

Moving towards a *de facto* scalar and institutional fix in England, through Subnational Growth Deals

Alan Townsend (Durham University)
Lee Pugalis (Northumbria University)

Local Council Control from May 2007

Key
 Labour
 Conservative
 Liberal Democrat
 Plaid Cymru
 Other
 No overall control

Scottish Councils that had elections in May 2007 (political control indicated)

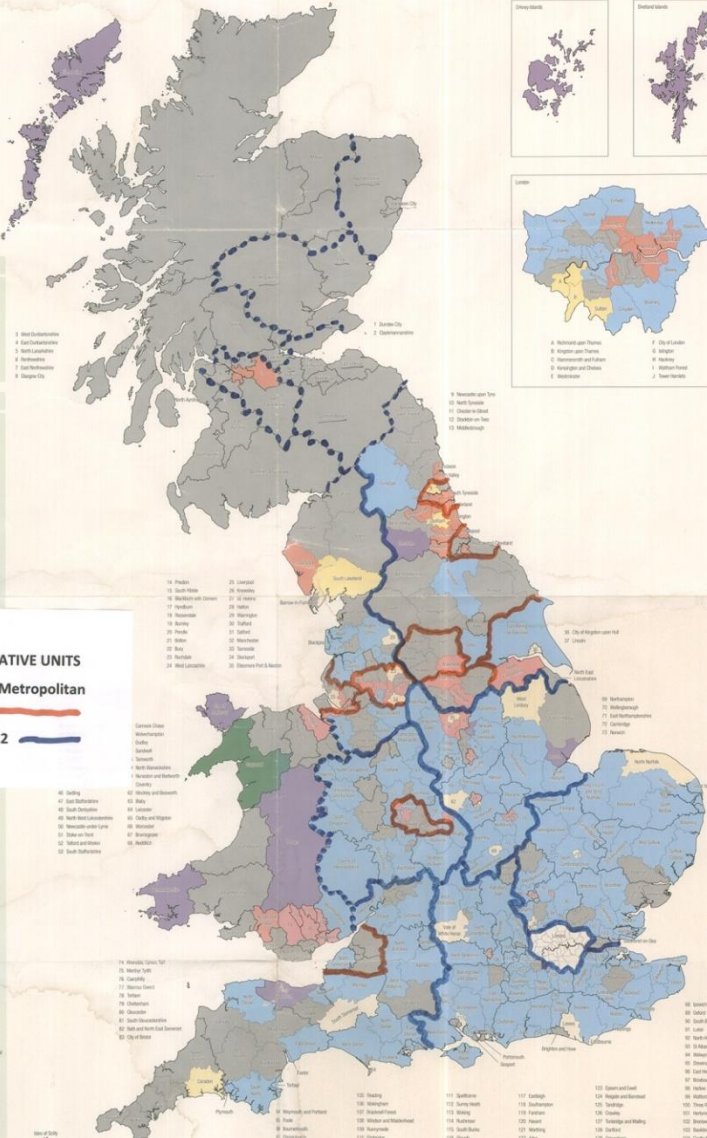
A. Argyll and Bute	D. Dumfries and Galloway	G. Glasgow City
B. Highland	E. East Ayrshire	H. Highland
C. Shetland Islands	F. Fife	I. Inverclyde
		J. Inverclyde
		K. North Ayrshire
		L. North Ayrshire
		M. North Ayrshire
		N. North Ayrshire
		O. North Ayrshire
		P. North Ayrshire
		Q. North Ayrshire
		R. North Ayrshire
		S. North Ayrshire
		T. North Ayrshire
		U. North Ayrshire
		V. North Ayrshire
		W. North Ayrshire
		X. North Ayrshire
		Y. North Ayrshire
		Z. North Ayrshire

English Councils that had elections in May 2007 (political control indicated)

A. Argyll and Bute	D. Dumfries and Galloway	G. Glasgow City
B. Highland	E. East Ayrshire	H. Highland
C. Shetland Islands	F. Fife	I. Inverclyde
		J. Inverclyde
		K. North Ayrshire
		L. North Ayrshire
		M. North Ayrshire
		N. North Ayrshire
		O. North Ayrshire
		P. North Ayrshire
		Q. North Ayrshire
		R. North Ayrshire
		S. North Ayrshire
		T. North Ayrshire
		U. North Ayrshire
		V. North Ayrshire
		W. North Ayrshire
		X. North Ayrshire
		Y. North Ayrshire
		Z. North Ayrshire

ABANDONED ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS
 Counties, including All Metropolitan
 Counties 1974-86
 English Regions, 1994-2012

A. Argyll and Bute	D. Dumfries and Galloway	G. Glasgow City
B. Highland	E. East Ayrshire	H. Highland
C. Shetland Islands	F. Fife	I. Inverclyde
		J. Inverclyde
		K. North Ayrshire
		L. North Ayrshire
		M. North Ayrshire
		N. North Ayrshire
		O. North Ayrshire
		P. North Ayrshire
		Q. North Ayrshire
		R. North Ayrshire
		S. North Ayrshire
		T. North Ayrshire
		U. North Ayrshire
		V. North Ayrshire
		W. North Ayrshire
		X. North Ayrshire
		Y. North Ayrshire
		Z. North Ayrshire

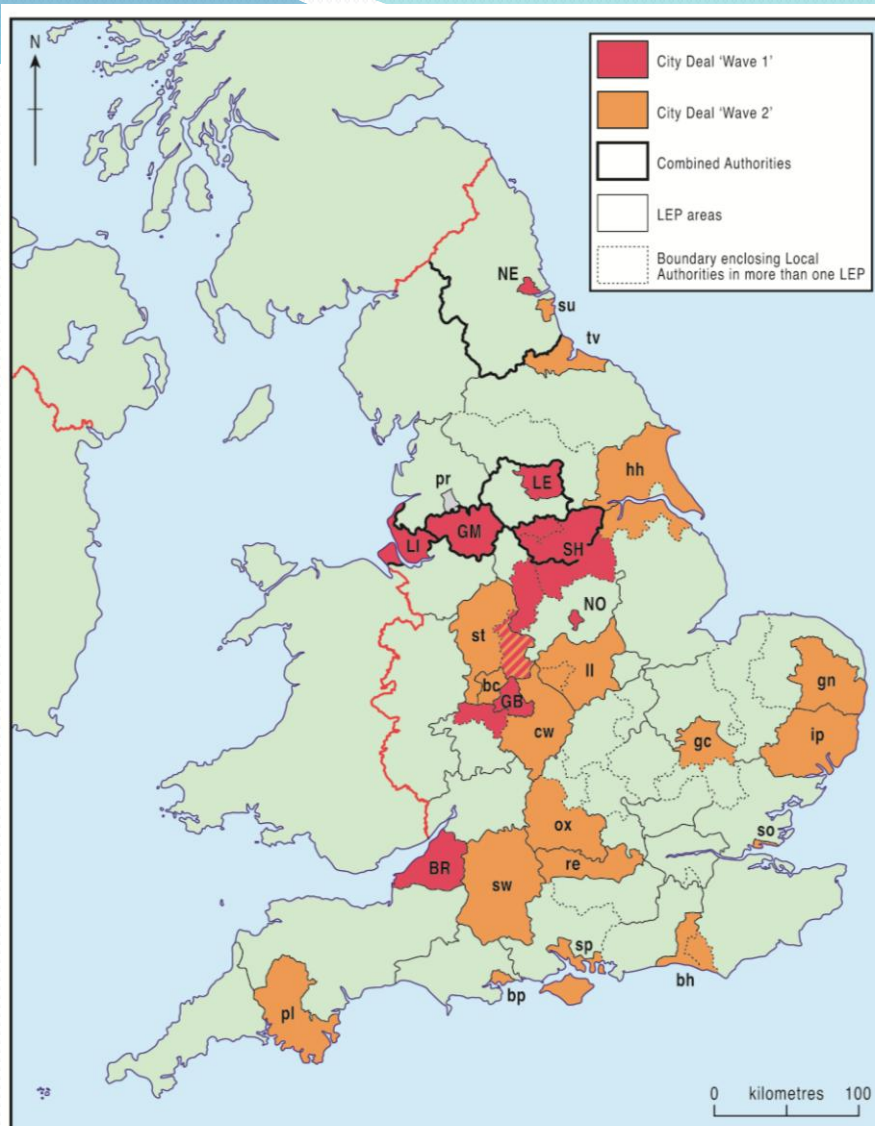


Travel-to-work of 8 core cities of England, 1981-2011, thousands

	Workplace population	Daily travel IN	Daily travel OUT	Col2/Col1 %
1981 Males	1276.0	499.4	195.4	39.1
2011 Males	1182.5	466.0	280.2	39.4
1981 Females	905.4	264.3	60.0	29.2
2011 Females	1031.1	415.7	191.8	40.3

Movement towards change; last 12 months

- Combined Authorities set up (March onwards) under Act of 2008, in (closely) ex-Metropolitan County areas
- NO direct staff; each constituent Local Authority has a lead role for one topic, given one vote in decisions
- All 39 Local Enterprise Partnerships required to produce Strategic Economic Plans
- Adjudicated in Whitehall in July as Growth Deals
- Scottish referendum spurs government to agree some financial devolution to Greater Manchester
- More due next Wednesday e.g. Leeds City Region
- Other former counties move toward Combining



Wave 1

GB Greater Birmingham
BR Bristol Region
GM Greater Manchester
LE Leeds City Region
LI Liverpool City Region
NO Nottingham City Region
NE Newcastle Region
SH Sheffield City Region

Wave 2

bc The Black Country
bp Bournemouth and Poole
bh Brighton and Hove
gc Greater Cambridge
hh Hull and Humber
cw Coventry and Warwickshire
ip Ipswich
ll Leicester and Leicestershire
gn Greater Norwich
ox Oxford and Central Oxfordshire

Wave 2

re Reading
pl Plymouth
pr Preston and Lancashire
sp Southampton and Portsmouth
so Southend
st Stoke and Staffordshire
su Sunderland and the North East
sw Swindon and Wiltshire
tv Tees Valley

What are SEPs and Growth Deals?

SEPs – strategic (economic/investment) plans used by Government in deciding Growth Fund allocations

- No set format; guidance is permissive
- Non-statutory documents. Thus no requirement for European Strategic Environmental Assessments

Growth Deals – specific projects contained in and supported by SEPs from all 39 LEPs were selected in July for implementation by government

- Half the £12bn, over 6 years, is top sliced from DfT; much of rest is in Skills, Housing and Business support.

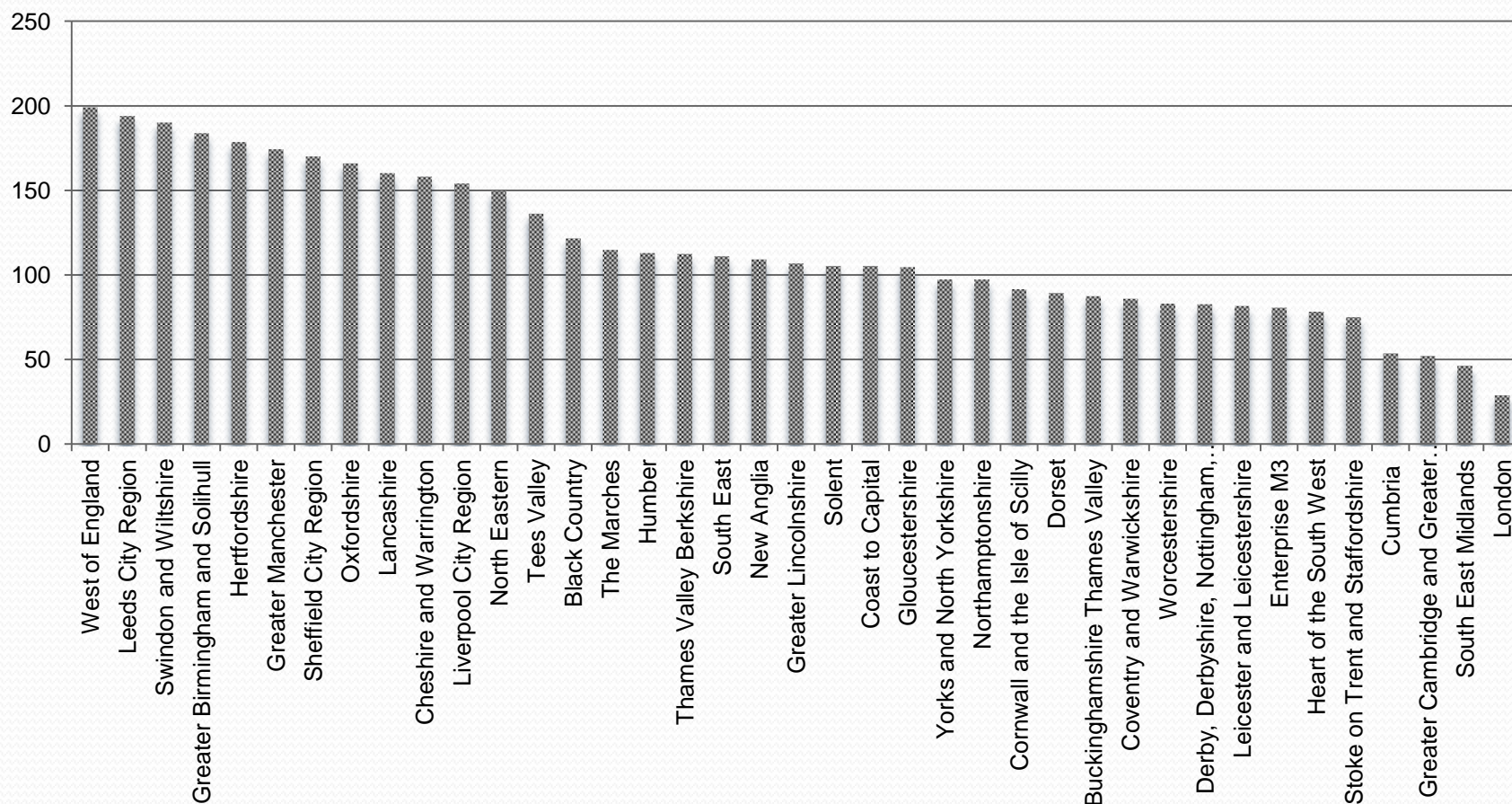
SEP: Content Analysis; the Black Country

- Spatial frameworks –a good example of plans that attempt to provide overarching spatial frameworks for a myriad of plans, processes and investment decisions
- Tailored from past Multi-Area Agreement work with understanding of modernising industrial sites & access
- GROWTH DEALS include one of several new Transport Interchanges in the Deals, Motorway improvement, employment land, business support including a Construction Industry College, and Centre regeneration
- HOWEVER, it struggles to explain connectivity with the adjoining Birmingham LEP

Potentials of Growth Deals

- *Cemented the geometry* of LEP areas (capital funding)
- Process has increased the importance of strategic planning (in the eyes of LEPs)
- Projects advanced in Growth Deals start with existing Plans, road alignments and site boundaries
- Moving forwards, SEPs may provide more “soft planning” which may provide improved longer term Planning under the Acts, or conflict in a potential disconnect
- BUT...SEPs have no legal basis
- Their Planning content and LEPs’ competence are variable
- SEPs are unlikely to prove robust enough to prevent local Plan conflicts; arguments against statutory adoption

Growth Deal allocations £ per capita by LEP area, 2015/16-2020/21(A.Pike)



Source: CURDs research based on HMG data

How Cities' discourse led to an Inter-Party spatial fix (+ professional acquiescence)

- Formation of the Core Cities' Group
- CLG position in the “Sub-National Review”>2008 Act
- Multi-area Agreements provided working experience
- LEPs initiation amenable to city-region approach
- Rural LEPs removed the charge of urban bias
- G. Manchester attained respect of London (e.g. Respublica)
- Labour for devolving more to “City and County regions” (Heseltine, Adonis, Lyons) Thus all 3 political parties intend to devolve powers to city regions post-2015
- The shock from Scotland and shifting blame for austerity (ECONOMIST, 7-14 November)

Content and criticism

- Elected mayors little use over voter alienation
- Powers seen arriving variously in 3 tranches:

RSA favourites: Transport, housing, skills, economic dev't

Worrying to some: Minimum wages, justice, energy, business rates

More Scottish (Smith report): Welfare (varying benefit rates); Education; Health?!

- However, the Manchester deal is partial on new fields; power to re-shape FE, joint commissioner for next Work Programme, business plan with CCGs for Health & Social Care; Spatial Plan is 2017
- Competitions “concreting in existing inequalities” Boyle

Further material

Pugalis, L. & Townsend, A. R. (2014): 'Local Enterprise Partnerships: Are they filling the strategic void?', *Town & Country Planning*, 83(6-7), 263-268.

Pugalis, L., Townsend, A. R., Sattar, Z. & Ankowska, A. (2014): LEPs Strategic Economic Plans: An initial assessment. <http://www.rtpi.org.uk/briefing-room/news-releases/2014/april/leps-strategic-economic-plans-an-initial-assessment> RTPI, 3 April.

Pugalis, L. & Townsend, A. R. (2014): 'The emergence of 'new' spatial coalitions in the pursuit of functional regions of governance', *Regional Science Policy & Practice*, 6(1), 49-67.

Pugalis, L. & Townsend, A. R. (2014): *Planning for Growth: The Role of Local Enterprise Partnerships in England*, Interim report, London, Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI).

Pugalis, L. & Townsend, A. R. (2013): 'Rescaling of planning and its interface with economic development', *Planning Practice and Research*, 28(1), 104-121.

Pugalis, L. & Townsend, A. R. (2013): 'Trends in place-based economic strategies: England's fixation with 'fleet-of-foot' partnerships', *Local Economy*, 28(7-8), 693-714.

Townsend, A. R. & Pugalis, L. (2011): 'A novel approach to spatial development: England dismantles its regions!', Regional development and policy - challenges, choices and recipients, RSA Annual International Conference, Newcastle, 17-20 April.

Pugalis, L. & Townsend, A. R. (2010): 'Can LEPs fill the strategic void?', *Town & Country Planning*, 79(9), 382-387.