

# POLICY UPDATE

August 2022



West & North  
Yorkshire Chamber  
of Commerce  
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## Regional / National

**Infrastructure** - The Chair of the NIC, Sir John Armit, spoke to an exclusive Chamber of Commerce audience, with a Q&A session led by Gerald Jennings. As to be expected, the session became mostly about transport issues (the NIC remit also includes energy, environment, floods and digital), centred around the disappointment of the Integrated Rail Plan, but also served to help the Chamber think about how it gets its message through to key people and organisations.

**Fair Work Charter** – A launch of the Mayor’s commitments has been temporarily delayed, pending the pursuit of additional information surrounding some of the pledges within the proposed Charter. WYCA have not said that there is any one particular reason (or organisation) for doing this, but ourselves, the FSB and CBI all raised concerns that the proposals were not inclusive towards SMEs, so making some of the pledges empty. A meeting of the Steering Group was held on 13 July.

**BAME** – July’s committee was adjourned shortly after commencement on 7 July, when only 4 members showed up. (It will meet again in October.)

**Election Meetings** – All three of our geographical areas held election meetings in July. Leadership Groups will see new faces at their next meetings (from September onwards), and induction sessions are being arranged to help get the new members familiar with how the Chamber works (and in particular its committee structure).

## Bradford

**Financial Services** – The Chamber joined an online call chaired by Bim Afolami MP, Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Financial Markets & Services. The aim of the meeting, attended by other local and regional stakeholders including Council Leader Susan Hinchcliffe, was to address social and financial inclusion.

**Property Forum** – Attempts to find a new Chair for BPF were inconclusive due to busy calendars but it is hoped this matter will be resolved before summer is over.

## Leeds

**MPs** - Chamber staff and key member representatives met with Shadow Chancellor Rachel Reeves, raising various business issues and concerns with the Leeds MP

**Skills** - West Yorkshire Mayor, Tracy Brabin, visited the UTC Leeds College, when she was joined by Mark Goldstone and other key Chamber and business representatives.

## York & North Yorkshire

**Council engagement** – Mike Cartwright met with two key York Council representatives, Brian Littlejohn and Charles Storr, to ensure that business engagement activities continue during the Policy & Representation Department's transition period. Mike has also joined the campaign group to bring Great British Rail HQ to the city, and liaised with other Council and University representatives in relation to the agenda for September's Leadership Group.

York Digital Event organised and scheduled, in partnership with UoY, CYC and YNY LEP.

**York Business Festival** – An extension of 'York Business Week', a strong programme of events and activities during November is being lined up and the Chamber has been invited to join in. Mike has shared information with fellow staff, who are now considering how we contribute

## Media Coverage

July: <https://share.coveragebook.com/b/4c31a0fbf70900a4>

## Stakeholder Meetings

Date	Stakeholder meeting
01-07-22	Leeds Rail Programme Board
04-07-22	YPF Steering Group
04-07-22	Mayor visited UTC Leeds College
05-07-22	Sir John Armit, National Infrastructure Commission (Chamber event)
05-07-22	York Election Meeting
06-07-22	UK Israel Business Breakfast
06-07-22	Morley Town Deal Board (Employment & Skills Group)
07-07-22	BAME Group (adjourned)
07-07-22	Leeds Property Forum Steering Group
07-07-22	Network Rail meeting
07-07-22	Economic Recovery Forum
07-07-22	Rachel Reeves at KPMG
07-07-22	Chamber Housing Group
07-07-22	Bradford Skills Month Focus Group
08-07-22	Chamber Transport Group
08-07-22	York Council catch-up meeting (Mark G)
12-07-22	BCC Employment & Skills Group
12-07-22	BCC Economy & Tax Group
13-07-22	BAMA Steering Group
13-07-22	Fair Work Charter Steering Group
13-07-22	York Business Festival Steering Group
13-07-22	Great British Rail HQ – York Campaign Group
13-07-22	BCC Transport Group
14-07-22	Leeds Manufacturing Alliance Steering Group
15-07-22	Leeds Election Meeting
18-07-22	Levelling up and the role of financial services: Roundtable with Bim
19-07-22	Bradford Election Meeting
20-07-22	Rugby League World Cup breakfast event, Headingley
20-07-22	BCC Policy Steering Group
21-07-22	Leeds City Council Station Briefing
21-07-22	Great British Rail HQ – York Campaign Group
21-07-22	Bradford Skills Month Focus Group
28-07-22	Great British Rail HQ – York Campaign Group
28-07-22	Bradford Skills House re. Graduate Skills Project
29-07-22	York Council Catch-Up meeting (Mike C)

## 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>	