

Dear Boris,
would be great to see
you in South Yorkshire.
Ceri



South Yorkshire
Mayoral Combined Authority
11 Broad Street West
Sheffield, S1 2BQ

9 May 2022

Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

Dear Prime Minister

Today I was formally sworn in as South Yorkshire's Mayor. South Yorkshire is the place I was born and raised; the region I am proud to call my home.

My campaign to be Mayor was built on a promise to restore the pride, the purpose and the prosperity of our region: to fix our public transport, develop a clean energy strategy, create healthier, more active communities, and build a better economy.

That's why I welcome your commitment to bridging the divide between the north and south of our country, and the ambition of your 'levelling-up' agenda and the breadth and depth of the Levelling Up White Paper.

You are right to identify that there is an urgent need for change and that this must span the work of each and every Department. Our country cannot remain a place where there are such stark differences between the health, wealth and life chances of our communities; a country in which where you live determines how far you'll go.

Your government has made clear its ambition to address the disparities between the best and worst-off parts of our country by 2030. There are now fewer than 400 weeks left to deliver on those ambitions, and yet the scale of the task is significant:

Public Transport

Your ambition: local public transport connectivity across the country will be significantly closer to the standards of London, with improved services, simpler fares and integrated ticketing.

The reality in South Yorkshire: immediately before the pandemic bus passenger journeys had fallen by more than 60% since privatisation and deregulation in 1986. Meanwhile in London, bus passenger journeys had nearly doubled in the same period.

Here, bus operators offer so many tickets that drivers receive a 30-page booklet explaining the different fares. In London, a single set of fares work across all operators.

In South Yorkshire, our bus network - the number of places we can get to, and the frequency of services - has fallen by 13% over the last ten years. In London the bus network grew.

To make a start on confronting these challenges I invite you to South Yorkshire, to meet with me to discuss how we must work together to transform the future of our region.

There is no time to waste. I look forward to working with you and your Government.

Best wishes,



Mayor Oliver Coppard

South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority

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p.s. Doncaster is the obvious choice
for GB Railways HQ!