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### FORUM NEWS

#### **Devolution: What does it mean for Londoners?**

The Mayor of London has launched his proposals for devolution (subject to government approval and changes in legislation). These proposals include:

- Overall a more streamlined GLA group with removal of needless bureaucracy and overlapping functions of across public bodies
- Homes and Communities Agency London region devolved to the GLA and the functions of the LDA folded in the GLA resulting in London housing and regeneration body which would be an executive arm of the GLA
- Olympic Park Legacy Company (OPLC) reformed as Mayoral Development Corporation reporting to the Mayor
- The mayor would also like to see an enhanced role for the boroughs in terms of housing and skills, among other areas in line with principles of double devolution.
- Functions of the MPA to be divided between the Mayor and the Assembly - the LA taking on scrutiny function and Mayor taking executive functions creating a policing board for London
- The Mayor also presented his argument for greater financial flexibility and a freer hand to produce plans and strategies of his choice

This will mean a major shift in powers and responsibilities for the Mayor's office and the London Assembly. This event aims to offer participants an opportunity to discuss and debate the implications for London and Londoners of these proposals.

**22 July 2010**

**Time: 10am-4.30pm**

**Venue: Amnesty International Human Rights Centre**

**This event is free but advance booking is required. For a booking form, please visit our website: [www.londoncivicforum.org.uk](http://www.londoncivicforum.org.uk) and go to our Events' section. For more information, please call Deirdre on 020 8709 9774, or email [events@londoncivicforum.org.uk](mailto:events@londoncivicforum.org.uk)**

#### **Culture in the City**

#### ***Making sense of London's cultural landscape ahead of the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Games***

The purpose of this event is to provide an opportunity for voluntary and community sector organisations to learn about the opportunities and challenges involved in

delivering cultural services in London especially in the context of the economic downturn, public sector spending cuts and the 2012 Olympic and Paralympics Games. It will also give participants the opportunity to meet with policy and decision makers from key institutions in the region and enable them to gain an understanding of their differing roles and responsibilities. The event will look at private sector funding, sponsorship and grants so that participants can learn about the principles and challenges involved in obtaining private sector and grants funding

**26 July 2010**

**Venue: Whitechapel Gallery**

**Time: 1.30pm- 5.30pm**

**This event is free, but bookings are required. For a booking form, please visit our website: [www.londoncivicforum.org.uk](http://www.londoncivicforum.org.uk) and go to our Events' section. For more information, please call Deirdre on 020 8709 9774, or email [events@londoncivicforum.org.uk](mailto:events@londoncivicforum.org.uk)**

### **Just Space Network**

Just Space is a London regional network of voluntary and community groups working together on London Plan related policies and is hosted by London Civic Forum. It grew from working together on the Equalities Supplementary Planning Guidance and the Further Alterations to the London Plan (2007). The Just Space Network has now been invited to give evidence on a number of key issues to the Examination in Public process of the Mayors draft London Plan. For more information on the network, its members and to find a copy of its response to the Mayors Draft London Plan please follow the link below.

<http://justspace2010.wordpress.com/>

To find out more about the EIP please follow the link below

<http://www.london.gov.uk/london-plan-eip>

### **Olympic Opportunities e-Bulletin Re-Launched**

The Big Opportunity - the campaign managed by London Civic Forum which helps London's VCS make the most of the opportunities provided by the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games legacy has relaunched its bi-monthly e-bulletin. The e-bulletin has been made possible by a partnership with London Voluntary Service council and funding from the London Development Agency

If you would like to receive a copy free of charge simply e-mail

[thebigopportunity@londoncivicforum.org.uk](mailto:thebigopportunity@londoncivicforum.org.uk)

### **London Mayor Race and Gender Equality Schemes 2010-2011 Consultation Briefing and Questionnaire**

The London Mayor has recently published his draft Race Equality Scheme (RES) and Gender Equality Scheme (GES)

London Civic Forum has compiled a briefing and online questionnaire which summarises the RES and GES and devises some key questions for equalities groups to help us to respond to the consultation, and to help you to formulate your own responses. Please follow the link below to access the online briefing and questionnaire. Closing date for the survey is 23rd July 2010

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GLARaceandGenderEqualitySchemes>

If you would like more information then please contact Deirdre on

[Deirdre@londoncivicforum.org.uk](mailto:Deirdre@londoncivicforum.org.uk) or call 020 8709 9774

### **Goodbye to Natalie**

It is with great sadness that we have to bid farewell to Natalie, long-time LEP Project Support Officer, and now LEP Coordinator, as she leaves us to return to the States to take up her studies again. Natalie's contribution and commitment to LCF and the LEP has been immeasurable and we absolutely would not have got where we are today, especially with the LEP, without her. Natalie has been unfailingly willing and hardworking; genuinely prepared to take on anything, she has been quick to learn many new areas and deliver her projects more than competently. She has been a supportive work colleague and has a great sense of humour! We know that it will not only be us at LCF that will miss her sorely, but the many partners and recipients of the programmes she has helped run.

Good luck with your studies Natalie, and come and see us again soon.  
**From everyone at London Civic Forum**

## **NATIONAL NEWS**

### **Budget News**

An emergency Budget on the 22nd of June set out how the coalition government plans to eliminate the bulk of the structural deficit over the course of the Parliament. Chancellor George Osborne increased VAT from 17.5% to 20% and cut welfare spending as he moved "decisively" to tackle Britain's record debts. Child benefit and public sector pay will be frozen and 25% cut from public service spending Unveiling his first Budget to MPs, Mr Osborne said "tough but fair" action on debt was "unavoidable". For more information please go to:  
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/politics/10371590.stm>  
 To download the June 2010 Budget document either in a complete PDF or individual chapters, please go to [http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/junebudget\\_documents.htm](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/junebudget_documents.htm)

### **Political and Constitutional Reforms announced**

The Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg has set out the government's programme for political renewal with the aim of transferring power away from the executive to empower parliament, and away from parliament to empower people.

The programme includes

- Legislation to fix parliamentary terms - the date of the next General Election will be 7 May 2015.
- Traditional powers of no confidence will be put into law, and a vote of no confidence will still require only a simple majority. - if, after a vote of no confidence, a Government cannot be formed for 14 days, Parliament will be dissolved and a General Election will be held.
- There will be an additional power for parliament to vote for an early and immediate dissolution. - a majority of two thirds will be needed to carry the vote, as opposed to the 55% first suggested, as is the case in the Scottish Parliament.

The DPM also announced the details of the Government's proposals for a referendum on the Alternative Vote system and for a review of constituency boundaries in order to create fewer and more equally sized constituencies, reducing the number of MPs from the 650 to a House of 600 MPs. The referendum will be held on 5 May 2011, the same day as the elections to the devolved legislatures in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and local elections in England.

The Bill will make explicit provision for the Boundary Commissions to report on more equally sized constituencies for the process to be completed by the end of 2013, allowing enough time for candidates to be selected ahead of the 2015 election, and we will ensure the Boundary Commissions have what they need to do that. That means that, in the event of a vote in favour of AV, the 2015 General Election will be held on the new system, and according to new boundaries.

For more information you can contact  
 020-7276 0432 or 2546

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

## **LONDON NEWS**

### **London Councils Research**

London Councils has recently published research which says that London's local and regional government is set to lose at least £355 million this year as a result of the funding cuts already announced. The analysis was carried out to gauge the true impact to the capital of the £1.166 billion cuts in funding for local government recently outlined by the government. For more information please visit :

<http://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/media/current/pressdetail.htm?pk=1084>

### **Mayor's Proposals for Devolution**

Responding to the Government's decision to dismantle the Government Office for London (GoL) with immediate effect, the Mayor has published his 'Proposals for Devolution' which set out his plans for a better focused GLA group with greater powers and more accountability. The Mayor's proposals, which would be subject to government approval and changes in legislation, would see the London region of the

Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) devolved to the GLA and the functions of the London Development Agency (LDA) folded into the GLA. A resulting London housing and regeneration body would be an executive arm of the GLA and the LDA would cease to exist as a separate body, although its functions would continue.

For more information please visit

<http://www.london.gov.uk/who-runs-london/mayor/publications/business-and-economy/mayors-proposals-devolution>

### **More power for the Mayor must mean more Assembly oversight**

After a debate on 16 June about proposals to devolve more responsibilities from Government to the Greater London Authority (GLA), Assembly Members unanimously agreed that if the Mayor's strategic role expands the Assembly's power to hold him to account must also be strengthened. In principle, the Assembly supports the Mayor's proposals for more direct powers over key areas like housing investment and funding for skills and employment programmes. However, the Assembly reiterated that if the Mayor's role is to be fully transparent and accountable, it is essential that the Assembly's powers are broadened and strengthened. <http://www.london.gov.uk/who-runs-london/the-london-assembly/governance-and-standards/future-gla-powers>

### **Labour Mayoral election candidates**

Last month, the Labour Party announced the two principal contenders for Labour's mayoral candidate in 2012. They will be Ken Livingstone and Oona King. An electoral college made up of 50 per cent of London party members and 50 per cent members of affiliated organisations will choose the candidate, who will be announced on 22 September at the Labour Party conference. A series of hustings events will take place across the capital will take place over the summer.

## **CONSULTATION OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Mayor of London's Draft Cultural Strategy Consultation**

The Mayor of London's draft Cultural Strategy 'Cultural Metropolis' is now out for public consultation. The Mayor's Cultural Strategy sets out his vision, priorities and recommendations for how to strengthen the cultural life of Londoners across the capital. The closing date for consultation responses is the 6th September. For further details please follow the link below

<http://www.london.gov.uk/get-involved/consultations/current-consultations/cultural-strategy>

### **Consultation launched on limiting immigration**

The Migration Advisory Committee has today launched a consultation on the annual limit of the number of non-EU migrants admitted to work in the UK through Tiers 1 and 2 of the points-based system. The government has asked the committee (MAC), as an independent expert body on migration, to provide advice on the level of the permanent economic migration limit for its first full year of operation. The permanent limit is intended to be implemented from April 2011.

As well as the economic impacts, the MAC will take into account the social and public service impacts of immigration on the UK. The consultation will be open for submissions until September 7, 2010, and the MAC advice will be presented to the government by the end of that month. A paper setting out the consultation questions and procedures for submitting evidence has been published today.

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/press-releases/consultation-limit-immigrate>

### **Freedom launch**

Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg has asked the public how they want the Government to redress the balance between the citizen and the state. The Your Freedom website at [www.hmg.gov.uk/yourfreedom](http://www.hmg.gov.uk/yourfreedom) an opportunity for anyone to suggest ideas on restoring liberties that have been lost, repealing unnecessary laws and stripping away excessive regulation on businesses. Once ideas have been submitted, users of the site will be able to comment and rate their favourite ideas. Relevant departments will respond to the most popular workable ideas, and the Deputy Prime Minister will give regular updates.

The aim is that the Government will roll back the unnecessary regulation that really

matters to people. There will be a Freedom Bill in the autumn that will take into account the views expressed on Your Freedom, and departments will consider every suggestion.

<http://yourfreedom.hmg.gov.uk/>

### **Consultation on Lottery funding**

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has launched a consultation on proposed reductions in the share of National Lottery funding directed to the Big Lottery Fund for voluntary and community organisations. Under proposals, the proportion of overall lottery cash paid to the Big Lottery Fund would fall to 40% (although 100% of this would go to VCS organisations - unlike the 80% currently guaranteed) whilst the proportion allocated to arts, sports and heritage would rise to 20% by 2012. The deadline for responses is 21st August 2010.

[http://www.culture.gov.uk/consultations/7070.aspx?dm\\_i=6I8,6OL4,O8Y2C,GIM7,1](http://www.culture.gov.uk/consultations/7070.aspx?dm_i=6I8,6OL4,O8Y2C,GIM7,1)

## **RESOURCES**

### **How the Budget will affect the lives of Deaf and Disabled Londoners**

The Conservative and Liberal Democrat coalition government set out its first budget on 22 June. The Budget followed the direction set in the government's programme for government and by the £6 billion spending cuts this year already announced. Inclusion London has analysed what the Budget means for disabled people. They look at what it might mean for disabled people in London, the alternatives and at how disabled people can make their views heard. For more information and to download the paper please follow the link below:

[http://www.inclusionlondon.co.uk/?item=20&itemoffset=1&unique\\_name=News](http://www.inclusionlondon.co.uk/?item=20&itemoffset=1&unique_name=News)

### **Guide to supporting third sector organisations in crisis**

The Charities Evaluation Services has produced a guide for people whose role is to provide support and advice to third sector organisations. This aim of the booklet is provide a practical framework for use in a range of situations, with a particular focus on how to work with organisations in times of significant change or difficulty.

To download a copy follow the link below

[http://i.dmtrk.co.uk/CmpDoc/2009/8341/0\\_stella-smith-supporting-third-sector-organisations-in-crisis.pdf?dm\\_i=6FP,4MCC,1MNJHS,EFY9,1](http://i.dmtrk.co.uk/CmpDoc/2009/8341/0_stella-smith-supporting-third-sector-organisations-in-crisis.pdf?dm_i=6FP,4MCC,1MNJHS,EFY9,1)

### **Tenth Charity Forecast Survey**

Charity leaders are more pessimistic than ever about the financial future of their organisations, according to a new survey by sector umbrella body the NCVO. The tenth quarterly Charity Forecast Survey, carried out in May and published in June, records the lowest levels of confidence in charity finances since the survey began two years ago.

<http://www.thirdsector.co.uk/News/DailyBulletin/1013542/Charity-chiefs-fearful-finance-says-National-Council-Voluntary->

### **Charities will need better access to finance to provide welfare services, says Acevo**

The government will have to ensure that third sector organisations have better access to finance if it wants them to play a bigger role in welfare services, according to chief executives body Acevo.

Earlier this week, the Department for Work and Pensions invited organisations to bid to become part of a framework deal from which it will choose partners to deliver its reformed welfare-to-work programmes. The department hopes to have the programmes, part of a reformed benefits system, in place by the summer of 2011.

<http://www.thirdsector.co.uk/News/DailyBulletin/1013552/Charities-will-need-better-access-finance-provide-welfare-services-says-Acevo/DAA16AF32594464D3CB24B4138BCDA47/?DCMP=EMC-DailyBulletin>

### **The Big Society update**

The Cabinet Office has produced a timetable detailing when the proposals for delivering the Big Society will be implemented (in section 6 of the document).

<http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/414879/srp-cabinet-office.pdf?>

[dm\\_i=618,6OL4,O8Y2C,GIF9,1](#)

The new economics foundation (nef) has produced a briefing on the Big Society - Ten Big questions about the Big Society and ten ways to make it the best of it.

<http://www.neweconomics.org/articles/ten-big-questions-about-the-big-society-html>

### **Dates for your Diary**

#### **What Next? The Future of Voluntary and Community Action'**

'What Next? The Future of Voluntary and Community Action' is an independently facilitated open space event. It is intended for infrastructure workers, frontline workers, funders, policy makers, trustees and anyone else who's interested. It will take place 10.30-16.30, 9 July at St Martin in the Fields, Trafalgar Square.

The event has been arranged in partnership with the Second Tier Advisors Network (STAN), the National Coalition for Independent Action, Third Sector Alliance and the London Regional ChangeUp Consortium. As part of their policy work Third Sector Alliance and the London Regional ChangeUp Consortium will be taking forward any actions identified at the event concerning the future of VCS infrastructure support in London.

The event is free and will provide a chance to meet colleagues and share your hopes, fears, frustrations and ideas about the future of voluntary and community action in London. More information and a booking form are available

[http://july9.wordpress.com/?dm\\_i=618,6OL4,O8Y9A,GILN,1](http://july9.wordpress.com/?dm_i=618,6OL4,O8Y9A,GILN,1)

#### **The Big Lunch**

The Big Lunch is run by the Eden project and it is a one-day get together with your neighbours on Sunday 18th July 2010. It can be anything from a simple lunch to a full-blown street party with DJs and a hog roast.

If you want to find out more about the Big Lunch and how to get involved then please follow the links below

<http://www.thebiglunch.com/what-is-the-big-lunch/index.php>

#### **Grants for art organisations and disabled artists**

Disabled and deaf artists and art organisations can apply for £1 million in grants from Unlimited Commissions for projects to help celebrate the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Projects selected for funding may be displayed across the United Kingdom before and during the Games. Unlimited Commissions will award grants in two rounds with deadlines of 1 October 2010 and 18 April 2011 respectively. For assistance with the application, contact [unlimited@london2012.com](mailto:unlimited@london2012.com) or for more information click here.

#### **Poverty & Homelessness Action Week**

**29 Jan – 6 Feb 2011**

#### **Raise your voice and make sure everyone is counted!**

There is going to be a census of the population in 2011, as there is every 10 years.

The census will try to list all of the people who live in the country – but chances are many won't be included, notably the 'hidden homeless' as well as destitute asylum-seekers. Housing Justice invites campaigners and groups everywhere to make sure everyone is counted, by taking part in Poverty & Homelessness Action Week:

- Use Housing Justice free resources to organise a special event to raise awareness or funds.
- Help excluded people to register for the census, or make their voices heard.
- Join with thousands of other campaigners across the UK.

Visit [www.actionweek.org.uk](http://www.actionweek.org.uk) now for more information and free resources

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