



3LE on....enhanced devolution

For those of us passionate about local and place-based leadership of local economic growth, the 2015-20 parliament seems full of opportunity for enhanced devolution. Much of my work includes framing leadership and governance propositions for sub-national and local growth. I have developed, tested and deployed a **specific enhanced devolution and decentralisation tool** for shaping bespoke, tailored propositions. I am happy to share this with clients and colleagues on request.

Much of my recent work went into the pros and cons of the emerging **Combined Authorities**. This was described in two LGIU policy briefings - the April 2014 '[Cities economic growth and devolution update](#)' and the subsequent June 2014 '[Emerging models for leadership and governance of local economic development](#)'.

The Cities Growth Commission's 'Unleashing metro growth' of October 2014 was an important publication. As this blog explains, it is a strong synthesis of an emerging pre-election 'orthodoxy' about future devolution to some '**city regions**', but remains short of a '[devolution pearl](#)'. This 'orthodoxy' was swiftly augmented by the [Manchester \(metro-mayor\) devolution agreement](#), which has the potential to be game changer - but probably only in very special circumstances. And these types of issues formed the hooks for my presentation at the [Annual IED Conference](#), to which I was delighted to make a contribution.

One of the great challenges, remains the ability and commitment of both national and local governments in England to get to grips with an **intermediate tier of leadership and governance**. How we might do this is explored further in the December 2014 '[England devolution and intermediate tiers of governance](#)' - which rounded off the year nicely in these terms.

How far the **Scotland referendum** aftermath drives and distorts these debates remains to be seen. I argued strongly that the personal responsibility of Cameron for the referendum debacle should have been acknowledged. Given he (predictably) opted for denial instead, the referendum inspired two major personal pieces, [prior to the vote](#), in the [immediate aftermath of the result](#); and a professional blog on its [impact on England enhanced devolution](#).