

POLICY UPDATE

February 2023



West & North
Yorkshire Chamber
of Commerce
British Chambers of Commerce
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POLICY UPDATE : FEBRUARY 2023

Regional / National

Environment

The Chamber Transport Group received a presentation on Bradford's Clean Air Zone from that local authority's Director of Air Quality Programme, Andrew Whittles. There had been no effect on traffic levels, while £3.2m had been obtained in revenue. 52,000 penalty notices for contravention had been issued.

Fair Work Charter

The Chamber (along with the FSB and CBI) had provided details of some SME members for the Mayor's office to speak to elaborate on the concerns raised around implementing the Charter. (The Mayor's office had originally requested that several SME focus groups be facilitated by the BROs, but this was deemed impractical and unproductive.)

Bradford

Showcasing the city

A Property Forum event, attended by almost 50, heard how the city plans to have a significant presence at an upcoming three-day property event in Leeds, known as UKREiIF (UK Real Estate Investment & Infrastructure Forum). The Council presented on various schemes underway or in the pipeline, including a £50 million hydrogen production facility.

Planning

The team has been liaising with Bradford Council and its consultants on plans to introduce a Design Code. Property Forum Steering Group members have raised eyebrows on the effects this could cause in its current draft and the Chamber plans to make a formal submission later in the year.

Leeds

Environment

Almost 60 attended a Property Forum held at Pinsent Mason law firm. The subject was Net Zero and the possible effects on the property and development sector, plus whether or not it was deemed to be a priority for businesses during the ongoing economic and international uncertainty.

Planning

The team is working with key members, especially those involved with the Property Forum, to prepare a submission to what is known colloquially as 'Local Plan 2 Update'. This is Leeds Council's collection of planning papers and evidence-gathering specifically on areas including carbon reduction, flood risk and sustainability. (The consultation deadline is 24 March.)

Manufacturing

The team helped promote this year's Leeds Manufacturing Festival in February. A well-attended event at Leeds City College heard from several local businesses in the manufacturing sector.

York & North Yorkshire

Hospitality

Months of hard work from the P&R team culminated in the successful launch of the new Hospitality Forum in North Yorkshire. An event attended by 60+ representatives from the sector heard how the new group will support the aims and ambitions of businesses still struggling from the pandemic's hangover. Chamber colleagues also attended a Hospitality Expo in Scarborough (a non-Chamber event) to consolidate on the Forum's launch.

Economy

Representations were made at the most recent Business Leaders' Round Table, co-ordinated by York Council. The latest economic survey results, pressures due to energy bills and the cost-of-living crisis were all flagged up at the February meeting.

Selby

The Chamber joined a discussion with local partners in Selby, known as 'Moving Forward', looking at business support and working more closely with relevant Chamber forums. The meeting was attended by Selby Council, Selby College, Y&NY LEP and construction training specialist PCWY were all present.

Skills

The roll-out of the Chamber's involvement in the Local Skills Improvement Plans continues to progress. Conversations with relevant stakeholders in key areas, such as training providers, colleges and universities have taken place, and a survey to gather information and data is being promoted.

Media

Feb: <https://share.coveragebook.com/b/24687c8b1783f4b2>

Stakeholder Meetings

01-Feb	Attend York Executive Lunch
02-Feb	Leeds Property Forum: Challenges of Net Zero on building and development
02-Feb	West Yorkshire LSIP Strategic Board
03-Feb	York LSIP Provider Launch & Workshop
06-Feb	Y&NY Hospitality Steering Group
07-Feb	York Council Inward Investment update
07-Feb	Leeds Key Stakeholder Network
07-Feb	Leeds Local Plan Update 2 internal discussion (LPFSG members)
08-Feb	BPF Planning Sub-Group: Design Code discussion
08-Feb	Leeds Annual Dinner attendance
08-Feb	BAMA Steering Group
08-Feb	NY LSIP Strategic Board
09-Feb	York Digital Sector roundtable
09-Feb	Leeds Manufacturing roundtable breakfast
09-Feb	WY LSIP Questionnaire Review
10-Feb	BoE briefing, Leeds
10-Feb	'Moving Forward' meeting with Selby stakeholders
10-Feb	Leeds Rail Programme Board
13-Feb	Y&NY Growth Hub update
14-Feb	BCC Research Group
14-Feb	BCC Employment & Adult Skills Group
15-Feb	Bradford NHS on mental health and wellbeing
15-Feb	Leeds Local Plan 2 Update
16-Feb	BCC Financial & Professional Services Group
16-Feb	York Digital Programme & Node Development
20-Feb	York Business Leaders Roundtable
20-Feb	Leeds Inclusive Growth – Council Update
21-Feb	Bradford Property Forum: Showcasing the city at UKREiiF
21-Feb	Selby Growth Community Business Networking
21-Feb	BCC Infrastructure Group
21-Feb	Yorkshire Housing intro/induction (Exec member)
22-Feb	LPF Chair catch-up

22-Feb	Hospitality Forum launch
22-Feb	Leeds Manufacturing Festival
23-Feb	Resolution Foundation webinar: Rising interest rates
23-Feb	BCC Comms Group
23-Feb	Bradford Business Forum (Inspired Neighbourhoods)
23-Feb	Morley Town Deal Board
23-Feb	Housing Forum
24-Feb	Transport Group
24-Feb	North Yorkshire Shared Prosperity Fund
24-Feb	Bradford SkillsHouse Advisory Board
27-Feb	York Digital Steering Group
27-Feb	WY LSIP co-ordination meeting
28-Feb	UK In a Changing Europe webinar: How Feasible is 'Rejoin'?
28-Feb	Business outlook for York, with councillors
28-Feb	NY Shared Prosperity Fund webinar
28-Feb	LSIP Data Review and Project Update