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# SQW

*\*\*DRAFT FOR REVIEW\*\**

## Independent Evaluation of Local Growth Interventions

National Evaluation Framework

April 2017

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# **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**SQW**

## Purpose & context of the evaluation (1)

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- The purpose of the 'National Evaluation Panel' is to “***evaluate the impact of the locally-appraised interventions on economic growth***” to inform the Gateway 1 review
  - The 'interventions' are those supported through the Investment Funds (x11) agreed with each Locality in devolution/growth/city deals
  - The 'National Evaluation Panel' is the appointed consortium, led by SQW Ltd
- This will be delivered through
  - The development of monitoring and evaluation frameworks – a National Framework and in turn Locality Frameworks
  - The agreement of evaluation plans for each Locality, and delivery of evaluation research by the consortium, informed by monitoring data which will be collected by the Localities
  - Reports on the impact of interventions at the first five-year Gateway Reviews

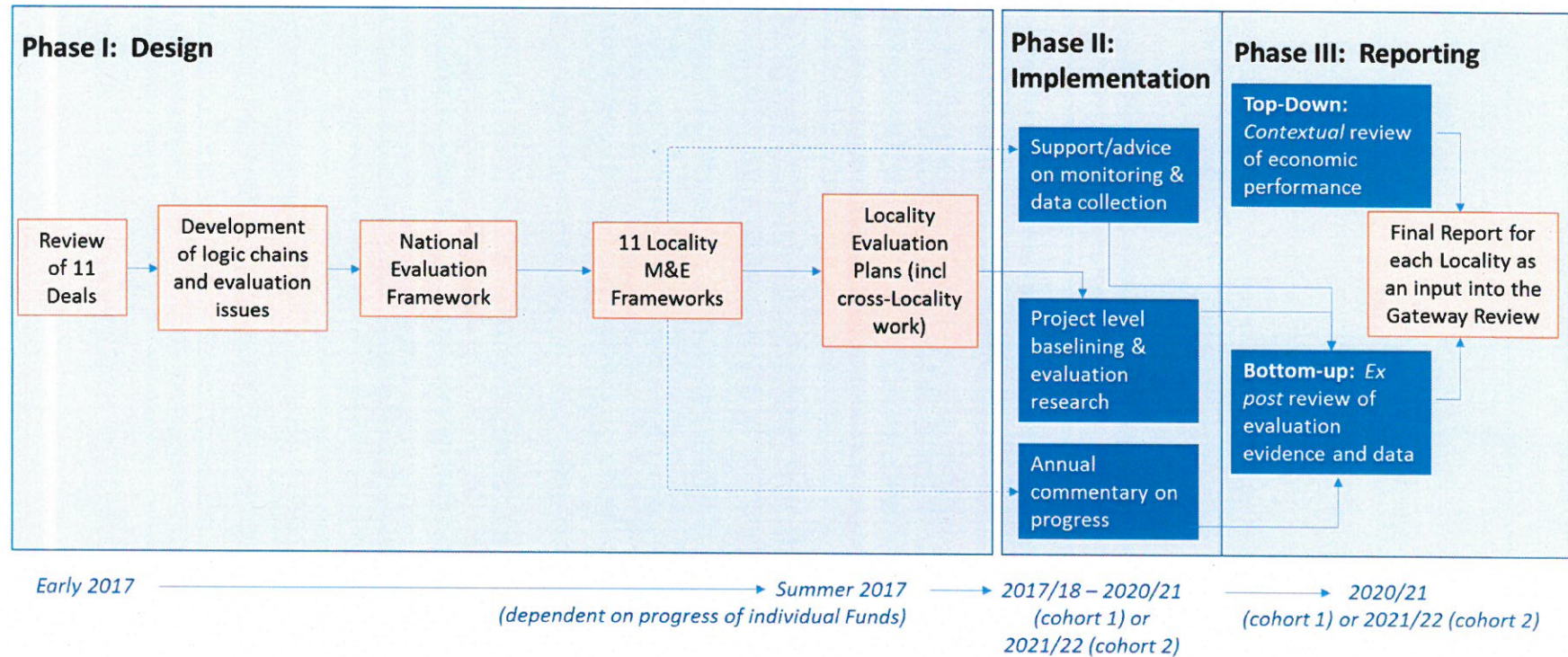
## Purpose & context of the evaluation (2)

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- There will be a '*programme of evaluation research*' that includes
  - Evaluations in each Locality, which reflect the interventions delivered in that place
  - Using consistent methods for similar interventions
  - Cross-cutting workstreams delivered in parallel across the Localities, complementing the intervention-level evaluations
- The Panel is not
  - Making recommendations to Ministers/officials on future allocations
  - Evaluate the 'policy' of devolved Investment Funds, or the Government's wider devolution policy agenda



# Overview of approach



# Purpose of the National Evaluation Framework

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- The National Evaluation Framework aims to
  - **Establish the overall approach and principles for the evaluation of the Funds**, to provide consistency for activity undertaken at a Locality-level in subsequent Phase of the work
  - **Develop high-level theories of change and logic models**, identifying how and why activity supported through the Funds is expected to generate benefits, to provide a basis for the development of tailored materials at a Locality-level
  - **Set out the common indicators and data sources to be used for monitoring and evaluation**, providing consistency within and across Localities for similar interventions supported by the Funds
  - **Identify potential evaluation approaches, issues in identifying the counterfactual, and criteria for selection of approaches**, to inform evaluation planning and delivery at a Locality-level
  - **Outline the purpose of and approach to the complementary cross-cutting workstreams to be delivered by the Consortium**, and how these will be used alongside the intervention-level evaluation to inform the Gateway Reviews



## Guiding principles arising from the scoping phrase

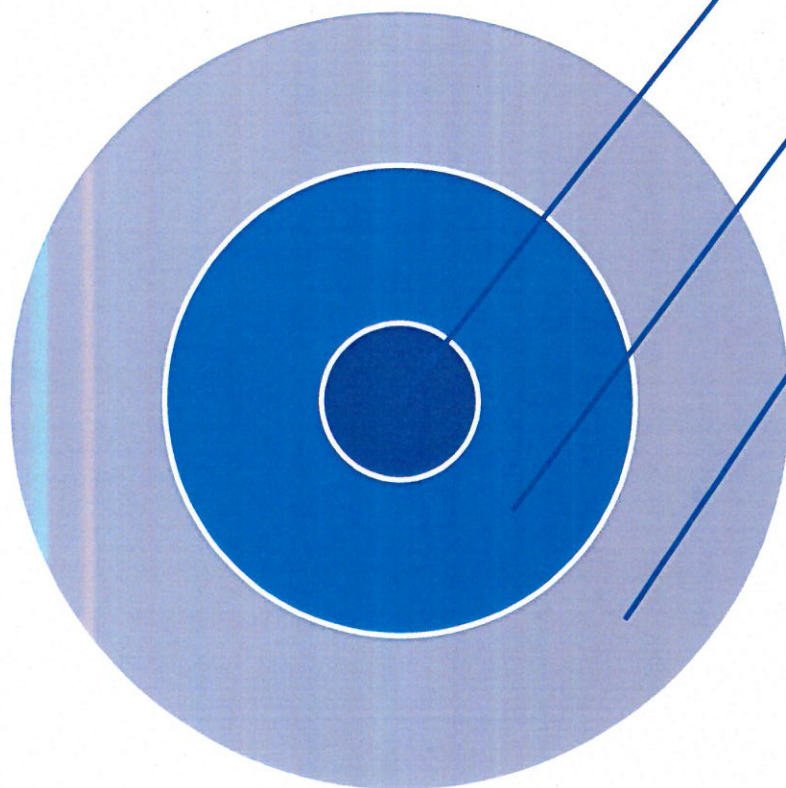
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1. The local frameworks and plans will be developed at times which fit with the development of projects in each locality
2. The national framework will enable consistency across localities where interventions are similar
3. The national and local frameworks are focussed on the impact being achieved through the investment funds
4. The impact report for Gateway 1 will look beyond GVA to also assess progress made in programme delivery and wider strategic benefits
5. Elements of the framework can be combined to reflect that some interventions are mutually re-enforcing
6. The assessment of overall impact will not use locality wide econometric modelling to assess the difference made to area-wide economic performance
7. Where the Investment Fund is used to lever / borrow other monies, the evaluation focus will be defined quite narrowly on direct, first round affects generated from the Investment Fund



# Components of the National Evaluation Framework

*3 workstreams, providing a mix of quantitative & qualitative evidence for the Gateway Review ...*



Impact Evaluation  
of Interventions  
(& on-going  
monitoring to  
track progress)

- Grouping by theme / intervention type to develop logic models
- Identification of evaluation issues & approaches

Capacity  
Development &  
Partnership  
Evaluation

- Strategic-level i.e. partnership, capacity & engagement **benefits of 'the Fund'**
- Project-level i.e. these benefits from individual interventions

Contextual  
Economic  
Forecasting

- Forecasts pre-intervention to identify how the economy was expected to develop to Year 5 (& potentially beyond)
- Review actual out-turn at Year 5 to provide context for impact evaluation

*... underpinned by on-going engagement, incl. annual learning event with Localities to feed-back into delivery; and reporting, incl. baseline and light-touch annual reviews, and reports one-year out and for Gateway Review*



# Impact Evaluation – Intervention Themes Structure (1)

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- Framework developed ‘bottom-up’ based on actual / planned interventions across Localities
  - But, reflecting uncertainty & the types of interventions that may potentially be delivered to ensure flexibility
- Two tier structure
  - Core Themes - 4 (Transport, People, Infrastructure, and Enterprise and Innovation)
  - Core Intervention Areas x14
  - Plus ‘Other’ activity-types, present in a number of Localities
- Logic models developed at Core Intervention Area level
  - Identifying ToC, indicators & potential evaluation approaches
  - Full set provided in the framework
  - Are able to inform potentially ‘hybrid’ logic models at local level where interventions contain a combination of activity-types

# Capacity Development & Partnership Evaluation

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- The purpose is to provide evidence for the Gateway Review on the effects of the Funds on local capacity development & partnership working
  - Complementing quantitative data from impact evaluation
- Research to be delivered at two levels – reflecting different knowledge & how effects may be realised
  - **Strategic-level:** focused on how ‘the Fund’ as a whole has led to changes in the behaviours, perspectives, & decisions of actors across the economic development landscape in the area
    - > Evidenced via (i) focused ‘partner survey’ across broad range of actors across the public & private sectors and (ii) in-depth consultations with up to 5 key partners/stakeholders (e.g. Deal lead officers, LEP or Combined Authority Board/Senior Management)
  - **Project-level:** focused on how the development and delivery of individual interventions (or groups of linked interventions) may have led to these types of changes
    - > Evidenced via in-depth consultations with project sponsors, leads & key local players (e.g. officials, councillors)



## Next Steps: Phase 1B and 1C

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- Phase 1B will involve developing Locality Frameworks
  - Tailored logic models covering activity by Intervention Areas
    - > Building on National Framework logic models and indicators, revised to reflect local theory of change, activity, outputs, outcomes
    - > May involve development of 'hybrid' logic models where interventions cover more than one Intervention Area
  - Prioritisation of interventions with Localities to agree where evaluation will be focused, if necessary
    - > In some Localities all activity may be evaluated
    - > In some Localities, some prioritisation may be required, taking into account proportionality of evaluation effort, resource availability
  - Consideration of potential evaluation methods, and viability taking into account nature and scale of local activity
- Phase 1C will involve developing Evaluation Plans
  - Agreeing methods for evaluation of prioritised interventions, timescales, & monitoring requirements