

March 2023

Policy and Programmes Update

Purpose of Report

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

<p>1.</p>	<p>New Active Travel Commissioner</p> <p>Triple Olympic Champion Ed Clancy OBE has been named South Yorkshire’s new Active Travel Commissioner. He has been appointed by the Mayor to work with him to make South Yorkshire a safer and easier place to walk and cycle. Plans are underway to build more than 620 miles of accessible walking and cycling routes linking South Yorkshire’s towns and cities. SYMCA is investing £85m building the Active Travel network.</p>
<p>2.</p>	<p>National Centre for Child Health Technology</p> <p>Alongside local partners the Mayor announced the £6m funding for the new National Centre for Child Health Technology (NCCHT) at Sheffield Olympic Legacy Park, a global first centre which will develop the world’s most advanced and integrated healthcare system for children and young people. The funding from SYMCA will form part of the total capital of £20m to start development of the NCCHT, which is expected to generate £2.13bn cumulative Gross Value Added (GVA) to the region over ten years, create 84 high-value jobs within the Centre and support a further 5,100 jobs throughout Sheffield Olympic Legacy Park.</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>Convention of the North</p> <p>At the Convention of the North in January, Northern Mayors, civic and business leaders called on the Government and Opposition to commit to ‘hard-wiring’ levelling up into UK law. This would mean a move away from the current competitive bidding systems for Government funding, which picks winners and losers, to a settlement where all regions have the funding they need to close the gaps in living standards and help grow the UK economy as a whole.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Transport Summit</p> <p>The South Yorkshire Transport Summit took place on 1 March at the National College of Advanced Transport & Infrastructure in Doncaster. The summit brought together leading experts and heard from a series of speakers with national and international experience to share best practice, discuss ideas and find solutions to fix the broken public transport network.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Thematic Board updates</p>

5.1 Education, Skills & Employability

- Approval to enter into contracts for Skills Bootcamps programme - £724.5k secured from DfE to deliver skill bootcamps in three subject areas: Digital – Software development; Construction Green Skills; Health / Professional Services DfE.
- Commencement of apprenticeship levy matchmaking service – which has been really successful in other regions, securing £4m worth of apprenticeships in Greater Manchester, and £3m in West Yorkshire.

5.2 Business Recovery and Growth

- Agreed use of £1.6m of Renewal Action Plan funding to continue funding of Growth Hub Business Advisors after Government funding was cut
- An overview of the delivery of UKSPF so far, and endorsement of approaches to use of Year 2 (Local Business Support) with glowing reviews all round of the collaboration between the MCA and LA officers.

5.3 Housing and Infrastructure

- A South Yorkshire presence at the UKREiiF is being prepared.

5.4 Transport and Environment

- Looking ahead to get longer term contracts for tendered Bus services from July.
- A bid for the next round of the Active Travel Fund will be submitted shortly.
- Endorsed 2 programmes for MCA approval - A61 Chesterfield Road from Strategic Business Case to Outline Business Case and Penistone Rail Station - Park & Ride from Strategic Business Case to Outline Business Case.