

## BUSINESS ADVISORY BOARD

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON:

TUESDAY, 3 SEPTEMBER 2024 AT 2.00 PM

SYMCA OFFICE, 11 BROAD STREET WEST, SHEFFIELD, S1  
2BQ



### Present:

Louisa Harrison-Walker (Co-Chair)	South Yorkshire Chambers
Tariq Shah (Co-Chair)	Private Sector
Angela Foulkes	South Yorkshire Skills Advisory Board Chair
Rachel Abbott	The Company of Cutlers
David Cross	Private Sector
Roz Davies	Private Sector
Paula Gouldthorpe	Federation of Small Businesses
Beckie Hart	Confederation of British Industry
Dawn Huntrod	Make UK
Sherry Kothari	Private Sector

### In Attendance:

Andy Gates	Director of Development, Collaboration and Culture	SYMCA Executive Team
Philip Cooper	External Affairs Officer	
Joseph Quinn	Director of Growth & Sector Development	SYMCA Executive Team
Paul Johnson	Head of Economic Policy	SYMCA Executive Team

### Apologies:

Richard Gould	Private Sector
Ken Perritt	Private Sector
Tom Bousfield	

### 26 Welcome and Apologies

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

### 27 Minutes and Actions of the Previous Meeting

The Board approved the minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> June as a true and accurate record.

The outstanding action regarding a poll for economic update will be closed by the October meeting.

The Co-Chair thanked everybody for their participation in the networking lunch with SYMCA Officers that ran from 1pm – 2pm before the meeting.

## 28 **Government Priorities**

The Director of Development, Collaboration and Culture gave a presentation on the importance of government engagement to SYMCA. He talked about how positioning South Yorkshire as a key player could facilitate future investment and support from Government.

He noted that South Yorkshire's mix of local authorities and being home to the first Investment Zone makes it an attractive area for collaboration and innovation. He emphasised South Yorkshire's track record in scalable innovations and collaboration, citing projects like Beds for Babies.

**ACTION: Democratic Services to circulate the presentation.**

## 29 **Developing SY Growth Plan**

The Director of Growth and Sector Development, led an interactive discussion looking at the challenges and opportunities this presents, and the roles of key SY stakeholders in making it happen.

The Local Growth Plan will take a long-term, 10-year approach to coordinate investment at local, regional, and national levels, influencing government spending on housing, transport, skills, net-zero, environment, and energy.

Work is ongoing to set out the scope of the Local Growth Plan, and Joseph and his colleagues expect that it will:

- Provide a framework for local, regional, and national investment, guide investment decisions in other government departments (for example, DSIT and DESNZ), and send a strong signal to the private sector.
- Be informed by our existing work on the Investment Zone proposition, our Plan for Good Growth and Skills Strategies and Local Authority (LA) plans.
- Include projects/programmes for investment related to the region's high-level challenges and opportunities – with a sliding scale of those ready to go versus schemes requiring further development.

It is expected to be a staged process:

- Stage one: Agree on high-level priorities this Autumn

Stage Two: More detailed work on projects and costs by Spring 2025

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

The board received their background briefing papers in an audio format ahead of this meeting. Members remarked that this new format had saved them time and that the information was more memorable than the usual written format.

The audio briefing pack included recordings on:

- Latest Economic Update
- The Local Nature Recovery Strategy
- Made Smarter
- Inclusive Growth
- Citizens Assembly
- Made Smarter
- Skills Bank.

Members discussed the Made Smarter leadership programme and lessons learned for future improvements.

**ACTION: MCA officers to come back to the board with an update on next steps for the project after the programme concludes.**

31 **Looking Ahead to Future Meetings**

The Co-Chair confirmed the next meetings will be held on 29<sup>th</sup> October at HMP Hatfield.

The Board asked for a future meeting to be arranged to take place Broad Street West that would include another networking event.

**ACTION Democratic Services to schedule a networking session into the BAB workplan.**

**ACTION: Updates on the work of the South Yorkshire Skills Advisory Board (SYSAB) to be included at future meetings.**

32 **Any Other Business**

New worker rights legislation related to unfair dismissal from day one and zero hour contracts was discussed.

**ACTION: SYMCA officers will work with BAB business representative organisations to listen to their responses to the changes and consider the expected impact on local businesses.**

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

Signed .....

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Name .....

Position .....

Date .....