

# POLICY UPDATE

June 2022



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

# POLICY UPDATE : JUNE 2022

## Regional / National

**Skills** – Expressions of interest were submitted to the Department for Education to be the designated Employer Representative Body to lead on the Government’s Local Skills Improvement Plans for West Yorkshire MCA and the York & North Yorkshire LEP. A decision is expected towards the end of July

**Economy** – The latest Chamber QES highlights huge inflationary pressures which are now having a material impact on regional firms and their growth ambitions. Full details [here](#)

**Recruitment & Retention** – With the tight labour market causing increasing difficulties for firms recruiting and retaining staff, we have asked all our policy groups what new measures or incentives they have introduced or in the pipeline to counter the issues.

**International Trade** – we continue to meet monthly with the BCC Trade Policy Group (online) to share views on international trade. This is a ‘two-way street’ with BCC updating individual Chambers on the latest free trade agreement negotiations with various countries, and us feeding in particular issues and case studies brought to us by members. Particular concern currently remains around the Northern Ireland Protocol.

## Bradford

**Council Officer Updates** – We recently met with Cllr Alex Ross-Shaw, Executive Member for Regeneration & Planning. Pre-Covid, there was regular contact but this dropped off during that period. Quarterly meetings are now scheduled to update Alex on topical business issues

**Leadership Group** – The June meeting focused on skills and recruitment. Updates were provided on October’s Bradford Skills Month, the incentives/rewards activity mentioned above, and the Chamber’s bid to lead the delivery of two Local Skills Improvement Plans (one each for West and North Yorkshire). The group also discussed the impact of the cost of living situation, how firms are handling it, and what measures may help them.

**MPs** – Philip Davies and Judith Cummins both spoke at a lunch event in June. They were asked to cover four areas:

1. The current cost of living crisis – what should be done for business, esp SMEs?
2. Levelling Up – will it work for Bradford District?
3. City of Culture bid – what can it do for businesses in Bradford?
4. Employment land shortages and the Local Plan – in our view, the Council seem unwilling/unable to square the circle on this. They think building residential in the city centre cures all issues, and fail to fully acknowledge our emp land concerns, as first flagged up in this report.



## Leeds

**Workforce** – The Chamber has contributed to research being conducted by Leeds University Business School looking into labour force mobility in relation to EU citizens. This is an extension of a project started after the EU referendum result. More information available [here](#)

**Team Leeds** – The regular catch up meeting between the 8 Leeds MPs, the City Council leader, CEO and senior directors along with the Chamber and key stakeholders took place in June. The meeting discussed Levelling Up Fund bids and transport infrastructure projects linked to City Square upgrades.

**Infrastructure** – Chamber CEO James Mason, was a panellist at a Centre for Cities conference in Leeds, entitled, “Realising Regional Growth UK - What Next For West Yorkshire?”. Other participants included Lord Sainsbury and West Yorkshire Mayor Tracy Brabin

## York & North Yorkshire

**Leadership Group** - The group met in June and discussed the Levelling Up agenda and what it could mean for York & North Yorkshire

**Skills** – The Chamber has been part of the team which wrote City of York Council’s 10 year skills strategy, this was launched in June.

**York Digital** - Attendees agreed and arrangements made for the first York Digital Roundtable. Working in partnership with key regional actors, including the leaders at the YNY LEP and the VC of the University of York taking personal interests, the project is shaping up to be a far-reaching collaboration between the public, private and institutional bodies.

**Net Zero Tourism** – Working with regional partners to explore opportunities for growth capitalising on York and North Yorkshire’s strong net-zero/circular economy credentials/potential.

**Levelling Up** – The Chamber met with Harrogate DC to discuss our support for a bid into the Levelling Up Fund. The bid would be put towards funding redevelopment of the International Convention Centre

## Media Coverage

June: <https://share.coveragebook.com/b/45fa8cf0a0e34345>

## Stakeholder Meetings

Date	Stakeholder meeting
01-06-22	Meeting with York St John University re Data dashboard
07-06-22	YNY LEP Circular Economy working group –sustainable tourism
07-06-22	Resolution Foundation – <a href="#">report launch</a>
07-06-22	Meeting Cllr Alex Ross-Shaw- Bradford MDC
07-06-22	YNY Leadership Group
08-06-22	BAMA Steering Group
08-06-22	Leeds Gateway Sustainable Travel
08-06-22	'Team Leeds' – meeting with Leeds MPs and city council CEO / Leader
08-06-22	Leeds University Business School – LIMITS project steering group
09-06-22	Centre for Cities 'Realising local growth' conference
09-6-22	Bradford Economic Recovery Group
10-06-22	Chamber lunch with Philip Davies MP and Judith Cummins MP
10-06-22	Catch up with Department for Transport
13-06-22	York Business Festival planning call with partners
13-06-22	Environment Agency – Leeds Natural Flood Mgt SPV
14-06-22	BCC Employment & Skills Policy Group
15-06-22	YNY Economic Intelligence Roundtable
15-06-22	Business Desk Seminar: Regional Revival – Tackling Key Challenges
16-06-22	Harrogate DC – Levelling Up Fund bid meeting
16-06-22	BCC Levelling Up Policy Group
21-06-22	BCC LSIP – next steps meeting
21-06-22	WYCA – Employer Skills Priorities
22-06-22	YNY LEP Business Engagement Forum
22-06-22	Planning Group Meeting
23-06-22	Leeds University Business School
23-06-22	York Business Festival working group
23-06-22	UK In A Changing Europe Conference: The World Beyond Brexit
23-06-22	BCC QES update
24-06-22	York 10 year skills strategy launch
24-06-22	York University launch - Building an Entrepreneurial York Culture
24-06-22	Chamber lunch with Lee Probert, CEO York College
27-06-22	WYCA Green Jobs task force
27-06-22	Leeds Climate Commission steering group
28-06-22	Bradford Leadership Group
28-06-22	BCC Trade Policy Committee
28-06-22	Education landscape launch event
30-06-22	Meeting with Charlie Jeffrey, VC of University of York

## 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>	