

News Archive - 2017

- December 2017:** Better late than never? Government long-awaited ***Industrial Strategy***, published in November, stimulated this **LGIU Policy Briefing**, together with an anticipatory **Planning column** in November, and comments on **Branson's December coverage**.
- December 2017:** Good to have continued the relationship with Gloucestershire in this project with Louise Kempton of CURDS. We are formulating and testing a ***'Validity Framework' for Gloucestershire's 2050 ambitions*** – including six major radical intervention strategies. Besides the intrinsic integrity of the concepts, I am sure this has wider applicability for long term futures and visioning exercises.
- November 2017:** The work with Plymouth College of Art looking anew at the ***role of 'anchor universities' in place*** has made huge strides. Exciting to present preliminary findings at the RSA Winter Conference and the GuildHE Annual Conference. This is potentially mould-breaking work, with high level ideas published in this **WONKHE blog**, and follow ups with **Regeneris**, and the **RSA**. Together with the 2016 **University of Warwick Chancellor's Commission** report, this an important portfolio of policy development for how cities and communities engage with Universities (and vice versa) going forward.
- November 2017:** Stimulating to be working with SDG on leadership and governance of Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) in the light of the new elected mayoral leadership provided by Mayor Burnham. We explored a number of potential reform models for the future of urban and regional transport in ambitious places like GM.
- October 2017:** Delighted to be back in time for the **CURDS 40th Anniversary celebrations** – with some serious discussions on future of regional and local economic geographies alongside a well-deserved glass or two! Proud to be an admittedly very small part of the CURDS team and family.
- October 2017:** Spent much of October in Caribbean and working on post-hurricane strategic planning with Anguilla, British Virgin Islands (BVI) and Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI). Profound choices face both Overseas Territories and British Governments. Some of these are direct consequences of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, but many others are more longstanding and fundamental. This is reflected in the **Joint Ministerial Council communique** of November – which shows at least some impact from our October efforts and final report.
- October 2017:** Delighted to be at launch in Palace of Westminster of the ADEPT report **'The route to the highways system of the future'** – on which I worked in July to September. The potential of digital innovation to transform transport is clear. Hopefully the report will assist ALL places to realise the opportunities quicker and better.
- September 2017:** Unexpected opportunity to go to Caribbean to help British Overseas Territories of Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, Turks & Caicos Islands with medium term Recovery and Development Planning post-hurricanes Irma and Maria. Fascinating experience – including being caught in Hurricane Maria. **This Planning column** is a potboiler – with major work to be produced in October and through to end of 2017.
- August 2017:** A couple of 'while we are waiting' (for Government to sort itself out) summer looks at what local leadership teams can develop on devolution and local growth (**this LGIU policy briefing**) and on spatial planning (**this August Planning column**). Even – perhaps particularly – with acute deficits in national leadership and direction, there is much that local leadership teams can develop and deliver. Both behind paywalls so get in touch if you wish to discuss.
- August 2017:** Working on LEP/MCA interfaces and the how overlapping district members of LEPs relate to new Mayoral Combined Authorities of which they are not a member. If they wish to have an option to become members for next mayoral elections in 2020, they need to become formal Observers or Associate Members during 2018 – or is it a case of strengthening involvement through the LEP or bilateral LA joint-working?
- July 2017:** Pleased to have agreed and commenced two new projects This month. The first is on ***the importance of smaller universities in 'anchor institution' and 'civic university' models***. The second looks at ***accelerating industrial digital and technology innovation to future proof the road network***. Look for published pieces of work on both later this year. Or get in touch earlier if interested.



- **June 2017:** How can devolution make progress given the **extreme regional and local fiscal imbalances in the UK?** The hyperlinked briefing describes what they are and the profound implications for the future of devolution and local growth.
- **June 2017:** What do the new metro-mayors need to do to improve the fortunes and prosperity of their city-regions? And what are the implications for other areas? Some initial thoughts in this LGIU policy briefing **on implications of metro-mayors.**
- **May 2017:** Latest columns for 'Planning' discuss how the profession can get beyond simplistic debates on housing numbers - with a piece in March on **aging demographics**; and this month's consideration of **wellbeing and sustainability indices.**
- **April 2017:** What '**Tango in Buenos Aires**' has to tell us about post-Brexit Britain.
- **April 2017:** Lots of organisation development work to be done with local authorities as they begin to plan for new contexts post-local and national elections in May. Stimulating to work with leadership teams in a County Council (on 'outcomes frameworks'), and a Metropolitan Borough (on growth, regeneration and PR/positioning strategies)
- **March 2017:** Very full agenda at meeting of Greater Lincolnshire (LEP) Innovation Council - on response to Industrial Strategy, contributions to Greater Lincolnshire's future approaches and priorities, as well as delivering on and transitioning major EU-funded projects.
- **March 2017:** Delighted to be asked to be a judge for the **2017 Planning Awards**, and enjoyed the Judging Day, contributing to categories on heritage, culture and SD.
- **February 2017:** Great to be working with HEFCE, Robin Hambleton and in Gloucestershire again - this time at their **Leading Places workshop** on University - LA - LEP collaboration. Have a look at the slides if this is an issue in your areas.
- **February 2017:** Took a long time coming - but Government finally produced an **Industrial Strategy Green Paper** with 38 questions and relatively few answers! Besides the LGIU policy briefing, this also merited a full **article in Planning.**
- **February 2017:** A lot of activity - especially by County Councils - around unitary status. But is this good, bad or indifferent for growth (and for local government) in non-metropolitan areas? My thoughts in this LGIU briefing on '**Is local government reorganisation an alternative to devolution?** Pleased to be assisting a number of local authorities on their considerations.
- **January 2017:** With devo appearing to have stalled, interested to be working with Plymouth and neighbours on **novel city region and growth corridor approaches to sub-national growth.**
- **January 2017:** Six global mega-trends that may underpin our assumptions about local growth and development in 2017 outlined in this **planning column.** Worth some thought and perhaps discussions in the context of this **2017 local growth and devolution landscapes LGIU Policy Briefing**, and also these personal musings on **challenges facing UK international positioning** following May's outline of her Brexit negotiation strategy!