

## LOCALISM WATCH RESOURCES 2

### A trawl of the latest online news, comment, advice and information

#### The Bigger Picture

“We are seeing a return to nationalism, regionalism and even localism. Globalisation is in retreat, whether it is in terms of trade, labour migration, efforts to Balkanise the internet, growing restrictions on cross-border banking and the imposition of capital controls that segment markets.” William Buitter, Chief Economist of Citigroup, [speaks up](#) for what he describes as ‘virtuous globalisation’. Here at Localism Watch, we call it for what it is: naked exploitation. Interestingly, Buitter wasn’t addressing an expense-account audience at a UK venue, but from the safe distance of Thailand, to a reporter at the Bangkok Post. His unabashed appraisal of macroeconomics is a systematic exposé of what lies behind the thin veneer of commitment to localism and local democracy that neoliberal regimes officially profess. 29.09.2014

#### Senior public servants tell how difficult it is to solve the localism equation

- Localism and planning policies to control developments. David Thompson [discusses localism](#) with Royal Town Planning Institute chief executive Trudi Elliott and Institute of Economic Affairs director general Mark Littlewood. A rather good presentation of the localism debate in a nutshell. *BBC Daily Politics* 25.02.2014
- [Interview with Helen Edwards](#), recently appointed Deputy Permanent Secretary at the Department for Communities and Local Government. Her responsibilities include implementing the Localism Act. She suggests that localism isn’t about handing more powers to local councils, but making them more accountable. *Civil Service World* 23.09.2014

#### The IndyRef and its Aftermath: an Opportunity or Threat for True Localism?

- [Polly Toynbee](#): Scotland’s referendum has spurred a dash for devo – but localism is no panacea. She says that “England is so grotesquely unequal that more devolution could be a disaster for deprived regions” *The Guardian* 16.09.2014
- Co-operation is key as referendum offers new opportunities: a view from the editor of [Local Government Chronicle](#) 25.09.2014
- [Tony Travers](#), the Director of the LSE London research institute, writes in the *Local Government Chronicle* on why he considers that Whitehall will resist English devolution *LGC* 24.09.2014
- [Frank McKenna](#) argues why the North ‘needs Devo-Met’. But where does that leave the communities that lie beyond the core cities’ orbit? Another case of ‘trickle-down’ localism? *Bdaily* 25.09.2014
- Radical planner and ex-RTPI president [Cliff Hague](#) makes the case for ‘territorial cohesion’ in the UK following the referendum result. *Planning Resource* 22.09.2014
- [Chris Auckland of Conservative Home](#) argues why ‘regionalism won’t work’ He argues against the imposition of ‘soulless’ hierarchical structures. 26.09.2014
- [Anthony Hilton](#): We May be on the High Road to Localism *Evening Standard* 09.09.2014
- [David Hodge](#) Which Party Dares Deny the English Localism? *LGC* 25.09.2014
- [Jonathan Meades](#) Will No-one Stop the March of Localism? A typically nuanced and ironical treatment. *The Independent* 21.09.2014

## What does the IndyRef mean for the future of localism? A selection of perspectives from across the UK

- [One Way or Another, Change is Coming](#) *Shetland News* 29.09.2014
- [An Assembly for Cornwall is what localism is all about](#) *Western Morning News* 30.09.2014
- But – [William Hague scuppers hope for Cornish devolution](#) 29.09.2014
- [Is devolution the future for Yorkshire?](#) Includes videos with senior local politicians *Harrogate Advertiser* 27.09.2014
- [Is a combined Humber Authority the answer to local governance?](#) *Hull Daily Mail* 27.09.2014
- [Should Cambridge become a unitary authority?](#) *Cambridge News* 27.09.2014
- [Now is the time to give councils more power](#) *Spalding Today* 26.09.2014
- [Referendum has Local Echoes](#) *Leamington Spa Courier* 30.09.2014
- [Epsom should hold referendum on whether or not to join London](#) *Surrey Comet* 30.09.2014
- Discontent in ‘sidelined’ Tory heartlands: the leader of Kent CC [speaks out](#) against Cameron’s moves to empower cities, “There is far too much micro-management in Whitehall by a government that talks about localism but can’t let go.” *LGC* 25.09.2014

## Localism and Tax-Raising Powers

- Boris Johnson [argues for ‘Urban Devo Max’](#) in the Manifesto edition of Crossbow magazine. He means that London and England’s cartel ‘core cities’ should get an even bigger slice of the national cake than they already receive. Boris’s modest proposal “ought to be so narcoleptically uncontroversial as to become the settled wisdom of everyone who believes in localism and devolution and trusting people to run their lives.” His words, not ours. 14.09.2014
- [Jonathan Portes](#) ‘A Mansion Tax won’t fix the UK’s dysfunctional property market’ *The Guardian* 29.09.2014
- [Let Councils Keep Half of Local Tax Take](#), Minister Suggests Public Finance 30.09.2014
- [Pickles Pledges New City Deals Before Election](#) *LGC* 29.09.2014
- [Lambeth politicians set out vision for co-production](#) – some good, some bad, some just wrong *Brixton Buzz* 29.09.2014

## Neighbourhood Plans

- [‘Neighbourhood Plan weight is increasing’](#): a ‘copy and paste’ phrase used in government decision letters to override inspector’s recommendations. *Planning* 26.09.2014 Conflict between [East Staffs Council and Rolleston Neighbourhood Forum](#) over differing views on future housing development *Burton Mail* 22.09.2014
- [Billesdon Neighbourhood Plan](#) (Leicestershire) approved *Harborough Mail* 28.09.2014
- Consultations begin on [Woodbridge Neighbourhood Plan](#) (Suffolk Coastal) *East Anglian Daily Times* 29.09.2014
- [Hooky Neighbourhood Plan](#) (Cherwell, Oxfordshire) out to consultation *Banbury Guardian* 30.09.2014
- Launch of [Ripon Neighbourhood Plan](#) (N Yorks) *Ripon Gazette* 26.09.2014
- [Bryning-with-Warton Neighbourhood Plan](#) (Fylde, Lancs) seeks to halt tide of local housing approvals *Lytham St Annes Express* 24.09.2014

- Neighbourhood Plan in [Malmesbury](#) (Wilts) approaches referendum stage *Gazette and Herald* 25.09.2014
- Three neighbourhoods in [Broxtowe](#) (Notts) given permission to prepare neighbourhood plans *Eastwood and Kimberley Advertiser* 23.09.2014

### **Council Newsletters: Valuable Local Resources or Town Hall Pravdas?**

- Irony of ironies: Conservative-led [Medway Council](#) falls foul of Localism Act measures against 'Town Hall Pravdas' *Kent Online* 28.09.2014
- And a similar case, where the government have issued [LB Waltham Forest](#) with a final warning about flouting the law on council newsheets *E London and W Essex Guardian* 29.09.2014
- It's not just those two. [Mayorwatch](#) website reports that a total of eight London Boroughs are being taken to task 29.09.2014
- Here's the overview in [Local Government Chronicle](#): of 11 English Town Hall Pravdas being targeted, 3 are Tory-led. 29.09.2014

### **Community Rights**

- [Historic Building in Halesowen](#) (Dudley) saved through designation as a Community Asset *Express and Star* 26.09.2014
- Threatened [Rose and Crown Pub](#), Stoke Poges (Bucks), declared a community asset *Buckinghamshire Advertiser* 25.09.2014
- Attempt to save historic [Archway Pub, Islington](#), as an Asset of Community Value, from proposed redevelopment for flats *Islington Tribune* 26.09.2014
- [Right to Build Order at former dairy in Totnes](#) (Devon) *Western Morning News* 27.09.2014
- The [Trade Union Congress calls for the Localism Act to be used in the press industry](#) in the same way as councils can determine community assets, to prevent publishers closing local newspapers and give a six-month window to prospective purchasers. *Hold The Front Page* 11.09.2014
- RenewableUK's chief executive comments on [Eric Pickles calling in large numbers of windfarm applications](#) to be decided by himself: "His guiding principle seems to be localism – as long as you do what I say." *Planning* 25.09.2014

### **And finally . . . no menu of localism would be complete without a side-order of Pickles**

- [Conservative St Albans Councillor resigns](#), claiming Eric Pickles' decision to approve a large rail freight terminal is to "ignore localism" *Herts Advertiser* 24.09.2014
- ["High-handed Pickles is undermining local democracy"](#) Letter to the Yorkshire Post, explaining why its writer will not be attending a dinner in Bradford with the Secretary of State 24.09.2014

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