

Invest in South Yorkshire

A place to invest, innovate and grow



**OLIVER
COPPARD**
SOUTH YORKSHIRE'S
MAYOR



Contents

Foreword from South Yorkshire's Mayor, Oliver Coppard	3
Why South Yorkshire	4
Established Strengths. Growing markets.	6
Growth locations and opportunity hubs	7
Our Growth areas	8
Selected investment opportunities	9
Key opportinties within the corridor	11
Talent support and a route in	14
Contact us.....	16

“

In South Yorkshire, we're building a bigger, better economy: one that delivers pride, purpose and prosperity for our people, and long-term returns for our partners. Our region is where industrial strength, innovation and delivery come together, with proven and consistent results.

We are home to the UK's first Investment Zone, a globally recognised Advanced Manufacturing Innovation District, and a growing pipeline of opportunities across advanced manufacturing, clean energy, health innovation, digital and next-generation mobility. South Yorkshire is ready to work with partners who want to grow with us.

Ours is a region with deep industrial roots and a clear view of the future. We powered the last industrial revolution. Now we are bringing together world-leading technologies on sites deeply rooted in that heritage, as we help shape the next one.

Oliver Coppard
South Yorkshire's Mayor

”

Why South Yorkshire

South Yorkshire offers investors a strong platform for growth in advanced industry, innovation and place-based development. At the centre of England, it combines industrial capability, applied research, development land, a growing skills base and a clear pipeline of opportunities. It is home to 1.43 million people, 45,000 businesses and 654,000 jobs, with access to a wider labour market of up to 2.1 million people within a one-hour commute. More than 60,000 students are based at our two world-class universities, giving South Yorkshire the fifth highest student population and the third highest number of graduates among the Core Cities, with over 20,000 students studying STEM subjects each year.

South Yorkshire is concentrating on the sectors, sites and growth locations where it has the clearest competitive advantage and the strongest case for long-term returns.

South Yorkshire's offer is built on more than sector strengths alone. Investors can access a powerful combination of research assets, talent, business support, development opportunities and

public partners committed to enabling growth. The region is already delivering through the UK's first Investment Zone, targeted transport and regeneration investment, and a growing pipeline of commercial opportunities.

South Yorkshire also benefits from strong national connectivity. Located at the centre of the UK, it is served by the M1, M18, M180 and A1, with much of the country accessible within two hours by rail or a four-hour drive. This gives businesses fast access to customers, supply chains and markets across the UK.

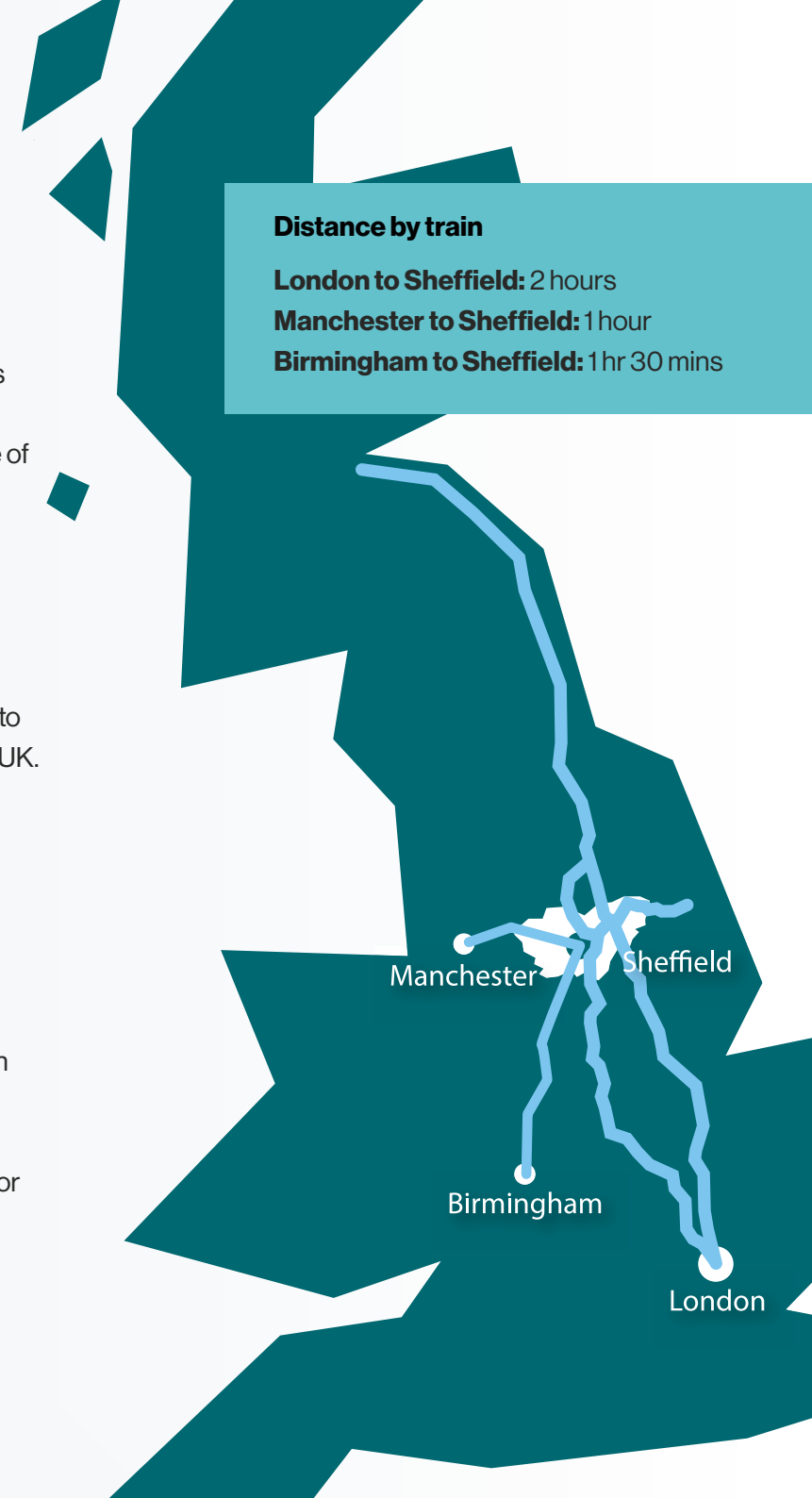
The region is home to globally recognised assets and companies including the Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre, Boeing, Rolls-Royce, McLaren, Forgemasters and Canon Medical, alongside a growing pipeline of opportunities in advanced manufacturing, clean energy, health innovation and digital. South Yorkshire is concentrating on the sectors, sites and growth locations where it has the clearest competitive advantage and the strongest case for long-term returns.

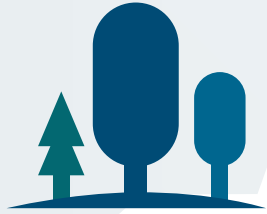
Distance by train

London to Sheffield: 2 hours

Manchester to Sheffield: 1 hour

Birmingham to Sheffield: 1 hr 30 mins





1.4m
people



around
60,000
students

10,000
graduates each year



45,000
businesses

654,000 jobs



Home to
Boeing,
Rolls-Royce
and McLaren

Established strengths. Growing markets.

South Yorkshire's economy is built around sectors where industrial capability, innovation and market demand come together. For investors, that means access to established strengths, growing specialist clusters and a region with the assets to support scale.



Advanced Manufacturing

South Yorkshire's advanced manufacturing base is one of its clearest investment strengths. Manufacturing makes up 12.5% of the economy and contributes £3.4bn in GVA, with capabilities in advanced materials, light-weighting, fabrication, robotics, automation and engineering. The region's wider manufacturing ecosystem includes major assets such as the Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre (AMRC) and companies including Rolls-Royce, Boeing, McLaren and Forgemasters.



Digital and Tech

Digital and tech is one of South Yorkshire's fastest-moving growth stories. The region has strengths in DeepTech, EdTech, gaming, biotech, AI, data and analytics, supported by a growing start-up and scale-up base. Strong ICT growth, a developing digital ecosystem in Barnsley, and companies such as Tutorful and Sumo all point to increasing commercial momentum.



Clean Energy

South Yorkshire combines deep industrial expertise with rapidly expanding clean energy markets and has established capability in hydrogen, sustainable aviation fuels (SAF), modularisation and clean transport. Global assets including ITM Power, the Translational Energy Research Centre, Sustainable Aviation Fuel Innovation Centre, and the Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre (AMRC) positioning the region as a scalable clean energy corridor, ready for global investment.



Creative and Digital Industries

South Yorkshire is home to a growing talent pool of creative businesses and is quickly developing a reputation for innovation, talent, and quality. The region is home to a cluster of rapidly growing companies, such as Technophobia, Plusnet, Sumo Digital, Warp Films and Zoo Digital. Its digital tech community is boosted by great support networks, including Sheffield Digital.



Life Sciences and Health Tech

South Yorkshire combines engineering capability with a growing health innovation ecosystem. Life sciences contributes £3.3bn GVA, with strengths in medical device technologies, preventative health and translational research. South Yorkshire is also developing a stronger proposition around preventative health, active wellbeing and the application of innovation in real-world settings, supported by assets such as the Advanced Wellbeing Research Centre and Sheffield Olympic Legacy Park. Key assets include Canon Medical, the Advanced Wellbeing Research Centre, Sheffield Olympic Legacy Park, Gene Therapy Innovation and Manufacturing Centre (GTIMC) and Sheffield Institute for Translational Neuroscience (SITraN).

Growth locations and opportunity hubs

South Yorkshire's strongest growth opportunities are concentrated in four Growth Areas. Together, they form the backbone of the region's investment pipeline, bringing together investable sites, innovation assets, commercial space, housing, infrastructure and sector specialisms.

These are the places where South Yorkshire's sector strengths translate into real commercial opportunity. For investors, they offer different routes into the region's economy, from city-centre innovation space and mixed-use regeneration to industrial expansion, aviation-linked growth and digitally led town-centre transformation.

Sheffield City Centre and Innovation Spine

City-centre innovation, research commercialisation, growth space and regeneration. The Spine links the University of Sheffield and Sheffield Hallam through key regeneration areas including the Station Quarter, Castlegate, West Bar and St. George's neighbourhoods with supporting assets such as Pennine Five.

Don Valley

Industrial growth, regeneration, housing and infrastructure across one of the UK's strongest advanced manufacturing corridors. Combining four adjacent innovation campuses and home to 30 cutting edge R&D facilities, this area includes the Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre, Templeborough Business Zone, Rotherham Gateway, Runway Park and wider housing and transport-led growth.

Barnsley Town Centre

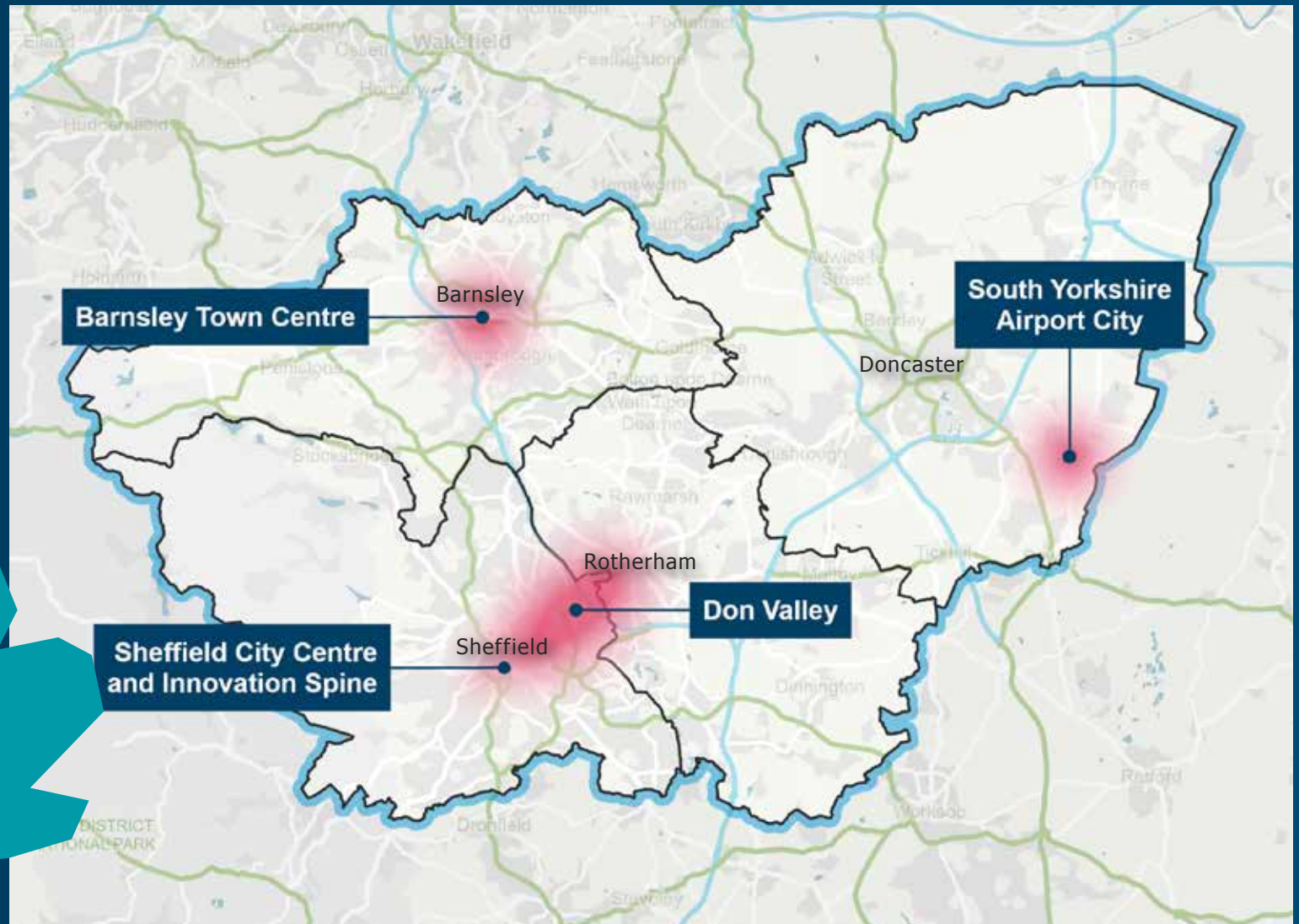
Named the UK's first tech town with digital-led town-centre renewal and service-led regeneration. The Seam Digital Campus and Health on the High Street sit at the heart of a wider programme to grow Barnsley as a digitally enabled, innovation-led centre.

South Yorkshire Airport City

Aviation, logistics, advanced engineering and future mobility linked to GatewayEast and Doncaster Sheffield Airport. This is a nationally significant proposition with multimodal connections and a strong industrial base in advanced engineering, rail and clean mobility.



Our Growth Areas



Selected investment opportunities

South Yorkshire is bringing forward a pipeline of opportunities across industrial growth, innovation space, mixed-use regeneration and infrastructure-enabled development. The opportunities below are indicative and subject to confirmation of figures, status and preferred wording.

Stage: Concept stage, vision and design developed

Anticipated outputs: 6,500 new jobs; 136ha of site development

Partner sought: Infrastructure partners, occupiers, developers and long term investment partners

GatewayEast / South Yorkshire Airport City

A nationally significant gateway for aviation, logistics and industrial growth.

Located at the heart of the UK, GatewayEast is one of the country's largest development opportunities. The site offers 136 hectares of development land, creating a major platform for commercial, logistics and industrial growth. It has the potential to support 6,500 new jobs.

Great Yorkshire Way. It is also close to Doncaster's East Coast Mainline connections, rail freight terminals and the Humber ports.

Recognised as an economic priority for South Yorkshire, GatewayEast offers the scale, connectivity and flexibility to support advanced manufacturing, aviation, logistics and future mobility.

GatewayEast benefits from strong road, rail and freight connectivity. It sits around and includes Doncaster Sheffield Airport, which is due to reopen by 2028 for both air freight and commercial flights, and is directly accessible from the M18 via Great Yorkshire Way. It is also close to Doncaster's East Coast Mainline connections, rail freight terminals and the Humber ports.

Don Valley Corridor

A major industrial and regeneration corridor at the heart of South Yorkshire

Stretching from central Sheffield to Rotherham Gateway, Don Valley is one of South Yorkshire's most significant growth locations. Anchored by the Advanced Manufacturing Innovation District (AMRC), it brings together research, manufacturing, infrastructure and regeneration across a corridor that connects Sheffield and Rotherham, and links established industrial capability with the region's next phase of innovation-led growth.

The corridor is home to major employers, translational research assets and growing SME activity across advanced manufacturing, defence, life sciences and clean industries, alongside significant public investment in infrastructure, placemaking and new neighbourhoods.

AMRC
Design Prototyping and
Testing Centre

Stage: Long term growth and regeneration proposition

Estimated value: £1.3bn uplift in GVA

Anticipated outputs: 18,500 new jobs;
10,500 new homes

Partner sought: Developers, occupiers, infrastructure partners and long term investors



Key opportunities within the corridor

Estimated value: £50.4m

Anticipated outputs: 6,700 new jobs;
115ha of site development

Construction: up to 1,881 direct jobs and
£74.2m GVA, with total impact of up to 4,571
jobs and £223.5m GVA.

Operational: up to 1,664 direct jobs and
£95.6m GVA, with total impact of up to
4,337 jobs and £217.9m GVA.

Rotherham Gateway

An ambitious, transport-led employment and innovation cluster powered by a new Mainline Station and Tram Train interchange. The proposition commits £11.38m to station design and development, £10m Local Regeneration Fund support for land assembly, with potential to generate around 1,000 new jobs.

Runway Park

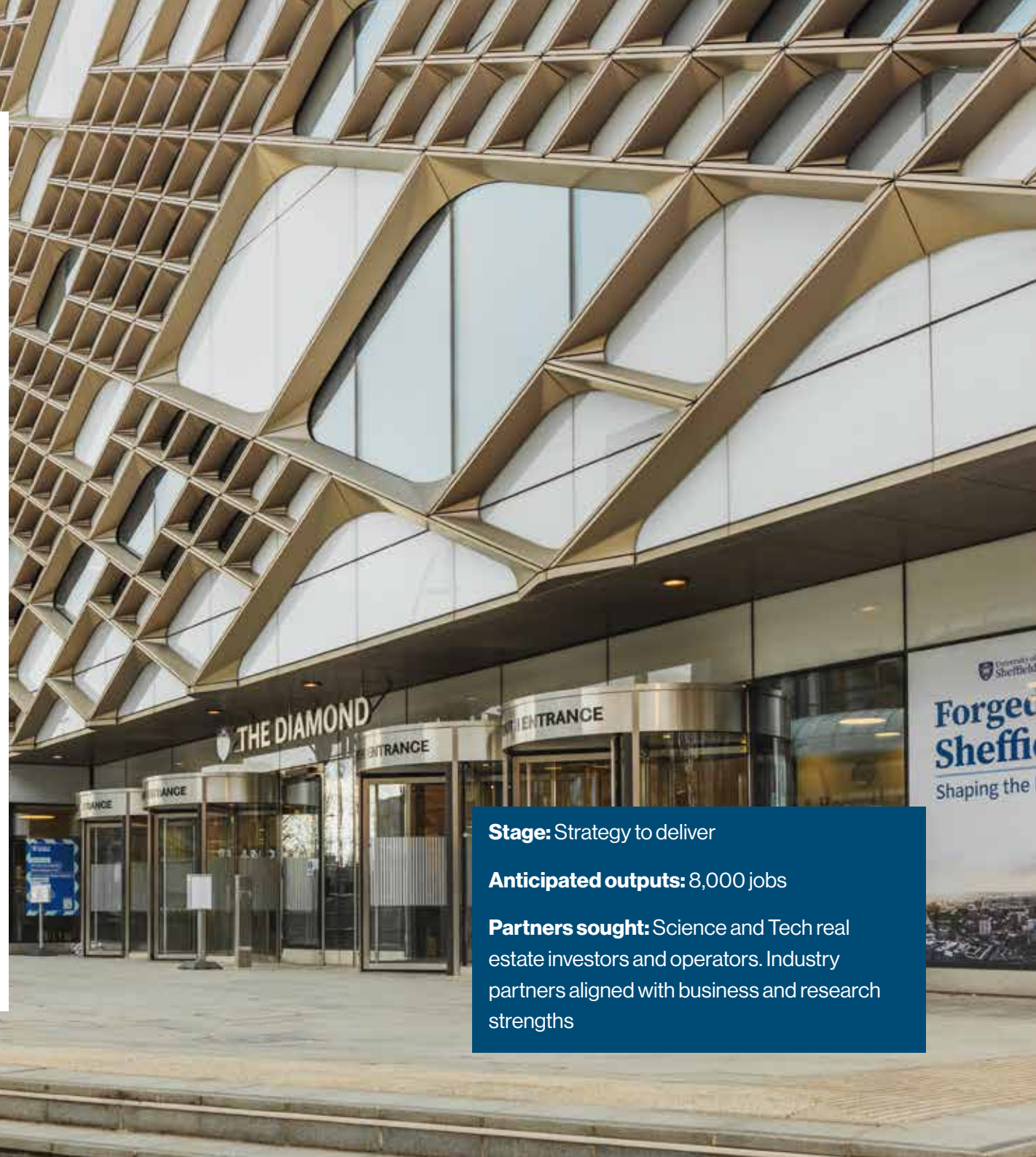
Runway Park is the flagship expansion of the University of Sheffield's advanced manufacturing capability, anchored by the Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre (AMRC) and located within the Advanced Manufacturing Innovation District. The 100-acre site is intended to help bridge the gap between translational research and high-volume commercial production, with a focus on Industry 4.0 occupiers in aerospace, clean tech and defence. As a primary delivery vehicle for the South Yorkshire Investment Zone, Runway Park is designed around a "Triple Helix" model, bringing together global industrial leaders, academic expertise and government-backed incentives.

Sheffield Innovation Spine

A city centre innovation district connecting globally significant research, business spaces and urban regeneration opportunities.

Spanning 190 acres across Sheffield city centre, the Sheffield Innovation Spine connects five mixed-use neighbourhoods, two world-class universities and a growing network of specialist R&D, business support and commercial space. It is designed to strengthen Sheffield's innovation-led economy by creating the conditions for knowledge-led businesses to co-locate, scale and invest in one of England's fastest-growing cities.

Led by South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority, Sheffield City Council, the University of Sheffield, Sheffield Hallam University and Sheffield Technology Parks, the Spine is a partnership with purpose, bringing together civic, academic and business leadership to unlock developer and operator opportunities for national and international investors. By linking research excellence, flexible business space and city-centre regeneration, it is creating the specialist spaces needed to attract talent, trade and investment into Sheffield.



Stage: Strategy to deliver

Anticipated outputs: 8,000 jobs

Partners sought: Science and Tech real estate investors and operators. Industry partners aligned with business and research strengths

The Seam Phase 2

The Seam sits at the heart of Barnsley's ambition to become the UK's leading digital town and is a key part of the town centre's next phase of regeneration. It is also part of the UK's first Investment Zone and will strengthen Barnsley's role as a location for technology led economic growth.

Subject to planning, Phase 2 includes the National Centre for Digital Technologies, a four-star hotel, and a third Digital Media Centre. It offers an opportunity to invest in a digitally focused town-centre proposition with a clear innovation narrative, an emerging local tech ecosystem and wider regeneration momentum.



Stage: Subject to planning / next phase of development

Opportunity: Digital, mixed use and town centre regeneration

Partner sought: Development partner(s)

Talent, support and a route in

South Yorkshire offers investors access to a deep and growing talent pool, supported by two major universities, the University of Sheffield and Sheffield Hallam University, with around 60,000 students between them. Together, they produce thousands of graduates each year in areas including engineering, advanced manufacturing, health, digital and the creative industries. This is reinforced by a strong network of further education colleges, technical providers and specialist training facilities, including the University of Sheffield AMRC Training Centre, which has trained apprentices for hundreds of employers.

Alongside this talent base, South Yorkshire provides practical support for businesses looking to invest, expand or relocate. This includes property search assistance, links to agents and local authorities, recruitment support, university and college brokerage, access to funding, and dedicated account management for major investments.

Businesses can also benefit from over £45 million of adult skills funding each year, including a £40 million Adult Skills Fund and £5 million Skills Bank for workforce development, alongside the Business Productivity and Digitisation Grant, Skill Bootcamps, Skills Advisors, the South Yorkshire Apprenticeship Hub, Made Smarter, WorkWell and the South Yorkshire Careers Hub.





To learn more visit
southyorkshire-ca.gov.uk

Get in touch to find out more
invest@southyorkshire-ca.gov.uk



**OLIVER
COPPARD**
SOUTH YORKSHIRE'S
MAYOR