

Elected assemblies may be off the agenda but integration of local and regional government remains a pressing priority in order to deliver better services to local people.

The immediate future is about how we join up the structures and institutions we have. At this NLGN conference for local and regional policymakers, delegates will explore the outcomes of the NLGN study into 'Making multi-level governance work' and consider recommendations for action.

The conference will look at new directions for regional and sub-regional service clusters. It will explore the impact of the efficiency review and emerging joint service ventures at a local level and how these can drive integration and governance for greater efficiency and effectiveness.

# REGIONAL FUTURES: Joining-Up Local and Regional Services

Wednesday 23rd February 2005, CBI Conference Centre, London, WC1

Keynote Speakers include:

## Richard Alan

Director of Regional Policy, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM)

## Sir Sandy Bruce-Lockhart

Chairman, Local Government Association (LGA)

### Emily Robinson

Researcher, NLGN and Author of  
*Living with Regions: Making Multi-  
level Governance Work*

### Tim Gebbels

Director, West Midlands  
Regional Observatory

### Malcolm Iley

Partner, Trowers & Hamlin

For further information and to register online visit:

[www.neilstewartassociates.com/sa198](http://www.neilstewartassociates.com/sa198)



## REGIONAL FUTURES: Joining-Up Local and Regional Services

### Purpose of the Conference

#### Specifically this conference will:

- Look at regional examples of multi-level governance and how they have been made to work
- Hear about case studies of multi-level governance in practice and look at the benefits that can be delivered with greater co-operation at a regional, sub-regional and local level
- Consider practical measures for breaking down institutional boundaries - including shared budgets, buildings and workspaces, staff secondment and integrated ways of working opened up by new technology
- Review how the efficiency agenda is impacting on local, sub-regional and regional working, and discuss if multi-level governance is the key to unlocking capacity and realising efficiency targets
- Share thinking on joint service partnerships between private, community and voluntary sectors
- Find out about the NLGN report on 'Making multi-level governance work', exploring how different tiers of government - particularly local, sub-regional and regional - can work together effectively and how to deal with institutional boundaries
- Explore how reform will go forward after the rejection of elected regional assembly for the North East and the postponement of consideration in other regions for the foreseeable future

### ABOUT NLGN

NLGN works with key agencies and opinion formers to shape and support the development of a modern local government where it matters most - on the ground, in local communities.

[www.nlgn.org.uk](http://www.nlgn.org.uk)

## AGENDA (subject to change)

**09:00 Registration and Refreshments**

### SESSION ONE: Multi-level Governance

**09:45 Welcome and Introduction by Morning Conference Chair**

**09:55 Making Multi-level Governance Work**  
Emily Robinson, Researcher, NLGN and Author of *Living with Regions: Making Multi-level Governance Work*

**10:10 'Knowledge is Power' - Breaking Down Institutional Barriers**  
Tim Gebbels, Director,  
West Midlands Regional Observatory

**10:25 Keynote Speaker**  
Richard Alan, Director of Regional Policy,  
Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM)

**10:40 Questions and Discussion**

**10:50 Refreshments**

### SESSION TWO: Improving Local-Regional Integration

**11:15 Local and Regional Working - Beyond ERAs**  
Cllr Sir Sandy Bruce-Lockhart, Chair,  
Local Government Association (LGA)

**11:30 Practical Measures for Breaking Down Institutional Boundaries - Shared Budgets, Buildings and Workspaces, and Staff Secondment**  
Representative, Audit Commission

**11:45 Better Use of Technology to Aid Remote Working and Sharing of Information**  
Chris Webber, FRICS - Head of Agility, BT Workstyle

**12:00 Panel Discussion: Accountability and Scrutiny**  
Speakers include:  
John Biggs, London Assembly Member  
Cllr Shan Wilkinson, Wrexham County Council  
Alan Clarke, Chief Executive, One North East

**12:30 Questions and Discussion**

**12:40 Buffet Lunch**

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## SESSION THREE:

### Benefits of Integrated Regional Working

#### 13:40 Opening Comments by Afternoon Chair

Malcolm Iley  
Partner, Trowers & Hamlin

#### 14:00 Efficiency through Regional and Sub-Regional Integration

Trevor Gordon, Programme Manager, Framework for Multi Agency Environments, (FAME) LB of Lewisham

#### 14:20 Benefits of Creating One Outward Facing Body

**Case Study:** This case study will explore how Mid Suffolk District Council have pooled all their IT and HR functions as well as most of their finances, the District's benefits service, and have jointly procured a Single Gateway programme.

#### 14:45 Questions and Discussion

#### 15:00 Refreshments

## SESSION FOUR:

### Seminars (15:30 – 16:30)

You may attend one seminar in session four. Places are allocated on a first come first served basis and are subject to maximum capacities.

1. Technology and Integrated Ways of Working
2. Efficiency, Procurement and Vertical Integration
3. Regional Planning

#### 16:30 Close of Conference

## Who Should Attend?

- Local Authority Chief Executives
- Directors and Heads of Service (Planning, Transport, Housing & Environmental Services & Business / Inward Investment)
- Leaders & Executive Members
- Regional Development Agencies
- Regional Assembly Members
- Regional Housing Boards
- Government Offices
- Members of Regional Consultative Bodies
- Corporate Services Directors
- Policy and Research Officers
- Democratic Services Officers
- Efficiency and Best Value Officers
- Procurement Officers
- Joint Service Partnerships
- Private Sector working with Regional and Local Government
- Civil Servants

## Sponsorship and Exhibition Opportunities

Sponsorship of this conference will profile your organisation to a wide and high level audience, placing your organisation in a leading position within local government.

To discuss sponsorship and exhibition packages please contact Joanne Burke on **020 7324 4366** or email [joanne.burke@neilstewartassociates.co.uk](mailto:joanne.burke@neilstewartassociates.co.uk)

