

Local Enterprise Partnership

13 January 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. Submission of Research England Bid

We have been successful in applying for RED funding to develop a South Yorkshire Sustainability Centre project in partnership with the University of Sheffield. The application was praised due to the innovative nature of the project and its potential to deliver real benefits for the region, not only in the direct outputs to the businesses and organisations it will work with, but also in the knowledge, capability and networks it will create. We were also commended for the quality of the submission and that it was a joint effort from the Universities and the MCA.

2. Levelling Up White Paper Delay

It has been confirmed that the publication of the levelling up white paper has once again been delayed and is expected in the New Year. It is expected that the paper will outline the future of the role of LEPs, with leaks suggesting it will detail the working relationship between LEPs and Combined Authorities. This leaves us in a strong position, with our current governance model and relationship being widely recognised as effective and successful. The paper is also anticipated to include a definition of 'levelling up', with attached outcomes, as well as discussing devolution. Undoubtedly, this will have implications for the Combined Authority, which we will be ready to examine upon publication.

3. Hydrogen twinning city link

We have submitted an expression of interest to be part of the H2 Twin Cities initiative, which was launched at COP26 in November. This is aimed as a means for cities, towns and city regions across the globe, which have demonstrated a commitment to advancing hydrogen technology, or have concrete examples of hydrogen, fuel cell technology or assets being deployed, to collaborate. The aim is to facilitate relationships, help lessons learnt exercises, share best practise, and help boost positive communications and promotion for the sector in general. There is an element of funding involved for a successfully 'twinned' city, although the amount & it's

intended purpose is still to be confirmed. If we reach the next stage of this process, we will ensure we engage with the relevant businesses in our region to build a strong case.

4. Institute of Technology Bid

South Yorkshire have been successful in securing £12 million to establish a new Institute of Technology in the region. The employer-led institutions will offer higher level technical education to bridge the skills gaps for key STEM roles, helping employers get the skilled workforce they need and offer local people rewarding jobs.

The bid was supported by the MCA, Local Authorities, and the Chambers of Commerce. It was submitted by a cohort of key education institutes in the region led by the DN Colleges group, and including, Sheffield Hallam University, Barnsley College, and the University of Sheffield AMRC Training Centre as core education partners. RNN Group, the Sheffield College and the National Centre for Advanced Transport & Infrastructure (NCATI) are also associate partners. The IoT will work closely with employers in the region, providing 1,500 students with higher technical courses in construction, digital, engineering/manufacturing, and healthcare sciences.