

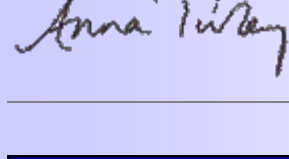


May 2010

As the dust settles after the election and subsequent coalition negotiations, a clearer picture of the new government's plans and priorities, and their implications for local government, is emerging.

First the Coalition Government set out a detailed policy plan in its [Programme for Government](#), including issues of interest for local government such as a power of general competence, a review of local government finance, plans to scrap the Comprehensive Area Assessment, and the devolution of more financial powers. Next we saw the launch of the [Big Society](#) document, outlining the key election theme of putting more power in the hands of individuals and communities. The role of local government in these proposals will need to be properly established yet.

Then this week we had the [deficit reduction programme](#). Good news for local government in the slashing of £1.7bn of ring-fenced money was tempered by the news that £1.16bn will be cut from local government grant. While we wait at the moment to see exactly how this will fall, NLGN will be releasing in July its analysis of how councils are planning to respond to the financial climate, in its forthcoming paper [Financial Horizons](#).



1. Political

Osborne announced new governmental policies to enhance fiscal responsibility, 17 May: [Click Here](#)

The Labour shadow cabinet has been announced to operate in the interim period prior to a new Labour leader being announced, 17 May: [Click Here](#)

The new Coalition government has announced their Programme for Government, 20 May: [Click Here](#)

2. Departmental

CLG

The national indicator information portal has been launched, a database providing online access to the latest definitions, frequently asked questions and clarifications for each of the national indicators, 7 May: [Click Here](#)

The latest national statistics on Land Use Change have been compiled, 11 May: [Click Here](#)

Eric Pickles, the new Secretary of State for CLG, has asked the new Housing Minister to review help for homeowners struggling to pay their mortgages, 13 May: [Click Here](#)

Statistics have been released detailing the number of households approaching local authorities with mortgage difficulties, fast-track referrals and applications and acceptances for the Mortgage Rescue Scheme, 14 May: [Click Here](#)

The complete new ministerial team for CLG has been announced, 18 May: [Click Here](#)

Cameron and Clegg launch the Big Society, CLG's response, 18 May: [Click Here](#)

Eric Pickles suspends Home Information Packs with immediate effect, 20 May: [Click Here](#)

Secretary of State for CLG, Eric Pickles, commented on the announcement of where £6.2bn of savings in government expenditure will be found this year, 24 May: [Click Here](#)

Cabinet Office

Prime Minister announces cuts to Senior Civil Service and NHS manager bonuses, 16 May: [Click Here](#)

Nick Hurd was announced as Minister for Civil Society, 18 May: [Click Here](#)

Nat Wei, one of Teach First's founding team, has been appointed as the new Government adviser on Big Society and a member of the House of Lords. Working alongside Francis Maude, Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General, 18 May: [Click Here](#)

Government puts Big Society at heart of public sector reform, 18 May: [Click Here](#)

A full list of government ministers and their responsibilities has been compiled, 20 May: [Click Here](#)

A list of Cabinet Committees has been released, 20 May: [Click Here](#)

The full list of Government spokespeople in the Lords as published by the Lords Whips Office, 20 May: [Click Here](#)

Government unveils new transparency and accountability structures, 21 May: [Click Here](#)

Cabinet Office and Treasury to join forces to drive out waste after setting up a powerful new joint 'Efficiency and Reform Group' to ensure that savings across Whitehall and Arms Length Bodies happen quickly, 24 May: [Click Here](#)

Home Office

Home Office reviews policies on detaining children, 17 May: [Click Here](#)

The new Home Secretary, Theresa May, gave her first speech to the Police Federation, outlining proposals to reduce bureaucracy, return responsibility to the police, and to enable directly elected individuals to hold police to account, 19 May: [Click Here](#)

Home Office ministerial team confirmed, 19 May: [Click Here](#)

DCSF now Department for Education (DfE)

Michael Gove confirmed as Education Secretary, 13 May: [Click Here](#)

DfE comment on spending commitments awaits governments financial review, 18 May: [Click Here](#)

Schools, Sure Start and 16-19 education spending will be protected in 2010-11 - with £670 million of waste and quango savings to help tackle the £156 billion deficit, 24 May: [Click Here](#)

DfE Ministerial Team: [Click Here](#)

DCMS

New ministerial team for DCMS announced, 17 May: [Click Here](#)

The new Minister for Sport and the Olympics, Hugh Robertson MP, sets out his priorities, 18 May: [Click Here](#)

Jeremy Hunt delivered his keynote speech on the state of British culture, its future, reforms and actions DCMS will strive to undertake including reform of National Lottery funding, 19 May: [Click Here](#)

Ministerial responsibilities announced, 20 May: [Click Here](#)

BIS

Lib Dem Vince Cable becomes the new Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, 12 May: [Click Here](#)

David Cameron, PM, gives his first speech to BIS outlining the importance of the department's work in securing the recovery, 13 May: [Click Here](#)

Vince Cable establishes advisory group on business and economic policy, 18 May: [Click Here](#)

Business Secretary Visits North West, highlighting The importance of manufacturing, skills and R&D in driving growth in the economy, 20 May: [Click Here](#)

David Willetts delivers first keynote speech as Minister for Universities and Science, 20 May: [Click Here](#)

Vince Cable announces that RDAs in the south and south-east will soon be facing cuts, 21 May: [Click Here](#)

BIS has announced a package of £836 million worth of efficiency savings and in year savings to its spending, 24 May: [Click Here](#)

DfT

The new ministerial team for the DfT has been announced, 14th May: [Click here](#)

3. Parliament

Written Ministerial Statements

n/a

Oral Questions

n/a

New Select Committee Enquiries and Calls for Evidence

n/a

4. Consultation

All current consultations are subject to review by the new government

DECC: Allowing local authorities to sell electricity – consultation on making regulations under The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 and The Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, 2 March: [Click Here](#)

DWP: Social Fund reform: debt, credit and low income households, 15 March: [Click Here](#)

DCSF: Consultation on the future distribution of school funding, 15 March: [Click Here](#)

DCSF: Revised Guidance on Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education, 23 March: [Click Here](#)

DCSF: Information, Advice and Guidance Services for Young People: Directions and Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities, 24 March: [Click Here](#)

DCSF: Statutory Guidance for Local Duties on Child Poverty (Child Poverty Act 2010), 26 March: [Click Here](#)

DfT: Consultation on the Local Authorities (Transport Charges) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2009, 30 March: [Click Here](#)

BIS: Consultation on meeting the low carbon skills challenge, 31 March: [Click Here](#)

Cabinet Office consultation: Making it easier for charities to sell and make other disposals of land, 07 May: [Click Here](#)

5. Other

The LGA has published its detailed response to the Coalition Agreement, 20 May: [Click Here](#)

The LGA has also announced its 'open and comprehensive offer' from local government to central government regarding how to 'deliver more for less', 20 May: [Click Here](#)

The LGA has published its response to the deficit reduction plans. [Click here](#)

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

NEW LOCAL GOVERNMENT NETWORK
FIRST FLOOR, NEW CITY COURT

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