



The tectonic plates of local government policy are beginning to move, and nowhere is this clearer than in the financial foundations which are shaking even the most basic assumptions. As our politicians grow increasingly obsessed with tackling the national budget deficit, councils are likely to feel the brunt – and beyond the squeeze on grant allocations. NLGN's publication "Capital Contingencies: securing local capital finance in an era of high public debt" later this month will set out the consequences for local infrastructure of reduced grant and potential loans from the Treasury, but importantly will prompt Leaders and Chief Executives to prepare alternative strategies for continuing levels of investment. A completely fresh and entrepreneurial approach will be needed by local authorities and NLGN, as ever, will be speculating what this may entail.

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

What would a Conservative government mean for local government?

NLGN published two new publications this month looking at the potential impact of a Conservative Government on local government and the delivery of local public services.



Control Shift: Alt, Insert or Delete is a critical analysis of Conservative policy proposals for reforming local governance and decentralisation. Based on expert analysis and existing NLGN research, the paper dissects how policies would work in practice and the impact they will have on the local state. [More details.](#) [View pdf](#)



A Conservative Future? New ideas on local governance brings together a number of leading Conservative politicians from the national and local level to debate and discuss how localism can be at the heart of a future Conservative administration. [More details.](#) [View pdf.](#)

NLGN at Party Conferences

This year saw another successful party conference season with lively and well attended events at all three party conferences. Speakers included Francis Maude MP, Lord Hanningfield, Caroline Spelman MP, Ed Balls MP, John Denham MP, Ed Miliband MP, Julia Goldsworthy MP and Jeremy Browne MP. We would like to thank our sponsors - British Gas, The Social Investment Business, Treehouse and Westminster City Council for hosting the events with us. You can now view videos of these events at NLGN's very own [YouTube channel](#).

Innovation Network

We've had a hectic party conference season but it was good to catch up with Members from across the country. Next week sees us back in the North East with a roundtable discussing the future of social care and the role of local government. If you'd like to join us please e-mail me. We also extend a warm welcome to new Innovation Network member Hackney.

Nirmalee Wanduragala Nirmalee.Wanduragala@nlgn.org.uk

Corporate Partners

This month has seen the ramping up of NLGN's event offering for partners after the party conference season. We held a well-attended roundtable in Liverpool and look forward to a similar event in Leeds on 4th November. We're also looking for sponsors for our Christmas Reception; if you're interested in coming on board with us as partners for this fun networking opportunity just drop me a line and we can discuss all the details.

James Kirkland James.Kirkland@nlgn.org.uk

Call for case studies

NLGN is currently working alongside CAGE Space to carry out research into parks and green spaces. The work will investigate whether organisation and structure have an impact on performance and delivery. The research will define the wider benefits that can be achieved and the challenges facing the sector before analysing the impact that management structures and approaches have on green space service outcomes. We would be keen to hear of any case studies that would help us understand challenges faced, potential opportunities and hear about any particularly successful approaches that have been adopted in your council. If you are interested in participating in this research or for further information, please contact [Rhona Gaynor](#). For more information on the project click [here](#).

EVENTS

[Capital Contingencies: Securing new local investment in an era of high public debt](#) (28 October)

[Reforming the future of local social care for older people](#) (29 October)

[NLGN and LGC Conference: Local Area Agreements Conference 2009](#) (24 November)

[NLGN and LGC Conference: Stimulating Local Economies](#) (9 & 10 December)

[NLGN Annual Conference 2010](#) (27 January)

CURRENT RESEARCH

[Tackling Worklessness in Recession](#)

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

Research Sponsorship

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

[The Future of Assessment Beyond 2010](#)

[Scanning Financial Horizons](#)

[Closing Health Inequality](#)

RECENT ARTICLES

[This party conference season was revealing](#)

Anna Turley, *Local Government Chronicle*

[Let patients choose their doctors](#)

Nigel Keohane, *The Guardian*

[The name is bond](#)

Chris Leslie www.publicfinance.co.uk

[A lesson in prevention](#)

Anna Turley *The Guardian*

CONFERENCES SPOTLIGHT

Local Area Agreements Conference 2009 — Preparing for the future of local government workforce
Tuesday 24 Nov 2009
www.lgcandnlgn-ldaa.com

Both Rt Hon Rosie Winterton MP, Minister for Local Government, CLG and Bob Neill MP, Shadow Local Government Minister will be speaking at this event.

Stimulating Local Economies 9 & 10 December
www.lgcandnlgn-loaleconomies.com

Day 1 - Developing effective local economic solutions through your Local Economic Assessment (LEA)

Day 2 - Responding to rising numbers of worklessness and NEETs



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

Click [here](#) for further details

Forthcoming Research Papers

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

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.