

From Local to National: The LPIP Hub's Vision for Better Places

Hi, I'm Bec Riley, the project lead on the Local Policy Innovation Partnership Hub or the LPIP Hub, hosted by the University of Birmingham, and working alongside four LPIP programs around the UK exploring different place-based policy challenges.

Our collective mission to show how universities, local partners and communities can work together better to improve their places and to scale this up across the UK, to build better futures for everyone, wherever they live.

Local is our starting point. We're interested in what differentiates places, what connects them and how solutions working in different places can be shared and scaled to similar places.

It's not a one-size-fits-all.

The four LPIPs are pilots in different ways of working within different structures. They are the beating heart of the program. They are working in different areas of the UK in very different kinds of places, tackling different challenges, from economic development, to supporting rural communities and using different methods to test what works.

And that's where policy comes in. Policy for us is about finding solutions to particular challenges, putting them into action to see if and how they work, and using evaluation to make them better.

Universities have a lot to offer, sharing evidence to help understand the challenges, reminding us how previous policies have tackled them and whether they've been successful or not, and exploring how the characteristics of different places impact what's possible.

For us, innovation is about developing solutions that are fit for purpose, practical and deliverable, developed in open, curious and critical ways.

Our role at the Hub is to join up all this collective problem solving, and move ideas and inspiration around as quickly and effectively as possible. We're really interested in learning with you about what works, connecting everyone who's trying to work in these new place centred ways, and providing the resources and support you need.

Partnership working and collaboration is where the LPIP program starts and ends... with people. The future is built on working together, but in some ways this is the hardest challenge of all. Learning to understand our differences. Listening carefully and learning to trust each other are essential building blocks for this way of working.

If we can get this right, together, we can see a step change in how communities, politicians, the public and private sectors and universities collaborate and get involved in problem solving across the UK. Helping see the world through a place lens and building the connections and skills to work collaboratively to make every part of the UK a better place to live, learn and do business.

That's the LPIP ambition.