

# POLICY UPDATE

April 2023



West & North  
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# POLICY UPDATE : APRIL 2023

## Regional / National

### The Economy

The latest Quarterly Economic Survey results (that is, quarter 1, 2023) were published on 12 April. While order books and sales prospects were not particularly improved on the poor results of the previous quarter, although there were grounds for optimism. Admittedly, the balance figures of many of the categories followed low baseline trends, but things were stabilising in many areas. Confidence was up for many respondents.

### Northern Regional Assembly

Team members attended the latest of this fairly new initiative of 16 Northern Chambers, to discuss lobbying on matters of mutual agreement. Focused largely on transport, key discussion points were on priorities for Transport for the North, reforming the way funding is approached, and the importance of getting Great British Rail to deliver on services. The latter two organisations also presented and fielded questions.

### Business Representative Organisations

The Policy & Representation team had initiated (via Alice Ingram) a catch-up meeting on local and sub-regional matters with FSB and CBI representatives. This was done prior to the CBI's internal issues. The meeting went ahead with the FSB, with the CBI withdrawing from most external meetings for now. The meeting covered devolution, Levelling Up, Fair Work Charter and transport.

### West Yorkshire Combined Authority & Leeds City Region

Head of Policy & Representation, Mark Casci, attended a Leeds City Region/MCA meeting at Wellington House, Leeds. The meeting brought together various business stakeholders from around the region to discuss branding and next steps for the mayor.

## Bradford

### Economic Partnership

Representatives attended the latest meeting with other local stakeholders at Odsal Stadium. Although this group has not yet formulated many actions or outputs, it is still quite new. Presentations were received on the economy, UKREiiF and Southern Gateway, and Chamber representatives made the point that the group and its members now need to focus on objectives, strategy and next steps.

### City Hall liaison

The new Assistant Director for Transport, Planning & Highways, Richard Hollinson, met with members of the team on a 'getting to know you' basis. The Chamber had a close relationship with Richard's predecessor, Julian Jackson, and are keen to maintain that strong link. Richard has agreed to join Bradford Property Forum Steering Group and continue a good dialogue (he also attended a BPF event within a week or two of moving from Kirklees Council).



## **Design Code**

The P&R team organised a meeting between business representatives and Council officers on a proposal to introduce design codes in [25 English towns and cities](#) to enhance principles and practices in relation to urban housing. The Council reps and their consultants were asked to note the potential negative impact on viability within Bradford if such a scheme was introduced across all of the District, and they were asked to incorporate the code's proposals into the earlier Design Guide, introduced only three years ago in 2020.

## **Leeds**

### **Local Plan**

P&R team members, and Property Forum Steering Group members, met with key Council reps as the Plan is due to be submitted to government this summer. The Council want to push further on climate change targets, with private sector reps feeling that market forces will enable some success in this area. Follow-on meetings on this will be scheduled.

### **Taiwan and local links**

Head of Policy, Mark Casci, attended a presentation by Taiwanese ambassador to the UK, Kelly Wu-Chiao Hsieh. Organised by Andrea Jenkyns MP, the ambassador noted the strength of Taiwan's trading and tourism relationship with the UK. Although not referenced by the official delegation, other attendees voiced support for Taiwan over any interference from China.

### **Waterfront**

Leeds Waterfront Group was attended by the Council, Civic Trust and the Canal & Rivers Trust. Updates were received on work to restore bridges, the successful launch of both the Leeds Pocket Park off Globe Road and the David Olawale Bridge. Actions include to start involving stakeholder firms whose offices adjoin River Aire, and the prospect of more public realm artwork.

## **York & North Yorkshire**

### **Hospitality**

A mini-series of round tables (or is that a series of mini-round tables?) was set underway in order to increase accessibility and convey talking points between members and the team. Events in Scarborough, Harrogate and Pickering kicked things off, while Whitby and Skipton were also covered.

### **Leadership Group**

Members turned out in high numbers for the April Leadership Group, at which the Bank of England's Paul Mount and York Council's Kat Daly presented on the economy and Local Plan respectively. The group were also informed that Sarah Czarnecki had accepted an invitation to become Vice-President with immediate effect.

### **Intel Share**

The latest of York Council's Business Intelligence group heard from the team. The group is a good source for exchanging views, data and other relevant information on the 'condition' of the local economy, what issues are keeping business leaders awake at night and if others measures can be taken to help.

## Media

April - <https://share.coveragebook.com/b/23150392059d3dbe>

## Stakeholder Meetings

03-Apr	Leeds Rail Programme Board
03-Apr	A66 Northern Trans-Pennine Project
03-Apr	Intro meeting with new Asst Director, Transport & Planning, Bradford Council
04-Apr	Anglo-American Chamber of Commerce, Scarborough
04-Apr	York & North Yorkshire Business Support Programme
04-Apr	Bradford Economic Partnership
04-Apr	A64 Growth Partnership (York Council)
04-Apr	Intro meeting with Bradford Skills House leadership team
05-Apr	York Bio-Economy Study Stakeholder Group
06-Apr	Y&NY Hospitality Forum - Sustainability
06-Apr	York UKSPF – Hospitality Week Update
11-Apr	Meet UAE COP28 Team
11-Apr	British Chambers of Commerce Employment & Adult Skills Group
11-Apr	UK In a Changing Europe webinar: Divergent Paths – UK, Ireland & EU
12-Apr	BAMA Steering Group
13-Apr	Y&NY Hospitality Round Table – Scarborough
13-Apr	Y&NY Hospitality Round Table – Harrogate
13-Apr	LMA Steering Group
14-Apr	First Friday Malton
14-Apr	Y&NY Hospitality Round Table – Pickering
14-Apr	Leeds Local Plan 1 Update: pre-meet
17-Apr	York Business Intelligence Group
17-Apr	Y&NY Bio-Net Gain Update
17-Apr	WY LSIP Board
17-Apr	Martin McKervey, Northern Regional Assembly (Transport Grp pre-meeting)
18-Apr	Y&NY Hospitality Round Table – York
18-Apr	Y&NY Leadership Group
18-Apr	Northern Regional Assembly
18-Apr	BCC – Impact of LSIPs
18-Apr	UKREiiF programme briefing (Leeds Council)

19-Apr	Chamber Netwalking (Naburn)
19-Apr	Dragon's Den Finals
19-Apr	Leeds Local Plan 1 Update – with Council
19-Apr	Bradford Council – traffic changes related to Transforming Cities Fund
19-Apr	Bradford Design Code: stakeholder (e.g. Property Forum) meeting
20-Apr	Leeds Waterfront Steering Group
20-Apr	BCC Network Comms Group
21-Apr	Y&NY Hospitality Round Table – Whitby
21-Apr	North Yorkshire LSIP Provider/Business Round Table
21-Apr	Y&NY LEP Skills & Employment Board
24-Apr	FSB-CBI Catch-Up on local/regional affairs (CBI withdrew)
24-Apr	Quality, Place & Space sub-group
25-Apr	Y&NY Hospitality Round Table – Skipton
25-Apr	Y&NY Hospitality Round Table – Leyburn
25-Apr	Bfd Leadership Group
26-Apr	Y&NY Place Thematic Group
27-Apr	NY UKSPF Partnership Group
27-Apr	BCC Climate Group
28-Apr	Andrea Jenkyns Business Lunch