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The big news this month is our Commission on Next Localism. While everyone else focuses on the short term impact of the cuts, we want to bring local government together to think creatively about the future. This is probably the most ambitious research programme NLGN has ever launched, and we're looking for like-minded partners to help make it happen. Drop me a line to find out more.

Best wishes,
Simon Parker, Director sparker@nlgn.org.uk

The Commission on Next Localism

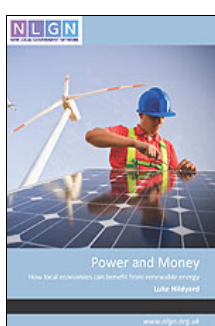
Over the coming months NLGN will launch a major *Commission on Next Localism*. It will develop the ideas and propositions that will define the new localist era.

NLGN will look explore how a new relationship between State and Citizen could make a reality of the freedoms needed to fulfil local government's ambition, shape local democracy and 'lock in' localism into wider public service reform. Our aim is to encourage real-time learning between local authorities and other local partners.

For more information, [please contact us](#).



£12bn in subsidies available to local government through green energy



NLGN's latest report, *'Power & Money'* was launched this week and demonstrated that there is up to £12 billion available to local councils if they are able to effectively harness the potentials of green energy schemes.

The report also warns that although some authorities are already taking advantage of government schemes such as the Feed-in Tariff and Renewable Heat Incentive, there is far more potential for councils to take on this extra funding through such schemes from central government.

For more information please [contact our research team](#).

Networks Activity and Events Update

This month has seen us announce 'Future Policy'. This network will be exclusively for the policy leaders of our Innovation Network councils. At the core of this network will be the regular development sessions we will run quarterly that will address in an informative and practical way the key issues that policy leaders face. Elements of this programme will be specific to the most urgent and important challenges such as organisational change and service transformation. Others will focus on the future skills and demands being placed on policy leaders and will ensure they are equipped with the relevant policy and managerial skills to face them. The first event is being hosted with the Department for Communities and Local Government on the 12th April 2011 between 2.00pm and 4.00pm. If you haven't responded to the invite we've sent through to you then please do let us know as places are limited.

Best wishes,
Liam Scott-Smith, Government Relations Manager, LScott-smith@nlgn.org.uk

Shared Services Launch

The Future of Shared Services will launch on March 1st. We have had an excellent response to the event, to which we have invited The Rt. Hon. Grant Shapps MP, Minister for the Department of Communities & Local Government to address our audience. The research will examine the scope and limits of sharing services as a method to respond to central government budget cuts. For more information on both the research and the launch event, please [contact us](#).

The Future of Audit Research Seminars

This month we held two seminars to consult our partners on our current research project, *'The Future of Audit'*. The seminars in Birmingham and London featured presentations by a range of local government representatives as well as members of the existing organisational audit structure.

Big Society Research Seminars

Our recent research seminar in Liverpool was a great success with excellent representation from voluntary organisations in the surrounding area. Delegates were concerned that cuts to third sector funding would adversely affect the lives of some of the most vulnerable people in society who rely on charitable work. To book a space at the partner seminar in London on March 9th, [please email us](#).

Research Programme

NLGN has a number of full research projects underway. For further information, or to contribute to the research [please contact us](#).

In [Influencing the Demand for Public Services](#) we look at how government can work with society to control and limit the scale of demand for public services, and to design a system that builds on positive social norms and changes behaviour for the better.

[The Next Generation of Shared Services](#) questions existing assumptions about what shared services are and what they do. NLGN will research a new generation of models for sharing and how these can be sourced, procured and implemented.

NLGN research in [Unleashing the Big Society](#) will explore practical approaches to analyse the new methods of financing, support, commissioning and accountability which will underpin and drive this ambitious societal transformation forward.

It is important that any new audit framework that replaces the Audit Commission provides confidence in financial management and probity at the local level. NLGN's [New Audit Agenda](#) research will host a series of discussions and draw on expert input to develop a new audit system.

[Capital Futures](#) This research will establish a routemap for the development of new capital raising mechanisms and will identify the vehicles necessary to bring these options into being. The research will be assisted by an expert taskforce of key finance professionals to help drive the agenda forwards and ensure the relevancy, rigour and practical applicability of the recommendations.

Upcoming Events



What? LGC & NLGN Joint Conference: New Era, New Local Government Workforce
When? Wednesday 23rd February
Where? Central London, TBC
[Book Your Place Now](#)

What? Shared Services Research Launch Event
When? Tuesday 1st March
Where? Central London, TBC
[Book Your Place Now \(Places are limited\)](#)

'In The News' and Articles

Our latest report, Power & Money featured in [the Guardian](#) this week, with an explanation of the report by Simon Parker.

Simon also contributed an opinion piece to [The Times](#) this week, with our research team also offering an article on [audit reform](#) as well as featuring in an [Independent on Sunday](#) article on the role of think tanks.

With the continuing controversy surrounding David Cameron's 'Big Society' agenda, NLGN wrote a published letter to [the Guardian](#), as well as being quoted in [The Daily Telegraph](#).

We also continue to be well covered by the sectoral media, featuring in [Public Finance](#), [LocalGov](#) and [eGov Monitor](#).