



3LE on....strategic spatial planning for local growth

I cannot stress enough how important it is for local leadership teams to 'get planning right' if they are to be at all credible as promoters, animators, and delivery managers of local growth. 'Positive planning is absolutely necessary, even if it is not sufficient' for sustainable growth and development. Although, not professionally qualified as a planner, I always enjoy tackling planning opportunities and challenges. As Rogers and Hammerstein suggested (in a totally different context), 'the planner and the economic development professional should be friends...'. My 'friendship' with planning includes:-

Planning Advisory Services (PAS) presenter and facilitator

PAS is the 'planning' arm of the Local Government Association (LGA). I was delighted to contribute to the [Leadership Essentials Programmes](#) in October and November 2014 on the local growth/planning interfaces; and am looking forward to a variety of work with PAS during 2015.

New approaches to strategic planning and the 'duty to cooperate'

Following the abrupt revocation of Regional Spatial Strategies and the 'abolition' of regional strategic planning in one of the worst bouts of coalition 'Picklemania', I have argued consistently for addressing the strategic planning void and the inadequacies of the 'duty to cooperate', inter alia, in:-

- ['It's the duty to cooperate and the right to grow, stupid!'](#), March 2014
- [Commuting in local economic development](#), August 2014
- ['Beyond duty to cooperate: towards a new era of strategic planning'](#), January 2015

Specific areas of work

And, of course, it is always interesting to delve into an area with greater depth, as in:-

- **Neighbourhood planning and management** - where detailed work on the Norbiton neighbourhood budget pilot spawned ['Where next for neighbourhood planning and management'](#), and ['Are we at a JONBAR moment in neighbourhood planning?'](#), both 01/2014
- **Garden Cities and housing** - where the 'picklemania' of Government's ['Everything's not coming up roses in Clegg's garden cities'](#), April 2014; contrasts dramatically with the wonderful Wolfson's Economics Prize success of my colleagues at URBED in ['Living in the city'](#), September 2014. Like planning itself, though, I suspect whilst they may be necessary, [garden cities are far from the 'answer' to tackling the housing crisis](#) (August 2014).