

## BUSINESS ADVISORY BOARD

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON:

TUESDAY, 25 JUNE 2024 AT 2.00 PM

MAGTEC, 1 TEMPLE CLOSE, ROTHERHAM, S60 1FH



### Present:

Louisa Harrison-Walker (Co-Chair)	South Yorkshire Chambers of Commerce
Angela Foulkes	South Yorkshire Skills Advisory Board Chair
Rachel Abbott	The Company of Cutlers
Liz Blackshaw	Northern Trade Union Congress
David Cross	Private Sector
Roz Davies	Private Sector
Beckie Hart	Confederation of British Industry
Dawn Huntrod	Make UK
Sherry Kothari	Private Sector
Mayor Oliver Coppard	South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority

### In Attendance:

Andy Gates	Director of Development, Collaboration and Culture	SYMCA Executive Team
Philip Cooper	External Affairs Officer	SYMCA Executive Team
Melanie Corcoran	Executive Director of Transport	SYMCA Executive Team
Paul Johnson	Head of Economic Policy	SYMCA Executive Team
Lewis Adams	Senior Data Analyst	SYMCA Executive Team
Lewis Cardwell	Senior Data Analyst	SYMCA Executive Team
Ellen Hinsley	Democratic Services Officer	SYMCA Executive Team
Victoria Dearden	Governance Officer	SYMCA Executive Team
Sam Chapman		South Yorkshire Transport Forum
Peter Kennan		South Yorkshire Transport Forum

### Apologies:

Tariq Shah	Private Sector
Richard Gould	Private Sector
Paula Gouldthorpe	Federation of Small Businesses

17      **Tour of Magtec**

Andrew Gilligan, Managing Director of Magnetic Systems Technology Limited (MagTec), led the group on a tour of the factory.

18      **Welcome and Apologies**

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

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

With reference to Minute No. 13(i), it was noted that although work had not yet progressed to this stage, a Member of the Business Advisory Board would be included on the Board of the Investment Zone once operational.

The Board approved the minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> May.

20      **Presentation from Magtec**

Andrew Gilligan provided a presentation on MagTec. The company had been founded in Sheffield in 1992 to deliver electric vehicle systems specifically for commercial and special purpose vehicles.

One of Magtec's core markets was the repowering of existing bus and other specialised vehicle fleets, converting them to electric vehicles. Repowering assets would also cost 50% less than the purchase of a new fleet.

Members considered that South Yorkshire had a strong reputation for net zero and technology. As a growth industry, this had the potential to evolve the region's economy through the creation of high value jobs.

**ACTION: An introduction between MagTec and John Healey MP to be facilitated.**

21      **South Yorkshire Transport Forum**

The Board received an item on some topical transport matters from the Co-Chairs of Sheffield Chamber's South Yorkshire Transport Forum.

The reopening of Doncaster Sheffield Airport (DSA) was considered to be of key strategic importance. It was emphasised that while holiday flights would play a part in operations, the creation of a green aviation hub and Investment Zone cluster was the principal aim as a driver of economic growth for the area. The reopening of DSA would also improve South Yorkshire's inward investment offer and benefit the region's exporters. It was noted that while Doncaster businesses had provided support to the campaign, businesses across the region could be add their backing.

On bus, it was agreed that a change of operating model could not solve the root problems with the network on its own. A combined approach to promoting the capped fare from the MCA, businesses and other stakeholders may prove worthwhile.

It was felt that more information and education on Active Travel as part of the transport network was needed. Additional engagement and support for the SME sector in particular would be essential to ensure significant change.

In terms of rail, improved passenger services between Sheffield – Leeds and South Yorkshire – Manchester were a priority. There was a well developed rail cluster in Doncaster which the rest of South Yorkshire could join to share the costs and benefits.

Members agreed that collaborative working between the MCA, businesses and other stakeholders could yield much greater effects. The issue of transport also had an impact on other key areas for the MCA, such as the economy, environment and health.

## 22 **Business engagement in the future of South Yorkshire's transport**

Melanie Corcoran informed the Board that the public transport network was currently at a pivotal point of opportunity:

- Supertram had returned to public control after nearly 30 years and DfT had approved funding to renew the network. The MCA would also be looking to launch a Tram Vision for the future.
- Following the decision to progress to the independent audit of the franchising process, the Mayor had pledged to take the final decision as to whether to bring buses back into public control within the next 12 months.
- The Mayor had also committed to make South Yorkshire the best place in the country to walk, wheel and cycle.
- The integration of Police and Crime Commissioner powers would better integrate safety policy and public transport.

It was considered that a good public transport system had the potential to provide a catalyst for economic growth as well as connecting people and businesses with opportunity.

In terms of business engagement, the next stage of the franchising process would be a statutory public consultation. Given the importance of the final decision, Members were encouraged to promote participation through their networks. The Tram Vision was also in development and feedback from businesses on proposals would be welcomed once complete. On Active Travel, it was noted that the MCA had acquired a Modeshift business licence for whole of South Yorkshire. This was free for any employer in the region to apply and get support to encourage active travel. Over 40 sites had signed up so far.

**ACTION: Presentations to be shared with Members following the meeting.**

## 23 **Review and comments on the briefing notes circulated prior to the meeting:**

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

- Economic Update
- Mayoral Priorities

- Local Visitor Economy Partnership
- Pathways to Work

**ACTION: A poll to be conducted prior to the next meeting to see what Members would like to be covered in the Economic Update.**

**ACTION: A bulletin to summarise each meeting to be produced for Members to disseminate through their networks.**

24 **Looking Ahead to Future Meetings:**

It was noted that:

- The 3<sup>rd</sup> September meeting will be held at the MCA's offices in Sheffield and will focus on the Mayor's Priorities as well as the political landscape following the General Election.
- The 29<sup>th</sup> October meeting has been provisionally booked at Robert Dyson House in Wath-upon-Dearne and will consider issues around Police and Crime.

25 **Any Other Business**

None.

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

Signed .....

Name .....

Position .....

Date .....