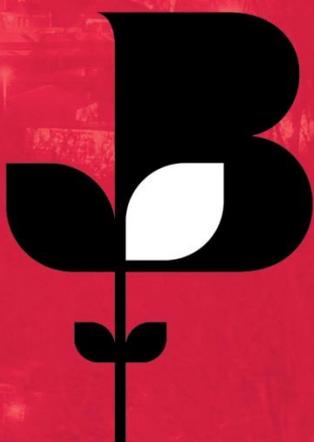


2015 - 2018

POLICY UPDATE



West & North
Yorkshire Chamber
of Commerce
British Chambers of Commerce
Accredited

SUMMARY OF POLICY ACHIEVEMENTS 2015 - 2018

Lobbying for better transport

1. HS2 – Chamber was highly influential in getting HS2 to rethink their proposals for Leeds station. Original plan was to build a separate station ¼ mile from the existing station. Chamber lobbied for a single integrated station to bring HS2 trains into the existing Leeds station. Why does this matter for other parts of our region? A single station in Leeds would integrate HS2 with existing rail services; in addition it would link up with the east-west high speed proposals, now known as Northern Powerhouse Rail (NPR). The Chamber won the 2016 BCC most effective campaign off the back of this.
2. NPR – original plans for this new rail line did not include a station in Bradford, in fact Bradford wasn't even on the map. Chamber, working with Bradford Council has been lobbying for the city to be included in the network, with a new station in the city centre. The battle continues but Bradford is now in Transport for the North's thinking.
3. Lobbying for improved road connections, including better east-west connectivity to free up capacity on the M62 and improvements to the A64 and A59 in North Yorkshire.

Education & Skills

1. Chamber part of the campaign to secure £11m of funding to open UTC Leeds, a new school for engineering & manufacturing. The first cohort of young people left the school in the summer and destinations are incredibly strong with above average numbers of pupils taking up apprenticeships and university. Out of the cohort who left there is not one single NEET (not in employment, education or training), this is exceptional and largely unheard of in normal secondary schools. The school has significant support from industry.
2. Apprenticeships – we continue to promote this agenda and working with colleagues at the BCC we have been successfully lobbying for changes to the current system of funding to allow larger companies to invest more of their apprentice levy into their supply chains.

Economic development

1. Chamber was part of the team which wrote the Bradford Economic Growth Strategy (2018-2030). This strategy aims to add £4bn to the Bradford economy, get 20,000 more people into work and improve the skills of 48,000 residents within the district.
2. Campaigned for improvements to the waterfront in Leeds and created the Waterfront Enhancement Fund with £100k contributions from Leeds City Council.
3. Campaigned for more land for employment in Bradford. We heard from many of our members (especially manufacturers) whose businesses are constrained by the sites they are located on. Land is available but we

feel there is an over-prioritisation to allocate these sites for housing. We are encouraging the council to update their site allocations strategy. Failure to do so may force Bradford companies to relocate out of the district or place investment and new jobs in neighbouring local authority areas.

Business Improvement Districts

1. Chamber led the successful campaign for the creation of the Leeds BID, now into its third year it generates significant additional revenue to spend on city centre initiatives, including the award winning Leeds International Festival.
2. Chamber heavily involved in the Bradford BID with a successful ballot announced in October 2018.

Brexit

1. Prepared a checklist which sets all of the things businesses need to be considering now in advance of March 29th. Document is available on our website and includes links to all relevant government information.
2. Meetings in our region with a range of key government departments including:
 - a. HM Treasury and HMRC where we discussed future customs arrangements and heard and fed back on government proposals
 - b. Department for International Trade to discuss existing free trade agreements made through the EU and the potential to role this over for the UK. We also discussed new FTAs and members were asked what other countries were of interest.
 - c. Home Office, we met with immigration minister Caroline Noakes MP, and discussed future policies and the impact of EU nationals on local labour markets
 - d. Department for Exiting the EU, met with Lord Bridges and a separate meeting with officials to discuss regulatory divergence and the impact on selling into the EU.

12 November 2018