



3LE on....a very personal, professional journal, towards the end of a 2010-15 'era'

Those of you who know me will recognise how passionate I am about local economic growth, its leadership, intervention strategies, and delivery management. I have argued, pretty consistently, that the coalition government has tended to treat local economic growth either thoughtlessly or malevolently. Not everything they have done has been of this character, but, too often, it has been.

I have always tried to turn national indifference, incompetence, and worse, on its head - to make something positive from whatever is thrown at us. I admire immensely those many practitioners who have done this much better than I - just as I do those many thinkers and academics who have thought through and explained the world in which we operate more forensically and robustly than I have.

I believe, and hope, we are moving towards the end of an era as we approach the 2015 general election. I look forward to new and positive challenges and opportunities for 2015-20 and beyond. Reflections on what I have learnt over the past five years, and where I am now, can be seen at :-

- [The economic development blog](#) - which started in 2011 on Regeneration and Renewal, and came to an end on January 31st 2015 on Place Making Resource. I am proud of my 105 pieces, which I hope tells a (not 'the') story of local growth under the coalition in an interesting and novel way. Never a straight journey, and certainly not a consistent narrative, as I came towards what became my final posting, I discussed:-
 - ['100 not out...and the IED National Conference'](#), November 2014 - reflecting on where economic development has got to over this parliament
 - ['Let's party like it's 2009...and plan like it's 2019'](#), December 2014 - exploring both areas of continuity and 2010-15 changes, and how they might play out over the remainder of this decade
 - ['Reflections on 2014 that might make 2015 a happy new year for local growth'](#), January 2015 - basically 'what it says on the tin...'

2010-15 has also been an intensely personal journal. Much more infrequently than the professional blog, in 2014 I articulated my feelings on local growth and development indirectly in pieces like:-

- ['Why Pickles deserves the law and order treatment'](#) - probably the most malevolent figure we had the misfortune to work with over 2010-15; although closely followed by [UKIP and political cynicism](#); and by [Cameron's incompetence](#) and wilful recklessness
- A piece on why we need ['magic realism'](#) as well as pragmatic 'realpolitik' in local leadership
- Pieces on why ['small' can still be beautiful](#), and on [post-modernist illusions](#) of nations, statehood, and by implication, national governments.

Most of all, though, through this wonderful, if sometimes exasperating journey, I have tried to ['keep the faith'](#) - about the potency and importance of empowered strategic leadership and enthusiastic followership of local growth. If you read just one piece from this page, read this one.

Let's keep (and develop) the faith, together, as we move into the 2015-20 period and beyond.