



You join me at the end of a very interesting Liberal Democrat party conference in Liverpool. If Harold Wilson thought that a week was a long time in politics, then the Lib Dems must think that a year is an eternity. The party has gone from being very firmly third party in British politics to its kingmaker. The signs so far have been encouraging for localism, with the party heavily influencing the forthcoming Localism Bill and a new announcement to give councils greater financial freedoms. Furthermore, CLG Minister Andrew Stunell chose an NLGN event to announce the abolition of the Standard's Board and other quangos, to the cheers of the associated councillors.

Being in Liverpool is a reminder of how far local government has come in the past twenty years. Where once the city council was a byword for 'loony left' polices, investment and strong corporate governance has turned Liverpool into a bustling, modern European city with an amazing creative industries sector. Our forthcoming work on financial management and the big society will look at how cities like Liverpool can weather the cuts due to be announced in October.

Over the next month we will also be decamping to the Labour and Conservative conferences for our usual mix of debates, fringe events and receptions so please do drop in in you are in either Manchester or Birmingham.

Best wishes,
Simon Parker, Director, NLGN Simon.Parker@nlgn.org.uk

EP Forum Launch



Last week saw the launch of a new forum for Local Enterprise Partners (LEPs). Following the government announcement that they have received 56 LEP submissions, NLGN's Enterprise Forum will provide strategic representation and offer peer support and policy making advice to its members.

Announcing the Forum in front of an audience of over sixty senior representatives from the public and private sectors, NLGN Deputy Director Anna Turley said that LEPs could provide the "strong, decisive and strategic economic leadership needed at the most appropriate spatial level, playing a key role in driving economic growth and reducing the deficit".

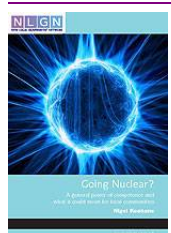
NLGN at Party Conferences

NLGN will be at all the political party conferences this year. Keep an eye out for our various fringe events, particularly our [Innovation Network Drinks Receptions](#) and don't forget this is a great opportunity to catch up with the NLGN team who will be available for meetings and informal discussion in Manchester and Birmingham. If you would like to arrange a meeting with our senior management team please contact Networks Coordinator Charlotte Rose on CRose@nlgn.org.uk



Report Release

[Going Nuclear? A general power of competence and what it could mean for local communities](#)



This report argues that the Coalition Government's new General Power of Competence for local authorities will only work successfully if councils are given clear legal freedom.

NLGN urges the Government to abolish the ultra vires principle – in place to ensure that councils do not stray beyond their powers – and allow them to implement actions unless they are expressly forbidden by law.

Networks



NLGN's network gained another string to its bow with the launch of the Enterprise Partners Forum last week. It was standing room only as partners from local government, Whitehall and the business world came together to debate the still open questions around LEPs as the deadline for submissions passed. I'm looking to engage as many LEP partners as possible so email me or visit www.NLGN.org.uk/epforum for more information.

James Kirkland James.Kirkland@nlgn.org.uk

Innovation Blog



Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) are the talk of the town
Nick Hope, Senior Researcher

Fringe Events

[Innovation Network Drinks Reception, Labour Party Conference](#)
 7.30-9.30pm | September 26, 2010
 Pankhurst Suite, Radisson Edwardian Hotel, Manchester, M2 5GP

[Tackling Climate Change in Communities, Lunchtime fringe seminar, Labour Party Conference](#)
 12.45-1.45pm | September 28, 2010
 Gladstone Room, Radisson Edwardian Hotel

[Innovation Network Drinks Reception, Conservative Party Conference](#)
 7.30-9.00pm | October 3, 2010
 Andante Room, Hyatt Regency Hotel

[Tackling Climate Change in Communities, Lunchtime fringe seminar, Conservative Party Conference](#)
 12.45-1.45pm | October 4, 2010
 Executive Room 1, The ICC

Current Research

[Tackling Climate Change through Communities](#)

[Influencing the Demand for Public Services: the future of service delivery](#)

[Re-shaping local education: better outcomes through new models](#)

[The next generation of Shared Services](#)

Recent Articles

[Integrating health and social care Is this the death of assessment?](#)
 Olivier Roth, Public Servant

[Scanning Financial Horizons for Local Government](#)
 Nick Hope, eGov Monitor

NLGN in the News

[General power 'not enough' to encourage council innovation](#)
 Public Finance

[Households to pay more for parking, refuse collections, night classes because of cuts](#)
 The Daily Telegraph

[LEPs Should Play A Key Role In Reducing The Deficit](#)
 eGov Monitor

Forthcoming Research Papers

- [Fragmenting Democracy](#)
- [Re-thinking Local Government Finance](#)
- [Communities in Charge](#)

Research Opportunities

- [Contracting Times](#)
- [Integrating Health and Social Care](#)

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.