



3LE on....smart specialisation, industries and technologies approaches to local growth

The need for both an overarching world view of the content and focus of growth strategy, and a deep understanding of specific industries, sectors and technologies has informed much of my client-specific work during 2012-15.

Smart Specialisation (S3)

S3 provides one overarching framework for prioritisation and delivery management of growth strategy. It is rooted in academic literature, and is a pre-conditionality for research and innovation thematic objective of ESIF programmes. I enjoyed becoming familiar with the concept through:-

- A **BIS** commission, as a member of the **CURDS** team developing the case for a 'Smart Specialisation Advisory Hub' to support LEPs and national/local relations as part of meeting ESIF preconditions. This recommendation was later adopted in the Witty Review of University roles in local growth; in the England S3 strategy; and 2014 'Science and Innovation Plan'.
 - Support to **NELEP** and **HotSW LEPs** on their S3 approaches and strategies in their SEPs/ESIFs.
 - A major commission with NCUB to design the S3 Advisory Hub - Smart Specialisation England
- Publicly-available learning and experience of working with S3 is outlined in pieces like:-
- [Getting smart to make the most of EU structural funds](#) - a March 2013 scene setter
 - [NELEP Smart Specialisation Report](#) - December 2013, Newcastle Science City, of whose team I was a member and major author
 - [NCUB's S3 Advisory Hub consultation paper](#), August 2014 - of which I was a principal author
 - ['Smart specialisation at the crossroads: the England experience'](#) - co-presented with Kevin Richardson of HEFCE, February 2015 at EU 2nd Cohesion Policy Conference, Riga - the full paper for which shall be available shortly

Of course, S3 is not the 'only game in town'. Other approaches to industrial and innovation based growth are outlined in this [December 2012 scene-setter](#); in analyses of the Witty missed opportunities for University and local growth in [April 2013](#) and then [November 2013](#); and in my 'getting to know you...' cry to LEPs in terms of [Technology Strategy Board \(now Innovate UK\)](#).

Industries, sectors and technologies-led growth

Commissions often explore specific industries, sectors and technologies, including:-

- **Big data and the digital economy** - during a major 2014 commission with Corsham Institute
- **Manufacturing, engineering and technology** - through multiple commissions with CEME and the four local authorities of Barking & Dagenham, Havering, Thurrock and Basildon
- **Health and Life Sciences** - including a major briefing on [Academic Health Science Networks \(AHSNs\), July 2013](#); and shorter blogs on [AHSNs](#), the role of LEPs in [growing the health economy](#); with an impending piece for a forthcoming NHS Confederation bulletin
- [The logistics of growth and the growth of logistics](#), May 2014
- [The space industries](#) - to infinity and beyond, December 2014