

June 2009

LGA analysis and research bulletin

Welcome to the Local Government Association analysis and research bulletin (LGAARB), the regular one stop publication that keeps you informed about key issues and developments in research impacting on local government. The bulletin brings together our work as well as that of the other members of the LGA group (4ps, IDeA, LACORS, LGE and Leadership Centre for Local Government), and features relevant publications from the wider research community. The information in LGAARB is grouped under themed areas and our aim is to provide, on behalf of the LGA group, high quality:

- horizon scanning;
- analysis; and
- research.

Information about each of the members of the LGA group can be found along with website details overleaf. This publication is produced by LGA analysis and research which has been established to deliver a high quality and single research service to support the policy, lobbying and service delivery needs of the LGA group.

How to register

You can register to receive this bulletin by visiting:
<http://www.lga.gov.uk/research>

NEW DYNAMIC LINKS

contents

information about the LGA group	2
new research and statistics	3
employment, pay and workforce trends	3
transport	4
housing	6
education and children's services	6
environment	8
health and social care	9
population and migration	9
communities and place shaping	10
economy/economic development	11
local government	11
European and international	12
crime and disorder/safer communities	12
regular publications and events	14

information about the LGA group

The Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA)

The IDeA aims to make public services the best public services by supporting self-sustaining improvement from within local government. The IDeA works in partnership with all councils, to enhance the performance of the best, accelerate the speed of improvement of the rest, and develop the sector as a whole. For more information visit: <http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pagelid=1>

Leadership Centre for Local Government

Leadership Centre for Local Government give leaders the opportunity to shift their thinking on leadership so they can fundamentally transform their communities for the better. They help and support leaders while they reassess their approach to leadership – in practice leading across place rather than just their authorities. This means thinking beyond the familiar, to find new and different ways of meeting the leadership challenges. LCLG create the space for senior managers and politicians to think about the ambitions they have for their communities and how they can achieve them in order to fundamentally transform their localities for the better. For more information visit: <http://www.localleadership.gov.uk/>

Local Authorities Coordinators of Regulatory Services (LACORS)

LACORS provide and disseminate comprehensive advice, guidance, good practice and information to make a major contribution to the development of high quality, consistent and co-ordinated local authority regulatory and related services across the UK. For more information visit: <http://www.lacors.gov.uk/pages/trade/lacors.asp>

Local Government Association (LGA)

The LGA exists to promote better local government. It works with and for member authorities to realise a shared vision of local government that enables local people to shape a distinctive and better future for their locality and its communities. The LGA aims to put local councils at the heart of the drive to improve public services and to work with government to ensure that the policy, legislative and financial context in which they operate, supports that objective. The LGA's European and International Unit (the former Local Government International Bureau) lobbies the EU and international institutions to get the best deal for councils; keeps councils informed about EU work that affects them; develops international partnerships and co-operation; supports locally elected members in European and international institutions; and promotes the development of local democracy around the world. For more information visit: <http://www.lga.gov.uk>

Local Government Employers (LGE)

LGE is the national centre of excellence for local authorities on pay, pensions and employment strategy. They work with local authorities, regional employers and other bodies to lead and create solutions on pay, pensions and the employment contract, to ensure the provision of excellent and affordable local services. For more information visit: <http://www.lge.gov.uk>

4ps

4ps, local government's project delivery specialist, works exclusively to help all local authorities deliver better public services via major infrastructure and service projects. A range of support is available from 4ps including access to best practice, skills development workshops, gateway reviews and project management support. This support can help local authorities seeking to deliver initiatives such as Private Finance Initiatives (PFI) and Public Private Partnership (PPP) secure funding, carry out options appraisals, evaluate bids and negotiate contracts. For more information visit: <http://www.4ps.gov.uk/>

Employment Pay and Workforce Trends

Pay and workforce LGA research website

LGA Analysis and Research have substantially restructured and enhanced the pay and workforce section of their website. This follows intensive work over the past two years to gain access to the most informative data sources available. This will prove a valuable resource for local authorities and includes:

- Data from the Quarterly Public Sector Employment Survey - provides quarterly headcount, FTE, gender, FT/PT and permanent/temporary figures for all directly employed local authority staff in England and Wales. LGA Analysis and Research will be making available a quarterly archive from June 2006 and up to date reports from this quarter onwards.
- Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) school statistics - provides headcount and FTE numbers for school support staff and teachers by each local authority by school level and job role category.
- Local Government Employment - this pulls together the most recent data enabling you to develop a better picture of local government employment by job role;
- Sector Skills Workforce Mapping - provides an analysis of the local government workforce by sector skills council coverage. This work also includes details of the structure and responsibilities of local government across the UK;
- Workforce Data Standards - the draft standards are of a set of data items which can be used to collect information about the local government workforce in a standardised way. Their purpose is to provide consistency in the definition, meaning and use of data relating to the workforce.

For more information please visit the new pay and workforce section at www.lga.gov.uk/payandworkforce or contact ben.hickman@lga.gov.uk

Local government workforce survey 2009

The LGA, IDeA and LGE have launched the annual Local Government Workforce Survey for 2009. Information provided by local authorities through this survey is invaluable in helping these bodies to analyse and take action on the key workforce issues facing local government. For more information please contact elizabeth.spratt@lga.gov.uk (020 7664 3272) or visit: <http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pagelid=1956067>

LGA Analysis and Research employment Digest

This monthly publication keeps you informed on the labour market, pay issues and trends and the economy in general. Core data include: inflation, unemployment, pay settlements and average earnings. The May edition of the Employment Digest includes a review of the 2009 budget. For more information visit: <http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pagelid=1094987>

Monitoring poverty and social exclusion in Wales 2009

This Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) publication is the second update of Monitoring Poverty and Social Exclusion in Wales, following the original report in 2005. After reviewing ten-year trends in low income statistics, its focus shifts to unemployment and problem debt. For more information visit: <http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/2009-wales-poverty-exclusion-summary.pdf>

The growth of claimant unemployment by broad occupation and area

This latest piece of research by LGA Analysis and Research examines how unemployment has changed over the past year at local authority district level. It uses statistics on the number of people claiming Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) as a proportion of resident population of working age. The report concentrates on four groups – managers, professionals, those in skilled trades and those in ‘elementary’ occupations (such as labourers, cleaners and catering assistants), and the tables and the maps show how the geographical distribution of rising unemployment varies amongst these groups. For more information visit: <http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pagelId=1974773>

To view the LGA press release for this report visit: <http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pagelId=1985361>

Labour market statistics June 2009

These Office for National Statistics (ONS) statistics show that the number of unemployed people, the unemployment rate and the claimant count have increased. The employment rate and the number of employed people have fallen. There are fewer vacancies and the number of inactive people of working age and the inactivity rate have increased. For more information visit: <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/lmsuk0609.pdf>

To view the LGA press release: <http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pagelId=2004625>

Transport

Public experiences of and attitudes towards parking

These Department for Transport (DfT) statistics include experiences of and attitudes towards parking based on results from the December 2008 Opinions (Omnibus) Survey undertaken by the ONS. For more information visit: <http://www.dft.gov.uk/adobepdf/162469/221412/221513/469138/parking.pdf>

Traveller information services – assessing barriers to their use

Despite recent investments in and growing availability of various public transport (PT) information services, levels of apparent non-use (of particular services) across the population remain high.

The purpose of this Future Urban Technologies: Undertaking Research to Enhance Sustainability (FUTURES) research is to provide a better understanding of factors affecting pre-trip PT information use. For more information contact: For more information: Sandy.Farag@uwe.ac.uk or Glenn.Lyons@uwe.ac.uk

Flexible working practices – the case of part-day homeworking

National figures suggest that in the last 10 years the number of people working at least one day per week from home has increased by around a third. This FUTURES research considers how flexible working conditions affect how this new workforce commutes throughout the working week.

The FUTURES consortium, comprised of seven research groups at four universities spanning the fields of engineering, technology, environmental science and social science, has undertaken a comparative study to find out. The research centred upon full-time paid employees, and reveals that part-day homeworking is more commonplace than whole-day occasional homeworking. This suggests a much greater degree of flexible working than previously thought with implications for how commute trips are distributed throughout the day.

For more information visit: www.sue-futures.org or contact: Hebba.Haddad@uwe.ac.uk or Glenn.Lyons@uwe.ac.uk

Impacts of new technology on urban traffic management – the case of in-vehicle satellite navigation systems

In-vehicle satellite navigation systems are the new must-have car accessory. From 2003 to 2006 there was a 5-fold increase in UK sales and last year there were 6 million systems in use.

The current and potential future implications of such prolific sat-nav use for urban traffic management may be profound and wide-ranging but as yet are not well understood. The FUTURES consortium has undertaken research to consider what these may be.

For more information visit www.sue-futures.org or contact: a.j.hickford@soton.ac.uk or m.mcdonald@soton.ac.uk

To share or not to share – reducing single occupant car trips

With more cars on UK roads than ever before and average car occupancy dropping by 15% to 1.7 people per journey in the last 50 years, the case for lift sharing to reduce car use has never been stronger.

Lift sharing enables more efficient travel behaviour by reducing single occupant car trips, yet public knowledge of the benefits and impacts of lift sharing is very limited. Up until now, knowledge of lift-sharing practice has been based on small-scale and largely anecdotal research, representing the views of individual scheme operators or members. The FUTURES consortium has undertaken the first national level assessment of UK lift sharing practice to discover how this practice could contribute to a more sustainable environment.

For more information visit: www.sue-futures.org or contact: acr@soton.ac.uk or M.E.Beecroft@soton.ac.uk

Environmental assessment of new vehicle technologies with improved confidence

The recent King Review outlined the transition to a low-carbon future for road transport. In the short term, low carbon means new technologies in internal combustion engine vehicles and behavioural changes, all the way through to longer term plans for the introduction of fuel cell or electric vehicles.

The King Review also highlighted the fact that technologies beneficial to local air quality issues, especially for oxides of nitrogen (NOx), may not be ideal for carbon dioxide and fuel consumption.

FUTURES consortium researchers from the University of Leeds and Newcastle University have joined forces with industry experts to examine some of the issues arising out of the King Review.

FUTURES research has focused on a diverse range of transport related technologies. It has developed fundamental understandings of how such technologies can contribute to a more sustainable urban environment.

For more information visit www.sue-futures.org or contact: margaret.bell@newcastle.ac.uk or P.S.Goodman@its.leeds.ac.uk

Road goods vehicles travelling to mainland Europe - Q1 2009

The DfT has published national statistics on the number of goods vehicles travelling to mainland Europe from Great Britain by ferry and through the channel tunnel for quarter 1 2009. For more information visit:

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/adobepdf/162469/221412/221522/222947/roroq12009.pdf>

Housing

House building: March quarter 2009 - England

These Communities and Local Government (CLG) statistics present figures on new build housing starts and completions in England for January to March 2009. For more information visit:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/pdf/1236690.pdf>

Statutory homelessness: 1st quarter (January to March) 2009, England

This CLG statistical release about statutory homelessness includes data on household acceptances and households in temporary accommodation. For more information visit:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/pdf/1251671.pdf>

Local housing - local solutions: the case for self-determination

This LGA publication sets out practical proposals for reform of council housing finance. For more information visit: <http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/aio/2001508>

To view the LGA press release: <http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pageId=2001124>

Growing up in social housing in Britain

This report from the Tenant Services Authority draws on four British birth cohort studies to examine the role of social housing for four generations of families since the Second World War. It describes how housing for families changed over time, and explores the relationship between social housing, family circumstances, and experiences for the children when they reached adulthood. For more information visit:

http://www.tenantservicesauthority.org/upload/pdf/Growing_up_in_social_housing.pdf

Education and Children's Services

Day six of exclusion: the extent and quality of provision for pupils

Schools and local authorities are required to provide full-time and suitable education for pupils from day six of fixed-period and permanent exclusions. This Ofsted survey evaluates the extent to which a sample of schools and local authorities are meeting these requirements and reports on how practice is changing as a result. For more information visit: <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Thematic-reports/Day-six-of-exclusion-the-extent-and-quality-of-provision-for-pupils>

Race equality and schools

Estyn (Wales) has published a report looking at the degree to which race equality policies and action plans are effective in managing practice and securing improved outcomes for learners from minority ethnic groups in primary, special and secondary schools. For more information visit:

http://www.estyn.gov.uk/thematicreports/the_impact_of_schools_race_equality_policies_may_2009.pdf

School leavers' qualifications

The Department of Education Northern Ireland (DENI) has issued a Statistical Press Release containing information on the qualifications and destinations of Northern Ireland school leavers. For more information visit:

http://www.deni.gov.uk/index/32-statisticsandresearch_pg/32_statistical_publications-indexofstatisticalpublications_pg/32_statistical_publications_pressreleases_pg/32_national_statistics_school_leavers_pg.htm

Quality matters in children's services: messages from research

This report from the Social Policy Research Unit (SPRU) at the University of York, brings together authoritative research to explore critical concerns for those working with vulnerable children, young people and their families. Subjects covered include reunification, stability and wellbeing, kinship care, educating vulnerable young people, child protection, domestic violence and parental substance misuse, the participation of young people with a disability and advocacy services. For more information visit: <http://www.rip.org.uk/qualitymatters/resources/overview/Quality%20Matters%20in%20Childrens%20Services%20-%20Messages%20from%20Research.pdf>

Sixth form colleges' salaries and number survey 2008

LGA Analysis and Research commissioned the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) to undertake this annual survey on behalf of the Sixth Form Colleges' Forum (SFCF). It provides detailed information on the numbers of staff employed in Sixth Form Colleges, and their salaries, including senior postholders, teachers, support staff, hourly-paid staff, and contractors. The 2008 survey, the seventeenth in the series, received responses from 86 of the 100 Sixth Form Colleges and Centres in membership of the SFCF. For more information visit: <http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pageld=1978120>

Families with children in Britain: findings from the 2007 Families and Children Study (FACS)

The 2007 Families and Children Study (FACS) is the ninth in a series of annual surveys from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) which investigate the circumstances of British families with dependent children. The first part of this report focuses on the circumstances, lives and conditions of families while the second part looks at the circumstances, conditions and lives of children. For more information visit: <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rports2009-2010/rrep578.pdf>

High-performing specialist schools: final evaluation report

This DCSF report provides evidence on the longer term impacts and value for money of the programme on High Performing Specialist Schools, and those schools and organisations with which they collaborate. For more information visit: <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/DCSF-RR109.pdf>

The impact of school leadership on pupil outcomes: final report

This DCSF research examined the work of head teachers and other school leaders in a range of primary and secondary schools in England. All these schools are recognised as having achieved success in terms of improvement in pupil attainment measures and were highly effective in value added terms over at least a three year consecutive period. The study focused on schools that were identified to have significantly raised pupil attainment levels over a three year period (2003-2005). For more information: <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/DCSF-RB108.pdf>

Narrowing the gap in outcomes: leadership

This report is based on research conducted by the NFER and commissioned by the LGA for the national Narrowing the Gap team. It aims to identify whether or not leadership has an effective role in narrowing the gap in outcomes between vulnerable children and young people, and other children. The study included a literature review and interviews with case study local authorities. For more information visit: <http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pageld=2076096>

Narrowing the gap in outcomes: governance

This report is based on research conducted by the NFER and commissioned by the LGA for the national Narrowing the Gap team. It aims to identify whether or not governance has an effective role in narrowing the gap between vulnerable children and young people, and other children. The study included a literature review and interviews with case-study local authorities. For more information visit: <http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pagelid=2075939>

Narrowing the gap in outcomes: what is the relationship between leadership and governance?

This short paper sets out the overlapping features of effective leadership and of effective governance for narrowing the gap in outcomes for vulnerable groups distilled from two parallel studies conducted by NFER, focusing on governance and leadership. The paper goes on to highlight:

- the key features of effective leadership and of effective governance
- how leaders contribute to effective governance
- how governance supports effective leadership.

For more information visit: <http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pagelid=2077362>

Pupil absence in Autumn term 2008

This DCSF release reports absence during the autumn 2008 term in maintained primary, secondary schools, city technology colleges and academies in England. It is based on pupil level absence data collected via the spring 2009 School Census. For more information visit:

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000853/AutumnTerm08absenceFinal.pdf>

Youth cohort study and longitudinal study of young people in England: the activities and experiences of 17-year-olds, England 2008

This is the second in a series of publications using two large DCSF surveys, the LSYPE (Longitudinal Study of Young People in England) and Youth Cohort Study (YCS). This publication brings together detailed survey information on family environment, attitudes, risky behaviours, engagement, and post-16 participation with administrative data on academic attainment. For more information visit:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SBU/b000850/Bull01_2009textvfinal.pdf

Environment

Land use change statistics (England) 2008: provisional estimates (May 2009)

These CLG statistics provide initial estimates for 2008 of changes on previously-developed land and the average density of new dwellings. For more information visit:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/pdf/1239798.pdf>

UK Climate Projections 2009

The UK climate projections 2009 have been published by the UK Climate Impact Programme. They provide the latest information on how continued emissions of greenhouse gases may change the UK's climate over 21st century. For more information visit: <http://ukclimateprojections.defra.gov.uk/>

Health and Social Care

London's poverty profile

This publication has been created by one of London's largest charitable trusts, the City Parochial Foundation, and the independent think tank, New Policy Institute. The report brings together a wide range of indicators measuring poverty, inequality and social exclusion in London, and how this has changed over time. The analysis covers a wide range of issues including worklessness, low pay, poor health, weak educational outcomes and inadequate housing. It also compares London to other English regions and cities and looks at London at a sub-regional and borough level. For more information visit:

<http://www.londonpovertyprofile.org.uk/downloads/LondonPovertyProfile.pdf>

The report is complemented by a dedicated website, www.londonpovertyprofile.org.uk which will provide updates to the indicators, more analysis and links to other relevant research and resources.

Tackling alcohol harm: lessons from other fields

This JRF report examines how initiatives successfully used in other fields can help inform new strategies for tackling alcohol related harm. The report presents seven case studies, each telling the story of an initiative designed to bring about attitudinal, behavioural or policy change, for example sustainable transport use or youth smoking prevention. For more information visit: <http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/alcohol-attitudes-behaviour-full.pdf>

Expectations & aspirations: public attitudes towards social care

In advance of the publication of a government Green Paper on social care, the Institute for Public Policy Research (ippr) and Pricewaterhouse Coopers LLP (PwC) commissioned research to explore public levels of awareness and understanding of social care provision. The findings highlight a lack of awareness about social care, confusion about how services are funded and a widespread lack of preparation or planning for future care needs. For more information visit: <http://www.ippr.org.uk/publicationsandreports/publication.asp?id=669>

Better with age: reforming the future of local social care for older people

This New Local Government Network (NLGN) report suggests that the UK will only be able to pay for future social care for older people by introducing a radical new 'combined' social insurance scheme. For more information visit: <http://www.nlgn.org.uk/public/press-releases/better-with-age-reforming-the-future-of-local-social-care-for-older-people/>

Attitudes to mental illness 2009

This Department of Health (DoH) report highlights the results of a survey which has been conducted annually since 2007 in order to enable measurement of whether attitudes towards mental illness are improving or worsening over time. The questionnaire included a number of statements about mental illness. Respondents were asked to indicate how much they agreed or disagreed with each statement. For more information visit:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsStatistics/DH_100345

Population and Migration

Control of immigration: quarterly statistical summary, United Kingdom January - March 2009

These Home Office statistics provide information on border control and visas, asylum, enforcement and compliance and managed migration. For more information visit: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/immig109.pdf>

British citizenship statistics United Kingdom 2008

These Home Office statistics provide information on applications for British citizenship, number of persons granted British citizenship, refusals and withdrawals. For more information visit:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb0909.pdf>

Local authority level worker registration scheme data, October – December 2008

The October to December 2008 local authority level Worker Registration Scheme (WRS) data from the Home Office is now available. This information will not only enable users to discover more about their changing local population, but is invaluable in planning services. New migrant employment patterns can be viewed, including seasonal working, which is essential in building up local economic and employment knowledge. Please note that this information is only available to those with a .gov.uk email address. For more information visit:

<http://www.lga.gov.uk/populationresearch>

Nineteenth accession monitoring report

This is part of a series of quarterly reports based on provisional Management Information collected through the WRS and manual monitoring of applications for National Insurance numbers, claims for benefits, applications for tax credits and applications for housing and homelessness assistance. The Accession Monitoring Report is a point online report from the Border and Immigration Agency, Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), HM Revenue & Customs and CLG. For more information visit:

http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/reports/accession_monitoring_report/

Communities and place shaping

Empowering communities to influence local decision making - a systematic review of the evidence

This CLG report reviews the evidence base around community empowerment. It aims to make sense of variable and often competing or contrasting evidence in order to identify which mechanisms empower; in what ways, and in what contexts. The research identifies key criteria that drive and define empowerment across six specific mechanisms: asset transfer, citizen governance, e-participation, participatory budgeting, petitions and redress. The review shows that each mechanism is able to empower to some extent. For more information visit:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/pdf/1241955>

Empowering communities to influence local decision making - evidence-based lessons for policy makers and practitioners

This CLG report draws on a systematic review of community empowerment to provide evidence-based lessons for policy makers and practitioners. The aim of the review was to make sense of variable and often competing or contrasting evidence in order to identify which mechanisms empower; in what ways, and in what contexts. For more information visit: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/pdf/1241999>

Analysing inequality

Does your local area have serious inequalities between different groups of people? Whether they are rich and poor, men and women, people with disabilities or of an ethnic origin? What impacts do these differences have on their lives? A new analysis paper from Neighbourhood Statistics details the free to download datasets which can help you to answer these types of questions, and provides example analyses looking at the relationships between ethnicity, disability and the Index of Multiple Deprivation using maps and graphs. For further information on analysing inequality visit: <http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/Info.do?page=news/newsitems/19-may-2009-analysing-inequality-using-neighbourhood-statistics-data.htm>

2008 place survey

The CLG 2008 place survey provides information on people's perceptions of their local area and the local services they receive. It summarises the headline findings for England and Government Office regions with results for individual local authorities shown in accompanying tables.

The survey collects information on 18 national indicators for local government, used to measure local government performance for 152 county councils, metropolitan district councils, London boroughs and unitary authorities. For more information visit: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/pdf/1262542.pdf>

To view the LGA press release for this report visit: <http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pagelid=2063275>

Economy/Economic Development

Mortgage rescue scheme monitoring statistics - April 2009

These CLG mortgage rescue scheme monitoring statistics give information on the number of households approaching local authorities with mortgage difficulties and households applying and accepted for the scheme. For more information visit: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/mortgagerescuestatistics>

Circling the loan sharks: predatory lending in the recession and the emerging role for local government

This NLGN report suggests that 200,000 people in Britain are at risk from illegal loan sharks because they cannot access credit from traditional lenders. The report predicts that an additional 35,000 people are likely to have to use loan sharks during the recession but admit that the figure could be even higher. NLGN is urging local authorities to put additional resources into local credit unions and even to use new council banks to offer affordable credit to people who can't access high-street loans. For more information visit:

<http://www.nlgn.org.uk/public/wp-content/uploads/circling-the-loan-sharks.pdf>

In the balance: granting local authorities new financial flexibilities to cope with the downturn

This new NLGN paper argues that dramatic cuts in public services could be avoided by giving local authorities new power to balance their budget over three years rather than one. For more information visit:

<http://www.nlgn.org.uk/public/wp-content/uploads/in-the-balance.pdf>

Local Government

Local government financial statistics England, No.19, 2009

This CLG compendium publication brings together data from a wide range of sources to paint a comprehensive overview of local government finance in England. This latest edition contains outturn figures for the years up to 2007-08 and estimates for 2009-10. For more information visit:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/pdf/1240022.pdf>

Equalities and procurement survey 2008

The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC), the IDeA, the LGA and the Society of Procurement Officers in local government (SOPO) conducted several pieces of research to better understand how local authorities procure services, works and goods, throughout the different stages of the procurement process. For more information visit:

<http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pagelid=1314696>

Room for improvement: a review of strategic asset management in local government

Nine years after its last examination of asset management this Audit Commission report provides a review of strategic asset management in local government. For more information visit: <http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/SiteCollectionDocuments/AuditCommissionReports/NationalStudies/roomforimprovement17jun2009REP.pdf>

To view the LGA press release for this report visit: <http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pageld=2004604>

Local authority capital expenditure and receipts, England: 2008-09 provisional outturn

These statistics from CLG provide provisional outturn estimates of local authority capital expenditure and receipts in the financial year April 2008 to March 2009. For more information visit:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/pdf/1258754.pdf>

European and International

Views on European Union enlargement

This Eurobarometer survey was conducted at the time of the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Iron Curtain. The survey collected citizens' views on the affect of the integration of 10 Central and Eastern European countries on the 27 Member States of the enlarged union. It also assessed citizens' views about factors that could be important when policy-makers consider further enlargement of the Union. For more information visit:

http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/flash/fl_257_en.pdf

Diverting waste from landfill

This European Environment Agency report analyses the effectiveness of implemented policies on the diversion of total municipal waste and biodegradable municipal waste from landfill in the context of the 1999 EU Landfill Directive and other relevant directives. The study is based on an in-depth evaluation of policies in five countries and one region of the EU, combined with an analysis of drivers of the generation, landfilling and incineration of municipal waste for 25 EU Member States. For more information visit: <http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/diverting-waste-from-landfill-effectiveness-of-waste-management-policies-in-the-european-union>

Crime and Disorder/Safer Communities

How the recession is influencing crime

University College London's crime and security resource details how the recession is influencing crime statistics in the UK. The site features an article from the Safer Birmingham Partnership which identifies a body of local evidence supporting the theory that Birmingham's crime trends have been influenced by the socio-economic factors of the last 30 years. For more information visit: <http://www.cscs.ucl.ac.uk/events-1/cmc/recession>

Crime in England and Wales 2007/08: supplementary tables: nature of burglary, vehicle-related theft, personal and other household theft, vandalism, and violent crime

These Home Office tables are based on the findings from British Crime Survey (BCS) interviews conducted in the 2007/08 financial year. They give a picture of the nature of burglary, vehicle-related theft and violent crime. They also provide detail on other types of theft and on vandalism. For more information visit:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/crimeew0708_tables_bvv.html

Home security, mobile phone theft and stolen goods: supplementary volume 3 to crime in England and Wales 2007/08 findings from the 2007/08 British Crime Survey

This Home Office bulletin is the third in a series of supplementary volumes that accompany the main annual crime volume, Crime in England and Wales 2007/08. These supplementary volumes report on additional analysis not included in the main annual publication. This publication presents findings on the variation in possession of home security devices and home contents insurance, information on mobile phone ownership and theft and information on being offered and buying stolen goods in England and Wales. For more information visit:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb1009.pdf>

Findings from the second year of the national neighbourhood policing programme evaluation

This Home Office report presents findings from the evaluation of the Neighbourhood Policing Programme (NPP). It continues work previously carried out covering data from the second year of the programme, up to September 2007, prior to full national implementation. For more information visit:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/horr14a.pdf>

Regular publications and events

IA09 Event - The critical next steps: enabling government business through information assurance

6-7 July, QEII Conference Centre, London

IA09 is an essential event for anyone accountable for Information Assurance in their organisation. Jos Creese, Head of IT, Hampshire County Council will chair the Wider Government stream at IA09, the premier event for senior pan-government decision makers involved in information risk management. To be held on day two at IA09 this Stream will include a presentation by Tim Allen, Director LGA Analysis and Research, covering 'Information Assurance, the Local Authority narrative'. There will also be an update on collaborative initiatives that leverage wider government involvement, including an update on Government Connect. Delegates will gain an insight into where the programme is now and what the vision is for the future, as well as clear guidance on the best way to collaborate going forward. A third session will act as a guide to keeping up to date with changing policy and making access to information easy for wider government.

A special single-day delegate rate has been agreed for local authority representatives, allowing you to attend just Day Two of the conference for a special rate of £295 (exc VAT), negotiated with the LGA and Socitm. To register contact the IA09 registration hotline on 020 7089 5806 or email: enquiries@ia09.org.uk.

For more information visit: <http://www.iauk.org.uk/ia09>

Classifying public sector information - sponsored by Concept Searching Limited

ALGIS in LARIA Event - Tuesday 7th July 2009

Baden Powell House, 65-67 Queensgate, London, SW7 5JS

This event looks at how we classify public sector information to aid retrieval. Do auto-classification tools work? What classifications schemes are available?

The event is relevant to anyone managing public sector information on intranets or the web and will help with understanding what the problems are and what solutions are available from the technology and the experts.

For more information visit: <http://www.laria.gov.uk/laria/events/display-event.do?id=668333>

Research for equality

Wednesday 8th July 2009

Baden Powell House, 65-67 Queensgate, London, SW7 5JS

This LARIA workshop considers how local government researchers and equality officers can establish a factual basis for the development and monitoring of policies that promote equality within their organisation. The workshop will consider:

What data is available and what is the quality and underlying assumptions?

How can they best be used to measure equality in terms of gender, age, race, sexuality, disability and religious belief?

The workshop will be of special interest to researchers and equality officers in local government charged with promoting equality within their organisation and in their area. It will also be of interest to anybody working in the voluntary sector and to all researchers as a branch of community and social research.

For more information visit: <http://www.laria.gov.uk/laria/events/display-event.do?id=668898>

How do we manage the effects of Migration?

Wednesday 15th July 2009

Peterborough Cathedral Benedict Meeting Rooms, Peterborough Cathedral, Peterborough, PE1 1XS

This LARIA event will highlight the local perspective from representatives in Peterborough and Slough with regards to managing the effects of migration. It will give you the opportunity to find out what works in Peterborough and Slough, and how you can learn from this and take back good practice to your authority.

This event will be of interest to Officers and representatives of local authorities, Police, Primary Care Trust, Fire Service, voluntary (third) sector and anyone interested in issues which may affect their neighbourhoods, their business or similar.

For more information visit: <http://www.laria.gov.uk/laria/events/display-event.do?id=668923>

New look LARIA website

The new look Local Authorities Research and Intelligence Association (LARIA) website is now available. It includes details of the latest research news, events and the regular LARIA news publication. For more information visit:

<http://www.laria.gov.uk/laria/core/page.do?pagelid=1>

Improving equality data newsletter

This ONS newsletter was developed by the Equalities and Wellbeing branch, as a succinct update of their progress in meeting the recommendations set out in the Equality Data Review from Sept 08- March 09. These newsletters will be produced at 6 monthly intervals, corresponding to the reporting periods of the Equality Measurement Group. For more information visit:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/about-statistics/measuring-equality/equality-data-review/newsletters/index.html>

LARCI Spring 2009 Newsletter

LARCI's quarterly newsletter provides summaries of the latest Research Council-funded research of interest and relevance to those working with and within local government. The newsletter also signposts opportunities for collaboration with Research Council programmes, shares best practice through publicising research conducted by local authorities and publicises abstracts of reports and events from related organisations. For more information visit: <http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/cmsweb/downloads/rcuk/innovation/larci/newsletter13.pdf>

News from the Association of Regional Observatories

This new quarterly bulletin from the Association of Regional Observatories (ARO) provides an insight into the work of the Association, and its members, with details of publications, forthcoming events and future research plans. For more information visit: <http://www.regionalobservatories.org.uk/reading-room/>



Local Government Association

The Local Government Association is the national voice for more than 400 local authorities in England and Wales. The LGA group comprises the LGA and five partner organisations which work together to support, promote and improve local government.



Tell us what you think

We hope to provide information which is useful and accessible.

Please contact Michelle Pickford (michelle.pickford@lga.gov.uk) with your comments and feedback on LGAARB.

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