



19 April 2018

Dear Candidate,

The election of a mayor for Sheffield City Region represents a pivotal moment in the history of our region. We are writing on behalf of the 36 members of the Sheffield Property Association to congratulate you on your nomination and invite you to share your priorities to encourage economic growth and further investment across Sheffield City Region. Our purpose is not to interrogate but rather encourage a healthy debate and discussion that should occur before any election.

Devolution presents many opportunities to drive forward our region's economic performance and to deliver benefits to everyone who lives and works in Sheffield City Region. It is vital that a directly elected mayor commands the authority of voters and local stakeholders. They must build the respect of their counterparts in other cities and also decision-makers in Whitehall. They have to instil confidence amongst investors.

The Sheffield Property Association is an independent association of individuals and organisations with interest in land, property and development in Sheffield. Our members represent the significant land owning and development businesses in the city, along with a wide range of the professional organisations that help create and support our built environment. Together we are responsible for over 20,000 direct jobs. Our members are responsible for investing in assets worth £4 billion across Sheffield.

We are the collective voice of property in the city. We exist to inform policy-makers, promote investment and drive economic prosperity across the city. We are positive and clear in our vision to create a greater, better and more beautiful city of Sheffield.

Our Association stands ready to work positively with a directly elected mayor and their colleagues. We recognise the importance of private sector organisations like ours working in partnership with local politicians to deliver benefits to every community. Collaboration and partnership are going to be vitally important if our region is going to achieve its full potential.

We hope you welcome this letter and our questions with interest. It is designed to contribute positively to the debate about the future of the region we all call home. This will be first of many occasions where the Property Association looks to play a positive role in our democratic processes. This role is central to our reason for existing.

We look forward to hearing your views. Considering the public interest in the mayoral contest we are placing this letter in the public domain.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alexis Krachai', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Alexis Krachai
Operational Chair
On behalf of the Board of the Sheffield Property Association



Questions

1. The mayor of Sheffield City Region will have few powers and no money to allocate towards investment because of a delay to proceed with a consultation on the wider powers the mayor should be given. Currently the mayor will only have power over the provision of bus services. What practical steps, if any, will you take to acquire other powers?
2. Our region has traditionally benefited extensively from Revenue Support Grants from Whitehall and funding from the European Union. With this funding set to disappear through UK law and the UK's departure from the European Union, what practical steps will you take to draw more private investment into our region to help grow our economy and generate Business Rates that will increasingly fund frontline services?
3. What practical steps would you take to make Sheffield City Region more attractive to businesses and investors?
4. Actions matter. What would be your top three objectives for your first 100 days in office?