

## News Archive 2019

- **December 2019** - Sadly, no seasonal cheer in the **general election results**. Only in FKaUK could a clear majority vote for Remain and confirmatory referendum parties but get a massive Brexit majority in parliament!
- **November 2019** - **Inspiration** from the 'end of the world' and the 'world's friendliest city' for a better, outward-looking FKaUK and ambitious places within it.
- **November 2019** - Stimulating senior management masterclass with **Wakefield City Council** - exploring and developing their role in 'good growth' and development in the 2020s
- **October 2019** - Johnson didn't die in a ditch - but I took an inspiring respite from the country formerly known as United Kingdom (FKaUK) to complete visits to all remaining EU member states I had not previously visited. The narrative and reflections on **stage one** and **stage two** hyperlinked
- **October 2019** - Wonderful to work with CURDS colleagues on a Policy Expo at EURegionsWeek event in Brussels exploring different tools and techniques for visioning and prioritising regional innovation strategies
- **September 2019 - Two examples of towns being betrayed** and undermined perfectly illustrate the sociopath qualities of Johnson's Britain - the seizure of Hartlepool by the Brexit Party, and the pork-barrel patronage of government's Stronger Towns funds.
- **September 2019** - Latest [LGIU policy briefing, taking stock of Local Industrial Strategies](#) in the light of the seven now published and agreed with government
- **September 2019** - Latest [LGIU policy briefing, taking stock of Local Industrial Strategies](#) in the light of the seven now published and agreed with government - quite a mixed bag and uncertain future...but may be useful for places either still in formulation or moving towards implementation.
- **August/September 2019** - No summer recess for the dark forces destroying the UK - so no break for the blog - firstly reflecting on our own **horrors on the 40th anniversary of Apocalypse Now** and then on the toxic legacy of [two Old Etonian classmates one now masquerading as PM](#) . In many ways I miss the time when this blog was focused on better local growth - and will try to make some changes to the web site to reflect this during the Autumn.
- **August 2019** - Pleased to have presented with AMEO our final report on future options for the **Gatwick Diamond Initiative** - an interesting exploration of how coherent important functional economic areas can influence growth agendas when they sit slightly uncomfortably within and across LEP and LA boundaries
- **August 2019** - "[Inclusive future growth in England's cities and regions: realising the transformational university dividends](#)" has finally been published. Based on almost two years of inquiry and involving eight case studies, I regard this as a signature contribution of 3LE working with Louise Kempton and Mark Tendwr-Jones at Newcastle University. We are planning some deliberative events on this during the autumn, but it provides a provocative refresh of how places can make the most of their universities - especially for impending place-based strategies and if you are considering a Civic University Agreement
- **July 2019** - Delighted to be working with **EM3 LEP** on aspects of their Local Industrial Strategy, in collaboration with Louise Kempton of CURDS as part of the ESRC assistance programme to LEPs
- **July 2019** - Genuinely proud of recently-completed reports - shortly to be published - on **St Helena Futures** and a **COMPACT with incoming UK Government**; and on new types of **place-based strategies for universities**. Will post here on publication.
- **July 2019** - LGIU policy briefing on recent **ONS place based statistics**
- **June 2019** - Another [civic university blog](#) , this time with Tim Fanning for Yorkshire Universities
- **June 2019** - A stimulating day working with **Wakefield's** Economic Growth and Regeneration Management Team on aligning long-term strategic goals with short-term urgent priorities

- **May 2019** - Genuine privilege to be invited back to St Helena to work on a Futures **SH2050 Green Paper** and a long term intergovernmental **COMPACT between SH & UK Governments**
- **May 2019** - '**Beware the smoke and mirrors of university productivity dividends**' - a provocative blog for WONKHE
- **May 2019** - Fascinating to look at the role of bottom-up sub-regional partnerships in the LEP 'era' - with an external review with AMEO on **Gatwick Diamond Initiative**
- **April 2019** - An honour to contribute a chapter to '[Innovation-based regional change in Europe](#)' from Fraunhofer Verlag with Konschatzky and Stahlecker as editors. My chapter deals with the 'Great expectations and inconsistent delivery' of universities in England. In some ways it sits alongside the more generalist latest LGIU briefing on **new approaches to civic universities** - also posted this month
- **April 2019** - Okay, I do occasionally enjoy non-work-related leisure. The 23/03 People's Vote march was genuinely uplifting. And 'Fighting with my Family' at the cinema was an unexpected pleasure...UNTIL...an article in The Economist understood Trump supporters in terms of Wrestlemania! Cue '**The Villains of Brexit wrestlemania**' as my latest blog on the UKs attempt at self-destruction...
- **April 2019** - After a further visit to Newcastle in late March, we have finally determined the final shape of the major piece of work on universities and place anchored by the Urban Living Partnerships Pilot Programme Review undertaken in 2018. Look out for the launch and publication of a policy briefing and final report on "Inclusive future places growth in cities and regions: realising the transformational university dividend" in the next quarter.
- **March 2019** - Understanding and leveraging university relationships with and contributions to places where they are located is important and highly relevant. Such a pleasure to work with longstanding colleague Peter O'Brien and Yorkshire Universities on their collective and synergistic opportunities to help Yorkshire Combined Authorities, LEPs and other partners with Local Industrial Strategies, Stronger Towns, Shared Prosperity and other place-based policies and programmes. Quite an agenda!
- **March 2019** - Working with local authority leadership teams remains one of the most stimulating parts of the 3LE portfolio. This year, in addition to the longstanding relationship with South Kesteven, I have worked with Surrey County Council, Tower Hamlets and now an exciting new exercise with Wakefield Council on regeneration and economic growth. Thanks to Tom Stannard at Wakefield for the opportunity.
- **February 2019** - As we count down to March 29th, some [preliminary reflections on the UK as a new type of 'failing state'](#) and how the Brexit coup, virus and fiasco has brought us to this point
- **February 2019** - A pleasure to be working with AMEO again - exploring the role of economic development both functionally and as a team, in Surrey County Council's transformation
- **January 2019** - As UK Government continues to implode, and Parliament struggles to compel it to behave with some degree of rationality, this [revisiting of Thomson's 2005 novel 'Divided Kingdom'](#) provides a powerful, prescient metaphor for the current breakdown and stimulates a suggestion for the future.
- **January 2019** - Completed ULP Review fieldwork with a visit to Keele University including meetings with County Council and LEP - now to start writing up the project final report!