

Economic Development and Skills Policy Committee

Meeting held 15 March 2023

PRESENT: Councillors Martin Smith (Chair), Ben Miskell (Deputy Chair), Paul Turpin (Group Spokesperson), Kurtis Crossland, Jayne Dunn, Tom Hunt, Barbara Masters, Henry Nottage and Minesh Parekh

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2.1 No apologies for absence were received.

2. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

3.1 No items were identified where resolutions may be moved to exclude the press and public.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

4.1 Councillor Tom Hunt declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 8 as an employee of the University of Sheffield.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

5.1 The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 22nd February 2023 were approved as a correct record subject to an amendment to paragraph 7.5 clarifying that discussion took place on a number of planned transport schemes, not solely the Sheffield Clean Air Zone (CAZ).

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

6.1 No public questions or petitions were received.

6. WORK PROGRAMME

7.1 The Principal Democratic Services Officer presented the Work Programme.

7.2 Members highlighted the LGBTQ Quarter item, the need to work alongside communities and partners such as the Hate Crimes Board on this topic and asked when this would be brought to committee. The Director of Economy, Skills and Culture explained that a briefing for Members would be scheduled in June and the intention was to bring a report to committee early in the next civic year on the night time economy.

7.3 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY** that:-

1. the Committee's work programme, as set out in Appendix 1 be agreed,

including any additions and amendments identified in Part 1;

2. consideration be given to the further additions or adjustments to the work programme presented at Part 2 of Appendix 1;
3. Members give consideration to any further issues to be explored by officers for inclusion in Part 2 of Appendix 1 of the next work programme report, for potential addition to the work programme.

7. EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT TO INCLUDE GREEN JOBS AND SKILLS

8.1 The Director of Economy, Skills and Culture presented a report to the committee recommending that Sheffield City Council establish itself as a leader in local Employment and Skills by the creation of an advisory board to lead the development of an Employment and Skills Strategy.

8.2 It was acknowledged that the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) was also working on a strategy, however, it was important to have a locally focussed strategy to facilitate essential collaboration with other organisations that were significant levers in the sector and also to maximise funding opportunities.

8.3 Discussion took place on how the advisory board would work in partnership with the committee and align with the Sheffield City Goals. Members were in agreement that there should be cross-party representation to reflect the political views of the Council in a task and finish group.

8.4 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That the Economic Development and Skills Policy Committee Policy Committee:-

1. Approves the creation of an Employment and Skills Advisory Board as set out in this report
2. Approves the development of an Employment and Skills strategy for Sheffield and the initial policy areas to be considered in the development of the strategy to be led by the Employment and Skills Board, as set out in this report
3. Notes that green jobs and skills are a critical part of the employment and skills strategy
4. Establishes a task and finish group composed of members of the committee, with at least one representative from each of the political parties, to receive regular updates and feedback from the Advisory Board.

8.5 Reasons for Decision

The recommendations support the following Council priorities:

- Tackling inequalities and supporting people through the cost of living crisis
- Healthy lives and wellbeing for all
- Clean economic growth
- Happy young people who have the start they need for the future they want

8.6 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

A do-nothing approach would result in Governance and Strategy being held at a regional level.

Whilst this was considered, stakeholders have been clear that there is a need for a strategic Governance Board to co-ordinate the wide range of partners and activities within Sheffield. This is to ensure that programmes are complementary and that all areas of the community are supported.

There is also agreement of the need to set employment and skills vision and ambitions for Sheffield as it lays the foundation for an inclusive economy and clean economic growth.

8. **BUSINESS START UPS**

9.1 The Business Growth Manager introduced a number of guest speakers to the committee that gave testimonies on their experience of Business Start Ups in Sheffield;

- Alexis Krachai – Future President, Sheffield Chamber
- Dash Tabor – Founder of TUBR, Predictive Analytics Platform
- Ruth McDonald – Black Business Group Founder, Race Equality Commission Member
- Tom Wolfenden – CEO, Sheffield Tech Park, Founder of SIAN Network, partner in Team SY
- Andy Hogben – University of Sheffield spin-outs and Northern Gritstone lead for the university
- Joseph Quinn – Innovation Director SYMCA and lead for Regional Business Support Group

9.2 The committee heard from partners representing parts of the business ecosystem including;

- A Business Recovery Plan, implemented post-pandemic
- Business support resources
- The Launchpad Programme
- The Sheffield Incubation and Acceleration Network
- Team SY – Accelerator Programme
- Northern Gritstone
- SY Tech Welcome grants
- SYMCA Regional Business Support Group

The committee heard about the data sets of start up rates against other core cities,

the changes in the ecosystem and the progress made over the last few years and also the gaps in the ecosystem that still exist.

Growth was highlighted as a clear priority for Sheffield in addition to a necessity to be bolder on start-ups by making the decision chain more efficient and this committee leading in critical areas.

9.3 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That the Economic Development and Skills Policy Committee Policy Committee:-

- Note the presentation.