

JANUARY 2018

# POLICY UPDATE



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

# CHAMBER POLICY UPDATE

December 2017

## GENERAL

**Brexit** – a meeting has been scheduled with the Dept for International Trade for 31 January to discuss the Trade White Paper with Chamber members. (Separate report to follow on this.)

**QES** – Results for Q4 were published on 22 January. The last quarter of 2017 ended on a slightly cautious note for manufacturers following three quarters of strong growth. All measures finished higher than the same point twelve months ago and companies expect to see profits increase over the next twelve months, although that will be down to cost cutting and price increase rather solely growth in sales.

The regional service sector finished on a high domestically, as home sales reached a two year peak. Given it makes up nearly 80% of the business base this is a good indicator of the regional fortunes. Employment growth within the sector remains positive

**Transport** – A meeting between Network Rail CEO and Northern Chambers has now been confirmed and will take place on 20 February. Along with CEO Mark Carne, we are also expecting NR Chairman Peter Hendy along with a rail minister (TBC). The meeting will be in two parts with a meeting of up to 100 delegates preceded by a smaller round table meeting with key chamber contacts from across the north.

**Devolution** – the results of the Chamber devolution poll were shared with DCLG Secretary Sajid Javid and Northern Powerhouse minister Jake Berry. Following a six-week fieldwork period the response from business was overall support for devolved powers, with 48% of businesses saying they would like to see a devolution settlement which took in the largest possible Yorkshire geography. 26% favoured a county settlement and just 18% favoured a settlement focused on city regions in West and North Yorkshire. We have since heard back from Jake Berry although we now need to press him on our offer of broker in talks with the business community.

**Productivity** – The Chamber is looking to host a meeting with Sir Charlie Mayfield in his capacity as chair of the [Productivity Leadership Group](#) and which recently launched the 'Be the Business' peer comparison and benchmarking tool. (Date TBC.)

**HM Treasury** – The Chamber was scheduled to host a visit by Andrew Jones MP, Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury on 12 January. Andrew moved as part of the cabinet re-shuffle to become Conservative Party Vice-Chairman.

## BRADFORD

**Growth Strategy** – The process to complete the growth strategy has entered its final phase and the Chamber has provided its views and comments on the end report which have all been incorporated. A launch date in March 2018 is being aimed for.

## LEEDS

**Sustainable Development** – The Chamber was invited to attend a Council scrutiny committee meeting to discuss its policy on sustainable development. The Chamber presented views formulated by the Leeds Property Forum.

**Talent & Skills** – the Leeds Leadership Group heard a presentation from the City Council about the emerging talent & skills plan. A formal response has been [submitted](#).

**Housing** – Chamber housing group have expressed [concerns](#) that the recently proposed DCLG standardised methodology for calculating housing targets could lead to a 39% reduction in the target as laid out in the Core Strategy. Further analysis is being carried out by the group but

they are concerned that such a drastic reduction sends the wrong message about ambition for economic growth in the city. The formula reduces the housing targets for all parts of our region except York (although as it doesn't have a Local Plan this is a moot point).

**Air Quality** – Leeds City Council plans for the creation of a Clean Air Zone are now open to public consultation. The Chamber's Transport Group will be responding on behalf of the wider membership.

**Waterfront** – The Chamber in partnership with Leeds City Council and partners has prepared a draft Waterfront Charter which sets out the city's commitment and intent to create a world class waterfront for Leeds. The charter sets out roles and responsibilities and aims to encourage partners to work together to find solutions to challenges in an open and collaborative way.

## YORK

**York Central Site** - The York Chamber of Commerce represents the West & North Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce as a member of the York Central Community Forum which is part of the wider public engagement about the York Central site. Plans for the regeneration of the site have been ongoing for a considerable number of years however the provision of adequate access and necessary funding has often proved a barrier. However a recent consultation about access resulted in a preference for access from the west of the site. This has been supported by the City of York Council and will now lead to more detailed traffic and environmental studies being undertaken with a view to a planning application for the route being made in 2018. Regular presentations on progress will be provided at meetings of the Chamber's Property Forum in York.

**A64/ Hopgrove Roundabout.** Highways England has announced that four detailed options are now being worked up to provide dual carriageway to replace the single carriageway east of the Hopgrove junction to the east of York. This comes after Highways England recently concluded that to improve the Hopgrove junction without addressing the adjacent single carriageway would "fail to address the aims to improve congestion, safety and resilience on this corridor".

Experts from Highways England are now looking in detail at the potential environmental impacts of each of the upgrading options and will assess the costs and benefits of each option. A public consultation will take place in mid-2018 on the options for upgrading the A64 and the Hopgrove junction. The Chamber will look to actively engage members in the consultation.

## December / January Policy Meetings

Chamber	Date	Committee / theme	Activity	Who
<b>December</b>				
York	4/12/17	York Property Forum	Steering group	EK
York	4/12/17	York Property Forum	Full Forum	EK
Leeds	5/12/17	Leeds Property Forum	Full Forum	JP
York	6/12/17	York Leadership Group		AD
WNY	6/12/17	Economy	LCR LEP – Business Communications	MG
York	6/12/17	Economy	York Central Community Forum	IW
WNY	7/12/17	Economy	BCC CEO	SN
WNY	8/12/17	Transport	Chamber Transport group	SG
Leeds	11/12/17	Economy	Leeds Climate Commission Strategy	MG
WNY	11/12/17	Economy	Business North steering group	SN
Bradford	12/12/17	Economy	Bradford BID steering group	SN

WNY	13/12/17	Economy	BCC Strategic Policy Group	MG
WNY	14/12/17	Economy	BCC Board	SN
Leeds	14/12/17	Leeds Property Forum	QPS group	SS
York	14/12/17	Economy	Meeting with YNYER LEP	IW
Bradford	14/12/17	Bradford Property Forum	Employment Land group	MC
Leeds	15/12/17	Leeds Property Forum	Waterfront group	GJ
Leeds	20/12/17	Transport	Public Bike Share	MC
<b>January</b>				
Bradford	4/1/18	Economy	Meet Michael Jamieson, BMDC	SN
WNY	5/1/18	Economy	LCR LEP re QES	MG
York	5/1/18	Transport	A64 Partnership group	IW
Leeds	5/1/18	Economy	Team Leeds	SN
WNY	9/1/18	Transport	Northern Rail Industry Leaders	IW
Bradford	9/1/18	Economy	Bradford BID	SN
Bradford	11/1/18	Bradford Professionals Network	Steering group	SN
Leeds	12/1/18	Leeds Leadership Group		PD
Leeds	11/1/18	Economy	Leeds City Centre Partnership	MG
York	11/1/18	Economy	York Central Community Forum	IW
WNY	12/1/18	Devolution	APPG Y&H	IW
WNY	12/1/18	Economy	Andrew Jones MP (postponed)	MG
Leeds	16/1/18	Economy	Leeds BID Group	MG
WNY	16/1/18	Transport	TFN Strategic Priorities launch	IW
Leeds	18/1/18	Leeds Property Forum	Steering group	JP
Leeds	18/1/18	Leeds Property Forum	Planning group	AB
Leeds	23/1/18	Leeds Property Forum	Housing group	DR
Bradford	23/1/18	Economy	Social Value & Inclusive Growth Group	MC
Leeds	24/1/18	Leeds BID	Board	SN
Leeds	25/1/18	Leeds Property Forum	Waterfront group	GJ
Bradford	30/1/18	Bradford Leadership Group		NG
WNY	31/1/18	Brexit	Meeting with Dept for International Trade	AL

**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