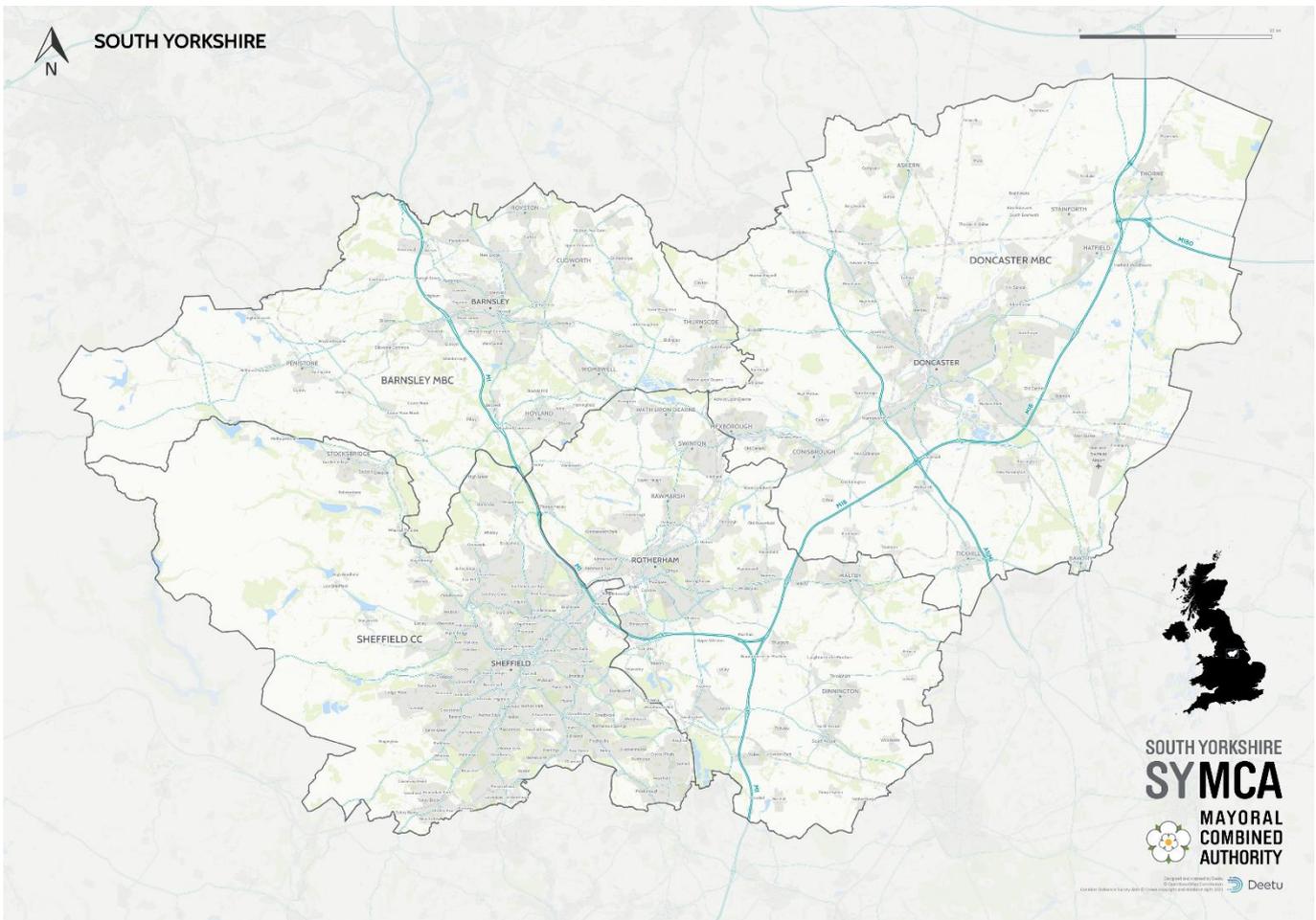


Local Enterprise Partnership Annual Report 2022/23



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Executive Summary

This annual report summarises the achievements of the LEP in the last financial year as the Board in its existing format will cease to operate from July 2023.

Throughout its tenure the LEP has provided a space for the private sector to help set the direction of the region's economy. Through input to investment programmes, to the work of our thematic boards, to business engagement and advocacy and as a forum for debate and challenge, where anchor institutions, council Leaders, the Mayor and trade union representatives come together.

The success of the LEP has set a critical precedent that including the voice of business in our work enables the MCA to make more informed decisions about how we grow the region's economy in an equitable way.

THE LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP BOARD (LEP)

The Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) is a voluntary business-led partnership which brings together business leaders, local politicians and other partners to promote and drive economic growth across South Yorkshire. The LEP has been responsible for setting strategy and acting as the custodian of the Strategic Economic Plan. The LEP has also been responsible for ensuring that policy and decisions both receive the input of key business leaders, and by extension, reflect the views of the wider business community.

The focus of the LEP Board has been to discuss and advise decision-making on the following:

- **South Yorkshire Economy** – such as research on how well the economy is performing and the issues and needs of different sectors and markets;
- **Providing a Forum for Debate** - between the public and private sectors; and
- **Economic Strategy and Policy Development** – on new initiatives being brought forward.

THE FUTURE OF THE LEP

A key facet of the governance arrangements in South Yorkshire has been the strong inter-relationship between the LEP and MCA and overlap of membership. Building on the best of the public and private sectors, it has brought accountability, transparency and business insight together.

Following the national review into the future of LEPs, the Government set out its intention to wind down Local Enterprise Partnerships and embed any remaining roles and remits into the local government system, specifically, where they exist, in Combined Authorities.

In South Yorkshire, the MCA has already integrated the roles and functions of the Local Enterprise Partnership into its governance model. At its heart, the model has ensured a strong effective private sector voice in the development of policy, influencing the strategic direction of the MCA and advocating and engaging with the wider business community.

The changing national picture, the changes to wider MCA governance and the ambition of the Mayor to strengthen engagement with the business community, to develop a new Prospectus for Growth and to deliver on an ambitious programme, present an opportunity for the MCA to go further in building stronger and more diverse relationships with the private sector.

To do this the Local Enterprise Partnership will be replaced with two new private sector focused governance boards; a new Mayor's Economic Advisory Council and a Business Advisory Board. They will play a critical role in ensuring a strong, independent and diverse business voice is embedded in the work of the MCA.

THEMATIC BOARDS

To support decision-making and delivery, the MCA and LEP has been supported by four Thematic Boards, which were based on the broad strategic priorities of the SEP. The four Thematic Boards had delegated authority to make financial decisions on behalf of the MCA up to defined limits and were co-chaired by LEP Board Members.

- Business Recovery and Growth Board
- Education, Skills and Employability Board
- Housing and Infrastructure Board
- Transport and the Environment Board

As part of the Governance Review, these thematic boards have been disbanded as the MCA shifts to a Cabinet-style Leadership model with the Mayor and Leaders undertaking portfolio responsibilities.

Highlights 2022-23

In the last year the LEP Board has continued to play a strategic role through its work at the Board level, through input and contributions at the thematic board level and in connecting the region to the business community, in advocating and providing thought leadership in the region and contributing to a series of policy debates and South Yorkshire wide campaigns.

One of the major achievements in the past year has been securing an Investment Zone for South Yorkshire, that builds upon the investment made at sites around the Advanced Manufacturing Innovation District, investments into Boeing Sheffield, McLaren Automotive, the AMRC directly a host of other businesses across South Yorkshire.

The Investment Zone also connects directly to the SCR LEP led Enterprise Zone and our innovation and translational research assets.

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP AND INFORMING POLICY

- Delivering a successful **Tech Summit** and **Transport Summit** that brought together bright thinkers, innovative businesses, disruptive entrepreneurs, research institutes and anchor institutions for a day of debate and ideation.
- Shaping the emerging priority and focus of the MCA around **health inequalities**. This has been built upon the foundations of the work the LEP has initiated around health, including the review of South Yorkshire health and wellbeing assets.
- Advancing the work around **innovation** which has culminated in the MCA securing an **Investment Zone** that will support the achievement of the outcomes set out in the Strategic Economic Plan.
- Considering implications and possible activity regarding the **Destination Management Organisation** landscape in South Yorkshire and beyond.
- Engaging with specific pieces of research in new or emerging workstreams, for example regarding creative industries mapping and the cultural and creative network.
- The design and implementation of the **Shared Prosperity Fund** programme to tight Government deadlines and requirements.

ENGAGEMENT

The LEP have continued to build and strengthen relationships with key local, regional and national stakeholders and advocate for key South Yorkshire campaigns.

- The **Business Advisory Group**, chaired jointly by LEP Members Neil McDonald OBE and former LEP Board member Dan Fell, has continually supported SYMCA's long-term planning through up-to-date

information, insight from businesses and economic intelligence. They have provided a vital forum to test MCA policy and interventions at an early stage.

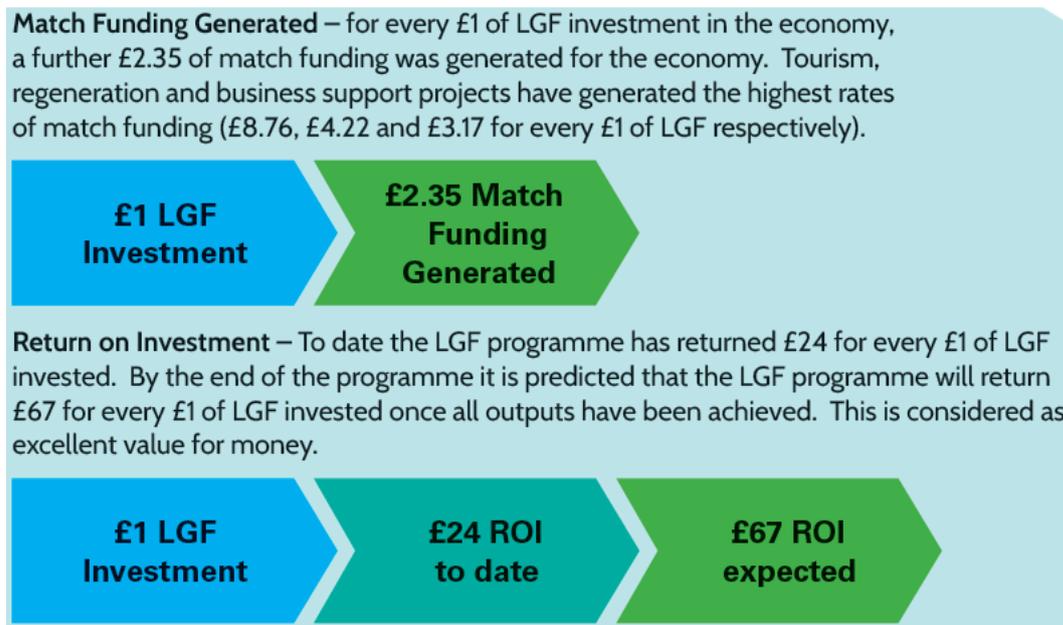
- The campaign around the proposed closure of **Doncaster Sheffield Airport** saw many LEP Board Members engage in specialist Business Advisory Group sessions, lobbying government and convening the private sector to support the Airport.
- The LEP advocated for a strong joint South Yorkshire presence at **UKREIIF Conference 2023** and members supported participation in events and panels. An evident collaborative spirit was noted by national stakeholders and the event was a success for the region.
- The Board championed Doncaster's campaign to become the new home of **Great British Railways Headquarters** (GBR HQ), in which they unfortunately lost out to Derby, coming in second place in the application process.
- Providing insights into regional studies such as the **Northern Powerhouse Independent Economic Review** to ensure the South Yorkshire perspective is included.
- LEP Board members regularly represent the region at Transport for the North, relevant All-Parties Parliamentary Groups and national conferences with Ministers, among others.
- The LEP Chair has played a prominent role in the NP11 and the progression of the Government's plans for a formal pan-Northern partnership.
- The LEP are the interface with regional organisations and networks, e.g. the Skills Advisory Network.

ADVISING

- **Assurance and value for money:** Through the Assurance Panel, with a private sector LEP Board member acting as a non-executive Chair, the LEP have been heavily engaged in steering major investment schemes through.
- Through the thematic board structure, the LEP Board provides oversight over substantial funds and programmes:
 - **Business Recovery and Growth:** e.g. considering and supporting the development of a series of business investment proposals and business support programmes in emerging sectors of interest e.g. creative and digital.
 - **Education, Skills and Employability Board: Skills Bank, Working Win** and the **£42m Adult Education Budget** programme.
 - **Transport and the Environment:** The implementation of City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement programme, progression of bus franchising and the transition to establishing an arms length body for the Tram and numerous extensions of Bus Recovery Grant and subsequent funding decisions.
 - **Housing and Infrastructure:** The South Yorkshire Housing Framework, the Brownfield Housing Fund Open Call and the South Yorkshire Flood Catchment Plan.
- LEP Board Members provide private sector **input into Government bids** and responses to Government decisions and/or feedback received for our bids, such as supporting the Levelling Up Fund bid focused on a package of public transport improvements and the Shared Prosperity Fund bid design.
- Providing expertise on external projects of regional significance including Vertical Farming using mine water geothermals and the South Yorkshire Advanced Manufacturing Capabilities HVMC Research Report.
- The LEP regularly discuss national policy positions and events such as Autumn and Spring Budgets, the development of the Trailblazer Devolution deals, the Government's Integrated Rail Plan and Innovation Strategy, national review of Destination Management Organisations as well as receiving regular reports on the state of the South Yorkshire economy.

DELIVERY

The majority of the programmes the LEP funded over its existence came through the Local Growth Fund (LGF) – a £363.7 million investment pot that provided grants and loans to a broad range of projects over the period 2015 to 2021. 2020/21 was the final funded year of the Local Growth Fund (LGF), and in 2020 a mid-term evaluation was conducted to gain preliminary understanding of the impact of the fund. Not only did the fund ensure a good spread of project spend across different thematic areas but the evaluation concluded that it provided an excellent return on investment and all targets were exceeded.



Skills Bank is a particular programme of note, funded by the LGF and one of our most successful interventions now in its 3rd iteration. The programme supports workers over the age of 19 years with qualifications between level 3 and level 7 whilst also providing access to specialist and bespoke training as well as off the shelf training programmes to businesses and their employees.

Some highlights include:

- 4,800 learners and 550 businesses enrolled on the Skills Bank 2 programme, exceeding the target
- Skills Deals worth £4.9m were delivered. £2.7m investment from the MCA and £2.2m from the private sector businesses
- 71% of businesses accessing bespoke training reported an increase in their competitiveness compared whilst 45% of businesses accessing off the shelf training provision reported an increase in competitiveness
- More micro sized businesses reported an increase in turnover as a result of the programme
- More micro sized and large businesses reported an increase in competitiveness

Other projects the LEP has funded include:

- UK Atomic Energy Authority
- National Centre of Excellence for Food Engineering
- Doncaster Urban Centre including the station forecourt and Cultural Quarter
- Gulliver's Kingdom
- The Glassworks, Barnsley
- University Centre Rotherham
- Yorkshire Wildlife Park
- Grey to Green
- DN7 Unity Hatfield Link Road

- Digital Media Centre expansion
- Peak Resort (as part of the former SCR geography)

A high performing organisation

Each year the Government undertake a review of LEP performance. In the last year the LEP has received a clean bill of health. The results of the Government's Annual Performance Review indicated that the LEP met all expectations for Governance, Delivery and Strategy.

Forward look

Through the establishment of the new Business Boards, the business voice will continue to be embedded in the work of the MCA. In the coming year they will provide valuable insights in the development of the Prospectus for Growth, the implementation of the South Yorkshire Investment Zone and supporting not only the Mayor, but also the newly appointed Portfolio Holders.

LEP BOARD MEMBERSHIP

The LEP Board has brought together a combination of permanent private sector representatives, two representatives from the Higher Education sector, a Trade Union representative, a Chamber of Commerce representative as well as the South Yorkshire Mayor and the four Leaders of the Local Authorities.

In January 2023 Richard Stubbs was appointed Interim LEP Chair; after Lucy Nickson stepped down at the end of her term. Both have played an integral role in leading the LEP, particularly through uncertainty while awaiting the findings of the Government's Review of LEPs.

Interim Vice Chair of the LEP Board is Neil MacDonald OBE, who was appointed in February 2022 after being a LEP Board Member for over four years.

- Richard Stubbs (Interim Vice Chair), Chief Executive, Yorkshire and Humber Academic Health Science Network
- Neil MacDonald OBE (Interim Vice Chair), Chair, St Luke's Hospice and Pro Chancellor, Sheffield Hallam University
- Oliver Coppard, Mayor of South Yorkshire
- Louisa Harrison-Walker (Co-opted), CEO of Sheffield Chamber of Commerce
- Angela Foulkes, Chief Executive and Principal at The Sheffield College
- Peter Kennan, Chair of Sheffield Chamber of Commerce and Industry Transport Forum
- Councillor Tom Hunt, Leader Sheffield City Council
- Mayor Ros Jones CBE, Leader Doncaster Council
- Councillor Sir Steve Houghton CBE, Leader Barnsley Council
- Councillor Chris Read, Leader Rotherham Council
- Professor Koen Lamberts, Vice Chancellor at The University of Sheffield
- Professor Kevin Kerrigan (Co-opted), Pro-Vice Chancellor for Business and Enterprise at Sheffield Hallam University
- Bill Adams (Co-opted), Regional Secretary, TUC Yorkshire and the Humber