

# LOCAL GROWTH PLAN

Kent & Medway

Suggested Approach &  
Next Steps

# LOCAL GROWTH PLAN

The Government has tasked mayoral areas to produce a Local Growth Plan to illustrate how they would contribute to the national growth mission.

Mayoral areas will have a statutory duty to produce these 10 year plans.

The purpose of LGPs will be to:

- Focus on local levers to drive growth including sectoral clusters and an improved local business environment
- Focus on high-value and high-productivity activities e.g. exports and key growth sectors
- Set a pipeline of investment opportunities
- Agree local growth priorities with government - aligning departmental activities centrally.

Although Kent & Medway will not be part of the Devolution Priority Programme, KCC wishes to produce a LGP to set out key priorities for government.

The intention is to retain the Kent & Medway Economic Framework as the primary economic strategy document, alongside an LGP that will focus on high-growth sectors and investment.

# STRUCTURE

- **Foreword and link to existing and emerging K&M strategies** including: KMEF, Spatial Development Plan, Get Kent & Medway Working Plan, LSIP.
- **Economic Evidence Base** (strengths, opportunities, USPs, opportunities afforded by significant housing developments)
- **High-Growth Sectors Snapshots and Cluster Potential**
- **Investible Propositions** (thematic annexes - sectors, skills/training, infrastructure (energy, transport, commercial space, strategic sites)) - including investment sources
- **Recommendations & Actions** (including economic benefits that will be unlocked, investment needed (private and public))
- **Next Steps** (asks of government, timelines)

# KEY HIGH-GROWTH SECTORS IN KENT & MEDWAY\*

## Creative & Digital

Creative & Digital has been identified as an initial focus sector given the strong concentration of high-productivity organisations across the entire county. This is also an identified growth sector in Invest 2035.

## Agri-Tech, Food & Drink

This is not a priority sector within Invest 2035, but remains a strong focus for the county given its unique, differentiated assets in the sector and the opportunity for innovation in the space.

## Life Sciences

Remains a core sector of focus for Kent & Medway with multiple strong clusters of Life Science businesses operating across the county spatial geography. Also a priority growth sector in Invest 2035.

## Additional Sectors

Additional sectors may be identified as the economic data analysis takes place. We have tentatively designated Clean Energy & Maritime and Advanced Manufacturing as potential high growth sectors to focus on.

\*subject to change based on data analysis



# Kent & Medway Economic Framework

## Local Growth Plan

High growth sectors

Investible Propositions

### Business Growth

Innovation Partnership

Made Smarter Programme

Growth Hub

Kent & Medway Business Fund

### Skills

Local Skills Improvement Plan

Employment Task Force

Skills Bootcamps

### Infrastructure

Local Transport Plan

Spatial Development Plan

### Health & Work

Strategic Partnership for Health & the Economy

Connect to Work

Local Get Britain Working Plan

Integrated Care Strategy

Integrated Strategy for Work & Health

### Place

Inward Investment and Visitor Economy Services

Create South East

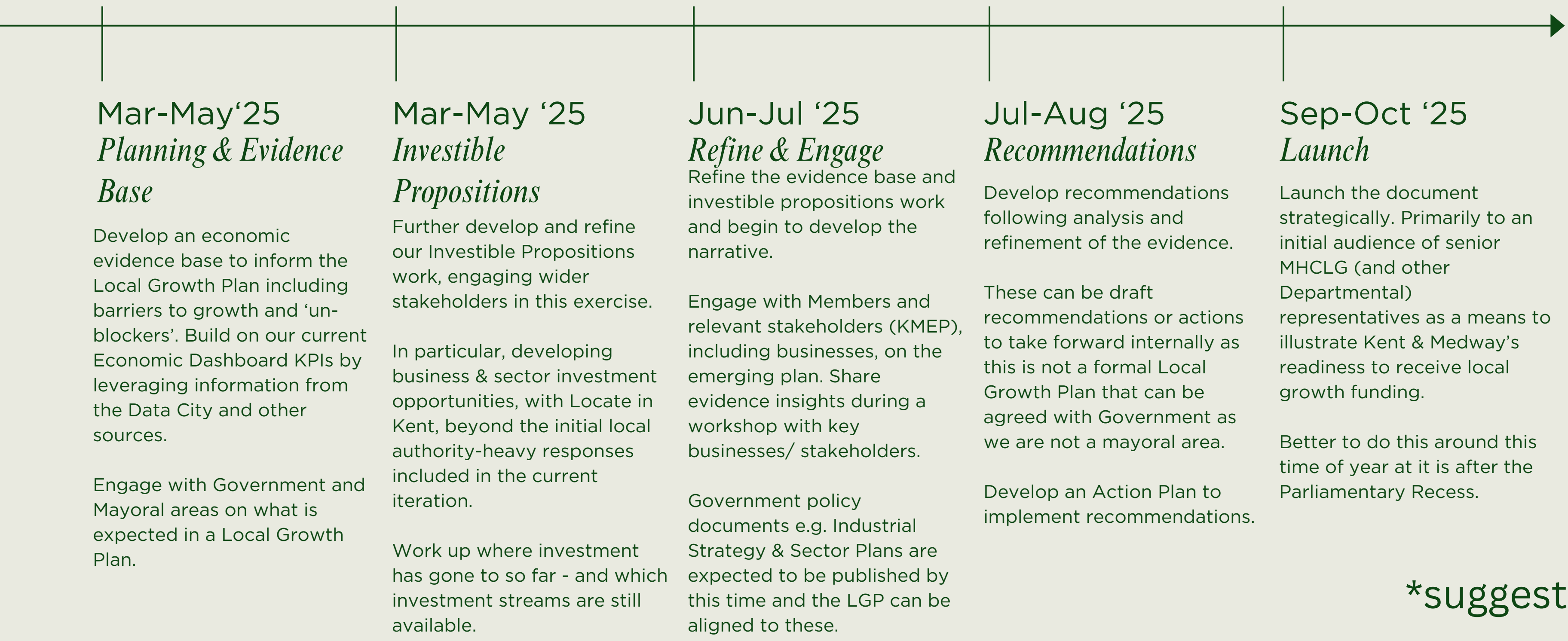
The South East Creative Economy Network

Creative Kent

Creative Medway

Rural Partnership

# DEVELOPMENT TIMELINE\*



\*suggested

# NEXT STEPS

- Agree approach, including development timeline, with Medway and KCC G&C Director.
- Agreed proposal to go to a meeting of KCC & MC leaders, including Liz Gibney representing KMEP.
- If agreed, proposal to go to KMEP on 3rd April 2025.
- When agreed, Alex and Sarah to continue economic evidence base and develop policy recommendation development (engage with devolved areas, government and Locate in Kent).
- Internal discussions required with Medway colleagues, Corporate Policy and wider GET colleagues.
- Ongoing external discussions required with key KMEP, BAB stakeholders and Sector Representatives.