



The implications of the Government's budget for local authority incomes were laid bare last week by our latest report 'Scanning Financial Horizons'. Launched at the LGA conference, the report examined the budget reductions that are likely to fall locally, the services that are vulnerable to cuts and new potential efficiency and income opportunities. We will be exploring further many of the themes that came out of this work through the summer and the autumn, including how local authorities can engage with the public over the cuts and influencing the Comprehensive Spending Review and the forthcoming local government finance review. The implications of the financial climate on work force reform will be discussed at our partner briefing with Babcock tomorrow.

We will shortly be launching our paper on audit and assessment: following the demise of CAA, we have explored the options for driving up local standards and reinvigorating local democracy without burdensome inspection. We will also be launching a paper looking at new models for financing capital infrastructure later in the month.

Anna Turley, Acting Director, NLGN Anna.Turley@nlgn.org.uk



Scanning Financial Horizons

Scanning Financial Horizons warns that councils must be given greater financial certainty from Whitehall and greater flexibility to raise local revenue if it is to cope with the cuts. NLGN recommends the introduction of new "Place Agreements" of shared public spending across the local state and for local authorities to have full discretion over Council Tax levels as well as the ability to retain a slice of business rates locally to incentivise economic growth.

Login to the Member's section to view the full pdf.

To follow *Scanning Financial Horizons*, we're interested in hearing from local authorities who are keen to trial methods of communicating the scale and nature of the cuts needed to the public. Please email james.kirkland@nlgn.org.uk for more information.

In The News...

- [Council chiefs believe social care will escape worst cuts](#) Community Care
- [Cuts blamed as half of town hall bosses plan to impose fortnightly bin collections](#) The Daily Mail
- [Sector facing £12bn cash reduction](#) The MJ
- [Tory council cuts to hit the poor](#) The Mirror
- [How a 25% cut might hit departments' spending](#) The Financial Times
- [Grow, grow, grow your own](#) New Statesman

Report Launch: Through the Looking Glass: The Future of Audit and Assessment

Next week sees the launch of an NLGN report on the future of audit and assessment post-CAA. The report will analyse the fundamental purposes of assessment, get the views from key stakeholders, find ways to balance the many tensions inherent to inspection regimes, and construct a framework which takes account of financial realities, of the new nature of public services, and of the lessons of the last 13 years. There are still places available so don't miss out! [Click here to book a place at the report launch](#) or email rsvp@nlgn.org.uk



Networks

It was great to see and meet so many friends and colleagues at the LGA conference last week. In addition to our events programme, we're digesting the minutiae of the Government's proposals affecting local government and will be putting our research options out for consultation and sponsorship in the next week or so. If you're interested in providing background, case studies or even helping us financially to get the debate going, feel free to drop me a line.

James Kirkland James.Kirkland@nlgn.org.uk

Forthcoming Research Papers

- [The Co-operative Council](#)
- [Pensions Refund Reform](#)
- [What the General Power of Competence could mean](#)

Research Opportunities

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

Innovation Blog



[Removal of entitlements creates opportunity for more localised public services](#)
Luke Hildyard,
 Researcher, NLGN

Upcoming Events

[IN Seminar: The future of local authority workforces](#)

15 July 2010

[Launch: The Future of Audit and Assessment](#)

21 July 2010

[A New Era for Local Planning](#)

13 October 2010

The Future of Public Sector Partnerships

17 November 2010

NLGN Annual Conference 2011

26 January 2011

Current Research

[Capital Momentum](#)

[Carbon Reduction Commitment](#)

Recent Articles

[Osborne's Sword of Damocles hangs menacingly over our heads](#)
 Anna Turley, Public Servant

[Like Osborne, local government should seek public input](#)
 Anna Turley, LGC

[Floodgates open to next wave of cuts](#)
 James Hulme, LGC

[Total Place: one year from now](#)
 Guy Clifton and Nigel Keohane, The MJ

[Local Enterprise Partnerships could be engines for economic growth](#)



Anna Turley, Acting Director of NLGN, responds to the announcement from Deputy Prime Minister

Nick Clegg on the Regional Growth Fund and the announcement on Local Enterprise Partnerships in the letter to councils and business leaders from Secretaries of State Eric Pickles and Vince Cable.

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.