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7th Annual Conference COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

Delegate Guide

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Leadership Centre for local government

8th National LSP Conference

Local Strategic Partnerships '09

Strengthening and Promoting Partnerships

Thursday 11th June 2009
Inmarsat Conference Centre, London EC1

All Community Consultation delegates and their colleagues receive 10% off!

Call 020 7324 4372 and quote 'Community Consultation rate' when booking.

Speakers Include:

Irene Lucas CBE
Chief Executive,
South Tyneside MBC
(Beacon Council)

Gareth Davies
Managing Director, Local Government,
Audit Commission

Martin Reeves
Chief Executive,
Coventry City Council (formerly Chief Executive, Bedfordshire County Council)

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On 1st April 2009, the 'duty to involve' representatives of local persons in decision making and service provision comes into effect. In practice, the onus falls on LSPs to provide representatives of local people with information about services, policies and decisions of interest to them, as well as opportunities to have their say about decisions and services that affect them through effective community involvement.

With the advent of the CAA, LSP partners will need to demonstrate that they are cooperating with one another to meet targets. Therefore, there is an even greater imperative for those involved in LSPs to meet, exchange ideas and forge productive working relationships.

Supported by the Leadership Centre for Local Government, this seminal conference will address critical issues such as how LSPs can have their say at the regional level, LAA delivery across two tiers, place shaping, performance management and private/transport sector involvement.

Now entering its eighth year, this crucial annual event continues to provide local authorities and their partners with valuable policy insights and unrivalled networking opportunities.

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Foreword

Dear Delegate,

Thank you for attending **The MJ's** national **Community Consultation** conference, held with the support of **Ipsos MORI** and **The Consultation Institute**.

I'm sure you will agree that the conference comes at a crucial time for those providing local public services for their communities. Never before has listening to, and involving, local communities been higher on the political agenda. This has been recognised in the new inspection regime for local areas – the Comprehensive Area Assessment.

As the credit crunch and the economic downturn continue, understanding what communities want and need becomes more important, however resources are becoming more scarce.

Providing policy analysis, practical solutions, valuable insight and showcasing best practice, with presentations delivered by politicians, senior practitioners and leading commentators, this conference will enable you to effectively consult, inform and involve your community.

I do hope you enjoy your day

Katy Gillespie
Head, Local Government
Neil Stewart Associates

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Agenda

(subject to change)

09:00 Registration, refreshments and exhibition

09:50 **Welcome and introduction from conference chair**
Owen Thomson, Head of Consultation, London Borough of Brent

SESSION ONE

10:00 **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**
Stuart Hoggan, Acting Director, Local Democracy and Participation, Communities and Local Government

10:20 Questions and discussion

10:25 **Understanding your area through your data**
Bobby Duffy, Managing Director, Ipsos MORI Social Research Institute

10:45 **Improving lives and areas through empowerment - learning from an Empowerment Champion**
David Williams, Chief Executive, Portsmouth City Council (Empowerment Champion)

11:05 Question and discussion

11:15 Refreshments, exhibition and networking

SESSION TWO

11:40 **Planning and community consultation**
Rhion Jones, Programme Director, The Consultation Institute

12:00 **Enabling empowerment through consultation**
Isobel Mills, Deputy Regional Director, Government Office for Yorkshire and The Humber

12:20 **Moving from consultation to empowerment: community-led commissioning**
Kate Jones, Senior Research Advisor, Turning Point

12:35 Question and discussion

12:50 Buffet lunch and networking

SESSION THREE

13:50 **Making more effective use of local data**
John Fisher, Director, Local Futures Group

14:05 **The CAA and Community Consultation**
Gareth Davies, Managing Director, Local Government, Housing and Community Safety, Audit Commission

14:25 **Involving and informing the community effectively**
Chris Lawrence-Pietroni, Director, Campaigns and Business Strategy, Local Government Association

14:40 Questions and discussion

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15:00 Refreshments and networking

SESSION FOUR - INTERACTIVE WORKSHOPS

15:30

1 **Involving residents in shaping and improving local services -**
ROOM: GARRICK ROOM
Barbara Bradley, Neighbourhood Manager, Shepway District Council

2 **Bringing community consultation to life - techniques for better engagement -**
ROOM: CINEMA 2
Rachel Lopata, Director, Community Research

3 **Community Empowerment - a self evaluation tool -**
ROOM: REDGRAVE ROOM
Sue Oppenheimer, Strategic Advisor, Network of Empowering Authorities, Improvement and Development Agency
Dr Chih Hoong Sin, Principal, Office for Public Management

16:30 Conference close

COMPLIMENTARY ACCESS TO CONFERENCE DOCUMENTS AND PODCASTS

Neil Stewart Associates are keen to reduce any environmental costs incurred by this conference, and do not print speaker presentations as standard. Access will be available for up to two weeks after the conference. If you need access after this time please contact us.

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Speaker Biographies

(Biographies appear alphabetically by surname)

Barbara Bradley
Neighbourhood Manager
Shepway District Council

In 1982 after completing her Diploma in Applied Social Studies and Certificate of Qualification in Social Work, Barbara returned to work for Kent Social Services. Since then she has enjoyed a variety of roles and responsibilities across the county including Social Worker, Team Manager (in both residential and child care teams), Court Liaison and Intermediate Treatment Officer (developing community alternatives for young offenders), Planning and Research Manager (leading on business planning and developing a research strategy), County Facilitator (for an initiative focussing on partnership working and community involvement), Policy Manager (with a lead on user, carer and public involvement) and more recently as a Policy Manager for young and adult carers. In October 2007, Barbara was seconded to Shepway District Council as a Neighbourhood Manager for a Round 2 Pathfinder in Hawkinge. She is currently focussing on sustaining the work in Hawkinge as well as transferring the lessons learned to other parts of the district.

Gareth Davies
Managing Director, Local Government, Housing and Community Safety
Audit Commission

Gareth Davies was appointed as the Audit Commission's Managing Director for Local Government, Housing and Community Safety in March 2007. He was previously Regional Director for the Commission's Northern Region, responsible for the Commission's audit and inspection work at over 200 local government and NHS bodies.

Gareth has played a leading role in the development and delivery of the Commission's local government work in recent years. Prior to becoming Regional Director in 2000, he was the appointed Auditor to metropolitan councils and health authorities in West Yorkshire and his public audit career has also included spells in London and the South East. He is a CIPFA member.

Gareth is also a trustee and Honorary Treasurer of Oxfam, in which role he chairs the charity's Audit Committee.

Bobby Duffy
Managing Director
Ipsos MORI Social Research Institute

Bobby Duffy is Managing Director of the Ipsos MORI Social Research Institute, where, over the last 14 years, he has been responsible for conducting research projects for a huge variety of public sector clients, including most UK government departments and across local government and partnerships.

Bobby set up of the Participation Unit at Ipsos MORI, which focuses on developing our deliberative and participatory research approaches, from large-scale events (including a major citizen's forum at No 10 Downing Street on the future of public services) to small scale peer interviewing exercises.

Bobby's work also includes overseeing a number of major studies for Communities and Local Government, including the consultation elements of the evaluation of New Deal for Communities and the Local Area element of the Citizenship survey.

Bobby has written and presented widely on public perceptions, including recent reports on the Impact of Empowerment, trust in government, views of crime and during his time as User Fellow at the Centre for Analysis of Social Exclusion (CASE) at the LSE on ratings of public services in deprived areas.

John Fisher
Director
Local Futures Group

John is Director of the Local Futures Group. He worked in economic development and regeneration for many years, with local authorities and regional development agencies, before joining the Henley Centre for Forecasting, where he established the successful Planning for Local Change programme. At the Local Futures Group he works on a wide range of research and strategy projects, at a regional and local level, and leads the company's work on sustainable community strategies and 'place-shaping'. He is also responsible for the company's *Local Knowledge* range of products, which are used by local authorities and their partners across Britain. John can be contacted on 0207 4407360 or john.fisher@localfutures.com

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Stuart Hoggan
Acting Director, Local Democracy and Participation
Communities and Local Government

Stuart Hoggan is Acting Director for Local Democracy and Participation. Previously he was Head of Local Government Strategy and Response Unit where he has been responsible for the White Paper, Communities in Control: real people, real power; overall implementation of Strong and Prosperous Communities - The Local Government White Paper; central-local relations and the central-local concordat; the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and the local governance research programme.

Previously, he had a three-year secondment to Southwark Council, where he was Head of Policy and Performance and subsequently a member of the senior management team of Southwark Health and Social Care. He previously held central government positions in water environment, sustainable waste management and housing.

Dr Chih Hoong Sin
Principal
Office for Public Management

Dr Chih Hoong Sin is Principal at the Office for Public Management (OPM). He oversees OPM's portfolio of evaluation work and also has joint lead responsibility for equality and diversity issues. He has extensive experience in different modes of stakeholder engagement, and in involving different groups including various black and minority ethnic groups, different groups of disabled people, older people, children and young people.

Kate Jones
Senior Research Advisor
Turning Point

Kate Jones is a Senior Research Advisor for the Centre of Excellence in Connected Care. She is responsible for running Connected Care Audits across the country. Previously she has worked in community development research for a non departmental government body. She has an MSc from the London School of Economics in Voluntary Sector Organization and a first degree in Sociology from the University of Warwick.

Rhion Jones
Programme Director
The Consultation Institute

Rhion Jones is one of the UK's most authoritative specialists in public engagement, and as Programme Director of The Consultation Institute, is much in demand as a keynote speaker and facilitator. The Institute provides a wide range of best practice seminars and training courses and offers guidance for organisations seeking to involve the public in their decision-making.

Rhion sees the Planning Act 2008 as having profound effects on the practice of consultation, and has worked with the Royal Town Planning Institute and others to set standards for community engagement. The forthcoming publication of National Policy Statements, he believes, provides an acid-test as to the government's willingness to listen, and Rhion intends to use this presentation to stimulate greater interest in this important subject over the coming months. Rhion can be contacted at the Consultation Institute on 01767 689600 or rhion@consultationinstitute.org

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Chris Lawrence-Pietroni
Director, Campaigns and Business Strategy
Local Government Association

Chris Lawrence-Pietroni is Director for Campaigns and Business Strategy for the Local Government Association – the body which represents over 400 local authorities in England and Wales.

Chris was previously Head of Policy at Hampshire County Council and the Adviser to the Chief Executive's of the South East Counties. In those roles he was responsible for corporate performance management, partnerships, scrutiny and local area working as well as managing a range of policy, organisational development and public affairs projects.

Chris has a wide range of experience across the public, private and voluntary sectors having previously acted as an adviser to Sky TV on corporate social responsibility and a lobbyist for both charities and commercial organisations including as Deputy and Acting Director of Charter88 – the democratic reform pressure group – and Parliamentary Liason Officer for Church Action on Poverty. Chris has a particular interest in public participation in decision-making and service design and delivery and has worked with both local and central government on these issues. Chris is a Vice-Chair of Church Action on Poverty and a Trustee of Vitalise – a UK charity providing essential breaks for disabled people and their carers. He served for five years on the Public Affairs Committee of YMCA England.

Rachel Lopata
Director
Community Research

Rachel has worked in market and social research for 20 years. She began her research career in a commercial agency but then sought to apply her skills within local government. She spent six years at Leicester City Council as Housing Policy and Research Manager.

In 1998 Rachel joined ORC International, as Head of the Public Sector Division. She oversaw a period of rapid growth for the division leading varied research projects for clients right across the public sector. Rachel joined Opinion Leader as Director in 2005. During her time there Rachel took the lead role in some of the most high profile deliberative consultation exercises ever seen in the UK, including the National Pensions Debate.

Rachel set up her own company, Community Research, in 2008; she aims to support clients to apply deliberative engagement techniques in addition to more traditional research approaches. She is currently supporting Leicestershire's participatory budgeting project.

Isobel Mills
Deputy Regional Director
Government Office for Yorkshire and The Humber

Isobel Mills is the Deputy Regional Director for Government Office for Yorkshire and The Humber. Isobel is also Race Equality Champion for GOYH. Isobel and her group are responsible for social inclusion, a range of Local Authority related issues such as Housing and Local Planning, policy and delivery of Local Area Agreements, Community Cohesion, and work with the Voluntary, Faith and Community Sectors.

Isobel took up her current post in November 2002. She has been in GOYH since 1994 during which time she has been Director of Neighbourhood Renewal and Local Government and Director of the European Secretariat.

Prior to working with GOYH, Isobel was the Head of Corporate Services in the DTI Regional Office in Leeds. She began her working life running a Youth Hostel in Swaledale.

Sue Oppenheimer
Strategic Advisor, Network of Empowering Authorities
Improvement and Development Agency

Sue Oppenheimer works for the Improvement and Development Agency as Strategic Advisor for the Network of Empowering Authorities (NEA). This is a network of 18 councils, 2 from each region, chosen by Communities and Local Government to champion community empowerment. Sue's role is to support NEA members to develop their learning, pushing the boundaries of practice, and then cascade lessons and good practice out to other councils.

Previously, Sue worked for 17 years at Gloucester City Council, most recently as Assistant Director, Community Engagement. She also has 15 years experience of working in the Third Sector, including running a CVS and working in community-based projects. Sue is a Parish Councillor in a small rural community in Gloucestershire.

Owen Thomson
Head of Consultation
London Borough of Brent

Owen Thomson read law as a mature student at Newcastle University. Prior to university he had a varied career including working in a shipyard and spells as a lifeguard. His post university career has been in local government. He has worked for Tyne & Wear Metropolitan County Council and the London Boroughs of Lambeth and Brent. He is currently the Head of the London Borough of Brent's Corporate Consultation service, part of the borough's Communications and Diversity Directorate. He manages a team of four officers + plus occasional consultants who have responsibility for leading on and delivering a range of public consultation and engagement projects across the authority and with our partner organisations. He reports directly to the council's Director of Communications and is a member of the Communications and Diversity Directorate management team.

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David Williams
Chief Executive
Portsmouth City Council (Empowerment Champion)

David Williams has been Portsmouth City Council's Chief Executive since January 2007. He came to Portsmouth from Guildford Borough Council where he was appointed Chief Executive in 2002.

David's background is in town planning in which he did his first degree and worked in Telford, Poole, Nottingham and Durham. During his first spell at Poole, David completed an MBA, and during his time at Telford he was seconded to Westminster to lobby for local government and for Telford's aspiration to become a unitary authority. He returned to Poole later in his career as a Corporate Director with responsibilities for Finance, Social Care, Legal and Leisure Services. David has acted as Chair of CDRPs in Poole, Guildford and Portsmouth.

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