

Sheffield City Region Local Enterprise Partnership gears up for South Yorkshire to Build Back Better

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Sheffield City Region's Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) is gearing up for the region to Build Back Better from the Coronavirus pandemic, as it appoints eight new board members to support South Yorkshire's economic recovery and renewal.

The new board members will act as ambassadors for South Yorkshire, supporting the region's businesses through the challenges presented by COVID, attracting investment and promoting the area on the national and international stage.

The LEP plays a pivotal role in shaping local economic priorities and driving economic growth for the region and is formed of senior business leaders, Sheffield City Region Mayor Dan Jarvis and the leaders of Sheffield, Rotherham, Doncaster and Barnsley councils, as part of the Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA).

The new board members are:

- Karen Beardsley, MD of Unipart Rail Operations,
- Joe Chetcuti, Director of Front Ideas,
- Michael Faulks, Co-founder and Chief Technical Officer of Ioetec Ltd,
- Dan Fell, CEO of Doncaster Chamber of Commerce,
- Angela Foulkes, CEO of Sheffield College,
- Paul Leedham, MD of Matrix Energy Systems,
- Gemma Smith, MD of Strata Homes,
- Cathy Travers, MD of Mott MacDonald UK and Europe

Existing board members Alexa Greaves, Neil MacDonald and Richard Stubbs have all been re-appointed.

James Muir, Chair of the Sheffield City Region Local Enterprise Partnership, said: “I am delighted to welcome a great array of new board members to the LEP as we work to strengthen the region for the challenges ahead, unlock opportunities for South Yorkshire and level up the economy.

“With another national lockdown in place, this is an incredibly important time for the LEP to support people and businesses across South Yorkshire to get through Covid, recover and renew. We have an ambitious vision for the region as we drive forward work on our Strategic Economic Plan and our Renewal Action Plan to ensure the Sheffield City Region can build back better in the years to come.

“Our LEP Board represents the diversity of the region, and our new members are bringing a wealth of knowledge and expertise to drive us forward in supporting and investing in the people, employers and places of South Yorkshire.”

The Sheffield City Region MCA and LEP are working with the region’s local authorities to distribute more than £30m in grants to the region’s business community as it supports them through the impact of coronavirus restrictions. The region’s Renewal Action Plan is also underway to enable South Yorkshire to renew, grow and thrive post-Covid through stronger, greener and fairer growth for people, places and employers across the region.

For more information on the work of the Sheffield City Region Local Enterprise Partnership visit <https://sheffieldcityregion.org.uk/>

Photo credit: Sheffield City Region