

Unlocking Sheffield's true potential



Sheffield
inspires

The right city at the right time

Our four missions

1. Our economy: global, green, and growing
2. Grow our neighbourhoods together
3. Celebrate and grow a vibrant, cultural, and creative Sheffield
4. A city on the move, connected with the infrastructure to grow

Sheffield is getting noticed. Having already attracted the likes of Boeing, Rolls-Royce, and McLaren, it is quickly becoming a centre for technological innovation, helping to inspire and support locally founded companies such as Unicorn Biotech and FourJaw.

Over the next ten years, we see the potential for 6,500 new businesses in the region, which we anticipate will contribute an additional £2.2 billion to the local economy.

We have the capacity for 20,000 new homes to be built by 2039 in the city centre alone, not to mention our current regeneration projects, which are breathing new life into our existing neighbourhoods. And, thanks to improvements in infrastructure and connectivity, we are working to make it easier to reach the city from places like Manchester and Leeds, as well as London and the rest of the UK.

Described by NatWest as the UK's Greenest City, we are already leading the transition to net zero, helping to further the decarbonisation of industry and support businesses and developers achieve their sustainability goals. Culturally too, our city's hidden value is beginning to be recognised: voted recently by Accor as the new food capital of the UK, and by TimeOut as one of the top two destinations to visit in the whole of Europe.

Our city is not only attracting more press. It's attracting more people, more business, and more investment. Why? Because we have made it our priority to create the right circumstances and opportunities, not only for our citizens, but for all those interested in working together to make Sheffield a technological and cultural powerhouse, not just in the North, but in the whole of the UK and Europe.

Economy

A city on the rise

Unlocking Sheffield's true potential

Grow the economy. Improve living standards. Attract more business. Generate more jobs. And once again, realise the city's true potential. That's the mission. And in our Growth Plan for the next decade, we outline how we'll achieve it by accelerating our already growing economy.

We are a global leader for engineering, advanced manufacturing, lightweight technologies, and specialist materials, and we're home to one of the largest Clean Tech clusters in the country. With the help of the Sheffield Business Together partnership, over the next ten years, we plan to nurture and attract thousands more businesses in addition to the 17,000 already thriving in Sheffield, not to mention expanding on the number of social enterprises we have in the city.

And, as the first official Investment Zone in the UK, we plan to continue to support our investors, developers, and partners, along with the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority, to unlock the true value of our inspiring city.

Regeneration

Redeveloping Sheffield

The Heart of the City and beyond

We have already made huge financial investments in regeneration, real estate, and infrastructure schemes all across Sheffield. We're investing heavily in Gleadless Valley, in Attercliffe, and in Stocksbridge. Our innovative £470m Heart of the City development is already transforming our city centre, and new developments are underway in West Bar, in Castlegate and Fargate, in Furnace Hill and Neepsend.

As part of the Housing Growth Delivery Plan, we are committed to delivering a minimum of 38,000 new homes in the city, as well as increasing the availability of affordable housing. And while our regeneration plans continue, we are bringing forward certain key elements to increase real estate opportunities and to help accelerate growth even further.

The Innovation Spine Initiative

Greater skills bring greater opportunities

As well as actively looking to increase the supply of commercial and office real estate in the city, we're working to help create more jobs and make access to training and skills easier than ever. A key part of our plan is the Innovation Spine initiative, which we launched in partnership with our Universities and Technology Parks.

By identifying skills-rich development and real estate opportunities throughout the city, the Innovation Spine initiative aims to help establish more start-ups and allow existing businesses to scale and succeed. It's why we're quickly climbing the league tables when it comes to business start-up rates.

Connecting people and place

Improved transport across the region

By making it easier for people to connect with the city, we estimate it could add more than £3 billion a year to our economy. Right now, 50% of the region's knowledge-intensive jobs are in our centre, yet only 28% of South Yorkshire's population lives within 30 minutes of the city by means of public transport. We plan to radically change that by reopening Victoria Station, bringing the tram network closer to more than 100,000 residents, and reimagining our bus network.

Further afield, by working with National Government, the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority, and regional city partners like Leeds and Manchester, we will continue to support the establishment of a 'Northern Triangle' of innovation, culture and creativity, akin to that of London, Cambridge and Oxford. It will open and better connect Sheffield not only to the North, but to the rest of the UK and Europe. This will further support the ambitions for The Great North and our collaboration as part of the White Rose Partnership.

The place to be

A rich and diverse cultural capital recognised internationally

We are the home of globally recognised arts and cultural events, such as World Snooker, Doc Fest, and Tramlines, and recently voted by TimeOut as one of the top two destinations to visit in the whole of Europe. We are home to more than 2,000 cultural and creative businesses, generating £1bn of economic impact annually, and this is growing at pace. In the last 5 years, turnover has grown by 28%, and employment by 18%.

In 2022, we attracted over 15 million visitors, estimated to have generated an additional £1.35 billion for our economy. With initiatives like Sheffield Inspires supporting the city, grassroots organisations like SADACCA, Utopia Creative Hub, and Soft Ground thriving, and exciting creative enterprises like Crossed Wires, Dig Where You Stand, and S1 Artspace choosing to make our city their home, our plan to ignite, accelerate, and showcase the very best of Sheffield continues at pace.

Investing in Sheffield

Canada House Tranfromation

Transforming the city centre's iconic Canada House into an inspirational home for the Sheffield Musical Academy, Harmony Works is a perfect example of how we're bringing together private and public investment and the creative industries to drive the economy in Sheffield.

The project received funding from the National Lottery, the Architectural Heritage Fund, the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority, and the UK Government's Levelling Up Fund, not to mention multiple local trusts and foundations.

