

The Assurance Framework

The Assurance Framework sets out:

- The roles and responsibilities of the MCA, Mayor and other elements of the decision making and delivery structure
- Key processes for ensuring accountability, probity, transparency, legal compliance and value for money
- How potential investments (e.g. programmes and projects) will be prioritised, appraised and approved
- **How the delivery, progress and impact of investments will be monitored, evaluated and communicated to the public**

Sits alongside key governance and policy documents – including Devolution Agreement and Settlement Letter, the MCA Constitution, the Financial Regulations, the Strategic Economic Plan (SEP), and Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

Assessment of Business Cases

All applications for funding are assessed against the HM Treasury Green Book 5 dimensions:

- **Strategic** – outlines contribution to the strategic objectives in the current Strategic Economic Plan, the Plan for Good Growth, the Local Authority Place Investment Plans and the contribution to national Government policy.
- **Economic** – impact on local & national economic growth, the social & environmental impacts, likely Benefit-Cost Ratio & added value.
- **Financial** – cost estimate & sources of funding for the project or programme.
- **Commercial** – proven marketplace for the project, commercial viability, social value, outcomes & procurement processes.
- **Management** – demonstration of deliverability, risk management & mitigation, statutory processes, State Aid & benefit realisation.

The Strategic Case – includes details of how the activity contributes to MCA’s Core Strategic Outcomes (Stronger, Fairer and Greener), as set out in the Strategic Economic Plan.

Theme	Indicator	Outcome	Contribution
Stronger – Achieve sustained, inclusive growth, underpinned by productivity gains that matches the UK average	Productivity per hour worked	A higher productivity workforce	
	High growth business	A larger proportion of high growth businesses	
	Business density	More businesses in the area, relative to population	
	Higher-level occupations	Higher proportion of employees in managerial, technical & professional occupations (SOC 1 – 3)	
Greener – Drive forward environmental sustainability to achieve our net-zero carbon target by 2040	Flooding	Flood risk demonstrably reduced	
	Carbon emissions	Reduced carbon emissions	
	Car usage	Car usage and motor traffic falls, indicating mode shift and lower pollution due to transport.	
Fairer – Unlock prosperity by eliminating the wage gap and other inequalities (particularly health) with South Yorkshire and between South Yorkshire and the national average and by improving standards of living for disadvantaged communities	Economic inactivity	Fewer people are economically inactive	
	Wage levels	A lower proportion of employees on low earnings	
	Qualifications & skills	A higher proportion of working-age population (16-64) possess higher qualifications, indicating progression in education and employment.	
	Personal wellbeing	Estimated levels of worthwhile, life satisfaction, happiness and anxiety are indicators of personal well-being.	

The business case asks if an economic, environmental or social impact assessment of the project has been undertaken but this is not a mandatory requirement

Social Value in the Strategic Case

Social Value in the Economic Case

The Economic Case:

- Summarises the **outputs and outcomes** that would be created by each of the options and is aligned with the objectives and outcomes provided in the Strategic Dimension
- For each shortlisted option the **economic costs and benefits** are outlined (Chapter five of the Treasury's Green Book provides guidance)
- Provides an opportunity to include a quantitative or qualitative assessment of the **Wider and Non-monetary Impacts** - Economic, Environmental, Social Value and other benefits or disbenefits that are part of the case for investment (where it has not been possible to monetise benefits)

Definitions

- **Outputs:** *The deliverable/end products as a direct result of the project e.g. floorspace, housing units, homes and businesses given access to high-speed internet, road improvements, training provided.*

- **Outcomes:** *The impact or value of benefits expected to be realised by the output e.g. FTE Jobs created or safeguarded, GVA, higher skills attainment, travel mode shift.*

Social Value in the Commercial & Management Case

The Funding Agreement

The Commercial Case

Identifies if and how the procurement strategy will support local people and/or local businesses to achieve Social Value

e.g. contractors employ staff using real living wage, provide apprenticeships, engage with schools etc.

The Management Case

Outlines how the project will be monitored and evaluated to assess whether the stated benefits, outputs and outcomes will be realised.

The **outputs and outcomes** for the preferred option are captured in an appendix to the business case and are included in the funding agreement, non delivery of outputs can result in clawback of funding.

Outputs and outcomes are **monitored throughout the project** – reporting of outcomes can continue beyond the practical completion of the project in order to capture ongoing benefits.

Evaluation & Applying the Lessons Learnt

Purpose of evaluation is to determine the effectiveness of the MCA's investments & the impact it has on the local economy.

12+ Logic Models created to help applicants & MCA staff understand the expected types of outcomes & impacts

Evaluation Panel procured through the MCA's **Appraisal, Investment & Evaluation Framework** provides the MCA with independent evaluation expertise.

Proportionate strategy depending on the size of the investment.

All projects are evaluated at least once (ex-post).

Pilot projects and programmes have more frequent evaluation – interim, mid-term, ex-post.

Evaluation enables us to understand what works, why & who benefits from our investment. It provides evidence to inform future investment planning, project design and can therefore improve the delivery and management of projects and schemes.