

## BUSINESS ADVISORY BOARD

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON:

TUESDAY, 21 NOVEMBER 2023 AT 11.00 AM

PARK COMMUNITY ARENA, WORKSOP RD, SHEFFIELD S9  
3TL.



### Present:

Louisa Harrison-Walker (Co-Chair)	South Yorkshire Chambers
Tariq Shah (Co-Chair)	Private Sector
Angela Foulkes	South Yorkshire Skills Advisory Board Chair
David Cross	Private Sector
Roz Davies	Private Sector
Richard Gould	Private Sector
Paula Gouldthorpe	Federation of Small Businesses
Dawn Huntrod	Make UK
Sherry Kothari	Private Sector
Ken Perritt	Private Sector

### In Attendance:

Martin Swales	Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service	SYMCA Executive Team
Tom Bousfield	Corporate Director Growth, Business & Skills	
Philip Cooper	External Affairs Officer	
Andy Gates	Assistant Director - External Affairs	SYMCA Executive Team
Paul Johnson	Head of Economic Policy	SYMCA Executive Team
Justin Homer	Department for Business & Trade	
Sam Townsend	Department for Business & Trade	

Lisa Reed (Minute Taker)

### Apologies:

Rachel Abbott	Cutlers, South Yorkshire International Trade Forum, Manufacturers Forum and Made In Sheffield
Liz Blackshaw	Northern Trade Union Congress
Mayor Oliver Coppard	South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority

Members discussed their ambitions for the Business Advisory Board and the region, noting the importance of team building, developing links with other bodies and methods of engagement to ensuring clarity of purpose and a strong direction of travel for the Board's work.

## 2 **Economic update and Plan for Growth Evidence Base**

The Board received an Economic Update presentation. It noted that nationally:

- Business investment had started to fall, and there was a need to encourage greater private sector investment,
- The UK was less productive than other countries, and without EU funding productivity had decreased.

Specifically in South Yorkshire, it was discussed how investment in transport, housing and infrastructure could benefit and spread innovation across the whole region.

## 3 **Financing Growth and Levelling Up Missions**

A discussion was held on the upcoming Autumn Statement and the MCA working towards closer working with Government on the issues South Yorkshire is facing; this includes ambitions to coordinate regional assets, secure greater local financing, and distribute funding proportionally across the region.

Key aspects of financing growth were identified as:

- Driving business productivity,
- Existing collaboration with the Universities and further opportunities to do so,
- Prompting shared messages and ways of working, in line with the mayor's ambitions for the region and a narrative for South Yorkshire,
- Seeking consistent sources of funding.

Communicating a plan for growth which also incorporates issues such as healthy life expectancy.

## 4 **Any Other Business**

None.