

# Reconciling networked and bounded regions; corridor planning and concentric green belt

Alan Mace & Alessandra Mossa, Geography & Environment, LSE

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# Today's presentation

- Regional planning in England as networks
- Green belt as regional policy – borders
- The London-Cambridge corridor; networks within borders
- Networks and borders

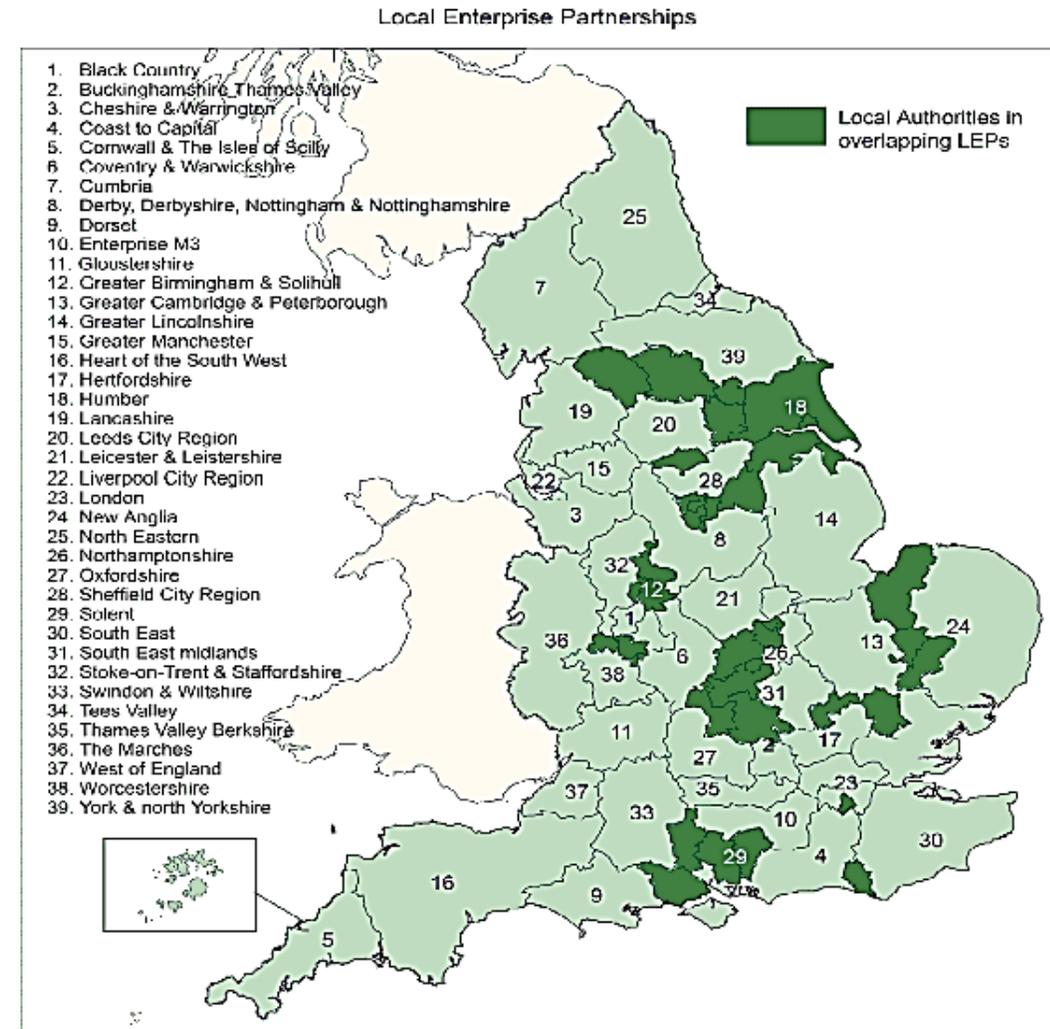
“...the interface between emergent spatial strategies and inherited social-spatial configurations” (Harrison 2015:55).

# Regional planning in England – networks

Local Enterprise Partnerships

Duty to Co-operate

Localism (inc. neighbourhood planning)



# Green belt as regional policy – boundaries

Post-Fordist state – more a reconfiguration than a withdrawal

“...the state holds an inherent capacity to decide which specific actors or institutional arrangements it is to favour in terms of handing over powers and allocating resources” (Galland 2012: 539)

Applies both to what it allocates and what it keeps



# Green belt as regional policy – boundaries

- 13% of England
- MGB 516,000 hectares
  - X3 the area of London
- NPPF about the right size



# Green belt as regional policy – boundaries

Regional policy - in all but name

Orphaned policy

New Towns, Industrial  
redistribution and green belt

Outcome - contains cities but  
dispersed regions



# The London – Cambridge ‘innovation’ corridor

“London and the East of England are the two fastest growing regions in the UK, and the London Stansted Cambridge corridor combines their strengths And potential

Nearly one in seven of the UK’s jobs are within a 10km radius of the corridor and a higher proportion of these jobs are in high-skill, high-growth sectors than nationwide

The region’s productivity 16 per cent above the UK average. The corridor supports 303,000 jobs in knowledge based Industries”

<http://www.lscgcommission.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/LSCC-Growth-Commission-Final-Report-full.pdf>

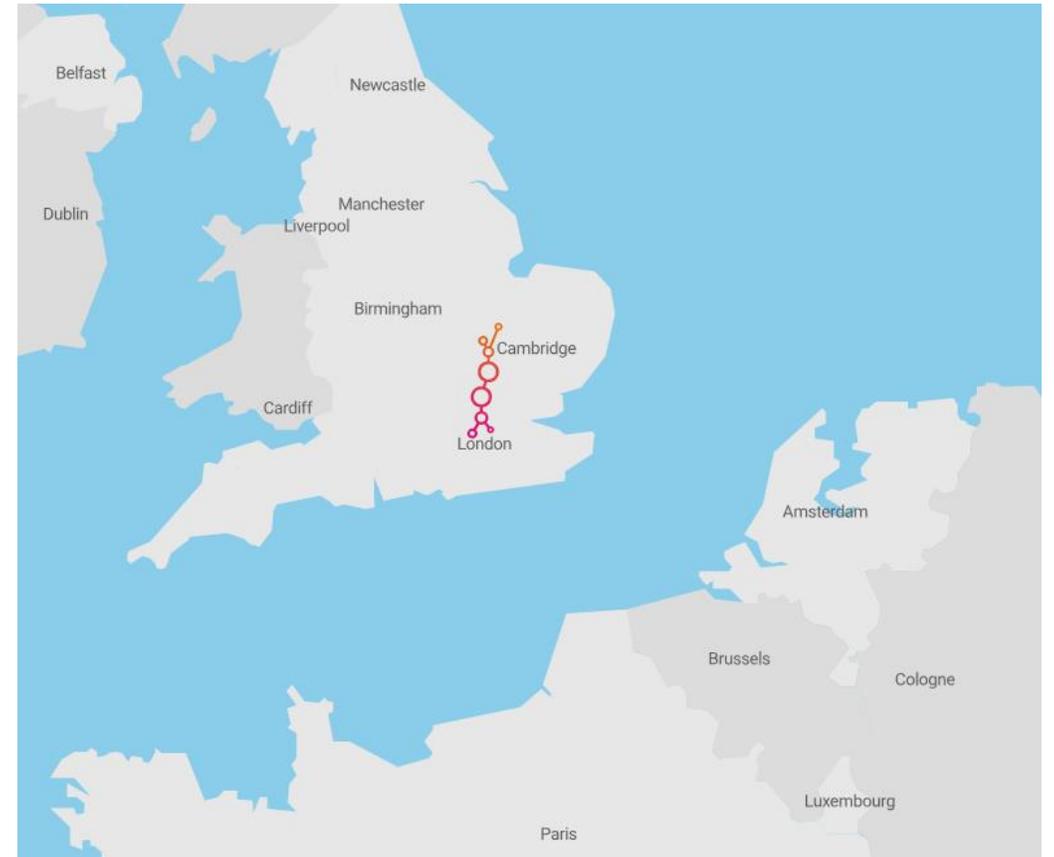


Image: <https://innovationcorridor.uk/>

# The London – Cambridge corridor

2036 vision

- An extensive, deep and well connected labour market for science and technology related skills and jobs, ...
- An education and skills system that provides a skilled, qualified workforce with the ability to be flexible and adapt and upgrade skills throughout a career
- A range of high quality housing options close to workplaces

<http://www.lscgrowthcommission.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/LSCC-Growth-Commission-Final-Report-full.pdf>

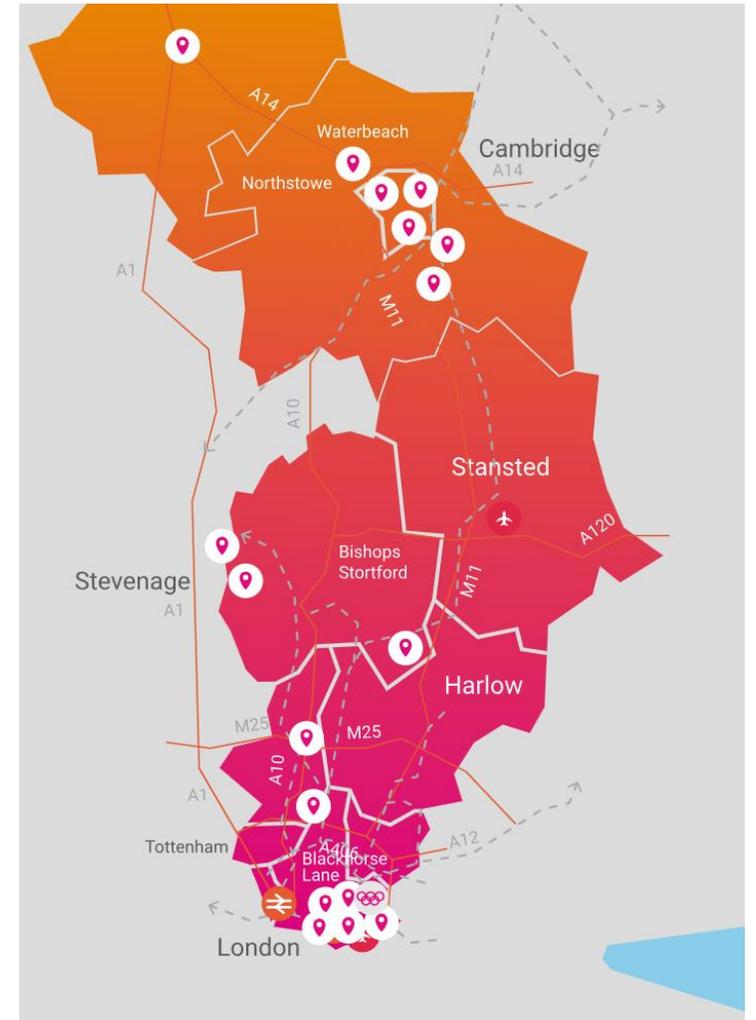


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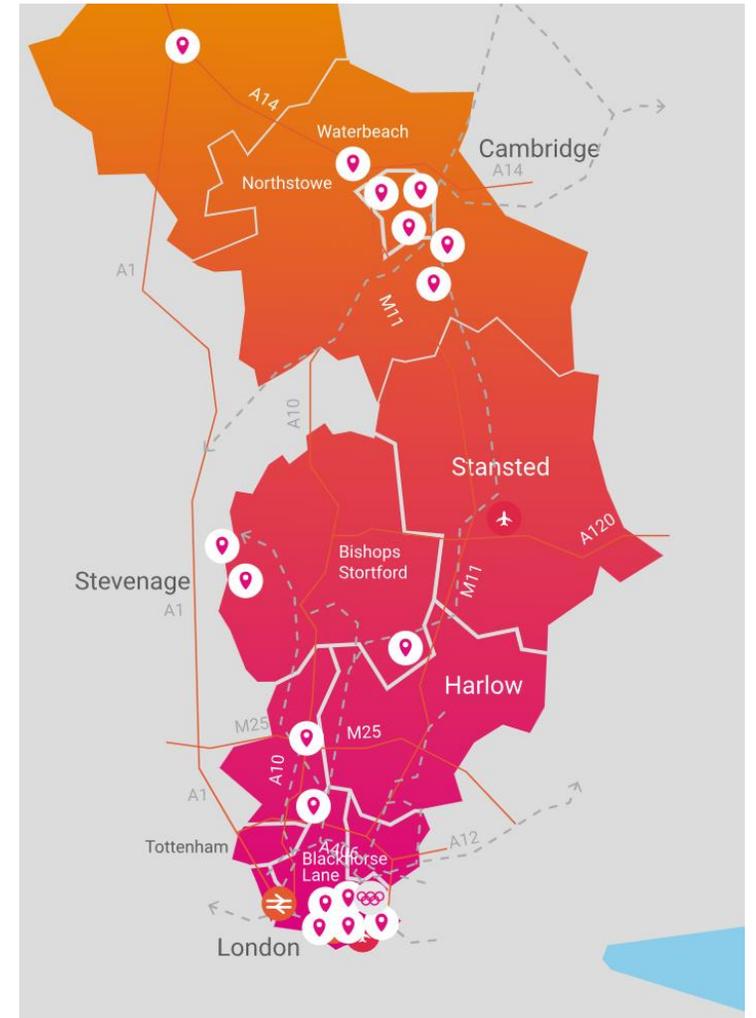
# The London – Cambridge corridor

Housing could be a limit

Need for new workspaces

Potential to trade off more land for housing in London with more land for commercial uses in the region

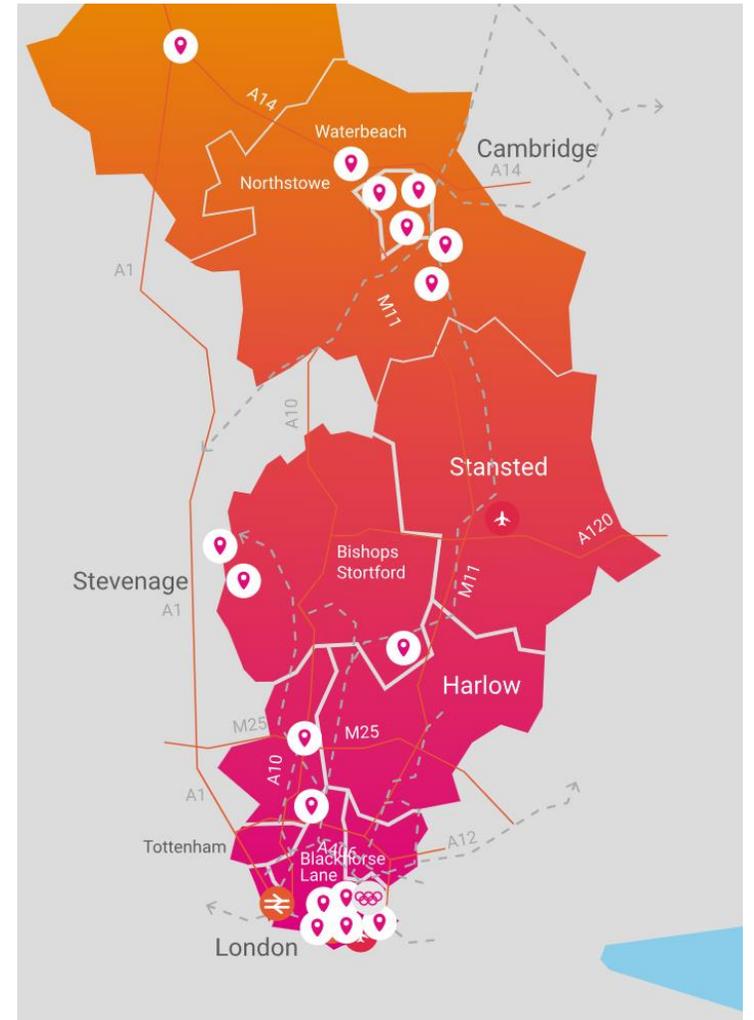
Where best to deliver development...



# The London – Cambridge corridor

LSCC claims making network working *within government regional GB policy* – ie weak as strategic planning entity for corridor

LSCC works around the Green Belt but some individual authorities have desire if not means to challenge it



# When networks meet borders

Green belt as a policy institution (Mace 2018)

Government will not be first mover on green belt reform

Strong networked corridor could make case to government for devolution of green belt



# When networks meet borders

How to establish sufficiently strong networks  
- able to withstand changes in situational factors  
(Gordon 2018)

The more a network seeks to plan across a  
'region' (and to challenge borders) the more to  
pull it apart

-case of waste partnerships in London

LSCC model works by avoiding the divisive



# When networks meet borders

Government encouragement/lead needed to produce networks strong enough to plan regionally (and to challenge government)

A 'super LEP' model where borders are chosen by networks (eg could overlap), top down volunteerism

If we were to lead on green belt reform, government less resistant to re-emerging regions than to green belt reform

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