

Introducing the

# National Civic Impact Accelerator



**Civic University**  
Network





# A natural evolution for Sheffield Hallam University

As one of the largest education providers and employers in South Yorkshire, Sheffield Hallam University is proudly a university of place, rooted in the heart of our region and with a long history of civic engagement. We want to be a beacon for what a university can do for and with its community.

South Yorkshire Futures is a social mobility partnership developed by Sheffield Hallam University, committed to improving education and raising aspirations for young people in South Yorkshire, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds.



# A university at the Heart of the Region

Working closely with our regional partners will be fundamental to delivering on our ambitions to bring about improvements to the lives of residents in local communities.

**Our Economy  
and Jobs**



**Our Education  
and Skills**



**Our Health  
and Wellbeing**

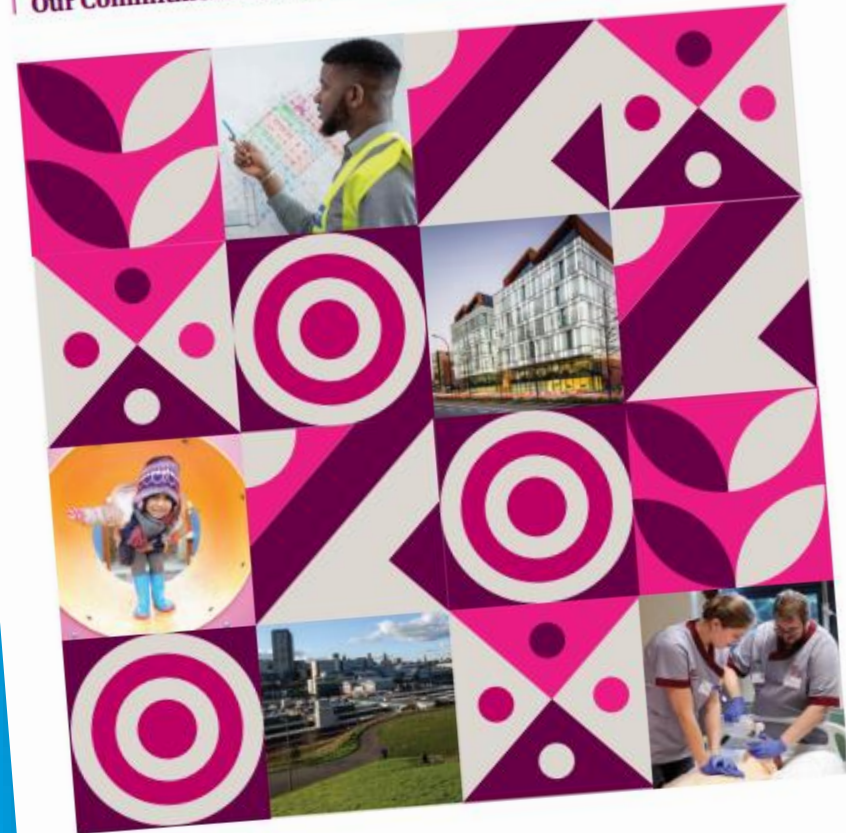


**Our Community  
and Regeneration**



**Sheffield  
Hallam  
University**  
Knowledge Applied

**At the Heart of the Region**  
Our Commitments to our Communities



**Civic University Agreement**

# Leading a national civic university movement

In 2020 Sheffield Hallam was chosen to be the host of the Civic University Network, funded by the UPP Foundation with partners including the Department for Education, Carnegie Trust UK and Arts Council England.

The Civic University Network supports universities across the UK to develop and embed civic aspirations at an institutional level, particularly through developing and publishing Civic University Agreements.

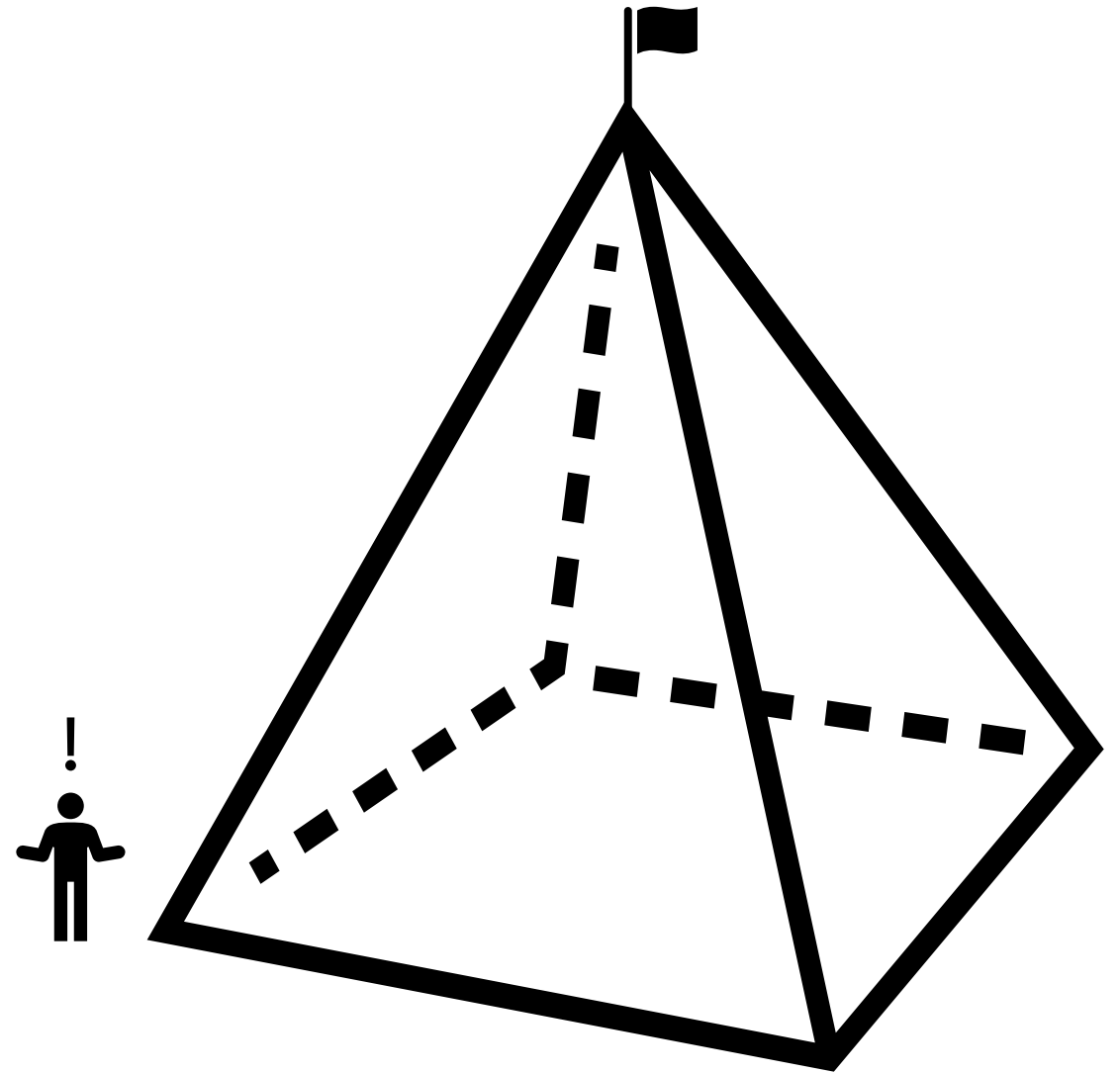
We work with governments and strategic partners to ensure that a university's geographic role and responsibility is used more effectively as an agent to drive positive societal change.

Our programme of work includes webinars delivering practical support , virtual case study showcases, and in-depth analysis of opportunities for – and barriers to – maximising civic impact.



## Accelerating civic impact across the country

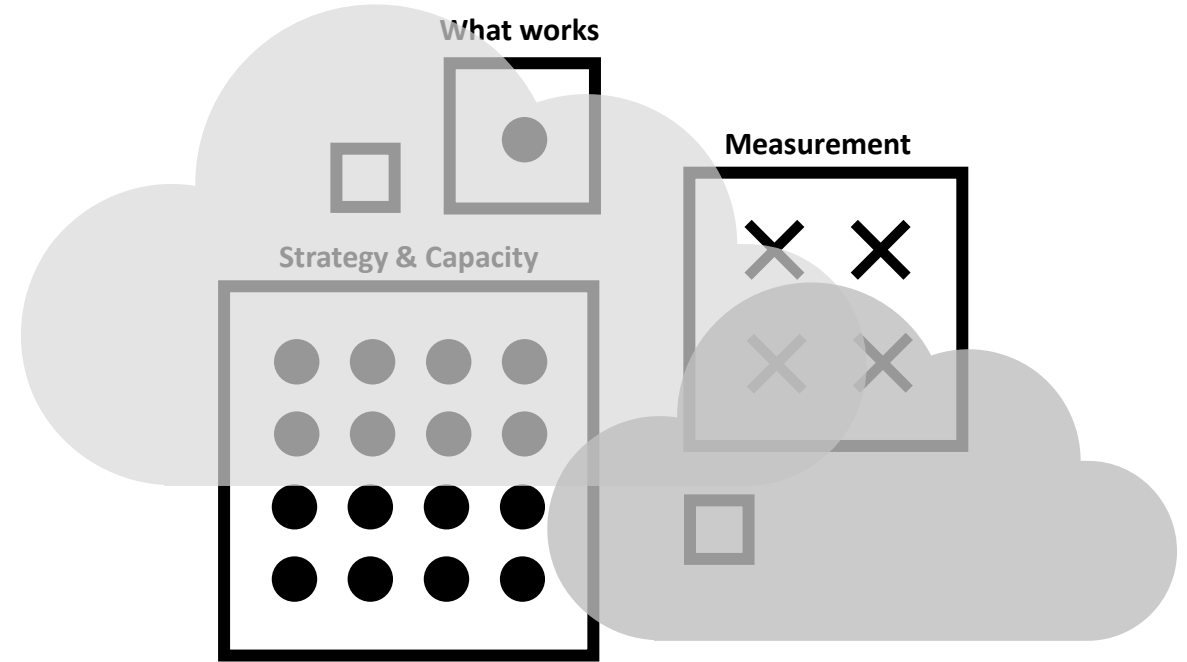
“Top-down” pressures such as Levelling Up and a “bottom-up” moral imperative to support communities are resulting in increasing pressure on HEIs to respond to the place agenda and maximise their social value for public good.





# Accelerating civic impact across the country

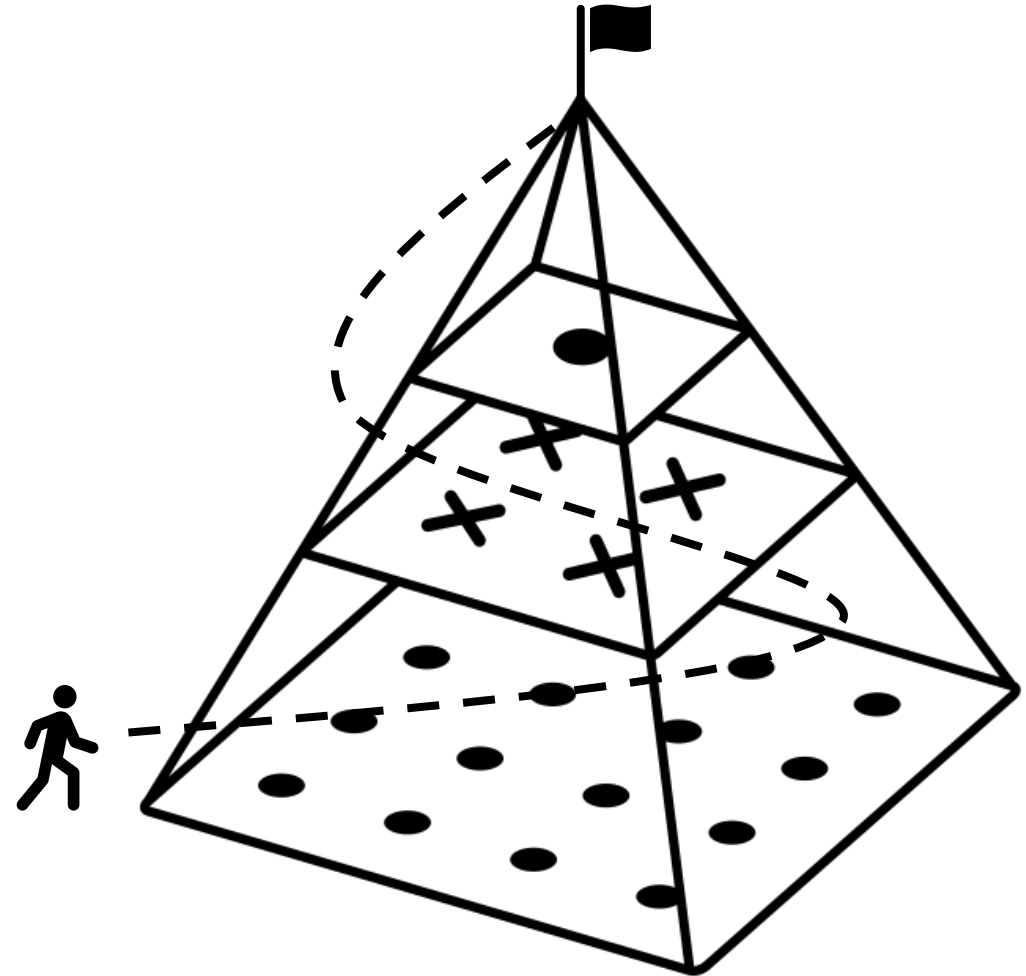
The potential of HEIs to transform and contribute to the place agenda is under-realised and constrained by lack of good evidence, joined up structures for (local) connectivity, lack of consistent and available measurement, and challenges of strategy and capacity in how the sector operates.



# Accelerating civic impact across the country

The NCIA will connect evidence and intelligence, strategic and operational capacity and systematic measurement to accelerate civic intervention and impact within and across places.

We will provide guidance, tools and support to help universities work in partnership with place to deepen the impact of their civic ambitions.



# Accelerating civic impact across the country

1

rigorously assess  
and mobilise  
evidence of what  
works, for whom,  
and in what context

2

build capacity for  
more effective civic  
leadership and  
engagement

3

build cross-sector  
relationships to  
accelerate  
innovation

4

operationalise the  
Civic Impact  
Framework to embed  
metrics to monitor,  
assess and accelerate  
civic interventions.



# Accelerating civic impact across the country

## WS1: Evidence Capture

Capture, curate and, where necessary, generate evidence against the 7 domains of the Civic Impact Framework

Responsive to the gaps and needs identified by the HE sector and its civic stakeholders.

## WS2: Learning & Innovating

Catalyse and mobilise the evidence gathering activity of WS1, through convening and supporting a dynamic action learning programme.

HEIs will be invited to join the programme based on several factors to ensure diversity

## WS3: Scaling Up

A new package of engagement, capacity building and dissemination activities to ensure extensive engagement with the work of the NCIA by our key audiences.

Broadcast NCIA outputs and mobilise adoption of effective civic practice and thought leadership across the wider HE and civic sectors

## WS4: Programme Management

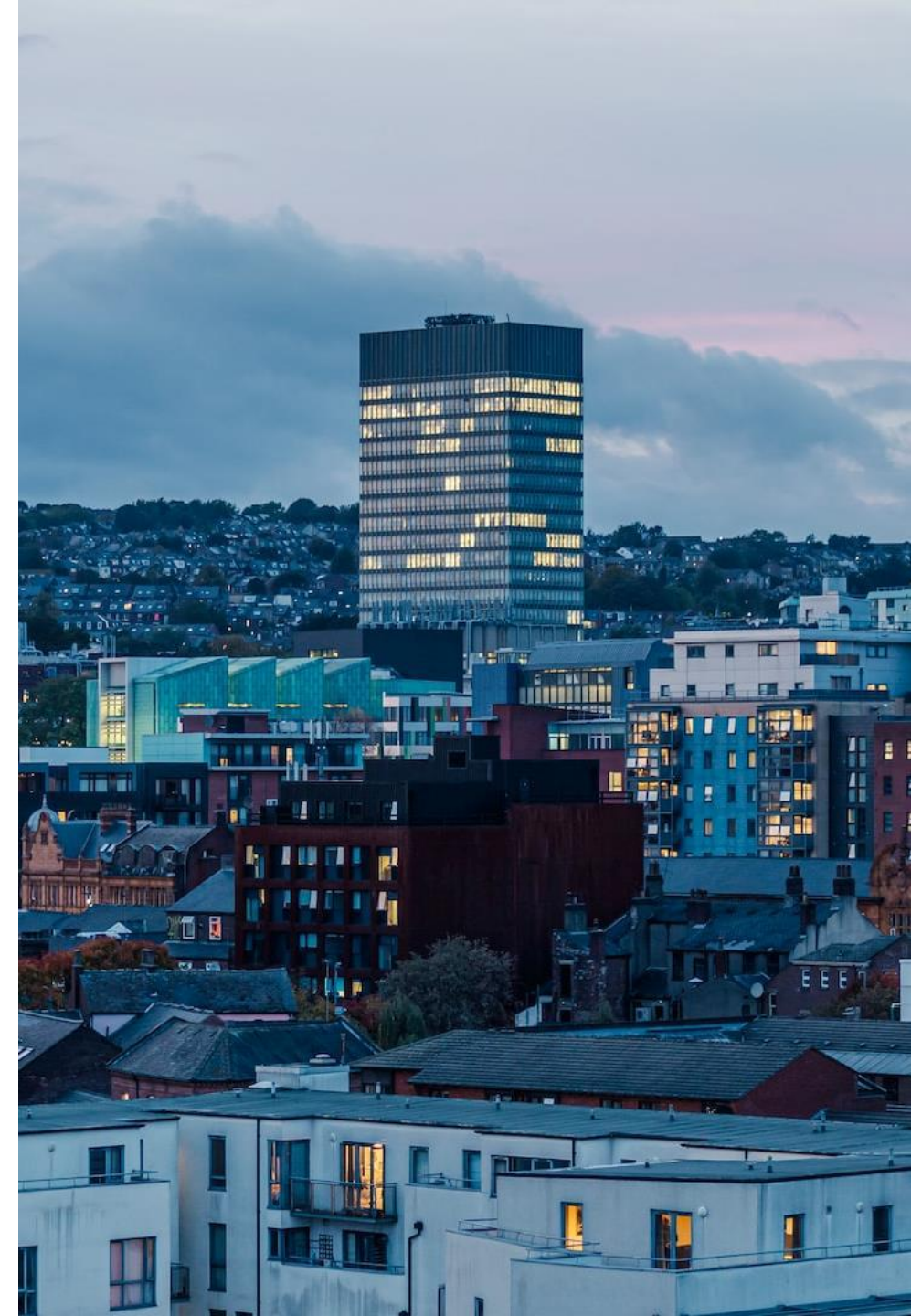
Central coordination of the NCIA through the development and deployment of project management tools

Development and operation of governance structures

Developing and deploying a developmental evaluation approach.

# What does this mean for Sheffield / South Yorkshire?

- Feeding case studies of best practice in place-based collaboration from the region into the NCIA's synthesis functions
- Opportunities to experiment with new civic innovations
- Raising Sheffield / South Yorkshire's profile as a centre of place-based innovation
- *How else could we maximise benefit for the region?*







# Civic University Network



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