

Wednesday, 5 July 2023

To: Members of the Local Enterprise Partnership and Appropriate Officers

NOTICE OF MEETING

You are hereby invited to a meeting of the South Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership to be held at **Translational Energy Research Centre, Sheffield Business Park, Europa Avenue, S9 1ZA**, on: **Thursday, 13 July 2023 at 11.30 am** for the purpose of transacting the business set out in the agenda.



Martin Swales
Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service

Member Distribution

Richard Stubbs (Chair)	Private Sector LEP Board Member
Neil MacDonald (Vice-Chair)	Private Sector LEP Board Member
Mayor Oliver Coppard	South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority
Bill Adams	TUC Representative
Angela Foulkes	Private Sector LEP Board Member
Louisa Harrison-Walker	Sheffield Chambers
Councillor Sir Steve Houghton CBE	Barnsley MBC
Councillor Tom Hunt	Sheffield City Council
Mayor Ros Jones CBE	City of Doncaster Council
Peter Kennan	Private Sector LEP Board Member
Professor Kevin Kerrigan	Sheffield Hallam University - LEP Member
Professor Koen Lamberts	Private Sector LEP Board Member
Councillor Chris Read	Rotherham MBC
Gemma Smith	Private Sector LEP Board Member



Agenda

Agenda Ref No	Subject	Lead	Page
Introduction			
1.	Welcome and Apologies	Chair	
2.	Declarations of Interest <ul style="list-style-type: none">In relation to any agenda itemIn relation to any activity since the last formal meetingIn relation to any forthcoming activity	Chair	
3.	Notes and Action Log of Last Meeting	Chair	5 - 12
4.	The South Yorkshire Economy	Paul Johnson	Verbal Presentation
5.	LEP Annual Report and Governance Changes	Andy Gates	13 - 24
Strategic Insights			
6.	Supporting Investment in South Yorkshire - Northern Gritstone	Duncan Johnson, Northern Gritstone	Verbal Presentation
7.	Development of a Northern Pan Regional Partnership	Andy Gates	25 - 28
8.	South Yorkshire's Investment Zone	Joseph Quinn	Verbal Presentation
Updates			
9.	MCA & LEP Policy and Programmes Update	Philip Cooper	29 - 32

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MCA - LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON:

THURSDAY, 18 MAY 2023 AT 11.00 AM

**SOUTH YORKSHIRE MCA, 11 BROAD STREET WEST,
SHEFFIELD, S1 2BQ**

**SOUTH YORKSHIRE
BUSINESS**



**LOCAL
ENTERPRISE
PARTNERSHIP**

PRESENT:

Richard Stubbs (Chair)
Mayor Oliver Coppard

Bill Adams
Angela Foulkes
Louisa Harrison-Walker
Peter Kennan
Councillor Caroline Makinson (Reserve)
Professor Chris Wigginton (Reserve)

Private Sector LEP Board Member
South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined
Authority
TUC Representative
Private Sector LEP Board Member
Sheffield Chambers
Private Sector LEP Board Member
Barnsley MBC
Sheffield Hallam University

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Martin Swales	Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service	SYMCA Executive Team
Tom Bousfield	Corporate Director Growth, Business & Skills	
Felix Kumi-Ampofo	Director of Corporate Policy	SYMCA Executive Team
Dan Swaine	Director for Place	City of Doncaster Council
Molly Axelby	Corporate Policy and Strategy Officer	SYMCA Executive Team

Sarah Pugh (Minute Taker)

GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Professor Martin Howarth	Sheffield Hallam University
Brian Sloan	Transport for the North
Emma Woods	Transport for the North
Chris Young	High Value Manufacturing Catapult

APOLOGIES:

Neil MacDonald	Private Sector LEP Board Member
Councillor Sir Steve Houghton CBE	Barnsley MBC
Mayor Ros Jones CBE	City of Doncaster Council
Professor Kevin Kerrigan	Sheffield Hallam University - LEP Member
Professor Koen Lamberts	Private Sector LEP Board Member

82 **Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting.

Apologies were noted as above.

The Chair noted that this was the Director of Corporate Policy's final LEP Board meeting before leaving the MCA, and the Board thanked him for all his contributions.

An update was provided by the Mayor on the ongoing UKREiiF (UK Real Estate Investment & Infrastructure) Conference. He celebrated the success of the event and the quality of South Yorkshire's stand space and variety of engaging panels and events, including an oversubscribed "Sheffield Showcase" event.

83 **Declarations of Interest**

None.

84 **Notes of Last Meeting and Action Log**

RESOLVED: That the notes of the meeting held on 9th March be agreed as a true record.

Regarding the notes of the last meeting, Cllr Caroline Mackinson requested that further updates and outcomes on green skills and net zero work be shared with Barnsley MBC - **ACTION: Assistant Director Sills & Employability.**

RESOLVED: to note updates to the action log.

85 **The South Yorkshire Economy: Northern Powerhouse Independent Economic Review**

A presentation on the Northern Powerhouse Independent Economic Review was given, noting a refreshed programme of work being undertaken including a Strategic Transport Plan.

The review noted the outputs from the design of 6 economic scenarios, from 'baseline' through to 'transformational', showing the high levels of investment and economic interventions which would be required to "level up" the north. Through this work, a disparity of £1500 per person had been noted between the north and the rest of England.

It was highlighted that outcomes of this modelling aligned strongly with the Strategic Economic Plan (SEP), and the 'transformational' scenario would result in an extra £118bn in the northern economy, and 1 million extra jobs, by

2050, as well as increases in wages, population and consumption.

Different methods of delivering these economic and societal benefits were being explored with partners, such as investigating different places to seek investment, and new ways of measuring value and productivity.

The Board welcomed the outcomes of this work and noted the potential to take it forward in the South Yorkshire prospectus for growth and pursuit of further devolution deals.

ACTION: Consultation on the Strategic Transport Plan to be considered at a future LEP Board.

RESOLVED: To note the update.

86 **Minister & Key Stakeholder Engagement**

An update was presented on SYMCA and the LEP's engagement with key Ministers and Stakeholders.

It was noted that engagement with key external stakeholders was now taking place more frequently and in a more joined up manner, for example at the UKREiiF Conference.

A member asked whether the new Active Travel Commissioner could explore how electric bikes could be made more affordable, and also asked how Local Authorities would be expected to report on the implementation of the Government's Net Zero Strategy.

ACTION: Corporate Policy and Strategy Officer – agreed to feed these requests forward into future stakeholder engagement.

The Board welcomed the update and the MCA's approach to stakeholder engagement, particularly with regard to the UKREiiF event. The Chair asked that members continue to be fully equipped with key messages and approaches to future stakeholder engagement initiatives.

RESOLVED: To note the update.

87 **Vertical Farming using mine water geothermals**

A presentation on Vertical Farming using mine water geothermals was given which highlighted the following challenges to food production:

- High land use and deforestation required to produce food,
- High water and energy usage to feed crops,
- Climate change and changing weather conditions.

The FeedaMillion project at Sheffield Hallam University brings together scientists and regional companies to address these challenges and to seek to produce more affordable and sustainable food sources and diets, as well as driving up economic activity. This is being done through use of engineering

technologies which support indoor growing of crops with low energy and water usage.

The project currently has a system demonstrator site, which demonstrates the capabilities of this work, but is seeking support for a factory scale site as well as a visitor centre.

Board members welcomed how these ambitions contribute to the strategic ambitions of the region such as development of the health and wellbeing sector and increasing opportunities for employment.

Professor Howarth noted that future funding would be needed to grow the capabilities of this project and welcomed engagement with MCA Officers to develop a strong business case.

RESOLVED: To note the update.

88 **South Yorkshire Advanced Manufacturing Capabilities - HVMC Research Report Output**

A presentation was given on the High Value Manufacturing Catapult's(HVMC) research report on South Yorkshire Advanced Manufacturing Capabilities.

It was noted that advanced manufacturing covers a broad range of processes and technologies and identifying a clearer definition of the sector would help to assess its capabilities and successes.

Innovation capabilities and strengths in the region were highlighted as including:

- Health and wellbeing,
- Advanced materials such as metallics,
- Automation and robotics,
- Food and drink innovation,
- The existence of major research and innovation assets in the region.

Capabilities in the region had been grouped in to six thematic areas, which could be used to target appropriate funding opportunities:

- Carbon Neutral & Circular Industries,
- Sustainable & Smart Mobility,
- Resilient Supply Networks,
- Clean Energy transition,
- Digital Engineering and Manufacturing,
- Health & Wellbeing.

Mature and emerging future market opportunities, from encouraging SMEs to growth through innovation, to developing the technical competence of targeted sectors, had been mapped in the report, alongside their potential impacts.

It was noted that taking no action would likely lead to shrinkage in the sector, but that large interventions had the opportunity to create £5bn worth of growth.

Difficulties for businesses to grow in this sector were noted as:

- Lack of hybrid (combined traditional and advanced manufacturing) skills,
- Lack of strategy and support,
- Lack of access to finance and innovation,
- Difficulty accessing clean energy.

Recommendations resulting from the report were to:

- Provide coherent innovation leadership for local businesses, towards central government and investors.
- Provide clarity of the strength of the region's innovation offering.
- Maintain momentum within the innovation community through engaging the community, providing tangible "quick wins" and co-creating credible strategies.

RESOLVED: To note the update.

89 **Investment Zone Development**

A verbal update was given on development of a South Yorkshire Investment Zone, noting that South Yorkshire had been invited by Government to co-design an Investment Zone.

In implementing the Investment Zone £80m of funding could be accessed in the region, through a combination of grants and tax incentives.

A first draft of a vision document for the Zone had been submitted to Government, and now Officers were working with partners to shape the geography and interventions of the Zone.

RESOLVED: To note the update.

90 **MCA & LEP Policy and Programmes Update**

An update was provided on ongoing MCA and LEP Policy and Programmes.

RESOLVED: To note the update.

91 **MCA Governance Update**

A verbal update was given on MCA Governance, noting that following the Government's review of LEPs and the ambitions of the Mayor, a review of the MCA and its governance had been undertaken, including the LEP Board.

Following engagement with LEP members, conclusions and recommendations were due to be presented at the June MCA Board for approval.

RESOLVED: To note the update.

92 **Forward Plan**

A Forward Plan for future meetings of the Board was presented.

RESOLVED: To note the Forward Plan.

I, the undersigned, confirm that this is a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Signed

Name

Position

Date

Local Enterprise Partnership

Action Log from 18 May 2023



Open and Recently Completed Actions

Meeting Date	Minute No	Action	Action Owner	Update	Status
12/01/23	65	The South Yorkshire Economy – Presentation Minute: ACTION – Policy Team to conduct a review of evidence on successful early years intervention methods, in collaboration with Barnsley MBC.	Felix Kumi-Ampofo	Initial engagement has taken place but more work is needed. This will now be considered as part of a wider exploration of the Early Years policy priority area. Broader engagement and research is needed to confirm how the MCA and partners can address the key issues.	Ongoing
09/03/23	75	The South Yorkshire Economy – Presentation Minute: It was asked how many businesses in the region had made use of the super-deduction capital allowance. ACTION: Senior Economic Policy Manager - A response was given that this information wasn't currently known, but would be looked in to	Laurie Heykoop		Closed.

Meeting Date	Minute No	Action	Action Owner	Update	Status
09/03/23	77	Skills Strategy Development Minute: ACTION: Assistant Director Employment & Skills - to present a draft of the strategy to the LEP Board before it is agreed by the MCA.	Adam Greenwood	Update on progression of strategy given to 18/05 meeting. Strategy will not be drafted before the final meeting of the LEP Board.	Closed.
18/05/23	84	Regarding the notes of the last meeting, Cllr Caroline Mackinson requested that further updates and outcomes of work on green skills be shared with Barnsley MBC - ACTION: Associate Director Skills & Employability.	Adam Greenwood		Closed.
18/05/23	85	ACTION: Consultation on the Strategic Transport Plan to be considered at a future LEP Board.	Andy Gates	Strategic Transport Plan consultation does not end until August 2023, following the final meeting of the LEP Board.	Closed.
18/05/23	86	Questions were raised around engagement with Government on issues such as the affordability of electric bikes and Net Zero. ACTION: Corporate Policy and Strategy Officer – agreed to feed these requests into future stakeholder engagement.	Molly Axelby		Closed.

Thursday, 13 July 2023

Local Enterprise Partnership – Annual Report 22/23 and transition to new business engagement arrangements

Is the paper exempt from the press and public?	No
Reason why exempt:	Not applicable
Purpose of this report:	Discussion
Strategic Priority	Cross Cutting

Director Approving Submission of the Report:

Clare Monaghan, Executive Director, Policy and Strategic Development.

Report Author(s):

Andrew Gates, Assistant Director External Affairs

Andrew.Gates@southyorkshire-ca.gov.uk

Recommendations:

The LEP Board are asked to:

1. Note the Annual Report of the Local Enterprise Partnership Board presented at Appendix A.
2. Note the new governance arrangements established by the MCA at its June 2023 Board meeting – in particular the establishment of a new Business Advisory Board.

1. Introduction

This paper introduces the Annual Report of the Local Enterprise Partnership for 2022/23.

The report sets out the key achievements of the LEP in the last 12 months across the full range of LEP related activity; from strategy, insight, and regional advocacy, to programmes the LEP has supported (through the MCA decision-making processes).

The Board will also be taken through a short informal 'look back on 13 years of the Local Enterprise Partnership' presentation during the meeting.

The report also updates the Board on the new MCA governance arrangements and how the private sector voice remains a key part of the region's economic policy development process.

2. The issue and connection to delivering on our economic objectives:

Annual Report

The Annual Report demonstrates the importance of the LEP in providing a mechanism for the private sector to engage directly with political leaders from across the region, to help shape economic policy and investment programmes, to advocate for the region collectively, and to build strong partnerships with a single voice for South Yorkshire.

MCA governance changes and maintaining a strong private sector voice

A key facet of the governance arrangements in South Yorkshire has been the strong inter-relationship between the LEP and MCA and overlap of membership. Building on the best of the public and private sectors, it has brought accountability, transparency, and business insight together.

3. What are we doing in South Yorkshire already – and what could we do?

Case for Change – governance review

Following the national review into the future of LEPs, the Government set out its intention to wind down Local Enterprise Partnerships and embed any remaining roles and remits into the local government system, specifically, where they exist, in Combined Authorities.

In South Yorkshire, the MCA has already integrated the roles and functions of the Local Enterprise Partnership into its governance model. At its heart, the model has ensured a strong effective private sector voice in the development of policy, influencing the strategic direction of the MCA and advocating and engaging with the wider business community.

Reflecting the new national environment and the imperative to review the existing governance structures in South Yorkshire, the MCA has now agreed a new governance model which shifts away from a thematic board approach to a new ‘cabinet’ style portfolio model approach.

The MCA also agreed that the way in which the MCA policy making process engaged with the private sector would change, with a shift to establishing two new private sector focused boards; a new Mayor’s Economic Advisory Council and a Business Advisory Board. They will play a critical role in ensuring a strong, independent and diverse business voice is embedded in the work of the MCA.

Role and remit of the new Business Advisory Board

The new Business Advisory Board (BAB) will provide regional business input into the work of SYMCA.

The proposed role and remit include:

- Shaping South Yorkshire’s thinking on issues of importance to businesses and the region’s economic future, and to ensure these are heard and considered by the MCA and inform its decisions,
- Helping develop thinking on MCA priorities where the business voice can add most value,
- Sharing intelligence to inform how the region supports new and existing business to grow and thrive,
- Serving as a forum to surface issues that the Mayor and Local Authority Leaders may need to address,

- Enabling advocacy, networking, and engagement regionally.

The Board will meet formally six times a year to engage in problem-solving and deep dive into the urgent and important issues facing our region.

It will provide insight to help shape and design innovative policies and programmes, and positively challenge SYMCA and partners to ensure local support really works for businesses and communities.

Membership and term length

Membership of the BAB is expected to be broadly balanced between business representative groups, representation from the Regional Skills Advisory Board, and an open recruitment process that will actively and purposefully seek new business voices.

SYMCA will endeavour to ensure that the new Board reflects the communities across the region, including a commitment to achieve gender balance.

Diversity on the Board in relation to business sectors, geography, demographics, and ethnicity will be prioritised to ensure it represents a broad range of interests from across South Yorkshire.

The new BAB will have 12 members, with proposed two-year term appointments, with the ability to extend for two-years.

Business Representation Organisations (BROs) will be asked to either nominate a lead officer from the executive function of their organisation or a member business who meets the criteria. The BROs include the Federation of Small Businesses, a single Chambers of Commerce rep for the region (with this being refreshed on a regular cycle), Make UK and a South Yorkshire Manufacturers / SY International Trade Forum representative.

The Regional Skills Advisory Board which is currently co-chaired by LEP Board member Angela Foulkes will also be represented directly.

LEP Board members have been engaged throughout the development of the new model.

Business Advisory Board recruitment

Recruitment to the new Business Advisory Board is now live.

4. Discussion points

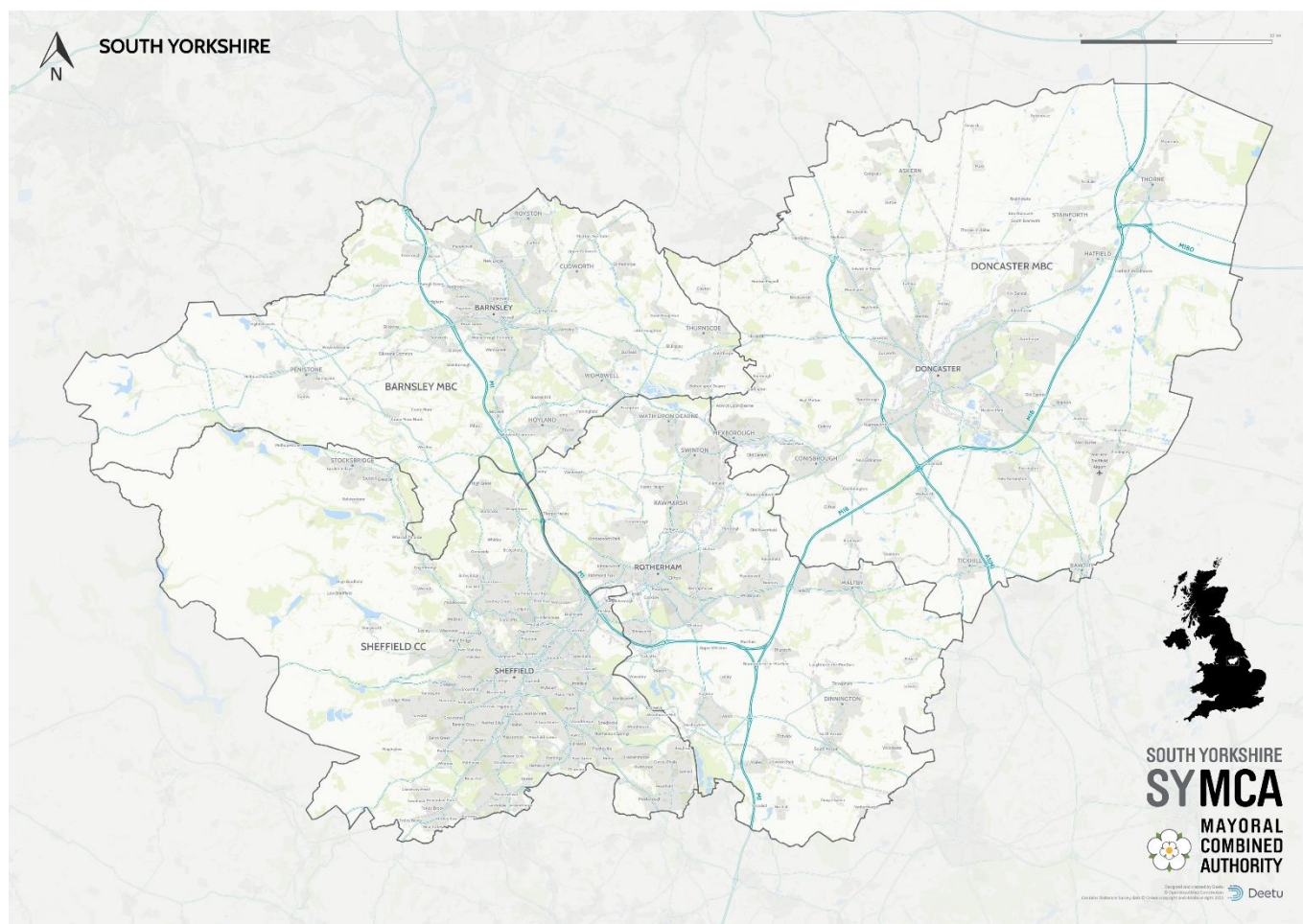
The LEP Board is asked to:

1. Approve the Annual Report as attached at Appendix A.
2. Note the new business engagement mechanisms in South Yorkshire.
3. Support the communications and engagement work of the MCA and partners to ensure we attract a wide range of new businesses to support the MCA develop policy and engage and advocate for the region.

5. Next Steps

n/a

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Contents

Executive Summary3

 The Local Enterprise Partnership Board (LEP)3

 The Future of the LEP3

 Thematic Boards3

Highlights 2022-234

 Thought Leadership and Informing Policy4

 Engagement4

 Advising5

 Delivery5

A high performing organisation7

Forward look7

 LEP Board Membership7

Executive Summary

This annual report summarises the achievements of the LEP in the last financial year as the Board in its existing format will cease to operate from July 2023.

Throughout its tenure the LEP has provided a space for the private sector to help set the direction of the region's economy. Through input to investment programmes, to the work of our thematic boards, to business engagement and advocacy and as a forum for debate and challenge, where anchor institutions, council Leaders, the Mayor and trade union representatives come together.

The success of the LEP has set a critical precedent that including the voice of business in our work enables the MCA to make more informed decisions about how we grow the region's economy in an equitable way.

THE LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP BOARD (LEP)

The Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) is a voluntary business-led partnership which brings together business leaders, local politicians and other partners to promote and drive economic growth across South Yorkshire. The LEP has been responsible for setting strategy and acting as the custodian of the Strategic Economic Plan. The LEP has also been responsible for ensuring that policy and decisions both receive the input of key business leaders, and by extension, reflect the views of the wider business community.

The focus of the LEP Board has been to discuss and advise decision-making on the following:

- **South Yorkshire Economy** – such as research on how well the economy is performing and the issues and needs of different sectors and markets;
- **Providing a Forum for Debate** - between the public and private sectors; and
- **Economic Strategy and Policy Development** – on new initiatives being brought forward.

THE FUTURE OF THE LEP

A key facet of the governance arrangements in South Yorkshire has been the strong inter-relationship between the LEP and MCA and overlap of membership. Building on the best of the public and private sectors, it has brought accountability, transparency and business insight together.

Following the national review into the future of LEPs, the Government set out its intention to wind down Local Enterprise Partnerships and embed any remaining roles and remits into the local government system, specifically, where they exist, in Combined Authorities.

In South Yorkshire, the MCA has already integrated the roles and functions of the Local Enterprise Partnership into its governance model. At its heart, the model has ensured a strong effective private sector voice in the development of policy, influencing the strategic direction of the MCA and advocating and engaging with the wider business community.

The changing national picture, the changes to wider MCA governance and the ambition of the Mayor to strengthen engagement with the business community, to develop a new Prospectus for Growth and to deliver on an ambitious programme, present an opportunity for the MCA to go further in building stronger and more diverse relationships with the private sector.

To do this the Local Enterprise Partnership will be replaced with two new private sector focused governance boards; a new Mayor's Economic Advisory Council and a Business Advisory Board. They will play a critical role in ensuring a strong, independent and diverse business voice is embedded in the work of the MCA.

THEMATIC BOARDS

To support decision-making and delivery, the MCA and LEP has been supported by four Thematic Boards, which were based on the broad strategic priorities of the SEP. The four Thematic Boards had delegated authority to make financial decisions on behalf of the MCA up to defined limits and were co-chaired by LEP Board Members.

- Business Recovery and Growth Board
- Education, Skills and Employability Board
- Housing and Infrastructure Board
- Transport and the Environment Board

As part of the Governance Review, these thematic boards have been disbanded as the MCA shifts to a Cabinet-style Leadership model with the Mayor and Leaders undertaking portfolio responsibilities.

Highlights 2022-23

In the last year the LEP Board has continued to play a strategic role through its work at the Board level, through input and contributions at the thematic board level and in connecting the region to the business community, in advocating and providing thought leadership in the region and contributing to a series of policy debates and South Yorkshire wide campaigns.

One of the major achievements in the past year has been securing an Investment Zone for South Yorkshire, that builds upon the investment made at sites around the Advanced Manufacturing Innovation District, investments into Boeing Sheffield, McLaren Automotive, the AMRC directly a host of other businesses across South Yorkshire.

The Investment Zone also connects directly to the SCR LEP led Enterprise Zone and our innovation and translational research assets.

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP AND INFORMING POLICY

- Delivering a successful **Tech Summit** and **Transport Summit** that brought together bright thinkers, innovative businesses, disruptive entrepreneurs, research institutes and anchor institutions for a day of debate and ideation.
- Shaping the emerging priority and focus of the MCA around **health inequalities**. This has been built upon the foundations of the work the LEP has initiated around health, including the review of South Yorkshire health and wellbeing assets.
- Advancing the work around **innovation** which has culminated in the MCA securing an **Investment Zone** that will support the achievement of the outcomes set out in the Strategic Economic Plan.
- Considering implications and possible activity regarding the **Destination Management Organisation** landscape in South Yorkshire and beyond.
- Engaging with specific pieces of research in new or emerging workstreams, for example regarding creative industries mapping and the cultural and creative network.
- The design and implementation of the **Shared Prosperity Fund** programme to tight Government deadlines and requirements.

ENGAGEMENT

The LEP have continued to build and strengthen relationships with key local, regional and national stakeholders and advocate for key South Yorkshire campaigns.

- The **Business Advisory Group**, chaired jointly by LEP Members Neil McDonald OBE and former LEP Board member Dan Fell, has continually supported SYMCA's long-term planning through up-to-date

information, insight from businesses and economic intelligence. They have provided a vital forum to test MCA policy and interventions at an early stage.

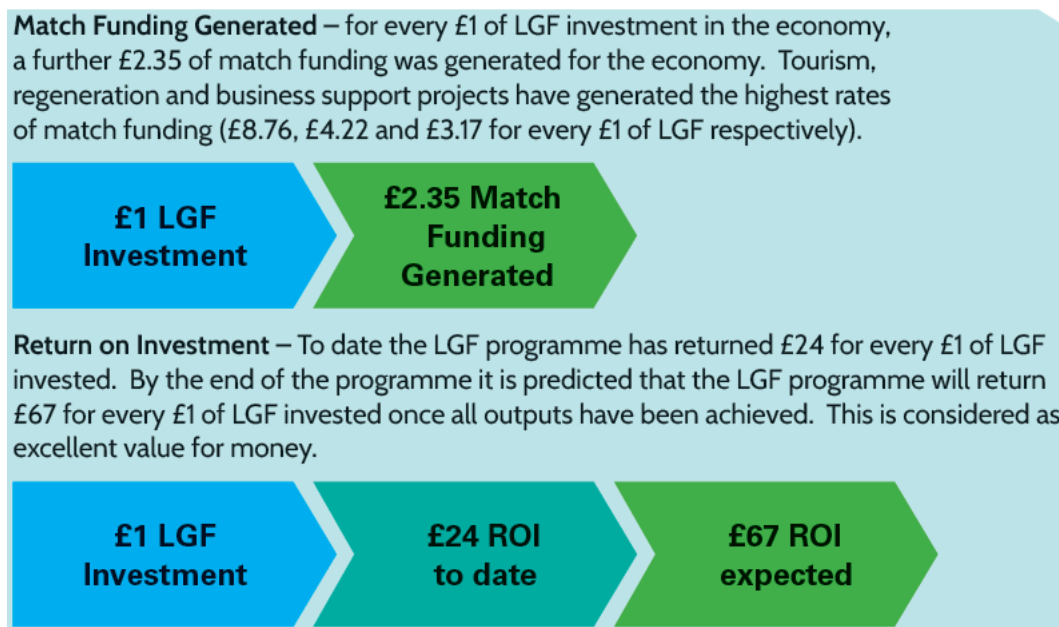
- The campaign around the proposed closure of **Doncaster Sheffield Airport** saw many LEP Board Members engage in specialist Business Advisory Group sessions, lobbying government and convening the private sector to support the Airport.
- The LEP advocated for a strong joint South Yorkshire presence at **UKREIIF Conference 2023** and members supported participation in events and panels. An evident collaborative spirit was noted by national stakeholders and the event was a success for the region.
- The Board championed Doncaster's campaign to become the new home of **Great British Railways Headquarters** (GBR HQ), in which they unfortunately lost out to Derby, coming in second place in the application process.
- Providing insights into regional studies such as the **Northern Powerhouse Independent Economic Review** to ensure the South Yorkshire perspective is included.
- LEP Board members regularly represent the region at Transport for the North, relevant All-Parties Parliamentary Groups and national conferences with Ministers, among others.
- The LEP Chair has played a prominent role in the NP11 and the progression of the Government's plans for a formal pan-Northern partnership.
- The LEP are the interface with regional organisations and networks, e.g. the Skills Advisory Network.

ADVISING

- **Assurance and value for money:** Through the Assurance Panel, with a private sector LEP Board member acting as a non-executive Chair, the LEP have been heavily engaged in steering major investment schemes through.
- Through the thematic board structure, the LEP Board provides oversight over substantial funds and programmes:
 - **Business Recovery and Growth:** e.g. considering and supporting the development of a series of business investment proposals and business support programmes in emerging sectors of interest e.g. creative and digital.
 - **Education, Skills and Employability Board: Skills Bank, Working Win** and the **£42m Adult Education Budget** programme.
 - **Transport and the Environment:** The implementation of City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement programme, progression of bus franchising and the transition to establishing an arms length body for the Tram and numerous extensions of Bus Recovery Grant and subsequent funding decisions.
 - **Housing and Infrastructure:** The South Yorkshire Housing Framework, the Brownfield Housing Fund Open Call and the South Yorkshire Flood Catchment Plan.
- LEP Board Members provide private sector **input into Government bids** and responses to Government decisions and/or feedback received for our bids, such as supporting the Levelling Up Fund bid focused on a package of public transport improvements and the Shared Prosperity Fund bid design.
- Providing expertise on external projects of regional significance including Vertical Farming using mine water geothermals and the South Yorkshire Advanced Manufacturing Capabilities HVMC Research Report.
- The LEP regularly discuss national policy positions and events such as Autumn and Spring Budgets, the development of the Trailblazer Devolution deals, the Government's Integrated Rail Plan and Innovation Strategy, national review of Destination Management Organisations as well as receiving regular reports on the state of the South Yorkshire economy.

DELIVERY

The majority of the programmes the LEP funded over its existence came through the Local Growth Fund (LGF) – a £363.7 million investment pot that provided grants and loans to a broad range of projects over the period 2015 to 2021. 2020/21 was the final funded year of the Local Growth Fund (LGF), and in 2020 a mid-term evaluation was conducted to gain preliminary understanding of the impact of the fund. Not only did the fund ensure a good spread of project spend across different thematic areas but the evaluation concluded that it provided an excellent return on investment and all targets were exceeded.



Skills Bank is a particular programme of note, funded by the LGF and one of our most successful interventions now in its 3rd iteration. The programme supports workers over the age of 19 years with qualifications between level 3 and level 7 whilst also providing access to specialist and bespoke training as well as off the shelf training programmes to businesses and their employees.

Some highlights include:

- 4,800 learners and 550 businesses enrolled on the Skills Bank 2 programme, exceeding the target
- Skills Deals worth £4.9m were delivered. £2.7m investment from the MCA and £2.2m from the private sector businesses
- 71% of businesses accessing bespoke training reported an increase in their competitiveness compared whilst 45% of businesses accessing off the shelf training provision reported an increase in competitiveness
- More micro sized businesses reported an increase in turnover as a result of the programme
- More micro sized and large businesses reported an increase in competitiveness

Other projects the LEP has funded include:

- UK Atomic Energy Authority
- National Centre of Excellence for Food Engineering
- Doncaster Urban Centre including the station forecourt and Cultural Quarter
- Gulliver's Kingdom
- The Glassworks, Barnsley
- University Centre Rotherham
- Yorkshire Wildlife Park
- Grey to Green
- DN7 Unity Hatfield Link Road

- Digital Media Centre expansion
- Peak Resort (as part of the former SCR geography)

A high performing organisation

Each year the Government undertake a review of LEP performance. In the last year the LEP has received a clean bill of health. The results of the Government's Annual Performance Review indicated that the LEP met all expectations for Governance, Delivery and Strategy.

Forward look

Through the establishment of the new Business Boards, the business voice will continue to be embedded in the work of the MCA. In the coming year they will provide valuable insights in the development of the Prospectus for Growth, the implementation of the South Yorkshire Investment Zone and supporting not only the Mayor, but also the newly appointed Portfolio Holders.

LEP BOARD MEMBERSHIP

The LEP Board has brought together a combination of permanent private sector representatives, two representatives from the Higher Education sector, a Trade Union representative, a Chamber of Commerce representative as well as the South Yorkshire Mayor and the four Leaders of the Local Authorities.

In January 2023 Richard Stubbs was appointed Interim LEP Chair; after Lucy Nickson stepped down at the end of her term. Both have played an integral role in leading the LEP, particularly through uncertainty while awaiting the findings of the Government's Review of LEPs.

Interim Vice Chair of the LEP Board is Neil MacDonald OBE, who was appointed in February 2022 after being a LEP Board Member for over four years.

- Richard Stubbs (Interim Vice Chair), Chief Executive, Yorkshire and Humber Academic Health Science Network
- Neil MacDonald OBE (Interim Vice Chair), Chair, St Luke's Hospice and Pro Chancellor, Sheffield Hallam University
- Oliver Coppard, Mayor of South Yorkshire
- Louisa Harrison-Walker (Co-opted), CEO of Sheffield Chamber of Commerce
- Angela Foulkes, Chief Executive and Principal at The Sheffield College
- Peter Kennan, Chair of Sheffield Chamber of Commerce and Industry Transport Forum
- Councillor Tom Hunt, Leader Sheffield City Council
- Mayor Ros Jones CBE, Leader Doncaster Council
- Councillor Sir Steve Houghton CBE, Leader Barnsley Council
- Councillor Chris Read, Leader Rotherham Council
- Professor Koen Lamberts, Vice Chancellor at The University of Sheffield
- Professor Kevin Kerrigan (Co-opted), Pro-Vice Chancellor for Business and Enterprise at Sheffield Hallam University
- Bill Adams (Co-opted), Regional Secretary, TUC Yorkshire and the Humber

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Thursday, 13 July 2023

Development of a Northern Pan-Regional Partnership

Is the paper exempt from the press and public?	No
Reason why exempt:	Not applicable
Purpose of this report:	Discussion
Strategic Priority	Cross Cutting

Director Approving Submission of the Report:

Clare Monaghan, Executive Director, Policy and Strategic Development.

Report Author(s):

Andrew Gates, Assistant Director External Affairs

Andrew.Gates@southyorkshire-ca.gov.uk

Recommendations:

The LEP Board are asked to:

1. Note the Government's intention to establish a formal Northern Pan Regional Partnership (PRP) and the MCA's support for this process
2. Note a set of South Yorkshire governing principles on which engagement on the development of a PRP will be based.
3. Consider key questions relating to the establishment of a Northern PRP, in particular any priority areas for focus at the Northern level – and the existence of other Northern groups that members may be engaged with.
4. Note the work being led by the NP11 to determine future PRP arrangements and the intention of the MCA Executive Team to engage in its development.

Consideration by any other Board, Committee, Assurance or Advisory Panel

MCA Board

05 June 2023

1. Introduction

Establishing a formal Pan Regional Partnership

At the June MCA Board meeting the Mayor and Leaders agreed to engage actively on the establishment of a formal Northern Pan Regional Partnership (PRP) body.

Current arrangements

The North comes together through a range of mechanisms, including the sub-national transport body Transport for the North, the Convention of the North, the NP11 (a grouping of the eleven LEP areas across the North) and through a range of other bodies such as the N8 (a grouping of the eight research intensive Universities) and other forums.

These are principally informal arrangements – often brought together informally through the NP11 and the Convention of the North. These arrangements are broadly considered by stakeholders to have worked well.

The only formal statutory body that exists to develop a pan-Northern position and programme of investment is on major Northern transport issues through Transport for the North (TfN).

Alongside the PRP considerations the Northern Mayors and Council Leaders of the Convention of the North have also been discussing the arrangements in place to develop the Convention of the North process, as they seek to bring together partners and develop and deliver their programme.

2. The issue and connection to delivering on our economic objectives:

The latest position on the establishment of a Northern PRP

The Government, and early engagement with the NP11 and consultees suggest that any new arrangements should:

- Build upon existing administrative arrangements of NP11 as a starting point, strengthening these structures and extending membership to provide a more representative body.
- Primarily be a coordinating body, bringing partners together to address priority areas, which will necessarily include some advisory outputs.
- Be led by evidence (with the regional evidence base function a core element) and the input of partners in establishing priorities. Engagement so far suggests that coordinating work on Trade & Investment and Innovation would present clear added value.
- Ensure TfN have representation on the PRP board opening TfN up to a broader audience focused on general economic development.
- Explore a membership model that balances between local government representatives and non-government members, including TfN, academic representation, non-LEP business representation and potentially the voluntary sector.
- A new body will not itself have a delivery role but should be able to influence activity in the North, working with delivery bodies (including MCAs) to address priority areas.
- The Chair will be an independent person recruited by a transparent process, and with Ministerial approval for any appointment.

It is also clear that the Government will need to ensure appropriate ministerial and senior civil servant engagement in the body to make it as effective as possible, including demonstrating a clearer sense of buy-in from Ministers across Departments.

Areas of focus for the Pan Regional Partnership

The form and function of the PRP is still to be determined. However, it is clear that there are areas of work that naturally lend themselves to a greater Northern focus. These include:

- Building the North's evidence base and research – building upon the work of the Northern Powerhouse Independent Economic Review.
- Ensuring transport planning and investment is an enabler of the North's economic potential.
- Building collaboration and clarity on the North's collective innovation capabilities.
- Building collaboration and joint trade and investment promotion; building a more coherent programme of international engagement with the Government.

3. What are we doing in South Yorkshire already – and what could we do?

South Yorkshire's position in relation to Northern networks and partnerships

South Yorkshire has strong representation in existing Northern arrangements, including being a formal member of Transport for the North, a member of the NP11, and an active contributor from both the Mayor and Council Leaders with the Convention of the North (including hosting the 2019 Convention of the North at Magna, Rotherham).

The MCA play a full part in a range of northern partnerships including the Northern Evidence Network and working groups / bodies working together on trade and investment, culture and place-making, northern life sciences and innovation.

Key principles driving the process to date

A number of key principles have driven the thinking on the development of Northern Pan Regional Partnership to date.

These are that any new body should be:

- Focused: strategic and evidence-based, rather than operational or political,
- Growth-driven: starting with a shared, ambitious economic vision, reflected in its remit and leadership,
- Collaborative: convening relevant partners driven by a common purpose on behalf of the whole North rather than own place or interests,
- Balanced: partnership of elected leaders, business, academia, and others,
- Diverse: reflecting the strengths of areas right across the North,
- Agile: numbers should be limited so as to support responsive decision making.

In addition, it is proposed that a PRP will:

- Need to demonstrate new structures will provide additional resources and/or influence over national policy,
- Need absolute clarity of purpose to avoid “mission creep”,
- Need to be “of the North”/“our voice in Govt” rather than vice versa,
- Be able to build upon the strong appetite for international, investor-facing, activity championing the North/“front door to the North”,
- Enable a simplifying of a collection of pan-Northern bodies.

4. Discussion points

The LEP are asked to consider:

- The quality and nature of existing South Yorkshire engagement at the Northern level – and whether there are existing forums at the Northern level that members are currently engaged in and could be aligned with a PRP.
- Whether there are particular areas of focus / specificity that South Yorkshire should make a priority in its engagement with other Northern partners.
- How this work should be communicated to a wider stakeholder base in the region.

5. Next Steps

The NP11 have commissioned external support to develop the form and the function of a PRP. The support will provide greater capacity to engage with the broad range of stakeholders involved, as well as an independent rigour in developing options that command buy-in from those stakeholders. This work will take place over the Summer of 2023 with a view that there may be the opportunity to formally announce / launch a PRP in Autumn 2023.

Thursday, 13 July 2023

MCA and LEP Policy and Programmes Update

Is the paper exempt from the press and public? No

Reason why exempt: Not applicable

Purpose of this report: Discussion

Strategic Priority Cross Cutting

Director Approving Submission of the Report:

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Recommendations:

Members to note a general update on activity being undertaken by the MCA outside of the agenda items under discussion.

List of Appendices Included:

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July 2023 Policy and Programmes Update
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July 2023

Policy and Programmes Update

Purpose of Report

To provide LEP Board Members with a general update on activity being undertaken by the LEP and MCA outside of the agenda items under discussion.

1.	<p>New Apprenticeship Hub to boost skills</p> <p>South Yorkshire's Mayor has announced plans to create at least 300 new apprenticeships by 2026 through a new Apprenticeship Hub. The Apprenticeship Hub will launch later this year as a two-year pilot. It will be a one-stop shop for businesses, apprentices and anyone hoping to start an apprenticeship by providing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help for businesses (SMEs in particular) to access technical talent across the region to tackle skills shortages. • Information, advice and guidance services to apprentices, parents and employers. • Progression pathways and opportunities into and out of high-quality Level 2 and 3 apprenticeships • Help supporting development of a public sector approach to apprenticeships, including flexi-job apprenticeships.
2.	<p>SY welcomes creation of new civil service policy hub in Sheffield</p> <p>The plan to create a major policy campus in Sheffield forms part of the wider work by the Civil Service to de-centralise policy and decision-making out of Whitehall. Sheffield is already a leading location for policy making, and Yorkshire is home to one of the largest numbers of Civil Servants outside of London.</p> <p>The Sheffield Policy Campus is being created with a view to creating a new talent pipeline for the policy profession, including apprenticeships and a regional Civil Service Fast Stream programme. A core feature of the plan is strengthening partnerships, both cross Government and between central, regional and local government. The Cabinet Office is working with Sheffield City Council, SYMCA, Business in the Community, both Sheffield Universities and Sheffield and Barnsley Colleges to develop the plan for the Campus.</p>
3.	<p>South Yorkshire continues fight to save Doncaster Sheffield Airport</p> <p>At the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority Board meeting on 5th June, South Yorkshire's Mayor and local leaders approved a funding package to support the reopening of Doncaster Sheffield Airport. £3.1m was agreed to help with the costs of building a case for the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) process currently being undertaken by the City of Doncaster Council. Mayor Oliver Coppard and the leaders of the four South Yorkshire councils also agreed a funding package towards the purchase of the Airport, should the CPO ultimately be successful.</p>

<p>4.</p>	<p>SY celebrates Employee Ownership Day</p> <p>Over 70 people joined Gripple at its GLIDE House headquarters in Sheffield to celebrate Employee Ownership (EO) Day (Friday 23rd June) at a special event held in association with the EOA (Employee Ownership Association) and the Ownership Hub in South Yorkshire. Keynote speakers included Mayor Coppard, Gripple Group Managing Director Ed Stubbs, and James de le Vingne - CEO of the Employee Ownership Association. The event was the culmination of a week of activities involving employee owners, businesses and supporters of employee ownership from across the UK joining together to raise awareness of the benefits and impact of employee ownership.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Sweaty Betty foundation boss joins South Yorkshire's Active Travel Team</p> <p>South Yorkshire's Mayor has announced the appointment of Nicola Marshall, leader of the Sweaty Betty Foundation, as the region's new Active Travel Programme Director. Working alongside Mayor Oliver Coppard and Active Travel Commissioner, Ed Clancy OBE, Nicola will drive ambitions to make walking, wheeling and cycling the first choice for everyday trips in South Yorkshire and lead on the development of the region's cycling and walking network.</p>