

May 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>Countdown to public control of tram system</p> <p>In less than one year’s time, South Yorkshire will have a publicly owned, publicly operated, tram network. In March 2024, Stagecoach's operating contract for Supertram ends. This change in ownership forms part of the region’s wider ambitions to upgrade the Supertram, as part of a fully integrated public transport network. SYMCA recently secured a £100 million Government grant to modernise parts of the system, including track and infrastructure improvements and better facilities for passengers.</p>
<p>2.</p>	<p>New electric vehicle charging points</p> <p>SYMCA is investing £1.8m in new electric vehicle charging points across the region, to support the growing numbers of people choosing to drive electric cars. The MCA has been working with Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield Councils to create more than 160 new charging points, which will be fully operational starting from April. The money for the charge points comes from SYMCA-secured funding from the Northern Powerhouse Investment Fund, the Government’s Getting Building Fund, and the North East and Yorkshire Net Zero Hub.</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>£7m investment in Hybrid Air Vehicles</p> <p>The Mayor and MCA have approved a package of investment and support for plans by Hybrid Air Vehicles (HAV) to produce its pioneering new low carbon aircraft, Airlander 10, in Doncaster. HAV is a UK-based leader in sustainable aircraft technology and the Airlander 10 is an ultra-low emissions aircraft, capable of carrying 100 passengers or ten tonnes of freight. The loan investment, worth £7m will be used to support HAV to begin investing in facilities, talent and supply chains in South Yorkshire. HAV’s plans will create over 1,200 new high value and highly skilled jobs in new green technologies, and further jobs and opportunities from growth across the company’s supply chains.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Working Win secures £5.9m</p> <p>Following discussions with Government to stop the trailblazing Working Win scheme from being scrapped, the Mayor announced grant funding to keep it going for a further two years, helping thousands of people with health conditions to find or stay in work. The programme has already supported more than 6,500 people in South Yorkshire. Through the new funding, it is expected that a further 3,000 people with physical or mental health conditions will be supported until March 2025. The new funding, secured by the MCA, is</p>

	<p>part of the Individual Placement and Support in Primary Care (IPSPC) initiative which aims to promote inclusive growth by supporting people to access employment.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>£4.9m Made Smarter scheme to help businesses to digitalise</p> <p>Manufacturing businesses across Yorkshire and Humber can now join the £4.9m Made Smarter scheme, which will help them digitalise their business through expert business support. The programme, which is being delivered by SYMCA, encourages digital adoption amongst SMEs in Yorkshire and Humber and includes intensive one-to-one advice and support. The Made Smarter programme recently announced that Oxford Innovation Advice has been awarded the delivery contract for the second round of the digital upskilling scheme. They will lead on the overall programme management, contract management and governance with support from Brook Consulting, Edge Digital, the Institute of Manufacturing and the in-house team at SYMCA.</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Ultimate Battery Co invest in Rotherham</p> <p>Ultimate Battery Co (UBC) has chosen a site in Rotherham to be the home of its first manufacturing plant and innovation centre, which will create 500 highly skilled jobs by early 2026. The new site in Thurcroft will be one of the first new battery manufacturing sites in the UK and will manufacture the next generation of both starter lighting and ignition batteries for vehicles, and energy storage solutions utilising UBC's patented 'Duophasic' technology. A recruitment drive is underway for various roles in the first of a series of production teams, and recruitment will continue over the forthcoming months as their production ramps up.</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Thematic Board updates</p> <p>7.1 Education, Skills & Employability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progression to Business Justification Case - Barnsley College Welding and Fabrication Academy to deliver an industry-designed and supported training facility for the South Yorkshire region, specialising in a key skills shortage area: welding and fabrication. • Progression to Business Justification Case - The Aspire to Be programme, a unique tailored and individualised non-accredited programme delivered by the Doncaster Deaf Trust for the people of South Yorkshire who have Special Educational Needs & Disabilities. The programme promotes sector-specific learning, independence skills, and mindset change in readiness to enter/re-enter the world of work and/or pathways into FE/Apprenticeships where applicable. <p>7.2 Business Recovery and Growth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve the progression of £1.5m Equity Investment in Northern Gritstone to full-approval and contract award – a venture in partnership with the universities of Leeds, Manchester, and Sheffield which has a 'profit with purpose' motive. It aims to match long term capital to the commercial opportunities being generated from IP from the universities and regions. • Approve the progression of Hybrid Air Vehicles scheme to full-approval and contract award – £7m of loan funding funded from Doncaster's allocation of Gainshare towards total project costs of £27.5m. Loan funding would be used over 12 months enabling the creation and establishment of the South Yorkshire aircraft manufacturing base. <p>7.3 Housing and Infrastructure</p>

- £3m grant award approved for the West Bar, Sheffield project to regenerate 7.33 acres of brownfield site to deliver a mixed-use district to include grade A office space, new apartments and public realm.
- £1.3m grant award approved for the Blue Mans Way, Catcliffe project where 76 new affordable housing units are planned to be delivered on a brownfield site located in Rotherham.
- £0.75m grant award approved for the Sky House, Devonshire Quarter project to deliver 60 residential units in the southwest of Sheffield City Centre.

7.4 Transport and Environment

- Extension of the £2 fare cap on tram approved, to align with the timescales of the national bus scheme to 30 June 2023.
- Progression of Doncaster Active Travel – Mexborough Gateway Full Business Case and award of £1.2m grant.