

# Policy Innovate

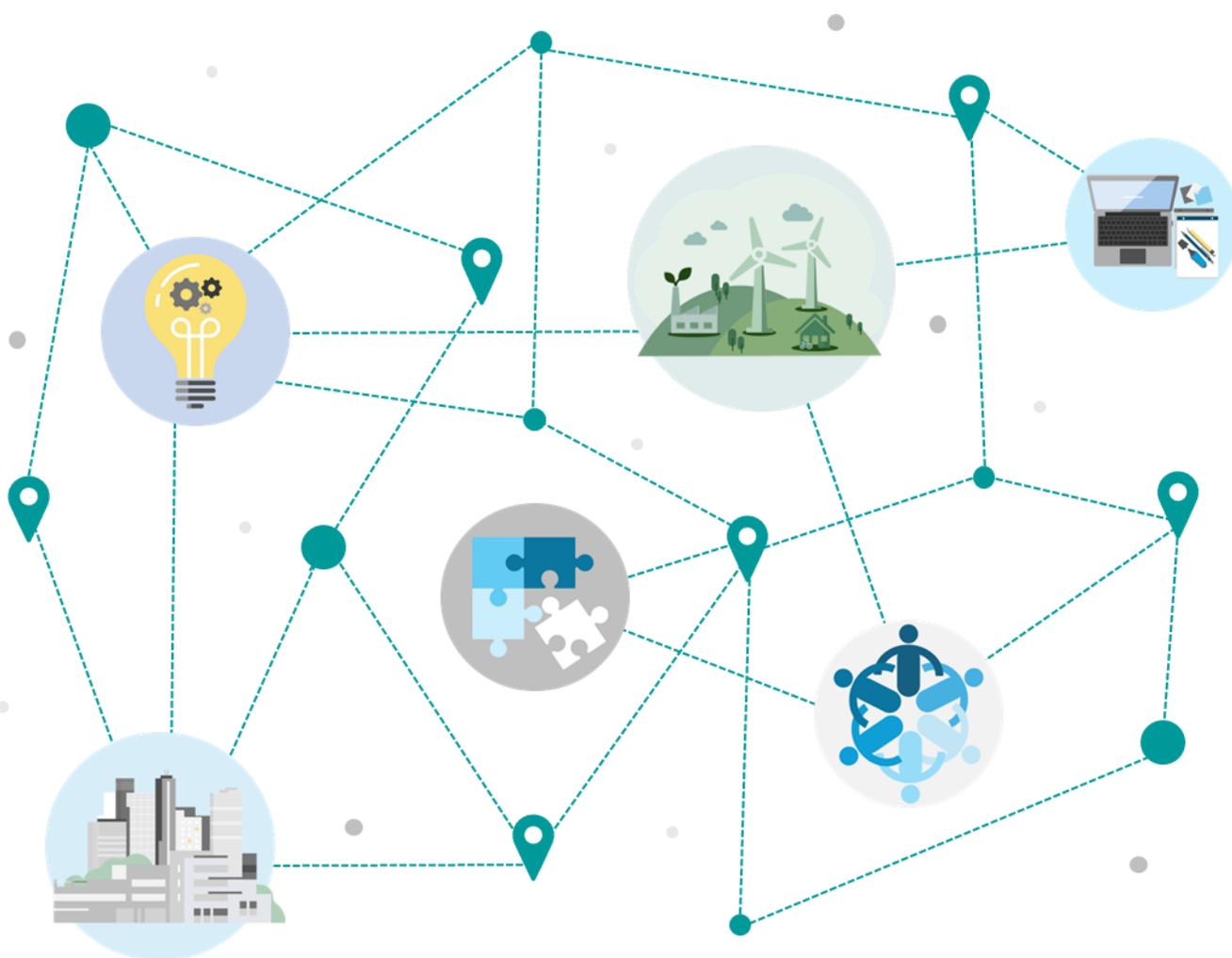
Your guide to local partnership perspectives

LPIP  
HUB

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The Local Policy Innovation Partnership (LPIP) Hub seeks to address nationwide issues through local partnership and place. The LPIP Hub programme has been designed to support local and national policymakers in tackling place-based challenges, driving sustainable and inclusive economic growth and reducing regional disparities in the UK.

Policy Innovate aims to pull together and disseminate the work of the LPIP programme and wider relevant research. With the aim of providing evidence around building confidence, capacity and capability in an effective service-driven approach to place-based policy making and public service delivery.



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## LPIP Hub Publications

This section sets out some of the blogs that have been produced as part of the LPIP Hub programme.

<b>Report</b>	<b>Developing Place-Based Green Industrial Policy in the UK</b>
<b>Author</b>	<b>Ed Atkins, LPIP Hub Place Fellow and Senior Lecturer at the School of Geographical Sciences, University of Bristol</b>
	<p>In this report, Ed Atkins argues that green industrial policy in the UK must be rooted in place. Through the review of cases of Vestas in the Isle of Wight, BiFab in Scotland, and Britishvolt in north-east England, he illuminates how gaps between political ambition and political economy have led to missed opportunities and industrial precarity. He ultimately calls for longer-term, systemic and place-based approaches that work to secure domestic supply chains, create secure jobs for many, and rebuild trust in net-zero policy.</p> <p><a href="#">Link to publication</a></p>
<b>Report</b>	<b>What are Place-Based Business Cases?</b>
<b>Author</b>	<b>Rebecca Riley, Co-Director of City-REDI, Deputy Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Regional Engagement, Director of the Local Policy Innovation Partnership (LPIP) Hub, and Professor of Enterprise, Engagement, and Impact</b>
	<p>This report explains what a place-based business case is and how such cases can support more effective, strategic, and accountable investment decisions across local and national government. Drawing on insights from the Green Book review and City-REDI research, this document outlines three potential purposes for place-based business cases: funding gateways, strategic investment frameworks, and governance tools. It recommends a hybrid model that enhances decision-making, strengthens collaboration, and supports place-wide outcomes.</p> <p><a href="#">Link to publication</a></p>
<b>Blog</b>	<b>Second Cities, Shared Lessons: Insights From UK–Japan Devolution</b>
<b>Author</b>	<b>Jeffery Matsu, CIPFA</b>
	<p>Across advanced economies, national averages mask widening divides within countries. Big metros power ahead while many towns and smaller regions struggle to keep up. Our recent <a href="#">UK-Japan study</a> with the City-Region Economic Development Institute (<a href="#">City-REDI</a>) looks squarely at this problem through two ‘second city’ regions – Birmingham/the West Midlands (United Kingdom) and Osaka/Kansai (Japan) – and finds durable institutions, functional regional geographies, flexible finance, and open learning loops are the levers that turn strategy into outcomes.</p> <p><a href="#">Link to publication</a></p>
<b>Blog</b>	<b>Rebalancing Health Innovation for Health Equity: Put Communities at the Centre</b>
<b>Author</b>	<b>Mark Swift, LPIP Hub Place Fellow, with colleagues Tanuka Palit, Henk Parmentier, Liam Spence and James Smith.</b>
	<p>Alongside high-tech advances, we need long-term, values-led innovation in community-powered health approaches to tackle health inequalities and ease pressure on services, writes Mark Swift, LPIP Hub Place Fellow with colleagues Tanuka Palit, Henk Parmentier, Liam Spence and James Smith.</p> <p><a href="#">Link to publication</a></p>
<b>Report</b>	<b>Town and Parish Councils and Devolution: Small Scale, Big Potential</b>

<b>Author</b>	<b>Dr Amy Burnett, LPIP Place Fellow, Dr Jason Leman, Citizen Network and Dr Daniel Ozarow, Middlesex University</b>
	Dr Amy Burnett (LPIP Place Fellow), Dr Jason Leman (Citizen Network) and Dr Daniel Ozarow (Middlesex University) examine how town and parish councils could play a central role in making devolution work for communities. This discussion paper was developed following the National Association of Local Councils' Power Shift Conference and responds to the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill. In particular, they reflect on the implications of a neighbourhood governance pathway on the configuration of democracy under the emerging devolution landscape on town and parish councils.  <a href="#">Link to publication</a>
<b>Blog</b>	<b>When the Stars Align: Partnership, Policy and the Legacy of LPIP and LPIF</b>
<b>Author</b>	<b>David Legg, Regional Manager at Innovate UK</b>
	David Legg, Regional Manager at Innovate UK, reflects that “the stars are aligning” for place-based partnership working. There’s a sense, right now, that the stars really have aligned for the Local Policy Innovation Partnerships (LPIP) and the <a href="#">Local Policy Innovation Fund (LPIF)</a> . After years of groundwork, conversations, and small but significant shifts in practice, the timing feels right: a convergence of people, purpose, and policy that is beginning to make genuine system change feel possible.  <a href="#">Link to publication</a>
<b>Blog</b>	<b>Building the Workforce of Tomorrow: Pathways to Inclusive Growth in the North East and Beyond</b>
<b>Author</b>	<b>Professor Graham Thrower, Head of The Institute for Economic and Social Inclusion at the University of Sunderland and Fellow at the LPIP Hub</b>
	Professor Graham Thrower examines alternative approaches to addressing skills and economic inactivity and highlights the importance of creating pathways to employment for those from marginalised and disadvantaged backgrounds.  <a href="#">Link to publication</a>
<b>Blog</b>	<b>Why PRISMs Are Essential for Embedding Professional Standards in Place-Based Research Partnerships</b>
<b>Author</b>	<b>Elizabeth Goodyear, Programme Manager City-REDI</b>
	Place-based research partnerships are complex ecosystems. They bring together universities, local authorities, community organisations, and businesses to tackle real-world challenges. But complexity needs structure, and that’s where professional standards come in.  Yet standards alone don’t deliver impact. They need people who can translate principles into practice, navigate governance, and build trust across sectors. Enter the PRISMs: Professional Research Investment and Strategy Managers.  <a href="#">Link to publication</a>
<b>Blog</b>	<b>How Regional Emissions and Energy Use Has Changed Since 2015 – 4 Key Points</b>
<b>Author</b>	<b>Matt Lyons, Research Fellow, City-REDI, University of Birmingham and the lead for Living and Working Sustainably in a Greener Economy, LPIP Hub and Stephen Brand, New Horizon Economics</b>

A newly released LPIP report by Matt Lyons (City-REDI) and Stephen Brand (New Horizon Economics) examines how UK regions' GVA is becoming decoupled from energy inputs and emissions. This blog summarises the report in 4 key points.

[Link to publication](#)

**Blog** | **From Glossaries to Ground Game: What “Innovation” Really Means for Places, and Why the LPIP Matters**

**Author** | **Gerardo J. Arriaga-Garcia , LPIP Hub**

Innovation isn't a glossary term—it's the practical work of turning ideas into value for people and places. In this blog, Gerardo J. Arriaga-Garcia explores how the LPIP programme helps move innovation from theory to meaningful impact.

[Link to publication](#)

**Blog** | **Beyond the “Productivity Miracle”: What the Data Really Tell Us About Northern Cities**

**Author** | **Rebecca Riley, Professor for Enterprise, Engagement and Impact, City-REDI, University of Birmingham and the Director of the LPIP Hub**

In recent weeks, claims of a “productivity miracle” in some of the UK's northern cities have sparked lively debate (which I have been part of!). New subregional productivity data appears to show that places like Manchester, Liverpool, Leeds and others have dramatically outpaced national trends since 2019, but with a very specific high jump in Manchester. But how much of this change reflects real economic transformation and how much is an artefact of shifting datasets, new classifications, or anomalies in how we measure labour input and output?

[Link to publication](#)

**Report** | **Evidence Review Sets Out Principles for Successful Place-Based Research Partnerships**

**Author** | **Elizabeth Goodyear, Programme Manager at City-REDI and Vicky Ward, University of St Andrews**

Elizabeth Goodyear and Dr Vicky Ward from the University of St Andrews explore what makes place-based research partnerships work, and where the evidence still falls short. These partnerships are increasingly seen as vital for tackling complex local challenges, but understanding what truly drives success is less clear. In our review, we looked at the existing research, identified common themes, and highlighted gaps that need attention. Our aim is to help practitioners and policymakers build stronger, more effective collaborations that deliver real impact for communities.

[Link to publication](#)

**Blog** | **Culture at the Crux of Place-Based Thinking: Positioning Locally Driven Cultural Development Within a New National Policy Framework**

**Author** | **Val Birchall, LPIP Hub Place Fellow, Chair of the National Alliance for Cultural Services and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, and a member of the Academy of Urbanism.**

Val Birchall reflects on becoming a LPIP Fellow and the work she has planned for her fellowship.

[Link to publication](#)

**Blog** | **Meet Helen O’Gara, Public Health Professional, Local Charity Leader and LPIP Hub Place Fellow**

<b>Author</b>	<b>Helen O’Gara, LPIP Hub Place Fellow</b>
	Helen O’Gara reflects on becoming a LPIP Fellow and the work she has planned for her fellowship.
	<a href="#">Link to publication</a>
<b>Blog</b>	<b>A Learning Journey on Building Cohesive, Powerful Communities</b>
<b>Author</b>	<b>Angela Jeffery, LPIP Hub Place Fellow</b>
	Angela Jeffery reflects on becoming a LPIP Fellow and the work she has planned for her fellowship.
	<a href="#">Link to publication</a>
<b>Blog</b>	<b>Meet Glenn Athey, Economic Development Consultant and LPIP Hub Place Fellow</b>
<b>Author</b>	<b>Glenn Athey, Economic Development Consultant and LPIP Hub Place Fellow</b>
	Glenn Athey reflects on becoming a LPIP Fellow and the work he has planned for his fellowship.
	<a href="#">Link to publication</a>

## LPIPs Publications

<b>Blog</b>	<b>A renewed vision for FORTH2O</b>
<b>Author</b>	<b>Forth20</b>
	<p>This blog post describes developments in the FORTH2O Policy Innovation Partnership. A change in our leadership team, coupled with a heightened focus on project delivery, prompted us to renew our vision for FORTH2O. Principal Investigator – Professor Paul Cairney – reflects on progress to date and the new direction of travel</p> <p><a href="#">Link to publication</a></p>
<b>Blog</b>	<b>Déjà Vu Governance</b>
<b>Author</b>	<b>YPIP</b>
	<p>Reflections on the ineffective, cyclical process of central government policy making and funding, the impact this has on sustainability and public trust, and advice for the future from an experienced West Yorkshire community activist.</p> <p><a href="#">Link to publication</a></p>
<b>Podcast</b>	<b>Episode 1 - “Gerrin’ on wi’ it” Podcast</b>
<b>Author</b>	<b>YPIP</b>
	<p>In this opening episode of "Gerrin' on wi' it," hosts Paul Hayes and Dr Andy Mycock set the stage for exploring collaboration across Yorkshire and the Humber - a region they argue is England's trailblazer for academic-policy engagement.</p> <p><a href="#">Link to publication</a></p>
<b>Podcast</b>	<b>Episode 2 - “Gerrin’ on wi’ it” Podcast</b>
<b>Author</b>	<b>YPIP</b>
	<p>In this episode of Gerrin’ On Wi’ It, Andy Mycock talks with Dr Peter O’Brien, Executive Director of Yorkshire Universities, about how collaboration is shaping the future of Yorkshire and the Humber.</p> <p><a href="#">Link to publication</a></p>
<b>Podcast</b>	<b>Episode 3 - “Gerrin’ on wi’ it” Podcast</b>
<b>Author</b>	<b>YPIP</b>
	<p>In this episode of “Gerrin’ on wi’ it,” host Dr Andy Mycock speaks with Professor Joe Cook from the University of Hull about what makes collaboration work in research and community engagement. Joe leads the Communities in their Places cross-cutting theme for the Yorkshire Policy Innovation Partnership (YPIP), working with local authorities, voluntary organisations, and residents across Yorkshire and the Humber. She discusses Hull’s “flipped university” model that prioritises community needs, the art of listening over ivory tower thinking, and building trust by not overpromising.</p> <p><a href="#">Link to publication</a></p>
<b>Podcast</b>	<b>Episode 4 - “Gerrin’ on wi’ it” Podcast</b>
<b>Author</b>	<b>YPIP</b>

Y-PERN Policy Fellow Dan Olnier discusses his dual role as both university researcher and embedded policy analyst, explaining how he helps answer critical questions about South Yorkshire's economy, growth sectors, and regional strengths. Rather than operating as a traditional academic expert transmitting knowledge from on high, he describes a collaborative model where experts from different backgrounds work together on equal footing.

[Link to publication](#)

## External Publications

This section sets out recently released report and research, relevant to the work of the LPIP Hub, LPIPs and partners.

<b>Report</b>	<b>UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) interim evaluation synthesis report</b>
<b>Author</b>	<b>MHCLG</b>
<b>Published</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> December 2025</b>
	<p>The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) interim evaluation synthesis report identifies the following key successes, challenges and lessons by different types of place. Qualitative findings from the 34 UKSPF place-level evaluations were used as the data source. From the Ministry of Housing, Communities &amp; Local Government.</p> <p><a href="#">Link to Publication</a></p>

<b>Report</b>	<b>Connected Devolution: Digital Systems for Successful, Holistic Reorganisation</b>
<b>Author</b>	<b>Localis</b>
<b>Published</b>	<b>December 2025</b>
	<p>This report, from Localis, examines the current policy context for technological integration and Local Government Reorganisation (LGR), drawing on cutting-edge research and best practice examples from home and abroad to produce an analysis of the risks, opportunities and potential ways forward for successful, transformative LGR.</p> <p><a href="#">Link to Publication</a></p>

<b>Report</b>	<b>A force for growth: spotlighting the role of councils in enabling inclusive economic growth</b>
<b>Author</b>	<b>Local Government Association</b>
<b>Published</b>	<b>December 2025</b>
	<p>This report, from the LGA, identifies the essential role that councils have to underpin inclusive growth, ensuring that our residents and businesses are central to providing that growth and benefit from the opportunities that growth brings.</p> <p><a href="#">Link to Publication</a></p>

<b>Report</b>	<b>Towards a qualitative data observatory: generation, connection, use</b>
<b>Author</b>	<b>Nicky Marsh, Daniel Ashton and Joseph Owen</b>
<b>Published</b>	<b>December 2025</b>
	<p>This article examines the relationship of qualitative data to place-based decision-making and the role of data observatories in these emerging debates and practices.</p> <p><a href="#">Link to Publication</a></p>

<b>Report</b>	<b>The Green Book and getting more investment into the regions</b>
<b>Author</b>	<b>Future Governance Forum</b>
<b>Published</b>	<b>December 2025</b>
	<p>A new report by The Future Governance Forum has called on the Government to change the way that its Green Book is used if it wants to increase public investment in areas outside of London and the South East.</p> <p><a href="#">Link to Publication</a></p>

<b>Report</b>	<b>Cities Outlook 2026</b>
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<b>Author</b>	<b>Centre for Cities</b>
<b>Published</b>	<b>January 2026</b>
	Centre for Cities' Annual health check of the economic performance of urban Britain offers a deep dive into the latest economic data on how UK cities are performing against a range of indicators, including innovation, housing, skills, employment and productivity.  <a href="#">Link to Publication</a>
<b>Report</b>	<b>All aboard for growth: Why rail reform is incomplete without rail devolution for England's big cities</b>
<b>Author</b>	<b>Centre for Cities</b>
<b>Published</b>	<b>February 2026</b>
	This briefing sets out how rail reform can fill in the missing piece of the integrated transport puzzle that would better connect 1.2 million more people in England's six largest urban economies outside London, and where there is still more to be done to ensure provisions to tackle spatial fragmentation do not stall in the places that would benefit the most.  <a href="#">Link to Publication</a>
<b>Report</b>	<b>Community buildings: strong foundations for renewal</b>
<b>Author</b>	<b>Local Trust</b>
<b>Published</b>	<b>February 2026</b>
	Community-run buildings benefit the people, partnerships and places that support neighbourhoods to thrive. Using evidence from Big Local, this report with New Local shows the importance of long-term investment and support to ensure these buildings are sustainable in the long-term.  <a href="#">Link to Publication</a>
<b>Report</b>	<b>Why community capacity is core infrastructure for a just transition</b>
<b>Author</b>	<b>Regen</b>
<b>Published</b>	<b>February 2026</b>
	Our latest paper with the William Grant Foundation, Building Blocks, explores what community capacity really means in practice – and what is needed to enable it more consistently, and more fairly, across different places.  <a href="#">Link to Publication</a>

## Placecast Episodes

Placecast is a [Local Policy Innovation Partnership \(LPIP\) Hub](#) production based at City-REDI, University of Birmingham. Our new podcast is essential listening for those keen to explore the ins and outs of knowledge mobilisation for influence in central and local government, based on the view that it's only through animating the power of place-based leadership that the wicked problems of 2026 can become more manageable.

<b>Podcast</b>	<b>Placecast Podcast – Episode Nine - Place is a Unifying Force</b>
<b>Speakers</b>	<b>Nicola Headlam and Sarah Longlands</b>
	<p>In the latest episode of Placecast, Nicola Headlam sits down with Dr Sarah Longlands, Chief Executive of the Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES), to explore why place matters more than ever in shaping policy, economy, and community wellbeing. Their conversation offers a compelling case for moving beyond one-size-fits-all solutions and embracing the complexity of local contexts.</p> <p><a href="#">Register here</a></p>
<b>Podcast</b>	<b>Placecast Podcast – Episode Ten – What the UK Can Learn from Japan: Local Governance, Finance, and Place Leadership</b>
<b>Speakers</b>	<b>Nicola Headlam, Jeff Matsu and Abigail Taylor</b>
	<p>In this episode of Placecast, Nicola Headlam speaks with Abigail Taylor (City-REDI) and Jeff Matsu (former Chief Economist at CIPFA and City-REDI Associate) about their groundbreaking comparative research on governance and fiscal devolution between Japan and the UK. Their work, supported by international partnerships and field visits to Osaka and Tokyo, offers fresh insights into how decentralisation and collaborative leadership can shape better outcomes for regions.</p> <p><a href="#">Register here</a></p>
<b>Podcast</b>	<b>Placecast Podcast - Episode 11 - How Yorkshire Is Rewiring Civic–Academic Collaboration: A Conversation with Kersten England</b>
<b>Speakers</b>	<b>Nicola Headlam and Kersten England</b>
	<p>In the latest episode of Placecast, Dr Nicola Headlam sits down with one of the UK's most respected place-based leaders: Kersten England, former Chief Executive of Bradford and York, Chair of the Young Foundation, and Co-Investigator on the Yorkshire Policy Innovation Partnership (YPIP).</p> <p><a href="#">Register here</a></p>

## Events

<b>Event</b>	<b>Manchesterism rising from devolution – In conversation with Mayor Andy Burnham</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup> of March 13:30 to 16:30</b>	On Wednesday 4th March, Centre for Cities will host Mayor of Greater Manchester Andy Burnham for a keynote speech followed by a discussion with Centre for Cities' Chief Executive Andrew Carter and audience Q&A.  <a href="#">Register here</a>
<b>Webinar</b>	<b>Taking the temperature</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup> of March 9:00 – 10:15</b>	Spring Forecast 2026 and the prospects for borrowing, growth and living standards  <a href="#">Register here</a>
<b>Webinar</b>	<b>An Introduction to community wealth building</b>
<b>5<sup>th</sup> of March 10:00 – 12:00</b>	An online workshop exploring the fundamentals and CLES's latest thinking around community wealth building  <a href="#">Register here</a>

Disclaimer: The contents of this document are based on the latest data available and the contribution of partners in a fast-paced environment, therefore we urge caution in its use and application

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