

## **Local Enterprise Partnership**

**04 November 2021**

### **CEX Update**

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#### **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. COP26 events**

Throughout COP26, South Yorkshire MCA will support four COP26 Regional Roadshows which will be hosted by Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield Local Authorities. The events are funded by BEIS and aim to inspire people to cut their carbon emissions. ITM Power will also host an event during COP26 which will demonstrate the region's strengths in innovative new technologies that are vital for the global green hydrogen economy, supply chain and decarbonisation targets.

#### **2. Additional Restrictions Grants**

South Yorkshire's four local authorities have been working to get grant funding to businesses that need it the most. South Yorkshire is the most successful region in the Yorkshire and Humber region at delivering its funding and over 92% of its allocation is already with businesses. South Yorkshire MCA recently allocated ARG funding worth £1m to the arts, culture and heritage sector in recognition of its value to our local economy.

#### **3. Quarterly Economic Survey**

Results from the South Yorkshire Chambers Quarterly Economic Survey are playing an increasingly important role in local, regional and national decision-making. The most recent survey gathered responses from 572 local organisations, making it one of the biggest indicators of local business sentiment in the UK. This quarter's survey showed that South Yorkshire businesses were experiencing strong growth but were struggling to recruit and that recruitment problems were not confined to any sector.

#### **4. LSIP and South Yorkshire Skills Strategy**

The LEP and MCA are working alongside the three Chambers of Commerce to ensure that the Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP) aligns with the South Yorkshire Skills Strategy. The work will bring together those who know most about the skills the economy needs with education and training providers. This partnership approach will help to put business data and insights at the centre of South Yorkshire's skills system.

**5. UK's first fusion technology facility opens in South Yorkshire**

A ground-breaking new Fusion Technology Facility, which has the capability to test components in the simulated conditions of a fusion power plant, is now open and operating in South Yorkshire. The Advanced Manufacturing Park in Rotherham was chosen by the UK Atomic Energy Authority as the location for the new fusion energy research facility, which will create 60 highly skilled jobs in the South Yorkshire area. The facility received £2.2m investment from the Local Growth Fund (LGF) towards equipment purchase and set-up costs.