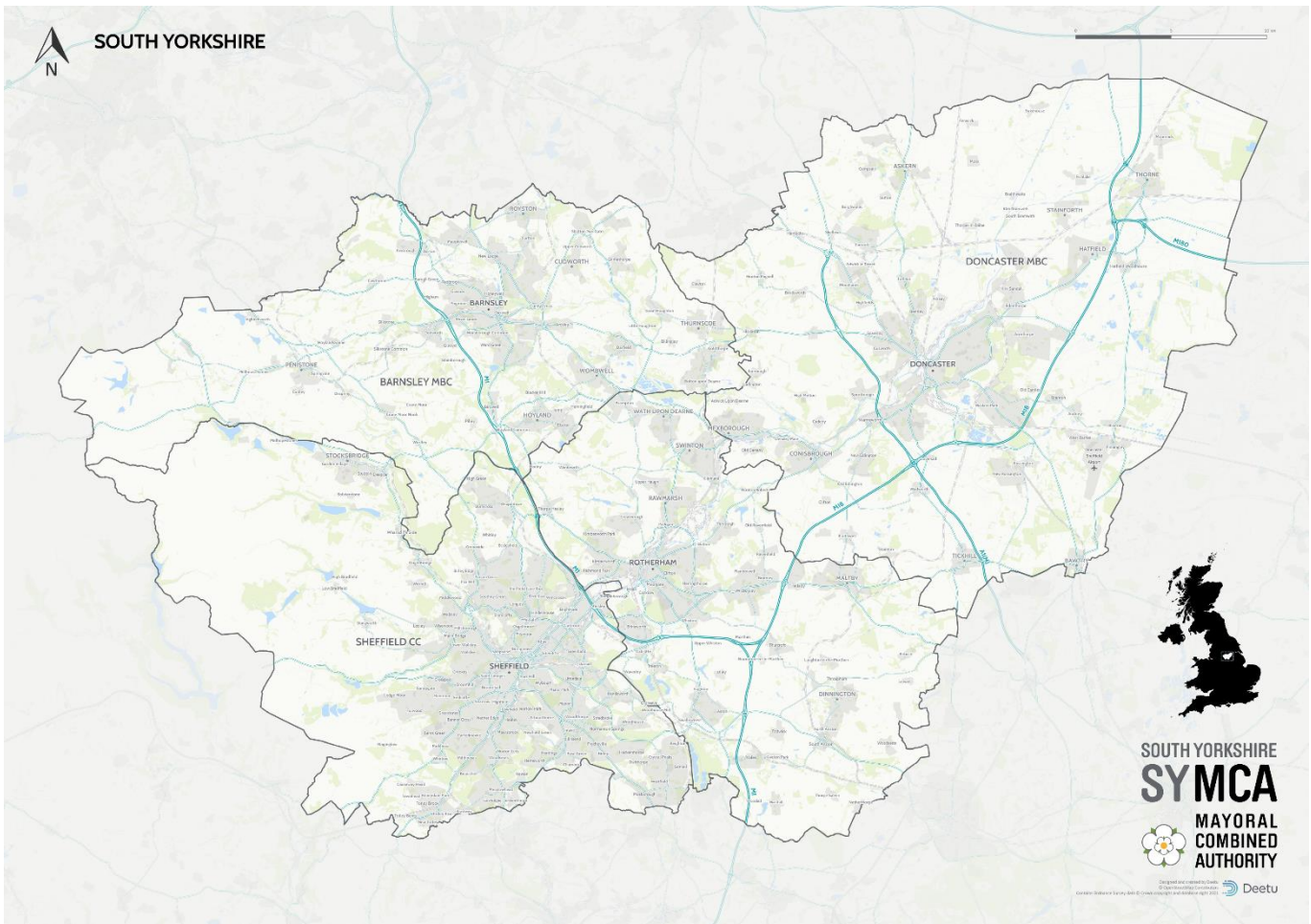


Local Enterprise Partnership Annual Report 2021/22



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Executive Summary

As the role of Local Enterprise Partnerships continue to evolve with the changing national context around devolution and South Yorkshire's own Mayoral Combined Authority, the LEP has continued to provide 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.

LEPs will continue to change but the core mission of bringing the private and public sector closer together to make more informed decisions about how we grow the region's economy stays the same.

This Annual Report looks back on the LEP's achievements over the period April 2021-March 2022.

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 is responsible for setting strategy and acts as the custodian of the SEP. The LEP is also 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 is to discuss and make decisions 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;
- **Performance** - of LEP funded programmes;
- **Providing a Forum for Debate** - between the public and private sectors; and
- **Economic Strategy and Policy Development** – on new initiatives being brought forward.

HOW THE MCA AND LEP WORK TOGETHER

A key facet of the governance arrangements in South Yorkshire is the strong inter-relationship between the LEP and MCA and overlap of membership. Building on the best of the public and private sectors, this brings accountability, transparency and business insight together. The configuration and membership of the LEP and MCA are designed to be mutually supportive.

THEMATIC BOARDS

To support decision-making and delivery, the MCA and LEP are supported by four Thematic Boards, which are based on the broad strategic priorities of the SEP. The four Thematic Boards all have delegated authority to make financial decisions on behalf of the MCA up to defined limits.

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

Highlights 2021-22

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.

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP AND INFORMING POLICY

- Delivering a successful **Economic Summit** that brought together the brightest thinkers from across the country, the best businesses, entrepreneurs, research institutes and anchor institutions for a day of debate and ideation. The shared goal was renewal for South Yorkshire by working together.
- **Driving the delivery of the inclusion element of our strategic vision for South Yorkshire** through progressive procurement practices and criteria to access MCA and LEP funding and finance. Additional work initiated by the LEP around inclusive innovation, health and wellbeing and community wealth building will provide the foundations for further inclusive economic growth.
- Advancing the creation of a **South Yorkshire innovation Board**, driven by the learnings from the MIT REAP Synergy Report. The new Board will be rooted in the proven South Yorkshire governance model and will lead on operationalising innovation and productivity enhancing activity as 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.
- Approving the ambitious South Yorkshire Flood Catchment Plan '**Connected by Water**' to reduce flood risk and tackle the climate emergency.
- The LEP supported the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority to become the first regional partner in the pilot **Ownership Hub**; encouraging and supporting employee and worker ownership in your region.
- Informing the design and delivery of the **Made Smarter** programme, where SYMCA is leading a Yorkshire and Humber wide industrial digitalisation programme.
- Reviewing and approving a **Digital Infrastructure Strategy**, providing a single strategic, integrated approach to delivering the Strategic Economic Plan's (SEP) digital ambitions.

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 Covid-19 Business Input Group, originally established to respond to the immediate impacts of the pandemic on businesses and workers and which helped shape the £1.7bn Renewal Action Plan (published July 2020), has matured into the **Business Advisory Group**. The Group, chaired jointly by LEP Members Neil McDonald OBE and Dan Fell, supports SYMCA's long-term planning through up-to-date information, insight from businesses and economic intelligence.
- The LEP Board continue to support Doncaster's proposals to become the new home of **Great British Railways Headquarters** (GBR HQ), cementing the city's status as the national capital of rail.
- The LEP continues to champion the **South Yorkshire Careers Hub**. There is currently a network of 86 Enterprise Advisers supporting the South Yorkshire Careers Hub who are working with

secondary schools and colleges across the region (85% of schools/ colleges have been matched with an Enterprise Adviser this academic year, ahead of the National Hub Average of 75%).

- 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 are the interface with regional organisations and networks, e.g. the Skills Advisory Network.
- Supporting **international trade promotions**, including hosting the High Commissioner of India

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. the delivery of the Growth Hub (some metrics included in the delivery section) and considering and supporting the development of a series of business investment proposals.
 - **Education, Skills and Employability Board: Skills Bank** (some metrics included in the delivery section) and the **£42m Adult Education Budget** programme. 2021/22 is the first academic year SYMCA deliver the provision of AEB.
 - **Transport and the Environment:** The City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (in October 2021, the MCA was awarded £570m for a period of 5 years.
 - **Housing and Infrastructure:** Getting Building Fund (£33.6m from June 2020-March 2022) 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 affirming the MCA's response to Government's Integrated Rail Plan.
- The LEP regularly discuss national policy positions such as the Levelling Up White Paper, 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

Skills Bank Programme Summary April 2021 – March 2022

Total No. Employers Supported	Value Of Employer Contribution	Value Of Skills Bank Contribution	Planned No Learners In Skills Deal	No. Started
125	£397,166.68	£380,261.25	921	580

Of the 125 employers supported:

Barnsley	Doncaster	Rotherham	Sheffield
19	11	18	77

0 – 9 (Micro)	10 – 49 (Small)	50 – 249 (Medium)	249+ (Large)
27	48	44	6

Accommodation & food services	3
Advanced Manufacturing & Materials	2
Agriculture/ food production	1
Business & Professional Services	14
Creative & Digital Industries	10
Financial & insurance	3
Health Care	6
Logistics (transport & storage)	2
Low Carbon	2
Manufacturing / Engineering	42
Property & Construction	9
Retail / Wholesale	12
Services	6
Sports, Leisure & Tourism	3
Utilities	2

A report on the evaluation of Skills Bank in April 2022 provided positive results about how SMEs view the support, advice and training offered through the programme and the impact it has had on business development and business growth:

- 97% of employers rated their experience of Skills Bank as either good or excellent
- 87% of businesses believed that the training provided met their expectations
- 98% of employers would recommend Skills Bank to other businesses
- Almost half of the businesses had introduced innovative products, services or ways of working as a result of their participation in the programme
- 40% of businesses believe that Skills Banks has increased their competitiveness
- 22% have increased turnover

Key Growth Hub Performance Outcomes for April 2021 – March 2022

Indicator	Local KPIs (where set by the LEP)	Annual Total (1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022)
Number of businesses that have received 'light touch' triage, information and/or signposting support (excluding website traffic)	500	1670
Number of individuals ^[1] that have received 'light touch' triage, information and/or signposting support (excluding website traffic)		1670
Total number of unique visitors to Growth Hub website		56030
Number of businesses receiving 'medium intensity' information, diagnostic and brokerage support	250	963

Combined turnover (amount £) of businesses receiving 'Medium intensity' information, diagnostic and brokerage support.		£1,539,548,154
Combined employee numbers (FTE) of businesses receiving 'Medium intensity' information, diagnostic and brokerage support.		11935
Number of businesses receiving 'high intensity' support e.g., account management / intensive support directly provided by the Hub or partner organisation	100	330
Combined turnover (amount £) of businesses receiving 'High intensity' support i.e., sustained support and using significant Growth Hub resource.		£398,292,454
Combined employee numbers (FTE) of businesses receiving 'High intensity' support i.e., sustained support and using significant Growth Hub resource.		5789
Number of businesses receiving 'Medium' and 'High intensity' support that, have the opportunity, ambition and greatest potential to grow (including Scale-Ups)		1261
Total number of individuals who have been helped to start a business		Launchpad engaged 636 pre-starts that were looking to start a business, of those 53 have commenced
Number of businesses referred to a mentoring programme (combined figure for 'Medium' and 'High' intensity interventions only)		3
Number of businesses referred to a skills or training programme (combined figure for 'Medium' and 'High' intensity interventions only)		384
Number of businesses referred to a finance and/or funding programme (combined figure for 'Medium' and 'High' intensity interventions only)		55
Number of businesses referred to an innovation and/or R&D programme (combined figure for 'Medium' and 'High' intensity interventions only).		137

Number of referrals to an export/import support programme (e.g., DIT) (combined figure for 'Medium' and 'High' intensity interventions only).		6
£Private sector match secured (where linked to Growth Hub)		<p>£1,216,373</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £1,137,568 – Business Productivity • £78,805 – Digital Innovation grants <p><i>There has been a delay in the projects due to Covid, however the forecast for 2022/23 recovers this position in line with the contracted amounts</i></p>

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

In January 2022 the LEP approved a proposal to establish a South Yorkshire Innovation Board (SYIB), which will be tasked with leading on operationalising the innovation and productivity enhancing activity set out in the region's Strategic Economic Plan.

The LEP will be providing strategic input to the forthcoming Skills Strategy, Sustainability Plan and International Strategy. The work for the Skills Strategy will align with the Local Skills Improvement Plan trailblazer work which has been supported by the LEP.

LEP BOARD MEMBERSHIP

The LEP Board brings together 10 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 2022 Lucy Nickson was appointed Interim LEP Chair; after serving the Board as Vice Chair from September 2018. Lucy played an integral role in the development of the Strategic Economic Plan and Renewal Action Plan and has continued to be a great champion of South Yorkshire since taking on the new role.

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.

- Lucy Nickson (Interim Chair), Chief Executive at Day One
- Neil MacDonald OBE (Interim Vice Chair), Chair, St Luke's Hospice and Pro Chancellor, Sheffield Hallam University
- Oliver Coppard, Mayor of South Yorkshire
- Joe Chetcuti, Founding Partner of Front
- Michael Faulks, Co-founder and Chief Technical Officer at Iotec Ltd
- Dan Fell (Co-opted), CEO of Doncaster Chamber of Commerce
- Angela Foulkes, Chief Executive and Principal at The Sheffield College
- Alexa Greaves (Small Business Champion), Chief Executive, AAG IT
- Peter Kennan, Chair of Sheffield Chamber of Commerce and Industry Transport Forum
- Gemma Smith, Managing Director at Strata
- Richard Stubbs, Chief Executive, Yorkshire and Humber Academic Health Science Network
- Cathy Travers, Managing Director of Mott MacDonald's UK and Europe Region
- Councillor Terry Fox, 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 Chris Husbands, Vice Chancellor at Sheffield Hallam University
- Professor Dave Petley (Co-opted), Vice-President for Innovation at The University of Sheffield
- Bill Adams (Co-opted), Regional Secretary, TUC Yorkshire and the Humber

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