



Welcome to the September edition of NLGN's newsbrief. Our own newsflash is that our Director Chris Leslie has just become a father, so we all wish him and his family well. Conference season is well and truly in full swing now. NLGN has a strong programme of events at all three, and there are more details on our programme below. We also have two

publications out for conference season on Conservative Party policy – *Control Shift: Add, Insert or Delete?* and *A Conservative Future? New ideas on local governance*. The political mood has shifted quickly over the last few weeks where the efficiency debate is concerned. From avoidance of the word 'cuts' to use of the most 'savage' of adjectives, expect the political dividing lines over the next few months to be around where the axes will fall, and what gets protected. Local government is already preparing for a difficult climate ahead and we have plenty of work planned to take these issues head on, from looking at new options for capital investment, to tackling worklessness, and from learning the lessons of Total Place to financial horizon-scanning. **Anna Turley, Deputy Director, NLGN**
anna.turley@nlgn.org.uk

Can You Dig it? Meeting community demand for allotments

The report, launched earlier this week calls for the Government to increase the number of allotments. With such high demand for allotment space, NLGN propose new community allotments be created by building on unused brownfield sites and by encouraging wealthy landowners to donate unused holdings to their local community. [More details](#). [View pdf](#).



Coverage in the news:

Independent - [The Big Question: Should landowners be forced to give up space for allotments?](#)
 Guardian - ['Dig for Victory' revived in plan for allotments on private land](#)
 Bolton News - [Plan to put a lot of land to good use](#)
 The Telegraph - [Government urged to create more allotments](#)

What's the Verdict on Local Referendums?

Instead of the local referendum concept, as advocated by the Conservative Party in their recent Control Shift document, NLGN support the idea of a Community Proposal, which would allow residents to demand that an issue be debated at a full council meeting if they gathered enough signatures supporting the idea. This model would allow citizens greater engagement in local decision making. [More details](#). [View pdf](#).



Coverage in the news:

Public Service - [Local referendums 'need a rethink'](#)
 Local Government Chronicle - [Report slams Tory referendum plans](#)
 Public Net - [Concerns raised over local referendum proposals](#)

Partners

Innovation Network - If you're at a Party Conference this year, it would be great to catch up with you. E-mail me if you'd like to arrange a meeting. You're also invited to all of NLGN's party conference events. This year our first drinks reception, which all our members are invited to attend. Details are on the website and you should already have received an e-mail with details. I'd also like to take this opportunity to welcome new IN members Warwickshire County Council.
Nirmalee Wanduragala Nirmalee.Wanduragala@nlgn.org.uk

Corporate Partners - This week saw the first post-summer partner briefing with presentations from the Audit Commission and Local Partnerships. There will be a roundtable in Liverpool on 15th October and one in Leeds on 4th November— if you'd like more details please let me know. Planning for another set of events will be beginning soon so if you'd like to find out more about hosting a roundtable outside of London drop me a line and I'll run through the process.

James Kirkland James.Kirkland@nlgn.org.uk

MAA FORUM

The MAA Forum met again last week, taking an in-depth look at 'Total Place' and what it means for sub-regional working. This month has also seen a further 3 new MAAs signed off, with more to come soon. For further information about the MAA Forum visit www.maaforum.org.uk.

Call for case studies

NLGN are currently working on a research project about capital finance for infrastructure and regeneration schemes. This will aim to address the challenges currently faced by local authorities and make recommendations that can help them sustain capital investment programmes. We would like to include some case-study examples of important infrastructure and regeneration schemes that are currently experiencing difficulties due to changes in market conditions. If you have any local schemes that are being held back by the recession please contact the lead researcher Tom Symons on tsymons@nlgn.org.uk

EVENTS

[Capital Finance: A new vision for local capital investment](#) (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)

Fringes

[Liberal Democrat Party Conference](#)
[Labour Party Conference](#)
[Conservative Party Conference](#)

CURRENT RESEARCH

[Tackling Worklessness in Recession](#)

[After the Crunch: Local capital finance options beyond the downturn](#)

Research Sponsorship

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

[The Future of Assessment Beyond 2010](#)

[Scanning Financial Horizons](#)

[Closing Health Inequality](#)

RECENT ARTICLES

[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*

[Sorry Andy- it's not all about the 'N'](#)

Chris Leslie, LGC

CONFERENCES SPOTLIGHT

Local Area Agreements Conference 2009 — Preparing for the future of local government workforce
 Tuesday 24 Nov 2009
www.lgcandnlgn-laa.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. Join the NLGN and the LGC for a complete overview of LAAs and **how** their current progress.

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



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

Click [here](#) for further details.

Forthcoming Research Papers

- Control Shift: A constructive analysis
- 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 Anna Turley at anna.turley@nlgn.org.uk for further information, or to offer case studies and evidence from your organisation.

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

NEW LOCAL GOVERNMENT NETWORK
 FIRST FLOOR, NEW CITY COURT
 20 ST THOMAS STREET
 LONDON
 SE1 9RS