

POLICY UPDATE

May 2022



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

Skills – The Department for Education has put out a call for expressions of interest from employer representative bodies (ERB) to lead the Local Skills Improvement Plans for up to 40 English economic regions. The Chamber will be looking to submit EOIs for West Yorkshire MCA and York & North Yorkshire LEP areas. [LSIPs](#) will be employer led and aim to identify skills needed by firms and direct colleges and training providers with their delivery

Skills (2) – The Chamber has been selected as the designated ERB for submissions by West Yorkshire Consortium of Colleges and the York & North Yorkshire Colleges Network into the round 2 [Strategic Development Fund](#). This is significant as it will aid the Chamber's bid to lead LSIPs in the 2 locations.

Skills (3) – The Chamber met with the Department for Work & Pensions to discuss [Way to Work](#), a new initiative to help employers with their recruitment needs.

Transport – The Chamber met with Rail Minister, Andrew Stephenson MP to discuss and share the views of members around the fall out from the Integrated Rail Plan and the proposed consultation about how to bring HS2 trains into Leeds following the cancellation of the eastern leg.

Transport (2) – The Chamber penned the British Chamber of Commerce's HS2 Spring Review submission on behalf of the Chamber Network.

Bradford

City of Learning – the Chamber is involved in a focus group being led by Bradford Council on the potential awarding of 'City of Learning' status by the Royal Society of Arts. The policy team, Bradford Council and other key stakeholders such as education institutions met with RSA representatives to discuss local education and skills initiatives and issues and more discussion are due over the summer.

Property Sector & Infrastructure – Bradford Chamber's Property Forum was attended by circa 40-plus business people, who heard about 'One City Park', what 'Levelling Up' might do for Bradford District, and the latest regeneration and infrastructure projects. It was the first in-person BPF in more than two years.

Skills Month – Plans continue to be developed for a Bradford Skills Month in October. This brings together Bradford Manufacturing Weeks, Teck Week and Care/Healthcare, with lots of activities and events promoted to young people.

MPs – The team were represented at a business breakfast with Philip Davies in May.

Leeds

Leeds Leadership Group – the LLG met with Mike Hawking, Chief of Staff for Mayor of West Yorkshire Tracy Brabin. Mike shared details of the mayor’s first 12 months in office and the initiatives which she has championed. The group had the chance to discuss the next 12 months and the expectations of business.

Skills – The LLG also heard from Eve Roodhouse, Chief Officer Culture & Economy at Leeds City Council about the proposed Future Talent Leeds strategy. The Chamber has contributed to this as a member of the strategic steering group and members were able to hear the final draft ahead of its publication later in the summer.

Skills (2) – The Chamber chaired a WYCA Higher Level Skills round table which was attended by regional manufacturers in Leeds. The meeting shared insight into the impacts of Industry 4.0, net-zero and customer needs on the future of skills needed.

Leeds Beckett University – The Chamber accepted a role to sit on an advisory panel for Leeds Beckett University, shaping the development of internship programmes and Masters courses.

Waterfront – The Leeds Waterfront Group was restarted in May following it being paused during Covid. The group agreed to review the Waterfront Charter and also heard about plans for extending the Leeds BID area to take in the South Bank when it comes up for renewal in 2025.

Digital - The Chamber attended the Leeds Digital Forum, engaging with the local tech sector in the interest of the Chamber’s increasing role within the regional industry.

York & North Yorkshire

Planning – The Chamber gave evidence into the York Local Plan hearings which took place in May. Our position is that the Local Plan needs to acknowledge the need for more office and employment land allocations along with housing numbers which will enable more affordable homes to retain young professionals in the city.

Property Forum – The York Property Forum met at newly refurbished Guildhall. Built in the 15th century, the building took significant damage from bombing in WW2 but has now been upgraded and will be a home for start-up businesses, working with the University of York

Inward Investment – The Chamber has sent in letters of support to the Secretary of State for Transport for City of York to be the preferred location of proposed headquarters for Great British Rail.

Media Coverage

May: <https://share.coveragebook.com/b/1c17d4f7900b2459>

Stakeholder Meetings

(Plus 10 meetings with members on 'future workforce and engaging schools' topic listed above)

Date	Stakeholder meeting
04-05-22	BCC Transport Policy Group
04-05-22	Leeds Digital Forum
05-05-22	Leeds Manufacturing Festival review
05-05-22	Leeds Waterfront Committee
05-05-22	Meeting with WYCA skills policy team re LSIPs
05-05-22	Meeting with Department for Levelling Up, Communities & Housing
06-05-22	Meeting with Chris Lane, NHS Hospitals Build Programme Manager
05-05-22	Meeting re YNY colleges SDF bid
06-05-22	Bank of England Stakeholder Engagement
09-05-22	Meeting with Department for Education
09-05-22	Meeting with WYCA
09-05-22	UK In A Changing Europe webinar – UK-EU Future Relations
10-05-22	Meeting with Department for Work & Pensions
10-05-22	Meeting with WYCA
10-05-22	BPF Steering Group
10-05-22	Meeting with York St John University
11-05-22	York Local Plan inquiry - Economy
11-05-22	Meeting with Leeds Beckett University
12-05-22	York Local Plan Inquiry - Housing
12-05-22	WYCA Higher Level Skills for Manufacturing round table
12-05-22	Meeting with Jason Longhurst, Bradford Council
12-05-22	Bradford Skills Month Focus Group
13-05-22	Meeting with YNY LEP re tech group initiative
13-05-22	Leeds Rail Programme Board
13-05-22	Morley Town's Fund – Education Skills sub-group
13-05-22	Philip Davies MP Business Breakfast
14-05-22	Meeting with Leeds Council regarding Active Travel
16-05-22	Centre for Cities seminar – Levelling Up: 100 Days On
17-05-22	Meeting with Guardian/Observer Senior Economics Correspondent

17-05-22	Simon Dew, Muse Developments re One City Park & BPF event
18-05-22	Morley Towns Fund – main board meeting
18-05-22	Higher York Board update re LSIPs
18-05-22	Meeting with UK Israel Business
18-05-22	BCC Policy Network meeting
19-05-22	Leeds Manufacturing Alliance steering group meeting
19-05-22	Meeting with Onwards – policy think tank
20-05-22	Leeds Leadership Group meeting
20-05-22	Meeting with Mid Yorkshire Chamber re LSIP
23-05-22	Quality Places & Spaces Group meeting
24-05-22	Meeting with Leeds University Business School re Migration research group
24-05-22	Meeting with Bank of England
24-05-22	Bradford Property Forum
24-05-22	BCC Trade Policy Committee
25-05-22	UK Israel Business Breakfast
25-05-22	York Property Forum - Guildhall
25-05-22	Engineering Works Roundtable held by Network Rail
25-05-22	Meeting with Leeds City Council re procurement
26-05-22	York & North Yorkshire LEP Employment & Skills Board meeting
26-05-22	Meeting with Leeds Trinity Computer Science Department
26-05-22	BCC Climate Challenge Group meeting
26-05-22	BAME Committee
26-05-22	Bradford Skills Month Focus Group
27-05-22	Meeting with City of York Council
30-05-22	Meeting with Department for Transport & Rail Minister Andrew Stephenson
30-05-22	Royal Society of Arts Focus Group – Bradford as potential ‘City of Learning’
31-05-22	Meeting with TechUK
31-05-22	Meeting with WYCA Skills for Growth team

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	