

POLICY UPDATE

March 2021



West & North
Yorkshire Chamber
of Commerce
British Chambers of Commerce
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Regional / National

Economy – In response to the coronavirus outbreak the Chamber has created access to relevant information to help businesses through these difficult times, details can be found here www.wnychamber.co.uk/coronavirus

Brexit – The Chamber continues to support businesses get used to new trade procedures following the end of the Transition Period. More information here www.wnychamber.co.uk/europe. The most common questions being raised relate to Rules of Origin, but other concerns over VAT payments and transition documents.

Brexit (2) – Government has announced £20million of support for SMEs to help them adjust to new trading arrangements with the EU. More details [here](#)

Brexit (3) – Government has delayed plans for checks on food and drink imports from the EU. Easements on procedures on products subject to [SPS](#) requirements were due to finish at the end of March, however this has now been extended to December 31st 2021. The Chamber had lobbied government saying that these checks would come into force around the same time as plans to reopen the hospitality sector and that firms were not prepared, the full responses is available [here](#)

Social Impact – The Chamber has launched a campaign urging companies to ‘Make a pledge’. Introduced as part of the Chamber’s ‘Raising the Bar’ dedicated social responsibility programme, the new ‘Make a Pledge’ initiative aims to encourage businesses and teams across the region to consider how and where they can make a difference. Details [here](#)

Budget – The Chancellor set out plans for a new investment allowance as part of the 2021 budget. The ‘Super-Deduction’ allowance allows firms to claim 130% tax relief on capital investment made in financial year 2021-22. The full Chamber response to the budget is available [here](#)

COVID – The government has announced plans to provide free workplace testing to businesses across the country, more information available [here](#)

Bradford

Economic recovery – Bradford MDC have published their post-pandemic economic recovery plan. The full details can be found [here](#)

Transport – Bradford Council has announced details for the proposed city centre station for Northern Powerhouse Rail. The proposed station will be at the six-acre St James’s Market site at Essex Street which is owned by the Council. The site is close to the existing Bradford Interchange station and as part of future plans this station will be closed. More details [here](#)

Planning - The Chamber has submitted formal representations to Bradford Council’s draft Local Plan. The submission was developed and signed off by leaders of Bradford Chamber’s Property Forum Steering Group, following several meetings and events with members. The submission notes that, in several ways, the aspirations of the District’s Economic Strategy, in terms of job creation and economic growth, are not supported by the policies of the Local Plan. In particular, the submission questions the Plan’s housing needs forecast and reiterates previous concerns about the shortage of employment land sites.

Leeds

Environment – The Chamber has been asked to contribute to the Leeds Climate Commission's policy development relating to the decarbonising commercial property.

Economy – Arup are consulting with stakeholders, including the Chamber, about the future of the city, towns and district centres within Leeds. The consultation is exploring post-Covid changes in the way people are likely to live, work, play, travel and spend.

York & North Yorkshire

Devolution – The Chamber has responded to a government consultation about the future governance arrangements across York & North Yorkshire. Plans put forward by North Yorkshire County Council, and supported by the Chamber, would see the abolition of the existing 7 district authorities to be replaced by a single unitary North Yorkshire Council. Reorganisation is a requirement laid out by Whitehall ahead of any future devolution settlement. Full details can be found [here](#)

Economy – The York & North Yorkshire LEP have appointed a new chair. Helen Simpson OBE has replaced David Kerfoot who stands down from the board after 10 years. More information available [here](#)

Media Coverage

March: <https://share.coveragebook.com/b/8136f73bcb9dd68b>

Sources of local authority Covid grant support

Local Authority	Website	Contact details
Leeds	https://www.leeds.gov.uk/coronavirus/business#small	
Bradford	https://www.bradford.gov.uk/business/help-for-businesses/coronavirus-covid-19-support-for-business/#brr	business.rates@bradford.gov.uk 01274 437744
York	https://www.york.gov.uk/COVIDBusinessGrant	01904 551550
Harrogate	https://www.harrogate.gov.uk/info/20202/business_support/1310/business_rates_coronavirus_grants	01423 500600
Selby	https://www.selby.gov.uk/covid-19-business-grants	01757 705101
Craven	https://www.cravenc.gov.uk/business/business-rates/business-rates-government-grants/	01756 700600
Ryedale	https://www.ryedale.gov.uk/covid-19-2020/support-for-businesses.html	01653 600666
Richmondshire	https://www.richmondshire.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/coronavirus/support-for-businesses/apply-for-business-grant-covid-19/	01748 829100
Scarborough	https://www.scarborough.gov.uk/home/business-licensing-and-grants/small-business-grant-fund-and-retail-hospitality-and-leisure	01723 232323
North Yorkshire CC	https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/help-your-business-during-coronavirus-covid-19	01609 780780
Hambleton	https://www.hambleton.gov.uk/info/20038/health_and_wellbeing/1043/coronavirus_covid-19/6	01609 779977
Wakefield	http://www.wakefield.gov.uk/business/business-rates/reliefs/small-business-grant	01977 727 121 nndr@wakefield.gov.uk
Kirklees	https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/health-and-well-being/coronavirus-businesses-and-self-employed.aspx#grants	business.rates@kirklees.gov.uk 01484 414941