

Research and Events 2009



www.nlgn.org.uk

About the New Local Government Network

The New Local Government Network (NLGN) was founded in 1996 as a not-for-profit, independent think tank, bringing together forward-thinking leaders from across the local government sector and advocating the transformation of public services, revitalisation of local political leadership and empowerment of local communities.

Working closely with local authorities, national agencies, central government and the private sector, NLGN promotes new ideas to shape and support the development of modern local government where it matters most - on the ground, in local communities.

Our networks across the local government sector are second to none, and our partners give us the legitimacy to enter a wide range of debates and speak knowledgeably from a strong evidence base and a variety of perspectives, across the political divide.



NLGN's **Innovation Network** of leading local authorities creates a space for ambitious councils to experiment with new ways of working, public-private partnering, shared learning and a chance to influence public policy across all levels of government.

The recently established **Multi Area Agreement Forum** acts as an alliance of interests between current and prospective MAA administrations. NLGN also hosts the **Mayoral Forum** of directly elected mayors across England.

NLGN's **Corporate Partners** are private sector companies, supporting our aims and wanting to participate actively in our work through their expertise. Corporate Partners are involved in the exchange of ideas, helping to initiate issues and approaches that NLGN might in turn pursue. Public Sector Partners also contribute to the development of localism and models of devolved decision-making in the UK.

If you would like to know more about becoming a partner and joining these networks, please e-mail: nirmalee.wanduragala@nlgn.org.uk or james.kirkland@nlgn.org.uk

Current work programme

NLGN's current research and events programme covers the full range of policy, governance and management concerns fundamental to the modernisation of local public services.

Procurement

Over £50 billion per year of local government expenditure is potentially subject to competitive pressure in a wider array of service provision. How can the value of wider strategic goals be captured and their optimum

value incorporated into the procurement process?

People Power – personalised commissioning

This policy agenda of double devolution is evolving quickly to empower local residents and communities. In parallel, services are being personalised. What should personalisation mean? How can the tensions between individual needs and choice be married with wider needs of the local community?

Care for Older People

The Government has signalled 2009 as being a landmark year in beginning to radically transform the adult social care system. This is a move which has been seen as long overdue, as the current system is widely accepted as being unsuitable and ill-equipped to deal with the rapidly changing demographics.

Technology and Transformational Services

This project will focus on the potential of technology to save

time, make efficiencies and improve services. The research will look at innovation from the point of view of councils and offer clarity about taking forward for the service transformation agenda highlighted by Varney Review in 2006.

Whitehall's Spatial Awareness

LAAs, MAAs and the Sub-National Review are beginning to offer real mechanisms for devolution. But if they're to reach their full potential how will Whitehall have to

change? What does a vision for a devolved UK have for the centre?

Local Justice, Local Rehabilitation

A top-down, national approach to offender management is failing. To have any impact on preventing reoffending, the criminal justice system must become locally managed and locally led. And local communities need their say.

Equality in Local Government

Local government is unrepresentative of the communities it serves. This analysis will assess the barriers and obstacles faced by women and minority groups in reaching leadership positions.

Civil Contingencies

This research project looks into the effectiveness of the Civil Contingencies Act, whether all parts of the country are sufficiently

developed and whether local communities have grasped the preparedness necessary to cope with emergency situations.

Regional Transport

Transport policy remains too isolated from evolving policies and agendas in other areas. This research sets out the challenges facing sub-regional decision-making on transport and how these can best be reformed.

Forthcoming papers and pamphlets:

Founded on Local Vision: Reforming building schools for the future

Surveillance Society? How far should councils monitor their cities?

Home Working: How social housing can support employment, encourage aspiration and strengthen neighbourhoods.

January 2009

21 January

Partner Briefing

Gershon Vs Keynes? Rethinking the local efficiency agenda

Hosted by PA Consulting

The effects of the credit crunch and economic slowdown have prompted the Government to push for a fiscal stimulus package bringing forward spending on capital projects to boost the economy. Local authorities will be an important cipher for that spending, but how does this square with the Gershon-inspired efficiency requirement to save £5bn over 3 years? How can local authorities play a full part and still prevent accusations of wasteful spending?

22 January

Innovation Network

NLGN South East England Regional Lunch: Employment and Skills: How the South East can build a resilient economy

This private lunch will provide an opportunity for Chief Executives and Leaders to discuss the challenges and opportunities for leading authorities in London and the South East to discuss what approaches a local authority should be taking in difficult economic times.

26 January

Innovation Network seminar

Census, mobility and personalisation

In 2011 the next census is planned to take place. With council budgets determined by population size according to census figures, many councils believe that this allocation of funds is unfair and unrepresentative of actual needs, as populations are more mobile than ever before. This seminar will look at what alternatives could exist for better data collection, and whether the census as we know it has had its day.

27 January

MAA Forum/ Innovation Network seminar
Transport – Integrated Transport Authorities, MAAs and the new sub-regionalism

With the second round of MAAs due to be signed off by the end of 2009, this research seminar will look at changes to sub-regional working in relation to transport. With transport a core area in many MAAs, and other MAAs looking to include transport in a later phase of their negotiations, coupled with the recent legislative changes in the Local Transport Act 2009 this seminar will be a timely exploration of how ITAs will work. *Open to MAA Members only.*



4 February

Knowledge Exchange
Sustainable Growth – A global city with a local heart
Hosted by Birmingham City Council

This away day will look at how the city council is driving Birmingham forward in the global economy to achieve sustainable growth and increase its competitiveness to directly benefit local people. There will also be opportunities to visit either the City Centre Quarter or one of the worklessness projects to see Birmingham's work in action.



11 February

Publication launch
Whitehall's Spatial Awareness
Supported by Arup and The Northern Way

How well is Whitehall responding to the devolutionary agenda and how well prepared is it for the future challenges and opportunities that this presents? Does Whitehall have sufficient spatial awareness to deliver appropriate services to the frontline? We will be examining these questions in depth at the launch of our major report 'Whitehall's Spatial Awareness; Rewiring the centre for a new era of devolved government'.

ARUP

**Moving Forward:
The Northern Way**

February/March 2009

13 February

Seminar

The Digital Citizen – interactive well-being and better service provision

Hosted by NHS Connecting for Health

This roundtable seminar will examine how the health and social care sectors will respond to the technologies and services people will be utilising and demanding in the coming decade. Will the NHS and partners in local government have the technology and know-how in place to make use of these opportunities and meet ever more stringent demands?


Connecting for Health

24 February

MAA forum

MAA Implementation – treasury discussion

Held at HM Treasury

With some MAAs now over half way through their first year, and with more MAAs due to come on line, this forum event will take a timely look at financial issues that MAAs have experienced to date. *Open to MAA Members only.*

MAA FORUM

3 March

Innovation Network seminar

Creating Healthy Communities – the role of local government

This seminar will explore the role of local government in improving the health of the local community and its relationship with health authorities, particularly focussing on joint commissioning strategies between councils and PCTs.

10 March

Mayoral Forum lunch

Fighting crime as elected mayors

Crime is consistently a foremost concern for the electorate, and therefore a key issue for elected mayors. This is set to become even more pertinent with the recent launch of local area crime maps and the proposed changes to policing as laid out in the recent Government green paper. This event will look at ways in which elected mayors have already addressed crime rates and discuss if mayors actually need greater powers to tackle crime in their area. We will also explore what the green paper could mean for elected mayors. *Open to Mayoral forum members only.*



18 March

Partner Briefing

Regional transport: Integration and Governance

Hosted by Bircham Dyson Bell

As part of our research project into the proper spatial level for transport planning, this partner briefing will bring together local authorities, ITA's and transport providers to discuss how transport can develop integrated transport systems that provide high levels of service at different spatial levels.

Bircham Dyson Bell

Week commencing 22 March *tbc*

Publication Launch

People Power

Supported by Vertex and West Sussex County Council

There is a new contract between the state and the citizen. Public services are being devolved to engage and empower the citizen. This research sets out how the next generation of services should look.



April 2009

2 April

Innovation Network Seminar
Crime and Leadership

The seminar will discuss local approaches to preventing and tackling crime and managing offenders. It will examine the progress of the Policing Green paper and look at the role of local authorities in tackling crime and engaging the community in solutions.

22 April

MAA forum Knowledge Exchange
Regeneration in the time of a credit crunch

This will be a full day event, incorporating a working visit to a MAA to look at their regeneration plans and implementation of the regeneration aspects of their MAA. The visit will be followed by a seminar on the impact of the current financial climate on delivering MAAs. *Open to MAA Members only.*



23 April

Partner Briefing
Designing better public services

Designing better services, that are responsive to the needs of citizens, is fundamental to improving delivery across government. Understanding that design process, and ensuring that it is integral to transforming services will help to overcome cultural and institutional barriers to innovation. This partner briefing will bring together local authorities, agencies that have embraced a design philosophy and private sector partners to look ahead at what will be required in the next five years.

29 April

Innovation Network

North West Regional Lunch

Informal discussion and lunch event with leaders and chief executives from across the region.

18 May

Partner Briefing

Disruptive technologies: Can local government take advantage?

Developments of technologies such as Web 2.0 and mobile connectivity have made local government transformation more intense and perhaps never-ending. How can local government keep up and even utilise new options to keep in touch with citizens and communities? What is the best method and what technologies will disrupt traditional working methods next?

9 June

MAA Forum

MAA Delivery – One year on

This event will look back over the first year of MAAs , exploring key issues and looking at the challenges of MAA implementation. The MAA essay collection will be launched at this event. *Open to MAA Members only.*



Conferences

12 Feb

Partnerships and the CAA: Improving area outcomes

The new Comprehensive Area Assessment will change the way that public services are assessed. Now is the time to further develop partnerships and ensure better working together to deliver the best outcomes for local communities. Join us for a comprehensive overview of how to improve your partnerships and outcomes through CAA.

www.lgcandnlgn-partnerships.com



26 Feb

Transforming adult social care: Preparing adult social care for the 21st century

The challenges facing adult social care are numerous, wide-ranging and well-known. Progressive debate, discussion and analysis is needed to discover constructive and successful means of transforming adult social care. Join Local Government Chronicle and New Local Government Network for a comprehensive view into the future of adult social care.

www.lgcandnlgn-adults.com



NLGN Annual Conference 2009: *Delivering local, personal, public services*

29 January 2009

This engaging conference is one of the major events in the calendar for stakeholders across central and local government, public services and the corporate and voluntary sectors.

Get expert insights into the major policy developments and prepare for their impact on public services for the year ahead.

Join an unrivalled forum of authoritative speakers for engaging debate on the future scope and shape of public service delivery.

Speakers include:

Rt. Hon. Hazel Blears MP



Eric Pickles MP

Julia Goldsworthy MP

www.nlgn-annual.com



Recent Publications



What's in a name?
Celebrating local achievement through public spaces
James Hulme

www.nlgn.org.uk



Investing Together
The case for a Local Authority Mutual Fund
Chris Leslie

www.nlgn.org.uk



Forestalling Foreclosure
A new role for local authorities
Nigel Keohane

www.nlgn.org.uk

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Families Matter

Reshaping local services to support families

Giorgia Iacopini

www.nlgn.org.uk

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Deal or No Deal?

Delivering LAA Success

Anthony Brand

www.nlgn.org.uk

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Managing Delivery

New public service architecture for the 21st century

Chris Leslie

www.nlgn.org.uk

- *Transforming public services*
- *Revitalising local political leadership*
- *Empowering local communities*



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