

*June 2011*

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NLGN has been gearing up for a big week at the end of June. The LGA Conference will see us hosting a series of fringe events, including the launch of our latest report, 'Realising Community Wealth: Local Government and the Big Society'. We're very pleased to confirm that ministers Bob Neill and Nick Hurd will be joining us at these sessions, full details are below. The discussions will also be a great opportunity to kick off our latest research, looking at how to reform universal services: libraries, transport and environmental services. As always, we appreciate your contributions so please feel free to get in touch.

Best wishes,  
Simon Parker, Director [sparker@nlgn.org.uk](mailto:sparker@nlgn.org.uk)

## NLGN Fringe Events at the LG Group Conference

At this year's Local Government Group Annual Conference, we will be launching our report, 'Unleashing the Big Society' as well as hosting other fringe events as part of our ongoing research. The events will take place as follows:

- [28th June: Ripping up the Rule Book: Transforming Universal Services](#)
- [29th June: NLGN Report Launch: Unleashing the Big Society](#)
- [29th June: The Leadership we need: Challenges for Local Government](#)

In between meetings with members, we will be tweeting throughout the event using the #LGConf2011. Please also join Simon who will be speaking at Workshop W11 on Mayors and the Localism Bill and Nigel Keohane speaking at the 2e2 fringe on Thursday lunchtime.



## Networks Activity and Events Update

DEFRA minister Lord Henley will be outlining the implications of the government's waste review at an upcoming NLGN partner briefing, for more information and to reserve your space, visit [here](#). This week it also emerged that the number of jobseekers chasing a single vacancy has increased threefold in the last 12 months in 10 parliamentary constituencies in England. NLGN is holding a partner briefing event exploring how we can drive local job creation, and what job creation partnerships between the public and private sector might look like. You can find out more [here](#).

Best wishes,  
Charlotte Rose, Networks Co-ordinator, [crose@nlgn.org.uk](mailto:crose@nlgn.org.uk)

### 'Unleashing the Big Society' Research Launch – 29th June

*With Nick Hurd MP, Minister for Civil Society*

On June 29th, NLGN will launch a new report, outlining a new '[Big Society Service Settlement](#)'. So far, much of the debate surrounding the Big Society has focused on the politics of the project without sufficient regard for practical implementation of a public service settlement with engagement and co-production at its heart. NLGN's report will be the first to take a pro-active look at the implications for local councils, and how they can expect to design a new 'Big Society' service model with citizen engagement, co-production and cross-sector partnerships at its core.

### NLGN at Autumn Party Conferences

NLGN is currently organising its presence at this year's autumn party conference season. We are on the look out for potential partners interested in supporting our events, [please get in touch](#) if you would like to know more or are interested in working with us on this project.

### The Future of Democracy – with Vernon Bogdanor

On July 11th, we will host a debate in the Houses of Parliament featuring constitutional historian Vernon Bogdanor, Douglas Carswell MP and Councillor Peter John, Leader of Southwark Council. With fallout from the expenses scandal rumbling on, the possible introduction of local referenda and the birth of televised presidential-style General Election debates in the UK, British democracy is changing fast. What does the future hold and what should be the role of elected politicians? How does direct engagement impact on traditional understandings of political engagement? This promises to be a fascinating event, [contact us now](#) to reserve a space.

### Libraries, the Environment and Transport: Ripping up the Rule Book – Research workshops

With universal services facing severe financial pressure, reform of how these services are delivered will be vital to ensuring their survival. We can already see some interesting examples of how councils are rethinking their role in serving their communities in these areas. The seminars will take place in London and Newcastle, on July 6th, 12th and 18th. For more information or to book a place, [please contact us](#), and specify which service area you are most interested in discussing.

### Research Workshop with Kommuninvest founder, Lars Andersson

As part of our ongoing research to develop a new model for local government to finance its infrastructure, we will be joined by Lars Andersson, founder of Swedish municipal bonds organisation Kommuninvest, to discuss what lessons can be learned by councils from his experience. [This event on July 14th](#) in London will take a practical approach in looking at how councils can maintain investment in vital local infrastructure.

## Research Programme

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

[Capital Futures](#) 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.

[Future Commissioning in Social Care](#) will analyse what social care commissioning will look like in a complex and changing political and economic context. Our research will draw on the best and most innovative emerging commissioning practices from across the country.

As part of our [Commission on Next Localism](#), we will be starting research into [Envisaging Local Government in 2015](#) and asking what local government bodies will look like in the coming years. What services should they provide? What should they commission? How best can they engage with citizens?

In response to concern surrounding the future of three key policy areas—Libraries, Transport and the Environment, [Ripping up the Rule Book](#) will source new ideas for how to redesign these service areas that have gone largely unreformed in recent years. These case studies will provide a provocative challenge to local government and demand that they think ambitiously about how best to redesign key services.

## Upcoming Events

**What?** Unleashing the Big Society, Nick Hurd MP  
**When?** Wednesday 29th June  
**Where?** LGA Conference, Birmingham  
[Register your interest now \(Places are limited\)](#)

**What?** Revitalising Local Democracy Debate  
**When?** Monday July 11th  
**Where?** House of Commons  
[Book Your Place Now](#)

**What?** CLES Summit 2011  
**When?** 12th & 13th July  
**Where?** Barnes Wallis Building, University of Manchester  
[Book Your Place Now](#)

## 'In The News' and Articles

NLGN staff have recently taken part in online Q&A events for the Guardian, discussing the [future of localism](#), and how councils can most effectively [communicate decisions on cuts](#) to residents.

Following the launch of our Commission on Next Localism, Simon Parker was interviewed by [Public Finance](#), to introduce the Commission to the sector.

Following a period of acrimony between town halls and Whitehall, Liam Scott-Smith writes for [Total Politics](#) on what to expect next.