

## BUSINESS ADVISORY BOARD

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON:

TUESDAY, 14 MAY 2024 AT 1.30 PM

CAST, WATERDALE, DONCASTER DN1 3BU



### Present:

Louisa Harrison-Walker (Co-Chair)	South Yorkshire Chambers
Tariq Shah (Co-Chair)	Private Sector
Angela Foulkes	South Yorkshire Skills Advisory Board Chair
Roz Davies	Private Sector
Richard Gould	Private Sector
Paula Gouldthorpe	Federation of Small Businesses
Beckie Hart	Confederation of British Industry
Sherry Kothari	Private Sector
Ken Perritt	Private Sector

### In Attendance:

Andy Gates	Assistant Director - External Affairs	SYMCA Executive Team
Philip Cooper	External Affairs Officer	SYMCA Executive Team
Tom Bousfield	Corporate Director Growth, Business & Skills	SYMCA Executive Team
Rachel Clark	Assistant Director Trade & Investment	SYMCA Executive Team
Alice Rubbra	Head of Growth and Skills Policy	SYMCA Executive Team
Paul Johnson	Head of Economic Policy	SYMCA Executive Team
Diana Buckley	Economic Strategic Team	Sheffield City Council
Nick Stopforth	Head of Heritage and Culture	City of Doncaster Council

### Apologies:

Rachel Abbott	Cutlers, South Yorkshire International Trade Forum, Manufacturers Forum and Made In Sheffield
Liz Blackshaw	Northern Trade Union Congress
David Cross	Private Sector
Dawn Huntrod	Make UK
Mayor Oliver Coppard	South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority

## 10 Welcome and Apologies

The Co-Chairs welcomed all to the meeting and apologies were noted as above. The Co-Chairs also passed on their congratulations to Mayor Oliver Coppard on his re-election on behalf of the Board.

**ACTION: Andy Gates to circulate the Mayor's Priorities to Board Members once published.**

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

Members approved the minutes of the 19<sup>th</sup> March meeting.

**ACTION: Louisa Harrison-Walker to follow up on Ken Perritt's nomination to the South Yorkshire Transport Forum.**

**ACTION: Andy Gates to forward nomination details for the Transport for the North Board to Ken Perritt.**

**ACTION: Andy Gates to follow up on the recommendation for UK Steel to prepare a briefing for South Yorkshire MPs.**

12 **BAB Priorities - Member Portfolios**

The group discussed the Board's priorities and previously agreed portfolios:

- Place Making
- Communications & Pitch
- Inclusive Growth
- Workforce, Skills & Careers
- Green Economy & Just Transition
- Transport & Active Travel
- Trade & Investment
- Health & Wellbeing

**ACTION: Andy Gates to provide introductions between Board Members and lead officers covering portfolio areas.**

**ACTION: Tom Bousfield to invite Board Members to the September meeting of the Mayor's Economic Advisory Council.**

Members considered the potential opportunities created by the integration of Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) powers into the office of the Mayor.

**ACTION: To create a portfolio around crime, safety and security.**

**ACTION: Police and Crime to be to focus of a future meeting.**

13 **Reflections and comments on the briefing notes:**

The group reviewed the contents of the briefing pack, which included items on:

- Economic Update
- Investment Zone (IZ)
- Local Nature Recovery Strategy
- Plan for Good Growth
- PCC Integration

In response to questions around resourcing the IZ, it was confirmed that there would be recruitment to positions in the MCA and local authorities to support this activity. It was also noted that whereas other area's IZs had focussed on set projects, SYMCA had tested flexibility to be able to use the funding to land any upcoming, promising schemes. Members also discussed how student start-ups could be encouraged to remain in South Yorkshire.

**ACTION: Joseph Quinn to consider including a Business Advisory Board Member on the Investment Zone Board.**

**ACTION: Louisa Harrison-Walker to share The Resolution Foundation presentation with the Board.**

Members also considered the upcoming UK Real Estate Investment and Infrastructure Forum (UKREiiF).

**ACTION: Andy Gates to circulate UKREiiF briefing pack to Board Members.**

**ACTION: Rachel Clark to circulate a list of UKREiiF attendees to Board Members.**

14 **The role of culture in driving economic growth: drivers of activity and opportunities for the business community to engage and support.**

The Board discussed the link between culture and business, and how the business community could support and enhance the region's cultural sector.

It was noted that the local authorities were all at different stages of development with their cultural strategies but that these should be complementary. The MCA was also working on a Cultural Investment Framework.

South Yorkshire had a number of great assets, but it was felt that there was a need for an overarching regional vision as well as local stories. The right vision would allow us to effectively promote the region as a cultural destination. It was also noted that investing in the cultural sector delivered benefits in areas such as adult social care, mental health and crime reduction.

15 **Looking Ahead to Future Meetings**

It was noted that the 25<sup>th</sup> June meeting was planned to focus on transport and be held at Magtec in Rotherham.

16 **Any Other Business**

The Board received an update on Doncaster Sheffield Airport.