



As the debt crisis rises ever further up the political agenda, the ramifications for local government are spreading beyond revenue and capital budgeting. Having set out our recommendations for coping with capital finance limits in *'Capital Contingencies'* published at the end of October, it is now clear that the dynamics of public service management may also be subsumed in the drive for savings and efficiencies. For instance, when Shadow Local Government Secretary **Caroline Spelman spoke at an NLGN seminar** last week, she indicated that the Local Area Agreement framework may be overtaken by 'Total Place' as a more effective driver for partnership working in the public sector. As luck would have it, the **NLGN Annual Conference on LAAs** takes place on Tuesday next week in the City of London, where we can explore with both Labour and Conservative frontbenches how these crucial agreements may be affected as the public finance environment changes. We hope you will be interested in booking to attend. But in the meantime, don't forget our Christmas Reception on the evening of Tuesday 15th December at the Marriott County Hall where we hope to see you as well!

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

Caroline Spelman MP on the future of local government



Shadow Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Caroline Spelman MP, addressed an NLGN event on Monday 09 November revealing some of the Conservatives' plans for Local Government. A video and transcript of the speech can be found [here](#).

Capital Contingencies: local capital finance in an era of high public debt

NLGN's latest publication was launched at the end of October at a well-attended event in Canary Wharf. Thanks go to our speakers Dr. Phyllis Starkey MP, Tony Travers and Hugh Morgan-Williams for providing thought provoking debate. The report sets out how local councils could raise alternative forms of infrastructure investment if there were to be a clampdown on orthodox capital expenditure. [More details](#)



In The News...

- [Think-tank urges more power for councils to raise capital](#) *Financial Times*
- [Spending cuts could lead to public sector tsunami, report warns](#) *The Daily Telegraph*
- [Cuts 'risk public sector tsunami'](#) *BBC News Online*



NLGN is now on YouTube. You can view videos of our events via our very own channel, [NLGN](#), including top speakers at the recent party conference season. The latest additions include [Tony Travers](#), above, speaking at the launch of *Capital Contingencies*, as well as Senior Researcher [Tom Symons](#) outlining the report's findings and recommendations.

Innovation Network

November's events kicked off with an interesting policy debate with Caroline Spelman MP, Shadow Secretary of State for CLG. It was good to see so many members there. We're also looking forward to our annual Policy Summit next week, where Chief Executives and other senior local government officials from across England will be coming together to focus on behaviour change. As we put together our events programme for 2010, please let me know if there's any topics you'd like to see us covering in the new year.

Nirmalee Wanduragala Nirmalee.Wanduragala@nlgn.org.uk

Corporate Partners

For those of you planning your budget for next year on public affairs and thought leadership, we are launching the partnership opportunities for 2010 this month. Definite events in our calendar will include fringe events at the party conferences in September, seminars at the LGA Conference, Policy Summit 2010 and our Christmas Reception. With the election coming up it will be a vital year for the networking aspect that NLGN thrives upon, so we are a strong option for any such work you're planning. **James Kirkland** James.Kirkland@nlgn.org.uk

Call for Case Studies

Over the coming months, a major NLGN research project will be analysing how the Total Place agenda can be followed through to the implementation stage. The research will explore the operational, tactical and strategic options available for local authorities endeavouring to apply a Total Place approach in their area. It will set out the new commissioning techniques, performance management approaches, funding arrangements and service design approaches that can help localities move to an area-based approach. It will go on to analyse what cultural, governance and financial barriers need addressing for this agenda to be a success. NLGN would be interested in hearing from local authorities and partners who are engaged in pilots or thinking on Total Place (either officially or unofficially), the challenges and barriers to implementation and innovative techniques that can be deployed. For further information please contact nigel.keohane@nlgn.org.uk.

Forthcoming Research Papers

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

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.

EVENTS

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

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

[NLGN and LGC Conference: Using RIPA in your local authority](#) (January 19th, 2010)

[NLGN Annual Conference 2010- The more for less challenge: Preparing for the next spending review](#) (January 27th 2010)

[CABE Research Seminar: Greenspace Service Organisational Structures and Positioning](#) (29th January 2010)

CURRENT RESEARCH

[Tackling Worklessness in Recession](#)

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

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

Research Sponsorship

[The Future of Assessment Beyond 2010](#)

[Scanning Financial Horizons](#)

RECENT ARTICLES

[Closing Health Inequality Will Whitehall's change of direction leave localities out in the cold?](#)
Chris Leslie, *Civil Service World*

[Preparing for the gathering financial storm](#)
Chris Leslie, *Local Government Chronicle*

[Capital Ideas](#)
Chris Leslie, *Public Finance*

[Capital Contingencies](#)
Tom Symons, *eGov Monitor*

CONFERENCES SPOTLIGHT

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

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

Day 2 - Responding to rising numbers of worklessness and NEETs.

Using RIPA in your local authority
Tuesday 19 January
www.lgcandnlgn-ripa.com

Explore the pressing issues that surround local authorities' use of RIPA.



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

Click [here](#) for further details

PLEASE E-MAIL ANY FEEDBACK OR COMMENTS TO INFO@NLGN.ORG.UK