



News for 2011

- **December 2011** I facilitated a day session at the Moller Centre with 22 Local Authority CEOs from Fujian in China, with Danny Chesterman from Ashridge. It was a fascinating linguistic experience - both in terms of pacing for interpreters but also with the 'language' of Chinese local government. The delegates have a completely different understanding of concepts like community, participation, development, and also an impressive commitment to sustainable and low carbon development. My slides are posted here ([economic](#) and [community](#) leadership roles of the CEO) in the articles.
- **November 2011** Fascinating visit to Truro City Council to discuss the approach of small cities to local economic growth - especially those that are sub-regional and major administrative centres. The paper I presented is appended [here](#).
- **October 2011** Institute for Manufacturing (IfM) finally held an introductory day on industrial strategy for local economies in the new sub-national economic landscape - well-attended by local authorities and LEPs. Have a look at my presentation in the articles. There is certainly a case and demand for a forum/network to stimulate collaboration and learning in this important area.
- **October 2011** I attended the Battle of Ideas weekend for the second year running. It is a stimulating if patchy event, and I rather hope, in future years, they vary the format of individual sessions (which tend to be too formulaic in terms of 4-5 speakers and then Q&As with the audience). A fascinating session on measuring the value of the Arts - with the debate between those who think artistic excellence can only be about personal judgement and the human spirit; whilst others argue for public support of arts to be instrumental for arts' contribution to social, economic and other goals. Highly relevant to my work with the Carnival Centre. 'Combined Arts' which can be both intrinsically excellent and highly instrumental are surely a big part of the future. But is all artistic endeavour really a 'combined art' at its best?
- **September 2011** So much of the focus of government sub-national economic growth and development work has focused on cities, that it was extremely interesting to undertake an August commission with the Welland Partnership (WP). The partnership covers the 300,000 market town and rural populations of East Northamptonshire, Harborough, Melton, Rutland and South Kesteven. WP asked 3LE to work with the five local authority chief executives to look at the case for economic collaboration across a geography, that, in the new economic development landscape, now covers parts of four different LEPs. The new national and local economic agendas for market towns and rural communities are embryonic and proposals that emerged from the commission will be considered by WP at a forthcoming meeting later this month.

- **August 2011** The **Guardian Local Government Network** Advisory Board, of which I am a member, held a first collective meeting this month. The network now has over 3000 members and provides both weekly blogs, on-line discussions, and an extensive resource of links to research and practical material. The Advisory Board discussed the shape and themes on which the network focuses. We considered that the development of a 'proud, valued public service narrative' provides a strong focus for network development in an era of extensive 'market failures' and consequent public service reductions.
- **August 2011** The riots this month, commencing in Tottenham, seems to raise massive questions at the heart of 'regeneration' over the past 25 years. Given the huge investments in area-based regeneration over that period, can so little seem to have changed since the Broadwater Farm riots of 1985? I covered this in the R&R Blog - '**Aspiring for the champions League...where does Tottenham go next?**'. Later in the month, the Mayor of London did announce a commitment to investment in the stadium redevelopment project, although it remains to be seen if this is part of the more comprehensive (and innovative) approach I recommended. But this 'crisis of regeneration' is not confined to Tottenham. A piece later in the month on Birmingham, inspired by their 1991 City Strategy - '**Back to the Future: Birmingham 2010**' - shows similarly modest progress at city scale. A new way of looking at the High Speed Rail2 investment, explored in my personal blog in early September - '**Railroad to nowhere, fast track to prosperity...or none of the above**' - may be part of the solution for Birmingham.
- **July 2011** A major development this month has been 3LE's 'discovery' of interactive media with a new davidjmarlow twitter account, a **davidjmarlow.wordpress personal blog**, and even a new **blog on Regeneration & Renewal/Planning** - click on the links to have a look...
- **June 2011** A fabulous 'carnival' month - associated with a piece of work being undertaken for UK Centre for Carnival Arts (UKCCA) in Luton. Besides Luton International Carnival, this included visits to Bristol Carnival, and a side-visit (personally) to Alicante's Hogueras, an amazing Spanish fiesta - its a tough job but someone's got to do it! Read more on my blog at 'Community Arts goes global...' on <http://tinyurl.com/62nx75u>
- **May 2011** David will be chairing the economic development stream at the forthcoming 7th National Regeneration Summit taking place on Tuesday 17th May at the Business Design Centre, London. For further information about the event, please visit the Summit website
- **April 2011** Last month DBIS denied that government was sidelining local authorities and local enterprise partnerships from the major decisions affecting local economic growth. Yet, the recent announcements in the Budget - enterprise zones, technology innovation centres - emphasises areas where local leadership in economic strategy remains invisible. Read the full article by David **in the LGC here**
- **March 2011** Whilst it is good to see The Economist turning its attention to sub-regional economic development policy in England, David highlights some important misleading quotes in his comments. Click to view the **original article** in The Economist and **here to view David's comments**.

- **March 2011** Enterprise Zones: why they are just a distraction from the cuts... The government's latest idea to boost economic recovery is more like an episode of Life on Mars than a workable proposal. Read David's article on Enterprise Zones **here in the guardian**
- **March 2011** Inward investment has been one of the major priorities of local authorities and local enterprise partnerships since the announcement of the demise of the RDAs. Yet, the government's White Paper for Trade and Investment for Growth fails to mention local authorities or LEPs at all. What implications will this have... Read the full article, written by David, **here in the Local Government Chronicle**
- **February 2011** Barely had government time to congratulate itself on the favourable manufacturing news from CIPS, than they were hit by the closure announcement from Pfizer - 2400 jobs and a global R&D centre in a key sector devastating the high growth economy in East Kent. Alongside this, government has launched its White Paper on Trade and Investment for Growth. This is strong on exploiting domestic R&D overseas markets. Read the full piece, written by David, **here on the Guardian**.
- **January 2011** *Happy New Year and good health to everyone. As we move into 2011, Third Life Economics will be continuing to assist clients to make sense of how 'big' themes of government thinking - localism, rebalancing, big society, perhaps 'happiness' - can contribute to delivering their priorities.*