



THE BUSINESS BOARD

BUSINESS BOARD	AGENDA ITEM NO: 2.3
27 JANUARY 2020	PUBLIC REPORT

LOCAL GROWTH FUND MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1. The purpose of the report is to present the draft Monitoring & Evaluation Plan for Local Growth Funding to the Business Board and to seek agreement to it being recommended to the Combined Authority Board for incorporation into the Combined Authority's Monitoring and Evaluation Framework. The Constitution reserves decisions relating to the adoption or amendment of the Framework to the Combined Authority Board.
- 1.2. The Combined Authority Monitoring and Evaluation Framework was presented to Business Board at its meeting on 29th September 2019 after being approved by the Combined Authority Board and the Business Board agreed to extend the Framework to include all Business Board activities. The Local Growth Fund Monitoring and Evaluation Plan being presented in this report would form an Appendix to the Combined Authority's Monitoring and Evaluation Framework.
- 1.3. It is a requirement of the Combined Authority's central government funding that a Monitoring & Evaluation Framework is in place. The purpose of the Framework is to support effective decision making and to measure the impact of investment decisions, providing a stronger evidence base on value for money.

<u>DECISION REQUIRED</u>	
Lead Member:	Austen Adams, Interim Chair of the Business Board
Lead Officer:	John T Hill, Director Business & Skills
Forward Plan Ref: N/A	Key Decision: No
<p>The Business Board is invited to:</p> <p>(a) Recommend to the Combined Authority Board the incorporation of the proposed Local Growth Fund Monitoring & Evaluation Plan into the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework and to grant the Monitoring Officer delegated authority to make any consequential amendments required to the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework.</p>	

(b) Note the resource implications for effective Monitoring & Evaluation to be delivered	
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2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The current Monitoring and Evaluation Framework was adopted by the Combined Authority Board at its meeting on 27th March 2019. This was approved at the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority Board meeting in March 2019. At its meeting on 29th September 2019 the Business Board agreed to extend the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework to cover all the Business Board's activities.
- 2.2. The business board (and LEPs in general) are responsible for a significant amount of public funding to drive inclusive growth, increase prosperity and improve productivity¹. Current guidance is clear that that Business Board must make clear reference to a document which sets out its approach to Monitoring and Evaluation with the ideal being a joint approach together with the Combined Authority (where applicable).
- 2.3. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) is a critical component of an effective performance management regime. Monitoring supports the effective tracking of a scheme or series of policy interventions ensuring that intended outputs are being achieved. Evaluation quantifies and assesses outcomes, including how schemes were delivered and whether the investment generated had the intended impact and ultimately delivered value for money.
- 2.4. The over-arching strategy ensures local ownership for the commitment to M&E and also provides a robust guide as to how the Combined Authority and Business Board aims to carry out its own M&E. It will continue to be shaped by ongoing dialogue with the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and other relevant government departments as well as sources of best practice for evaluating schemes to encourage local economic growth.
- 2.5. The draft Monitoring and Evaluation plan for the Local Growth Fund detailed in this paper and at Appendix 1 will form an annex/appendix to the approved M&E strategy.

Local Growth Fund Monitoring and Evaluation Plan Delivery

- 2.6. The Monitoring & Evaluation Plan has been developed for the Local Growth Deal (LGD) to ensure robust and effective practices are in place for the measurement of output and outcomes of projects funded and the value for money they offer.

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https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/768356/National_Local_Growth_Assurance_Framework.pdf (page 49)

We have included the leverage elements that have been achieved as a result of LGD funds being made available in the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) area.

- 2.7. The plan has been thematically organised, splits the evaluation phases of work between Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough Local Enterprise Partnership awarded contracts as the first tranche to be evaluated and the Combined Authority awarded contracts to follow in second tranche to be evaluated. The plan outlines dissemination and publication routes for case studies and lessons learned.
- 2.8. All projects will be required to complete an evaluation. The basis of the evaluation will be to build upon input, output and outcome monitoring data and consider if all the strategic objectives of the project including wider economic benefit had been achieved in accordance with the original business case and assumptions used in the appraisal process. In the design of evaluation plans at project or programme level there should be reference to the HMT Magenta book and other methodologies.
- 2.9. It is recognised that the specific outcomes that will be monitored and measured will differ depending on the type of intervention, with specific focus placed on those outcomes most relevant to the project objectives. Some projects will report on core LGF outputs of jobs, homes and learners; others will have a wider range of outputs and outcomes agreed at the approval stage or through a contract variation
- 2.10. The delivery of the plan is in two phases – Phase One: first tranche of projects to be evaluated will be the historical projects for which delivery has been completed and project has or is ready to provide a project closure report. Phase Two: current projects in live delivery and those being approved/contracted between now and the end of the LGF programme – once completed and ready to provide a project closure report.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1. The cost of Monitoring and Evaluation activity will need to be met from within the Local Growth Fund management costs plus the planned expenditure of each project however, as live Local Growth Funded projects are required to report on their outcomes quarterly already, it is not expected that this will result in a further impact on project budgets. There is a management cost to evaluate the older completed historic projects which again will be included in the management costs of the Local Growth Fund.
- 3.2. Being able to show the efficacy and impact of the Business Board's investments will enable a positive case to be made to Government in discussions regarding the allocation and responsibility for future funding streams.

4.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1. The Local Growth Fund Monitoring and Evaluation Plan would be incorporated into the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework as an appendix. The Constitution reserves decisions relating to the adoption and amendment of the Framework to the Combined Authority Board.
- 4.2. The Monitoring and Evaluation Framework forms part of the wider assurance framework for the Combined Authority.

5.0 SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. None not mentioned above.

6.0 APPENDICES

- 6.1. Appendix 1 – Local Growth Fund Monitoring & Evaluation plan

<u>Source Documents</u>	<u>Location</u>
Combined Authority Monitoring and Evaluation Framework	https://cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/assets/Uploads/ME-Framework-Mar-2019.pdf
Combined Authority Business Plan 2019/20	http://cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/assets/Uploads/CPCA-Business-Plan-2019-20-dps.pdf
LEP Network Advice to LEPs on Evaluation [October 2019]	
LEP Network LGF Best Practice Guidance – Output Monitoring [April 2019]	