



**Regional Planning Futures
TCPA
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Cllr David Parsons CBE



Introduction

- What kind of pressures are driving development in Britain in the first half of the 21st Century?
- How is the planning system dealing with these pressures at the moment?
- How could we do things better in the future?

Britain in the 21st Century

- The UK is increasingly part of a wider European and global economy
- Free movement of labour both within the UK and across the EU is enshrined in law, and underpins the European Single Market
- As a nation, we migrate and commute as never before - and the economy benefits as a result
- No locality in the UK can be considered an 'economic island'

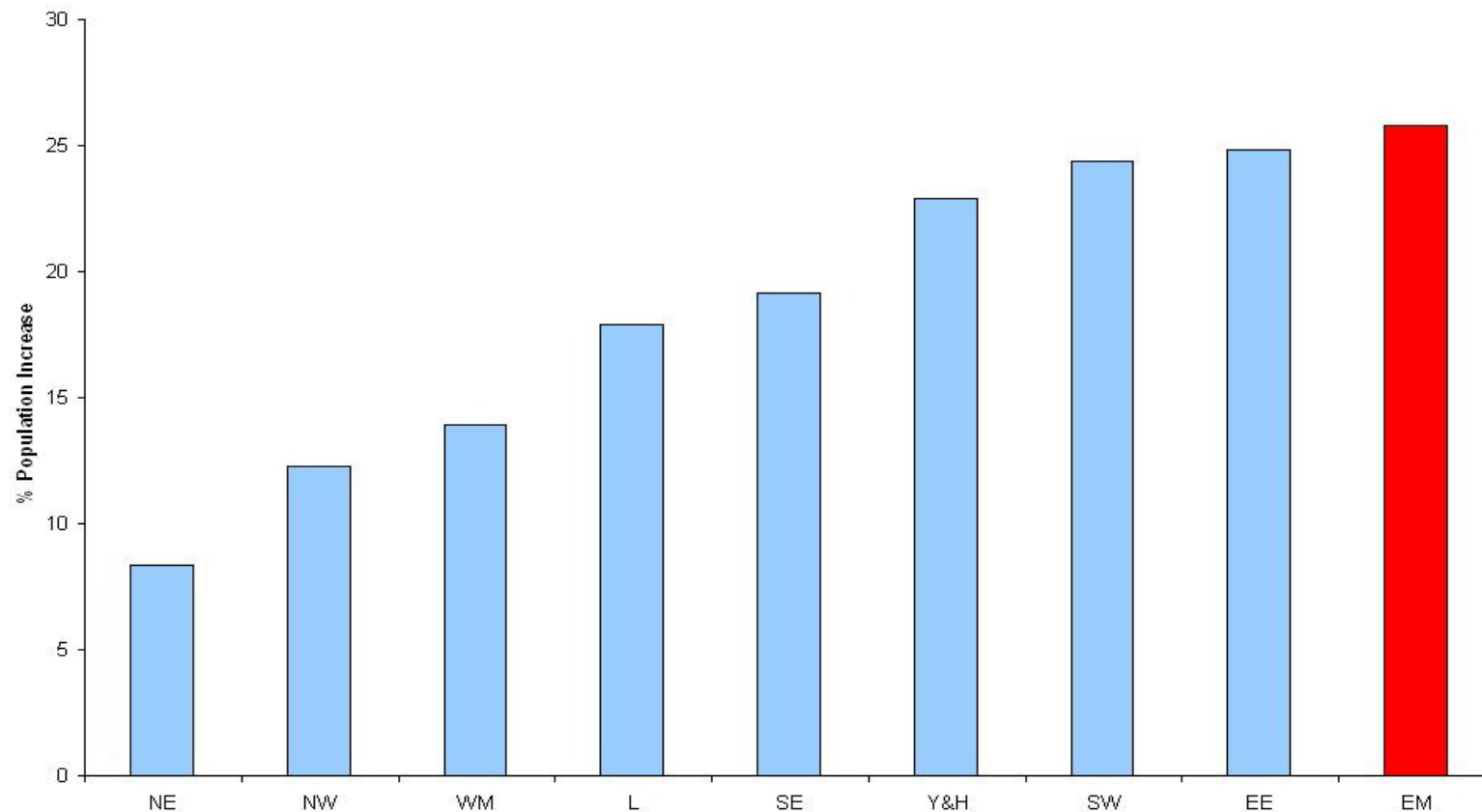
Britain in the 21st Century

- The UK is also an aging society – which places stresses on both existing housing stock and labour supply
- Whilst recent high levels of international migration are unlikely to continue over the short term, the UK labour market will continue to be attractive to young, skilled workers from abroad

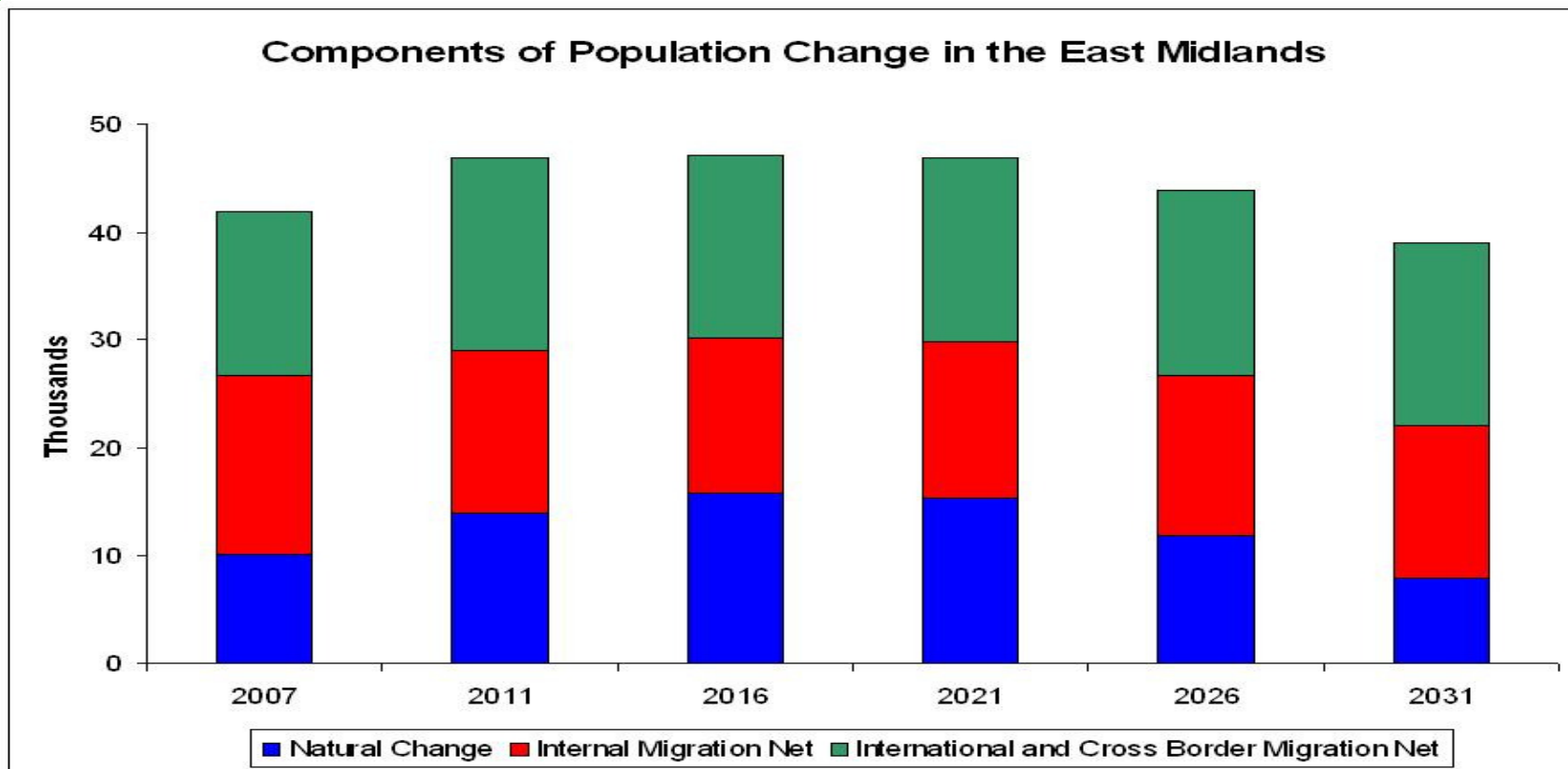
Britain in the 21st Century

- Growth and change is happening at unprecedented rate – in particular the East Midlands
- The influence of London and the wider south-east is spreading north (which could be accelerated if HS2 proposals are realised)
- Despite urban regeneration policies, there continues to be strong patterns of out-migration into rural areas

Percentage Population Increase 2006-31 by Region (ONS)



Components of Population Growth in the East Midlands (ONS)



**Net Average Migration 2001-05
between the East Midlands
Housing Market Areas and
English Regions**


NB. This excludes International Migration

Key to Map Features

 East Midlands Regional Plan Area

Net Flows >500 Average Migrants
2001-05

 501 - 750

 751 - 1000


 1001 - 1580

Housing Market Areas

 Central Lincolnshire

 Coastal Lincolnshire

 Derby


 Leicester and Leicestershire

 North Northamptonshire

 Northern

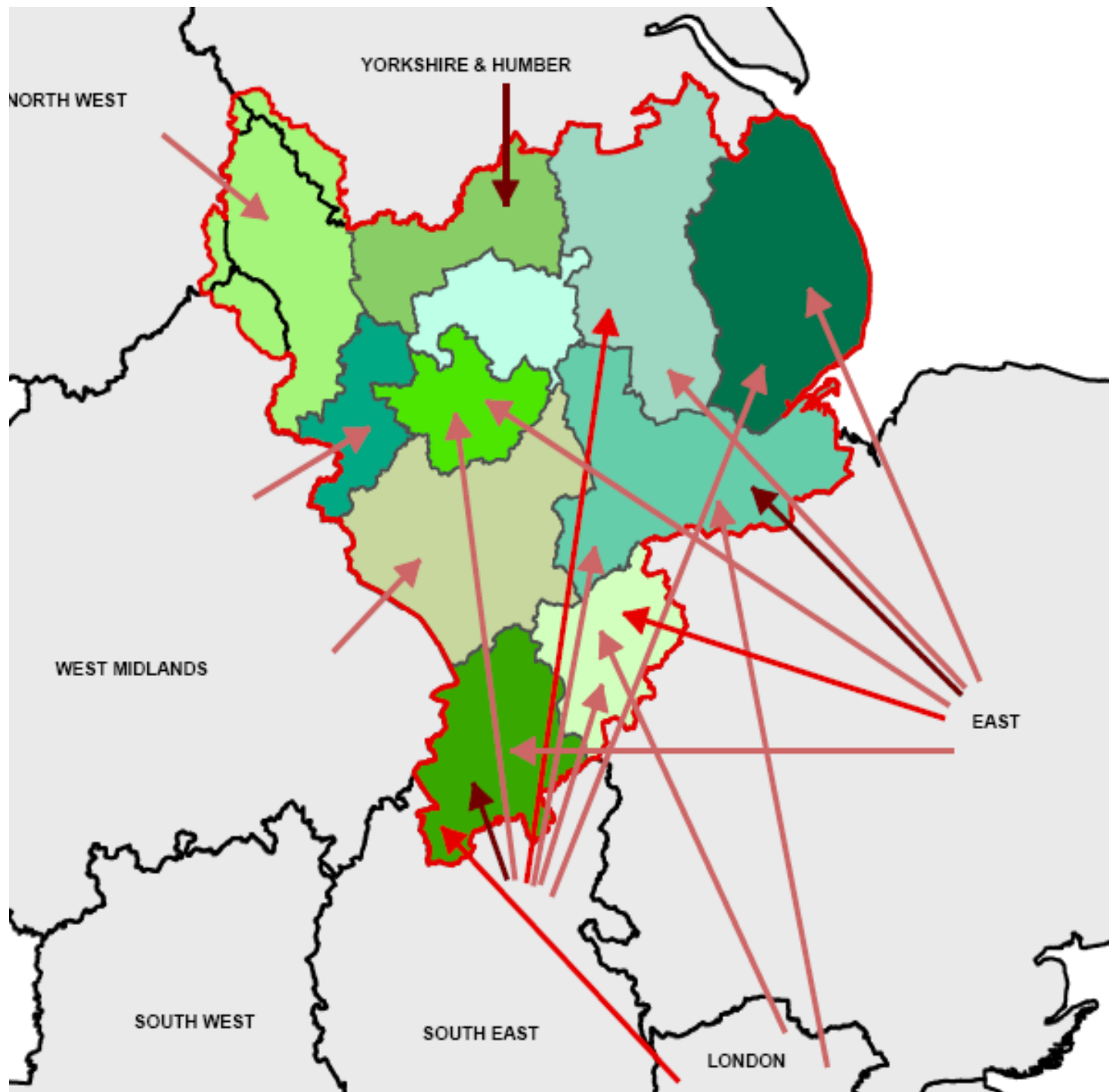
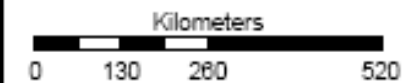
 Nottingham Core

 Nottingham Outer

 Peak, Dales and Park

 Peterborough Partial

 West Northamptonshire



Britain in the 21st Century

- We also need to manage our transition to a low carbon economy and to deal with the inevitable impacts of climate change
- As well as having the fastest growing population, the East Midlands also has the highest proportion of Flood Zone 3 area in England
- There are some particularly challenging flood hazard and regeneration issues on the Lincolnshire Coast.

Current Planning Arrangements

- Under the current system the plan making function is split between Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks
- Whilst there must be a strategic dimension to plan making – the current regional system is seen as being too rigid and top-down by many local politicians
- SNR proposals will offer a clearer mechanism for local authority involvement, but the decision making process is now shared with the RDA

A Future for Strategic Regional Planning?

- We need to find ways for councils to work together across boundaries and tiers, to deal with the national and global economic pressures we are facing
- Past ways of working, such as structure plans, are unlikely to be effective in the future
- Joint plan-making between local authorities (as in Northamptonshire) is clearly a good thing, but also needs to show that it can deal with strategic issues at the appropriate level

A Future for Strategic Regional Planning?

- We need to develop an effective approach to strategic planning built on local leadership which recognises genuine cross-border strategic issues
- We need to be flexible about boundaries and processes – current GO boundaries seldom relate to natural physical and economic boundaries
- We need to ensure that strategic planning is a local authority led and owned process

Concluding Comments

- Planning decisions can be hugely controversial - ask any local councillor
- The local dimension to plan-making is crucial
- However, strategic considerations also have to be addressed in what is becoming an ever more complex and integrated world.