#)  
*Nigel Keohane and Geraldine Smith*

[Total Place—making it happen from the centre](#)  
*Nigel Keohane, Public Servant*

[Whitehall: putting its money where its mouth is](#)  
*Chris Leslie and Nigel Keohane, Public Finance*



**Councils and Community Banking: Counteracting the local credit crunch**

With figures showing that more than a third of low earners are finding it difficult to access credit during the recession, Councils and Community Banking: Counteracting the local credit crunch argues that Government should build on its commitment to provide a basic bank account for all by supporting councils to provide accessible and affordable credit. [Find out more.](#)

**In The News...**

[Local turnouts to thrive under the shadow of national issues](#) Public Finance

[Major parties failing to spell out spending plans](#) Public Finance

[What will politicians need to do to please public managers?](#) Society Guardian

**Partners**

With Election Day fast approaching Network members are gearing up for the upcoming debates around designing new services, Total Place, and, ultimately, the impact of the deficit.

NLGN will be at the heart of those arguments with events now being planned well into the summer and two research projects on vital topics due to launch in July. It's likely that events will be pretty hectic from May 7th onwards, so NLGN will be keeping partners up to date on developments.

In particular, we're planning a meeting for partners in late June to help steer NLGN's research and response to the new Government—watch out for invitations coming soon. **James Kirkland** [James.Kirkland@nlgn.org.uk](mailto:James.Kirkland@nlgn.org.uk)

**New Government, New Era?**

Timed to respond to the general election, this event brings together leading figures from across the public sector at a critical time. Focusing on fiscal outlook, governance structures, regulatory framework and the future of Total place, the conference will review the policy and political landscape for the public sector for the next few years. Confirmed speakers include: Derrick Anderson, Chief Executive, London Borough of Lambeth, Rob Whiteman, Chief Executive, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham and John Seddon, Vanguard Consulting. More details can be found [here](#).

**Forthcoming Research Papers**

- [The Co-operative Council](#)

**Research Opportunities**

- [Contracting Times](#)
- [Going Locally Green](#)
- [Behavioural Change Commission](#)

We are eager to hear from members in both the public and private sectors with an interest in supporting current and future projects.

Please contact Nigel Keohane at [nigel.keohane@nlgn.org.uk](mailto:nigel.keohane@nlgn.org.uk) for further information, or to offer case studies and evidence from your organisation.