



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& PETERBOROUGH**
COMBINED AUTHORITY

BUSINESS BOARD	AGENDA ITEM NO: 4.5
29 SEPTEMBER 2019	PUBLIC REPORT

MONITORING AND EVALUATION FRAMEWORK

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1. The purpose of the report is to present the 2019 Monitoring & Evaluation Framework for the Combined Authority to the Business Board and to seek board approval for it to be extended to cover all Business board activities.
- 1.2. 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 will be to support effective decision making and to measure the impact of investment decisions, giving us a stronger evidence base on value for money.

<u>DECISION REQUIRED</u>	
Lead Member:	Mayor James Palmer
Lead Officer:	Paul Raynes, Director of Strategy & Assurance
Forward Plan Ref: N/A	Key Decision: No
<p>The Business Board is recommended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) Agree the extension of the 2019 Monitoring & Evaluation Framework to include all Business Board Activities.(b) Notes the resource implications for effective Monitoring & Evaluation to be delivered	

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1. As part of a wider commitment to 'assurance' made to central government, a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework was prepared for the Combined Authority prior to inception. Developed versions were also submitted during 2017 and 2018. This latest version reflects the updated Combined Authority investment strategy and incorporates (positive) feedback received from central government on the autumn 2018 version. This was approved at the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority Board meeting in March 2019.
- 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. This strategy ensures local ownership for the commitment to M&E and also provides a robust guide as to how the CPCA 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.

Commitment

- 2.5. The commitments made in the M&E framework provide reassurance to funding departments and the public on the following points:
 - That the CA and Business Board will take steps to effectively demonstrate the impact of locally devolved funding and the associated benefits being achieved;
 - That the CA and Business Board will support external evaluation requirements. Specifically, M&E will be used to independently demonstrate

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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)

local progress and delivery;

- That the CA and Business Board will use M&E to provide an effective feedback loop for the Authority and relevant stakeholders.

- That the CA and Business Board will develop an evidence base to support effective M&E work.

2.6. The framework sets out the detailed roles and responsibilities needed in order to achieve this commitment. In particular, the roles of the relevant Director within the CA and BB, programme managers and the additional support provided by the County Council's Research Team (part of the wider Cambridgeshire Insight Partnership).

Methodology

2.7. The methodology section maintains consistency with HM Treasury guidance, in particular the emphasis is on designing in M&E activity at an early stage of any programme. The choice of evaluation approach should be based on a statement of the policy's underlying theory or *logic model* and stated objectives – how the policy was supposed to have its effect on its various target outcomes. The more complex the underlying logic, the more important it will be to account for other factors which might affect the outcome. Having a clear idea about the questions that need to be addressed and the required type(s) of evaluation at an early stage will help inform the design of the evaluation and the expertise required therefore each funded project will be expected to have an accompanying 'logic model' at the outset.

Application

2.8. The M&E framework is aligned to the current business plan for the Combined Authority and outlines a tiered approach towards the project portfolio. The twelve key projects (see section four of the Business Plan 2019-20) will be subject to comprehensive external evaluation and the M&E framework includes a *logic model* for each of these. Other projects will have an M&E approach in proportion to expenditure / resources invested, with less involvement from external bodies.

2.9. M&E is being implemented with a standardised approach to project management for the Combined Authority. Project monitoring is in place to measure the delivery of the 'inputs' and (where appropriate) the 'outputs'. The Research Team are also collating baseline measurements e.g. an understanding of rail passenger movements against which to measure progress. Input has already been gained from the government-sponsored What Works Centre For Local Economic Growth, including a training session for project managers, to support the Combined Authority in meeting best practice standards.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1. The cost of M&E activity will need to be met from within the planned expenditure of each project however, as 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.

4.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1. The Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy 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 – Combined Authority Monitoring & Evaluation Strategy 2019

<u>Background papers</u>	<u>Location</u>
Combined Authority Business Plan 2019/20	http://cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/assets/Uploads/CPCA-Business-Plan-2019-20-dps.pdf