

Local Enterprise Partnership

10 March 2022

CEX Update

Purpose of Report

To provide LEP Board Members with a general update on activity being undertaken by the LEP outside of the agenda items under discussion.

1. India Trade and Investment opportunities

The long-established relationship between South Yorkshire and India was strengthened in February at a Round Table event hosted by the Indian High Commission in London. Keynote speakers were the High Commissioner of India to the UK, Mayor Dan Jarvis and LEP Board Member Richard Stubbs who chairs the South Yorkshire India Advisory Board. SYMCA is planning a trade mission to India later in the year, with a reciprocal visit to South Yorkshire by India's business and civic leaders from the Maharashtra region. The UK's High Commissioner to India is expected to visit South Yorkshire this month and will be hosted at a number of key businesses and locations in the region.

2. Doncaster to bid for Great British Railways headquarters

This month, Doncaster will submit its expression of interest in becoming the home of Great British Railways (GBR), a new public body in charge of the UK's train services. The government recently launched the competition to find the location for the new HQ, which will have an estimated capacity for 600 people. GBR will be responsible for ticket prices, setting timetables and rail infrastructure. Doncaster Council will submit its expression of interest (deadline 16 March) with backing and support from across South Yorkshire.

3. South Yorkshire to be home to pioneering gene therapy centre

Sheffield has been chosen as the location for one of only three Gene Therapy Innovation & Manufacturing Centres to be established in the UK. The pioneering Gene Therapy Innovation & Manufacturing Centre (GTIMC) has received £1.5m grant funding from the South Yorkshire Renewal Fund towards its state-of-the-art

facilities being built at a total cost of £14.2m. The GTIMC is expected to create 35 high value jobs.

4. Arts Council funding

The Culture Secretary has confirmed the government's commitment to increased funding for Arts Council England to support Levelling Up. Arts Council England has been asked to redistribute another £24m per year from their existing budget to neglected places by 2025. The government has committed that 100% of the additional funding for Arts Council England, agreed at the 2021 Spending Review, will go to support culture and creativity outside London.

5. SY Quarterly Economic Survey

The LEP and MCA continues to work with SY Chambers of Commerce to support the South Yorkshire Quarterly Economic Survey (QES). The Quarter 1 2022 survey is now open and runs until 11 March. As part of this work, the QES delivery team has launched SY PolicyPod - a podcast which offers perspectives from leading figures from businesses, organisations and public institutions in the region. The next edition will pick up the innovation theme and build on the SY Economic Summit.

6. Welcome to Yorkshire

Welcome to Yorkshire has gone into administration. SY MCA is engaged in the discussions and officers will work with the LEP and business community to ensure that new arrangements reflect the position in South Yorkshire.