

## BUSINESS ADVISORY BOARD

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON:

TUESDAY, 19 MARCH 2024 AT 2.00 PM

SHEFFIELD FORGEMASTERS, BRIGHTSIDE LANE,  
SHEFFIELD, S9 2RW



### Present:

Louisa Harrison-Walker (Co-Chair)  
Tariq Shah (Co-Chair)  
Rachel Abbott

Liz Blackshaw  
David Cross  
Roz Davies  
Paula Gouldthorpe  
Beckie Hart  
Sherry Kothari  
Ken Perritt  
Annette Hobson (Reserve)

South Yorkshire Chambers  
Private Sector  
Cutlers, South Yorkshire International  
Trade Forum, Manufacturers Forum  
and Made In Sheffield  
Northern Trade Union Congress  
Private Sector  
Private Sector  
Federation of Small Businesses  
Confederation of British Industry  
Private Sector  
Private Sector

### In Attendance:

|               |   |                      |
|---------------|---|----------------------|
| Martin Swales | Chief Executive and Head of<br>Paid Service | SYMCA Executive Team |
| Andy Gates    | Assistant Director - External<br>Affairs    | SYMCA Executive Team |
| Rachel Clark  | Assistant Director Trade &<br>Investment    | SYMCA Executive Team |

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| Mayor Oliver Coppard | South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined<br>Authority |
|----------------------|---|

### Apologies:

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Angela Foulkes | South Yorkshire Skills Advisory Board<br>Chair |
| Richard Gould  | Private Sector                                 |

The Mayor and Members of the Business Advisory Board signed the UK Steel Charter, acknowledging the heritage of South Yorkshire and demonstrating continued support for the steel industry.

**2      Group Tour to See Forge in Operation (including photos)**

Forgemasters led the group on a tour to see the forge in operation.

**Formal Board Meeting to Start**

**3      Welcome and Apologies**

The Co-Chairs welcomed all to the meeting and apologies were noted as above.

**4      Minutes and Actions of the Previous Meeting**

Members approved the minutes of the 23<sup>rd</sup> January meeting.

**5      Presentation - a Global Leader in Steel Production and Engineering**

The Board received a presentation from Gary Nutter of Forgemasters which covered company background, defence outputs and recapitalisation.

**6      Presentation - Maximising Strategic Support for the Steel Industry**

Gareth Stace of UK Steel presented an item on Maximising Support for the Steel Industry.

The steel industry employed nearly 40,000 people in the UK. It was noted that these jobs were highly skilled and well paid, and in areas of the country that the government had committed to levelling up. The industry was also dedicated to developing home-grown skills and knowledge, employing 600 apprentices throughout the UK with plans to increase this by taking on 200 more every year.

Board members were keen to understand how we could communicate the key messages more widely.

**RECOMMENDATION: UK Steel to prepare a briefing for South Yorkshire MPs.**

**7      Developing Strong SY Communications to Attract Inward Investment - Recap, Next Steps and UKREiIF**

Rachel Clark updated Members on the plans for UKREiIF ahead of the event which would be held in Leeds between 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> May. The MCA and four local authorities were collaborating in order to promote a united South Yorkshire approach, building on the success of the previous year.

**Key discussion points:**

- BAB members indicated their support for being part of UKREiIF and will

liaise directly with Rachel Clark. Keen to explore whether we can identify a target list of UKREiFF attendees.

- BAB members also set out support for pulling together wider programme of support to new inward investors, including supply chain mapping and development tools (borrowing thinking from other areas)
- BAB members pressed MCA to develop (and be engaged on) more thinking around:
  - How we communicate the pipeline of inward investors and build welcoming package
  - Develop and communicate a clearer focus on the sectors and capabilities of businesses we're looking to attract.
  - How we plug inward investors into deep sector knowledge / partnerships

## 8      **Briefing Notes/ Updates Circulated Pre Meeting**

Members agreed that the briefing notes circulated prior to the meeting would be taken as read.

The Group discussed the Board priorities and considered the agenda for the meeting to be held on 14<sup>th</sup> May.

**ACTION: Ken Perritt to join the SY Transport Forum.**

## 9      **Any Other Business**

None.

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

Signed .....

Name .....

Position .....

Date .....