

News

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[More news throughout the School of Government and Society \(/schools/government-society/news/index.aspx\)](http://schools/government-society/news/index.aspx)

Latest news



The Institute of Local Government Studies (INLOGOV) is a leading provider of tailored training delivered locally to an individual local authority or group of local authorities. We can help you with any training that your authority needs.

Tuesday 5th November 2013

[Blog: Delivery of public services and economies of scale: Cooperation as an alternative for small municipalities](http://inlogov.wordpress.com/2013/11/05/delivery-of-public-services-and-economies-of-scale-cooperation-as-an-alternative-for-small-municipalities/)
(<http://inlogov.wordpress.com/2013/11/05/delivery-of-public-services-and-economies-of-scale-cooperation-as-an-alternative-for-small-municipalities/>)



Written by Germà Bel. The economic crisis has strongly affected many developed countries, and has caused serious tensions in government finances. These constraints are particularly important at the local level, because local governments have limited taxing bases, and fiscal competition is stronger. Policy discussion on local government reform and local cost reductions, as well as increasing efficiency in local service delivery, is widespread.

Tuesday 5th November 2013

[Building trust in public policing? The contribution of Police and Crime Commissioners, one year on](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/thebirminghambrief/items/2013/10/building-public-trust-in-policing-the-contribution-of-police-and-crime-commissioners-one-year-on.aspx)
(<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/thebirminghambrief/items/2013/10/building-public-trust-in-policing-the-contribution-of-police-and-crime-commissioners-one-year-on.aspx>)



Written by Professor John Raine. The 'Plebgate' saga, which has now drawn apologies to Andrew Mitchell from three chief constables, has once again raised questions about police integrity and dented public trust and confidence in policing more generally.

Tuesday 5th November 2013

[Blog: Want a 50% turnout in a local election? Try Neighbourhood Planning](http://inlogov.wordpress.com/2013/11/01/neighbourhood-planning/)
(<http://inlogov.wordpress.com/2013/11/01/neighbourhood-planning/>)



Written by Chris Game. Yes, there were other news stories last weekend – Grangemouth, St Jude, Plodgate, Merkel's mobile, Lady Gaga's new album. Still, a more than 50% turnout in something local government surely merited some kind of headline.

Friday 1st November 2013

[Blog: Innovation in social care: it's the how as much as the what](http://inlogov.wordpress.com/2013/10/22/innovation-in-social-care-its-the-how-as-much-as-the-what/)
(<http://inlogov.wordpress.com/2013/10/22/innovation-in-social-care-its-the-how-as-much-as-the-what/>)



Written by Catherine Needham. People with personal budgets need to have something to buy. For some people the money will be spent on a personal assistant. But there will be lots of people who don't have a big enough budget to employ someone, or don't want to take on employer responsibilities. For them a more attractive option may be to buy some support from within the community.

Tuesday 22nd October 2013

[Blog: Planning and the new \(new\) localism - what chance of success?](http://inlogov.wordpress.com/2013/10/21/planning-localism/)
(<http://inlogov.wordpress.com/2013/10/21/planning-localism/>)



Written by Nancy Holman. Planning in a time of austerity is never easy – budgets are cut, needs are great and regulation can be seen as stifling growth. In England we are in just such a position and in the midst of a reformulation of planning that is on the one hand meant to deliver growth and on the other designed to empower communities. Most of these reforms are being couched in the language of localism with community participation at the forefront of policy.

Monday 21st October 2013

[The true impact of migration for the UK](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/impact/perspective/immigration.aspx)
(<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/impact/perspective/immigration.aspx>)



As immigration tops the news agenda yet again, three University of Birmingham academics examine the real issues behind the headlines and the true impact of migration for the UK.

Monday 21st October 2013

[Blog: Could a lack of trust between professionals undermine health and social care integration?](http://inlogov.wordpress.com/2013/10/16/trust-health-social-care/)
(<http://inlogov.wordpress.com/2013/10/16/trust-health-social-care/>)



Written by Catherin Mangan. The latest guidance on the health and social care integration transformation fund emphasises the need for 'genuine commitment to partnership and recognition of the challenges' to ensure success. We all know that successful integration will rely on genuine, positive relationships between health and social care professionals in the system. But are we taking these positive relationships for granted?

Wednesday 16th October 2013

Blog: Fast scholarship is not always good scholarship: relevant research requires more than an online presence. (<http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/impactofsocialsciences/2013/10/11/fast-scholarship-is-not-always-good-scholarship/>)



Written by Catherine Durose and Katherine Tonkiss. Blogging and social media are tools to facilitate engagement, but are they in danger of being treated as ends in themselves? Catherine Durose and Katherine Tonkiss argue for more awareness on how the research process can democratise knowledge. Rather than quickly responding to recent events, scholars should look towards sustained engagement with the participants of research and those affected by it.

Tuesday 15th October 2013

Conference: What's the business case for co-production in public services? - 24th October 2013 (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/government-society/departments/local-government-studies/events/2013/business-case-for-co-production-in-public-services.aspx>)



10th Meeting of the West Midlands Co-Production Network hosted by INLOGOV, LARIA and Governance International. The central issue for the day will be: What is the evidence on when and how co-production can be a cost effective solution for local government services? The conference will be hosted by three of the leading UK organisations in the field of co-production: INLOGOV, LARIA and Governance International.

Monday 14th October 2013

Blog: It's been 30 years coming, but Clause 38 is still really bad news (<http://inlogov.wordpress.com/2013/10/14/clause-38/>)



Written by Chris Game. Sometimes you hear "All things", but the ancient proverb and the modern Guinness advert agree that it's "Good things come to those who wait". Unfortunately, bad things do as well, and for local government Clause 38 of the Local Audit and Accountability Bill is a bad thing that's been waiting to happen for 30 years and now finally has.

Monday 14th October 2013

Video: Saving Humans: Risk, Intervention, Survival (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/activity/ias/saving-humans/index.aspx>)



'Saving Humans' is an innovative and timely theme which consolidates existing University research agendas, provides opportunities for creating novel and exciting partnerships, transcends divides between arts, social sciences and natural sciences and, most importantly, addresses broader issues of social, political and moral concern for humanity's future.

Friday 11th October 2013

Blog: Leading a Council: insights from Warwickshire (<http://inlogov.wordpress.com/2013/10/11/leading-a-council/>)



Written by Izzi Secombe. "May 2nd 2013 was a greatly significant day. Not only was I appointed leader of Warwickshire County Council, but, as the first female leader, I felt incredibly proud and honoured to be steering our county borough into the future."

Friday 11th October 2013

Blog: If I asked you to describe a 21st century public servant, what would you say? (<http://inlogov.wordpress.com/2013/10/10/21st-century-public-servant/>)



Written by Catherine Mangan. I read with interest the recent announcement from Birmingham City Council that they did not intend to recruit a replacement chief executive, but would instead create a 'lead officer' role. A few years ago it would have been unthinkable not to have a chief executive at the head of a council. Now, with councils debating what their role is, and the need to seize an opportunity to make savings, more and more councils are making the decision to remove the chief executive post entirely.

Thursday 10th October 2013

Blog: The managerial-political interface: strong relationships prosper in difficult times (<http://inlogov.wordpress.com/2013/10/09/managerial-political-interface/>)



Written by Andrew Muter, Chief Executive of Newark and Sherwood District Council. "The Chief Executive's leadership position in Local Government operates in a different context to simple hierarchies. We all manage at the political interface – what some have termed a grey area between the hurly-burly of big P Politics and the general management of the organization. And the relationship at the core is that between the Leader and Chief Executive."

Thursday 10th October 2013

Blog: Relational leadership, group dynamics and personal identity. (<http://inlogov.wordpress.com/2013/10/08/relational-leadership/>)



Written by Kim Ryley. Kim Ryley is a recent Past President of the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and a Trustee of the Leadership Centre. He has 14 years experience as a Chief Executive in four upper tier local authorities. Kim is currently a freelance Leadership Development Consultant and Director of Torque Leadership Associates Ltd.

Tuesday 8th October 2013

Executive Programme in Strategic Commissioning (5 day course) (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/government-society/departments/local-government-studies/events/accredited-short-courses/strategic-commissioning.aspx>)



3, 4 and 5 March and 28, 29 April 2014. This Executive Programme in Strategic Commissioning focuses directly on the current challenge of coping with public service funding cuts at a time of rising service needs and expectations.

Monday 7th October 2013

Blog: Keeping the door open to new ideas on leadership: Why the public sector may be leading the way
(<http://inlogov.wordpress.com/2013/10/07/keeping-the-door-open/>)



Written by Ian Briggs. In 1981, Ralf Stogdill published with Bernie Bass a taxonomy of leadership research. To scholars of leadership this Magnus opus has performed two vital functions: firstly, it has been invaluable in keeping open cathedral doors in a gale; and secondly as a work of undoubted scholarly value that it is has served to demonstrate how often confused and misplaced a great deal of leadership research in the past has been.

Monday 7th October 2013

Executive Programme in Collaborative Strategy (4 day course) (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/government-society/departments/local-government-studies/events/accredited-short-courses/strategic-commissioning.aspx>)



12, 13 December 2013 and 16, 17 January 2014. Everyone in the public sector needs to understand why successful collaboration is crucial to success in transformation, costreduction and improved outcomes. But it isn't easy. Each partner will have a different culture and different imperatives and you need to understand what drives them before you can work in partnership effectively. How can you harness the benefits and avoid the pitfalls of collaboration? This module gives you the tools to develop genuinely collaborative strategies, so that your partnerships deliver better outcomes at lower cost.

Monday 7th October 2013

Blog: George Osborne's budget surplus: paid for by local government (<http://inlogov.wordpress.com/2013/10/04/budget-surplus/>)



Written by Chris Game. In his party conference speech on Monday, Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne announced that a Conservative Government would seek, by the end of the 2015-20 Parliament, to have eliminated completely the roughly £120 billion national deficit and be running a budget surplus.

Friday 4th October 2013

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