# GROWEE E

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\*

## Mar-May'25 Planning & Evidence Base

Develop an economic evidence base to inform the Local Growth Plan including barriers to growth and 'unblockers'. Build on our current Economic Dashboard KPIs by leveraging information from the Data City and other sources.

Engage with Government and Mayoral areas on what is expected in a Local Growth Plan.

## Mar-May '25 Investible Propositions

Further develop and refine our Investible Propositions work, engaging wider stakeholders in this exercise.

In particular, developing business & sector investment opportunities, with Locate in Kent, beyond the initial local authority-heavy responses included in the current iteration.

Work up where investment has gone to so far - and which investment streams are still available.

### Jun-Jul '25 Refine & Engage

Refine the evidence base and investible propositions work and begin to develop the narrative.

Engage with Members and relevant stakeholders (KMEP), including businesses, on the emerging plan. Share evidence insights during a workshop with key businesses/ stakeholders.

Government policy documents e.g. Industrial Strategy & Sector Plans are expected to be published by this time and the LGP can be aligned to these.

#### Jul-Aug '25 Recommendations

Develop recommendations following analysis and refinement of the evidence.

These can be draft recommendations or actions to take forward internally as this is not a formal Local Growth Plan that can be agreed with Government as we are not a mayoral area.

Develop an Action Plan to implement recommendations.

#### Sep-Oct '25 *Launch*

Launch the document strategically. Primarily to an initial audience of senior MHCLG (and other Departmental) representatives as a means to illustrate Kent & Medway's readiness to receive local growth funding.

Better to do this around this time of year at it is after the Parliamentary Recess.

\*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.