



3LE on.....Government programmes and funds (EZs, RGF, GPF, TIF etc)

In an era of relative public austerity, government programmes and funds need to be particularly focused and effective. I have questioned this extensively with major features on Enterprise Zones, RGF, GPF and further commentary on more modest support for, for instance, town centres, LEPs etc.

On Enterprise Zones (EZs), initial thoughts are summarised at:-

- **March 2011 Guardian** – [‘Enterprise Zones: why they’re just a distraction from the cuts’](#)
- **July 2011 R&R** – [‘Apples and Pears and a touch of red herring: the first Enterprise Zone bids’](#)

And Tax Incremental Financing (TIFs) has been long talked about and very slow coming forward:-

- **July 2011 R&R** – [‘Avoiding a tiff about TIFs’](#)

On RGF and GPF take a look at:-

- **September 2010 RCE** – [‘Regional Growth Fund consultation – Realising the potential of England’s small and medium cities’](#). This illustrates what the RGF might have been, and reflects the work 3LE did for Regional Cities East’s response to Government consultation on the design of RGF

Unfortunately, the actual practice of RGF has been far more problematic. By November 2011 scepticism with both RGF and GPF was rife:-

- **November 2011 R&R** – [‘The Regional Growth Fund just doesn’t add up’....and...](#)
- **November 2011 R&R** – [‘Rebalancing is dead – long live the Growing Places Fund’](#)

And things have not improved...

- **January 2012 R&R** – [‘Regional Growth Fund still doesn’t add up...’](#)
- **April 2012 R&R** – [‘Ten questions government should answer about the Regional Growth Fund’](#)
- **May 2012 R&R** – [‘Improving your chances in the Regional Growth Fund Round Three Lottery’](#)

Further pieces and presentation on particularly local government finance reforms may be found on the local government pages of this web site.

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