

POLICY UPDATE

August 2021



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

Economy – The Chamber quarterly economic survey highlighted a surge in demand as the economy began to reopen. The [survey](#) also warned of increasing inflationary pressures as freight movements and the availability of raw materials have all been significantly disrupted through Covid and Brexit.

Rail Services – The Chamber submitted comments to train operating companies as part of their consultations on new timetables for 2022. Included in our comments were calls for better connectivity and reliability, and services that support post-Covid economic recovery. We noted that some proposals around service changes contradicted the Government's 'Levelling Up' agenda. On 25 August, it was announced that the industry will not introduce a new timetable in May 2022.

Fair Work Charter – The Chamber joined a recent meeting at Bradford University, chaired by new West Yorkshire Mayor, Tracey Brabin. The Mayor hopes to develop a 'Fair Work Charter', whereby employers, unions and other stakeholders volunteer to help raise employment standards through various measures, e.g. security, flexibility, wage levels. The Mayor is using [Manchester](#) and [Liverpool](#) as successful examples of how a charter can make a difference.

Website – The Policy & Representation section of the website has undergone significant changes, including a clearer home/first page, more links, updated committee lists and better explanation/analysis of the team's work and activities.

<https://www.wnychamber.co.uk/representation/>

Transport – The Chamber in partnership with counterparts in the East and West Midlands, Greater Manchester has [written](#) an open letter to Prime Minister, the Chancellor and the Transport Secretary setting out our position on HS2 East as rumours of it being mothballed emerge.

Bradford

Economic Development & Communications - Bradford Council has appointed a new Assistant Director for Economic Development, Angela Blake, who has moved from Kirklees Council. The Council is also currently recruiting a new Head of Communications & Marketing. The Chamber has been involved in both recruitment processes, sitting on the Partnership Panel for both roles.

Property Forum – Jonathan O'Connor has succeeded Marianne McCallum as Chair of Bradford Chamber Property Forum. He took over during July's Steering Group meeting. Jonathan is a Director with Walker Singleton, and is already a member of Bradford's Leadership Group.

Leeds

Bank of England – The Chamber met with the Bank of England's Chief Operating Officer, Jo Place, in July. Jo discussed the Bank's plans to create a Northern Hub in Leeds.

Brexit – The Chamber met with leader of Leeds City Council and other senior politicians to discuss Brexit impact on businesses across the city. The meeting follows on from the publication of the Chamber's Q1 [impact assessment](#)

Property Forum – The Leeds Property Forum Steering Group recruited 3 new members. Leah Stuart from Civic Engineers, Lisa Littlefair from Mott MacDonald and Gurminder Sanghera from AHR joined the group in July.

York & North Yorkshire

Transport – The Chamber has joined the York Freight Forum where discussions are taking place over freight movements and in particular their impact on air quality around York city centre.

Devolution – MHCLG Secretary of State, Robert Jenrick has approved a proposal for reorganisation on local government in North Yorkshire. The proposals, [supported by the Chamber](#), would see the abolition of the current districts to be replaced by a single unitary North Yorkshire Council. This would pave the way towards a devolution agreement and a directly elected mayor with responsibility for the economy across York and North Yorkshire.

Media Coverage

July: <https://share.coveragebook.com/b/403f664f645633af>

August: <https://share.coveragebook.com/b/7e3ae26c7bdd7f61>

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
Calderdale	https://www.calderdale.gov.uk/v2/businesses/business-rates/covid-19-business-support	