



An
NLGN
Production

STRONGER THINGS

UNLEASHING COMMUNITY POWER

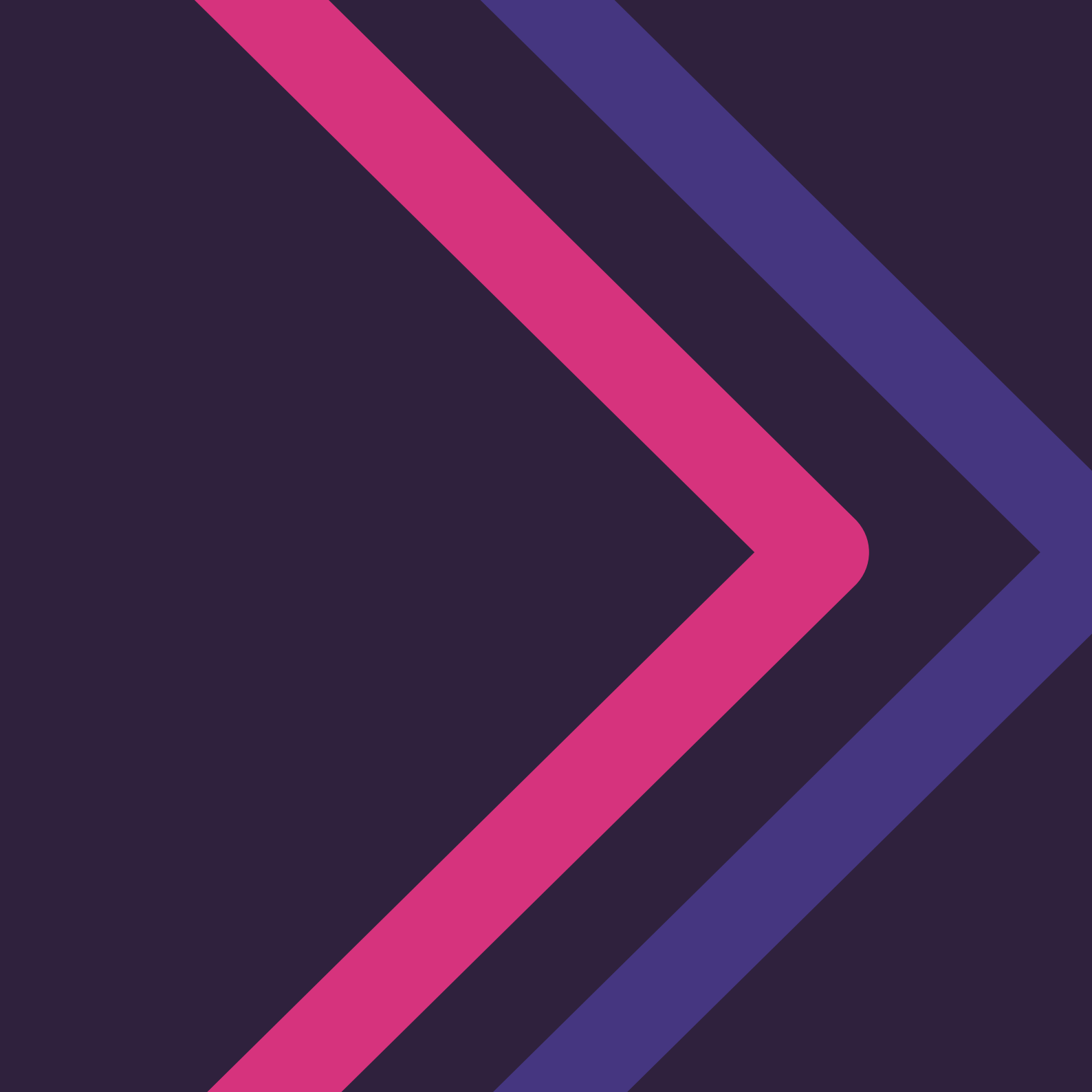
FUTUREGOV

WE CAN CHANGE THAT

For over a decade, FutureGov has been working closely with government, health services and higher education, building skills and capabilities as a trusted partner.

We believe our public institutions are uniquely positioned to be catalysts for change, building a vision that radically improves outcomes for communities in the 21st century.

wearefuturegov.com

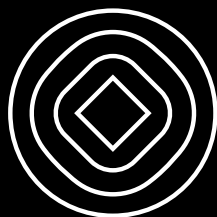




OUR PARTNERS

Partnership is much more than a transactional relationship for NLGN. We're proud that the organisations and people that we worked with to bring you Stronger Things share our ethos, energy and enthusiasm for equipping local government and the wider public sector to bring about real change.

FUTUREGOV



power to
change

business in
community
hands



Agilisys



ENGIE

THE MJ

PPL



THE
BEHAVIOURAL
INSIGHTS
TEAM

Local Trust





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One year ago, NLGN published *The Community Paradigm*. It radically re-imagined public services for an era of participation and empowerment. Since then, the approach has caught fire. We've become a movement of councils, organisations, activists and, yes, even national politicians who have seized on community power as the only meaningful way forward at a time of rapidly rising demand.

We convened *Stronger Things* to connect you, individuals with this shared vision, with each other. Normally scattered across the country, today is a rare opportunity to be in one place to exchange expertise, experience and inspiration. We've got some fantastic 'unleashed' speakers to get the conversation going. And we'll get down to the nitty-gritty practicals in our highly interactive breakout sessions.

Today's event was heavily over-subscribed. If you're reading this then you were one of the lucky ones who got a ticket! So we'd love it if you could make this day a little exemplar of community power: participate, network and, most of all, use your imagination to create a better world.

And do feel free to find us if you want a chat.

Warm wishes,

Donna Hall, Chair, NLGN
Adam Lent, Director, NLGN

PS. If your council isn't a member of NLGN yet, why not? Details about joining are on the back page of this programme.



Welcome to the Guildhall!

Today's event is over three times the size of last year's, with the vast majority of you joining us for the first time. It is great to see representatives here today from further afield, and from more sectors outside local government than ever before.

This reflects the ever-growing desire and urgency to find new ways of doing things in the public sector, embracing the opportunities for innovation and ensuring we continue to deliver the best for all our communities.

NLGN's Community Paradigm, launched here last year by Adam and his team, set out a new vision for the future of public services. Today is an opportunity to continue the conversation, to meet new people, and share innovative ideas.

Wherever you are joining us from, I hope that today is productive and thought-provoking, inspiring you with new and exciting ideas to take back to your councils and organisations.

John Barradell
Town Clerk & Chief Executive
City of London Corporation

CONNECT, SHARE, DISCUSS



Network: **GHALL EVENTS**
Password: **GHALLEVENTS**



@NLGNthinktank
#StrongerThings

'UNLEASHED' INTERACTION

- We want to make sure participants get the most from our 'Unleashed' speakers so we've made participation virtual.
- To ask your question in any of our 'Unleashed' sessions simply go to **slido.com** and enter the event code '**strongerthings**' (not case sensitive).
- Don't forget to ask your questions and upvote others from the start of the talk. We'll guarantee to ask the speaker the top three most voted for, and more if there's time.

WWW.NLGN.ORG.UK/STRONGERTHINGS

(FOR A PDF OF THIS PROGRAMME AND A LIVE STREAM OF THE DAY)

Please note that photos and videos of you may be taken during this event for publicity and marketing purposes. If you do not wish us to use your image then please let a member of our team know.



AGENDA

9.30 REGISTRATION & REFRESHMENTS
Meet old friends and make new connections over tea, coffee and pastries.

Location: Livery Hall

10.00 WELCOME
John Barradell, Town Clerk of the City of London Corporation welcomes participants to the beautiful Guildhall, home of the City of London Corporation. Followed by Adam Lent, NLGN's Director, who sets out a vision for the day.

Location: Old Library

10.15 UNLEASHED: DONNA HALL
NLGN's Chair will kick off the day's spine of 'Unleashed' talks. She'll focus on the context for community power, why we need it and what it can achieve.

Remember to engage from the beginning on [slido.com](#), event code 'strongerthings'

Location: Old Library

10.45 BREAKOUT SESSIONS: SLOT 1
Attend one of nine highly interactive and engaging sessions focussed on specific aspects of community power. The breakouts you have chosen are listed on your badge, full details of all the sessions are on page 14.

Location: Various, see page 14

11.45 UNLEASHED: HELEN BEVAN
The Chief Transformation Officer of NHS Horizons explores how individuals within a system can change it.

Remember to engage from the beginning on [slido.com](#), event code 'strongerthings'

Location: Old Library

12.15 LUNCH
Network with colleagues over a freshly made buffet lunch of salad, sandwiches and cake.

Location: Livery Hall

12.55 AFTERNOON INTRODUCTION
Adam Lent introduces the afternoon's programme.

Location: Old Library



13.05 UNLEASHED: JULIA UNWIN
Julia considers how institutions need to change for the 21st century.

Remember to engage from the beginning on slido.com, event code 'strongerthings'

Location: Old Library

15.40 UNLEASHED: KAJAL ODEDRA
Kajal talks about engaging the great British public to bring about real change.

Remember to engage from the beginning on slido.com, event code 'strongerthings'

Location: Old Library

13.35 BREAKOUT SESSIONS: SLOT 2
The morning's breakout sessions are repeated, giving you the opportunity to engage with as many topics as possible.

Location: Various, see page 14

16.20 THE AFTER PARTY
Sponsored by: **FUTUREGOV**
Join us for themed cocktails and other drinks as we wind down from a day of hard work.

Location: Print Room

14.35 COMMUNITY POWER PANEL
Power to Change's Chief Executive leads discussion with founders of organisations who haven't waited for power to be handed to them: Nudge Community Builders; Homeless World Cup and The Really NEET Project. Additional insights from FutureGov's Creative Director.

Location: Old Library

15.20 BREAK
Grab a very quick tea or coffee then rejoin us for the 'Unleashed' session.

Location: Livery Hall



UNLEASHED SPEAKERS

PROF. DONNA HALL, CBE **Chair of Bolton NHS Foundation Trust and** **Chair of NLGN**

As Chair of NLGN I'm really looking forward to our Stronger Things – Unleashing Community Power gathering!

I've spent my life trying to disrupt (positively!) public services and public servants to work differently with the people they are there to serve. As Chief Executive of Wigan Council and Chorley Council and in Greater Manchester we worked hard to create social contracts with citizens to shift the balance of power to communities and away from expensive and ineffective solutions. We moved power and decision-making to front line neighbourhood teams and to the residents they serve. We invested millions in grassroots community prevention projects - nurturing civil society and guess what, it works! The Council saves money, and together we achieved better outcomes and increased healthy life expectancy in the most deprived areas by seven years.

Right now, I'm lucky to work with some of the most creative, innovative and thought-leading people in our sector at NLGN and I think we're really onto something with the Community Paradigm - people are sick and tired of traditional politics and the centralised state and market paradigms. We are crying out for a revolution.

PROF. HELEN BEVAN, OBE **Chief Transformation Officer at NHS** **Horizons**

I think of myself as a 'tempered radical': somebody who challenges the status quo but does it in a way that allows them to remain inside organisations. Somebody who can rock the boat and yet stay in it.

My job is to support the whole of the National Health Service and to make better change and to make faster change. We focus on some of the biggest challenges. How do we take the delays out of the system? How do we very significantly reduce the instance of health care-acquired infection? How do we make a significant shift for people with long-term conditions from hospital care to much more responsive, effective, primary community-based health services?

Trying to change a whole system is a huge challenge. With 1.3 million staff we're the second biggest employer in the world. I think one of the key issues strategically is what we can do at national level to support change; and what has to be done at local level. You get to a stage where you have to flip from very top-down leadership-driven programs to how you can better support local improvers to do it for themselves.

Coming to Stronger Thing is a way for me to expand this thinking – meeting people who are making real change happen at community level. I think there's so much more potential collaboration between local government, healthcare and communities, and inspiration to be gained from all sides. I'm excited to leave with a ton of ideas and probably a lot more questions – then I'll know it's been a good day!



DAME JULIA UNWIN, DBE
**Chair of the Independent Inquiry into the
Future of Civil Society and former Chief
Executive of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation
and Joseph Rowntree Housing Trust**

I can't wait to speak at Stronger Things, but I'm also daunted.

Throughout my time as chief executive of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation I saw momentum building towards doing things differently by shifting power to communities. I believe we've now reached a tipping-point that springs from a shared view that doing what we've always done is simply not going to be good enough in the coming decade. There's a hunger for new ways of responding to the economic volatility we face, the climate emergency, the damaged social fabric and the division and lack of trust in society.

But the challenge is how do we do it? And how do we really shift power, without just creating new and more complicated structures? When I chaired the Civil Society Futures Inquiry we identified the need for fundamental changes in behaviours, attitudes and practices if we are all to rise to the challenge of the next decade. That's going to involve all of us in thinking and behaving differently.

Stronger Things seems to me to be the best place to start not just a really different conversation, but a renewed and re-energised set of actions to make the changes that we all know need to happen. And that's going to involve some big challenges to vested interests, and to familiar and comfortable ways of doing things. That's why I'm excited. But it is also why I'm extremely daunted.

KAJAL ODEDRA
Executive Director, Change.org UK

I'm really looking forward to Stronger Things to learn more about what's going on in this world – what's on the horizon, who's driving these changes and how an organisation like mine could be involved. I'm also excited to listen to fantastic speakers like Julia, Donna and Helen – whom I've admired for quite a while.

At Change.org, our mission is for everyone to be able to create change. Anyone can be as loud as a Chief Executive and have the same decision-making power – you don't have to be part of an elite group; you can be a teenager in your bedroom.

We get hundreds of petitions started every day, but I'm also interested in who's prevented from taking part – who begins a petition but doesn't activate it. My view is that you should lower the barriers to engaging with politics as much as possible. We need to unlock everyone's disrupting power.

Community power is very important to me. The reason for a protest isn't necessarily to see a victory because of that protest – part of the reason you go is to build the community up. So many times, I've got back from a protest glowing. I've spent the day surrounded by compassionate strangers fighting for something outside themselves. In these times, this is more and more important.

Local government is in an amazingly privileged position to listen to communities and to shape what places look like. I've always thought a dream alternative job would be to run a local council. I've been lucky to work with local authorities doing amazing, innovative things, and I'd love to be part of making that happen.

BREAKOUTS

Things will get really interactive in our breakout sessions. We've made you pick just two out of the nine available (sorry about that!), which are printed on your badge along with their location. We'll be sharing the outcomes of every session after the conference.



DIGITAL: UNLOCKING COMMUNITIES TO MANAGE DEMAND

Join your peers and sector experts as together we separate fact from fiction and explore the practical, real-world examples of digitally-empowered communities that have helped councils balance the challenge of increasing demand and reducing budgets. **Location:** Livery Hall

Presented and
facilitated by:
@Agilisys

Agilisys

PERFORMANCE: THE HUMBLE EMPIRICIST

You'll use behavioural insights to respond to a set of community power policy challenges then assess the outcomes exploring new evidence and benchmarking methods. Walk away with a fundamentally different understanding of the role of evaluation in intervention design. **Location:** Old Library

Presented and
facilitated by:
@B_I_Tweets


THE
BEHAVIOURAL
INSIGHTS
TEAM

CLIMATE CHANGE: COMMUNITY POWER FOR ACTION

In this session you'll work directly with your peers and ENGIE to explore what climate change means to you, your work and your place. Explore how individuals, communities, government, councils and businesses can work together to address this most pressing issue. **Location:** Old Library

Presented and
facilitated by:
@ENGIE_UK


ENGIE

SOCIAL CARE: CAN WE POWER IT UP BY POWERING DOWN?

We'll whisk you away to the future to make sure you leave your day job behind as we co-create a radically different approach to social care. This imaginative session is the forum to ask radical questions, share new ideas and find cutting-edge solutions to bring back to your community.

Location: Livery Hall

Presented and facilitated by:
[@FCC_UK](#)



CULTURE: ORGANISING FOR CHANGE

How can health and public sector organisations build a vision and be a catalyst for change? Work with others to respond to the challenges of the internet and climate era and explore how rethinking our workplace culture and the way we work can lead to radically improved outcomes for communities in the 21st century.

Location: East Crypt

Presented and facilitated by:
[@FutureGov](#)



NITTY GRITTY: OBSTACLES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF THE GREAT POWER SHIFT

Work directly with your peers to practically respond to a selection of real community power challenges submitted by councils and activists. Then participate in a room-wide conversation with representatives from Big Local, a community activist and local council.

Location: Old Library

Presented and facilitated by:
[@LocalTrust](#)



MESSING UP: THE DARKEST CONFESSIONS OF A COMMUNITY EMPOWERER

Leave your phones at the door for this candid, completely confidential and fully participatory session exploring what happens when community empowerment goes wrong. Penitents who dare will be asked what went wrong, what they did to make amends and what they would do differently next time.

Location: West Crypt

Presented and facilitated by:
[@LosingControl](#)



ASSET TRANSFER: BREATHING LIFE INTO PLACES AND PROPERTY

'Speed date' with community representatives and social entrepreneurs who have a rich and personal experience of asset transfer. Explore with them the ingredients that made the community-council relationship work and the practical obstacles their council helped them overcome to deliver their big vision.

Location: Lord Mayor's Parlour

Presented and facilitated by:
[@peoplesbiz](#)



INSPIRE ME: "YES, IT REALLY WORKED!"

Hear and explore three amazing examples of community power. Practitioners who have worked in incredibly tough contexts will share their energising and inspirational journeys of creating something with their community that has fundamentally changed their place for the better.

Location: Print Room

Presented and facilitated by:
[@socfinuk](#)



COMMUNITY POWER PANEL

“This is different – this is in your mind and in your heart 24/7”

THE CO-FOUNDER HANNAH SLOGGETT

Hannah worked at Plymouth Council for over a decade before co-founding Nudge Community Builders. While at the Council she supported communities to influence some of the city's most controversial and large-scale developments and was nationally recognised for innovation and community engagement. She's now engaging with the equally big challenges of focussed and profound change in the community in which she lives.

THE ORGANISATION NUDGE COMMUNITY BUILDERS

This community benefit society creates, owns and runs activity in disused, underused or unusual urban spaces to lead to lasting positive change and community-led regeneration. It grows and builds on local knowledge and experience to really make a difference and make sure the local community benefits from changes in their area in a way that is unique and special.

[@camperbird](#), [@nudgecommunity](#)

“Listen, I really want my education.’ What can you do?”

THE FOUNDER SOPHIE MAXWELL

Coming from a very tough childhood, Sophie spent two years in her teens crashing in hostels and sleeping rough. At 18 a determination to reach out for help and a chance encounter at her local college pulled her to safety and on the path to gaining a degree. After graduating she worked with disadvantaged school children, quickly realising that the excluded students she was mentoring really needed longer-term, more intensive support.

THE ORGANISATION THE REALLY NEET PROJECT

A college for young people who have fallen through the cracks, The Really NEET Project was launched in 2011, with Maxwell as the only staff member. She took no salary for the first two years, instead working as an athletics coach and a cleaner when she wasn't at the Project. Today, she leads what has become a national chain of colleges using innovative teaching methods and high levels of support for students outside the classroom.

[@ReallyNEETPro](#)



“Empowerment can come from participating”

THE FOUNDER MEL YOUNG

Mel is a serial social entrepreneur who founded the Homeless World Cup in 2003 with Harald Schmied. Passionate about the power of sport to change lives, he has set up various social initiatives over the years. He is co-founder of The Big Issue in Scotland and the International Network of Street Papers (INSP) amongst others. He has currently established a new organisation called The New Ism. Mel is also an Ashoka Senior Fellow and Fellow of the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship. He is the Chairman of Sportscotland, the national sports agency in Scotland.

THE ORGANISATION HOMELESS WORLD CUP

The first Homeless World Cup took place in Graz, Austria, in July 2003 and this now annual football tournament sees teams of homeless people from countries across the world compete. Host cities have included: Cape Town; Melbourne; Mexico City; Paris and Rio de Janeiro. The Foundation’s mission is to use football to support and inspire people who are homeless to change their own lives; to change perceptions and attitudes towards people who are experiencing homelessness and, ultimately, achieve a world without homelessness.

@homelesswrlcup

THE CHAIR VIDHYA ALAKESON

Chief Executive of Power to Change

Vidhya is the founding Chief Executive of Power to Change, an independent trust established in 2015 to support the growth of community businesses across England as a means to creating more prosperous and cohesive communities. To date, Power to Change has invested over £60 million and supported 1,000 community businesses through targeted grants and support programmes.

@vidhyaalakeson, @peoplesbiz

ADDITIONAL INSIGHTS ROB BATES

Creative Director at FutureGov

Robbie is an award-winning social designer, teacher and speaker. As FutureGov’s Creative Director, he’s responsible for driving the organisation’s creative ambition; supporting teams and organisations to address complex social challenges using creative approaches. He has led over 50 strategic, service and communication design projects, including work with Bloomberg Philanthropies to capture and communicate the story of design in 35 cities across the US.

@robbie_bates



A MESSAGE TO OUR MEMBERS FROM NLGN'S HEAD OF NETWORK

For the first time in our history, NLGN has decided to introduce a limit on the number of councils in our membership.

We've grown by 50% in the last two years and have loved the innovation, experience and energy that our brand new members have added to an already vibrant network. But we want to maintain the intimacy and depth of relationships that our members get so much out of, so we're capping council membership at a total of 75.

Our focus this year will be on further deepening our engagement with, and between, members, creating even more opportunities for the honest, peer-led learning and compelling thought leadership that our members tell us they value so much.

On behalf of the NLGN team and the rest of the network, I'd like to thank you for all you contribute.



**Rich Nelmes, Head of Network
New Local Government Network**

PS. If you're not a member and think your council might be interested in one of our few remaining places then please get in touch with me at rich@nlgn.org.uk.

INNOVATION EXCHANGES 2020

NLGN is thrilled to announce topics that our popular Innovation Exchange programme will cover next year.

Unique to the sector, these day-long events are 100% peer led. Participation is exclusive and free to NLGN members. The confidential and safe environment, expertly facilitated by NLGN staff, encourages senior officers from across the country to candidly and constructively explore the challenges they face. Participants return to their council with fresh ideas, useful contacts and a deeper understanding of the issues for which they have responsibility.

In 2020 we'll focus on the following topics:


Measuring Impact and Improving Performance – 28 April

In partnership with:  SOCIAL FINANCE

Leading Partnerships to Transform Place – 13 May

In partnership with:  LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS


Using Deliberative Forums to Engage and Mobilise Your Communities – 10 June

In partnership with:  power to change



Making the Member-Officer Relationship Work – 22 September

In partnership with:  ENGIE


Organising for Change – 7 October

In partnership with:  FUTUREGOV

Working with Central Government – 3 November

In partnership with:  SNC-LAVALIN  ATKINS
Member of the SNC Lavalin Group

Better Jobs for Local People – December (Exact date TBA)

In partnership with:  WILLMOTT DIXON
SINCE 1852

If your council is a member, make sure you or a colleague is coming. If you're not yet part of the network, get in touch with NLGN's Head of Network, Rich Nelmes (rich@nlgn.org.uk) to explore how you could benefit.



THE COMMUNITY PARADIGM: THE STORY SO FAR

Adam Lent, Director, NLGN

Having written a lot of reports in my career, I know it is best not to get too excited about the likely response to your carefully nurtured work. Things are unpredictable. So Jessica Studdert and I deliberately had no expectations when we launched The Community Paradigm at our conference last year. The reaction, however, was overwhelming. The report seemed to strike a very resonant chord generating loads of online debate and prompting a vast number

of inquiries about our work across local government and the wider public sector.

And the wave keeps rolling. Our fantastic members are exploring and implementing community-led models with ever greater sophistication and enthusiasm. As the political tumult of the last few years eases, we have noticed growing interest from national politicians keen to find a new positive way forward for public services and the country. Indeed, this is now a big focus for us in 2020: developing, with councillors and MPs, the policy and legislative changes we need in place to ensure a system-wide shift towards community power.

Our thought leadership and research programme is now focused almost entirely on developing community power ideas, working with, and equipping, our network for this much-needed new approach.



WHAT'S NEXT?

REAL LIFE EXAMPLES

We will collate and explore existing examples of community-led approaches to delivering public services in the UK and beyond. We'll identify outcomes and learning to demonstrate the strength of these emerging, community-led approaches helping other councils and organisations identify what works and use it for themselves.

A STRONG ACADEMIC FOUNDATION

Building on the Community Paradigm's academic foundation, we'll use the work of Nobel Prize-winning political economist, Elinor Ostrom. Not only will this approach help build support for a movement towards community power, Ostrom's insights will enrich the work of anyone working with their community.

COMMUNITY MOBILISATION

How can communities get to the point of pursuing a particular goal together? We will research community mobilisation in the British context, using case studies to understand how this has happened in different areas of public service delivery, and provide tools and techniques that can help catalyse communities to work together.

REACHING 'HARDER-TO-HELP' GROUPS

This project will explore what a community-led response might look like when engaging harder-to-reach groups. It will particularly look at the challenge of improving employment support for people with complex needs and circumstances. We'll identify the national and local barriers to delivering such an approach and set out what needs to be done to enable progress towards this alternative vision.



A photograph of a diverse crowd of people clapping their hands at an outdoor event. The scene is bright and sunny, with greenery in the background. The people are seen from behind or in profile, creating a sense of a shared celebration or applause.

Agilisys

We make digital perform for local government

For over 20 years we've partnered with local government and other public services, working together to unlock the potential of technology and transform the services that improve lives.

Our focus is on quality, trust and long-term partnerships. We become part of your team to design and deliver future-fit infrastructure, intelligent operations and smarter service solutions tailored to you. We then take care of ongoing management, optimisation and future planning to ensure your services perform.

Contact us to find out how a programme of strategic transformation can deliver efficiency and service excellence for you.

info@agilisys.co.uk



@agilisys



agilisys



ENGIE is focused on improving lives through better living and working environments.

Our ambition is to enable a cost-efficient zero carbon transition for local authorities. By integrating our regeneration, services and energy capabilities we help create sustainable places for everyone to live and work in.

places.engie.co.uk

**#Act
With
ENGIE**

WHAT CAN WE ACHIEVE TOGETHER THAT WE CAN'T DO ALONE?

PPL is a social enterprise that exists to promote better health, wellbeing and economic outcomes across the UK by working with individuals, communities and the organisations that support them.

We do this through applying the best of current and emerging thinking in the fields of management science, analytics, organisational development and consultancy to help people achieve better outcomes in life and to deliver social value.

We helped pioneering systems to design and implement the very first Integrated Care Partnerships and Systems in the UK, and we haven't stopped since.

If you are interested in working in partnership across local organisations and communities to create better outcomes, get in touch. We don't have all the answers, but we can help you work it out together.



www.ppl.org.uk | [@PPLthinks](https://twitter.com/PPLthinks) | 23 Jacob Street, London, SE1 2BG

PPL



Be part of the conversation shaping the future of care.

We're an independent charity injecting fresh thinking into the health and care agenda through leading edge research and policy ideas.

FCC is delighted to partner with NLGN and support Stronger Things because unleashing community power needs to be at the heart of a different future for health and social care.

Join our breakout session today!

Care Future: can we power it up by powering down?

Join us to imagine a different future for care. We'll listen to each other, ask questions, share ideas and find solutions and take your cutting-edge ideas back to your community.

Get in touch or come and say "Hello" at our stand - We'd love to meet you!



OUR MEMBERS



ADUR & WORTHING
COUNCILS



Basingstoke
and Deane



THE
BEHAVIOURAL
INSIGHTS
TEAM



LONDON BOROUGH OF
BEXLEY



Birmingham
City Council



City of
BRADFORD
METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



Calderdale
Council



Cambridgeshire
County Council



Cheshire East
Council



Cheshire West
and Chester



CITY
OF
LONDON



Coventry City Council

CROYDON



DARLINGTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL



Durham
County Council



Ealing

www.ealing.gov.uk



ENFIELD
Council
www.enfield.gov.uk



ENGIE



Essex County Council

FUTUREGOV



Gateshead
Council



GUILDFORD
BOROUGH



Harrow
COUNCIL
LONDON



London Borough
of Hounslow



ISLINGTON

JACOBS



Kent
County
Council



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
KINGSTON
UPON THAMES



Do you know the community businesses on your doorstep?

Community businesses are locally rooted and community-led. They trade for community benefit and make life better for local people. The sector has an income of £890m and comprises 9,000 businesses across England employing 33,600 people.*

From community-owned pubs to community-run libraries, shops to bakeries, swimming pools to solar farms, community businesses are creating great products and services, providing employment and training and transforming lives.

Visit your nearest community business 14-17 May during Community Business Weekend 2020: www.communitybusinessweekend.org



Homebaked in Anfield, Liverpool



Wolves Lane Horticultural Centre, London

Working with you to support communities

Power to Change is the independent trust that supports community businesses in England and a proud sponsor of this year's NLGN conference. Since 2015 we have awarded over £70 million to over 1,000 community businesses. We're interested in everything from high streets to pubs, community energy to health and social care. Get in touch if you'd like to work with us institute@powertochange.org.uk



power to
change

business in
community
hands

Communities can be trusted with assets

We know some councils are struggling to keep local buildings afloat but you don't have to do it alone. Many communities have stepped forward to manage surplus council assets as profitable businesses for the benefit of local people, in partnership with local government. These businesses deliver on council priorities – supporting health and wellbeing, reducing isolation, helping local people improve their skills for employment.

Research has shown that community-owned assets work. There are at least 6,300 community-owned assets in England, and most came into community ownership within the last decade. Three-quarters of these are in good financial health. They provide jobs and sustain local economies: 56p in every £1 of income generated by a community-owned asset stays in the local economy.

And it's now easier to keep track of your assets of community value – you can list and search for them on: **KeepItInTheCommunity.org**



In spring 2013, Sheffield City Council announced that it was no longer viable to run Stocksbridge Leisure Centre and the sports facility was set to close. The centre provided an essential health and wellbeing service to local people and with the closure, they would have to travel at least 30 minutes to gain access to public sports facilities.

The community organised a campaign and demonstrations to get it passed into community hands and succeeded in getting the keys handed over that summer. Around 300

volunteers worked round the clock to get it open again, setting up a community trust, 4SLC, to raise funds for and refurbish the centre.

The trust renovated the main swimming pool and improved energy efficiency to lower running costs. They run a broad and increasing range of different sports; squash, indoor bowls, a fitness suite and swimming. Attendance levels are higher than before and Stocksbridge Leisure Centre now runs at a surplus.




NLGN is a vibrant network of like-minded councils and other organisations sharing inspiration and practical insights, through peer-learning. Through their membership, councils in the network enjoy:

- Free and exclusive access to our unique peer-led Innovation Exchange events throughout the year (see p19)
- A free facilitated session, every year tailored to your council's needs
- First notice and priority booking for events like *Stronger Things*
- Exclusive deep-dive research and thought leadership on topics that our members help us decide
- First sight of, and opportunities to feature in, our publications
- Personalised connections for senior colleagues to others facing the same challenges across the country

We only have a few places left in our network so we're looking for councils that are willing to participate fully - sharing candidly their successes as well as their failures so that together we can learn. If this is something you are interested in, please get in touch with NLGN's Head of Network, **Rich Nelmes** at rich@nlgn.org.uk

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