

News

Keep up to date with the latest news and [events \(/schools/government-society/departments/local-government-studies/events/index.aspx\)](/schools/government-society/departments/local-government-studies/events/index.aspx) from around the department and the wide-ranging projects our staff and students get involved with.

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

Latest news

Podcast: Ethnic minority political representation in Britain: the end of the Race Relations Paradigm? (/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/news/2015/01/ethnic-minority-political-representation-in-britain.aspx)



The Department of Political Science and International Studies (POLISIS) Departmental Seminar. Speaker: Maria Sobolewska (Manchester), Respondant: Dr Chris Allen (University of Birmingham).

Thursday 22nd January 2015

Blog: The fairness (or otherwise) of the 2015-16 local government finance settlement (<http://inlogov.com/2015/01/21/the-fairness-or-otherwise-of-the-2015-16-local-government-finance-settlement/>)



Written by Chris Game. In choosing to announce the 2015-16 local government finance settlement just eight days before Christmas, ministers presumably hoped – as, indeed, I'd expected – that the argument about the presentation of funding and spending cut statistics for local authorities, both collectively and individually, would have died away by mid-January. However, it hasn't, which is why I too am returning to the topic, which has its importance re-emphasised several times over the past week.

Wednesday 21st January 2015

Blog: Do Local Authorities Really Want Sustainable Construction Powers? (<http://inlogov.com/2015/01/19/sustainable-construction-powers/>)



Written by Max Lempriere. When it comes to setting sustainable construction standards new research reveals English local authorities favour national regulation over local powers.

Monday 19th January 2015

The arrival (and departure) of the parliamentary single-termers (<http://theconversation.com/the-arrival-and-departure-of-the-parliamentary-single-termers-36374>)



Written by Chris Game. All university admissions tutors know about single-termers. They are those students – some badly advised and intellectually bewildered, others more devious – who decide around mid-November that they want to change degrees, study elsewhere or just drop out. They're a pain, but higher education is a complex world and, after all, they are young. MPs, you might suppose, would be different. But in this parliament anyway, you'd be dead wrong.

Monday 19th January 2015

INLOGOV In-house programmes (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/government-society/departments/local-government-studies/courses/in-house.aspx>)



If attending an on-campus programme at Birmingham isn't an option available to you or your staff, have you thought about our 'In-house' Programmes as an alternative? We often think of Universities as places that you come to - but we can come to you as well.

Friday 9th January 2015

Blog: New ways of working for district councils (<http://inlogov.com/2014/12/18/newwaysofworkingfordistrictcouncils/>)



Written by Anthony Mason. My primary school history teacher always taught that the shires of England were mapped out by Alfred the Great. For me, that story was confirmed by an illustration in my treasured Ladybird book on the great man (Alfred – not the teacher) that shows four burly Saxons knocking in a waymark post as they lay out the boundary pattern. I still have that book. I later learned that while the reality was much more complicated, it is essentially true that much of our shire county structure would be familiar to a returning Anglo Saxon – even if not much else would be.

Friday 19th December 2014

INLOGOV Call for evidence (</schools/government-society/departments/local-government-studies/news/2014/12/inlogov-call-for-evidence.aspx>)



Your chance to showcase innovative, outcome focussed and collaborative new ways of working that your District Council is leading on or working in collaboration to deliver.

Tuesday 16th December 2014

Blog: The journey to the common: what is the role of the voluntary sector? (<http://inlogov.com/2014/12/12/journey-to-the-common-what-is-the-role-of-the-voluntary-sector/>)



Written by Anna Coleman and Julia Segar. A recent publication by the New Local Government Network (NLGN) looked at how local councils are preparing for the future and suggests depressingly that "there is simply no way that local government can reach 2018 let alone 2020 while still delivering the full range and quality of services currently on offer" (p6). Simply put, we have an ageing population, with associated increasing demand for care services and draconian cuts in council budgets.

Blog: The LGC100: what it does and doesn't measure (<http://inlogov.com/2014/12/05/the-lgc100-what-it-does-and-doesnt-measure/>)



Written by Chris Game. I used, years ago, to have a whole Pol Sci 1 lecture about power and influence, their similarities and differences. By one of life's synchronicities, I've been reminded of it twice in the past week. Don't go – I'm not about to disinter it, although I will share the six-word summary that I could, if really pushed, get it down to: Power's a tool, Influence a skill.

Friday 5th December 2014

Catherine Staite named in top 100 most powerful people in local government (/schools/government-society/departments/local-government-studies/news/2014/12/catherine-staite-lgc.aspx)



INLOGOV are delighted to announce that Catherine Staite, Director of INLOGOV has been included in the Local Government Chronicle's top 100 most powerful people in the world of local government. Catherine was placed at number 45 in the list, above notable politicians such as Mayor of London Boris Johnson, and Birmingham City Council Leader Sir Albert Bore.

Tuesday 2nd December 2014

ESRC PhD studentships (/schools/government-society/news/school-wide/2014/12/esrc-phd-studentships.aspx)



The School of Government and Society invites applications for fully-funded ESRC studentships for postgraduate research beginning in September 2015.

Tuesday 2nd December 2014

Blog: The future is Intercommuality – yes, but with whom? (<http://inlogov.com/2014/12/01/the-future-is-intercommuality-yes-but-with-whom/>)



Written by Chris Game. Rom com/date movies aren't really my thing, so my excuse for watching the recent Words and Pictures was that I was a captive plane passenger – and that the ever-watchable Juliette Binoche was playing a rheumatoid arthritic abstract painter and prep school art teacher. The title refers to the silly challenge she charily accepts from alcoholic poet turned plagiarising English teacher, Clive Owen, to 'prove' whether Words or Pictures are more meaningful.

Monday 1st December 2014

Tower Hamlets residents must be wondering why they bothered to vote (<http://theconversation.com/tower-hamlets-residents-must-be-wondering-why-they-bothered-to-vote-34440>)



Written by Chris Game. With a forced smile and through gritted teeth, Tower Hamlets' elected mayor, Lutfur Rahman, has announced himself willing to accept – and even "welcome" – the intervention package set out for his borough by Eric Pickles, secretary of state for communities and local government.

Friday 21st November 2014

Blog: The PwC report on Tower Hamlets highlights fundamental tensions in local democracy, not always thought through clearly in new mayoral systems (<http://bit.ly/1yKtNgM>)



Written by Michael Keith. Competent bureaucrats commonly believe they protect the public interest by delivering transparent decision making in public institutions. This is commendable. Politicians normally believe that they are elected to carry out the wishes of their voters. This is forgivable. But these imperatives rub against each other when politicians try reshaping things in an image they prefer and the bureaucrat wants to preserve an order they recognize. This is difficult.

Friday 21st November 2014

Blog: Pickles' Tower Hamlets takeover: a sad affair all round (<http://inlogov.com/2014/11/20/pickles-tower-hamlets-takeover-a-sad-affair-all-round/>)



Written by Chris Game. He kept Communities and Local Government Secretary, Eric Pickles, waiting until almost literally the 23rd hour of the 14th day of his two-week deadline. In the end, though, Tower Hamlets' elected mayor, Lutfur Rahman, having last Friday lost his second, and ill-advised, application for a judicial review, was left with little choice.

Thursday 20th November 2014

Creating tomorrow's leading social scientists (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/dr-fees/ESRC-research-council.aspx>)



The Birmingham Doctoral Training Centre is one of only 21 across the UK to be accredited by the ESRC. It has 22 ESRC scholarships to fund doctoral research starting in 2015.

Monday 17th November 2014

Blog: What legacy will the rush to build houses leave for the next generation? (<http://inlogov.com/2014/11/12/what-legacy-will-the-rush-to-build-houses-leave-for-the-next-generation/>)



Written by Ian Briggs. Many rural and semi-rural localities are struggling to cope with the increasing number of applications for potential new housing developments, a proportion of which seem to defy logic and sound planning sense when matched against local knowledge and established patterns of socialisation.

Thursday 13th November 2014

Research project: Do flexible institutions enhance democracy? A comparative analysis of public governance innovations in Brazil and the UK (Jul 2014 - Jul 2016) (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/government-society/research/projects/inlogov/2014/do-flexible-institutions-enhance-democracy.aspx>)



The purpose of this exploratory research is to bring complementary expertise from the UK and Brazil to the analysis of democratic innovations - the global search for new ways in which societal, economic and cultural problems can be resolved through the direct involvement of citizens, civil society organisations, and other parties.

Friday 7th November 2014

Research project: Network governance and low carbon transitions in European cities (Nov 2014 - Oct 2017) (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/government-society/research/projects/inlogov/2014/network-governance-low-carbon-transitions-european-cities.aspx>)



How can European cities transition to a low carbon future? What are the governance challenges in creating environmentally sustainable cities? Can ideas about 'network governance' enhance adaption to climate change by improving interaction between citizens, businesses, associations and governments?

Friday 7th November 2014

Blog: Preaching to the choir: reflections on key leadership skills for local authority chief executives – part 3: courage (<http://inlogov.com/2014/10/31/preaching-to-the-choir-reflections-on-key-leadership-skills-for-local-authority-chief-executives-part-3-courage/>)



Written by Catherine Staite. Leadership is not a sprint – it's a marathon. You are in it for the long haul and that is why courage is so important. Maya Angelou argued that courage is the most important of all the virtues because without courage you can't practice any other virtue consistently and that is certainly evident in the role of chief executive. Not only do you need to keep yourself going through challenging times, you also need to be able to demonstrate courage to your staff and members. If you falter, so will they.

Friday 31st October 2014

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