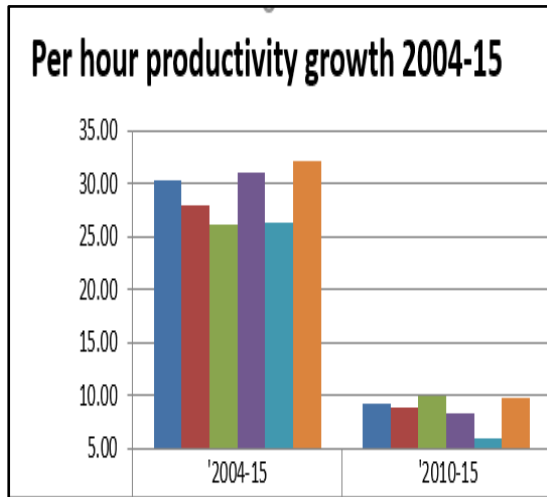


3LE on assembling and interpreting evidence...



3LE can shed new light on whether evidence supports the assumptions and myths behind how places project themselves, and how they determine the policy priorities they pursue. For instance, the table opposite was the first time a rather complacent place that congratulated itself as one of the fastest growing in the UK recognised that, not only was its productivity growing beneath national averages, but also more slowly than all its neighbours.

All 3LE's case work is evidence-based. But in the face of volumes of data, often with inconsistencies and gaps, the need to sift, interpret and analyse to build robust cases has never been more important

Much of our work remains private to the client, but examples of 3LE evidence reviews and consequential analyses are prevalent in many of the LGIU policy briefings hyperlinked below.

For instance, as the 2011 census was released a number of bespoke analyses – tailored to local authority audiences – were authored. These looked at issues from [first release](#), through [demographic characteristics](#) (health, age, ethnicity etc), to [reconciliation with 2012 mid-year estimates](#) to [population projections to 2021](#).

As we approached the mid-decade I was particularly proud of a piece on the new [Travel To Work Areas and labour market statistics](#). This 2017 piece on [regional and local fiscal balances](#) provides, in my opinion, serious new insights on a much-neglected area of policy and political development.

Not sure why, but my Linked in articles tend more to the misuse and abuse of statistics than the more factual reportage of LGIU Policy briefings. LinkedIn hosted [this critique of the use of graduate earning statistics](#) in TEF and other university promotions; whilst an accompanying piece raised serious questions on [university league tables](#). A self-congratulatory Osborne's celebration of 'his' [Northern Powerhouse](#) policy was not backed by GVA and employment evidence. And, beware of indices...they are too often manipulative for 'bad reasons' – as in this piece on [Wolverhampton and Westminster](#), or even for good ones, as in [Nesta's 'Geography of Creativity'](#) work.

As stated above, most of the detailed work sits with clients for whom it was done. But, if you want a fresh look at data, intelligence, and supposed findings you are being given from it, please get in touch. There is always a thrill in uncovering and developing new and novel presentations of evidence to surface new insights and initiatives; or in challenging long-held assumptions to revisit business-as-usual policies that are delivering business-as-usual solutions.....