

November 2019**Mayor's Update****Purpose of Report**

To provide LEP Board Members with an update on key Mayoral activity relating to the economic agenda.

1. Devolution

The Prime Minister has committed to a Devolution White Paper in the Queen's Speech. This will build upon the levelling up agenda. The Queen's Speech also included a commitment to refreshing the Northern Powerhouse strategy, work on which the LEP Chair and officers are engaged in.

The Government is very keen to support us on unlocking the South Yorkshire deal and I hope that they will soon be able to provide the necessary assurances to unlock the Sheffield City Region Deal as well as a devolution model that works for Yorkshire more widely.

I am also working closely with the M9 (Metro Mayors from across the country) to make the case for a bolder and more ambitious devolution policy that will benefit local areas.

2. Transport

I have twice met with the Minister for Rail, Chris Heaton-Harris, to express my concerns about the lack of progress on major transport improvements for the Sheffield City Region and seek assurances that schemes such as the Hope Valley Line upgrade will be delivered on time.

It is not good enough that the residents in the Sheffield City Region continue to receive poor transport services and I was disappointed to learn that Pacers will continue to operate in the region well into 2020.

The Government's commitment to rail reform in the Queen's Speech is welcomed, and I will continue to lobby both the Prime Minister and the Transport Secretary for essential transport improvements in the region whilst also developing final proposals for the regions Transforming Cities Fund.

3. Working Win: The Health-led Employment Trial

You will be aware that the referral window for Working Win: The Health-led Employment Trial closed at the end of last month. The trial has been an asset to the Sheffield City Region, as one of only two pilot areas in the country.

There were more than 5,000 referrals into the trial, and almost 3,000 individuals will now receive time-limited individualised employment support. At present, 960 people have either returned or remained in employment as a result of being on the trial.

I look forward to the seeing the outcome of the formal evaluation in 2021.

4. Arts and Culture

It is the anniversary of the Music Board this month, and it continues to work at pace with local authority and industry partners to deliver its key priorities. We hosted the PRSF Talent Development Conference in September and will be launching a report with UK Music next month.

Thank you to LEP Board Member Laura Bennett for Chairing these meetings and corralling the support and respect of partners.

5. UK2070 Commission

You may be aware of the UK2070 Commission by Lord Kerslake. Their reports very much align with our ambitions to devolve power from Whitehall and unlock growth in our city regions.

Their second report, Moving Up the Gears, has now been published and has detailed a vision for the UK and city regions post Brexit including delivering unparalleled connectivity, strengthening local economies and levelling the access to funding, and lobbying for a step-change in devolution.

A group have agreed to look into how we can deliver these recommendations for the benefit of local areas in light of the Prime Minister's recent commitments to levelling up.

6. Climate Change and Sustainability

We must respond with an ambitious and far reaching programme of change to ensure that we tackle climate change and move to a zero-carbon city region. It is absolutely critical that we get this right. To do so the work must be led by evidence and must also be focused on the opportunity that our city region strengths can bring to tackling the city region and national challenges. I believe that we have a unique set of capabilities within the region that mean we can lead the way on the climate change agenda.

I am absolutely delighted to be working with the universities on an initial scoping of this work and look forward to sharing more information in future discussions.