

A man wearing glasses and a light-colored shirt is in a warehouse. He is holding a clipboard in his left hand and pointing with his right hand towards a high shelf filled with cardboard boxes. The entire image has a red tint and a white rounded rectangle overlay containing the text.

# POLICY UPDATE

December 2021



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



# POLICY UPDATE : DECEMBER 2021

## Regional / National

**Transport** – The Chamber Transport Group met in December following the publication of the Integrated Rail Plan. The group heard from the DFT about plans to downgrade previous intentions to build HS2 in full and NPR, including a Bradford city centre station. The Bradford subdivision met prior to the WNY-wide meeting to deliberate on how to best serve the interests of the City following the release of the IRP.

**Transport (2)**- The first meeting of the BCC Network Transport Group was held, with a member of the WNY Chamber policy team serving as Vice Chair. The Group's premise is to align Chambers on common infrastructural policy topics and provide advisory and research support for BCC's transport-related lobbying in Whitehall.

**International** – The Chamber met with UK Israel Business to pursue an opportunity in working together to promote WNY – Israeli trade, with the aim of recruiting a number of UKIB members into the Chamber and/or promoting the work of Chamber International.

**Fair Work Charter** – The West Yorkshire Mayor's plan to replicate Manchester's 'Good Employment Charter' continued with another Steering Group meeting. Stakeholders are being encouraged to consult with their relevant members and partners in the new year in the hope that the Charter can be signed off in February and launched in March.

## Bradford

**MP's Breakfast** – The Chamber attended a breakfast hosted by Philip Davies MP at which Tracey Brabin was the speaker. The West Yorkshire Mayor faced questions on several business/economy issues, including the Government's recent rail announcements, and harnessing talent and skills for the local economy.

**Planning & Development** – Property Forum representatives raised various issues and concerns with senior Council officers at two recent meetings, while again offering business knowledge and expertise in these areas. Limitations within the Draft Local Plan, likely to hinder housing and employment allocations, were highlighted in a private meeting with Julian Jackson, Assistant Director for Planning, and also at a wider Development & Transport Forum.

**Economy** – Bank of England Deputy Agent for Yorkshire, Paul Mount, presented to the Leadership Group, confirming that much of their existing data chimes with what members are telling us about economic trends. Supply chain problems, inflationary pressure and labour shortages continue to make the headlines.

## Leeds

**Tech sector** – an inaugural round table meeting took place looking into opportunities and challenges for the Chamber in working with the Leeds tech sector. The meeting was dominated by a discussion over access to skills and talent. A follow up meeting is scheduled for January

**Property Forum** - The first in-person property forum event for nearly 2 years took place in December where we heard from Mott MacDonald about their new report, “A place based approach to net-zero”. The meeting also heard about developments being proposed through the successful bid into the Government’s Town’s Fund which will see £24.3m being invested in Morley.

**Skills** – The Chamber met with Leeds City Council to discuss the impact of Brexit on skills and future talent, and shared notes on findings

**Environment** – Plans are progressing to deliver a funding vehicle to support Natural Flood Management investment in the River Aire catchment area. The initiative, which has spun out of conversations between the Environment Agency, Chamber and Leeds City Council has secured funding to develop the plans further. A steering group including the Chamber along with a small group of key stakeholders has been formed.

## York & North Yorkshire

**Skills** - Discussions continue with City of York Council, the Chamber and regional stakeholders to look at opportunities for the rail industry and a bid to be the host city for the proposed HQ for Great British Railways. December’s meeting explored the existing skills base and potential future opportunities to grow the sector within York.

## Media Coverage

December: <https://share.coveragebook.com/b/c3eec46a038a2362>

## Meetings

Date	Stakeholder meeting
1/12/21	Network Rail - Leeds Station
1/12/21	Leeds Property Forum Steering Group
1/12/21	YNY LEP Economic Intelligence meeting
1/12/21	Bradford Communications Group
1/12/21	Bradford Bulls' Partners Event
2/12/21	Philip Davies MP Breakfast Briefing
2/12/21	Covance – meeting to discuss future skills needs
2/12/21	YNY LEP Skills & Employability Board meeting
3/12/21	York Council - Rail Skills Virtual Roundtable
3/12/21	Tech Breakfast
6/12/21	BCC Network Transport Group
6/12/21	Transport Policy Catch-up with Chair from Arup
7/12/21	Bradford Property Forum Transport Group
7/12/21	BCC Employment & Skills Group meeting
7/12/21	Economic briefing given to LNER senior management team
7/12/21	UK Israel Business meeting
7/12/21	Leeds Property Forum
8/12/21	Bradford Development & Transport Forum
8/12/21	York Business Leaders Roundtable
9/12/21	Leeds City Council skills and future talent meeting
10/12/21	Chamber Transport Group
10/12/21	Hilary Benn MP – meeting and tour of UTC Leeds
13/12/21	Environment Agency – NFM funding vehicle legal entity
14/12/21	Bank of England Briefing
14/12/21	Chamber Transport Group Chair planning meeting
14/12/21	BCC QES Findings (for affiliated Chambers)
16/12/21	BCC Climate Challenge Group
16/12/21	BCC Levelling Up Group

## Sources of local authority Covid grant support

Local Authority	Website	Contact details
Leeds	<a href="https://www.leeds.gov.uk/coronavirus/business#small">https://www.leeds.gov.uk/coronavirus/business#small</a>	
Bradford	<a href="https://www.bradford.gov.uk/business/help-for-businesses/coronavirus-covid-19-support-for-business/#brr">https://www.bradford.gov.uk/business/help-for-businesses/coronavirus-covid-19-support-for-business/#brr</a>	<a href="mailto:business.rates@bradford.gov.uk">business.rates@bradford.gov.uk</a> 01274 437744
York	<a href="https://www.york.gov.uk/COVIDBusinessGrant">https://www.york.gov.uk/COVIDBusinessGrant</a>	01904 551550
Harrogate	<a href="https://www.harrogate.gov.uk/info/20202/business_support/1310/business_rates_coronavirus_grants">https://www.harrogate.gov.uk/info/20202/business_support/1310/business_rates_coronavirus_grants</a>	01423 500600
Selby	<a href="https://www.selby.gov.uk/covid-19-business-grants">https://www.selby.gov.uk/covid-19-business-grants</a>	01757 705101
Craven	<a href="https://www.cravenc.gov.uk/business/business-rates/business-rates-government-grants/">https://www.cravenc.gov.uk/business/business-rates/business-rates-government-grants/</a>	01756 700600
Ryedale	<a href="https://www.ryedale.gov.uk/covid-19-2020/support-for-businesses.html">https://www.ryedale.gov.uk/covid-19-2020/support-for-businesses.html</a>	01653 600666
Richmondshire	<a href="https://www.richmondshire.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/coronavirus/support-for-businesses/apply-for-business-grant-covid-19/">https://www.richmondshire.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/coronavirus/support-for-businesses/apply-for-business-grant-covid-19/</a>	01748 829100
Scarborough	<a href="https://www.scarborough.gov.uk/home/business-licensing-and-grants/small-business-grant-fund-and-retail-hospitality-and-leisure">https://www.scarborough.gov.uk/home/business-licensing-and-grants/small-business-grant-fund-and-retail-hospitality-and-leisure</a>	01723 232323
North Yorkshire CC	<a href="https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/help-your-business-during-coronavirus-covid-19">https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/help-your-business-during-coronavirus-covid-19</a>	01609 780780
Hambleton	<a href="https://www.hambleton.gov.uk/info/20038/health_and_wellbeing/1043/coronavirus_covid-19/6">https://www.hambleton.gov.uk/info/20038/health_and_wellbeing/1043/coronavirus_covid-19/6</a>	01609 779977
Wakefield	<a href="http://www.wakefield.gov.uk/business/business-rates/reliefs/small-business-grant">http://www.wakefield.gov.uk/business/business-rates/reliefs/small-business-grant</a>	01977 727 121 <a href="mailto:nndr@wakefield.gov.uk">nndr@wakefield.gov.uk</a>
Kirklees	<a href="https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/health-and-well-being/coronavirus-businesses-and-self-employed.aspx#grants">https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/health-and-well-being/coronavirus-businesses-and-self-employed.aspx#grants</a>	<a href="mailto:business.rates@kirklees.gov.uk">business.rates@kirklees.gov.uk</a> 01484 414941
Calderdale	<a href="https://www.calderdale.gov.uk/v2/businesses/business-rates/covid-19-business-support">https://www.calderdale.gov.uk/v2/businesses/business-rates/covid-19-business-support</a>	