Using Local Powers to Drive Local Economies

Innovation and Municipal Enterprise to Support Communities

Agenda

(Subject to change)

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09:15 Registration and refreshments

Session 1 – Devolution and Council Led Economic Growth

10:05 **Introduction by conference chair**
Michael Burton, Editor, Municipal Journal

10:15 **Financial outlook: new models of local governance and the credit crunch**
Tony Travers, Director, London School of Economics

10:35 **The legality of the enterprising council**
Helen Randall, Partner and Head of Public Sector Commercial, Trowers and Hamlins

10:55 **Keynote Address**
Bob Neill MP, Shadow Minister for Local Government

11:15 Questions and Discussion

11:30 Refreshments and Networking

Session 2 – Municipal Innovation, Devolution and Economic Development

12.05 **The Bank of Birmingham: bringing stability and opportunities to the local economy**
Stephen Hughes, Chief Executive, Birmingham City Council

12:25 **Choice and localism on a shoe string**
A panel discussion exploring how councils with local partners can use local powers to rethink service planning and innovate to meet the multi-faceted opportunity to lead economic growth, provide choice and deliver efficiencies. Panellists will also discuss the long-term sustainability of devolution and ask what more can be done to give councils the power to take decisive action on local issues.
James Morris, Chief Executive, Localis
Stephen Bubb, Chief Executive, ACEVO
Alison Scott, Assistant Director for Local Government, CIPFA
Andy Sawford, Chief Executive, Local Government Information Unit

13:15 Lunch and Networking

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Session 3 – Local Powers and a New Age of Service Structure

14:20 **The Well-being power: tackling worklessness**
Trevor Dorling, Head of Economic Development, London Borough of Greenwich

14:40 **Shared services without borders: improving services and value for money**
Stephen Moir, Director of People and Policy, Cambridgeshire County Council

15:00 Questions and discussion

15:10 Refreshments and Networking

Session 4 – Increasing Local Capacity and Accountability

15:30 **City-Regions: Economic devolution and accountability: streamlining regions, economic growth, transport and regeneration.**
Dermot Finch, Director, Centre for Cities

15.50 **Banking on Essex: Using local powers to support Essex through the downturn**
Brandon Hallam, Director of Policy, Essex County Council

16:10 Questions and discussion

16:20 Close of conference

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Speaker Biographies

Biographies are shown in the order they appear in the agenda

Michael Burton
Editor
Municipal Journal

Michael Burton has been writing and commenting on local government for over 20 years and has interviewed every secretary of state covering local government since the 1980s. He is editor of *The MJ* (Municipal Journal) and editorial director of its parent company, publishers and event organizers, The Hemming Group, overseeing its growing portfolio of local government titles. Apart from The MJ, these include the *Municipal Year Book, Local Government News, Surveyor* and the local government website www.localgov.co.uk

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Tony Travers
Director
London School of Economics

Tony Travers is director of the Greater London Group, a research centre at the London School of Economics. His key research interests include local and regional government and public service reform. He has published a number of books on cities and government, including Failure in British Government: The Politics of the Poll Tax (with David Butler and Andrew Adonis) and The Politics of London: Governing the Ungovernable City (published in 2004). He also broadcasts and writes for the national press.

Helen Randall
Partner
Trowers and Hamlins

Helen advises the public and private sectors on JVs, Strategic partnerships, BDF, waste, shared services and powers.

The Legal 500 and Chambers Guides name Helen as a national expert on local government and PPP's and praise her for her "forensic" approach combined with "genuine creativity".

Lawyer magazine included Helen in the "Hot 100" public sector lawyers. She is director and former chair of the New Local Government Network, a leading policy think tank and was on Sir Ian Byatt's Procurement Taskforce.

Publications include: Tottel's "Local Government Contracts and Procurement", Butterworth's "Local Government Act 2009" and Sweet and Maxwell's PPP Encyclopaedia.

Bob Neill MP
Shadow Minister for Local Government

Bob Neill was born on 24th June 1952 and educated at Abbs Cross Grammar School, Hornchurch. He went on to study law at the London School of Economics which led to a successful career as a barrister specialising in criminal law.

Bob was elected as the Member of Parliament for Bromley & Chislehurst in June 2006. This followed the sudden death of The Rt. Hon. Eric Forth.

After only a year in Parliament Bob was appointed Shadow London Minister, joining the Shadow Communities & Local Government team. In 2008 he was made Shadow Local Government Minister and Deputy Chairman of the Conservative Party and in January 2009, Bob took over the Shadow Planning brief.

Bob has represented communities around London for nearly thirty years and has a wealth of local government experience. Prior to the creation of the Greater London Authority, he served on the former GLC, representing Romford. Bob also served as a Councillor in the London Borough of Havering for 16 years, chairing the Environment and Social Services Committees.

Bob served as London Assembly Member for Bexley and Bromley from 2000-2008. During this time he served as Leader of the Greater London Authority's Conservative Group until June 2006.

Stephen Hughes
Chief Executive
Birmingham City Council

Stephen Hughes has been Chief Executive of Birmingham City Council since May 2006, following a period from July 2005 when he had the role of Interim Chief Executive. He has led the Council's ambitious Business Transformation programme, aiming to deliver high quality customer focused services, improved efficiency and productivity and increased job satisfaction. He sees cultural change within the organisation as critical to underpin successful change in process and technology.

Stephen is also passionate about economic prosperity for Birmingham. He chairs the City's economic partnership and sees "succeeding economically" as the key priority for the community strategy, and as the only way to fundamentally address inequality in the city and support Community Cohesion.

Stephen began his career in the public sector in 1979 working as an economist for Coventry City Council. Since then he has occupied a variety of posts including Deputy Secretary of the Association of London Authorities, Head of Finance and Property Services at London Borough of Islington, a year's secondment at DETR where he was responsible for Business Rates and Council Tax policy, and Director of Finance at London Borough of Brent. Stephen joined Birmingham City Council in February 2004 as Strategic Director of Resources.

Stephen has a BA Honours Degree in Economics from Cambridge University and is also a qualified CIPFA accountant although he always introduces himself as an "economist with an accountancy qualification!"

James Morris
Chief Executive
Localis

James was educated at the University of Birmingham where he studied English Literature and then undertook postgraduate research at Oxford University. He also has an MBA from Cranfield School of Management where he won the Venture Capital Report prize for entrepreneurs. James has been a successful small businessman having established a number of software companies. He also has a strong track record as a policy maker and campaigner as the Director of the innovative campaign group Mind the Gap in 2003. He was appointed CEO of Localis in March 2008

Stephen Bubb
Chief Executive
ACEVO

Stephen Bubb is Chief Executive of the Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations (ACEVO) – a dynamic and high profile UK body - where his work on leadership, sector funding and public service reform has radically shifted attitudes and policies. In 2007 he became Secretary General of Euclid Network, the European body for Third Sector leaders. He is holds two key non- executive Chair roles: Chair of the Adventure Capital Fund which invests in community enterprises and Chair of Future Builders England a £215m investment fund committed to driving up third sector service delivery. He is a member of The Commonwealth Foundation's Civil Society Committee 2008, an Independent Assessor for high profile public appointments and a member of the Honours Advisory Committee.

He has been in major national roles in the TGWU, NUT and the AMA (Association of Metropolitan Authorities) and was Founding Personnel Director of the National Lottery Charities Board. He was a Councillor in Lambeth and an active member of the health authorities for Guys and St Thomas' over two decades. Much in demand as a speaker and media commentator both here and abroad promoting the country's Third Sector.

Born and brought up in Kent, he read PPE at Christ Church, Oxford. He lives in Lambeth and in Charlbury in the Cotswolds. He has been a Youth Court Magistrate, Open University Tutor, non-Executive Director in the private sector, Chair of an Orchestra and Founder of a Charity.

Alison Scott
Assistant Director for Local Government
CIPFA

Alison joined CIPFA in November 2006 as a technical manager after nearly sixteen years working as a practitioner in local government. She held a number of positions in local government finance ranging from graduate trainee to Chief Finance Officer. During her time in local government she worked on a wide variety of projects including local government reorganization, a transfer of elderly peoples' homes and PFI schemes in Magistrates Courts and Education.

Alison biggest challenge, however, was joining Northampton Borough Council eventually taking on the Chief Finance Officer Role. During her time at Northampton she developed improved financial management and reporting processes, including the introduction of devolved budgeting and obtaining an unqualified audit opinion on the accounts, and gained considerable understanding of the demands placed on finance professionals in an organisation judged as poor under CPA.

Within CIPFA, Alison was previously a technical manager with responsibility for the development of the prudential code, capital finance and treasury management. She has recently been promoted to the role of Assistant Director Local Government with responsibility for the development of local government financial management within CIPFA. Alison currently provides support to the Treasury Management and Local Government Policy Panels.

Andy Sawford
Chief Executive
Local Government Information Unit

Andy Sawford joined the LGiU in March 2008 as Chief Executive. Andy's previous experience includes working in parliament and at the LGA and from 2004 as a policy and public affairs consultant for local authorities and organisations such as the National Association of Local Councils and the Association of Police Authorities.

In 2005 Andy led the establishment of the All Party Parliamentary Local Government Group to promote improved dialogue between local and national politicians, and make an impact in debates on key issues, such as the group's major inquiries on the role of councillors (2007), the future of older people's services (2008) and the current inquiry on localising criminal justice.

Andy speaks at a wide range of conferences and events and he writes and appears regularly in the local government and national media, including recent appearances on the Today programme, the Politics Show and on Sky. Andy writes about his work for the LGiU and more generally on policy, politics and local democracy on the LGiU blog at www.lgiu.wordpress.com and on twitter at http://twitter.com/andysawford.

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Trevor Dorling
Head of Economic Development
London Borough of Greenwich

Trevor Dorling is Head of Economic Development at Greenwich Council.

Trevor has 30 years experience of working in Planning and Economic Development. He has led work to maximise the local economic benefits from the Millennium Experience in 2000 and more recently the opening of the 0_2 Arena. He has helped develop and put in place programmes to maximise benefits from the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games across the five host Boroughs. Trevor is an advisor to London Councils on employment, business and skills.

Stephen Moir
Director of People and Policy
Cambridgeshire County Council

Stephen Moir is the Director of People and Policy for Cambridgeshire County Council, having initially joined the organisation as Director of HR in July 2005. Responsible for corporate strategy and policy, communications, strategic partnerships and diversity, Stephen also leads the Council's award winning HR services, organisational development, payroll and pensions functions in support of the Council's 18,000 strong workforce. Stephen has worked in both local authorities and the police service and possesses a Masters Degree in Personnel Management with IT and chartered membership of both the CIPD and Chartered Management Institute.

The current President of the PPMA (Public Sector People Managers' Association), which represents the interests of over 800 HR/OD professionals working across public services, Stephen is also a non-executive director of the Improvement & Development Agency for Local Government

A regular HR commentator in the HR media, and a columnist for People Management, Stephen has been listed in various HR journals as an influential HR practitioner.

Dermot Finch
Director
Centre for Cities

Dermot has been Director of the Centre for Cities since 2005. The Centre is an independent research and policy institute, committed to helping UK cities improve their economic performance.

Previously, Dermot was a senior policy adviser at HM Treasury (1994-2005), including 3 years at the British Embassy in Washington DC (2001-04) and 2 years as a private secretary in both of Ken Clarke and Gordon Brown's ministerial teams (1996-97). His range of Treasury policy responsibilities included financial services, the euro, productivity, enterprise and cities. Dermot is from Clitheroe, Lancashire, and studied at Liverpool University (1986-89) and Queen's University, Belfast (1989-91).

Brandon Hallam
Director of Policy
Essex County Council

Brandon has worked at Essex County Council since 2003. As Director of Policy, he has five main areas of responsibility: strategic policy and innovation; public engagement; performance management; crime and disorder reduction; and all member, governance and executive support services. He is particularly interested in education policy, innovation in public service models and international politics. Brandon has previously worked at Policy Exchange and is a Fellow of the RSA.

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