



This week's Budget was of interest in local government circles. While uncertainty remains about future grant allocations for the coming years, there were some helpful announcements in the debate around 'Total Place', echoing much from our latest research publication "[Greater Than The Sum Of Its Parts](#)" by Nigel Keohane. We are pleased that Ministers are signalling encouraging for invest-to-save early intervention approaches by councils, allowing authorities to retain savings as a result of joint-working and collaboration. But we would welcome more detail on how savings will be calculated and enforced. The further reduction in ring-fencing of grant, by an additional £1.3billion, is good progress – moving from 110 to 94 funding streams and giving greater latitude to councils. However, this still leaves a considerable sum of money where councils will not have scope to take a 'Total Place' approach because of departmental insistence on ring-fencing and 'passporting' money. And while we understand why the Treasury is looking at a 'thematic' approach to Total Place freedoms, we are concerned that this may in part defeat the purpose of taking the most strategic overview possible of all local expenditure and potentially constraining joint working between policy themes. These are enormous policy issues – and we hope you'll keep in touch with us over the months ahead. **Chris Leslie, Director, NLGN**

Chris.Leslie@nlgn.org.uk



Total Place report launched
Last week saw the launch of NLGN's latest project, [Greater than the sum of its parts: Total place and the future shape of public services](#) by Nigel Keohane

and Geraldine Smith supported by Caggemini, Grant Thornton, Leadership Centre for Local Government and London Councils. Speaking at the event held in Portcullis House, Helen Bailey, Director of Public Services at the Treasury said "This is a great report and I commend it to those who haven't read it." Just days before the Budget expected to contain further Total Place announcements, Bailey added "My ministers want me to be here for this report to receive a Treasury welcome and to continue debate." Also speaking at the event were Sunderland Council Chief Executive Dave Smith, Dick Sorabji, Corporate Director, Policy and Public Affairs at London Councils and Cllr David Parsons, Leader of Leicestershire County Council.

In The News...

- [Ministers need to know their place](#) The Guardian
- [Total Place 'demands better collaborative working in Whitehall'](#) LocalGov
- [Whitehall could undermine Total Place](#) Public Service
- [Changes needed to make Total Place work](#) LGC



Unlawful sub-letting of social housing should be made a criminal offence
In [Don't Let On: New Measures to help tackle unlawful subletting](#), NLGN Senior Researcher Tom Symons argues that social housing tenants who sub-let their properties should be prosecuted for fraud. Under current rules, sub-letting social housing is a civil offence but NLGN calls for it to be treated the same as benefit fraud in the eyes of the law. [Download a copy here.](#)

In The News...

- [Thinktank: criminalise unlawful subletting](#) LGC
- [Unlawful sub-letting of social housing 'should be a criminal offence'](#) LocalGov
- [Report calls for subletting to be a criminal offence](#) Inside Housing



Corporate Partners
While we've been gazing into the electoral 'tealeaves' at NLGN, the uncertainty around the result of the election represents a real opportunity to push the localist agenda. This means we will be gearing up our representation at the party conferences come the autumn and will circulate our proposals for topics and sponsorship very soon. The party conferences provide a vital time for engaging with political members at all levels, not just the star ministerial attractions, so if you'd like more information about the options, drop me a line. **James Kirkland** James.Kirkland@nlgn.org.uk



Innovation Network
You may have received my recent requests for case studies for two of our upcoming projects on CAA and on co-operatives – thanks to all the IN members who have provided us with case studies. I'll shortly be sending out another request for case studies on the latest NLGN project on the Carbon Reduction Commitment, so keep an eye out for it and for invitations to our research seminars. Also this month we welcome our newest member Surrey County Council to the Innovation Network. A quick reminder that all members can download our latest report on Total Place (and all our other reports) for **free** from the members section of our website. If you can't remember your password e-mail me **Nirmalee Wanduragala**

March 2010

Innovation Blog
The UK's political parties are certainly united in one area—their promises to restore more power to local people and local authorities.
Cllr. Colin Barrow, Leader, Westminster City Council

Upcoming Events

- [The Future of Assessment](#)
24 March 2010
- [Modelling fiscal consolidation for local delivery](#)
20 April 2010
- [Safeguarding Children Annual Conference](#)
16th 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

- [Change the law](#)
Tom Symons, Inside Housing
- [Network Journal](#)
Anna Turley, ACEVO
- [There is scope for localism in the welfare state](#)
Chris Leslie, LGC
- [Alternative Vote, National and Local?](#)
Chris Leslie, Public Finance

Counted: A documentary-play about British democracy
In a country where people are more likely to vote for *X-Factor* than for the next Prime Minister, a documentary-play comes right to Westminster's doorstep, shedding light on why – in a world at war over democracy and in economic meltdown – so many people don't vote. [Click here for further details.](#)

CareQuality Commission **Patients, carers and families to benefit from new essential standards of care**
From April 2010 new essential standards of quality and safety are being introduced gradually across all health and adult social care services in England. For more information got to www.cqc.org.uk.

Forthcoming Research Papers

- [Community Banking](#)
- [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 for further information, or to offer case studies and evidence from your organisation.

