

# Sheffield City Region Strategic Economic Plan 2020 – 2040

## Briefing Note

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### Introduction

The Sheffield City Regional Local Enterprise Partnership and Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA) has published a draft new Strategic Economic Plan (SEP). The stated objective is to create a stronger, greener and fairer South Yorkshire and the plan is the Region's vision to grow the South Yorkshire's economy over the next 20 years.

The SEP tries to look beyond the economic crisis created by COVID-19 as to how the region will build and sustain a competitive economy that unlocks growth and prosperity, creating a region that can survive and thrive.

The consultation on the Plan runs until **Friday 18th September** and people and businesses from across the region are being asked their view on a series of questions and to what extent they agree with the approach set out, on a scale of 1 – 5 with an opportunity to make further comment on the matters raised.

Some of the interesting matters set out are outlined in the following briefing note. In the new landscape after COVID-19, Sheffield City Region (SCR) "*will not pursue growth at any cost.*" Investment will be prioritised in generating "*growth that is good, that helps respond to the national and global challenges of productivity, decarbonisation and tackling inequality*".

### Policy Objectives

The overarching policy objectives for 2040 are described as a golden thread running through the SEP:

**Growth** – growing the economy for all. The SEP identifies a need to focus on a small number of big opportunities which demands more joined up approach between local authorities and public agencies. Key growth areas to create change at scale and deliver benefits to the wider city region include:

- Sheffield City Centre;
- AMID;
- Barnsley Town Centre;

- Rotherham Town Centre;
- Doncaster Town Centre;
- Doncaster Unity (Hatfield and Stainforth);
- Goldthorpe in the Dearne Valley;
- Doncaster Sheffield Airport.

**Inclusion** – ensuring everyone has an opportunity to contribute to and benefit from economic growth. This will include recruitment and employment commitment to skills and careers as well as supply chain activities.

**Sustainability** – driving low carbon opportunities within the economy and delivering net-zero emissions to achieve a net-zero carbon economy by 2040. Proposals to deliver this includes:

- Green Hydrogen by ITM is recommended to meet this with vehicles, heating, industry and power resilience identified.
- Small nuclear is also referenced as a way of taking advantage in clean and low carbon energy generation (Small Modular Reactors).
- TERC for innovation incubators where clean energy research discoveries are taken from concept to production and commercialisation.
- Delivering a zero-carbon public transport network and active network travel city region.
- Energy retrofit of households prioritised for energy efficient measures.
- Investing in expanding the network of Electric Vehicles charging points and hydrogen refuelling stations. Ensuring new homes meet high quality energy use and efficiency.

The approach to innovation will:

- Increase density in the successful AMID (advanced manufacturing innovation district);
- Support businesses to flourish and drive economic growth;
- Driving supply chain development and competitiveness regionally and nationally; and

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- Ensuring our innovative approach benefits the whole City Region.

## Transport Priorities

Priorities for Transport have been set out already in the SCR Transport Strategy. Some key projects include:

- Tram renewal and train-tram extensions into Doncaster and Barnsley and Park & Ride service provision to reduce congestion in urban areas
- Connecting HS2 trains from the centre of Sheffield to Leeds and the north east of England
- Improving the speed and frequency of services to Greater Manchester and Leeds.
- New intercity rail connectivity into the centres of Barnsley and Rotherham with a new station in the Dearne Valley,
- Completion of an upgrade to the Hope Valley Line and opening low usage or closed rail lines to new passenger and freight services such as Waverley to serve AMID.

## Housing & Employment Priorities

SCR also identify that the availability of good quality, well connected and attractive land for new homes and jobs is a major competitive advantage for the region but that there is a need to improve the quality of existing and new housing stock whilst maintaining housing growth. The need to proactively work on strategic planning opportunities to unlock potential through joined up investment packages could be undermined by the abandonment of the legal duty to co-operate proposed by The White Paper.

Sheffield City Region has 1,300ha of employment land ready for development with an anticipated capacity of 96,000 new jobs. 6,000 new homes are being built every year with plans to continue this for the next 10 – 15 years. This objective does not appear to align with the Local Authorities position on housing delivery which is summarised below and is nearly 1,000 units short from the SEP Objective:

- **Barnsley** – 1,134 dwellings per annum to be provided as per the 2019 Adopted Local Plan.
- **Doncaster** – 920 dwelling per annum targeted through reduced to 822 as set out in the Doncaster Local Plan Publication Version.
- **Rotherham** – 850 dwellings per annum required in the Core Strategy (Policy CS6) but 958 to meet

previous under delivery.

- **Sheffield** – 2,185 dwellings per annum required in the Issues and Options document (2020).

There is a need to increase the supply of housing further including market and affordable housing and specialist housing for older people, disabled people and other vulnerable groups. This is particularly important in those places of greatest need, as noted in the Sheffield Plan: Our City, Our Future Issues and Options Report.

## Summary of SCR Targets for 2040



Comments are welcomed by SCR LEP and MCA online. DLP Planning Ltd would be happy to discuss making representations on behalf of interested parties to ensure that the views of those involved in the City Region are considered in the context of the SEP. On the following pages a brief summary of the approach to each of the settlements in the SCR is provided.

**If you have any questions about the above or any other planning related queries, please do not hesitate to contact us for more information using details available on our website [www.dlpconsultants.co.uk](http://www.dlpconsultants.co.uk)**



## Barnsley

- Prioritisation of urban centres
- Delivering ambitious Local Plans
- Improved transport connectivity
- Improving adult education and developing skills pathways
- Addressing health inequality and deprivation
- Community-led inclusive economy
- Net-zero carbon commitments
- Future proofing a digital Barnsley



## Doncaster

- Fostering industry specialisms
- Growing priority areas
- Improving transport and digital connectivity
- Asset-based approach to community development
- Establishing a University City and driving skills and Lifelong Learning
- Being sustainable, connected, and vibrant
- Delivering environmental sustainability



## Rotherham

- High quality housing and regeneration
- Densification of manufacturing
- Expanding the new manufacturing economy to deliver inclusive regeneration across the borough
- Connecting the town centre to the northern, eastern, and southern economic corridors
- Enhancing and harnessing green & blue infrastructure
- Enhance skills development and broaden opportunities for residents
- Develop inclusive growth through strengthened local supply chains



## Sheffield

- Creating an inclusive wellbeing economy
- Increasing 'good' jobs and boosting business growth
- Supporting the growth of productive and competitive businesses
- Recognising the importance of place
- Consolidating Sheffield as a Magnet City to attract innovators, visitors and investment.
- Transformed transport connectivity linking people to jobs and cities to each other.
- Housing that provides quality, choice and affordability across the city
- Growing an environmentally sustainable, more resilient economy