



South Yorkshire's Growth Plan

South Yorkshire's Vision for Business Growth and Greater Opportunity

2025–2035

SOUTH YORKSHIRE
SYMCA
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Mayor's Foreword

I'm here to restore the pride, purpose and prosperity to South Yorkshire.

In South Yorkshire, growth has long been defined by industrial excellence and global influence. From coal and steel to precision engineering, this region has powered national progress and exported our expertise around the world.

Strong industries and resilient communities have always gone hand in hand here. Our contribution to the first and second industrial revolutions was built on practical ingenuity – designing practical solutions to complex challenges through engineering, manufacturing and materials science.

The structural shifts of the late 20th century tested that resilience. Their effects are still visible in the geography of our economy and in the day-to-day realities for many of our residents, with too many of our young people having to seek opportunity elsewhere. But the capabilities that once made this region great were not lost — only suppressed.

Today, those same strengths are being reimagined for a new era. As we look ahead to the fourth industrial revolution, South Yorkshire stands ready to contribute to the UK's most critical priorities – from clean energy and

sustainable production to life sciences, from defence to culture.

We are clear on the technological capabilities and assets we have and how they can support key UK sector growth and the National Industrial Strategy. We are clear on the aim of deploying those capabilities to grow South Yorkshire's economy and to give back to our communities. Our historic decision to re-open Doncaster Sheffield Airport illustrates our commitment to developing and strengthening the region's assets.

Our bold ambition and clear plan is to ensure that once again South Yorkshire will be central to the UK's industrial economy. We have the assets to provide the goods and services where the UK needs a sovereign capability. We have the means to ensure our country remains resilient within a rapidly shifting global economy. And we have a workforce that takes pride in hard work and in building strong and resilient communities.

Crucially, we are equally committed to ensuring that this growth creates opportunity which is open to all residents. Prosperity must be shared, not concentrated — rooted in a renewed social contract where everyone has the opportunity not only to contribute but to benefit.

We know all too well the risks of unequal growth: social fragmentation, diminished trust, and communities left behind.

Our growth will ensure our economy has the right foundations and opportunity for people to be better off – not growth at any cost, but the right sort of growth that respects people and the planet and delivers far more fair outcomes. For each generation to build on what came before: to build on our immense pride in South Yorkshire. We want everyone growing up not just to believe, but to know with confidence, that in South Yorkshire, you can stay near and go far.

To do this we will not only build on our core capabilities but address our fundamental. We now understand those constraints all too well. We must support people to lead healthier lives, we need higher skills levels in the workforce, an affordable and aspirational housing offer, our transport system needs to connect residents to opportunity, and the community, physical and natural infrastructure on which the economy depends needs investment. South Yorkshire is currently not contributing to the UK as it should be, and we need to create the eco-system and critical mass to change this and attract commercial investment. This will restore pride, purpose, and prosperity to South Yorkshire.



“Our goal is simple: to make sure South Yorkshire plays a leading role in solving the big challenges of our time, using the talent, resilience and creativity which defines us.

We want those growing up here to believe, with confidence, that in South Yorkshire you can stay near and go far.”

Mayoral Economic Advisory Council Foreword

We are delighted to have worked with the Mayor and South Yorkshire to advise on this Local Growth Plan Vision. The growth challenge is clear: to deliver significant headline growth, the region must expand both the business base and the number of people active in the labour market.

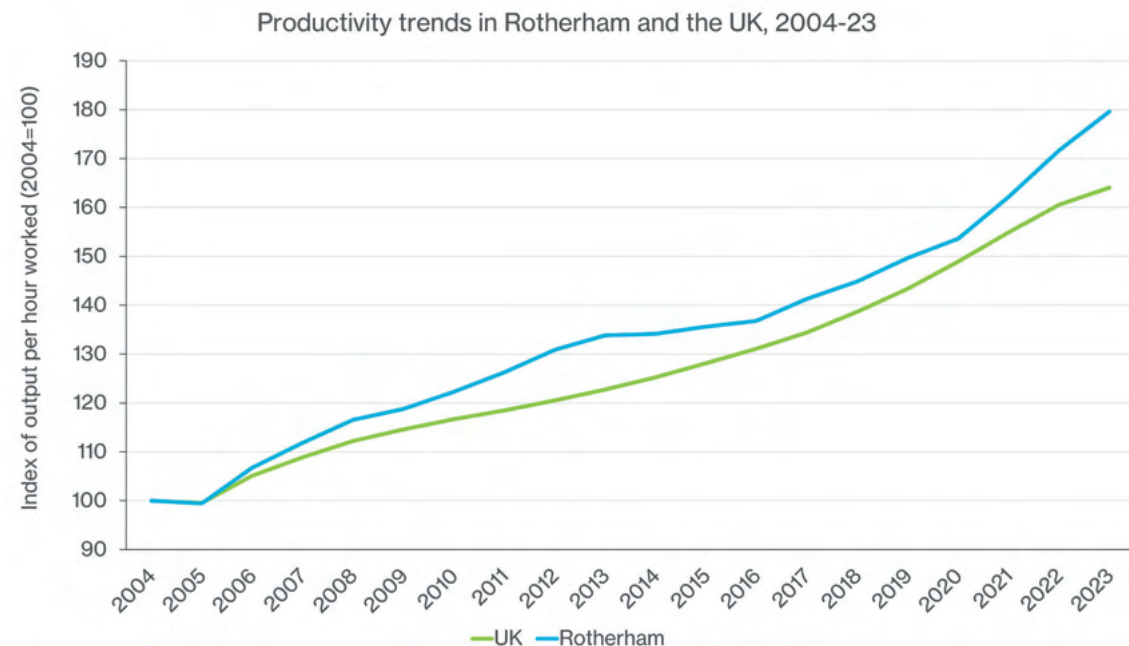
This is a credible case for investment, not a plea for subsidy. The plan outlined, with its four missions, represents a solid evidence-base to grow the South Yorkshire economy, to build resilience for the future and to ensure the benefits of growth are felt far more equally by residents.

South Yorkshire must continue to build on the momentum already underway. Recent productivity statistics highlight Rotherham as one of the fastest growing sub-regions over the last two decades (Graph 1). Sheffield as a core city is experiencing rapid growth in recent years (Graph 2), as are Barnsley and Doncaster. The region's economy has experienced the fastest growth in its Information and Communications Technology Sector of all the Northern economies over the last decade.

Venture capital is recognising the special role of South Yorkshire firms. Northern Gritstone, a firm focused on the commercialisation of science and technology primarily with links to universities, has invested in startups like Opteran, Ictope and Crucible

Therapeutics. Investment firms, such as Yorkshire AI Labs and Venture:Community, are focusing on the power of AI to transform traditional sectors. Tech start-ups in the region are now valued at £3.3bn, up from just £325m in 2015.

Graph 1 Sub-Regional Productivity Growth, Rotherham vs UK (2003-23)



This growth is not coincidental. Despite South Yorkshire having been through a very tough time, particularly with the decline of the Coal and Steel Industries over many decades, disruptive global forces (as set out in 'our global context' below) are now revaluing the region's assets.

In that context South Yorkshire is becoming a key node in the new industrial economy, including the service sector, through its core capability of engineering practical solutions to complex problems. This is a tradeable service capability which is vital across many sectors, including the creative and cultural sector, and is highly linked to digital capabilities.

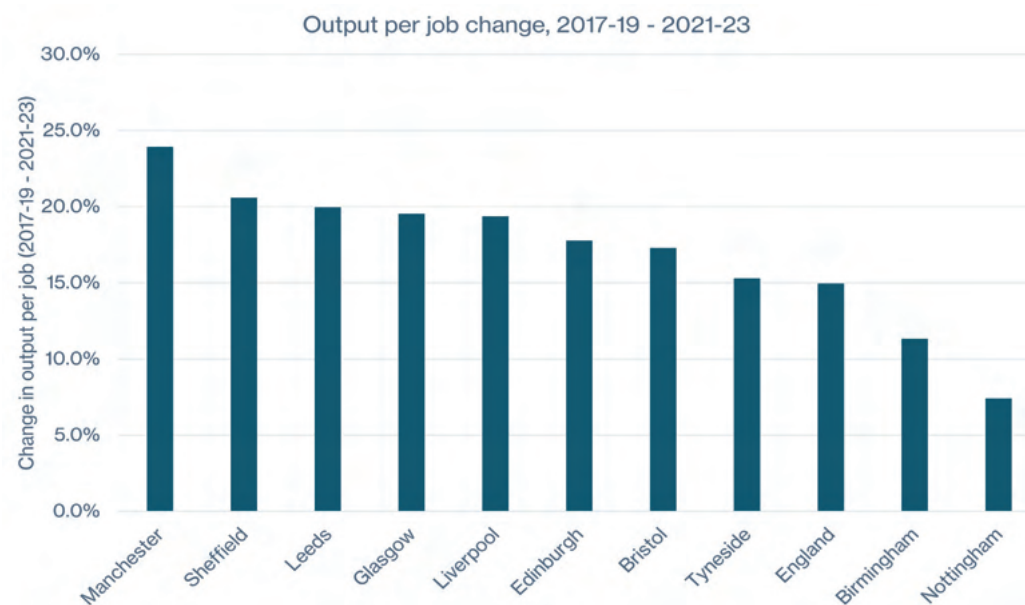
The current global context seeks co-located manufacturing and innovation capabilities. The region is unique among UK city/regions in grounding its disparate assets in a constellation of special innovation districts and corridors. The Advanced Manufacturing Innovation District is routinely recognised as one of the world's preeminent advanced manufacturing campuses. The Innovation Spine is emerging with key institutional assets in the core of Sheffield, including the University of Sheffield, Sheffield Hallam University, Sheffield Technology Parks and Pennine Five. Barnsley and Doncaster offer space for manufacturing expansion

with an offer of land and grid capacity, while leading on public service reform. A re-opened airport strengthens market access and demonstrates the commitment from public authorities that underpins investor confidence.

We therefore believe South Yorkshire is now poised to lead the way in new technologies, sustainable industries and innovative sectors. And that the region can achieve

growth, which is not just about statistics, but about improving lives – creating high-quality jobs, ensuring fair wages, reducing inequalities and building a sustainable future for generations to come.

Graph 2 Productivity per job in Core Cities



Mayoral Economic Advisory Council Foreword

But to continue the market momentum underway and achieve the vision of South Yorkshire set out we think there are seven issues worth highlighting from the Local Growth Plan Vision which will need real focus:

1. Driving private sector investment.

Private sector investment will be vital in two ways. Firstly, to create the vibrant business eco-system that is referred to in Mission 1 below. This will require a focus on private sector R&D investment and the availability of early-stage, venture and angel finance. Secondly, to drive regeneration and the development of future commercial space and housing, tackling 'viability gaps' to development through innovative financial mechanisms are needed.



2. Focus on real sector strengths.

Every place can claim broad links to the eight sectors in the National Industrial Strategy, but success depends on identifying genuine, nationally significant niches. A comprehensive data-driven analysis reveals productive niches in advanced manufacturing, aircraft, machinery and materials, clean energy production, defence and security, and medical device technologies for preventative health. Industries such as entertainment and gaming show a fertile innovation landscape, with significant opportunities to translate this into jobs. This can support inward investment in South Yorkshire's traded sector with the creation of high-paid jobs to drive productivity.

3. Bulk up research strengths.

The region benefits from a strong ecosystem anchored by the University of Sheffield, a top UK performer in public-led R&I and Sheffield Hallam University, with its leading role in workforce-skills provision enabling adoption. These strengths create two main opportunities: first, to consolidate South Yorkshire's leadership in applied research and technology development in fields such as clean hydrogen, advanced materials, and industrial manufacturing, where innovative firms collaborate closely with both the University and its Advanced Manufacturing Research Centres; and second, to strengthen the translation of local research into productive capabilities and high-quality jobs, particularly in defence technologies, energy and creative industries, fields where the region is pushing the technological frontier but where there is untapped potential to strengthen the local supply chain or employment base.

4. Improving Connectivity.

We have been struck by some of the statistics in this report. That only 1% of the region's population can reach the Advanced Manufacturing Park within 30 minutes on public transport is deeply concerning, and rail connectivity is in urgent need of improvement. There is no doubt that improving transport connectivity, particularly East to West and North as part of the Northern Agglomeration of Core Cities, is a vital component of ensuring South Yorkshire grows sustainably – it will not only help create vibrant places and effective density but also ensure that far more people locally can access the opportunities on offer.

5. Developing Urban Density.

It is very clear that, for South Yorkshire to punch at its weight, it needs to increase its effective urban density. This is partly about improved connectivity, as above, but also about creating a vibrant core, with a strong cultural and creative offer and a critical mass of activity which is attractive to private investment and innovation. It will also require a far higher level of housing in the urban core, which we know is planned.

6. Linking Skills Requirements and Opportunity for All.

South Yorkshire is already a hub for talent in high-growth sectors. According to recent analysis, the region ranks in the top three UK MCAs and Greater London for producing talent in advanced manufacturing, clean energy and defence. However too often we see companies struggling to fill the higher level vacancies that they have, and the challenge of having a significant number of people out of the labour market is treated as a separate issue. These challenges need to be tackled together. By working with companies to upskill their existing workforce into these higher-level vacancies, and by then working to backfill the lower-level vacancies created with those currently not in work, everyone can benefit. This approach will be enabled by coherent, pro-active engagement by HE, FE and skills providers. Companies end up with a loyal, local workforce. Individuals are upskilled. And more people are brought into the labour market. This 'skills escalator' has long been talked about but never been implemented as a holistic business productivity, labour market and economic inactivity measure.

7. Health of the workforce.

Health is wealth. Tackling the health of the population of South Yorkshire, both those in work and those currently not in the labour market, is a key measure to grow the economy, drive productivity, get more people into/staying in work. Preventative health, active travel and to work place initiatives will ensure the benefits of growth are felt across a far wider range of the population.

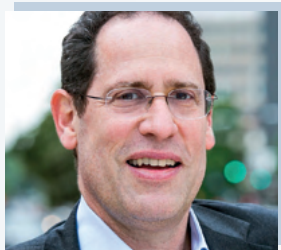


To deliver this Local Growth Plan, and ensure its success, will require all local partners and Government to get behind this collective South Yorkshire plan for two reasons. Firstly to ensure investment in the assets that South Yorkshire has which are critical to driving UK key sector growth. And secondly to ensure that South Yorkshire's overall economic performance, as a key region, is contributing in the way it needs to if the UK as a whole is to be successful. This will require South Yorkshire to have the right powers devolved to it and to organise for success in partnership with Government.

We commend this strategy to local partners, investors and Government alike.



Dame Kate Barker



Bruce Katz



Professor Koen Lamberts



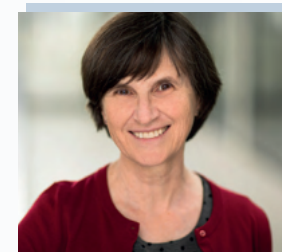
Professor Liz Mossop



Lord Jim O'Neill



Sir Martin Donnelly



Professor Margaret Stevens



Andrew Haldane



Richard Stubbs



Benjamin Wegg-Prosser

Our vision for South Yorkshire

We are seeking to build a bigger and better South Yorkshire economy by 2035. That means an economy that is larger and more productive, but also one that has made real progress on decarbonisation and in reducing inequality.

Growth matters because a young person in South Yorkshire today has a right to expect a better future than their parents. It matters because higher wages and incomes ease the pressures on the cost of living and distribute opportunity more equally. And it matters because growth is felt in everyday life – in more and better jobs, in good homes that are safe and affordable to heat, in vibrant communities, and in the chance to enjoy a meal out or a holiday.

Growth can create a greener and more resilient South Yorkshire, with stronger neighbourhoods and better health, education and career prospects; a South Yorkshire that is less exposed to structural changes in the economy, and one that benefits from the wealth of services nature provides.

But growth on its own is not enough. South Yorkshire has some of the highest levels of deprivation and lowest levels of healthy life expectancy in the country, and too many people are locked out of opportunity. Reducing

these inequalities is central to our vision: not only because it is the right thing to do, but because inclusive economies are more productive, more resilient, and better able to sustain long term prosperity.

Growth is also not our only ambition. This Plan is the region's ten year economic strategy to deliver growth and expand opportunity. It sits within a broader strategic framework to restore pride, purpose and prosperity to South Yorkshire.

Through a forthcoming South Yorkshire Strategy, we are working collectively across South Yorkshire to be clear on the kind of region we want to create for our residents and businesses. A South Yorkshire Strategy, defining region wide outcomes will sit above the seven key plans for the region:

- 1 An economic strategy (the 'Local Growth Plan')**
- 2 A skills and employment strategy**
- 3 A health strategy**
- 4 A police and crime strategy**
- 5 A transport strategy**
- 6 A spatial development strategy**
- 7 An environment strategy**

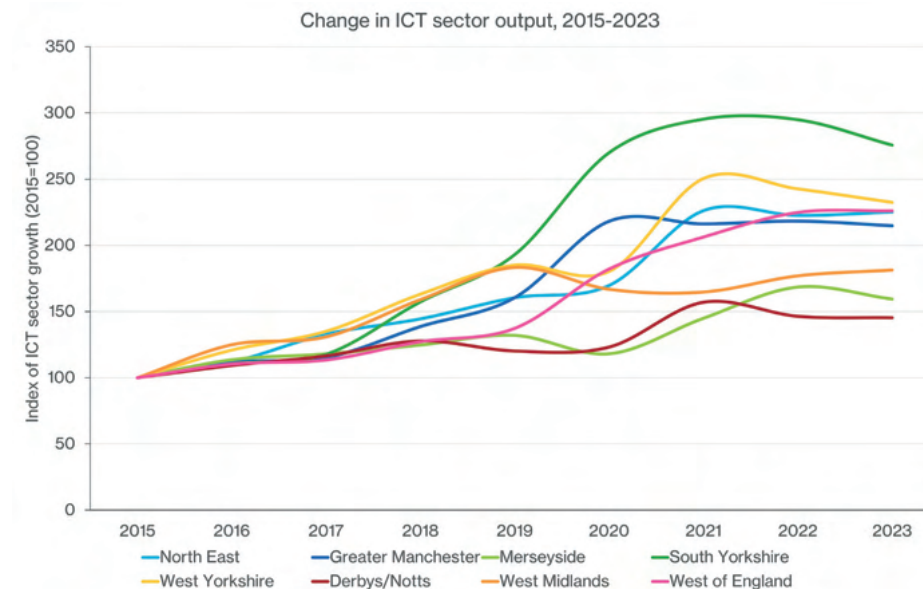
Nested underneath these core strategies will be specific action plans for missions. For example, our Local Skills Improvement Plan will align to our regional Skills Strategy.

Our growth story so far

South Yorkshire is seeing positive progress in productivity growth. Recent data from the ONS shows that, over the last two decades, Rotherham was one of the fastest growing sub-regional economies in the UK. There has also been a fall in the number of jobs earning below the living wage – Rotherham’s share of jobs in 2022 earning below real living wage was less than half of 2018 – suggesting this productivity growth can and is translating into higher paid work, though it still needs to be spread more widely. Doncaster has also seen productivity growth driven by both an increase in hours worked and in GVA. And, of the UK’s core cities, Sheffield has had one of the highest growth rates in the last decade.

This has been driven by growth in traditional regional sectors. The advanced manufacturing sector and finance/insurance sectors have experienced productivity growth above the national average since 2015, while health and logistics have experienced strong employment growth over the same period. The stand out sector is Information and Communications Technology, however, where South Yorkshire has experienced some of the fastest growth in the country – driven by sub-sector strengths in DeepTech, EdTech and gaming.

Graph 3
Combined Authority
ICT Sector Growth



While this momentum is positive, South Yorkshire still remains below the national average in GVA per hour worked (£36.2 compared to £44.4 in 2023). It is a core challenge for the UK economy to move second tier-city region productivity levels closer to the national average – something that would increase national GDP and living standards.

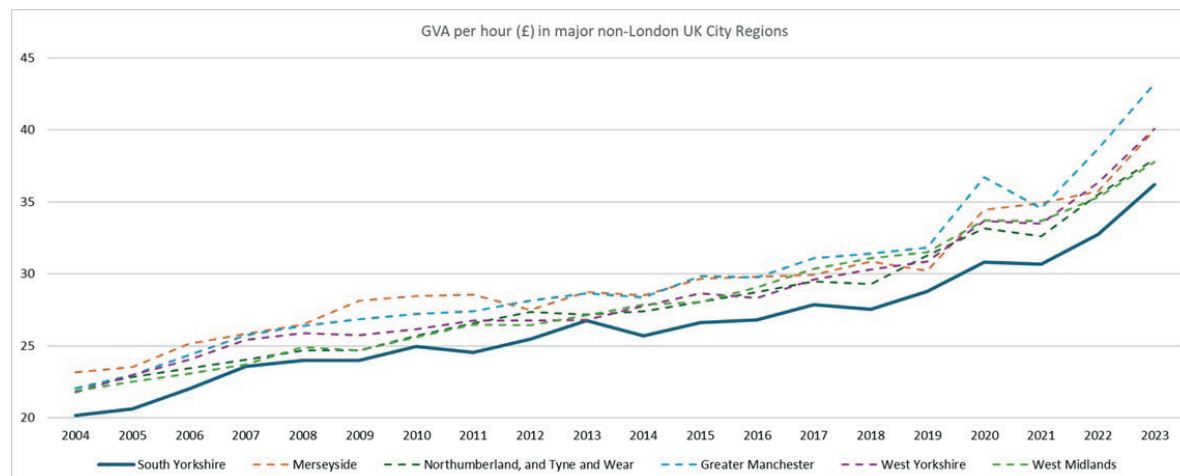
This is not an easy tide to turn. For over four decades the UK’s economic strategy has been to support growth of the South east and rely on incomplete methods of redistribution to spread the benefit elsewhere. The average gap in growth spend per head between 2008-2024 on the Greater South East and the rest of England

was 14.5%. Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF) per head is around 24% lower in South Yorkshire than across the UK.

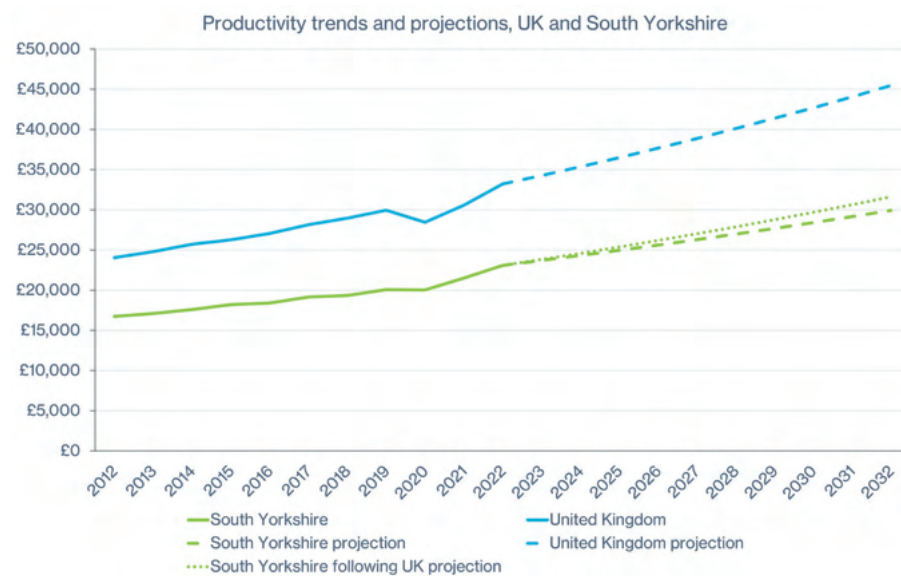
In a radically changing global climate, this narrow approach to growth is too precarious. London’s stagnating productivity growth is a warning that we cannot rely on what has come before to generate opportunity for the future.

Converging with the national average by 2035 would require our economy to grow 2.5 times above current trajectories. If we matched the UK’s productivity, each worker could be adding an extra £13,657 into our local economy.

Graph 4 GVA per hour (£) in major non-London UK City Regions



Graph 5
South Yorkshire and
UK growth projections,
GVA per head (£)



Our approach

The core challenge for South Yorkshire to achieve headline growth is the need to grow the business base and the labour market. We have fewer large, medium and small businesses than comparator regions (though a higher number of micro business), and too few that are scaling quickly. Without more firms investing, innovating and growing here, our residents will continue to have fewer opportunities and lower incomes than elsewhere.

We recognise that growth requires focus. That is the lesson from Rotherham, one of the few places in the UK to have delivered industrial strategy successfully around the Advanced Manufacturing Park. This Plan prioritises investment to grow business demand. We will not invest in everything, everywhere, all at once.

To prepare this Plan, we mapped the enablers of growth, decarbonisation and inclusion. We assessed where South Yorkshire underperforms compared to similar economies. Working with New Localism Associates, we developed a clear economic diagnostic of our industrial strategy growth sectors and the projects required to drive them forward.



Our Plan is organised around four Missions and eight Strategic Objectives:



1. Our Businesses

2035 - a strong, diverse business base

- a. Our sectors and clusters are driving productivity growth
- b. Our business base is more dynamic, nested in a stronger business and innovation ecosystem



2. Our Places

2035 - connected, vibrant places

- a. Our urban areas are better connected, attracting private investment
- b. Our residents are proud to call our towns and cities home and people want to visit



3. Our People

2035 - pathways to stay near and go far

- a. Our children experience a good start in life
- b. Our residents can access more opportunities through skills training and employment support



4. Our Future

2035 - a resilient SY

- a. Our networks are more future proofed
- b. Our region's nature is more diverse

To achieve growth, we must deliver change across these missions. Action and success in one area will often be linked to and interdependent on another.

We have also identified four **Growth Areas** which are a spatial representation of the missions above. They are where we will target development of our sectors and clusters – bringing in enabling infrastructure and services aligned to missions above - to create diverse clusters that drive growth.

These four Areas form the backbone of our project pipeline and are where we will seek to partner with investors to deliver the right mix of investment,

innovation support, community/physical/natural infrastructure, ingenuity and skills, and incentives to drive good growth. They are:

1. **Sheffield City Centre and Innovation Spine**
2. **Don Valley**
3. **Barnsley Town Centre**
4. **South Yorkshire Airport City**

This Plan builds on the strategies of our local authorities, is informed by advice from the Mayoral Economic Advisory Council and Business Advisory Board, and has been shaped through extensive engagement with businesses, institutions and communities across South Yorkshire. But development of our economic strategy does not stop at the publication of this document. This document sets out a vision, missions an objective for growth. **We will continue to engage on this Plan over Autumn 2025 as we move to develop a clear set of actions and deliverables.**

South Yorkshire's Growth Plan Summary

Vision	SY 2035: A bigger, better economy South Yorkshire's Vision for Business Growth and Greater Opportunity			
Missions	Our businesses: 2035 – a strong, diverse business base	Our places: 2035 – connected, vibrant places	Our people: 2035 – pathways to stay near and go far	Our future: 2035 – a resilient SY
Strategic Objectives	Our sectors and clusters are driving productivity growth	Our urban areas are better connected, attracting private investment	Our children experience a good start in life	Our networks are more future-proofed
This plan will have worked if...	Our business base is more dynamic, nested in a stronger business and innovation ecosystem	Our residents are proud to call our towns and cities home and people want to visit	Our residents can access more opportunities through skills training and employment support	Our region's nature is more diverse
10 year programme priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trade, investment and promotional support • Connected innovation assets • A pipeline of talent, co-created with business • Cluster leadership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A reliable, integrated and sustainable transport system • A well-connected region • Housing growth in our urban centres • Commercial development and institutional investment • A strong core city and urban centres working together in a single economy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A good start for children through early years support • Progression for young people, through strong school, career and transition support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy systems for the future • Digital capacity and inclusion for the future • Flood resilience and water management
To deliver our strategic objectives, we will focus on providing...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated business support and capability building • Finance ecosystem and investment readiness • Skills progression and pathways • Good business, including diverse business models 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A strong cultural, leisure and visitor economy offer • Vibrant high streets, town and city centres • Quality, sustainable and affordable housing • Safe and vibrant neighbourhoods, with strong community bonds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High-quality, employment-focused basic and technical skills provision • Integrated employment support for those at risk of dropping out, or out of the labour market • Prevention services to reduce ill-health as a barrier to opportunity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beautiful, green urban regeneration and development • Enhancing natural habitats and species
Growth Areas	Sheffield City Centre and Innovation Spine	Don Valley	South Yorkshire Airport City	Barnsley Town Centre

Working with national government

We also recognise that growth requires good governance. Devolution provides a major opportunity to do things differently. It allows us to invest between departmental siloes – across skills, health, transport, housing, and business support – to deliver greater value for money, respond to the complex needs of our local economy and residents, and act across the breadth of services that people and businesses rely on.

Over the last decade, we have shown what is possible. Control of the Adult Education Budget has enabled us to reshape provision in line with business demand. Our Pathways to Work programme has influenced national policy on employment and health, saving the Exchequer between £2 and £4 for each pound invested, while transforming the lives of those receiving support. The South Yorkshire Investment Zone has leveraged £9 from the private sector for every £1 of public investment. These examples demonstrate that when decisions are taken locally, with strong governance and accountability, we can deliver more effectively and, going forward, we will need to deepen this collaborative model.

The Mayoral Combined Authority will provide strategic leadership and ensure coherence across missions, but success depends on partnership: with local authorities who shape places, with anchor institutions such as universities and the NHS who bring research and innovation power, and with the voluntary and community sector who connect directly with residents. This means building shared delivery platforms, transparent data systems, and joint accountability for outcomes.

However for this Plan to succeed, national government must treat South Yorkshire as a trusted partner and work as an enabler by:

- Providing the long-term funding certainty, particularly for capacity, that allows us to plan, and align departmental activity around our agreed priorities, giving us the flexibility to innovate.
- A more devolved settlement – with greater control over skills, transport, housing, and health budgets – would allow us to deliver integrated solutions that Whitehall silos cannot.

As part of developing our Local Growth Plan, we also agreed the following shared priorities with government. These priorities respond to core constraints to growth outlined in this document and are where the MCA has

judged it needs to strengthen partnership working with government to deliver on growth ambitions:

- 1. Skills, employment and health**
- 2. Transport**
- 3. Placemaking, investment and communities**

Working with the private sector

The private sector, too, is a cornerstone of success. Public investment can unlock sites, de-risk projects and build enabling infrastructure, but it is private capital, entrepreneurship and innovation that will ultimately drive growth. Our role is to create the conditions in which businesses can invest confidently (Mission 1 and 2): a skilled workforce, strong clusters around anchor firms, effective transport and digital networks, and vibrant places that attract and retain talent. We will work with investors to assemble a clear pipeline of opportunities, align commercial development with Place Plans, and create mechanisms – from angel networks to institutional capital partnerships – that bring in private finance at scale.

Our global context

South Yorkshire's growth story is being shaped by profound structural changes in the global economy. Five changes, and our response to them, will define the region we become in 2035.

1. Rising Geopolitical Tensions and Supply Chain Fragility

The change: Globalisation is being reshaped by geopolitical tensions, energy insecurity, and disrupted supply chains. Countries are reshoring production and re-prioritising industrial security, particularly in clean energy, strategic manufacturing and defence.

Implications for South Yorkshire: With anchor institutions in aerospace, advanced manufacturing, clean energy and defence, South Yorkshire is well-placed to benefit from reshoring trends. Shorter, more resilient supply chains can cluster around our major firms and research centres, generating demand for SMEs and creating local opportunities. But this requires investment in logistics, energy infrastructure, and innovation ecosystems to connect foundational and applied research with scaled production.

2. The Climate Crisis

The change: Climate change is reshaping economies worldwide. Climate change demands investment into decarbonisation of energy, industry, transport, and housing, while adaptation to extreme weather is unavoidable.

Implications for South Yorkshire: Our per-capita emissions have been falling but achieving emissions reductions requires accelerating retrofit, mode shift in transport, and industrial decarbonisation. This challenge carries major opportunities, requiring investment and industrial transformation on an enormous scale in the electrification of vehicles, the design, operations and locations of our buildings and the source and transmission of our energy. The region has strengths in green hydrogen, advanced manufacturing for low-carbon technologies, housing retrofit materials and trades, and nature-based solutions for flood prevention. At the same time, resilience of our transport and energy infrastructure is critical to protect communities and maintain competitiveness.

3. Technology Acceleration

The change: Rapid advances in automation, artificial intelligence, data, and digital technologies are transforming work and production. Global competition is intensifying around advanced manufacturing, health innovation, and digital infrastructure; it is not the invention of artificial intelligence that will drive broad based growth, but the deployment, which in turn depends on domain expertise in sectors.

Implications for South Yorkshire: Around 13% of jobs in Doncaster, 9% in Barnsley, and 8% in Rotherham are at high risk of automation, higher than the national average. In manufacturing alone, 60% of tasks could be at risk of automation, and clerical automation is a systemic risk to a number of jobs. The risk of disruption is significant—but so is the opportunity. South Yorkshire's assets in world-class applied research, its manufacturing heritage, and the strong skills platform all mean that it is well placed to synthesise and deploy the technologies, which will determine regional competitiveness.

These include, but are not limited to, artificial intelligence and autonomy, robotics, quantum computing, additive manufacturing, advanced materials, digital engineering, sensors, small modular reactors, communications – all of which are now of use in any one sector.



4. Geography of Discontent and Cost-of-Living Pressures

The change: Rising inequality and persistent regional divides are driving discontent across many advanced economies. The cost-of-living crisis has exacerbated vulnerabilities, hitting disadvantaged households hardest.

Implications for South Yorkshire: Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham sit in the most vulnerable tenth of local authorities nationally; Sheffield in the most vulnerable fifth. Disposable incomes are among the lowest in the UK. These pressures deepen long-standing challenges around poverty, health inequalities, and productivity. Our growth strategy must therefore be inclusive, creating good jobs, improving household resilience, and addressing the structural drivers of low incomes through skills, innovation and stronger local enterprise. The re-industrialisation stated above has the potential to rebalance growth in the UK.


5. Demographic Change and the Changing Nature of Work

The change: Ageing populations across advanced economies are reducing labour supply while increasing demand for care and health services. At the same time, demand for higher-skilled jobs is growing, with fewer opportunities for low-skilled work.

Implications for South Yorkshire: The share of working-age residents in South Yorkshire will fall, while jobs requiring only Level 2 or below qualifications are expected to decline from 215,000 today to 155,000 by 2035. Without action, many residents risk being locked out of the labour market. Our Skills Strategy sets out a shift towards high-level technical and professional skills, lifelong learning, and better progression routes. Harnessing the talents of all residents is essential to ensure resilience and productivity in a changing economy.

Our strengths

South Yorkshire's economy is being revalued in a changing global context. Successful regional economies connect companies, universities, skills providers, talent pools, supplier networks and start-up ecosystems with the infrastructure and space they need to thrive. South Yorkshire's ability to do this — through its unique constellation of innovation districts, its mix of innovation and production assets, and its space for expansion — is making it a key node in the UK's industrial economy.

 **£40bn economy.** Population of 1.4 million people situated at the centre of England on key transport and logistics arteries to the North and South.

 **Expertise in core services and industry** – we are clear on our capabilities and assets in South Yorkshire, particularly those key to UK plc growth and security. In South Yorkshire we are home to world-leading engineering faculty and the world's first Advanced Manufacturing Innovation District. Our industrial history is built around providing practical solutions to complex problems. This isn't about manufacturing production from the last century, this now applies to high-value services, and cuts across not only to clean energy, life science, and defence sectors, but also underpins


successes in the deep tech and digital, and creative and culture sectors, too.

 **Advanced Manufacturing** – high precision, no-room for error advanced materials, with metals and composites feeding into the aerospace, nuclear and defence supply chains, through companies such as Boeing, McLaren and Rolls Royce. The University of Sheffield's COMPASS project has propelled us to the forefront of global composites research, supplying cutting-edge materials for everything from defence to aviation.

 **Clean energy** – South Yorkshire ranks as the UK's third-largest region for employment in clean power and hydrogen (behind only York & North Yorkshire and Greater London), reflecting its growing role in the net-zero transition, despite having a smaller population than other areas. DSIT analysis gives the South Yorkshire cluster the largest share of the Clean Tech economy (6.9%), more than three times the share of Greater Manchester and the West Midlands clusters. ITM Power, the Translational Energy Research Centre with its specialism in sustainable aviation fuels, the

Fusion Technology Facility, two heat networks and a Small Modular Reactor industrial cluster all demonstrate the region's strength in clean energy production and modularisation.

 **Defence** – the recent Defence Growth Deal identified South Yorkshire as one of five leading places in the UK in the defence industrial economy. We continue to provide specialist steel for use in the defence sector through Forgemasters, BAE Systems and Special Melted Products all part of the local business base. These production assets are aligned to research strengths in air systems, autonomy and cybersecurity, and backed by world-class translational facilities working with companies such as AWE, BAE and many others.

 **Creative and cultural industries and digital and tech** – this is a fast growing and dynamic set of interrelated sectors. The region has strengths in screen content production, music and sound production, videogames, software and live events. We are home to companies such as Warp Films, and EdTech, Gaming, BioTech, AI, and data companies like Tutorful and Sumo driving innovation. The tech sector

is thriving, with a combined value of start-ups in the sector at £3.3bn in 2025, up from £325m in 2015, eight times the size in 2014.



Life sciences – specialism in precision manufacture with the largest cluster of medical device manufacturers in the country backed by presence of world-renowned companies such as Bbraun and Canon Medical. These production strengths are aligned to research specialisms in preventative health, genomics, imaging and child health.



Leaders in applied research - South Yorkshire has a global reputation for applied research to industry - through the Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre, Sustainable Aviation Fuels Innovation Centre, the Gene Therapy Innovation and Manufacturing Centre, and the Advanced Wellbeing Research Centre - which has attracted Boeing and Rolls-Royce and shifted the region's research strengths into production. Our health assets around Sheffield Olympic Legacy Park have positioned us as the UK's leading hub for preventative health, attracting major players such as Canon Medical and Google.



Deep pools of talent – produced by two outstanding universities, with 63,000 students, of which over 30,000 are studying STEM, excellent further education provision from our Colleges, our Institute of Technology, University Technical Colleges, and independent providers. The University of Sheffield AMRC Training Centre is a leader in apprenticeship provision up to degree level.



Trade Links - South Yorkshire sits at the centre of the UK, connecting the North and Midlands and positioning us as a hub for logistics, manufacturing and innovation. Our geography, infrastructure and energy capacity give us a natural role in national and international supply chains. We are deepening international links that give our businesses access to new markets, attract investment, and connect our research and innovation into global networks:

United States – partnerships with Hampton Roads, Pittsburgh and St Louis link us to regions with shared industrial histories and current strengths in advanced manufacturing, clean energy and health innovation.

China – a growing relationship with Chengdu opens up opportunities in advanced manufacturing and digital technology, connecting South Yorkshire firms to one of the world's fastest-growing markets.

Europe – strong ties with Italy and Germany, built on both family and business connections, are helping us build collaborations in advanced manufacturing, clean energy and cultural industries.



- **Cultural impact and assets of national significance** – nowhere has South Yorkshire been more innovative than in its creative and cultural output. We are the birthplace of the game of football, turning a simple sport into the beautiful game. We are home to World Snooker Championships with viewership growing globally. We have pushed the boundaries of music genres, are home to the St Leger, the Children's Media Festival and Crossed Wires Festivals that have national and increasingly global impact – and in the Rotherham led Children's Capital of Culture a major opportunity to grow youth led cultural programming. Sheffield DocFest, a flagship festival, saw attendance surge from 25,000 in 2022 to 41,000 in 2024, with over 30% of audiences coming from outside South Yorkshire.
- **A growing visitor economy** – the region is going from strength to strength evidenced by year-on-year growth in our visitor economy. The visitor economy generated £3.7bn of economic impact in 2024 a up 31% from 2022. The region has an established Local Visitor Economy Partnership and a Destination Management Plan that will support the development of a host of major visitor economy assets in the region, will support the development

of both home-grown and newly attracted major events and promote the region to domestic and international markets through our partnership with Visit England.

- **Room to grow** – sitting at the heart of England, on rail and road arteries to the Southeast and the North, South Yorkshire has the space to grow. Our industrial heritage has afforded us the grid capacity and land to support new and growing services and industry for example the huge expansion at Unity J5 M18, one of the largest regeneration and infrastructure projects of its kind in the UK.



- **Quality of life** – Nature, hills and valleys are as accessible as music and bars in town and city centres. One third of Sheffield is National Park, three quarters of South Yorkshire is green. Our waterways – once the arteries of our industry – are now home to thriving natural ecosystems and regeneration alongside.
- **A place communities are proud to call home** – South Yorkshire's cultural, social and economic history is one of community resistance and resilience. A culture of doing things for people and by people can be found in both public and private organisations across the region. These values continually drive businesses and public services to find new and better ways to support people in the region and beyond.

Our Missions

Our Businesses: 2035 – A Strong, Diverse Business Base

Why this mission matters

A thriving business base is the engine of South Yorkshire's prosperity and is central to tackling the core challenge of business demand in South Yorkshire.

Targeted sector development is a proven driver of high-value growth, stimulating the creation of high-wage jobs and encouraging greater investment into the region and the UK economy. The traded sector matters because it brings new wealth into the region – exporting goods and services, attracting inward investment and creating multiplier effects across local supply chains. We know South Yorkshire supports over 200,000 jobs closely aligned with the UK's high-growth sectors, with life sciences, upstream manufacturing, and advanced manufacturing leading are largest employers.

Traded sector growth is critical but not the only foundation of growth. South Yorkshire's foundational economy is large and essential: logistics contributes £1.6bn annually, health provides 95,000 jobs, education generates £3.5bn and employs 62,000 people, retail employs 56,000, and public administration contributes £1.9bn. These sectors are intertwined with our Growth Sectors, providing skills, infrastructure and demand that underpin their success.

To unlock prosperity, South Yorkshire needs to improve business dynamism in all areas of the economy, with more businesses starting, scaling and achieving their growth potential; more businesses exporting and attracting investment from abroad; and existing businesses doing more to adopt new technologies and business models that will drive productivity. That requires a business support environment that is neither generic, nor programmatic, but one that provides the right support to businesses at the right time.

Why South Yorkshire is starting from a position of strength

South Yorkshire is being revalued as an economy that combines production and innovation activity, through world-class research institutions, globally significant manufacturers, emerging technology clusters, and a platform of engineering excellence across sectors. More importantly, the region's size, its institutional strength, its space and grid capacity, and its close relationships between universities, businesses, and public institutions are enabling agile, coordinated action at pace.

Our established clusters in advanced manufacturing, clean energy, life sciences, and defence offer

powerful innovation platforms where collaboration, supplier networks, and talent can enhance regional competitiveness. Emerging strengths in digital technologies, creative industries, and health innovation highlight the region's ability to grow the service economy at speed, including through reform to public services.

The appeal of our quality of life, from green spaces to supportive communities, has been the reason countless enterprises start, scale, and relocate here.

What the key barriers are that need to be addressed

Despite these strengths, South Yorkshire faces barriers to business growth:

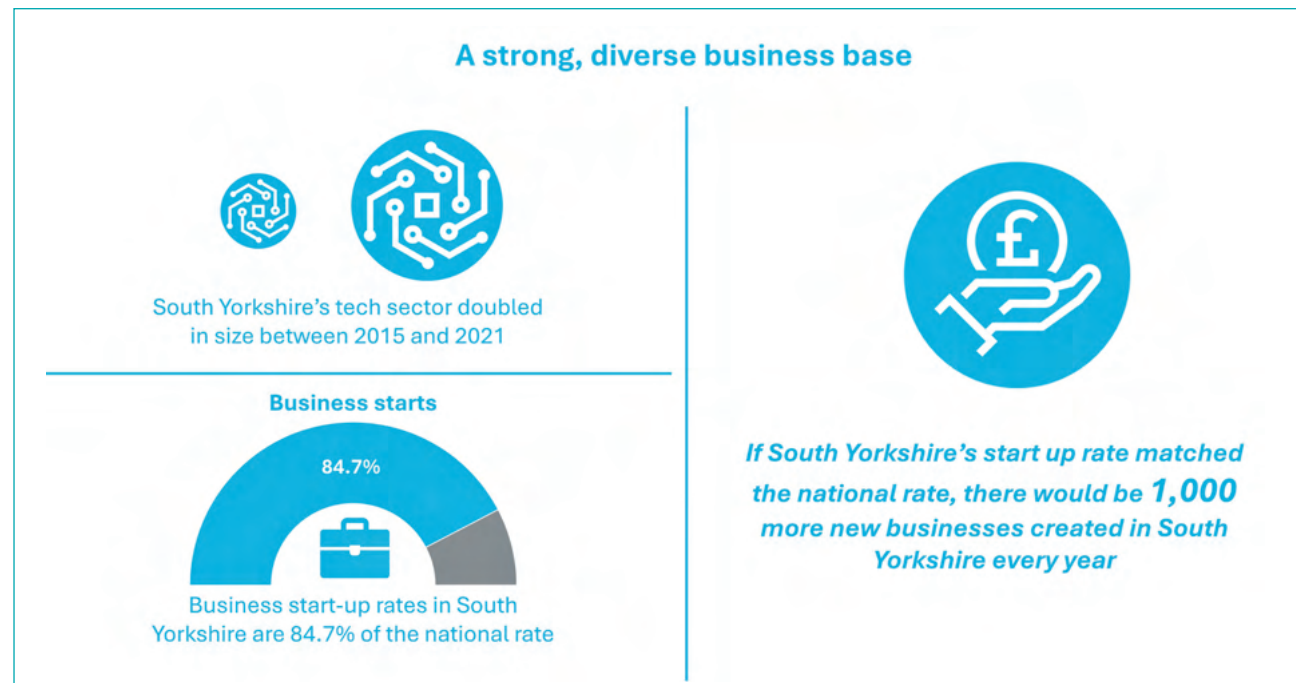
- **Business dynamism** – South Yorkshire needs more and stronger business starts - entry, growth and survival rates are weaker than similar regions, limiting job creation, innovation and the overall size of the business base.
- **Demand-side weakness** – The traded sector is smaller than peers, with export rates below the UK average and lower levels of private R&D investment. In 2018, public R&D spend per head matched Greater Manchester, but businesses there invested

Our Businesses: 2035 – A Strong, Diverse Business Base

over £40 more per person than in South Yorkshire. Without strong private demand and anchor buyers for innovative products, firms face weaker incentives to invest and grow.

- **Innovation adoption lag** – World-class research assets generate cutting-edge knowledge, but diffusion into the broader economy is slow and uneven. Many SMEs lack the absorptive capacity, skills and finance to adopt and adapt new technologies and business models.
- **Ecosystem fragmentation** – Business support, finance, skills provision and innovation services are still too programmatic and delivered in isolation. This creates navigation challenges for firms, prevents coordination, and weakens the emergence of integrated value propositions that could drive growth.

To strengthen and diversify our business base, over the next ten years we will deliver against the following objectives:



1. Our sectors and clusters are driving productivity growth:

- Trade, investment and promotional support
- Connected innovation assets
- A pipeline of talent, co-created with business
- Cluster leadership

2. Our business base is more dynamic, nested in a stronger business and innovation ecosystem:

- An integrated business support and capability building
- Finance ecosystem and investment readiness
- Skills progression and pathways
- Good business, including diverse business models

Our Places: 2035 – Connected, Vibrant Places

Why this mission matters

Great places are at the heart of economic growth and are core to attracting the private investment that drives business dynamism. People and businesses want to live, work, visit and invest where they can access reliable transport, high-quality housing, vibrant cultural life and thriving town and city centres. Places with greater 'effective density' – with more people and businesses connected by fast, reliable transport – are more productive, innovative and attractive to investment.

In South Yorkshire, our economic ambitions cannot be achieved without strengthening the fabric of our places through regeneration: creating neighbourhoods that are attractive, affordable and well-used, and centres that are hubs of culture, commerce and community. Such places create a sense of pride and belonging that encourages people to stay and build their lives here.

Why South Yorkshire is starting from a position of strength

South Yorkshire has a strong identity, with residents proud to call it their home. Sheffield is a core city with a growing knowledge economy, a renowned cultural and creative sector, and neighbourhoods that are offering a high quality of life. The region is redefining the art of regeneration and building communities that draw

people in, through Health on the High Street and the Glassworks in Barnsley, Forge Island in Rotherham and Doncaster Waterfront.

Our region's connectivity is improving through investment in buses, tram renewal, active travel and our soon to be re-opened airport, while our location at the heart of the UK positions us as a logistics hub. We also have outstanding natural assets – from the Peak District to the Dearne Valley – that make South Yorkshire an attractive and liveable region. Our Destination Management Plan (2024-2029) sets out our assets across heritage, arts and culture, sport and more that we can build on to drive tourism but also to increase the profile of the region to prospective enterprises and talent.

What the key barriers are that need to be addressed

Yet too many of our places still fall short of their potential:

- **Transport connectivity and density** – Poor transport capacity limits the effective density of our region, including our core city, holding back economic and housing growth. Centre for Cities estimate a £2.3bn productivity gap in Sheffield compared to other European cities due to weaker public transport accessibility.

- **Transport coverage, reliability and market access** – Network gaps and inconsistent reliability on buses constrain residents' access to jobs, training and services, particularly in less well-connected towns and neighbourhoods. Limited strategic connectivity is also a barrier: South Yorkshire is currently one of the largest regions in Europe without an operational airport, reducing access to global markets and investment opportunities.
- **Housing growth and quality** – Housing growth has not kept pace with demand, while the existing stock is older and less energy efficient than in peer regions. 15% of households are in fuel poverty and 8.6% of houses in 2023 were classed as EPC E or worse. This creates higher retrofit requirements, but also a significant opportunity for green jobs and skills. To realise the housing growth required for the region there is an opportunity to increase local construction skills and jobs.

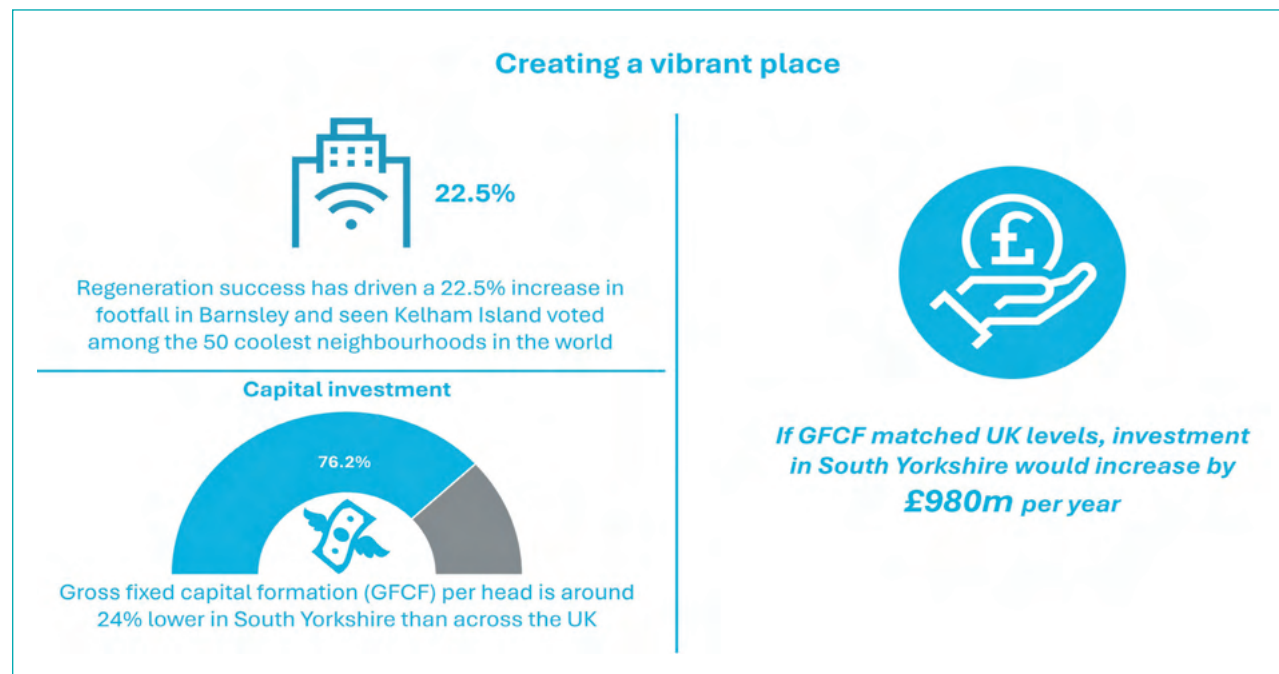
Our Places: 2035 – Connected, Vibrant Places

- **Centres and high streets** – Changing retail and leisure patterns have hollowed out many high streets. While regeneration projects such as Barnsley's Health on the High Street and Rotherham's Forge Island are showing what can be achieved, further progress is needed.
- **Public safety and perceptions of place** – Safety concerns and weak perceptions of our centres and neighbourhoods hold back confidence, deterring investment and footfall.
- **Cultural and visitor economy** – South Yorkshire has strong cultural institutions and visitor assets, but the sector remains underdeveloped compared to peer regions and is not yet fully leveraged to attract visitors, talent and investment.

To deliver more connected, more vibrant places, over the next ten years we will deliver against the following objectives:

1. Our urban areas are better connected, attracting private investment:

- A reliable, integrated and sustainable transport system
- A well-connected region



- Housing growth in our urban centres
- Commercial development and institutional investment, aligned to enterprise and place plans
- A strong core city and urban centres working together in a single economy

2. Our residents are proud to call home and people want to visit:

- A strong cultural, leisure and visitor economy offer
- Vibrant high streets, town and city centre
- Quality, sustainable and affordable housing
- Safe and vibrant neighbourhoods, with strong community bonds

Our People: 2035 – Pathways to Stay Near and Go Far

Why this mission matters

A larger labour market means a larger economy – with higher incomes and greater opportunities to be shared amongst residents.

Good growth depends on ensuring residents have the health, skills and opportunities to contribute and thrive. When people can access secure, well-paid work, their health improves, families prosper and communities flourish. Creating greater opportunity, by ensuring all residents – regardless of age, background or circumstance – can “stay near and go far” is central to our vision of a bigger, better economy.

Approximately one in four working-age residents in South Yorkshire are economically inactive – three percentage points above the national average. Helping more people into work will deliver significant aggregate economic gains, while improving wellbeing and reducing inequalities.

Why South Yorkshire is starting from a position of strength

Our people are resilient, taking pride in hard work, creativity and community. South Yorkshire has a diverse population, a growing student base drawn from outstanding universities, and employers committed to working with us to co-design skills and employment pathways. There is a rich history in vocational and technical education, through our University Technical Colleges, our Institute of Technology, the AMRC Training Centre, and FE Colleges with a strong presence in mid-level, technical skill provision.

We are leading the way on employment support for the economically inactive through Pathways to Work, defining the personalised, comprehensive approach that is needed from public services in modern society. Devolution has given us control of the Adult Skills Fund, which we are already reforming to better align provision with employer demand. We also have innovative health and skills programmes, and a track record of partnership between councils, colleges, universities, the NHS and voluntary sector to support residents, through nationally significant programmes such as Pathways to Work.

What the key barriers are that need to be addressed

The challenges remain stark:

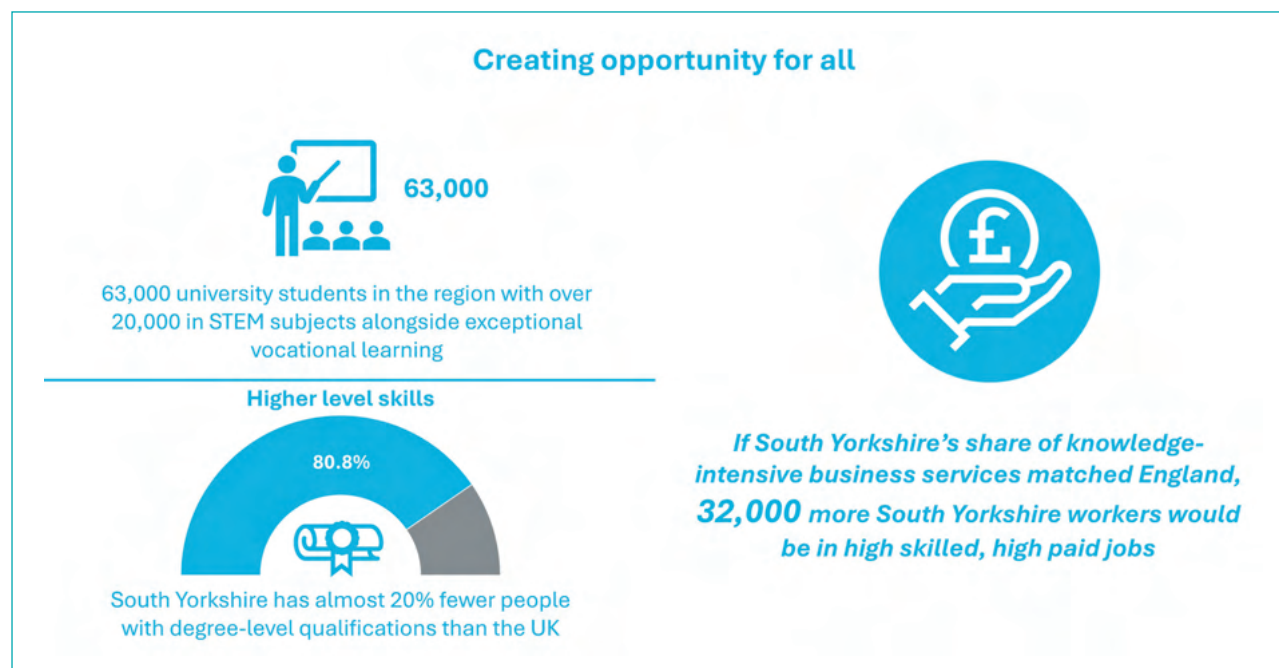
- **Healthy life expectancy and economic inactivity** – Approximately one in four residents of working age are economically inactive in South Yorkshire. One in three of those people are inactive because of ill-health. Men and women in South Yorkshire live on average two fewer years of healthy life compared to counterparts across the Pennines in Greater Manchester. In Barnsley and Doncaster, men now outlive women in healthy years, highlighting inequalities within the region.
- **Low qualifications** – In 2024, 10.2% of South Yorkshire working-age residents had no formal qualifications, 3.6% higher than the national average. This is equivalent to around 88,100 people and limits access to good jobs and progression opportunities. This gap holds back both individuals and the region’s competitiveness.
- **Structural barriers to opportunity** – The employment rate among ethnic minorities in South Yorkshire is 7.5 percentage points lower than the national average. Combined with higher inactivity

Our People: 2035 – Pathways to Stay Near and Go Far

rates for people with long-term health conditions and SEND learners, this points to systemic barriers that prevent too many residents from realising their potential.

- **Young people at risk** – In the 2024/2025 academic year, South Yorkshire saw higher-than-average NEET levels among 16–17-year-olds (5.0% vs 3.4% nationally), alongside rising school absenteeism and mental health challenges. Without intervention, we risk a lost generation of talent unable to access education, training or work.
- **Skills mismatch** – The region underperforms in the 'missing middle' of technical skills at Levels 3–5, where employer demand is strongest. At the same time, jobs requiring low or no qualifications are forecast to decline, leaving residents with outdated skills more exposed to economic change.

To deliver more and better pathways for our residents to stay near and go far, over the next ten years we will deliver against the following objectives:



1. Our children experience a good start in life:

- A good start for children through early years support
- Progression for young people, through strong school, career and transition support

2. Our residents can access to more opportunities through skills training and employment support

- High-quality, employment-focused basic and technical skills provision
- Integrated employment support for those at risk of dropping out, or out of, the labour market
- Prevention services to reduce ill-health as a barrier to work

Our Future: 2035 – A Resilient South Yorkshire

Why this mission matters

Resilience is the foundation of long-term prosperity. Missions 1-3 will help ensure we develop resilience in our business base, in our places and in our people. This Mission focuses on the resilience of our physical and natural infrastructure.

In a world facing climate change, technological disruption and geopolitical uncertainty, regions that can adapt and withstand shocks will be those that succeed. For South Yorkshire, resilience means decarbonising our economy, protecting our communities from climate risks, delivering secure and sufficient energy, and ensuring our digital and transport networks are fit for the future. It means stewarding and safeguarding our natural environment. Without resilience, growth cannot be sustained.

Why South Yorkshire is starting from a position of strength

South Yorkshire has already taken important steps towards resilience. Per capita carbon emissions are falling across all four local authorities. We are home to the industrial innovation capabilities that can manufacture decarbonised power – from hydrogen, small and large nuclear, fusion technology and

sustainable aviation fuels – and we have strong natural assets, from our green spaces to the Peak District National Park. We are leading the way with a catchment-wide approach to water management, and in the use of heat networks to provide steady, decarbonised heat to networks and businesses. A 2021 report which mapped the region's natural capital and biodiversity found that overall the region is a net emitter of carbon at 105,300 tCO₂e per year at a cost of £8 million annually. This sits against a natural ecosystem whose natural capital provides £550 million in benefits per annum, with an asset value (present value) of £18 billion over 50 years.

What the key barriers are that need to be addressed

The challenges, however, remain significant:

- **Decarbonisation gap and living standards**
– To date, most of South Yorkshire's emissions reductions have come from national policy and grid decarbonisation. Further local action is required across transport, housing retrofit and industrial processes. The region's older housing stock and carbon-intensive industries mean the challenge – and opportunity – is greater here than in many other regions but with it comes an opportunity to develop a leading position in new industries and in materially improving the fabric of homes.

- **Flood and climate risk** – South Yorkshire's infrastructure remains vulnerable to extreme weather, with flooding already a major risk to homes, businesses and transport networks. In 2024, nearly 14,000 households were classed as at risk of flooding. Without stronger resilience, climate impacts will continue to damage communities, deter investment and increase costs.
- **Digital connectivity and inclusion** – While improving, digital infrastructure still lags behind in parts of the region, leaving communities and firms without reliable access to full-fibre or 5G. Alongside gaps in infrastructure, digital exclusion persists, with too many residents lacking the skills or access to benefit from the digital economy.
- **Biodiversity loss and underinvestment in natural capital** – South Yorkshire has significant natural assets, from the Peak District to its river catchments, but habitats are in poorer condition than in many peer regions. Declines in biodiversity, combined with underinvestment in green infrastructure, undermine both environmental sustainability and residents' quality of life.

Our Future: 2035 – A Resilient South Yorkshire

- **Nature recovery** – We must go beyond protection to actively restore nature. Only 14% of England's rivers are in good ecological status. South Yorkshire's catchments are no exception. Investment in large-scale habitat restoration and nature-based solutions is needed to sequester carbon, reduce flood risk, and enhance access to green space.

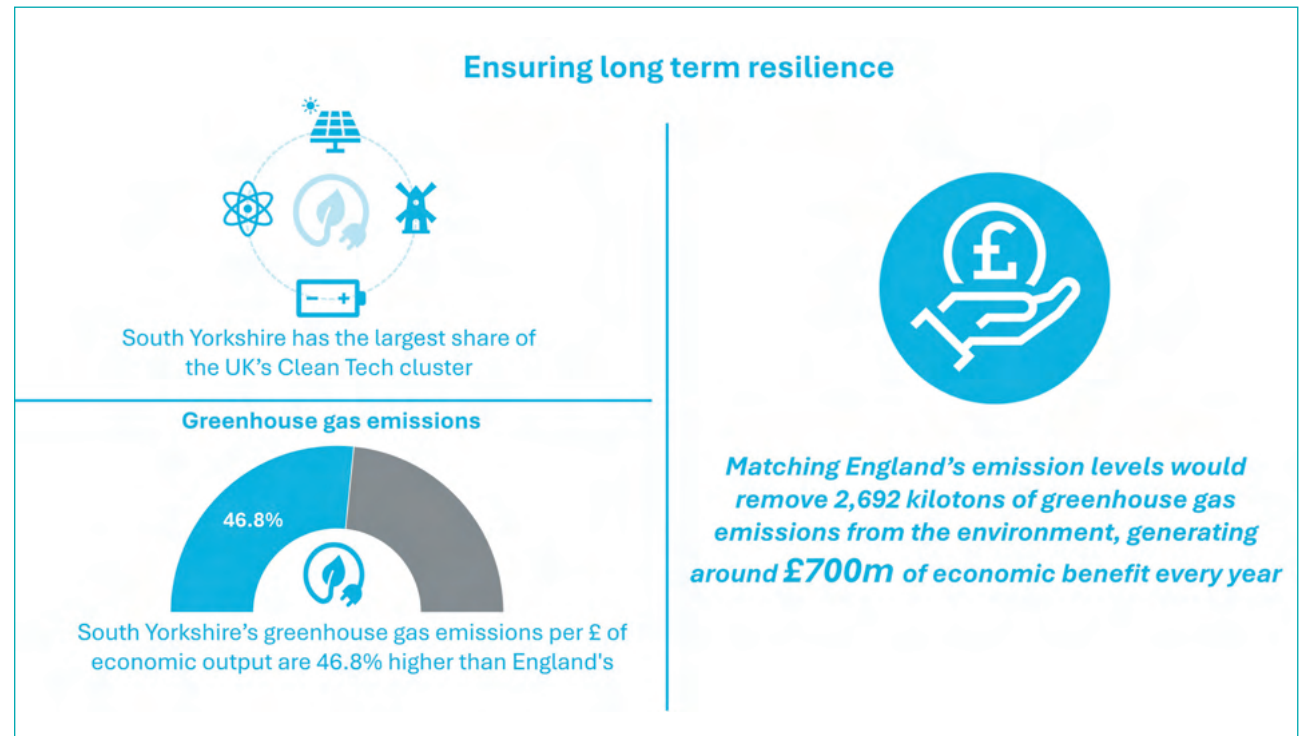
To deliver a more resilient South Yorkshire, over the next ten years we will deliver against the following objectives:

1. Our networks are more future-proofed:

- Energy systems for the future
- Digital capacity and inclusion for the future
- Flood resilience and water management

2. Our region's nature is more diverse:

- Beautiful, green urban regeneration and development
- Enhancing natural habitats and species

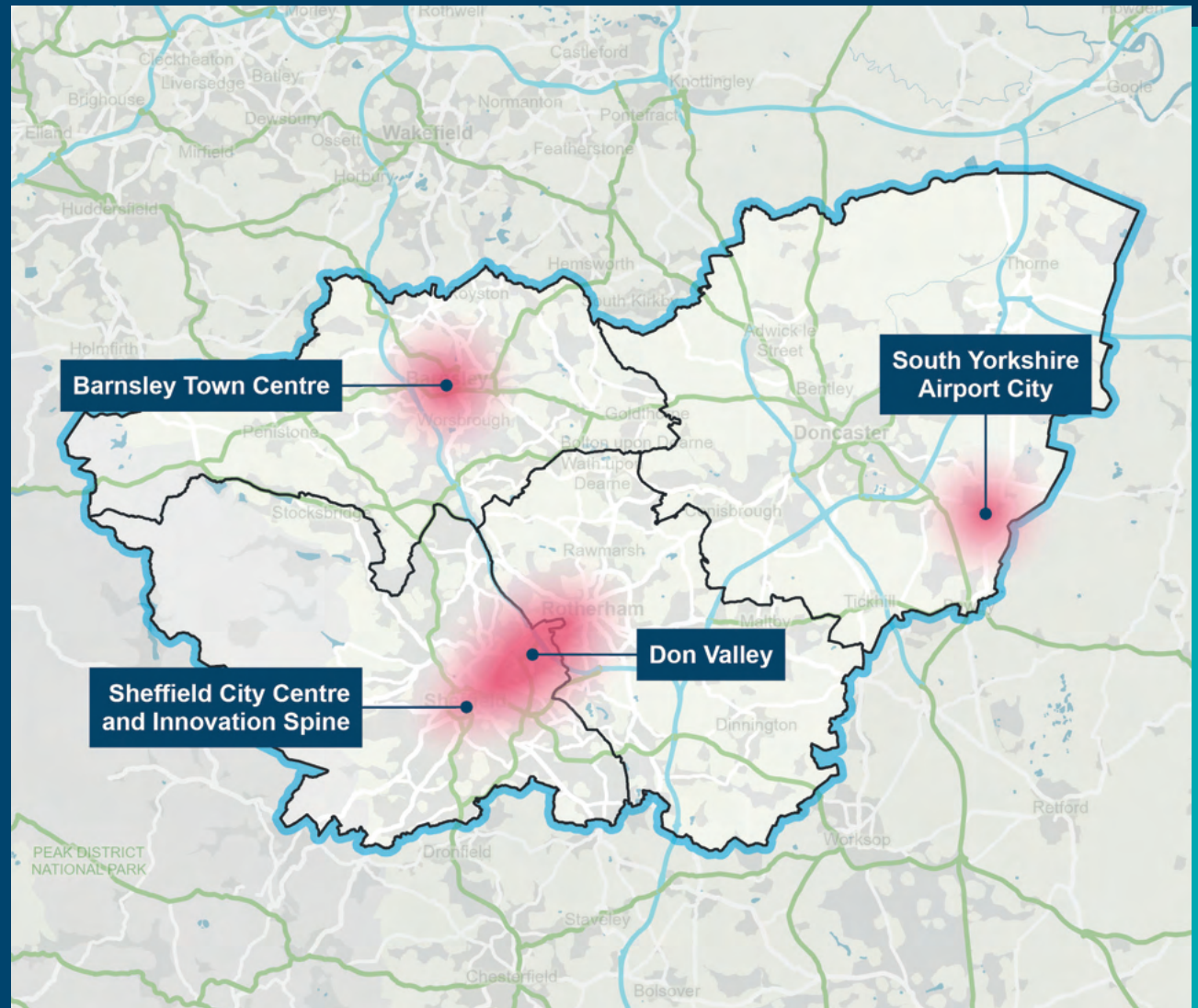


Our Growth Areas

Our preceding **Plan for Good Growth (2024)** introduced our **four Growth Areas**. These are the **spatial representation of our four missions above** and are at the heart of our **regional investment pipeline**.

Over the next decade, the SYMCA will coordinate and prioritise investment towards these Areas to create secure, high paid jobs, which bring income and further investment into the region. These jobs will lift wages and provide knock on employment opportunities in the local economy.

We will work with our partners to ensure Growth Areas are set up to deliver for success.



Don Valley

Stretching from Sheffield to Rotherham town centre, this is an established globally significant innovation district combining four adjacent innovation campuses and home to 30 cutting-edge R&D facilities, alongside recognised industry leaders including Boeing, Rolls Royce, McLaren Automotive, Boeing, NIKKEN & Canon Medical.

The internationally recognised translational research facilities set the region apart, supporting over 1,200 businesses with more than 3,500 employees. The area also includes a major new urban business district at Rotherham with plans for new housing, mixed-use development and cultural investment.



Runway Park

A 100-acre innovation site led by the University of Sheffield, bridging academic research with business innovation. It will offer flexible spaces for co-working,

manufacturing, and leisure, supporting start-ups and established firms alike.

Advanced Manufacturing Park (AMP)

A magnet for investment and social mobility, AMP is home to the AMRC and trains over 1,360 apprentices annually. It generated £260m in funding and created 600 high-productivity jobs in 2022 alone. The new tram-train stop at Magna strengthens regional connectivity, while active travel upgrades along Sheffield Road make walking and cycling more appealing.

Templeborough Business Zone

A key industrial corridor with global firms and SMEs. Investments include a new tram-train stop, active travel upgrades, and a £50m low-carbon heating network, alongside new business and leisure space.

Olympic Legacy Park

A pioneering hub for sport, health, and wellbeing innovation. It hosts Canon Medical, the Advanced Wellbeing Research Centre, and Google's Digital Health Hub, driving population health improvements through wearable tech.

Town Centre, Forge Island and Rotherham Gateway

Undergoing a £120m transformation with new homes, public spaces, and leisure. Plans include a new Gateway Station and Innovation Campus to boost connectivity and create high-value jobs. The development of the Bassingthorpe Farm strategic housing site will provide an additional 2000 homes to the north of Gateway.



Waverley Rail Station

A strategic transport upgrade serving the Advanced Manufacturing Innovation District and rapidly growing Waverley New Community. It will unlock housing, employment land, and commercial space, supporting sustainable growth across Handsworth and Treeton.

Sheffield City Centre and Innovation Spine

We are developing a city-centre innovation ecosystem that positions Sheffield at the forefront of the fourth industrial revolution. Central to this vision is the Sheffield Innovation Spine—a long-term, collaborative initiative connecting the University of Sheffield and Sheffield Hallam University through key regeneration areas including the Station Quarter, Castlegate, West Bar, and St. George's neighborhoods.

Sheffield's collaborative and creative spirit, rooted in its rich history of makers and innovators, is the driving force behind the Spine. Known as The Outdoor City, Sheffield offers a unique blend of urban energy and natural beauty—from its thriving independent scene and world-class street art to its proximity to the Peak District National Park—delivering an unparalleled quality of life.



Innovation Spine

A collaborative corridor linking the University of Sheffield and Sheffield Hallam University through regeneration zones like Station Quarter, Castlegate, and West Bar. It supports knowledge-led start-ups and scale-ups with world-class research centres and vibrant public spaces.

West Bar

A £300m mixed-use development connecting Kelham Island to the city centre. Phase one include 100,000 sq ft of Grade A office space and 368 build-to-rent apartments. Future sphaes will unlock 1 million sq ft of regeneration.

Castlegate

A creative and digital hub blending heritage and innovation. The Castle site will become a public park, revealing historic remains and reopening the River Sheaf, with space for outdoor events and community engagement.

Station Quarter

A dynamic gateway for high-growth firms, offering prime real estate and connectivity. Designed to be serve as a beacon for the region with space for collaboration and enterprise

University of Sheffield/St George's

A life sciences and deep tech cluster anchored by the university and Royal Hallamshire Hospital. It supports IP-rich companies and cutting-edge research in physical sciences.

Heart of the City

Sheffield City Council's £470m flagship development includes Elshaw House (zero carbon ready) and Cambridge Street Collective (Europe's largest purpose-built food hall).

Sheffield City Centre 'New Neighbourhoods'

Sheffield City Council has partnered with Homes England to delivery nearly 6,000 homes across Moorfoot, Furnace Hill, Attercliffe, and more, creating sustainable communities as part of Sheffield's Housing Growth Plan.

South Yorkshire Airport City

Doncaster is at the heart of the UK's transport and logistics system – with multimodal connections and a strong industrial base in advanced engineering, rail and clean mobility. The ambition is to reestablish Doncaster Sheffield Airport as the anchor for a clean, connected aviation cluster—supporting advanced flight technologies, Sustainable Aviation Fuel development, lightweight materials and a Centre of Excellence for MRO. Located at Gateway East, with immediate access to motorway and rail links (and a safeguarded corridor for future passenger/freight rail), South Yorkshire Airport City is a nationally significant proposition, a platform for regional growth and the opportunity to extend the South Yorkshire advanced manufacturing cluster.



The Airport

This will be a national hub for clean, connected aviation, supporting 2,000+ jobs. It will host passenger services, cargo handling, and provide access to a Jet Zero innovation cluster, developed on the platform of AMRC capabilities.

Airside Advanced Aviation Zone (DSA04)

A 43ha runway-adjacent site for aviation-critical activity. It will co-locate robotics, automation, and clean flight technologies, aiming to be the UK's leading airside MRO and air mobility hub.

Gateway East Innovation Quarter (EMP05)

A production zone for SAF, SMR, defence systems, and advanced manufacturing. It expands the South Yorkshire advanced manufacturing cluster and - along with the reopened airport - could generate 5,000 new jobs. Critical to achieving our ambitions at South Yorkshire Airport City will be to target infrastructure investment to strategically unlock the site and ensuring our skills and talent pipelines match jobs growth.

Barnsley Town centre

Barnsley is delivering one of the UK's most ambitious town-centre regeneration programmes and has an ambition to be the 'UK's leading digital town', building on its leadership in public service reform. Through new digital infrastructure, cultural investment and a demonstrator Catapult model, Barnsley will show how a post-industrial town can be transformed into a place of innovation, inclusion and opportunity.



The Glassworks

A £220m development featuring entertainment, dining, and the Library @ Lightbox. It includes the UK's first NHS Community Diagnostic Centre in a town centre, boosting footfall and local spend.

Health on the High Street

Relocating outpatient services to the Alhambra Centre, making healthcare more accessible. This builds on the success of the Community Diagnostic Centre which has brought a 24% reduction in Do Not Attends and a 22% increase in mammogram attendance. The scheme is expected to attract an additional 150,000 footfall per annum, generating at least £1.5m in additional visitor spending.

The Seam Digital Campus

A tech hub supporting 50+ businesses and 300 jobs. It will host the National Centre for Digital Technologies, fostering innovation, skills development, and university-business collaboration.

Eldon Street Heritage Action Zone

A £4m project restoring historic buildings and public realm. It engaged artists, schools, and communities, including a residency by Poet Laureate Simon Armitage.

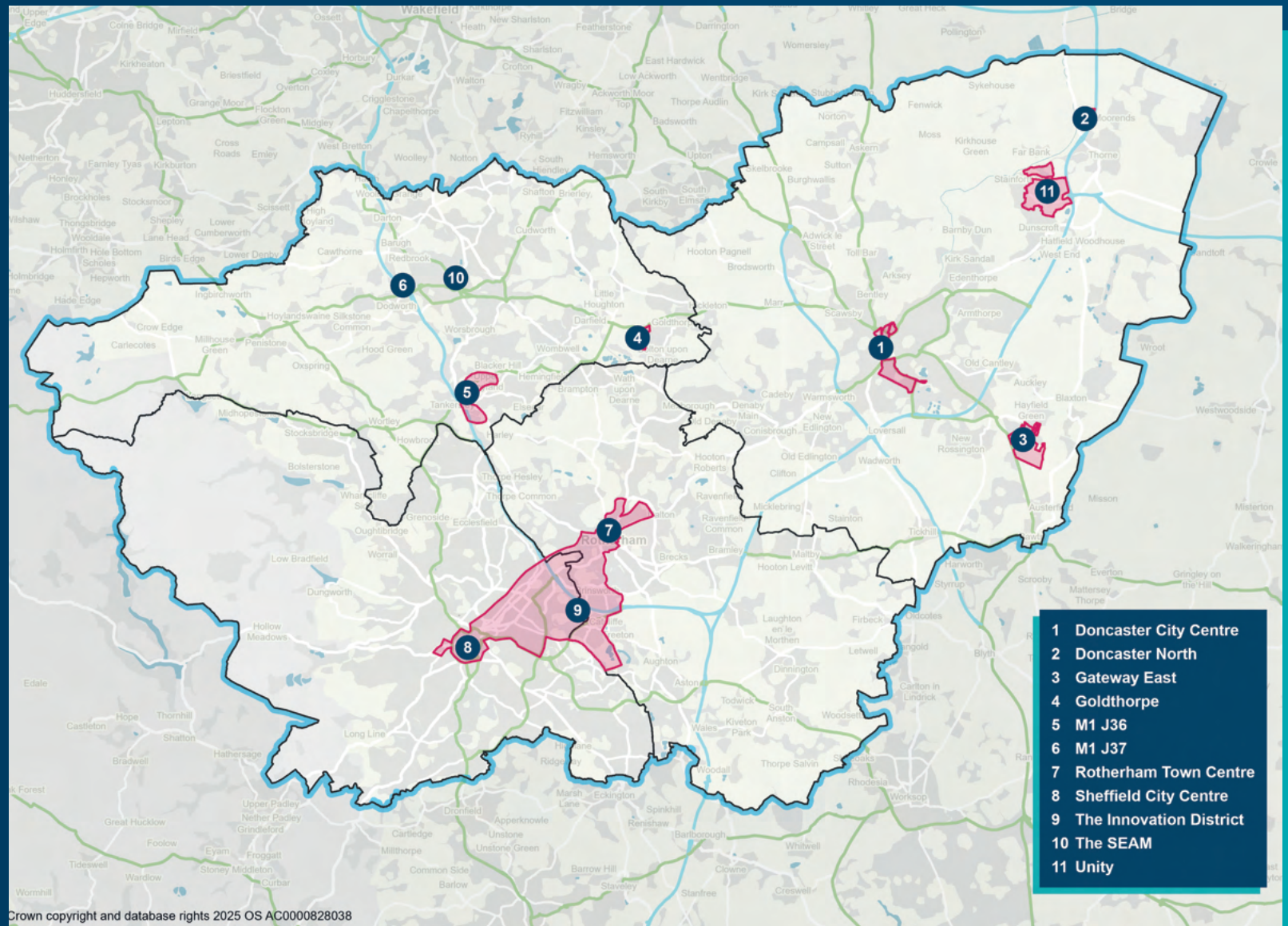
Initiatives like the National Academy of Vocal Excellence (NAVE) and the Youth Activity Park embed cultural and recreational opportunities for young people, supporting inclusive growth.



South Yorkshire Investment Zone

We are home to the UK's first Investment Zone (IZ). Our IZ is a critical vehicle to delivering the ambition set out for our Growth Areas and beyond.

Our vision for the IZ is simple, to bring investment into the business base, making it the place to start, scale or relocate a business. In our first year along, every £1 of public investment returned nearly £9 of private investment.



1. **City Centre** - Doncaster launched a new 25 year city centre strategy in March 2025. Informed by the people of Doncaster through 'The Big City Conversation', the heart of the strategy is a strong, achievable ambition to develop the city centre into a vibrant, attractive, safe, useful place for all, with a strong economy providing services and experiences. This includes:
 - i. **Gateway One Tech Hub**, in front of the station
 - ii. **Doncaster Market**, including the Grade II* Listed Corn Exchange and the Grade II Listed Wool Market. The Wool Market has been successfully transformed into a new leisure facility incorporating international eateries, events and live music, and an entertainment zone, proving hugely popular since its re opening in 2019, and the Corn Market will be shaped into an events and pop up space to drive vibrancy.
 - iii. **Waterfront** - one of the largest urban centre brownfield development sites in the UK. The council has undertaken significant work to enable future development, land acquisition and assembly has already been completed and site remediation work is underway
2. **Doncaster North** 180 acre (74 hectares) industrial development adjacent to junction 6 of the M18. Outline planning permission was granted in January 2022 for up to 3.5 million sq.ft of manufacturing and warehousing. The scheme includes a single unit of 1.15 million sq. ft. The scale of the site provides the opportunity for it to act as a cluster to bring together businesses and their supply chains, aiding agglomeration. The site is strategically located and well connected with good access to the East Coast ports and the UK motorway and rail networks. It is 31 minutes and 27 miles from the Advanced Manufacturing Park at Sheffield/Rotherham.
3. **Gateway East** – see above
4. **Goldthorpe** – 73 hectares of employment land
5. **M1 J36** – 69 hectares of employment land, with opportunities for manufacturing and logistics.
6. **M1 J37** – a further 70 hectares of employment land
7. **Rotherham Town Centre** see Don Valley Growth Area
8. **Sheffield City Centre** see above
9. **The Innovation District** - see Don Valley Growth Area
10. **The SEAM** see Barnsley Town Centre Growth Area
11. **Unity** – an area of 250 hectares (618 acres) - one of the largest regeneration and infrastructure projects of its kind in the UK, delivering a mixed use development. Unity will provide over 3,000 new homes, a new town centre, offline marina, school and transport hub. There are over 85 hectares (210 acres) dedicated to a variety of new commercial uses. Unity is situated in a strategic location on the eastern section of the M18/M180 motorway corridor.

To learn more about South Yorkshire's Growth Plan, visit
southyorkshire-ca.gov.uk

