



Dan Jarvis MP

Labour Mayoral Candidate for the Sheffield City Region



Alexis Krachai
Operational Chair
Sheffield Property Association
St James House
Vicar Lane
Sheffield
S1 2EX

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Dear Alexis,

Thank you for your letter. I agree – that the election of a mayor for the Sheffield City Region South Yorkshire comes at a pivotal period in the development of our region.

The challenges posed by austerity, automation and post-Brexit uncertainty are huge. Overcoming them will require all of the innate resilience, talent and ingenuity for which Yorkshire is known. But accompanying these challenges will also be a period of real opportunity; where devolution can bring greater investment, independence and control of our infrastructure, economy and environment.

To make the most of these opportunities and to move us forward, our first mayor must work with both the public sector and with private sector business leaders – such as yourself. Doing this will take leadership and it will take time.

It will require someone with: the character to forge together the interests of everyone in Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield; the credibility to stand up for our best interests on both the national and international stage; the competence to deliver the investment and services South Yorkshire needs. I believe that I am the candidate

who is best placed to do this, and that's why I'm asking the people of South Yorkshire to vote for me.

But our first Mayor must also have the right policies, that is why last week I launched my manifesto outlining how we can work together to improve the Sheffield City Region. You can read my manifesto by going to: https://www.danjarvis.org/dan_jarvis_for_mayor. I have also answered the specific questions you posed in the attached appendix.

If there is anything else, please get in touch

Best wishes,

Dan
Dan Jarvis MP
Labour Mayoral Candidate for the Sheffield City Region

e: dan@danjarvis.org
w: www.danjarvis.org

Follow Dan on Twitter @DanJarvisMP

Promoted by Paul Nicholson (agent) on behalf of Dan Jarvis both at Trades and Labour Club, Talbot Street, S2 2TG

ANSWERS TO QUESTION FROM SHEFFIELD PROPERTY ASSOCIATION

Question 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?**

Your analysis of the current situation is right. Indeed, it is for this very reason that I say in the foreword to my manifesto that it is “currently more of an aspiration than it is a blueprint. And that even if elected, I will only be able to turn it into a ‘plan of action’ if the Mayoralty is fully established and the local leaders and stakeholders work with me.” I go on to say that:

“I believe that any new mayoralty should begin with the implementation of the 2015 agreement, followed by the immediate negotiation of a stronger and wider deal.

“In any negotiation I have with the government I will be arguing both for a stronger deal – equivalent to Greater Manchester, The West Midlands and London...and a wider Yorkshire devolution settlement that encompasses as many of Yorkshire’s 20 local authority areas as possible.”

The other powers I will be arguing for include:

- *A housing deal that puts us in charge of what is built where and who for.*
- *Greater transport powers so that our local and regional transport can fully meet our needs and integrate properly between different modes of transport and to different parts of the country beyond our area.*
- *A full suite of economic development powers, including some tax raising and planning powers to be able to foster the growth and the communities that we need where we need them.*

- *A national role in decisions around national infrastructure that impacts our region, like HS2 and HS3.*
- *A strategic role in health and adult social care.*
- *A strategic role in pre-16 education and skills.*
- *A strategic role in policing and other emergency services.*

Question 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?**

Question 3. What practical steps would you take to make Sheffield City Region more attractive to businesses and investors?

I hope you do not mind but I've answered these two questions together because I believe them to be interlinked.

The policies in my manifesto are focussed on establishing a more vibrant, successful and co-operative economy in South Yorkshire. Those plans are founded upon a three-part economic strategy: build on our strengths, invest in our future, and develop a well-paid and highly skilled workforce. As part of this strategy I will:

- Continue to campaign for The Sheffield City Region's fair share of the proposed Shared Prosperity Fund.
- Work with the universities to protect research funding so that we do not lose out when European funding comes to an end.
- Start a Regional Economic Review and, alongside it, a review of the Local Enterprise Partnership.
- Develop a Regional Industrial Strategy to focus on economic growth and aid our negotiations with the government over a bespoke growth and investment deal.

- Establish a Business and Trade Union Advisory Panel, with a revolving and representative membership, to work closely with the Local Enterprise Partnership and to provide guidance on policies and insight on future challenges.
- Work closely with Government's Northern Powerhouse team to make sure The Sheffield City Region's priorities are at the top of their agenda.
- Support trade missions to secure new export opportunities for local businesses as well as beneficial inward investment.
- Champion the region's visitor economy and work closely with Welcome to Yorkshire to develop a unified tourism offer for South Yorkshire.

To meet my ambition for our economy we need to invest in our people to ensure we have the workforce to compete. We already have world class training and research, but we need to make sure skills investment represents our ambitions for an inclusive economy, and ensure our people can adapt to new roles as the economy changes. My aims for improving the skills in our workforce include:

- Working with employers, educators and local authorities to develop a workforce skills plan for the region.
- Leading my own review of post-16 education and pathways into work to make sure training and education match the region's skills gaps.
- Ensuring that the devolution deal includes restarting the Early Integrated Employment Support programme to help the long term unemployed back into work.
- Developing a bursary scheme to assist young people from disadvantaged and underrepresented backgrounds to access post school education and training opportunities.
- Working with the Trade Unions, employers and organisations like TimeWise to develop high quality flexible working that allows people to balance work and non-work commitments like childcare or further training.

I hope this goes some way to answering your question. You will find more detail in the pages of the manifesto.

Question 4. What would be your top three objectives for your first 100 days in office?

As I say in my answer to your first question, “I believe that any new mayoralty should begin with the implementation of the 2015 agreement, followed by the immediate negotiation of a stronger and wider deal.” Doing this will not be easy.

For the Sheffield City Region to take on the powers offered in the October 2015 devolution deal, the Sheffield City Region would need to launch a public consultation process, and provide the Secretary of State with a summary of the findings. Both the combined authority *and* the constituent local authorities of the combined authority must consent to this being done. Though it is possible for the consultation to be handled by the Secretary of State, the act of transferring the powers still requires the consent of the constituent local authorities.

Getting this agreement will take leadership and it will take time. It will mean forging together the interests of Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield; and representing those interests in negotiation with the government.

That’s why I only have one priority for my first 100 days – getting this done!