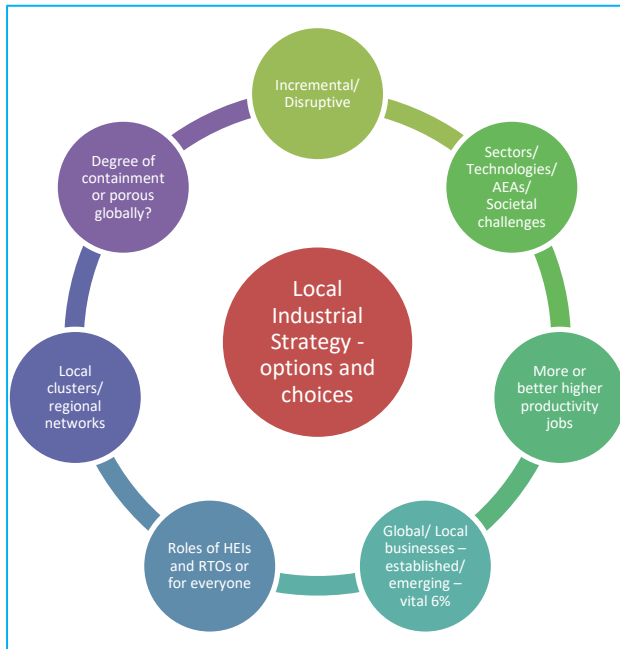


3LE on industrial and innovation strategy...



3LE can assist ambitious regional and local leaders meet the challenges of determining the balance between economic strategies for growth and development in general, and the formulation of Local Industrial Strategies (LIS) in particular. The types of choices places can make in strategic priorities is illustrated opposite. It is always stimulating to work through the evidence and determine those choices with local leadership teams – either as part of a LIS, or more generally.

The Government’s approach to industrial strategy, and how regional/local teams can respond are discussed in some detail in the two 2017 LGIU Policy Briefings, whilst a general introduction to the topic was prepared in late-2012:

- [Industrial strategy, November 2017](#), December 2017
- [Building our industrial strategy: the local government role](#), February 2017
- [The importance of industrial growth and innovation in local authority approaches to supporting local economic growth](#), December 2012

Putting this into practice is clearly still work in progress – with the first Local Industrial Strategies (LIS) not due to be agreed until early 2019. However, I am delighted to be closely involved in work with:

- [West Midlands Combined Authority Productivity & Skills Commission](#)
- [Greater Lincolnshire Innovation Council](#)
- [Fraunhofer ISI analysis of “Innovation-based regional change in Europe”](#)

In addition, all of the ‘Futures’ and visioning work 3LE undertakes (see the Futures briefing) involves analysis, deliberation and assistance with determining industrial and innovation strategic choices.

Around the time of the inception of the last round of EU structural fund programmes, 3LE did a lot of work on smart specialisation (S3) – a structured approach to industrial and innovation strategy with considerable merits. This included design and business case appraisal for the [Smart Specialisation Advisory Hub](#), and a major exercise on achieving **synergies** between structural funds, EU and national R&D and potentially other programmes. The general lessons from this work – with recommendations for the future – were presented in both UK and national events and written up in:

- [How smart is England’s approach to smart specialisation?](#), Marlow, D., and Richardson, K., European Planning Studies, 24(8), May 2016 – a paper based presented to the 2nd joint EU Cohesion Policy Conference in Riga which challenges the UK’s use of smart specialisation as an approach to industrial strategy – drawing on academic, policy and practice analysis



This was applied locally in exercises like the North East (NELEP) and Heart of South West S3 strategies. The NELEP work can be seen in the Newcastle Science City report in which DM was a member at [North East Local Economic Partnership: Smart Specialisation Report](#), December 2013. More HoTSW details are available on request.

Commissions often explore specific intervention strategies, industries, sectors and technologies. More detailed work includes:

- *International Trade and Investment* – with strategies for local places in the Brexit era explored in [Local government in international affairs post-referendum](#), and [How can urban and local leadership teams navigate the impending international relations revolution: A practitioner's viewpoint](#)
- *Health and Life Sciences* – with an introduction to this in [Academic health science networks - issues and opportunities for local government](#)
- *Advanced Urban Services and logistics, manufacturing, engineering and technology* – an innovative portfolio of work with CEME and the four Outer East London and South Essex boroughs of Barking and Dagenham, Basildon, Havering and Thurrock
- *Big Data and the digital economy* – a major commission for Corsham Institute in 2014-15 and some analysis of Tech Nation in [this 2015 blog](#)
- And, of course, *the university roles* – for which see the specific briefing note and pieces like
 - [“Making the university-anchor-institution a reality: Towards more purposeful local government-university relations”](#), April 2015;
 - [Making the most of your universities](#), August 2016.
 - [‘The future role of University of Warwick in Coventry, Warwickshire and the wider region’](#), July 2016
 - [Reflections on universities and place: More about navigating than anchoring](#), November 2017
 - [Will smaller specialist universities drive place-based industrial strategy?](#), November 2017
 - [Anchors aweigh! Universities and local industrial strategies](#), January 2018