

State of Sheffield 2018

—Sheffield City Partnership Board

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Foreword

A very warm welcome to both new readers and to all those who have previously read the State of Sheffield report which is now entering its seventh publication in the present format.

I am personally deeply grateful to the City Partnership Manager, Laura White, and to Kay Kirk for the support they've given me and to the Sheffield City Partnership Board, but I'm also particularly grateful to all of those who have worked so hard to pull together this report and to all those who have contributed to the chapters and the time they have given voluntarily to this. A list of contributors to the report is given on page 97.

As those familiar with the process will know, this report is a foundation for understanding economic, social and cultural change within the city both to assist policymakers in the public, private and voluntary sectors in their decision-making and also to stimulate a wider debate about what is working in Sheffield, what is going wrong and what we should do about it.

The role of the Sheffield City Partnership Board is to coordinate, stimulate collaboration and reach out to ensure that there is the widest possible engagement by those who so often observe the processes of decision-making by others, with either bewilderment or indifference. That is why in this report we are emphasising the importance of finding new ways of encouraging engagement and persuading all those in a position to do so, that greater participation results in better decision-making. There is also emphasis on drawing on the talent, energy and commitment of the wider community that makes up Sheffield, as well as individuals.

In this 2018 report we therefore endeavoured to provide focus. Not just identifying strengths and weaknesses but focusing particularly on how to promote sustainable and inclusive growth – growth in terms of our economy and productivity but also the linkage between social policy and economic prosperity. In particular, we consider how we can maximise the enormous asset we have in our communities across the city and how greater equality and cohesion contributes to economic success as well as quality of life.

The Partnership Board have drawn down on both national and international evidence, the engagement of those organisations and institutions who have the capacity to make a difference, and the role of both private and social enterprise.

From encouraging the further development of the 'smart city', building on the development of a critical mass for digital and cyber investment, through to the collaboration of those with substantial purchasing power, to harness for economic and employment purposes, joined up procurement, to aid the development of locally sourced services and materials and the stimulation of the local economy, and what has become known as 'social value'.

I hope that this report, alongside the Board's forthcoming Framework for an Inclusive and Sustainable Economy, could become a building block for wider collaboration building on last year's City Region Vision Strategy, and the work of what have become known as our key 'anchor institutions' (for example our universities, NHS organisations, and local authorities). With the forthcoming election of the South Yorkshire mayor, and the potential for both greater devolution and government resources, ensuring this important work on sustainable and inclusive growth has an impact not only within Sheffield but also across the rest of South Yorkshire will become increasingly important.

As well as further developing our own outreach, including access to and use of the website and open meetings, such as the one held in late September, it is our intention to publish the Framework mentioned in the previous paragraph in the autumn. The challenging task will be to encourage all those able to do so, to contribute to building on that framework, including not being fearful of public engagement, to ensure that we turn aspiration into action.

The Rt. Hon. the Lord Blunkett
—Chair, Sheffield City Partnership Board

Sheffield: Becoming an inclusive & sustainable city

7 things you need to know

1. There are more and more people living in our great city. Sheffield's population in 2018 is 569,000 and is estimated to be around 620,000 by 2030.
2. Sheffield's £11bn economy has continued to grow despite the recession in 2007/8 but the city's productivity remains a key challenge. But, the growth in key sectors (e.g. advanced manufacturing and creative and digital), major investments from the likes of McLaren and Boeing, and the number of cranes on the skyline are testament to the changing face of the city.
3. Sheffield is performing increasingly well on broader measures of economic vibrancy. The Grant Thornton Vibrant Economy index shows that Sheffield outperforms other big cities, particularly in terms of dynamism and opportunity; resilience and sustainability; and community trust and belonging. It is also the second most improved nationally over the last five years. However, Sheffield has particular challenges around inclusion and equality.
4. Austerity has put some of Sheffield's vital public services under significant strain with Sheffield City Council's core funding alone cut significantly between 2010 and 2018. Sheffield's most important services are experiencing some of their toughest difficulties ever with more and more people needing increasingly complex support. The cuts have meant that this growing need is not being matched by the increased staffing, facilities or funding needed.
5. Sheffield is a safe city with a well-earned reputation for being a relatively low crime place to live. Whilst crime has risen in most urban centres, the rate of increase in Sheffield has been lower than most other cities.

6. The city's social and community sector is active and makes a huge contribution to people and places across the city. There are 3,300 active voluntary and community groups – including charities, social enterprises and cooperatives – in Sheffield of which around 75% are micro groups (with an annual income of less £10k) and only 3% are 'large' organisations (i.e. have an income over £1m).

7. We need to improve the health of the city if we want a more inclusive economy. Mental and physical health issues continue to be a major barrier to more Sheffielders being in work, and being out of work can exacerbate those problems as well as increasing inequalities. But, being in poor quality jobs can also damage people's health. The growing number of insecure, short-term jobs with uncertain working hours risks increasing stress and anxiety and we will need to keep a careful eye on the impact this has on Sheffielders over the coming years.



Introduction

The State of Sheffield report provides an overview of the city, describing how things are and how they are changing. Rather than representing the views or opinions of one particular organisation, it draws together insights and perspectives from a team of authors working in different fields. It pulls on a range of data sources and reports to explore city-wide issues, plotting trends, highlighting challenges and pointing to opportunities for Sheffield and its population.

This is the seventh State of Sheffield report. Previous reports revealed a changing city with a growing and increasingly diverse population; a business sector, buffeted by the harsh economic climate, which has nevertheless shown growth in new sectors (including advanced manufacturing and creative and digital industries), advances in educational attainment and improvements in health outcomes.

As this report was in production, the cranes on our skyline provided evidence of the changing centre of a city which has for 10 years seen national austerity and economic

Photograph by: Tim Dennell



uncertainty impact on local service provision, economic productivity and household incomes. The city and its people have shown remarkable resilience, but there have been inevitable impacts on financial inequality, social cohesion and opportunities, particularly for young people.

There are no easy solutions to these challenges. In an interconnected world, it can seem that we are at the mercy of forces over which we have no control or influence. Improving the odds by simply wishing away the causes of adversity is not an option, but it remains the fundamental determination of all those committed to Sheffield to make it possible to beat the odds, and to ensure Sheffield can respond with characteristic creativity and innovation, showing its traditional steel to overcome potential threats and promote successful development. This requires businesses, public institutions, service providers, communities and residents to work together to promote growth and create jobs and opportunities.

The section on Inclusive & Sustainable Economy makes all too clear that growth alone is not enough. It is also important that growth is inclusive; that it benefits everyone. In recent years, the UK's economic growth — more evident in the London and the South East — has tended to benefit the richest in society, whose earnings and wealth have increased. Meanwhile, lots of people have failed to see any increase in their income and the result has been rising inequality, and uneven growth within cities, reinforcing patterns of inequality revealed by the Sheffield Fairness Commission.

As a result increasing attention is focused on inclusive growth, for lots of good reasons. Inclusive growth means economic growth that distributes across society the social and economic benefits of greater prosperity. Inclusive growth demands connecting people to new opportunities through education and training, and shaping the nature of employment opportunities, ensuring they offer decent pay and reasonable terms and conditions. Inclusive growth seeks to tackle the inequalities that have a social and economic cost and is about improving health and well-being and sustaining fairness in place of poverty's demands on public services when those disconnected from growth become disillusioned and alienated.

It will be far from easy. Indeed, we are still in the early stages of figuring out how cities might stimulate inclusive growth. The State of Sheffield 2018 explores some of the challenges we face and how we might respond.

The report's themes also include: *Involvement & Participation; Safety & Security; Social & Community Infrastructure; and Health & Well-being.*

Involve&ment & Participation

The report reflects a long tradition of community and political action and active citizenship, and the diverse and resilient voluntary sector that plays a significant role in the life and fabric of the city. Inclusive economies and inclusive places are built by and around people and it is vital that people have a strong voice in making the decisions that impact on their neighbourhood and their city. It is about much more than just voting in elections; it is about leadership, good governance and creating space for discussion and debate in which people can make their voice heard. Sheffield clearly has some strengths in this, but there is more to do to energise engagement to drive the Sheffield vision for creating a prosperous and inclusive city.

Safety & Security

The report reinforces Sheffield's reputation as a safe city; a perception that is largely borne out by data presented in the section on safety and security. This is not to deny that there are challenges. These are distributed unevenly across the city, with people in poorer neighbourhoods more likely to experience crime and anti-social behaviour according to official data. The championing of a fairer and inclusive city, improved employment opportunities and access to public services, offers the possibility of tackling social and economic issues that are aligned with urban crime and violence.

Social & Community Infrastructure

The report examines the role played by the voluntary and community sector — a major factor in shaping the way that the city of Sheffield responds to change and manages to promote a more inclusive economy. Sheffield has a vibrant 'third' sector that is rich in assets, including the enthusiasm, commitment, experience and expertise of staff and volunteers and the report looks at the contribution that the

sector can make to promoting an inclusive and sustainable economy by harnessing these assets. In doing so, it also sounds a note of caution, pointing out that a strong voluntary and community sector requires investment and support.

Health & Well-Being

The report also looks at the key challenge raised by the health of the population, which is increasingly recognised as not only a product of a successful economy, but an important determinant of inclusive economic development.

Poor (mental and physical) health impacts on employment opportunities, productivity and incomes; it impacts upon economic growth and determines who benefits from growth. Sheffield faces various challenges in the relationships between health, work and economic growth, and the report looks at particular issues raised by the changing nature of work and increased precariousness within the so called 'gig economy'.

In its conclusions the report considers the way forward for Sheffield, reflecting on the findings of the previous chapters and highlighting some prime concerns for the city, its leaders and citizens to consider in the year ahead. It is a conclusion which is as forward-looking as the city itself, and one which reflects on and welcomes the challenges of sustainability and inclusivity for Sheffield.

Professor David Robinson

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