

POLICY UPDATE

September 2022



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

POLICY UPDATE : SEPTEMBER 2022

Regional / National

Transport: The plan of writing to key government members to re-state the case for HS2 and NPR for Leeds and Bradford, and securing signatures from nationally-known businesses, was interrupted by the Prime Minister's surprise announcement that NPR would go ahead. The letter is being re-written to take account of this (with continued pursuance of more signatures).

Skills & Education: Prolonged discussions with other Chambers and the British Chambers of Commerce have continued on the processes of understanding and delivering Local Skills Improvement Plans (LSIPs) for both West and North Yorkshire (the Chamber had two bids approved to deliver these government-backed programmes).

Policy Groups – new members: Following the Annual General Meeting (and the summer election meetings), new members to the three Leadership Groups all had inductions to familiarise them with what is required (all three Leadership Groups met in September).

Bradford

Property Forum: The Steering Group had its first meeting under the new Chair, Matt Rudman of Vectos. Senior Council officer, Julian Jackson, had moved on but the organisation was represented by Interim Assistant Director (AD) Chris Eaton and Angela Blake, AD for Economy.

Cost of Living: The Chamber joined a meeting led by the Council to discuss the cost of living crisis. The focus was not on what more might be done to help either businesses or residents to cope, but to understand the places where help currently exists, and how best to signpost people to it.

Leeds

Leeds 2023: Leeds Leadership Group received a presentation on the plans for the year-long culture festival. (An initial plan to bid for European City of Culture had subsequently been blocked by the EU when Brexit happened in 2016. Council leaders decided to push ahead anyway with its own festival.) Questions and comments included an appeal for activities not to be just focused around the city centre, in order to make all city wards feel involved.

York & North Yorkshire

Digital: Further work and discussions had taken place on the planned roll-out of activities and support for businesses operating in the digital sector. A 'round table', chaired by President Laurence Beardmore, took place on 13 Sep and considered next steps.

York Business Festival – Continued assistance with the planned month-long event had taken place. Suggestions for speakers, and awareness-raising were just some of the ways in which the Chamber was offering support.

Stakeholder Meetings

01-Sep	Meeting with York University's Michael Wilson to discuss skills shortages and potential joint working
05-Sep	Online call with British Chambers of Commerce on LSIPs
06-Sep	York Leadership Group
08-Sep	LPF Steering Group
08-Sep	BPF & LPF leaders 'one-off' to discuss response to Transport Select Committee report
13-Sep	York Digital Tech Group
13-Sep	York Executive Lunch
13-Sep	LSIPs Working Group call
15-Sep	Bradford Skills Month Focus Group
16-Sep	Leeds Leadership Group
20-Sep	BCC Employment & Skills Group
20-Sep	Flutter Digital Conference
20-Sep	York & North Yorkshire LEP Business Summit Partners
21-Sep	York Skills & Employment Board
21-Sep	BCC Policy Steering Group
21-Sep	Bradford Cost-Of-Living Crisis meeting
22-Sep	Annual General Meeting
22-Sep	Housing Group
23-Sep	Leeds Rail Programme Board
23-Sep	Bradford Skills/Employment Catch-Up
27-Sep	BPF Steering Group
27-Sep	BCC QES Briefing
27-Sep	Leeds Executive Lunch
28-Sep	York & North Yorkshire LEP Business Intelligence Catch-Up
28-Sep	Chambers & FSB Cost-Of-Living call
29-Sep	Transport Group
29-Sep	Bradford Skills Month Focus Group
30-Sep	LDSP Board Meeting

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	