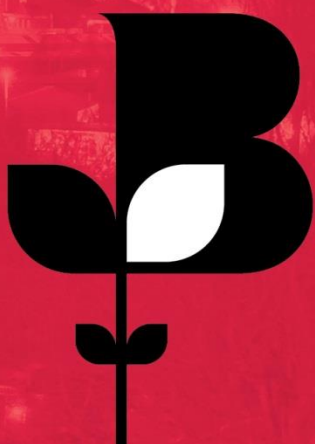


APRIL 2018

# POLICY UPDATE



West & North  
Yorkshire Chamber  
of Commerce  
British Chambers of Commerce  
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# CHAMBER POLICY UPDATE

April 2018

## GENERAL

**Brexit** – a meeting took place with Whitehall officials from DIT on January 31<sup>st</sup> to discuss the Trade White Paper with Chamber members. The event was extremely well attended and member valued the opportunity to speak directly with those who are formulating future trade policy. The Chamber network is also producing a checklist for members to assist in dealing with Brexit related matters. It will be published before the end of March

**QES** – Fieldwork for Q1 QES finished on the 12<sup>th</sup> March, early results show improvements in domestic sales, a slowing in growth of export sales and increasing likelihood of price increases within manufacturing.

**Transport** - The Chamber joined Bradford Council and Leeds City Council at two of Transport for the North's consultation events. Consultation on TFN's strategy ended on 17<sup>th</sup> April.

**Transport (2)** – The Chamber attended a dinner on February 26<sup>th</sup> organised by the Office of Road & Rail, the regulator which oversees important infrastructure operators and delivery organisations. The meeting was attended by TFN chairman John Cridland and Network Rail Director for East Coast, Rob McIntosh. Both have been engaged with future Chamber activities

## BRADFORD

**Growth Strategy** – Bradford Council launched their industrial growth strategy on March 6<sup>th</sup> to an audience of key business and civic leaders. The strategy sets out ambitions to grow GVA by £4bn, get 20,000 more people into work and improve skills of 48,000 residents.

**Transport** - Bradford Leadership Group (30 Jan) – received a presentation on transport from Julian Jackson and specifically the 'Next Stop Bradford' campaign from Social Communications (in which Gerald is heavily involved).

**Bradford Manufacturing Week** – views and thoughts on how this will be promoted, what activities will take place, etc, were considered by a steering group on 7<sup>th</sup> February. The week is planned for October.

**Local Affairs Committee** – met on 7<sup>th</sup> February. Two presentations, both from the Council. One on the findings of a survey from last autumn about views on the city's retail and leisure offer. The findings are currently confidential, but will be used by the BID Development Group as it moves towards a vote on an additional business rate levy for city centre businesses. The second presentation was on the Core Strategy/Local Plan latest news, plus info on transport (NPR, stations masterplan).

## LEEDS

**Skills & Education** – The Chamber was asked to attend a City Council scrutiny enquiry into Information, Advice & Guidance in schools. The purpose of the Inquiry is to make an assessment of and, where appropriate, make recommendations on the following areas:

The strengths and weaknesses of existing IAG provision in Leeds within the context of individuals gaining a good understanding of the local economy and key employment sectors to enable them to make more informed choices about all the possible routes into work.

The implications of new statutory duties and guidance by the Department of Education, including the following:

The Technical and Further Education Act 2017

Careers strategy: making the most of everyone's skills and talents. Department for Education. December 2017.

Careers guidance and access for education and training providers (Statutory guidance for governing bodies, school leaders and school staff). Department for Education. January 2018.

Key principles linked to the development and delivery of a new IAG Charter for Leeds.

Housing - The Chamber's report analysing housing in Leeds is now under production with contributions from planning consultants, house builders, developers and agents. The report entitled Liveability Leeds will be published later in the year.

Leeds Manufacturing Festival – A launch event took place in February for a new initiative to promote manufacturing in the city culminating in a week of activity in October engaging schools with employers.

## **YORK**

**Local Plan** - The City of York Council has announced a final round of consultation about the city's Local Plan. Responses to the two recent city-wide consultations in 2016 and 2017 (both of which the Chamber responded to via the Chamber's Property Forum in York) have helped to shape the final proposals. The results of this final consultation will be submitted directly to the government ahead of an examination by a planning inspector.

In addition the City of York Council intends to have a booklet about the Local Plan delivered to every household in the city so residents can tell the government what they like and dislike about the city's proposed Plan. The booklets will be delivered ahead of the consultation about the Plan which ran from 21 February until 4 April.

As mentioned the Chamber has responded to both previous consultations and has been consistent in expressing its concerns about the lack of provision of commercial land to support economic growth; the reduction in housing numbers without explanation; and too much of a focus upon the York Central site to deliver some the city's housing and commercial land needs without any clear indication of when the site will come to market.

**Property Forum** – met on March 5<sup>th</sup> and heard presentations about procurement from York and North Yorkshire councils. Presentations were also given by Homes England and City of York Council on the progress with the Local Plan. The presenter from COYC had earlier in the day met with the Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, where he had attended a meeting to discuss the city's pressing need to deliver a local plan.

## POLICY MEETINGS – FEBRUARY / MARCH

Chamber	Date	Group/committee/theme	Activity	Who
February				
Bradford	1/2/18	Transport	Development & Transport Forum	MC
Leeds	5/2/18	Education & Skills	Leeds City Council scrutiny enquiry IAG	MG
York	6/2/18	Economy	York Central Forum	IW
Bradford	7/2/18	Economy	Manufacturing week steering group	NG
Bradford	7/2/18	Economy	Local Affairs Committee	MC
Leeds	9/2/18	Brexit	Hilary Benn MP, Brexit Select Committee	MG
Leeds	9/2/18	Transport	LBA + Heathrow logistics hub	MC
Leeds	12/2/18	Brexit	BCC Brexit Checklist	MC
WNY	12/2/18	Economy	BCC Board Strategy meeting	SN
WNY	15/2/18	Transport	Transport for the North consultation	IW
Leeds	16/2/18	Economy	Waterfront update with LCC	MG
WNY	20/2/18	Transport	Meeting Mark Carne, Network Rail	GJ
YNY	21/2/18	Economy	Lunch with Wallace Sampson, Harrogate	SN
Bradford	21/2/18	Professionals Network		MC
Leeds	21/2/18	Economy	Leeds BID Operational meeting	SN
WNY	22/2/18	Economy	Northern Powerhouse Export Awards	SN
Leeds	22/2/18	Economy	Leeds Manufacturing Week launch	MG
WNY	22/2/18	Transport	Rail Industry Leaders Forum	IW
WNY	23/2/18	Brexit	Yorkshire International Relations	MG
WNY	23/2/18	Economy	Speaking engagement with RBS	MG
WNY	26/2/18	Transport	Meeting with WYCA	IW
WNY	26/2/18	Transport	Meeting Office for Road & Rail	MG
WNY	28/2/18	Brexit	Speaking engagement with Grant Thornton	MG
Bradford	28/2/18	Economy	Producer City Board	SN
March				
WNY	1/3/18	Skills	BCC Employment & Skills group	MG
WNY	2/3/18	Economy	Meeting with Tanya Jackson, YBS re RTB	SN
WNY	5/3/18	Transport	TFN consultation	IW
York	5/3/18	York Property Forum		MG
Bradford	6/3/18	Economy	Bradford Economic Growth Strategy	GJ
WNY	6/3/18	Skills	Meeting with Anne Milton MP	MG
WNY	7/3/18	Economy	Patrons dinner Westminster	GJ

WNY	8/3/18	Economy	BCC Annual Conference	SN
WNY	8/3/18	Transport	Northern Rail stakeholders dinner	IW
Leeds	9/3/18	Leeds Leadership Group		PD
WNY	12/3/18	Economy	QES fieldwork Q1 closes	MG
WNY	12/3/18	Brexit	Round table with Leeds City Council	MG
Bradford	13/3/18	Economy	Bradford PF steering group	SN
WNY	13/3/18	Economy	RTB steering group	SN
York	13/3/18	York Leadership Group		BD
York	14/3/18	Economy	York Central Forum	IW
Bradford	14/3/18	Economy	Bradford BID development board	SN
Leeds	14/3/18	Environment	LCC resilience & stewardship	MG
Leeds	14/3/18	Environment	Leeds Climate Commission	MG
WNY	15/3/18	Economy	BCC dinner	SN
WNY	15/3/18	Transport	Rail Industry Leaders Group	IW
Bradford	15/3/18	Economy	BMW 18 steering group	NG
WNY	15/3/18	Devolution	Meeting with James Flannagan WYCA	MG
WNY	16/3/18	Economy	BCC board meeting	SN
WNY	16/3/18	Transport Group meeting		SG
Leeds	19/3/18	Transport	Meeting with Leeds BID re P&R	IW
WNY	19/3/18	Brexit	BCC CEO Brexit conference call	SN
Leeds	20/3/18	Economy	BID office working group	MG
Bradford	20/3/18	Bradford Leadership Group		NG
Leeds	20/3/18	Leeds Property Forum		JP
WNY	21/3/18	Economy	BCC strategic policy group	MC
Leeds	21/3/18	Leeds BID board meeting		SN
WNY	21/3/18	Economy	Leeds City Region Industrial Strategy	MG
WNY	21/3/18	Economy	LEP Business Communications Group	IW
WNY	22/3/18	Brexit	Brexit Select Sommittee meeting	SN
WNY	23/3/18	Education & Skills	Meeting with DFE	MG
Bradford	23/3/18	Economy	Breakthrough meeting with MPs	SN
Leeds	27/3/18	Economy	Housing group meeting	DR

Key:

SN = Sandy Needham; MG = Mark Goldstone; MC = Mike Cartwright; IW = Ian Williams; JP = Jeff Pearey; EK = Eamonn Keogh; AD = Andrew Digwood; SG = Sara Gilmore; GJ = Gerlad Jennings;

PD = Paula Dillon; AL = Andrew Latchmore; NG = Nick Garthwaite; DR = Dave Rolinson; AB = Allan Booth