

# Local Governance, Higher Performance

## Manchester Central

### Thursday 15 November, 1-5pm

#### About the launch conference

This stimulating half day conference will bring together the key performance challenges facing local authorities and their partners in the region. The Local Government White Paper and Bill, the Sub-National Review, the Governance Green Paper, and other major government policy initiatives will have a profound and lasting change on how performance is defined, managed and improved.

The challenges will be addressed by keynote speakers from both national and regional perspectives and participants will be asked to start identifying the priority areas for action by the North West local governance community of interest.

#### About the location

Manchester's G-Mex and MICC have been brought together under one new name - Manchester Central - a new title for a convention complex uniquely situated at the heart of the city of Manchester, one of Europe's most exciting and dynamic destinations. A bratwurst throw from Albert Square, the home of Manchester's Christmas market.

#### Emerging key challenges

- LSP capacity and accountability?
- Community engagement with the performance agenda?
- How will customer insight be harnessed?
- How does the neighbourhood agenda fit in?
- Challenges for Overview and Scrutiny?
- Engaging councillors with the LAA process?

Attendance at this exciting conference is free<sup>\*\*\*</sup>. You should attend if you have already applied to be a participant of the local governance community of interest or if you have a strategic interest in solutions to the performance challenges presented by the government's policy agenda for local governance.

To register for the conference, please contact Jez Lloyd at [jez.lloyd@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:jez.lloyd@manchester.ac.uk).

## About the community of interest

In collaboration with NWIN, the Centre for Local Governance is launching a community of interest for the North West region to find solutions to the business challenges presented by the government's local governance policies. Initially this community will be built around three interlinked professional groups exploring challenges and solutions around the themes of the new Comprehensive Area Assessment, Local Strategic Partnerships and Local Area Agreements and External Scrutiny.

The community is designed primarily for senior managers of local authorities who have a day to day responsibility for at least one of the three initial themes above, but some members

will also be invited to participate. For practical reasons the community will be limited initially to 100 participants, and chief executives in the region have been asked to provide nominations.

The potential of this regional community of interest has already sparked considerable enthusiasm at both national and regional levels, as evidenced by the quality of speakers assembled for this event. The community will help provide a strong evidential base for influencing the development of national policy on behalf of the region.

For further details, or to apply to be a member of the North West local governance community of interest, please contact Jez Lloyd at [jez.lloyd@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:jez.lloyd@manchester.ac.uk).

### What is a community of interest?

Communities of interest are groups of people from different areas and backgrounds that get together to solve problems that affect them all. They work together to learn from each other and help each other think of solutions everybody can use to make things better in their own areas.

### Why are they valuable?

Community members help each other to do things better or quicker or cheaper than they could do if each person worked on their own. The more energy and excitement they have the more quickly their problems get solved. People get to know each other and talk to each other, although they might not even meet face to face or work together every day. Some might be at every single event, some might only come to one. Some might already know a lot about the problem,

others might know nothing, but these people can still help the rest of the group by saying what they think about ideas or passing on what they have learned to other people they know.

### How do they work?

Communities get better and learn from each other by doing lots of things together, including conferences, workshops, visits to see how others in the group do things well, and online chats. It's whatever works for that particular community.

For more information and insight, please visit the website of The University of Manchester's Visiting Professor Etienne Wenger at <http://www.ewenger.com/>