

POLICY UPDATE

March 2023



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

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Regional / National

Fair Work Charter

Due to the representations made by the Chamber (and other Business Representative Organisations, CBI and FSB), significant changes are being made to the plans for the Charter. It will be more of a development programme enabling businesses to transit towards various changes within their organisation, rather than having to meet pre-set criteria at any given moment.

House of Lords visit

The team were represented in a recent trip to London for several Patrons and Executive members. Hosted by former Leeds Council Leader, Judith (now Baroness) Blake, the visit included a tour of the Palace of Westminster and a topical discussion of business issues.

Net Zero

The Chamber joined a discussion with the British Chambers of Commerce on 'Understanding the Net Zero Challenge'. The event was hosted in Leeds city centre.

Bradford

MP Interaction

Head of Policy & Representation, Mark Casci, addressed an audience of 60-plus at a [business breakfast session](#) hosted by Shipley MP, Philip Davies. Mark intertwined tales of his 20-year journalism career, and knowledge of Yorkshire businesses, with some of the key issues and activities that the team are working on. The Chamber has a good relationship with Philip, attending his sessions regularly and keeping him informed of topical business issues.

City Hall liaison

Team members and the leadership of Bradford Chamber Property Forum met with Council Executive Member for Economy & Regeneration, Alex Ross-Shaw for an exchange of thoughts and business updates. Personnel changes in both the Chamber and City Hall were shared, along with regeneration project updates and the local and sub-regional economic outlook.

Business Improvement District

Team members attended a workshop to discuss the next phase of the Bradford BID. Set up almost five years ago, BID members (basically, all businesses within a red line area around the city centre) will soon need to vote again on whether or not the BID is maintained. (BIDs work by members paying an additional levy on their rates, which are used to fund projects that otherwise would not take place.)

Leeds

Environment & Sustainability

A sub-group of Leeds Chamber Property Forum has had a re-set. What was the environment sub-group is now re-named sustainability, in keeping with changing times, and has new personnel on board.

Growth Strategy

Leeds Leadership Group received a presentation on the local authority's draft 'Inclusive Growth Strategy', which is due to be signed off later this year. Council Head of Economic Policy, Fiona Bolam, was quizzed by the group

York & North Yorkshire

Hospitality

The new forum's Steering Group met to assess the successful launch event, and consider an events programme going forward. The group is co-led by Leadership Group members Philip Boulson and Sarah Czarnecki.

Beside-the-sea

In a push to extend activities and engage widely, team member Alice Ingram attended a 'Scarborough Business Ambassadors' event, picking up more contacts, leads and opportunities to both raise the Chamber profile and bring in new members.

Shared Prosperity

A discussion with York & North Yorkshire LEP on the Shared Prosperity Fund and potential bids included Chamber representatives. The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (to give it its Sunday name) is the government's replacement for the European Structural and Investment Programme (ESIF), seen as essential for local regeneration, employment and skills.

Media

March: <https://share.coveragebook.com/b/cf8ff4ed678c1177>

Stakeholder Meetings

01-Mar	York Property Forum (YPF) Hustings event
01-Mar	Hospitality Expo, Scarborough
02-Mar	Bradford Employment & Skills Board
03-Mar	York College Catch-Up
03-Mar	West Yorkshire Local Skills Improvement Plan Board
06-Mar	Philip Davies Breakfast (Head of P&R was speaker)
06-Mar	Leeds Council Climate Group
07-Mar	BPF Steering Group
07-Mar	Qtrly Catch-Up with Cllr Alex Ross-Shaw, Bradford
07-Mar	York Uni Internship launch
07-Mar	Y&NY Business Support Professionals
07-Mar	Tempus Novo intro/catch-up
08-Mar	Resolution Foundation webinar: Cost-of-Living Crisis
08-Mar	Scarborough Business Ambassadors
08-Mar	Bradford & Airedale Manufacturing Alliance Steering Group
08-Mar	Leeds Local Plan Update – consultation discussion
09-Mar	Northern Cyber Cluster
09-Mar	Y&NY LEP
09-Mar	Leeds Manufacturing Alliance
09-Mar	WY LSIPs provider event
10-Mar	North Yorkshire LSIP meeting
13-Mar	Y&NY Digital Pitch Deck
14-Mar	BCC Employment & Skills Group
15-Mar	Y&NY Dragon's Den Computer Science
16-Mar	Resolution Foundation: Budget Assessment
16-Mar	Bradford Business Improvement District Workshop
16-Mar	BCC Communications Group
16-Mar	North Yorkshire Shared Prosperity Fund (NYSPF) Local Partnership
17-Mar	Leeds Leadership Group
20-Mar	NYSPF Low Carbon Group
20-Mar	YPF Steering Group
20-Mar	Sustainability Group
20-Mar	BCC Climate Group

21-Mar	BCC QES Briefing
21-Mar	BCC/Lloyds Round Table: Understanding the Net Zero Challenge
21-Mar	Morley Town Deal Board
22-Mar	Bfd Executive Lunch
22-Mar	Y&NY LEP Place Thematic Group
22-Mar	LSIPs Internal Team Briefing
23-Mar	BCC Policy Steering Group
23-Mar	Westminster Visit with Patrons/Executives
27-Mar	BCC Youth Skills Group
27-Mar	UK in a Changing Europe Economics Panel
28-Mar	Bfd Leadership Group
28-Mar	Y&NY LEP Circular Economy Group
28-Mar	NY LSIP Steering Group
29-Mar	LPF Steering Group
29-Mar	Y&NY Networking Lunch (Sandburn Hall)
29-Mar	LSIP Managers' Support Group
30-Mar	York Skills & Employment Board
30-Mar	Biz 66 Network (?)
30-Mar	Y&NY Hospitality Steering Group
31-Mar	Whitehall Pocket Park (Leeds Waterfront)