

July 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>New Apprenticeship Hub to boost skills</p> <p>South Yorkshire’s Mayor has announced plans to create at least 300 new apprenticeships by 2026 through a new Apprenticeship Hub. The Apprenticeship Hub will launch later this year as a two-year pilot. It will be a one-stop shop for businesses, apprentices and anyone hoping to start an apprenticeship by providing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help for businesses (SMEs in particular) to access technical talent across the region to tackle skills shortages. • Information, advice and guidance services to apprentices, parents and employers. • Progression pathways and opportunities into and out of high-quality Level 2 and 3 apprenticeships • Help supporting development of a public sector approach to apprenticeships, including flexi-job apprenticeships.
<p>2.</p>	<p>SY welcomes creation of new civil service policy hub in Sheffield</p> <p>The plan to create a major policy campus in Sheffield forms part of the wider work by the Civil Service to de-centralise policy and decision-making out of Whitehall. Sheffield is already a leading location for policy making, and Yorkshire is home to one of the largest numbers of Civil Servants outside of London.</p> <p>The Sheffield Policy Campus is being created with a view to creating a new talent pipeline for the policy profession, including apprenticeships and a regional Civil Service Fast Stream programme. A core feature of the plan is strengthening partnerships, both cross Government and between central, regional and local government. The Cabinet Office is working with Sheffield City Council, SYMCA, Business in the Community, both Sheffield Universities and Sheffield and Barnsley Colleges to develop the plan for the Campus.</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>South Yorkshire continues fight to save Doncaster Sheffield Airport</p> <p>At the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority Board meeting on 5th June, South Yorkshire’s Mayor and local leaders approved a funding package to support the reopening of Doncaster Sheffield Airport. £3.1m was agreed to help with the costs of building a case for the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) process currently being undertaken by the City of Doncaster Council. Mayor Oliver Coppard and the leaders of the four South Yorkshire councils also agreed a funding package towards the purchase of the Airport, should the CPO ultimately be successful.</p>

4.	SY celebrates Employee Ownership Day Over 70 people joined Gripple at its GLIDE House headquarters in Sheffield to celebrate Employee Ownership (EO) Day (Friday 23rd June) at a special event held in association with the EOA (Employee Ownership Association) and the Ownership Hub in South Yorkshire. Keynote speakers included Mayor Coppard, Gripple Group Managing Director Ed Stubbs, and James de le Vingne - CEO of the Employee Ownership Association. The event was the culmination of a week of activities involving employee owners, businesses and supporters of employee ownership from across the UK joining together to raise awareness of the benefits and impact of employee ownership.
5.	Sweaty Betty foundation boss joins South Yorkshire's Active Travel Team South Yorkshire's Mayor has announced the appointment of Nicola Marshall, leader of the Sweaty Betty Foundation, as the region's new Active Travel Programme Director. Working alongside Mayor Oliver Coppard and Active Travel Commissioner, Ed Clancy OBE, Nicola will drive ambitions to make walking, wheeling and cycling the first choice for everyday trips in South Yorkshire and lead on the development of the region's cycling and walking network.