

The making, unmaking and remaking of an English Region: Unexpected journeys in regional development

Professor Will Rossiter 29th April 2025











10 years, 8	papers, 1	PhD	EIROPEAN PLANNIG STUDES 2011, PCL 23, NG 5, NPH 202 Methodosegy fit biotopolectin 24 Knocking on the post-industrial cit	B Constitutions	
			Will Rossiter ¹ and Dav ENT AND Nottingham Business School, I	vid J. Smith 🛈 Nottingham Trent University, Nottingham, UK	
Constructive Local economic strategy development under Regional Development Agencies and Local Enterprise Partnerships: SAGE	Cambridge fournal of Regions, Economy and Society 2012 18, 491–598 del 10.10908proved100 Advance Access publication 18 August, 2017 Advance Access publication 18 August, 2017 Adaptive capability and path creat post-industrial city: the case of No biotechnology sector David J. Smith, Will Rossiter and Daniel McDonald-Ju	John Disney, Will Rossiter and Noteiglum Trans University, UK	ABSTRACT At the time of the Miller in the drive for through improved 4 David J Smith®	Attract History 2019 Attract Aced serious challenges as a tartikitation. This was the context from attrikitation. This was the context from attrikitation. This was the context from attrikitation. This was the context from a real of policy interventions and the risk path creation process. Kingdods was not policy interventions and the mains fram ough which attrikitation process. Attributions to this path creation process. Attributions to the attribution process. Attribution process to the attribution process. Attribution process to the attributi	LOCAL ECONOMY
Will Rositer Notified There, bloreing, UK Liz Price University of Lizzoin, UK	Notitingham Basiness: School, Nottingham Trent University, Nott david.smith/02/bitm.ac.uk Becerved on September 20, 2016 editorial devision on Jane 22, 2017, accepted on Jaly 18, 2 	Interface Abstract 2017 Traffic congestion at peak dream has long contributing congestion at peak dream has long interface contributing congestion at peak dream has long interface and the and the attrance dream dr	them a problem facing clies in the United Kingdom," L sof by worries over carbon emissions and poor air que for new technologies appez to have much to offer, persor to have been how. This case study undyes the uniter of green innovations including the includuction persors Transis are wis devictive algo-powered burse leased examination of how they came to be implemented estable examination of how they came to be implemented	d sought centers. Local economic governan strategies in the UK's post cities and the challenges of improving local work and employment conditions	2021, Vol. 0(0) -18 0° The Aubor(#) 2021 • Industrial Autor(#) 2021 • Industrial Autor(#) 2021 • Industrial • Industrial
economic development a a local level however the form and function clocal interprise Partin guty as to their roles and legitimate spherer d	Construction C	are Experian which provide buintest in One of financial services company, an Customs the United Kingdom's tax regional diffees are located in Notingh Lar most cirks, Notinghum has a the cirk has long experienced peak per local concomic development, place leaders local concomi	Mescie Image: Second	y have al entrations I Sweden do the c roughter clicity an in their clicity an index of their suby find, local authorities engaged in various for under conditors of sigt budgets constainces, revenues while to generate jobs and increase extraverse while to generate jobs and increase extraverse while to generate jobs and increase extraverse scort actraverse in thin local given while to generate jobs and increase extraverse inter the interview of sigt budgets constainces revenues interview of sigt budgets constainces the interview of sigt budgets constainces the interview of sigt budgets constainces the scort actraverse while local seven services in the const occurse interview of sigt budgets constainces the interview of sigt budgets constainces the interview of sigt budgets into activity in local seven services the interview of sigt budgets into activity in local seven services the interview of sigt budgets into activity in local seven services the interview of sign budgets into activity in local seven services the into activity in local seven services th	4, UK he local economic governance strategies pursued by rity period, and the impact of these strategies on local is on interview data, policy documents and statistical understand how local automiter argonded to the and subsequent imposition of austerity policies. The most of enrogrenourial and austerity trahnic policies utility in an increased role for the private sector as a This process has increased the influence of private longers turm trand. This study presence vehicine to vity work and employment conditione, chiefly due to the process the private sector.
the spatial scale of decision making for the development process and policy concorrie strategies. Strategies produced for three "nested segreptic to indicate an economic strategies". In the second s	or the specific "fane- sphere dependent dependent dependent dependent dependent dependent dependent de la dependent dependent de la dependent	arbander and sense and the receiver and the sense as form of receiver appropriate set of the sense as form of receiver approximation of the sense and the set of the sense and the sense and the sense sense and the sense and the sense sense a	governance models employed. The scheme is notable for the novel public-private development, which opedalase is the developments characterized by an emphasis on qual conveniment to environmental sutatinability. Keywords co-neighbourhood, energy, green innovation, new urbanism, sustainable communities, su Introduction There is an argent drive to promote environmentally use tables erban communities to ablest. The observation of the devel- denentic energy use, principally space ¹ and developing witch is a major source of greenous and diverse inter in the leving sustainable approaches to promote more instainable approaches to provide more instainable approaches to provide more instainable approaches to promote	an urwillingness to progressively regulate work, employment, rather than favouring the creation of Keywords local economic governance strategies, local gov United Kingdom Its, Neuver les with bet ability orter and between the strategies (LEGS) in plemented by English local authorities in the post-crisis austerity period have impacted local urban settle	and a prioritising of job quantity in terms of total
economic development can be better aligned to "functional economic geographics", etc. aligned to cancel and the second se	wre Sorest. Nostighum (Rodriguez-Pose, 2013; S 2017). This growing liter fundamental quession – h institutions	Sotarauta et al., rature invites the corresponding author:	increasing accessibility (Nykvist and Withmanh, 2006; disenfanchines accessibility), (Meet is increa- for relacing GHG emissions from the donessis accers is producing currently available and near-market-ready (Meet is incre- nology, but in building design and in curregy systems (Boardmane et al., 2005; Johnson, 2003; Killing, 2013). Similarly, the application of new technologies in the trans- protation service systems, such as car takiring and johnson rer, quieter and more efficient vehicles and low carbon product service systems, such as car takiring and johnson feed to the system standing activity and the systems of the system feed to the system standing act taking and feed to the system standing and the system standing activity and systems of the system standing and the system standing activity and systems of the system standing and the system standing and the system standing act the system standing and the system standing activity and systems (feed to the system) and the system standing activity of the system standing activity and the system standing activity activi	asing roog design can hep in reducing alone may well not be enough	

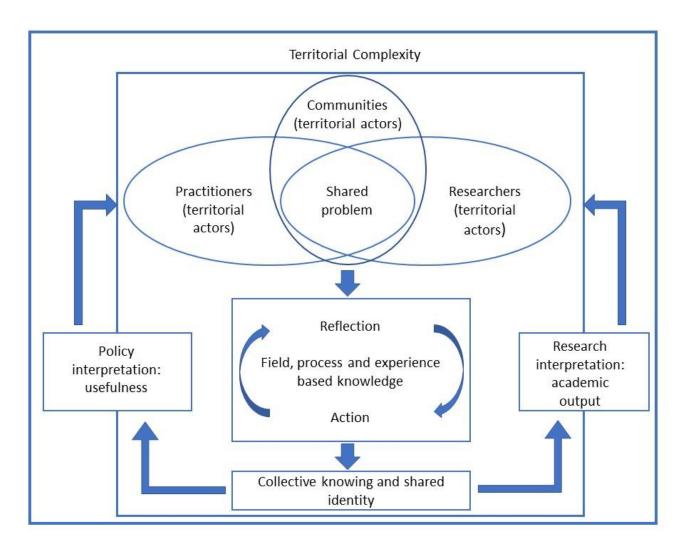
And contract research...



But researching the economies of the East Midlands for longer...



Practice informed research/research informed practice



NBS

Co-generative territorial research, Adapted from Costamagna & Larrea (2018)

Disciplinary basis?

- Sociology (via Industrial Relations/HR) to Economic Geography...
- Practice informed 15 years in economic development
- Theoretical borrowings from:
 - Political Science (Kingdon)
 - (Evolutionary) Economic Geography (Amin & Thrift, Boschma, Martin...)
 - Place Leadership/Public Entrepreneurship (Collinge et al...)



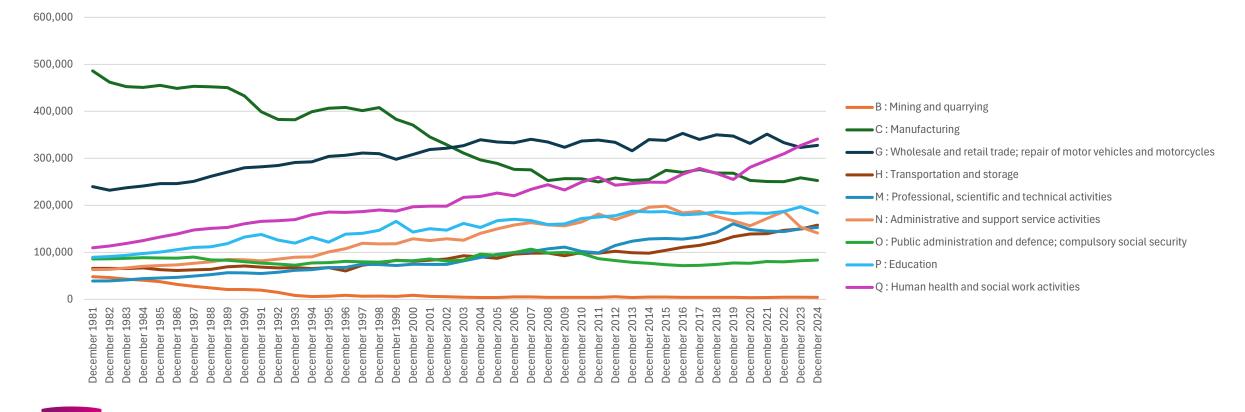
Research Questions

- **1.** How can new paths of local and regional economic development be created?
- **2.** What is the scope for state and individual actors and policy intervention to influence the path creation process?
- **3.** How do these factors relate to contingencies specific to places at particular times?



Nowhere more acute than in the context of de-industrialisation...

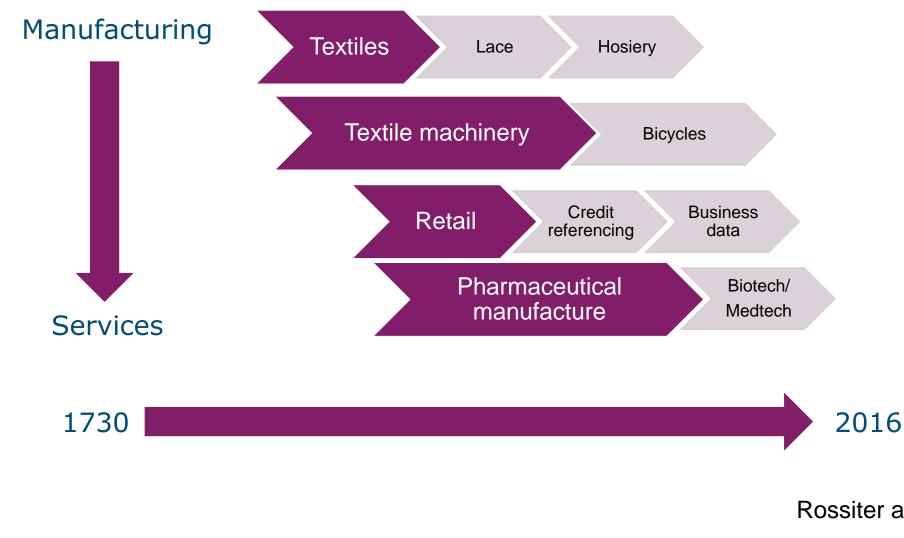
East Midlands Employee Jobs 1981-2023, selected sectors (SIC 2007)



Employee jobs by industry (SIC 2007) - seasonally adjusted ONS Crown Copyright Reserved [from Nomis on 14 April 2025]

NBS

Nottingham's economic evolutions



NBS

Rossiter and Smith 2017

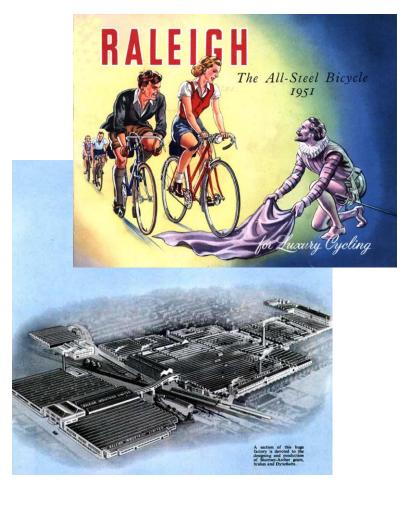
Transitions written on the cityscape



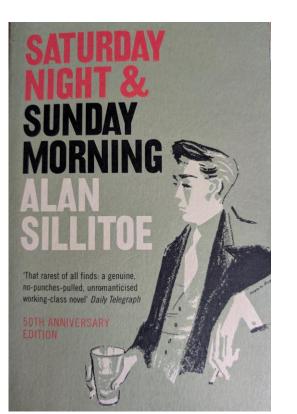
© Copyright <u>Oxymoron</u> and licensed for reuse under this <u>Creative Commons Licence</u>

NBS





Employment & Social Infrastructure

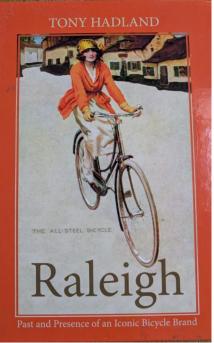


"The thousands that worked there took home good wages.... if the gaffer got on to you now you could always tell him where to put the job and go somewhere else." (Sillitoe 1958:27)

"Nottingham is an outstanding example of a local community with a

well-balanced employment structure ... "

(British Association, Nottingham and Its Region, 1966)





Socio-economic outcomes

Employee Jobs (2023 ONS BRES) S : Other service activities R : Arts. entertainment and recreation Q: Human health and social work. P: Education O : Public administration and defence:... N : Administrative and support service.. M : Professional, scientific and technical.. L : Real estate activities K : Financial and insurance activities J : Information and communication I: Accommodation and food service... H : Transportation and storage G: Wholesale and retail trade: repair of... F : Construction E : Water supply; sewerage, waste... D : Electricity, gas, steam and air... C : Manufacturing B : Mining and guarrying 0 5 10 15 Great Britain (%) -Derby (%) - Nottingham (%) -

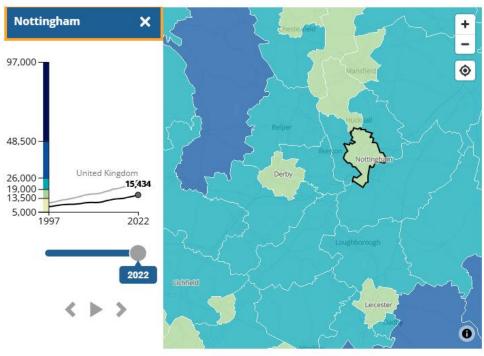


20

Earnings by place of work (ONS ASHE 2024)

	Nottingham	Derby	Great Britain
	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)
Gross weekly pay			
Full-time workers	632.9	769.3	729.6

Gross disposable household income per head for UK local authorities, 1997 to 2022



Source: Regional gross disposable household income (GDHI) from the Office for National Statistics



Evolutionary Economic Geography

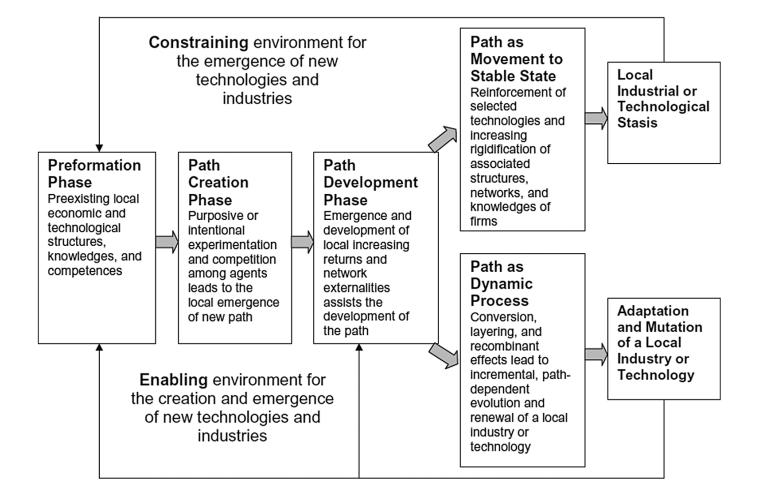
"...it is believed that experiences and competencies acquired over time by individuals and entities in particular localities to a large degree determine present configurations as well as future **regional trajectories**." (Kogler 2015: 705)

Key concepts:

- Path dependency
- Lock-in
- Adaptive capability
- Institutional thickness



A path dependence model of local industrial evolution (Martin 2010)



NBS

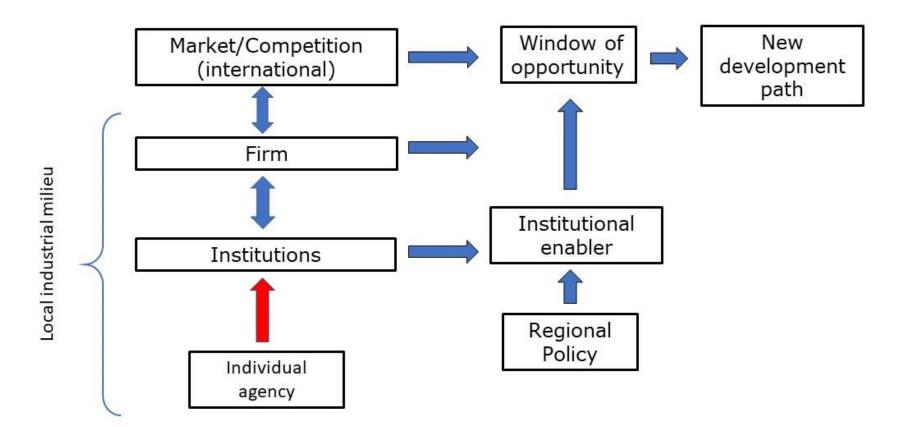
Path creation in evolutionary economic geography

- Martin (Roepke lecture 2010) critique of 'path dependency' as too frequently emphasising continuity over change – calls for a more evolutionary and institutionalist account;
- Doussard & Schrock (2015) the importance of firm, technological, place and market level contingencies in structuring uneven spatial development;
- Dawley et al (2015) regional policy and the multi-scalar state roles in new path creation; and
- Bristow & Healy (2015) use complex adaptive systems approach to explore the role of agency in regional development "*agents are co-evolving, constantly adapting to each other and their environment*"



A new model of path creation: Global, institutions, policy & agency

NBS



Rossiter 2023, Smith, Rossiter & McDonald-Junor 2017

Historical Perspectives on the (East) Midlands

"...*an area of debatable land* frequently subject to competing powers, especially between English and Dane in the tenth century..." (Rowlands, 1987; 5)

"... *the most unknown and neglected part of England* – the east midlands, the stretch of country from the Chilterns to the Trent." (W.G. Hoskins 1949)

".. *the "portion" of Britain left over* when other, more recognisable, regions – Yorkshire, Wales, South-East England and so on – were filled in." (Dury 1963, quoted in Hardill et al 2006)

"Within this area *the present economic character and nature of past development have created a definite regional identity*, which distinguishes the East Midlands from adjoining parts of the country." (D.M. Smith 1965)

"The East Midlands was significantly affected by industrialisation, but unlike 'classic industrial regions' such as the North-west or West Midlands, it *did not experience a concomitant growth in regional integration and identity*." (Townsend 2006; 291)

"through organisation, which is *an expression of policy rather than by any inherent qualities of the region*, the East Midlands... may be regarded as a 'functionally coherent' unit" (Edwards 1954;12)

NBS

K.C. Edwards' 'functionally coherent region'



NBS



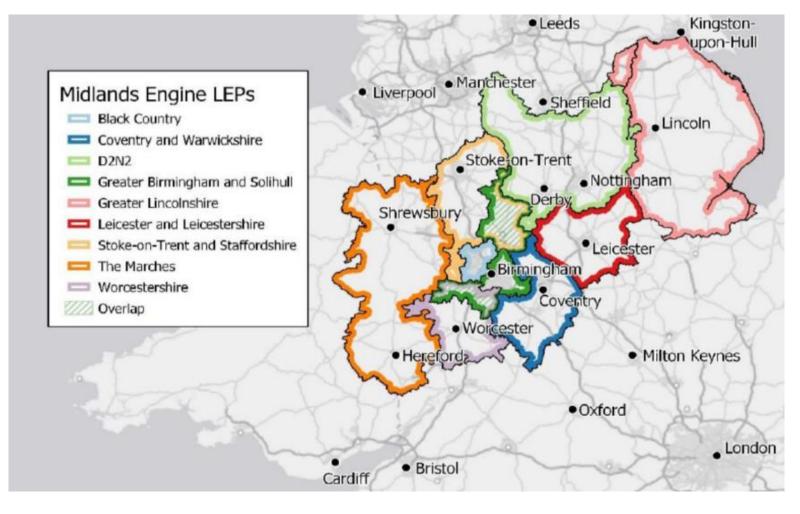
Map source: East Midlands Regional Office, Department for the Environment and Transport, 1981, UoN Geography Dept. Collection. Photo: University of Nottingham, Department of Geography.

The East Midlands Combined County Authority area



- The East Midlands Combined Country Authority (EMCCA) was formed in March 2024 to act as the strategic authority for the East Midlands area
- The authority is led by the new East Midlands Mayor, Claire Ward and has taken on powers over transport, housing, skills and education – alongside leading the economic strategy of the region
- The mayor has pledged to use the new powers and extra funds for EMCCA to build on the region's strengths and tackle its challenges to make the East Midlands more prosperous and fair, by supporting inclusive growth.

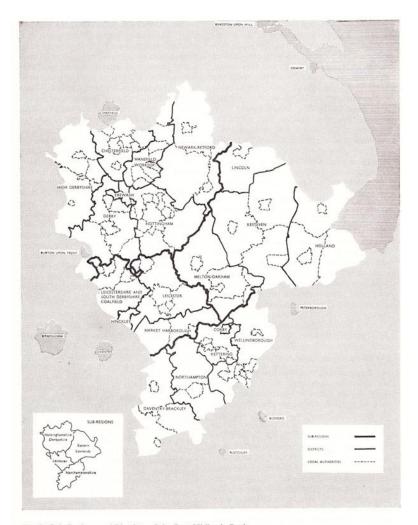
Midlands Local Enterprise Partnerships 2011-24

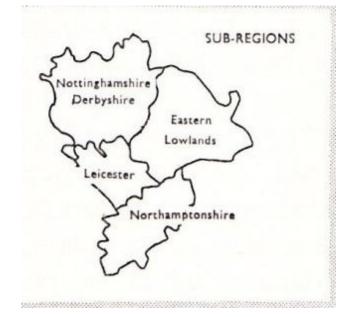




Source: produced by SQW, Licence 100030994, contains Ordnance Survey data, crown copyright and database right 2018

The East Midlands and sub-regions 1966



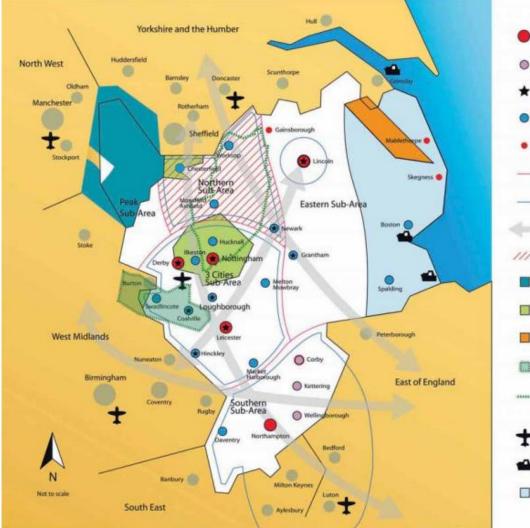


Source: The East Midlands Study, East Midlands Economic Planning Council, HMSO 1966

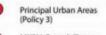
Fig. 3 Sub-Regions and Districts of the East Midlands Region The boundaries of districts and sub-regions follow local authority boundaries. See Appendix 3.



The functionally 'polycentric' region (Parr)



Regional Key Diagram

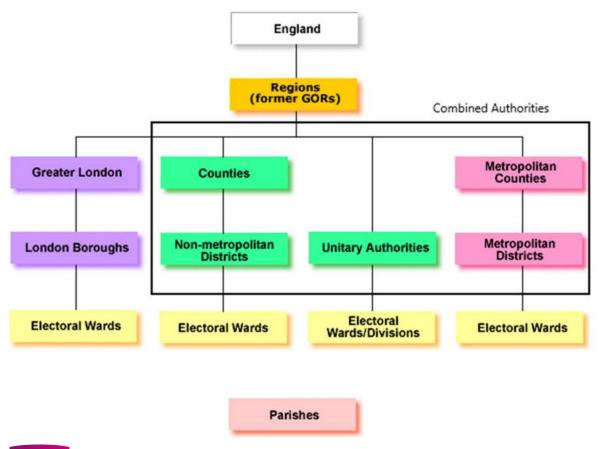


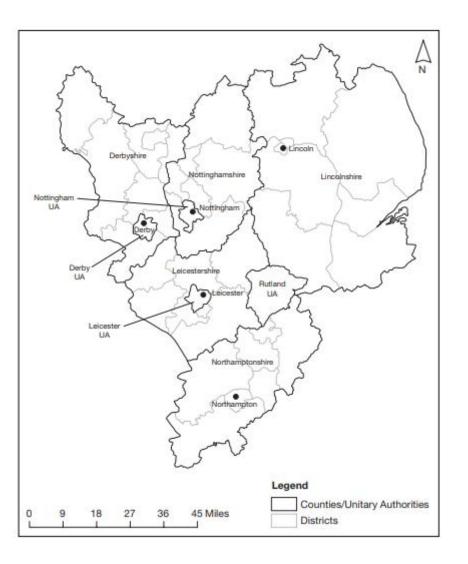
- MKSM Growth Towns (Policy 3)
- Growth Points (Policy 4, 7 & 12)
- Sub Regional Centres (Policy 3)
- Additional Regeneration Towns (Policy 19)
- Sub Area Boundaries (Policies 4 - 12)
- ----- Sub Regional Strategies (Section 4)
- Regional Transport Priorities (Policies 49 & 52)
- /// Northern Sub Area Regeneration Priority (Policies 7 & 19)
- Peak District National Park (Policies 8 - 10 & 31)
- Green Belt (Three Cities SRS Policy 2)
- Lincolnshire Wolds AONB (Policies 4 & 31)
- (3 Cities SRS Policy 5)
- Sherwood Forest Regional Park
 Area of Search (Northern SRS Policy 5)
- Airports (Policy 55)
- Ports (Policies 42, 43 & 54)
- Lincolnshire Coastal Strategy Area (Policy 5)

East Midlands Spatial Strategy, RPPG8 2009



Political complexity







Sources: Adapted from ONS nd; Hardill et al 2006

Implications (for the East Midlands...)

- The importance of local/regional institutional capacity
- Delivering on the promise of 'functional polycentricity'
- This requires a spatial imagination
- A structurally diverse region needs a growth and opportunities plan based on exploiting place-based synergies
- The mission is adaptive capability and inclusive growth
- The measure of success will be quality, accessible jobs at scale
- A product will be collective knowing and shared (regional) identity...





Thank you

