



Local Area Research + Intelligence Association

## LARIA Newsletter August 2021

### LARIA Treasurer - Andy Davis

Wherever you are based in the UK you will have seen further relaxation, and in some cases removal, of Covid-19 restrictions over the past couple of weeks. What this will mean over the coming weeks and months still comes with a huge element of uncertainty. What is for sure is that we are all likely to have very different experiences in our working lives to come, depending on the demands of our job, where we live, who we work for, the extent to which we can have a say on how we work, and the ability we have to organise our time how we want.

At a recent LARIA Council meeting it was fascinating to hear widely differing approaches to the 'return to the office' discussion, with everything from 'all back now' to 'complete working from home in place until further notice', and lots of combinations in between these scenarios – all amongst a group of people with essentially similar occupations and involved in the same sorts of activities.

There are lots of examples of employers now wanting their staff back working in office environments for most, or all of the time, that can be compared with those using the coming months to bring in greater flexibility for the future deployment of their workforces. Large employers and anchor institutions, such as councils, are juggling decisions including the need for their office-based workforces to support local town and city centres, with deciding whether to use this moment in time as an opportunity to deliver further savings through property rationalisations and efficiency measures. As we move on from this stage of the pandemic it will be great to hear how LARIA members have been influencing decision making around all of this – using our data, evidence, analysis, foresights, and intelligence, to build on the incredible value we have added to our respective organisations and local communities since the spread of the virus.

This fuzzy landscape is also influencing the decisions around how LARIA shapes our membership offer for the future. Should we run an in-person annual conference again, and if so, when? Should we carry on with online webinars? Would hybrid-style events work? How can we make events financially sustainable? How can we maximise networking and sharing opportunities for our members? What other things should, and could, we do? All complicated issues in terms of getting solutions that work across a diverse membership organisation in continuing uncertain times. As members your views will be crucial to this decision making, and we'll need your help with this over the coming months, so please do continue to let

us know if there are things we're doing right, doing wrong, or could do better!

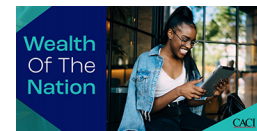
In the meantime, take care and enjoy the Bank Holiday and what's left of the summer.

Andy Davis  
LARIA Treasurer

---

## News

### **CACI - Wealth of the Nation Report**



The pandemic and associated series of lockdowns has seemingly highlighted the health and wealth inequalities across the country. We've drilled down into the data to look at what has happened to income over time by local area, and have analysed the data for 1.6 million postcode areas across the UK. We've published the findings in our 2021 edition of the 'Wealth of the Nation' report. In the report, we analyse whether levels of consumer mobility have been affected by income group as we have progressed through the various stages of the pandemic. This year's insight reveals the income and wealth of the UK, and how affluence has affected mobility throughout the different stages of the pandemic.

[Wealth of the Nation Report](#)

---

## Jobs

### **Cambridge Econometrics**



Cambridge Econometrics are seeking a collaborative and resourceful managing consultant to lead our research and manage our clients in the fields of social policy and local economic development. The job will be based at our Cambridge office, and applications close 31 August 2021.

For more information and to apply, please see the [job description](#) on the Cambridge Econometrics website.

## Webinars

### Public Policy Exchange



Public Policy Exchange will be hosting a webinar Improving Public Transport: Boosting Infrastructure and Safety & Promoting Integration and Innovation in Local Services Post-Covid which will take place **Tuesday 7th September 2021 at 9.30 AM to 1.00PM.**

If you or your colleagues would like to attend this webinar, please fill in your details in the [registration form](#) and send it back to [Sheila Ramkissoon](#). Please note that the cost details are find in the registration form.

### Speakers

- Lord Bill Bradshaw - Vice Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Rail and Treasurer, and Vice Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for the Bus and Coach Industry
- Dr Suzanne Bartington - Honorary Consultant in Public Health at the University of Birmingham
- Pam Turton - Transport Officer for Portsmouth City Council
- Professor Peter White - Emeritus Professor of Public Transport Systems, University of Westminster
- Emma Forde - Associate at Arup
- Stuart Thomson - Head of Public Affairs, Government, and Infrastructure at BDB Pitmans
- Alex Hornby - Chief Executive Officer of Transdev Blazefield
- Michelle Sacks - Event host & Deputy Chief Executive (Place) Boston Borough Council and East Lindsey District Council
- Rebecca Kite - Policy Manager of Confederation of Passenger Transport (CPT) UK

### Program

- Examine the efficacy of government support for public transport operators since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic

- Engage with the government's public transport agenda, identify priorities for action and where further support may be needed
  - Learn of successful community rail partnerships transforming under-utilised stations and engaging with local areas
  - Discuss the future of big rail projects such as HS2, Northern Powerhouse Rail and the full Transpennine Route Upgrade
  - Evaluate the 'Bus Back Better' Strategy and formulate strategies for taking control of local bus services and maximising passenger numbers and satisfaction
  - Assess how local government and other stakeholders can assure the public that public transport is safe to use
  - Explore methods of integrating high-capacity cycling tracks within existing rail and motorised public transport infrastructure
  - Assess how to utilise public transport to tackle air quality blackspots in local areas
  - Analyse how to support the adoption of new ticketing technologies to improve customer experiences
  - Develop methods of supporting people with disabilities seeking spontaneous travel
- 



### **Are you a Corporate or Full Corporate Member?**

Your LARIA Corporate Membership entitles you to submit content to the monthly LARIA newsletter, if you have any research, events, job adverts, resources or news which you would us to include please send it to [admin@laria.org.uk](mailto:admin@laria.org.uk).

The next newsletter submission deadline is **Monday 19th September**.



*Copyright © 2021 LARIA, All rights reserved.*

You are receiving this email because you opted in via our website.

**Our mailing address is:**

LARIA  
Tower House  
Mill Lane, Askham Bryan  
York, North Yorkshire YO23 3FS  
United Kingdom

[Add us to your address book](#)

**LARIA**

Tower House, Mill Lane, Askham Fields Lane, Askham Bryan, York, YO23 3FS

Tel - 0345 676 9598

Email - [admin@laria.org.uk](mailto:admin@laria.org.uk)

Web - [www.laria.org.uk](http://www.laria.org.uk)

Twitter - [@laria](#)

