

## About Localis

### Who we are

- Localis is an independent think-tank dedicated to issues related to local government and localism more generally.
- We carry out innovative research, hold a calendar of events and facilitate an ever growing network of members to stimulate and challenge the current orthodoxy of the governance of the UK.

### Our philosophy

- We believe that the primary role of the state should be to reduce the need for the state, by fostering an independent society and a diverse local economy of co-operatives, businesses, charities and a slimmed down state.
- Local government and citizens must have a much greater role in achieving this vision, and there needs to be a closer proximity and visibility between taxes paid and money spent.
- We also believe in opening up the state to provide greater choice and personalisation of public services

### What we do

- Localis aims to provide a link between local government and the key figures in business, academia, the third sector, parliament and the media.
- We aim to influence the debate on localism, providing innovative and fresh thinking on all areas which local government is concerned with.
- We have a broad events programme, including roundtable discussions, publication launches and an extensive party conference programme.

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## Contact Details

### Recruitment, membership and sponsorship

Tom Shakespeare – Director of Policy and Research - [tom@localis.org.uk](mailto:tom@localis.org.uk)

### Research

Barry Maginn - Researcher - [barry@localis.org.uk](mailto:barry@localis.org.uk)

### Media and events

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**Phone –** 0207 340 2660

**Web –** [www.localis.org.uk](http://www.localis.org.uk)

**Post –** Localis Research Limited, 10 Storeys Gate, Westminster, London, SW1P 3AY

## Pack

### Our People

#### Tom Shakespeare, Director of Policy and Research



Tom leads on policy and research for Localis, and is also currently in charge of developing our growing network of members and sponsors, linking our future vision for local government to a number of key projects and events. Tom joined Localis in 2008, having previously worked for Policy Exchange where he contributed to a report on party funding. He has an undergraduate degree in Mechanical Engineering and an MA in Political Research from the University of Nottingham. His dissertation looked into the application of the second law of thermodynamics to agent-based models of human behaviour and ethnic conflict.

#### Barry Maginn, Researcher



Barry holds a BA (Hons) in History and Social Sciences from The University of Manchester, and an MSc in Social Science Research Methods (Merit) from The University of Bristol. His Masters dissertation sought to understand the causal factors that influence MPs to act to varying degrees as representatives of their constituents. He has previously worked for Policy Exchange, and also with the accountancy firm Grant Thornton. Barry leads on the development of research, including current projects on local government policy-making processes and also on linking 'Total Place' with community engagement.

## Pack

### Our Research

To view all our publications – please go to <http://www.localis.org.uk/archive/11/Publications.htm>

#### **For Good Measure: Devolving Accountability for Performance and Assessment to Local Areas**

James Morris and Tom Shakespeare, February 2010

This report is a contribution to the debate on the future of local government performance and assessment. In it we outline our vision for reducing the burden of inspection on councils, while simultaneously increasing local accountability and the level of sector led assistance and support.

#### **The Bottom Line: A Vision for Local Government**

Localis and KPMG, November 2009

This focuses on 5 key strands within the debate which have so far been relatively unexplored. It reaches some important conclusions, suggesting that the CAA should be reassessed, and that councils should seek to cut marginal services and refocus their investments on their core priorities.

#### **Can Localism Deliver?: Lessons from Manchester**

James Morris, Tom Shakespeare and Susana Forjan, October 2009

The report offers 10 lessons which should be learnt nationally from the Greater Manchester City Region, including the need to scrap RDAs, re-localise business rates, and stopping the central government obsession with equalisation.

#### **More for Your Money: Using Local Government Investments to Strengthen the Local Economy**

Tom Shakespeare, June 2009

This report presents some thoughts and recommendations around the need to fundamentally reconnect local government investments with the creation of a civil society and a sustainable environment.

#### **Principles for Social Housing Reform**

Stephen Greenhalgh and John Moss, April 2009

In this report, Stephen Greenhalgh and John Moss lay down some key principles upon which reform should be based, arguing that only fundamental reform of social housing will allow Councils and RSLs to make substantial progress towards fixing Britain's broken neighbourhoods.