

# SELEP Independent Technical Evaluator Review Process

For all Growth Deal Projects, the allocation of any funding to projects identified within SELEPs Growth Deal is subject to approval by the SELEP Accountability Board. All funding decisions made by the Accountability Board to approve funding for a specific project must be supported with a robust Business Case which has been independently assessed. This independent and impartial advice on the merits of project Business Cases is provided by the SELEP Independent Technical Evaluator.

Steers have been appointed by SELEP as its Independent Technical Evaluator, to provide technical advice to the Strategic and Accountability Board on value for money and project deliverability of Growth Deal projects. Following the review of Businesses Cases, the SELEP Independent Technical Evaluator makes recommendations to the SELEP Accountability Board on the project's Value for Money and the certainty of Value for Money being achieved.

The review of a project's Value for Money helps to inform the Accountability Board's view as to whether the benefits which the project is expected to deliver justifies the investment of public funds.

The Independent Technical Evaluator provides feedback to scheme promoters following each stage of the review process. This is done through the completion of a standardised assessment Pro-Forma. The Pro Forma has been developed based on the criteria of *The Green Book*, a 'checklist for appraisal assessment from Her Majesty's Treasury, and WebTAG. There are two versions of the template; a Transport Assessment Pro-Forma [INSERT LINK] and Non – Transport Assessment Template [INSERT LINK].

The Independent Technical Evaluator assessment is based on adherence of scheme Business Cases to *The Green Book* [INSERT LINK <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-green-book-appraisal-and-evaluation-in-central-government>], and related departmental guidance for example the Department for Transport's WebTAG (Web-based Transport Analysis Guidance) [INSERT LINK <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/transport-analysis-guidance-webtag>] or the Department for Communities and Local Government Appraisal Guide [INSERT LINK <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/department-for-communities-and-local-government-appraisal-guide>].

Local Growth Fund projects are required to complete each stage of the Independent Technical Evaluator review process. All projects are required to complete Gate 0, Gate 1 and Gate 2. Projects with an LGF allocation of over £8m or which are considered high risk are also required to complete Gate 4 and 5.

Stage	Description
Gate 0	Following the allocation but prior to the award of any Local Growth Funding for a project, the Independent Technical Evaluator will provide advice to

	<p>project promoters about the appropriate approach and the process, procedures and timescales for the Business Case development.</p>
Gate 1	<p>Project promoters must develop a business case commensurate with an Outline Business Case in The Green Book guidance on appraisal and evaluation and in accordance with the relevant Government departmental guidance.</p> <p>The Outline Business Case should be submitted to the SELEP Capital Programme Manager and Independent Technical Evaluator.</p> <p>A Gate 1 review of the Business Case will then be completed by SELEP Independent Technical Evaluator and feedback will be provided to scheme promoters through the completion of a project Business Case review pro-forma.</p>
Gate 2	<p>All projects will have an opportunity to make changes to the Outline Business Case, based on the Gate 1 feedback.</p> <p>Once resubmitted, the Independent Technical Evaluator will conduct the Gate 2 Assurance Review, using the same Business Case assessment template for Gate 1.</p> <p>On the basis of the Gate 2 Assurance Review, recommendations are made by the Independent Technical Evaluator to the SELEP Accountability Board on the Value for Money Assessment and the certainty of that assessment's accuracy.</p> <p>The Accountability Board will then decide whether or not to approve the funding allocation.</p>
Gate 4 & 5	<p>Large schemes over £8 million and those considered high risk by the Accountability Board will be required to go through Gates 4 and 5, to develop a Full Business Case.</p> <p>At Gate 2, a proportion of the funding will be approved to support the development of the project prior to the approval of the Full Business Case.</p> <p>At Gates 4 and 5, a review of the Full Business Case is required.</p> <p>The Gate 5 review should take place following detailed design and procurement of the construction contract, but in advance of the contract award and construction works commencing.</p> <p>Following the Gate 5 Independent Technical Evaluator's review of the Full Business Case, recommendations will be made to the SELEP Accountability Board for the approval of the full funding allocation.</p>

Gate 3 is required where the Business Case for a Local Growth Fund project is also been approved by the Department for Transport or by another Government Department or Statutory Body. In these instances, the role of the Independent Technical Evaluator is to review the business case and provide professional advice to the Accountability Board of any key risks or issues arising from that assessment that need to be considered by the board to support the associated decision for funding.