

# Annual Conference

15 - 17 November 2002, Leeds

Is there anyone out there?

To book your place now...

T 020 7554 2800 F 020 7554 2801 E [info@lgiu.org.uk](mailto:info@lgiu.org.uk)  
[www.lgiu.gov.uk](http://www.lgiu.gov.uk)

Democratic Engagement

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Restoring the public's belief that local elections and local  
authorities have an impact on local lives is no easy task.

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a forced electoral vote or should democratic engagement be  
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involvement of communities?

LGiU *Ten* DHN

## Invite you to our Annual Conference

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Study tours will offer delegates the opportunity to take a closer look at the development of Leeds city centre and a wide spectrum of regeneration schemes, as well as providing a glimpse of the city's cultural highlights.

The conference will also provide, through an ambitious programme of workshops and participative sessions, many learning opportunities for delegates to make the most of current thinking, legislation and policy developments across education, health and local government.

To add a lighter note to the conference programme, best selling author and Guardian columnist, John O'Farrell will take us on a light hearted stroll along the campaign trail. The best of Yorkshire fayre will also be celebrated with a magical taste of world music thrown in!

### Who should attend?

- Council leaders and executive members
- Scrutiny and non-executive councillors
- Chief officers and service directors
- Senior corporate and service policy officers and advisors
- Trade union representatives
- Councillors and officers with responsibility for health and social care
- Chief education officers and members for education and lifelong learning

### Workshops 09.30 - 10.45

#### Involving the Community in Evaluating the Children's Fund

The Children's Fund aims to ensure that children aged between 5-13 years get the best start in life and remain on track. In Leeds they are planning to involve children, young people and their parents in the evaluation of the Children's Fund programme. This workshop will be of interest to those working on children issues and on evaluation more generally.

#### More than Bricks and Mortar: Housing, Health and Community Engagement

Housing services and neighbourhood renewal are crucial in reducing health inequalities. The discussion will focus on the importance of involving tenants and other service users in the development of services.

#### Promoting New Regional Politics

How communities and stakeholders can be involved in the new regional institutions will be the focus of this workshop. How can the English regional chambers and forthcoming regional government promote involvement? What can be learnt from Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Greater London?

#### Strategic Partnerships

Can local government develop its own solutions to the opportunities and challenges posed by the concept of 'Strategic Service Partnerships' or is a private sector solution the only answer?

#### Getting Involved in Scrutinising Major Projects

The purpose of this workshop is to discuss how stakeholders can be involved (in a meaningful way) in scrutinising capital projects. The presenters will draw on their experience of scrutiny in the London Borough of Camden where a large number of local stakeholders contributed to a scrutiny of two PFI schemes.

#### Benefits of Employee Engagement

Union involvement is an important element in achieving the council's objectives. What is the union role in comprehensive performance assessment and in relation to Local Strategic Partnerships?

#### Making New Powers Work

New powers to trade, charge, and to establish flexible partnerships should be in place next year. What will they mean to councils, and how will they help us be more effective in addressing local needs? Can they be used in ways which stimulate community choice and participation?

### **Working with Patient Forums on Health Scrutiny**

Local authorities now have a power to scrutinise health services and improvement in their area but to do so successfully they will need to draw on the resources of the voluntary sector and patient forums. This session will focus on the new health scrutiny toolkit.

### **Community Leadership and Learning**

All councillors have a role in raising aspirations and helping to create a 'learning culture' within the communities they represent. Ofsted inspection reports on LEAs regularly highlight the key importance of quality leadership from elected members. How can these responsibilities be exercised most effectively, and how are they affected by the implementation of new council structures?

### **Achieving Excellence with the Community**

Blackburn with Darwen were joint winners of the LGC Council of the Year award in 2002. This workshop will explore how they have achieved this with the active support of their partners and citizens and with cross party support. They will outline the lessons learnt.

## **Lunchbox**

### **Free Training Sessions**

Update your skills with our lunchtime 'taster' sessions:

- 13.15 - 13.35 Managing Time and Casework**
- 13.35 - 13.55 Key Skills for Effective Meetings**

Both of these 'taster' sessions cover essential issues and indicate the range of training possibilities provided by the LGIU.

### **Participatory Workshops 14.00 - 17.00**

#### **IDeA simulation: Test Drive the New Arrangements for Overview and Scrutiny of Health**

The Improvement and Development Agency for local government has designed a simulation to help all stakeholders involved in the overview and scrutiny of health test what it might be really like to work under the new arrangements. The simulation takes place in a participatory and informal atmosphere and has been carefully designed to reflect real life situations.

### **Health Inequalities and Basic Skills: Teflon Versus Sustainability**

In this participation session, Sylvia Summer and Ian Bottrill (CEDC) will involve members in considering the potential impact of basic skills on reducing health inequalities and how this (and other vital components) can be a crucial link to sustainable regeneration in disadvantaged communities.

### **A Bigger Voice: Experiments with Emancipatory Research**

"We've been participated to death," say some local communities. Many feel they have been part of initiatives that serve more as window-dressing for local authorities than genuine attempts to give them a say in decisions that affect their lives. In this workshop Fiona Hale, Tom Wakeford and a member of a Gateshead community centre talk about their experiences of "A weekend away for a bigger voice" and invite participants to use the workshop to share their own experiences.

### **Fighting Apathy - The DEMOCS Game**

The New Economics Foundation has developed an innovative 'game' to tackle apathy called DEMOCS (DEliberative Meetings Organised by CitizenS). Those attending the workshop will play the game and then reflect on how it might be used by local councils in running consultation processes and seeking to engage communities in thinking about what they want for their neighbourhoods and tackling local problems.

### **Engaging Young People**

This workshop will be led by members of the UK Youth Parliament representing Leeds, and will give delegates the opportunity to learn from young people themselves about their expectations and experiences of engagement in the democratic process.

### **Focus Session**

**17.00 - 18.00**

#### **Councillor Development**

Cambridgeshire County Council won the LGC Award for Councillor Development Initiative of the Year 2001. This award, sponsored by the LGIU, seeks to recognise councils who have dealt with councillor development issues in a positive and innovative way.

Delegates from Cambridgeshire will be outlining the work they have done, including their innovative 'adopt a member' scheme, pre-election preparation and effective use of ICT in webcasting cabinet meetings.

# Plenaries

Saturday 11.15 - 12.45

## Democratic Engagement

The LGIU mission statement affirms its commitment to democratic engagement. But how should this commitment be turned into reality? This question will be debated from the perspectives of local government, health, education and the community.

*Speakers: Hazel Blears, MP, Parliamentary under Secretary of State for Public Health.*

*Don Foster, MP, Liberal Democrat Shadow*

*Spokesperson for Transport, Local Government and the Regions.*

*Allison West, Director, Community Development Foundation.*

*Damien Green, MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Education (invited).*

*Dennis Reed, Director LGIU and Commission on Local Governance.*

Sunday 10.30 - 12.00

## Community cohesion: local authorities' role

The 2001 riots in northern towns brought the issue of community cohesion to the fore and local authorities are now implementing their duty to promote race equality. There will be joint guidance from the Commission for Race Equality, Home Office and LGA on community cohesion. But what is the local authority role in this area and what are the priorities for action? How does this agenda relate to the wider community planning and neighbourhood renewal role of local authorities? And how do we know whether we are achieving more cohesive communities?

*Speakers: Gurbux Singh, Chairman, Commission for Race Equality.*

*Sukhvinder Stubbs, Director of the Barrow Cadbury Trust and former chief executive of the Runnymede Trust.*

*Trevor Phillips, Deputy Chair, Greater London Authority (invited).*

*Gary Younge, The Guardian (invited).*

# Destination

*Leeds is centrally positioned between London and Edinburgh and boasts transport links second to none:*

- *Intercity trains link Leeds and London in just two hours*
- *Leeds Bradford Airport operates one of the best domestic networks*
- *Leeds is the crossroads for the M1north/south and the M62 east/west.*

# Delegate Rates

**LGIU/TEN/DHN**

**member organisations**

£295 (£346.63 inc VAT)

**Trade Unions and**

**Voluntary Organisations**

£225 (£264.38 inc VAT)

**Standard rate**

£590 (£693.25 inc VAT)

Group bookings of five or more will attract a 10% discount. All applications for group booking discount must be received together and clearly marked 'group booking'.

**LGIU VAT REG NO 577 4057 14**

## Accommodation

Delegates can book accommodation at a special conference rate through Conference Leeds on

**Tel 0113 246 8120**

Alternatively, authorities that are members of the Local Government Travel Club may find other rates available.

**Tel 0115 915 4651** to check if you are a member of the scheme.

## Cancellations

A cancellation fee of £50 will be charged for any cancellation within 14 days of the conference. All cancellations should be notified to the LGIU in writing. No refunds can be given less than 7 working days from the conference or for failing to attend. Substitutions may be made at any time.

Cancellation of accommodation booked with Conference Leeds must be cancelled with them directly and in line with their own terms and conditions.

This booking form constitutes a legally binding agreement. The organisers reserve the right to change the content or timing of the programme, the speakers or the venue.



**LEEDS**  
CITY COUNCIL

# Booking Form

I would like to book a place for the

**LGIU Annual Conference Leeds 15 - 17 November 2002**

Please use one form for each delegate (photocopies are acceptable)

Name of delegate \_\_\_\_\_

Position \_\_\_\_\_

Authority/Organisation \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Special dietary requirements    vegetarian     other

My authority/organisation is a member of

LGIU     TEN     DHN

Address to which conference pack should be sent

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I would like to attend the following study tour

A     B     C

Please indicate method of payment

I enclose a cheque for £ \_\_\_\_\_ made payable to the LGIU

Please invoice me for £ \_\_\_\_\_ (A VAT invoice will be issued)

Address/contact for invoicing purposes (if different from above)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

PLEASE RETURN THIS BOOKING FORM TO:

**LGIU, 22 Upper Woburn Place, London WC1H 0TB**

Or Fax to: **020 7554 2801**

If you have any special needs or further enquires please call  
Debra Stanislas or Debbie Callender on **020 7554 2800** or  
email [info@lgiu.org.uk](mailto:info@lgiu.org.uk)

[www.lgiu.gov.uk](http://www.lgiu.gov.uk)

## Study Tours

Saturday 14.00 - 17.00

### City Centre - A

Commencing with an introduction from the City Centre Manager, delegates will be conducted on a guided tour of the city centre focusing upon the transformation of Leeds' reputation as a stark industrial city into the financial and cultural centre of the North. The route will take in the Civic Quarter, waterfront, Exchange Quarter and vibrant shopping centre, providing delegates with the opportunity to view first-hand the city's resurgence and new confidence. This tour will involve a considerable amount of walking.

### Regeneration - B

The chance to experience Leeds' innovative approach to regeneration through site visits to some of the most significant centres for new investment and employment in the Yorkshire and Humber region. Delegates will see how a traditional industrial area has been earmarked for transformation into a high quality, sustainable employment base for the long term benefit of the people of Leeds and the region as a whole. The enormous scale of this economic regeneration project will be juxtaposed with a more localised neighbourhood renewal scheme, with a particular focus upon improving recreational green space and community facilities. This tour will involve coach travel and some walking.

### Arts Safari - C

Millennium Square, Leeds Town Hall, the City Art Gallery, Henry Moore Institute, Quarry Hill: - just a selection of the major cultural venues to be experienced en route to the performance-based climax of this arts safari around Leeds city centre. Guides will be on hand to explain how these spaces contribute to the overall vibrancy of the Leeds cultural scenes, as well as their vital roles in community life and regeneration through the arts initiatives. The initial stage of the safari will involve walking, with a coach collecting delegates for travel to the performance location and less central venues.

The Local Government Information Unit, The Education Network and The Democratic Health Network are partner organisations offering:

- independent policy guidance
- research
- information
- advice
- training and lobbying service to local authorities, Local Education Authorities Trade Unions and health bodies

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# Programme

Friday 15 November

Hotel Metropole, Leeds

17.00	Registration
19.00	Drinks Reception
19.30	Conference Dinner
	<i>After Dinner Speakers</i>
	Rt Hon Nick Raynsford MP, Minister, Local Government and the Regions
	John O'Farrell, author and Guardian columnist

Saturday 16 November

Leeds Civic Hall

08.45 - 09.30	Registration
09.30 - 10.45	Workshops
10.45 - 11.15	Coffee
11.15 - 12.45	Plenary
	Democratic Engagement
12.45 - 14.00	Lunch
14.00 - 17.00	Participatory Workshops and Study Visits
17.00 - 18.00	Focus Session
19.30	Dinner and Civic Reception hosted by the Lord Mayor plus after dinner entertainment

Sunday 17 November

Leeds Civic Hall

10.30 - 12.00	Plenary
	Community cohesion: local authorities' role
12.00	Close of Conference