

If you're coming to our Annual Conference next Wednesday at Church House in Westminster – held in association with Local Government Chronicle (www.nlgn-annual.com) - we hope you'll get the most comprehensive update of the critical developments affecting the local government sector this year.

Secretary of State **John Denham** will speak in the morning, with Shadow Communities Secretary **Caroline Spelman** also addressing the conference. Crucially, we're also hearing from Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury **Philip Hammond** about the Conservative approach to local government finance. **Vince Cable** from the Liberal Democrats will be discussing the impact of the recession on local authorities. We'll also hear from **Sir Michael Bichard** about totalplace, **Steve Bundred** on CAA, the LSE's **Tony Travers** and many other leading lights from local government. Packed with the most senior opinion formers from councils across the country, this is a "not-to-be-missed" event. [Register for the event here.](#)

Chris Leslie, Director, NLGN Chris.Leslie@nlgn.org.uk

We Can Work It Out receives praise in Parliament



Lord Freud, Shadow Minister for Work and Pensions, welcomed NLGN's latest report, [We Can Work It Out: Local employment and skills for economic recovery](#), describing it as "the best thing I've read on the localism agenda" and a "really interesting piece that deals with really complicated issues in a way that is really quite forward looking".

We were also joined at the launch event in Parliament by The Rt Hon Jim Knight MP, Minister for Employment and Welfare Reform, who said that "we are all agreed about the need to deliver services differently and part of that will involve us, as Ministers in central government, being willing to let go – pushing power down to the local level and giving people more say in the services we provide." The report, supported by A4e and Kent County Council, calls on local authorities to channel funding to areas of skills training that will most benefit long term employment and economic growth in their locality. The report and presentation slides are available to download for free from the [Members Area](#) of the [NLGN website](#).



EVENTS

[NLGN Annual Conference 2010– The more for less challenge: Preparing for the next spending review](#) (27th January 2010)

[CABE Research Seminar: Greenspace Service Organisational Structures and Positioning](#) (29th January 2010)

[Partner Briefing– Contracts and Managing Partnerships](#) (2nd February 2010)

[NLGN and LGC: CAA the first results](#) (3rd February 2010)

[NLGN and LGC: Total Place](#) (25th February 2010)

[Municipal Bonds: from theory to practice](#) (1st March 2010)

CURRENT RESEARCH

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

[Realising Total Place: Moving from theory into practice](#)

Research Sponsorship

[The Future of Assessment Beyond 2010](#)

[Scanning Financial Horizons](#)

RECENT ARTICLES

[Capital changes: local bonds and the new relationship with private finance](#)
Chris Leslie, Public Servant

[Total Capital, Total Complexity?](#)
Chris Leslie, Local Government Chronicle


CONFERENCES SPOTLIGHT

CAA: The first results
Wednesday 3 February 2010
www.lgcandnlgn-caa.com

Take this opportunity to analyse and learn from the first results.

Total Place 2010: exploring the opportunities of the 'whole area' approach to public services
Wednesday 25 February 2010
www.lgcandnlgn-totalplace.com

Total Place has the potential to radically shake up public services and begin the process of real localism.

 NLGN is proud to sign up to the 10:10 campaign.

Click [here](#) for further details

In The News...

- [Call for councils to be at heart of new era in skills training](#) *Public Net*
- [Think tank urges councils to boost economic role](#) *LocalGov.co.uk*
- [Councils should be economic activists](#) *LGC*
- [Tory sets out county devolution plan](#) *LGC*
- [Tax incentives to encourage new businesses](#) *The Bolton News*

Corporate Partners

As you may have noticed there has been a flurry of activity on the research and sponsorship fronts over the last few weeks. Our Total Place project is in full swing, while projects on managing contracts and mitigating the impact of the Carbon Reduction Commitment are in their early stages - more opportunities will follow soon. If you would like more information on these, or know of interesting case studies we might include please let me know.

James Kirkland James.Kirkland@nlgn.org.uk

Innovation Network

With our new website launched just before Christmas, from now on you will be able to read and download newsbrief, policy roundup and all our publications from the Members Only section of the website. The website features a new Innovation Blog section, kicked off by the Leader of Lancashire County Council, Geoff Driver, talking about the PBR. We'd love to get other members involved. If you'd like to submit an article, the only requirements are that it's about something innovative in local government and 200-400 words in length. E-mail your article to me at nirmalee@nlgn.org.uk. **Nirmalee Wanduragala**

Members Area



Innovation Network and Corporate Network partners now have access to the new Members Area. The area includes NLGN green papers, free downloads of all NLGN reports and a simple way to register for events directly online. It also has available past editions of the Newsbrief and Policy Round-up.

Forthcoming Research Papers

- Elected mayors, primaries and city-regions
- Councils and illegal sub-letting
- Freeing local government: exploring a general power of competence
- Strategic planning: local, regional or national?

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 for further information, or to offer case studies and evidence from your organisation.

PLEASE E-MAIL ANY FEEDBACK OR COMMENTS TO INFO@NLGN.ORG.UK