



Wednesday, 31 August 2022

To: Members of the MCA - Local Enterprise Partnership and Appropriate Officers

NOTICE OF MEETING

You are hereby invited to a meeting of the South Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership to be held at **South Yorkshire MCA, 11 Broad Street West, Sheffield, S1 2BQ**, on: **Thursday, 8 September 2022 at 11.00 am** for the purpose of transacting the business set out in the agenda.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Martin Swales'.

Martin Swales
Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service

Member Distribution

Lucy Nickson (Chair)	Private Sector LEP Board Member
Neil MacDonald (Vice-Chair)	Private Sector LEP Board Member
Mayor Oliver Coppard	South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority
Bill Adams	TUC Representative
Joe Chetcuti	Private Sector LEP Board Member
Dan Fell	Doncaster Chamber
Angela Foulkes	Private Sector LEP Board Member
Councillor Terry Fox	Sheffield City Council
Alexa Greaves	Private Sector LEP Board Member
Councillor Sir Steve Houghton CBE	Barnsley MBC
Mayor Ros Jones CBE	Doncaster MBC
Peter Kennan	Private Sector LEP Board Member
Professor Koen Lamberts	Co-opted University LEP Board Member
Councillor Chris Read	Rotherham MBC
Gemma Smith	Private Sector LEP Board Member
Richard Stubbs	Private Sector LEP Board Member

MCA - Local Enterprise Partnership

Thursday, 8 September 2022 at 11.00 am

Venue: South Yorkshire MCA, 11 Broad Street West, Sheffield, S1 2BQ

SOUTH YORKSHIRE
BUSINESS



LOCAL
ENTERPRISE
PARTNERSHIP

Agenda

Agenda Ref No	Subject	Lead	Page
1.	Welcome and Apologies	Chair	
2.	Matters Arising / Action Log	Chair	5 - 6
3.	Declarations of Interest <ul style="list-style-type: none">In relation to any agenda itemIn relation to any activity since the last formal meetingIn relation to any forthcoming activity	Chair	
4.	Notes of Last Meeting	Chair	7 - 12
Strategic Development			
5.	State of the South Yorkshire Economy	Jonathan Guest	13 - 16
6.	Levelling Up Fund Bid Update	Alex Linton	17 - 20
7.	Doncaster Sheffield Airport Update	Martin Swales	Verbal
8.	Environmental Sustainability Plan	Laurie Heykoop	21 – 26
For Information			
9.	Chief Executive's Update	Martin Swales	Verbal

Date of next meeting: Thursday, 3 November 2022 at 11.00 am

At: South Yorkshire MCA, 11 Broad Street West, Sheffield, S1 2BQ

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Open and Recently Completed Actions

Meeting Date	Minute No	Action	Action Owner	Update	Status
7/07/2022	32	Health and Wellbeing Asset Review Minute: ACTION: P Johnson to share the review's methodology paper and technical annex with the Board.	P Johnson	Papers shared via email on 26/08/22.	Closed
7/07/2022	37	Annual Report 2021/22 and Delivery Plan 2021/22 Minute: Feedback was given on the report, and members suggested that international work such as meetings with the High Commission for India should be included asked that more emphasis on external engagement, ie, healthcare, climate change, APPGs and ministers be given. ACTION: A Gates to make the above amendments to the report and share the final report with the Board.	A Gates		Ongoing

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MCA - LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON:

THURSDAY, 7 JULY 2022 AT 11.00 AM

SOUTH YORKSHIRE MCA, 11 BROAD STREET WEST,
SHEFFIELD, S1 2BQ

**SOUTH YORKSHIRE
BUSINESS**



**LOCAL
ENTERPRISE
PARTNERSHIP**

Present:

Lucy Nickson (Chair)	Private Sector LEP Board Member
Bill Adams	TUC Representative
Mayor Oliver Coppard	South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority
Michael Faulks	Private Sector LEP Board Member
Angela Foulkes	Private Sector LEP Board Member
Councillor Glyn Jones (Reserve)	Doncaster MBC
Peter Kennan	Private Sector LEP Board Member
Councillor Chris Lamb (Reserve)	Barnsley MBC
Professor Dave Petley	University of Sheffield
Richard Stubbs	Private Sector LEP Board Member

Officers in Attendance:

Martin Swales	Chief Executive	SYMCA Executive Team
Damian Allen	Chief Executive, Doncaster MBC	Doncaster MBC
Andy Gates	Assistant Director - Strategic Corporate Affairs	SYMCA Executive Team
Jonathan Guest	Head of Policy	SYMCA Executive Team
Kate Josephs	Chief Executive, Sheffield City Council	Sheffield City Council
Sharon Kemp	Chief Executive, Rotherham MBC	Rotherham MBC
Nici Pickering	MCA Executive Team	SYMCA Executive Team
Sarah Pugh	Minute Taker	

Guests in Attendance

Justin Homer	BEIS
Councillor Zahira Naz (Observer)	Sheffield City Council
Lynda Shillaw	Chief Executive, Harworth Group

Apologies:

Joe Chetcuti	Private Sector LEP Board Member
Dan Fell	Doncaster Chamber
Alexa Greaves	Private Sector LEP Board Member
Councillor Sir Steve Houghton CBE	Barnsley MBC
Professor Chris Husbands	Sheffield Hallam University
Neil MacDonald	Private Sector LEP Board Member
Councillor Chris Read	Rotherham MBC
Sarah Norman	Barnsley MBC
Sarah Want	Sheffield University

29 **Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and noted apologies as above.

Members agreed that item 7 of the agenda, Environmental Sustainability Plan, be deferred to allow for further engagement with LEP members.

30 **Declarations of Interest**

None.

31 **Notes of Last Meeting dated 12 May 2022**

RESOLVED: That the notes of the previous meeting held on 12 May 2022 were agreed to be an accurate record.

32 **Health and Wellbeing Assets Review**

Findings from the Health and Wellbeing Asset Review were presented to the board. It was stated that this work focussed on creating local interventions which aligned with national and international medical technology innovation markets to benefit local citizens.

Communication across the region was a priority; it was noted that there was a strong innovation ecosystem in South Yorkshire but a lack of capacity to respond to investment opportunities.

L Shillaw noted the parallels with the work of the Innovation Board and said that defining the narrative for the region would be critical for innovation.

It was explained that 40 stakeholders were consulted, as well as undertaking extensive data analysis.

ACTION: P Johnson to share the review's methodology paper and technical annex with the Board.

The use of South Yorkshire based consultants was welcomed and queries were raised regarding the nature of the businesses consulted. The board were informed that a very broad sector was consulted, and a number of subsectors identified - outlined in the technical annex.

The board asked about the national challenges impacting health and wellbeing assets and whether any funding had been identified which would address these. It was explained that public seed funding would be key and that other items on the agenda would link to private funding available.

The Chair asked that this work continue to be brought back to the LEP Board.

RESOLVED: To note the paper and research report findings

Innovation Board Presentation

L Shillaw presented an update on the formation of the South Yorkshire Innovation Board. It was explained that the board would:

- identify ongoing innovation work and establish mechanisms to capitalise on it.
- be a long-term project.
- consist of approximately 9 members, with a mix of individuals from different sized organisations and government.
- be supported by external experts
- report into the LEP board.

The need for five theme groupings had been identified including Finance and Funding, Infrastructure, Business and Ecosystems, and Skills. Each to be co-ordinated by a member of the board.

The scope of the Board's work would be broad and include finding solutions and frameworks to fund and establish innovation in the region. Members were informed that extensive stakeholder mapping work would need to be undertaken.

Members encouraged a greater focus on support for SMEs in the region and involvement of Local Authorities.

RESOLVED: to note the progress made towards the formation of the South Yorkshire Innovation Board and to endorse the work underway by the Innovation Board Chair.

Destination Management / Marketing in South Yorkshire

A report seeking approval to undertake a review of Destination Management and Marketing (DMO) in South Yorkshire was presented to the board.

Recommendations in the report seek to address the lack of a collective evidence base regarding how to promote South Yorkshire as a destination by undertaking analysis of opportunities and research of what has worked elsewhere.

The board welcomed the focus on private sector involvement in the report and also asked about when the de Bois review could be expected. The board were informed that an exact date was not known but it was expected to be published soon.

It was noted that the discussions among Yorkshire leaders regarding the future of the Welcome to Yorkshire campaign could feed into this work.

RESOLVED: to approve the recommendations of the report.

Environmental Sustainability Plan

This item was deferred.

36 **Launch of Data and Intelligence Hub**

A report was presented to the board regarding the launch of a Data and Intelligence Hub platform which aims to support intelligent decision making and enhance transparency, accessibility, and equality.

The board were informed that a soft launch of the platform would take place on 11 July 2022 (with a view to a full launch in September) and that Members could access the test site using the link on the board papers – feedback would be appreciated.

The board welcomed this initiative.

RESOLVED: To note the report and the progress made on the Data and Intelligence Hub.

37 **Annual Report 2021-2022 and Delivery Plan 2021-2022**

The Annual Report and Delivery Plan was presented to the board. It was noted that the report and plan were a legal requirement, but that it also demonstrated the value of the activity that had taken place in the region. The board were thanked for their participation and work outside of LEP Board meetings.

Feedback was given on the report, and members suggested that international work such as meetings with the High Commission for India should be included asked that more emphasis on external engagement, ie, healthcare, climate change, APPGs and ministers be given.

ACTION: A Gates to make the above amendments to the report and share the final report with the Board.

RESOLVED: to note and endorse the content of the LEP Annual Report 2021-22 with the above feedback.

38 **Chief Executive's Update**

The Chief Executive gave an update to the board which included:

- the shortlisting of Doncaster as a possible location for the Head Quarters of Great British Rail – work was ongoing work with Government Ministers on this.
- the ongoing LEP review which include a recent workshop which had been very positive. The review to be returned to Government.

The board encouraged votes for Doncaster in the ongoing public vote.

RESOLVED: to note the verbal update.

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

Signed

Name

Position

Date

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Local Enterprise Partnership

08 September 2022

State of the South Yorkshire Economy

Is the paper exempt from the press and public? No

Purpose of this report: Governance

Funding Stream: Not applicable

Is this a Key Decision? No

Has it been included on the Forward Plan? Not applicable

Director Approving Submission of the Report:
Ruth Adams, Deputy Chief Executive

Report Author(s):
Jonathan Guest, Head of Policy

Executive Summary:

South Yorkshire is facing some major economic challenges with a squeeze on incomes due to soaring energy prices and higher interest rates likely to affect economic growth prospects. A recession or a period of low growth would undermine efforts to create a sustainable and inclusive future economy. Evidence is mounting of a worsening outlook for the economy and past recessions have not been kind to South Yorkshire's residents and businesses.

What does this mean for businesses, people and places in South Yorkshire?

Future economic disruptions and the worsening outlook will adversely affect businesses, people, and place in South Yorkshire. The only question is "how much". The Board presentation and discussion should enable the LEP and MCA refine its focus and target interventions as these continue to be developed.

Recommendations:

That the board discusses the key issues raised by the presentation and considers what actions may be necessary to grow an economy that works for everyone

Consideration by any other Board, Committee, Assurance or Advisory Panel

None

Background

- 1.1 Residents and businesses in South Yorkshire are facing price increases not seen for more than a generation. The cost-of-living crisis is particularly challenging because it comes against a backdrop of low-income growth, high inequality, and the shadow of a pandemic.
- 1.2 At the meeting, a presentation will be provided which will set out the state of the South Yorkshire economy. This cover paper provides the context for the presentation and discussion during the meeting.

2. Key Issues

2.1 Inflation

The Bank of England expect inflation to rise to 13% this year. This will affect many residents' ability to pay bills and put food on the table. Inflation is being driven by rising energy bills as well as higher food and fuel costs. The gap between pay growth and inflation is the biggest since records began more than 20 years ago. The extremity of inflation now means that average pay rises are still not enough to keep up with price rises. The widening gap between prices and wages is likely to lead to a sharp fall in consumer spending power.

2.2 Drop in living standards

Inflation, rises in interest rates and other economic challenges are predicted to cause what the Bank of England has described as "the steepest decline in living standards on record, with household disposable income forecast to fall by 3.7% over the next two years".

The Resolution Foundation describe how "Too many people do not have reliable access to the resources they need to meet the day-to-day costs for a decent quality of life". Price rises hit those on low and middle incomes hardest. Those in this group have fewer, if any, ways to cut back on spending without impacting living standards significantly; the average inflation rate they face is higher; and they have fewer financial resources to fall back on.

2.3 Recession on the cards

The UK's recovery from the pandemic stalled in the three months to June when the economy contracted by 0.1%, according to the ONS. This reflects a weakening outlook for the UK economy, which means that many forecasters expect the UK to enter into a recession in the last months of this year. Worryingly still, many forecasters expect it turn into the longest downturn since 2008 with The Bank of England expecting the economy to "keep shrinking until the end of 2023".

2.6 Potential impacts are concerning

For an area like South Yorkshire, with economic development challenges and entrenched inequalities, the implications of a recession, periods of high inflation or low economic growth could be devastating.

Areas with higher levels of deprivation are usually the worst hit by recessions. The poorest communities struggle to recover from economic downturns even in periods of wider prosperity. The impact of the Covid pandemic has largely confirmed this assertion.

Sadly, previous recessions show us that we should expect the hardest-hit areas of the pandemic to experience the harshest impacts of this recession.

Residents and businesses across South Yorkshire face tough decisions over the next few months. Turning these worrying economic trends around is a key task for all stakeholders the 2020s. and in South Yorkshire, this must be done against the backdrop of long term structural weaknesses in the economy. However, there will also be significant opportunities to exploit, not least in the “green sector” and in the development of new digital and technology led solutions in health, education, mobility and construction.

3. Options Considered and Recommended Proposal

3.1 An options assessment is not applicable to this paper. The conclusions from the discussion that ensues, and the actions that arise, if there are any, will be considered in greater detail. An options assessment may then be worthwhile at that stage.

3.2 **Option 1 Risks and Mitigations**
Not applicable at this stage

3.3 **Recommended Option**

Not applicable

4. Consultation on Proposal

4.1 Not applicable

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision:

5.1 Not applicable

6. Financial and Procurement Implications and Advice

6.1 Not applicable

7. Legal Implications and Advice

7.1 Not applicable

8. Human Resources Implications and Advice

8.1 Not applicable

9. Equality and Diversity Implications and Advice

9.1 Not applicable

10. Climate Change Implications and Advice

10.1 Not applicable

11. Information and Communication Technology Implications and Advice

11.1 Not applicable

12. Communications and Marketing Implications and Advice.

12.1 Not applicable

List of Appendices Included

None

Background Papers:

None

Committee/Board Name and Date of Meeting:

Local Enterprise Partnership

Meeting Date:

08 September 2022

Report Title

Levelling Up Fund Bid Update

Is the paper exempt from the press and public?

No

Reason why exempt:

Not applicable

Purpose of this report:

Discussion

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Has it been included on the Forward Plan?

Not applicable

Director Approving Submission of the Report:

Martin Swales, Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service

Report Author(s):

Alex Linton, Head of Transport Development
alex.linton@southyorkshire-ca.gov.uk

Executive Summary

The Levelling Up Fund opportunity is the second, and potentially final round of funding from the Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities. SYMCA are eligible for one successful submission, this was not achieved in the first round so a more innovative approach, responding to the evolving needs of the passenger transport network has been developed for round two. The submission was made on August 2nd and feedback is awaited from Government.

What does this mean for businesses, people and places in South Yorkshire?

An effective sustainable transport system is a fundamental requirement of delivering a healthy and attractive region and supporting economic growth.

Recommendations

Board are asked to continue to support the submission and any subsequent activity required to secure funding once Government feedback is received.

Consideration by any other Board, Committee, Assurance or Advisory Panel

N/A

1. Background

- 1.1 The Levelling Up Fund (LUF) is led by the Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC) and is designed to invest in infrastructure that improves everyday life across the UK, supporting town centre and high street regeneration, local transport projects, and cultural and heritage assets.
- 1.2 MCAs are eligible to receive funding for one transport submission, SYMCA were not successful in round one during 2021 and so have produced a submission for round two of the programme. This is expected to be the final round of LUF offered by DLUHC.
- 1.3 Following a review of the feedback from our original LUF submission and successes from other regions, it was determined that revision of the round one proposal was not suitable and a more innovative approach has been developed. The round two submission is centred on the modernisation of the passenger transport network and establishment of a SMART transport system to provide a greater customer offering and experience.
- 1.4 The proposal has three main pillars; the ability to plan better journeys through the provision of technology and customer information improvements at stops and interchanges, the ability to 'buy better' through an integrated and simple ticket purchasing process and better travel opportunity through improvements to the reliability of scheduled services and the creation of a new Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) service capability.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 At a national level the LUF round one programme was heavily over-subscribed and it is realistic to expect that this will happen again with round two, this increases the risk of proposals not being funded.
- 2.2 The activities within the LUF submission, in particular the development of DRT capability, is innovative and a new area of work for SYMCA. This has required the proposals to be developed from a zero base as there wasn't existing delivery experience to build from, and this work has had to be undertaken at pace to meet the DLUHC submission schedule. Considerable progress has been made to get the submission developed as far as possible however further definition is required. The commitment to delivering this definition has been clearly stated in the submission made on 2nd August.

- 2.3 The DLUHC process now requires an Outline Business Case to be submitted before any funding will be committed, the work to progress the proposals to this OBC level has commenced.

3. Options Considered and Recommended Proposal

3.1 Option 1

The online submission has been made, until any feedback is received from DLUHC the options would be to either pause activity or continue to develop the business case. To avoid future deadlines creating increased pressure on the business case development the plan is to continue with this now.

3.4 Option 1 Risks and Mitigations

The worst-case scenario is that DLUHC do not award any funding to SYMCA. This does not necessarily mean that the business case development work is abortive, the three projects within the proposal can stand alone and to varying degrees are scalable. If no funding is secured through DLUHC each project can be reviewed and considered for local funding, any decision to progress at this point would still require the OBC work to be completed for that project.

3.13 Recommended Option

It is recommended that the business case development continues in advance of DLUHC feedback on the submission.

4. Consultation on Proposal

- 4.1 Local authority partners have been engaged with during the LUF submission processes. This engagement will increase as the proposal gains more definition through the Outline Business Case phase, wider stakeholder engagement, e.g. with operators, communities and customers will also be part of the OBC development.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 DLUHC have not advised a schedule for responses to the submissions or for the subsequent production of business cases. It is expected however that funding awards will be confirmed through the autumn budget and so this timescale is currently being applied.

6. Financial and Procurement Implications and Advice

- 6.1 Initial work indicates that the project should not lead to additional revenue costs. In the event the bid is successful and this does not prove to be the case mitigation strategies will need to be determined to ensure financially viable delivery of the project is possible.

7. Legal Implications and Advice

- 7.1 There are direct legal implications arising from this report.

8. Human Resources Implications and Advice

- 8.1 None directly arising from this report.

9. Equality and Diversity Implications and Advice

- 9.1 All interventions will be designed in full compliance with equality and diversity legislation and expectations

10. Climate Change Implications and Advice

- 10.1 Surface transport in South Yorkshire accounts for around 37% of our total carbon footprint and has additional impacts on air quality and road safety. Currently private car use is around 60% of that figure. Modal shift from cars to public transport is critical to the delivery of the region and members' net zero goals and keeping us within the 6th carbon budget.
- 10.2 Investments made in improving the bus service have the potential to produce a two-fold environmental impact, both in increasing use rates and also in decarbonising the fleet.

11. Information and Communication Technology Implications and Advice

- 11.1 None directly arising from this report.

12. Communications and Marketing Implications and Advice

- 12.1 Once an award has been fully confirmed and grant conditions provided it is expected that there will be a duty for SYMCA to publish details of the award on the website.
- 12.2 Community and stakeholder consultation will be undertaken for all schemes and interventions within both programmes.

List of Appendices Included

- A None

Background Papers

Further information is available from the SYMCA Strategic Transport Team on request.

Committee/Board Name and Date of Meeting:
Local Enterprise Partnership

Meeting Date:
08 September 2022

Report Title
Environmental Sustainability Plan

Is the paper exempt from the press and public?	No
Reason why exempt:	Not applicable
Purpose of this report:	Discussion
Is this a Key Decision?	No
Has it been included on the Forward Plan?	Not a Key Decision

Director Approving Submission of the Report:
Ruth Adams, Deputy Chief Executive

Report Author(s):
Laurie Heykoop, Senior Economic Policy Manager
laurie.heykoop@southyorkshire-ca.gov.uk

Executive Summary

Sustainability was the third pillar of the Economic Plan and to capture proposals and actions the development of an Environmental Sustainability Plan (ESP) is due to commence to further develop the MCA's response to the climate and environment crisis. This Plan will be co-developed with stakeholders and the general public. It will provide a vision for South Yorkshire's environment in 2040, and set out a plan for how different stakeholders in the region can contribute to this shared vision.

What does this mean for businesses, people and places in South Yorkshire?

The climate emergency and the decline of ecosystems are impacting homes and communities, infrastructure, agriculture, water supplies, and the natural environment in South Yorkshire, and it will do so with increasing frequency and intensity in the years ahead. The impacts to society and the economy will be profound. All partners have a role to play. Co-operation on use of resources and collaboration at regional level will be of great benefit in addressing these challenges.

Understanding these and setting out the policy frameworks to address them will give the region the tools it needs to meet the challenges.

Recommendations

The Board is asked to note this development and to discuss:

- (a) how it would like to be involved in development of the Plan going forward
- (b) specific external stakeholders that should be engaged in this Plan

Consideration by any other Board, Committee, Assurance or Advisory Panel

None at this point

1. Background

1.1 Why develop a plan for environmental sustainability

While activity is underway to address sustainability issues (see Annex A), there are three main strategic imperatives for pursuing this Plan:

- 1.1.1 The Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) (2020) enshrined three strategic objectives namely to achieve economic growth, environmental sustainability, and social inclusion for the region. The MCA is currently developing a range of workstreams to realise these. The second strategic objective, as listed above, requires us to build upon that foundation and explore how the MCA can work with partners to deliver on environmental sustainability commitments. The SEP identified that the climate emergency is threatening livelihoods and economic stability and emphasised the importance of growing green technology sectors, improving environmental sustainability, and embedding circular economy approaches among other ways to respond to the challenge. Specifically, the SEP promised that:

“SY MCA’s plans for environmental sustainability will set out a more comprehensive vision and set of policy actions on the transition to a net-zero carbon and climate-resilient economy.”

- 1.1.2 The UK government is taking forward powers in the Environment Act (2021) that require Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) to be developed to cover every area of England. The government’s clear preference has been that MCAs, where they exist, lead such strategies and thereby take on a new statutory duty to deliver them. On 23rd March 2022, the MCA Board provisionally agreed that the MCA would lead on this for South Yorkshire. Defra describes LNRS as follows:

“Local Nature Recovery Strategies are a new, England-wide system of spatial strategies that will establish priorities and map proposals for specific actions to drive nature’s recovery and provide wider environmental benefits.”

- 1.1.3 An Environmental Sustainability Plan will enable delivery on the manifesto commitments outlined by Mayor Oliver Coppard. The Mayor’s ‘Plan’ for South Yorkshire stated:

“As Mayor I will ask the Mayoral Combined Authority to work with partners such as the Wildlife Trust to develop and deliver a South Yorkshire Natural Environment Strategy, so that we can protect and restore nature, and invests in our ecosystems.”

2. Key Issues

2.1 What this plan can deliver

At this early stage, the ambitions for this plan include the following:

- **Address challenges:** Better understand and navigate the trade-offs, synergies, and complementarities between environmental and economic prosperity.
- **Embed environment sustainability:** Inform all activities undertaken by the MCA, not just those that would be traditionally seen as falling into nature or climate themes.
- **Engage public:** Use the Climate Assembly to engage the general public and co-develop a vision. This Plan needs to have universal buy-in to be successful, as achieving outcomes will need the support of actors across the region.
- **Address any gaps:** Identify ‘gaps’ in our areas of work whereby the MCA could go further towards realising environmental sustainability goals.
- **Leadership:** Adopt a position of leadership on this agenda, working with relevant stakeholders to pursue better outcomes beyond what the MCA is capable of alone.

2.2 Process

Phase 1 – forming a shared vision

The initial phase of this work will articulate a vision for the natural environment and sustainability in South Yorkshire. It will co-create a vision shared between the MCA, the LEP, other partners and stakeholders, and engagement with the general public through the upcoming Climate Assembly. Officers will explore the possibility of making external appointments to form an expert steering group. Work on this will continue through Q3/Q4 of 2022.

Phase 2 – strategy development

This phase will begin by exploring conceptual frameworks that match the vision articulated in Phase 1, and the trade-offs that exist with other organisational objectives. It will review existing activity undertaken by the MCA and partners and identify gaps in provision.

Phase 3 – developing actions

This phase will engage a range of external stakeholders to co-produce a set of actions that fill in the gaps in provision identified in Phase 2 and encourage some “stretch” to match ambitions with the scale of the challenge. This will involve the MCA’s governance structures, including the LEP Board, as well as a range of partners such as the Local Nature Partnership, business groups such as the Chambers of Commerce, community groups, and the general public.

Phase 4 – finalised plan

Finally, a set of actions will be agreed for the MCA to pursue with partners.

3. Options Considered and Recommended Proposal

- 3.1 **Option 1**
Do minimum - Continue with existing areas of work without developing this Plan. It is recommended that this is discounted as it would miss the opportunity to provide a framework that explains the regions approach to the environment, and gaps in provision would remain unexplored.
- 3.2 **Option 1 Risks and Mitigations**
Risk: the MCA will have no clear way of meeting its climate and environment emergency declaration.
Mitigation: the MCA can do more of what it's doing as and when resources allow.
- 3.3 **Option 2**
Delay - Await the regulations and guidance for the Local Nature Recovery Strategy before proceeding with an overlapping Environmental Sustainability Strategy. It is recommended this is discounted as it will lose vital mobilisation time.
- 3.4 **Option 2 Risks and Mitigations**
Risk: the likely DEFRA responsibilities are not expected to provide resource to fulfil the totality of action required.
Mitigation: start the development of the plan and then follow with matching resource when the information on DEFRA resource is known.
- 3.5 **Option 3**
Proceed as set out in this paper
- 3.6 **Option 3 Risks and Mitigations**
Risk: this is a broad agenda so there is the potential for responses to be 'spread thinly'.
Mitigation: defining and limiting the scope at an early stage to focus minds on a targeted set of themes.
- 3.7 **Recommended Option**
Option 3
- 4. Consultation on Proposal**
- 4.1 This plan builds in contributions and engagement with a range of internal and external partners. A detailed engagement plan will be developed.
- 5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision**
- 5.1 The timetable of the phases is currently being developed to ensure MCA / LEP have a clearer understanding of milestones for this work.
- 6. Financial and Procurement Implications and Advice**
- 6.1 Financial implications of this Plan have factored into the annual budget. Development of the LNRS is due to be fully reimbursed by Defra 'burden payments'.
- 7. Legal Implications and Advice**
- 7.1 LNRS will be a statutory document.

8. Human Resources Implications and Advice

- 8.1 At this stage it is hoped that the existing Policy team working with the Net Zero Project Director can contain this work. If additional resources are required, this will be factored into the MCA Business Planning process and subject to MCA decision making.

9. Equality and Diversity Implications and Advice

- 9.1 Development of this plan will ensure consideration of equality and diversity issues; this is likely to be most relevant when engaging with external stakeholders. We will ensure information in electronic form complies with accessibility requirements and any in person events are accessible to a range of needs.

10. Climate Change Implications and Advice

- 10.1 Whilst a significant proportion of total emissions are outside the direct control of the MCA or constituent Local Authorities, programmes undertaken at regional level can and will drive down emissions, deliver added benefits and lay the groundwork for further reductions. Formalising the assessment of all programmes and aligning them to wider a wider Environmental Sustainability plan will give this greater impetus.

11. Information and Communication Technology Implications and Advice

- 11.1 N/A

12. Communications and Marketing Implications and Advice

- 12.1 N/A at this stage in the process.

List of Appendices Included

- A Existing MCA activity

Background Papers

None.

Appendix A – Existing MCA activity

- **Net Zero (NZ).** In November 2019, the MCA declared a Climate and Environmental Emergency. In January 2020, the MCA Board approved the Climate Response Framework (CRF) which split the challenge into five areas: Leadership, Carbon Reduction, Carbon Capture, Climate Adaptation, and Climate Economy to achieve a Net Zero economy by 2040. The MCA's Net Zero Work Programme is cross cutting, being delivered through all policy themes. At present, MCA-funded Net Zero interventions cover transport, housing, and infrastructure. Some other broader activities that the MCA supports, can and do have a beneficial effect on the climate goals of the region, but the impacts so far are modest.
- **Active and public transport.** Reducing reliance on single-occupancy vehicles has an important role in reducing air pollution and carbon emissions, improving health, saving space and more. The MCA has earmarked £126m over 5 years from the CRSTS programme for active travel investments and was awarded £8m for a fleet of zero-emission buses.
- **Flood risk management.** The *Connected by Water* action plan published earlier this year was co-developed by the MCA alongside multiple partners. It sets out how the region will respond to the challenge of flood risk. The MCA has an ongoing role in helping to identify funding opportunities to deliver against the plan, engaging the public on these activities, and more.
- **Woodland Creation Partnership.** In 2020, SYMCA funded a Woodland Creation Partnership with the aim of increasing tree coverage in the region, working with all local authorities and a range of other stakeholders. The project has supported multiple investments and recently secured £0.5m in funding from Defra to expand activities.
- **Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS).** SYMCA has provisionally agreed to fulfil a Statutory duty to deliver LNRS for South Yorkshire, responding to new requirements on regional and local authorities to take greater management over the natural environment. Working closely with the SY Local Nature Partnership the MCA is preparing the ground in terms of stakeholder engagement and developing an evidence base ahead of commencement of the Strategy, slated for later in 2022.