



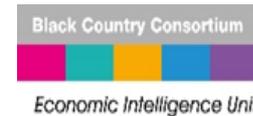
Midlands Engine Economic Observatory, delivered by:



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Midlands Engine Independent Economic Review

Scoping the IER purpose and parameters: Midlands Engine Operating Board,
January 2019

Introduction to the ME IER process

- SQW and Cambridge Econometrics (CE) have been commissioned by the Midlands Engine (ME) to develop the Midlands' first Independent Economic Review (IER)
 - This exercise forms part of the ME Economic Observatory, led by City-REDI, NTU and the Black Country Consortium
- Our brief for the IER had a strong focus on understanding the region's productivity performance
- What is an IER?
 - It is. . .
 - > A robust, intelligent and insightful evidence base which can inform decision-making across the ME geography
 - > An independent analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the ME economy that is packaged as part of a convincing and credible ME narrative
 - It is not. . .
 - > A duplication of existing evidence/analysis at the local level – it will build on this and draw it together, but with a clear focus on the pan-ME picture
 - > A strategy or action plan for the ME, nor is it concerned with governance

Scoping the purpose and parameters of the IER

- The first stage of the exercise is to scope, define and agree the core purpose and main parameters of the IER
 - What should be the main research questions for the IER?
 - > This will inform our approach, the extent and type of stakeholder engagement, the style of outputs, etc.
 - > We want to ensure the IER is fit-for-purpose and will have real impact and influence across the ME and beyond
- On the following slide, we set out **two key questions** for the ME Boards and sub-groups, and ME Business Forum, to consider and provide feedback on.
- A framework for the IER will be developed thereafter, and a call for evidence launched in early February.

Scoping questions for key stakeholders

- **What are the core objectives of the ME IER - its purpose, intended use, target audience?**
 - > A detailed, analytical, 'honest' evidence base, with reflections on the implications for productivity growth prospects/policy
 - > Plus a concise, outward-facing, opportunity-focused, pan-ME narrative to promote the ME economy?
 - A combination of reviewing existing evidence vs fresh evidence, insight and perspectives?
 - Both inward looking vs outward facing e.g. through the use of appropriate international benchmarks and comparators?

- **What issues/themes should the IER focus on? What are the high-level research questions for the IER to explore? e.g.**
 - > How has the ME economy performed as a whole, vs Industrial Strategy foundations (business base, business environment, ideas/innovation, people, place)?
 - > What are the major barriers to raising economic growth/productivity across the ME?
 - > What are the key opportunities for the ME to contribute to national policy imperatives (e.g. the Industrial Strategy)?
 - > What is required to improve the performance of the ME economy?
 - Where are the key opportunities to intervene to influence high level outcomes?
 - > Where are the main pan-ME opportunities to deliver *additional* and more *inclusive* local economic growth?
 - > To what extent are opportunities/challenges *common* across the ME geography, and to what extent are ME economies *inter-dependent*?
 - > Where would a clear pan-ME effort add most value in terms of economic development?

Indicative work programme (i)

Phases	Tasks	Proposed timetable
1. Scoping and launch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scoping the purpose, parameters and key research questions for the ME IER (with ME Operational Board and sub-groups, ME Business Forum, LEP representatives) • Initial compilation of existing evidence • Develop and agree IER framework to guide the research strands 	January 2019
2. Evidence gathering and review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call for evidence across ME stakeholders (e.g. LEPs, Universities, Sector bodies, research institutes etc, & open call via MEO website) • Systematic review of existing evidence • Data analysis (GVA, productivity & drivers) • Synthesis of existing evidence (resulting in an interim output in PowerPoint by end March) 	February – March 2019
3. Deep dive research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholder workshop • Local area profiles • Wider deep dive research to fill gaps in existing evidence – e.g. in-depth business consultations to explore barriers to raising productivity, supply chain relationships etc. • Sector assessment of potential impact of Brexit 	May – June 2019
4. Growth scenario development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop scenarios – incl. baseline scenario and alternative growth scenarios for Midlands • Stakeholder workshop • Revised scenario modelling and report 	June – August 2019
5. Final IER report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overarching analysis • Stakeholder workshop • Draft and final report 	July – September 2019

Indicative work programme (ii)

Phase	Task	Week commencing:													Month					
		07-Jan	14-Jan	21-Jan	28-Jan	04-Feb	11-Feb	18-Feb	25-Feb	04-Mar	11-Mar	18-Mar	25-Mar	01-Apr	April	May	June	July	August	Sept
1. Scoping and launch	Outline the potential purpose, parameters and key research questions for the IER	■	■																	
	Initial compilation of existing evidence		■	■																
	Test scope with key senior stakeholder groups			■	■															
	Finalise IER framework				■	■														
2. Evidence gathering and review	Call for evidence					■	■	■												
	Initial review of existing evidence					■	■	■	■											
	Data analysis (GVA, productivity & drivers)					■	■	■	■	■										
	Initial synthesis of existing evidence (interim output - PowerPoint pack)						■	■	■	■	■									
	Presentation to ME Operational Board										■	■								
	Finalise ppt pack												■	■						
3. Deep dive research	Stakeholder workshop													■	■					
	Local area profiles													■	■					
	Wider deep dive research to fill gaps in existing evidence														■	■	■			
4. Growth scenario development	Sector assessment of potential impact of Brexit														■	■	■			
	Develop scenarios – incl. baseline scenario and alternative growth scenarios for Midlands															■	■	■		
	Stakeholder workshop																	■	■	
5. Final IER report	Revised scenario modelling and report																	■	■	
	Overarching analysis																	■	■	
	Stakeholder workshop																		TBC	
	Draft and final report																			■

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