

# One Surrey Growth Board

June 2026



# Agenda

| No. | Timings     | Item                             | Speaker(s)                                                                      |
|-----|-------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.  | 14:30-14:40 | <b>Welcome and introductions</b> | Matt Furniss (OSGB Chair)                                                       |
| 2.  | 14:40-15:00 | <b>Reflecting on the legacy</b>  | Dawn Redpath (Director – Economy & Growth, Surrey County Council)               |
| 3.  | 15:00-15:20 | <b>Current position</b>          | Patricia Huertas (Assistant Director – Economy & Growth, Surrey County Council) |
| 4.  | 15:20-16:20 | <b>Considering the future</b>    | Dawn and Patricia                                                               |
| 5.  | 16:20-16:30 | <b>Reflections and Close</b>     | Matt Furniss (OSGB Chair)                                                       |

# Welcome

➤ **Matt Furniss – One Surrey Growth Board Chair**

# Reflecting on the legacy

Item 2



'Surrey's Economic Future, Forward to 2030: Our Economic Strategy Statement'  
Nov 2020



'Surrey's Economic Future, Towards 2030: One Surrey Growth Board's Plan for Growth',  
May 2021



'One Surrey Growth Board Delivery Plan'  
March 2023



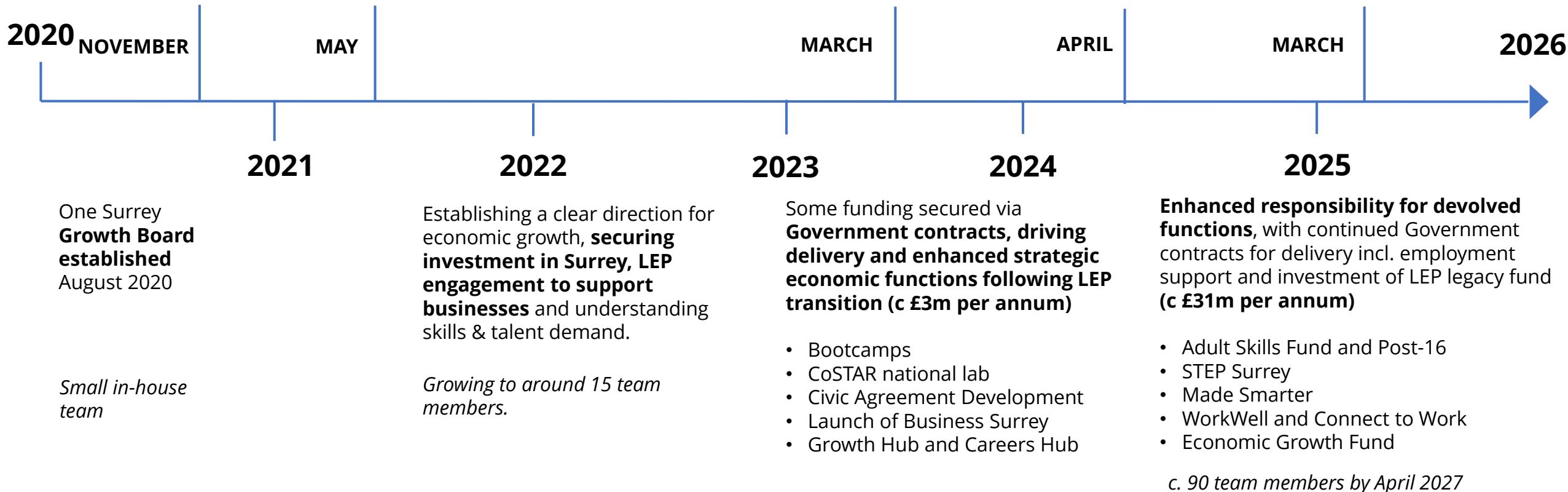
Transition of LEP functions  
April 2024



2025-2035: Surrey's Economic Growth Strategy  
March 2025



Local Government Reorganisation

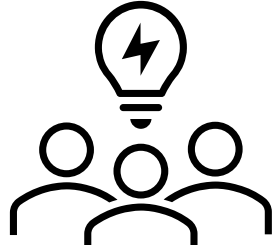


# 2025/26 in numbers



**2,854**

Business  
supported by  
the Growth Hub



**99**

Made Smarter  
Adoption support  
roadmaps  
completed for SE  
manufacturing  
businesses (16 in  
Surrey)

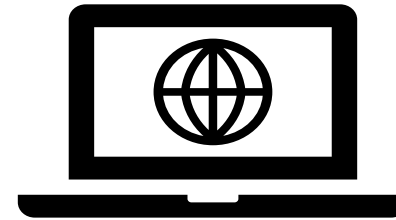
**£3.7m**

Economic Growth  
Funding allocated to  
business and partners



**278**

Learners  
completed a Skills  
Bootcamps course

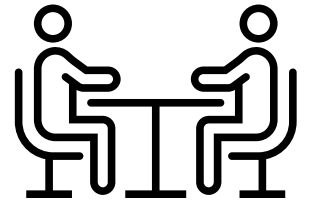


**185,710**

Business Surrey  
webpage visits

**£19m**

Devolved funding  
confirmed to support  
adult learners and  
increase local skills  
system capacity



**92**

Participants  
started on  
Connect to  
Work  
programme

# Delivering growth in 2025/26

## Strategic framework

**Surrey's Economic Growth Strategy 2025 to 2035**  
*residents' employability + business growth + economic infrastructure*

**Economic Strategic Funding Framework**

**Workforce, Employment and Skills Strategic Framework**

Get Surrey Working Plan

Adult Skills Fund  
Commissioning Framework

Local Skills Improvement Plan  
(with Surrey Chambers)

## Portals



Connect to Work

Skills Bootcamps

Future Surrey Fund

## Programme delivery

WorkWell pilot

Surrey Careers Hub

Adult Skills Fund



Surrey Growth Hub

Business Growth Grants

Understanding Surrey Places Dashboard

Made Smarter Adoption SE

Surrey Innovation Joint Delivery Plan

Longcross Enterprise Zone

# Current position

## Item 3



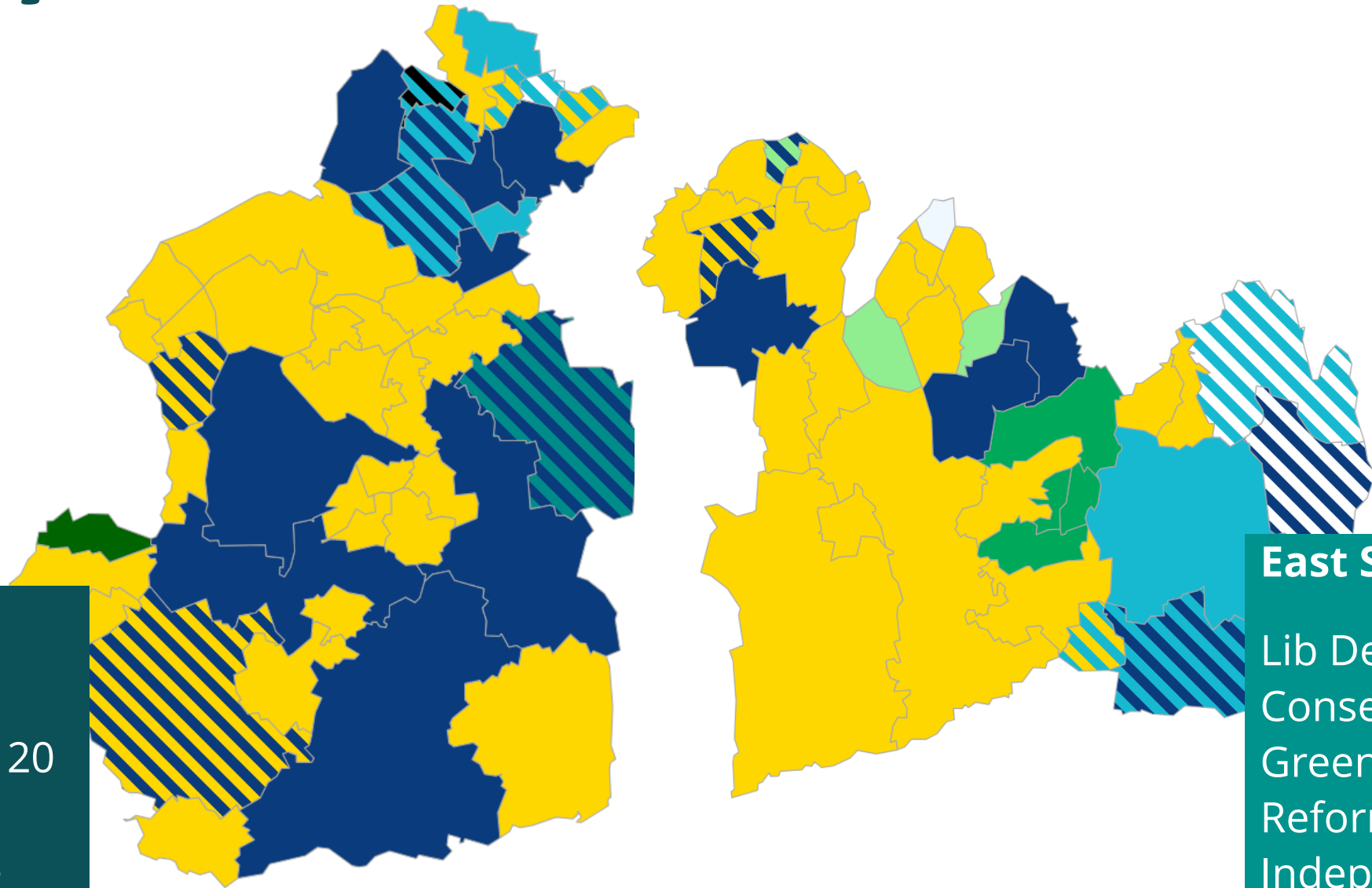
# LGR and Devolution



- Enhanced profile for the UK's fourth largest regional economy
- Convening power to develop a collective voice heard nationally
- Long-term, region-wide decision-making
- Greater co-ordination of national issues to unlock local priorities
- Direct interventions to areas of greatest need
- More local decision making – collaboration is key
- Access to funding

# Surrey's shadow authorities

Elections, N



## West Surrey

Lib Dems - 56  
Conservatives - 20  
Reform - 9  
Indep't / RAs - 5

## East Surrey

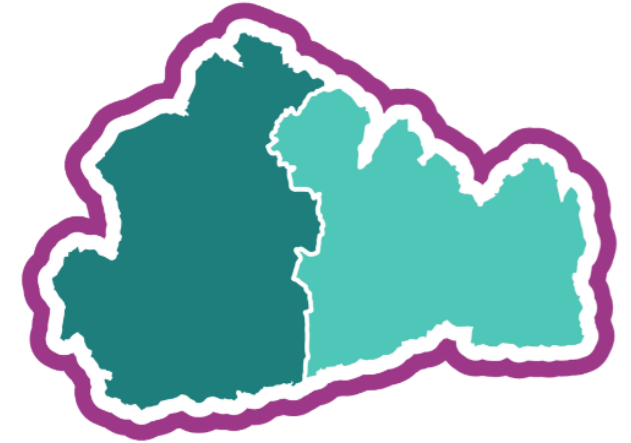
Lib Dems - 40  
Conservatives - 10  
Greens - 8  
Reform - 5  
Indep't / RAs - 9

# High level trackers

| Strategic Priority                                                                            | Metric                              | Targeted Position                                                                                     | 2021             | 2022             | 2023            | 2024            | 2025            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Creating the right conditions for Surrey businesses to start, grow and thrive                 | Surrey GVA                          | 2.88% increase per year, determined as the average growth per year between 2009 and 2019              | £47.57bn (1.61%) | £51.31bn (8.40%) | £54.62 (7.73%)  |                 |                 |
|                                                                                               | High Growth Businesses              | Maintain 5% of active businesses to be High Growth businesses to 2030                                 | 3.3%             | 4.1%             | 5.4%            | 5.5%            |                 |
| Ensuring Surrey's residents can support the workforce and skills demands of Surrey businesses | Economic inactivity rate            | Maintain pre-pandemic rate of below 17%                                                               | 129,300 (17.8%)  | 139,700 (19.3%)  | 119,500 (16.3%) | 134,000 (18.2%) | 119,200 (16.2%) |
|                                                                                               | Employment rate for 16-64 year olds | Perform above the mean average for all single tier and county LAs in the South East (currently 78.6%) | 79.8%            | 78.8%            | 82.5%           | 79.3%           | 81.5%           |

# Economic highlights

| West Surrey                                                                    | Local authority                | East Surrey                                                                 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 45                                                                             | Wards                          | 36                                                                          |
| 430k                                                                           | Working age population         | 341k                                                                        |
| £3.8b                                                                          | Equity Funding                 | £917m                                                                       |
| £223m                                                                          | Grant funding                  | £32m                                                                        |
| Up                                                                             | Patents / scale-ups            | Down                                                                        |
| National and international<br>(software, distribution<br>manufacturing, space) | Large employers<br>composition | Localised demand<br>(property, education,<br>care, financial<br>management) |



The need for strategic growth interventions across functional economic area recognised by Govt, driving a county-wide balanced approach

# Expression of interest

“We recognise the Government’s emphasis on aligning devolution with strong unitary structures and simplified governance.

“The ongoing work [in Surrey] provides a strong foundation for further devolution, and we want to grasp the opportunity...to enable the formation of a strategic authority on a Surrey footprint for April 2027.

“We are confident that this is the right moment to build a governance model that will unlock Surrey’s full potential, strengthen local accountability, support national growth and deliver for our communities.

**Letter from 11 Surrey council leaders**

Expression of interest sent to MHCLG, March 2026

# Strategic Authority timeline

## Proposed MHCLG roadmap

**February 2026**

MHCLG invites expressions of interest to establish Foundation Strategic Authority (FSA)

**May 2026**

Govt confirmation to work with all councils in Surrey to establish FSA by April 2027.

**September 2026**

Local consent needed from 12 councils and shadow authorities. Proposal submitted

**December 2026**

Statutory Instrument laid in Parliament (decision in March)

**March 2026**

Expression of interest sent by 11 Surrey councils to government

**July 2026**

**Consultation with local statutory organisations**

**Autumn 2026**

Consultation analysis - ministerial decision and announcement

**1 April 2027**

Strategic Authority established

**Approval required from all Surrey authorities**

# Where next?

Growth Plan

LSIP

Get Surrey  
Working Plan

LEP legacy

Funded  
government  
programmes

Planning and  
Transport  
strategies

Proposed service configuration  
for Shadow Unitaries to consider

## FSA

- **Upcoming consultation**
- County-wide strategic focus continues
- County-wide delivery continues
- New governance structure required

## Hosted model

- County-wide strategic focus continues
- County-wide delivery continues
- Impact on governance – inter-authority agreement likely needed (financial and legal implications)

## Disaggregation

- County-wide delivery disrupted as teams split across two new unitaries
- Governance and financial implications
- Possible risk to reputation
- Non / under-delivery of funded programmes
- Possible delay to future further devolution – impacting growth in short and long-term

# What's next for 2027/28?

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

*Preparatory work has been progressed for devolved funding, and we now have the devolution of strategic powers.*

Skills Bootcamps (£1.5m)  
Adult Skills Fund (£12m)  
Post-16 Capacity Fund (£7.5m)  
Connect to Work (£3m)  
WorkWell (£3.2m)  
Careers Hub (£400k)  
Teacher Industry Exchange (£140k)  
STEP Surrey evolution

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

*Continued government funding secured to support and grow businesses in Surrey.*

Made Smarter South East (£3.1m)  
Surrey Growth Hub (£370k)  
Business Surrey evolution

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

*Opportunity to gather evidence to set out a long-term vision for growth, investment and place-based transformation in preparation for a strategic authority.*

Local Growth Plan  
DBT investment pipeline



# Reflections

# Considering the future

Item 3

# Growth in Surrey

## Opportunities, challenges and drivers of change



- Growth sectors
- Highly skilled workforce
- Infrastructure
- Innovation and R&D
- Knowledge Intensive Services

- High-growth businesses
- University spinouts
- Inactivity rates
- Competition for talent
- Startups and microbusinesses

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Education and  
skills  
development

Investment in  
R&D

Startups and  
Entrepreneurship

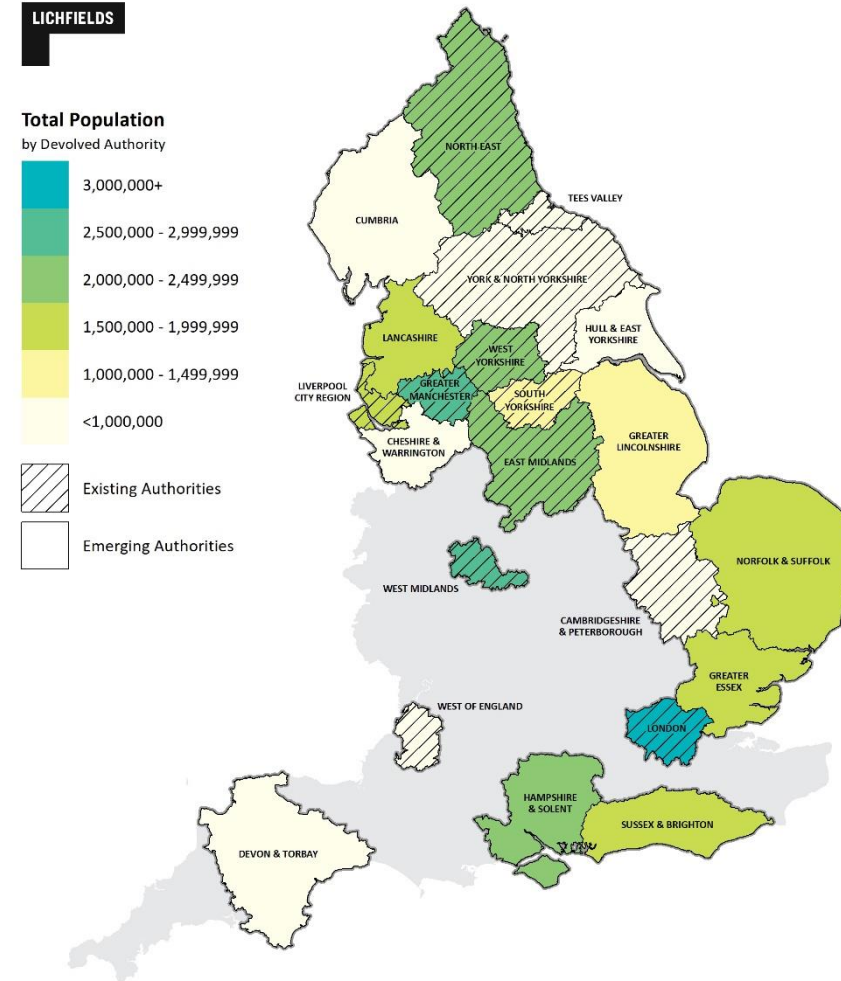
Emerging  
technology

Transport and  
connectivity

# Strategic Authorities

## Driving growth through devolution

- **LGR unlocks devolution for Surrey**
  - Surrey - 1.2m residents, £50bn GVA
  - Greater Manchester – 2.8m, £79bn
  - Liverpool City Region – 1.6m, £33bn
  - West of England – 950,000, £35.3bn
  - Tees Valley – 678,000, £16.4bn
- **Benefits**
  - National recognition and profile
  - Freedom to set local priorities
  - Direct funding to unlock growth
  - Greater powers to unlock growth
  - Better alignment of public services



# Strategic Authority

## Roles and responsibilities

Transport and  
infrastructure

Skills and  
employment

Housing and  
strategic planning

Economic  
development and  
regeneration

Environment and  
climate change

Culture

Health wellbeing  
and public service  
reform

Public safety

### **Devolution framework responsibilities:**

- Statutory role with duty to prepare and publish a Local Transport Plan
- Powers to develop a Bus Service Improvement Plan and introduce bus franchising
- Duty to designate and manage a Key Route Network and coordinate with highway authorities
- Powers to raise transport levies and introduce joint road user charging schemes

### **Surrey Growth focus:**

- Economic infrastructure underpins productivity, but poor east-west connectivity and congestion constrain movement, limiting access to labour, supply chains and key economic centres for businesses.

### **Opportunity:**

- Use powers to prioritise strategic corridors, addressing congestion and connectivity gaps; improving access to jobs, markets and growth sites, enabling more efficient business activity

### **Devolution framework responsibilities:**

- Responsibility for Adult Skills Fund and duty to produce a Local Skills Improvement Plan
- Ability to commission provision and allocate funding locally
- Delivery responsibility for employment programmes
- Coordinating careers provision and employer engagement with the skills system

### **Surrey Growth focus:**

- Evidence of a skilled workforce, but a lack of clear alignment with employer needs/demand
- Inequitable spread of skills attainment and economic inactivity across some groups and geographies, limiting inclusive growth and access to a sufficient workforce for businesses

### **Opportunity:**

- Use devolved funding and commissioning powers to target skills gaps and priority cohorts
- Align investment with labour market demand to improve workforce participation and productivity

**Devolution framework responsibilities:**

- Duty to produce a Spatial Development Strategy
- Powers to align housing, land use and infrastructure investment
- Ability to prioritise and coordinate capital funding and regeneration investment

**Surrey Growth focus:**

- High housing costs and misalignment of homes, jobs and infrastructure constrain labour mobility
- Impacts workforce retention and business growth

**Opportunity:**

- Spatial coordination and investment powers to align housing growth with the ambitions of the future Surrey Growth Plan and identified priority employment areas for investment.
- Improve affordability and access to jobs, supporting sustainable economic growth



### **Devolution framework responsibilities:**

- Duty to produce a Local Growth Plan as a central long-term, place-based strategy for the area
- Control and coordination of economic funding streams, grants and investment programmes
- Powers to borrow, invest and deploy funding strategically, alongside convening partners

### **Surrey Growth focus:**

- Fragmentation across strategies and delivery limits Surrey's ability to remove physical barriers to growth and fully capitalise on its economic strengths, including in the IS8 sectors and in R&D and innovation.

### **Opportunity:**

- Use the Local Growth Plan as Surrey's central strategic framework, setting direction, shaping growth conditions, and positioning the county within wider regional and national economies
- Deploy funding, borrowing and investment powers to support that strategy; investing in housing, transport, energy and skills to unlock innovation and productivity growth

## Culture

### **Devolution framework responsibilities:**

- Powers to encourage visitors and support the provision of entertainment and cultural activity, including concerts, exhibitions and events, and to incur expenditure, provide premises, facilities and publicity

### **Surrey Growth focus:**

- Surrey has strong visitor economy and cultural assets, opportunity to further leverage these to support local growth and place attractiveness

### **Opportunity:**

- Use cultural powers to strengthen the visitor economy and enhance place attractiveness

## Environment and climate change

### **Devolution framework responsibilities:**

- A coordination role in Heat Network Zoning, with Strategic Authorities well placed to take forward zones and establish zone coordinators to support local energy infrastructure delivery

### **Surrey Growth focus:**

- Net zero commitments and energy infrastructure constraints shape how growth can be delivered

### **Opportunity:**

- Use the heat network zoning role to coordinate delivery of low-carbon energy infrastructure

Health wellbeing  
and public service  
reform

Public safety

**Devolution framework responsibilities:**

- A statutory duty to have regard to improving health and reducing health inequalities when exercising any powers
- Powers and duties for information sharing to reduce crime and disorder
- Mayoral responsibility for Police and Crime Commissioner functions and Fire and Rescue Authority

**Surrey Growth focus:**

- Health-related barriers contribute to economic inactivity, despite strong overall labour market performance
- Pockets of deprivation, inequality and community safety challenges limit economic participation

**Opportunity:**

- Use the health improvement duty and PCC/FRA functions to align public safety, health and wellbeing priorities with economic outcomes
- Use information-sharing and system coordination powers to target place-based challenges, reducing inequality and improving participation in the workforce

# West Midlands Combined Authority

## A track record of delivery



- Through Business Growth West Midlands, supported **10,000 businesses** working with an average of **almost 700 a month**.
- Produced and driven forward a Plan for Growth, identifying and supporting the key clusters including **health tech, creative industries, logistics, and low-carbon manufacturing** that will form the foundation for a West Midlands Growth Plan.
- Pioneered both the **Innovation Accelerator** and **Made Smarter** programme helping local **SMEs to create or upskill almost 5,000 jobs**, with over £70 million of private and public sector investment.
- Through WM5G we have improved access to 5G with 97% coverage from at least one operator versus 92% nationally, **making the WMCA the best-connected UK region outside of London**.
- Named as one of the top-three cities in the prestigious **European Capital of Innovation 2024**.

# Strategic Authority in action – Greater Manchester Combined Authority

- **The Bee Network:** first integrated, London-style public transport system in the UK outside the capital (bus routes back under local public control and introduced simplified tap-and-go ticketing and capped fares)
- **Unprecedented Economic Growth:** UK's fastest-growing city region, consistently outperforming national economic growth and productivity averages over the last decade.
- **Housing and Regeneration:** Deployed over £1 billion in commercial loans to transform the city's skyline with zero defaults, and established the Good Landlord Charter to raise private rental standards.
- **Tackling Homelessness:** Launched the highly successful A Bed Every Night initiative, which has directly supported thousands of rough sleepers and significantly reduced street homelessness.
- **Innovation & Industrial Strategy:** one of the UK's first modern Local Industrial Strategies, driving growth into globally significant sectors like AI, advanced materials, cyber security, and clean technology.



**Together we are Greater Manchester**

**Building a thriving city region where everyone can live a good life.**

# Reflections and close



# Strategic Authority in action – West Midlands Combined Authority

## Business involvement in regional policy and delivery

