

**Sheffield City Partnership Board (SCPB)**  
*“working together to build a Sheffield that works for everyone”*

**Notes Minutes of the meeting held on: Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2022**  
**The Council Chamber, Town Hall, Pinstone Street, Sheffield S1 2HH**

**Present:**

- Lord David Blunkett, Chair
- Neill Birchenall, Director, ASK4 (Vice Chair)
- Michelle Buttery, Chief Executive & Solicitor to the Police & Crime Commissioner
- Sandi Carman, Assistant Chief Executive, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS FT
- Roger Cotes, Deputy Director, Department for Education
- Angela Foulkes, Chief Executive & Principal, Sheffield College
- Andrew Hartley, Executive Director - Commercial & Operations, The Sheffield College
- James Henderson, Director of Policy, Performance & Communications, SCC
- Cllr Douglas Johnson, Exec Member for Climate Change, Environment & Transport, SCC
- Alexis Krachai, Managing Director of Counter Context, SCCI
- Martin McKervey, Director of AESSEAL plc
- Halima Mohamed, African Women’s Health Group
- Sharon Thorpe, Service Leader for S.Y. jobcentres and Makerfield Service Centre, DWP

**In Attendance:**

- Laura White, Strategy & Partnerships Manager
- Diana Buckley, Director of Economic Development & Culture, Sheffield City Council
- Jennifer Rickard, Economic Policy Officer, Sheffield City Council (Item 4)
- Karl Dalgleish, Director, KADA Research Limited (Item 4)
- Dan Spicer, Policy & Improvement Officer, Sheffield City Council
- Catherine Pritchard, Policy & Improvement Officer, SCC
- Kay Kirk (notes)

	<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Action</b>
1.	<p><b>Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of Interest</b></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p> <p>Apologies were received from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paul Bragger, Station Manager, South Yorkshire Fire &amp; Rescue</li> <li>• Andy Buck, Chair, Voluntary Action Sheffield</li> <li>• Sarah Burt, Sheffield CCG</li> <li>• John Edwards, Interim Chief Executive, Department for Education</li> <li>• Cllr Terry Fox, Leader, Sheffield City Council</li> <li>• Chief Superintendent Shelley Hemsley, South Yorkshire Police</li> <li>• Brian Hughes, Deputy Accountable Officer, Sheffield CCG</li> <li>• Helen Sims, Chief Executive, Voluntary Action Sheffield</li> <li>• Eugene Walker, Acting Chief Executive, Sheffield City Council</li> <li>• Sarah Want, Director – Partnership &amp; Regional Engagement, The University of Sheffield</li> </ul>	

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<p><b>2.</b></p>	<p><b>Local Skills Improvement Plan</b> Alexis Krachai, Interim Executive Director, Sheffield Chamber of Commerce</p> <p>Alexis presented to the Board on behalf of the 3 Chambers in South Yorkshire. A link to the South Yorkshire Chambers People and Skills Manifesto was circulated to Board members ahead of the meeting – this is a summary of the LSIP (Local Skills Improvement Plan) produced by the 3 Chambers: <a href="https://www.scci.org.uk/data/Partnership_Downloads/SYChambersSkillsManifesto-Summary[digital].pdf">https://www.scci.org.uk/data/Partnership_Downloads/SYChambersSkillsManifesto-Summary[digital].pdf</a></p> <p>We have had a skills challenge in the region for decades. In the first quarter of 2022, nationally, 72% of businesses said they were facing hiring challenges, to find the right talent. In Yorkshire it was 93% that were held back due to the skills shortage.</p> <p>The LSIP was presented in a Government White Paper a couple of years ago. It wanted to see businesses informing the Skills Strategy. Employer representative bodies submitted bids to trial LSIPs in localities. South Yorkshire came together and put forward an application which was successful. In 2021 we came together and worked with business organisations in the region to think meaningfully about what businesses were saying they needed.</p> <p>The Government also launched the Strategic Development Fund (SDF) which is grant funding aimed at developing the capacity for collaboration between further education providers, local employers, and representative bodies with the goal of better meeting local skills priorities.</p> <p>South Yorkshire has combined LSIP and SDF governance into one board (South Yorkshire Skills Accelerator). <a href="https://www.sy-skillsaccelerator.co.uk">South Yorkshire Skills Accelerator – Business-led innovation to unlock South Yorkshire’s potential (sy-skillsaccelerator.co.uk)</a></p> <p>Businesses are finding the existing skills system confusing and not responsive to needs. There has been an issue with previous policies leading to providers competing against each other.</p> <p>The Government policy asked for a plan, but we had no legitimacy to produce one so in South Yorkshire we have referred to it as a process rather than a plan. We are applying to continue the work over the coming years and are looking to continue to raise issues in a positive and collegial way.</p> <p>We want to use the convening power of the business community to help join up with Local Authorities, SYMCA (South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority) and providers to arrive at a Skills Strategy we can all take ownership of. We wish to help build a partnership that has a shared objective – we want to unlock untapped potential, support colleagues to take responsibility for more decision making and to devolve resources and funding into the region.</p> <p>Sheffield City Council (SCC) and SYMCA have been very supportive of the work.</p>	
<p><b>3.</b></p>	<p><b>Sheffield College’s Strategic Plan and Vision for Skills</b> Angela Foulkes, Chief Executive &amp; Principal Sheffield College</p> <p>Sheffield College’s vision, from its Strategic Plan (2021-25), has 4 ambitions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Learning: To be recognised as a provider of high-quality education and training by our communities and partners.</li> </ol>	

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	<p>2. People: To be a place where people want to work, recognised for our inclusive and aspirational ethos.</p> <p>3. Partnerships: To play a leading role locally, regionally and nationally, with a reputation as a strong and reliable partner.</p> <p>4. Sustainability: to be a financially and environmentally sustainable organisation.</p> <p>In 2021/22 The Sheffield College:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employed approximately 1,320 staff</li> <li>• Had over 14,000 students and apprentices studying with them (5,300 of those were aged 16-18).</li> <li>• 2,000 of their students were apprentices</li> <li>• Had 440 degree level students</li> <li>• Offered almost 600 different qualifications</li> <li>• Worked with almost 2,500 employers</li> </ul> <p>Some other resources include: The South Yorkshire Colleges Partnership delivers high quality apprenticeships, training and education (the Business Engagement &amp; Apprenticeship Hub links back to the LSIP). Sheffield College's recently opened adult learning centre at Pennine Five is home to the adult training provision and is perfectly located just a 5-minute walk from the city centre. Conversations are developing around the City Centre Academic Studies Centre. The Advanced Manufacturing Park Technology Centre is recognised as one of the leading and most innovative engineering, research and manufacturing communities.</p> <p><u>Discussion/Comments</u></p> <p>Collaboration in South Yorkshire is unique. Employer Representative Bodies are being piloted to align with local skills improvement.</p> <p>Focus is on collaboration. DfE wants to be part of, and work with providers and The Chamber to produce a common plan. Testing out a new approach with progression to move devolution so we can set priorities in the area. As we go through the process we want to learn and adapt it for the next stage to work for the city and the region.</p> <p>The Strategic Development Fund is meant to follow on from the LSIP. There is flexibility in the adult skills budget to help support that. The adult skills budget lies with the Combined Authority.</p> <p>The Sheffield College is making a submission today for SDF funding to respond to some of the specifics in the LSIP. There is some strategic investment they want and need to make but need collective support to make that happen. (The CITB and EITB have cooperated in the past). The College has a close relationship with SCC. A common shared goal is that an independent training provider is active in the region and brings a different voice. It is difficult for training providers, but dialogue is open. There are challenges around inward investment. There is a significant amount of work to do about how we link to other anchor institutions.</p> <p>We have a continuing gap in demand for skills (transition from qualifications and courses to career pathway). Through the LSIP process and SDF do we have alignment of success measures and understand what success looks like?</p>	

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	<p>There is an intention to integrate careers advice with the LSIP and DfE is working with the LEP on this. It will reflect the skills need and be more tied into the curriculum.</p> <p>It is important to pick out 16-18 advice. Strengthening this is very welcome but routes are fairly well prescribed but tails off at 19+. 19+ advice is a different task as employer training needs to be more bespoke and focussed on upskilling. The Combined Authority has agreed to work with the Colleges Partnership to provide a one stop shop for employers. A South Yorkshire Careers Hub is emerging and will offer a similar thing for adults wishing to train. Progress is being made.</p> <p>This is a challenge for the business community. There are examples of some businesses going into primary and secondary schools to speak to young people and inspire pupils. AESSEAL has a target of speaking to 5k school children per year and this links to apprenticeships.</p> <p>Business leaders becoming school governors would be helpful.</p> <p>How do communities get together to raise aspirations and ambition in the adult population?</p> <p>There is more to do to triangulate careers advice. Health &amp; Social Care has an active programme which works with schools looking at non-traditional routes in H&amp;SC. There is some good practice to share.</p> <p>ESOL work in communities is not valued or acknowledges – the LSIP could take this on board.</p> <p>Measures of success are needed with hard numbers around outcomes and responsiveness. We need to think about how we measure speed of movements.</p> <p>Skills advice is flawed and outdated. There are soft and hard skills. The skills system doesn't think about soft skills. A lot of skills we'll need in the coming years are hard skills so we need to re-think our skills system to make sure we have a world class workforce that can respond to continuing change in technology and responsive to ever changing needs.</p> <p><b><u>Agreed</u></b> To come back to this topic in a few months to check progress and discuss the question of what success would look like.</p>	<p><b>LW</b></p>
<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p><b>City Strategy: Economic Baseline data</b> Diana Buckley, Director of Economic Development &amp; Culture, Sheffield City Council Jennifer Rickard, Economic Policy Officer, Sheffield City Council Karl Dalglish, Director, KADA Research Limited</p> <p>A 2-page report entitled 'Developing a new City Strategy for Sheffield' was circulated to Board members ahead of the meeting. The purpose of the report was to update Sheffield City Partnership on the progress of the City Strategy – specifically the new economic evidence base work. It also included suggestions for how the City Strategy could align with other core plans for the city. The report also highlights next steps and timescales.</p>	

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	<p>The Sheffield Economic Evidence Base is underway and brings together data and evidence from various sources to understand the challenges and opportunities facing Sheffield's economy (including evidence developed by the Board's Steering Group). The Community Voice and Insight Commission has begun, working with the voluntary sector across Sheffield to engage people in a conversation about the future of Sheffield. The next phase of development will involve synthesising evidence with ongoing partner engagement and integrating key findings into a draft set of missions and policy and spatial priorities (the city is now a levelling up pilot). It is suggested that a Task and Finish Group is established to lead on the development of the City Strategy and how it aligns with the Sustainable Growth Accelerator Programme and Place Based Plan (Chaired by a SCPB member). Capacity is an issue and SCC is looking to align resources to secure external support to deliver on the strategic framework.</p> <p><b>The impacts of COVID and economic recovery:</b> Sheffield and its partners want to raise the profile of the city nationally and internationally, capitalising on the city's assets to attract new business and investment to the city. The inclusive, health and sustainability elements of this work represent a marked shift from previous approaches that have adopted a narrower economic lens.</p> <p>Sheffield has a relatively stable and resilient business base, with high rates of business survival, but fewer start-ups. Low rates of business starts, low business density and fewer high growth businesses than stronger performing core cities, will impact on Sheffield's resilience and its ability to seize new opportunities for growth. Sheffield would need to be home to 3,400 more businesses and 950 more business starts per year for business density and start up rates to match the Core City average. Low productivity means that Sheffield underperforms relative to the Core Cities and the gap is growing.</p> <p>Sheffield's population is more highly qualified than its workforce. This creates an opportunity. Productivity is low across all board sectors and the industrial profile of Sheffield will not explain the worsening gap. This could be due to the types of job within sectors.</p> <p>Above average healthy life expectancy masks deep inequalities across the city, with more deprived areas lagging behind. Sheffield performs well relative to the Core Cities on health measures, but they wide disparity within the city is a pressing concern. Women are increasingly impacted by work limiting disabilities, and a higher proportion of people suffer from mental health problems than the national average. The proportions of economically inactive long-term sick in our sub-region range from 23% in Sheffield to 30% in Doncaster. Sickness and disability are the main drivers of economic inactivity with gender inequality starker than between ethnic groups.</p> <p>Fuel and food poverty has increased faster than the national average in deprived areas of Sheffield. Deprivation and poverty are linked to lower educational outcomes.</p> <p>Business emissions are significant and need to be reduced, but green jobs provide and economic opportunity. Carbon emissions have been reducing but there is some way to go to reach the 2030 net zero target. Emissions are unequal across the city, reflecting the spatial nature of Sheffield's economy and population. Personal and commercial transport omissions reflect the spatial nature of Sheffield's economy. Our air quality exceeds legal limits which affects the young and old and those with pre-existing heart and lung conditions. Premature mortality is causing a persistent health risk and a draft on productivity.</p>	

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	<p>Emerging messages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ‘devolution revolution’ combined with a green stimulus for economic growth offers a potentially powerful mix for change.</li> <li>• This ‘provides the impetus for a move away from business-as-usual models of economic growth’.</li> <li>• We aren’t creating enough and the right jobs to match the skills and requirements of the workforce.</li> <li>• A longer-term and place-based approach to inclusive growth should increase focus on key causes of inequality at earlier life stages.</li> <li>• Unless we address widening disparities, we will reinforce existing trends.</li> <li>• We need to do more to reach our ambitious 2030 target for net zero in way that delivers just transition across Sheffield’s economy and communities and places our industry at the heart of the green economy</li> </ul> <p>In summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are potential productivity policy implications emerging from the data.</li> <li>• To reduce city inequalities a range of measures is required to combat the disproportionate effect that Covid has had on key groups.</li> <li>• There are some far reaching carbon reduction policy implications.</li> </ul> <p><u>Discussion/Comments</u></p> <p>Entrepreneurship can be taught using careers advice and speaking to people in schools. We need to get more businesses out into schools. KADA research has more data and can provide comparisons against core cities and the national average.</p> <p>We need clearly defined and hard-edged missions embedded into the City Strategy. We need to lift our gaze – we should be looking at international comparators. KADA Research will look to add some global indicators. The SCCI business plan is currently being written – we should slow down this process to ensure it aligns with the work of the working group around the city plan.</p> <p>We need identified leads for each strand/element when the task and finish group reports back.</p> <p>Barnsley College has provided a space for start-ups with access to facilities and help. The University of Sheffield is talking about AMRC attracting employers who need a full spectrum of skills. How do we use connections to pull the jigsaw together to deliver objectives?</p> <p>Public transport and connectivity are key issues holding us back – we may need to focus more on this. KADA Research has some data and will write more about it into their report. Strengthening the narrative around housing and the nature of the market/demand and how this links into the economy would be helpful.</p> <p>KADA Research will try to identify a country in the world that we could learn from.</p> <p>Institutional alignment is crucial and has to be designed in.</p> <p>KADA to revisit the strategic report from Kevin Murray Associates to see where there might be alignment or updates relevant to the ongoing work</p>	

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	<p><b><u>Agreed</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To bring the SCCI business plan to a future meeting.</li> <li>• Diana Buckley to take the process forward with Angela Foulkes as Chair of the task and finish group. The Board offered thanks to Angela for her preparedness to lead on this</li> <li>• Volunteers are required to be part of the working group - Board members to contact Laura White to register interest.</li> </ul>	<p><b>AK/LHW</b> <b>AF</b> <b>All</b></p>
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>Minutes and Matters Arising</b> Lord David Blunkett, Chair, Sheffield City Partnership Board</p> <p>The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting.</p>	
<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b>Partnership Update &amp; Hot Topics (board discussion time)</b> Laura White, Strategy and Partnerships Manager</p> <p>City Strategy Workshops: 2 workshop sessions have taken place to help us plan our engagement with other stakeholders in the city. VAS has been commissioned to provide the community/stakeholder engagement work for the city strategy through community groups.</p> <p>Board Membership &amp; Representation: an initial meeting to look at establishing a working group around membership and representation has taken place and produced some proposals. The group will work with the Board to identify gaps in membership.</p> <p>Tackling Poverty &amp; the cost-of-living crisis: SCC is working to look at how the council tax rebate can link with South Yorkshire Community Foundation Grant Aid.</p> <p><b><u>Agreed</u></b> Institutional Alignment: David Blunkett and political leaders to write to institutions to ask what they will do to prepare for the City Strategy to be absorbed into their organisations. Diana Buckley to help construct the letter.</p>	<p><b>DB/LW</b></p>
<p><b>7.</b></p>	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>A rolling list of action points from Board meetings to be created for the Chair.</p>	<p><b>LW/KK</b></p>
	<p><b>Date and time of next meeting</b></p> <p>Friday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2022, 10.30 am – 12.30 pm: The Conference Room, Town Hall, Pinstone Street, Sheffield S1 2HH</p> <p>Please send any apologies for this meeting by contacting Kay Kirk via email <a href="mailto:kay.kirk@sheffield.gov.uk">kay.kirk@sheffield.gov.uk</a></p>	