



News Archive 2018

- **December 2018** – Fascinating to hear more of the University of Lincoln story – in both Lincoln and at the National Centre for Food Manufacturing in Holbeach – as part of the ULP review extension. Also attended a second academic roundtable with the Civic Universities Commission whose report is due out in February 2019. The way universities engage with and contribute to place leadership and development is a crucial place-based ‘anchor’ as we go through the Brexit turmoil – but anchor institution orthodoxy needs radical renewal.
- **November 2018** – Good news that the Urban Living Partnership pilot review on the roles of universities in place is to be extended to at least two non-Russell Group, non-metropolitan universities and their sub-regions. Look forward to working with University of Lincoln and Keele during December.
- **November 2018** – Privilege to attend the **memorial service to Marion Brighton** – former leader of North Kesteven District Council (NKDC) who sadly died over the Summer. Marion was energetic, devoted, and committed to so much that makes local government great. She played a major role in my professional development as we set about ensuring North Kesteven really is a ‘district of 100 flourishing communities’. It was always a delight to run into her at various events after I left the council. RIP. Followed up later in the month with a stimulating meeting with the NKDC Chief Executive – Ian Fytche. Would love to assist with what is still my home patch at some stage in 2019 and beyond.
- **October 2018** – Wonderful opportunity to visit St Helena in the South Atlantic to work with St Helena Government (SHG) and UK Department for International Development (DFID) on strategic investment planning and the island’s next capital programme. Unique place and community, and very special experience.
- **October 2018** – Completed Urban Living Partnership fieldwork with visit to York – a strong showcase of how academic-civic partnerships can strengthen Observatory and Open Data platforms for city development
- **October 2018** – South Kesteven Economic Summit at Grimesthorpe Castle – well attended and showcased dynamism of the district. Followed up with contribution to SKDC Senior Management Team Awayday – purposeful, stimulating.
- **September 2018** – excited to complete a piece of work for HotSW LEP and Joint Committee on the case for a High Growth Corridor along the spine of South West peninsula anchored by an Exeter and Plymouth polycentric city region.
- **September 2018** – thrilled to become an **associate of City-REDI**, the University of Birmingham research institute to support the city and West Midlands build a detailed understanding of how major city regions work. Very resonant with Urban Living Partnerships review emerging findings.
- **August 2018** – Civic Universities Commission submission made in collaboration with Plymouth College of Art. Read our thinking on **[‘anchor institution revolutions’](#)** needed to reset and strengthen University relations with place.
- **August 2018** – If you can’t get enough of Government’s ‘Strengthened LEPs’ review, have a look at this **[LGIU Policy briefing](#)** and follow-up blog **[‘Six weeks to save local economic growth...’](#)**. Is it a case of strengthening LEPs governance whilst renationalising and weakening local growth leadership?
- **August 2018** – Delighted to be working in the Heart of South West geography again – looking at how a Peninsula corridor approach might drive long term transformation in a 2050 ‘Futures’ sense; and shape the Wave Two Local Industrial Strategy and other place-based policies and programmes.
- **July 2018** – Latest contribution to evidence-based policy making in this **[LGIU briefing on recent ONS releases of place-based statistics](#)** – with some thoughts on how to use them in place-making.
- **July 2018** – A stimulating month working on University roles in and impacts on the places where they are located – refreshing the **vision for a University of Peterborough** in the light of recent Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority funding decisions; an **impact study for University of Reading** with colleagues from Regeneris; and further **ULP Review fieldwork in Leeds and Birmingham**. Watch these spaces or get in touch if you wish to find out more.



- **June 2018** – Fascinating three days in Newcastle doing the fieldwork on a review of Newcastle City Futures and the Urban Living Partnerships (ULPs). We hope to bring out a report in the autumn on the lessons for future roles of research-intensive universities in place.
- **June 2018** – On the second anniversary of Vote Leave’s illegal deceit I marched with well over 100,000 Remainer colleagues (maybe as high as 1/4m?) in London. In the previous week I had posted my reflections two years on in a blog – “[Proud to betray the Daily Mail’s ‘will of the people’](#)”. The blog had well over 1200 visits in the first fortnight of its posting. In summary ‘still angry (possibly even more so) and still very much a European’!
- **May 2018** – Followed up last month’s LGIU policy briefing on local government reorganisation (LGR) with a submission to the Secretary of State (now with a new incumbent) on the perverse ‘minded to’ decision on LGR in Buckinghamshire. With this Government you can predict it will choose one of the poorer options, which makes little ‘big picture’ sense for either Buckinghamshire or the wider Greater South East. If you want to read my views, have a look at the [paper here](#).
- **May 2018** – Exciting project work this month – developing the “roles of university in place” agendas, literally across the length of the country, during visits to both Newcastle City Futures and Plymouth College of Art; and key contributions locally working with the leadership teams of South Kesteven and Rutland. May 2018
- **May 2018** – Delighted to be working with Regeneris again – on an impact analysis of University of Reading
- **April 2018** – Hard to imagine a more chaotic approach to local government reorganisation and devolution than this Government’s – but [this LGIU policy](#) briefing tries to assist local authorities and partners to make the most of it
- **April 2018** – Delighted to be working again with a Senior Management Team at Oldham Council on their visioning of Oldham as a district, and how the Economy and Skills Directorate support members, colleagues and partners build success across the borough.
- **March 2018** – A real honour to be invited to present and participate in the Fraunhofer ISI workshop on “Innovation-based regional change in Europe”. My presentation looked at University roles in urban and lagging regions in the UK, drawing on North-East and Lincolnshire case studies. Have a look at the [presentation here](#).
- **March 2018** – The Greater Lincolnshire Innovation Council met mid-month to workshop our approach to the impending Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) – well-facilitated by close colleague Louise Kempton of CURDS. Will the LIS’s articulate visionary ambitions and make hard strategic choices to progress them; or will it be just another in the long-line of bidding documents for government patronage?
- **March 2018** – Delighted to be working again with University of Warwick (institute for Employment Research) and for the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) Productivity and Skills commission. Look out for their annual report due out shortly – some important insights into productivity improvements, relevant in West Midlands and beyond. The [final report](#) from this exercise was published in July.
- **March 2018** – Genuinely moved by a visit to the self-styled ‘end of the world’ in Tierra del Fuego. As my [latest blog reflects](#), we have to believe that another world is possible.
- **February 2018** – Fascinating to pay a brief visit to the Falkland Islands and to meet the Government’s CEO – Barry Rowlands. All the UK Overseas Territories (OTs) are distinctive and different from each other. Where there is read-across is in the challenges they have dealing with Whitehall and Westminster. Ring a bell? There is some merit in much more contact between UK Council’s, perhaps the new Combined Authorities, and UK OTs.
- **February 2018** – What should we make of the future of LEPs? In the light of major concerns about accountability, the emergency of mayoral Combined Authorities, and the ambiguous intentions for them in the Industrial Strategy White Paper, there is a lot to consider in this LEP and Local Authority 2018 Agendas briefing.
- **February 2018** – Looking forward to collaborating again with IER, University of Warwick to assist the West Midlands Combined Authority Productivity and Skills Commission pull together it’s findings to date and consider it’s work programme for 2018/19 and beyond.



- **January 2018** – I am proud to be strategic advisor of my local council – South Kesteven – a relationship we have developed since 2015. SK has an extraordinary portfolio of investments that will shape the district going forward, leveraging SK's notable national assets and capabilities. Delighted that my first meeting of the year with Leader, Deputy Leader and CEO, has agreed an ambitious agenda of innovation on SK Futures and how these shape present priorities. More non-metropolitan cities and communities need to do this...
- **January 2018** – The work on an 'anchor university revolution' is gathering pace. The publication of '[Anchors Aweigh](#)' as a RSA blog is the third of a trilogy of pieces on the topic – following [Wonkhe](#) and [Regeneris](#) articles in late 2017. With the completion of two reports for Plymouth College of Art (PCA) which develop the thinking, assemble the academic and Plymouth evidence, and contextualise this locally and nationally, I look forward to taking this forward in the coming quarter.