

One Surrey Growth Board

March 2025



Agenda

No.	Timings	Item	Speaker(s)
1.	14:00-14:15	Welcome and introductions	Matt Furniss (OSGB Chair)
2.	14:15-14:35	Corporate update: LGR & Devolution	Matt Furniss (OSGB Chair) Dawn Redpath (Director of Economy & Growth, Surrey County Council)
3.	14:35-15:15	Update: Economic Growth Strategy and Funding Framework	Robert Gibson (Business Improvement Manager, Surrey County Council)
4.	15:15-15:45	Economic Growth Delivery in Surrey 2025/26	Patricia Huertas (Assistant Director – Economy & Growth, Surrey County Council)
5.	15:45-16:00	Reflections and Close	Matt Furniss (OSGB Chair)

Welcome

- **Matt Furniss – One Surrey Growth Board Chair**
 - *Declarations of Interest*

Corporate update: LGR & Devolution

Item 2

Update: Economic Growth Strategy and Funding Framework

Item 3

Economic Growth Strategy

Ensure that Surrey continues to retain its position as one of the country's leading high-value and innovative regional economies by increasing productivity (GVA) and delivering wider socio-economic benefits to ensure no one is left behind.

Residents



1. Ensuring Surrey's residents can support the workforce and skills demands of Surrey's businesses

Businesses



2. Creating the right conditions for Surrey businesses to start, grow and thrive

Places



3. Enabling economic infrastructure to unlock growth through place-based approaches



- **You provided** comprehensive insight that we fed into the further development of the Economic Strategy update and associated Fund
- **This led to** the completion of the Economic Growth Strategy and associated Funding Framework, which is leading to the launch of three new fundings rounds in April 2025.

2025/26 Funding Rounds



Business Growth Grants

Approximately **£1 million** available.
Support SME business growth with grants between **£10k-£50k to cover up to 50% of project costs.**
Used to fund costs that **support growth through workforce development and job creation.**

Future Surrey Fund

Approximately **£2 million** available.
Open funding call to local partners, stakeholders, and businesses.
Seeking to **support innovative and ambitious** proposals that clearly align with the priorities of the economic strategy and Funding Frameworks decision-making principles

Innovation Spaces Fund

Approximately **£4 million** towards physical infrastructure.
Capital investment will **unlock economic growth by creating, improving or further developing dedicated spaces** for workforce development, hands-on learning, university spinouts, industry-led research and development.

Measuring impact: Baseline Year (2025/26)

Laying the foundations:

- The first year will focus on **establishing processes, testing approaches, and gathering insights** across the three broad funding rounds.
- We are **not setting fixed targets** in Year 1, as this is a **learning phase to assess demand**, project types, and early impact.
- A **diverse range of proposals** will be encouraged, supporting local economic growth, driving innovation and productivity, and ensuring no one is left behind.
- **Lessons learned will inform refinements** for future funding rounds, ensuring funding is targeted where it delivers the most value.

Measuring impact: Example KPIs

Some examples of KPIs that funded projects across the three funding rounds could contribute to:

Business growth and innovation –



- Number of jobs created or protected
- New to market products/services developed
- Increase in business R&D expenditure
- Level of private investment leveraged

Infrastructure and investment –



- Commercial floor space created or repurposed
- Match-funding attracted

Local workforce –



- Number of workers upskilled or retrained through funded programs
- Increase in employment rates among underrepresented groups

“Global Britian” and international trade –



- Number of businesses supported to become export-ready
- Number of businesses entering new international markets

Next steps for implementation

1. Finalise governance arrangements and application process for new funding rounds (by end of March)
2. Publish the Framework and funding rounds on Business Surrey website (by end of March)
3. Monitor and assess impact of initial funding rounds (ongoing)

Role of the One Surrey Growth Board:

Programme oversight and governance

- Investment panel (which will include two Surrey Business Leaders Forum reps) will make recommendations on whether to approve or reject proposals.
- OSGB will play a crucial role in oversight of the programme and monitor delivery on a quarterly basis.
- Updates will include details about pipeline, approved proposals, performance and outcomes metrics and key risks.
- Provide check & challenge and support idea generation for future rounds.
- Endorse proposals over £500,000, as well as new funding rounds, before formal Cabinet approval.

Discussion prompts:

- How can the E&G team best support the OSGB in its monitoring and oversight role?
- What additional KPIs should we consider to effectively monitor the programme's impact at a strategic level?

Surrey Business Leaders Forum feedback

Economic Growth Delivery in Surrey 2025/26

Item 4

Evidence review summary

- Surrey benefits from a well-educated workforce, with high qualification levels and a significant proportion of working-age residents holding degrees or higher. However, economic inequality remains a pressing issue, with **certain groups**, such as those with no qualifications and individuals caring for family at home, **facing significantly higher rates of economic inactivity**.
- Our economy, underpinned by a variety of sector and sub-sector specialisms, such as digital services, automotive, cybersecurity, space, health, and the creative industries. However, recent trends highlight the total **number of businesses has declined**, driven primarily by **a reduction in microbusinesses**, whilst the proportion of large businesses has grown. **Business birth rates remain below**, exacerbating this trend.
- Surrey hosts several key innovation assets including universities, anchor businesses, incubators, research hospitals and science and business parks. The refreshed evidence base has identified 11 individual sub-regional “clusters” in the emerging economy which link closely to several of Surrey’s towns. Surrey has seen a recent **drop in the proportion of high-growth businesses, which now sits below the UK average**, and **lags in generating active university spinouts against a national trend of growth**. There has also been a **declining trend in the share of multi-tenancy commercial space** in Surrey.

The Economy and Growth Programme that follows is SCC activity aligned to the economic strategy. SCC and partners are already delivering a lot – future funding needs to avoid duplication and add value. Given the breadth of existing work Board discussion should set out what new project ideas might we encourage.

Drivers – High level tracking

Metric	Targeted Position set by One Surrey Growth Board in 2021	Baseline Period position
GVA (bn)	18% increase to £54.9 by 2030, from 2019 baseline	£46.6bn (2019)
Surrey GVA per Filled Job	18% increase to £83,595 by 2030, from baseline figure	£70,843.23 (average GVA from 2015-2020)
Employment in Knowledge Intensive Industries	1 percentage point increase in number of jobs held by employees in knowledge intensive industries across Surrey, to 131,300 by 2030	130,000 (2016)
Survival rate of newly born enterprises	Based on pre-pandemic (2019) new business and survival rates, 2-year period 1st year - 95.4% 2nd year - 74.6%	1st year - 93.1% 2nd year - 67.9%
Claimant Count	Claimant count to return to 1.1% within 3 years	1.2% (Jan 2020 - pre-pandemic)
Inactivity rates	Return numbers of those economically inactive to pre-pandemic rate of 121,800 (Apr 2019-Mar 2020)	139,700 (Jan-Dec 2022)
NEET/activity not known	Return to previous trend level pre-pandemic between 2016/17 and 2019/20 of 4.5%, within 5 years, also bringing Surrey in line with other English county authorities	7.9% (academic year 2021/22)

Priority 1

Ensuring Surrey's residents can support the workforce and skills demands of Surrey's businesses

Operational delivery metrics and outputs

Surrey Institutions achieving Gatsby benchmarks

Participants from specific cohorts achieving employment

Jobs creation

Tailored offer of skills offer to support the workforce demands of Surrey businesses

Established apprenticeship, technical and vocational education pathways to employment

Easy and effective customer journeys for residents looking for support and opportunities

Surrey Careers Hub

Connect to Work

Bootcamps

Economic Growth Fund

Surrey Baccalaureate

Adult Skills Fund

People Surrey Portal

Priority 2

Creating the right conditions for Surrey businesses to start, grow and thrive

Operational delivery metrics and outputs

Business support roadmaps

Intensive business support

Jobs creation

Grants

Internships

Cluster development work

Easy and effective customer journeys for businesses looking for support and opportunities

Made Smarter Adoption SE

SME Growth Grants

Growth Hub service

Business Surrey

Innovation Board Joint Delivery Plan

Economic Growth Fund

Priority 3

Enabling economic infrastructure to unlock growth through place-based approaches

Operational delivery metrics and outputs

Jobs creation

Coordinated place-based approaches

Infrastructure for workforce development, hands-on learning, university spinouts and industry-led R&D

Asset rationalisation and prioritisation driven by local need

Maximising local opportunity and growth through the retention of business rates

Surrey Place Leaders Joint Delivery Plan

Longcross Enterprise Zone

Economic Growth Fund

Group discussion

Having reviewed the upcoming Economic Growth Funding Framework and ongoing work programme, discuss **what new project ideas will bring additionality and help us achieve joint objectives** and shape the work programme. This will feed directly into the EOI conversations we will have.

OSGB Forward plan – identify economic themes that would be helpful to have deep dive sessions on, for example:

- Economic implications for Surrey's new local government geographies.
- Delivering on our Civic Agreement: Surrey's Innovation Delivery Plan
- Youth employment: opportunities and challenges

Reflections and close