

POLICY UPDATE

May 2023



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

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Regional / National

Westminster

Members of the team made the trip to Westminster to lobby on behalf of the hospitality sector. Tourism Minister Sir John Whittingdale and trade minister Kevin Hollinrake met with Chamber representatives, listening to why the sector needs more support measures in place to boost the regional and national economy. Local MPs Julian Sturdy, Andrew Jones, Julian Smith and Rachael Maskell were also present. [More here](#).

Transport

Network Rail and Northern Regional Assembly both presented to the Chamber's Transport Group. The former passed on relevant information about the ongoing Trans-Pennine Upgrade, while the latter's Chair, Martin McKervey, fielded questions on the initiative bringing Northern Chambers of Commerce together to lobby on affairs of mutual interest.

Fair Work Charter

The team attended a meeting with West Yorkshire, Tracy Brabin, on the formal signing off of the Charter, a year later than originally planned. The delay was due in most part to concerns raised by the Chamber and other business representative organisations. The Charter is an aspirational programme to enhance working conditions and related career opportunities, and the Mayor's team have moved significantly from the original brief to accommodate concerns raised.

York & North Yorkshire

Hospitality

A report has been put together that outlines issues and concerns, but also opportunities and potential policy measures that can support the hospitality sector in the UK, and therefore West & North Yorkshire. The report will build on the work of the new Forum that has been created, and the Westminster visit mentioned above. The Steering Group are now working on gathering and interpreting data needed in order to progress conversations started with Westminster.

Business Engagement

Business engagement has continued across the region with attendance at events hosted by other organisations and visits to work hubs etc. A more proactive programme of engagement with businesses will start in June with a Business Leaders Dinner being hosted in Moulton, near Richmond. The dinner will include representatives of both North Yorkshire Council and the YNY LEP.

Collaborative Working

Regular meetings with Economic Development team at City of York Council, members of the newly formed North Yorkshire Council and colleagues within the LEP are now attended by members of the team.

We attend the monthly Business Support meetings hosted by YNY LEP Growth Hub and are part of the steering groups for NY UK SPF Local Partnership Group and the Business &

Low Carbon Thematic Group, York UK SPF Partnership Board and are also supporting the YNY LEP's Business Board in a co-opted capacity.

Leeds

Station Redevelopment

The team attended a briefing with key members of Leeds Council involved in the £46 million project to transform this key gateway to the city. The second busiest station in the North of England is to see major improvements in the next couple of years but, of course, there will be significant short-term disruption. [More here.](#)

Bank of England

Bank of England representatives spoke with Leeds Chamber's key policy-making body, the Leadership Group, to discuss the latest issues affecting sales and orders, investment plans and recruitment. The Chamber's Quarterly Economic Survey remains crucial to supporting the team's work in this area, and is highly regarded by the Bank and other key decision-makers.

Public Realm

The Property Forum's 'Quality, Place & Space' group met to discuss ongoing changes around the city recently. The session included an update on West Yorkshire's Mass Transit plans, from WYCA's Helen Forman, and how the public realm element of that will help to enhance the face of the city. Find out more about Leeds Property Forum [here.](#)

Cycle lanes

More disruption is anticipated next year when two new cycle lanes are created in the city centre. One near the Merrion Centre, the other on Call Lane. In some cases it will reduce lanes for traffic and take around a year to complete. Concern from stakeholders on disruption, especially during events at the First Direct Arena.

Bradford

Property & Infrastructure

Members of Bradford Property Forum and Bradford Council showcased investment opportunities at the UKREiiF event. The three-day real estate investment and infrastructure convention in Leeds was visited by thousands of property people for the second year running, and the team also attended various fringe events during that time.

Inclusive Growth

Think tank and charity, the Aspen Institute, visited Bradford to gain insights into how to build more inclusive growth, and look at its socio-economic make-up. The team, plus members of the Leadership Group, took part. Read more [here.](#)

Skills

Work is underway to refresh the District's education and skills programme. The Chamber is speaking with the Employment & Skills Board partners to update relevant strategies and policies, and consider post-covid changes in employment and the workforce. (Separate conversations are also underway with relevant partners on the Chamber's work on Local Skills Improvement Plans, aka LSIPs.)

Media

May - <https://app.coveragebook.com/24410/books/e7759ce90959ef9e>

Stakeholder Meetings

2 May	York & North Yorkshire Business Support Professionals
2 May	York University-Chamber Intro/Catch-Up
2 May	Leeds Business Anchors Round Table
3 May	York Barclays Digital grant team
4 May	BCC Policy Steering Group
4 May	York Digital Shared Prosperity Fund update
4 May	West Yorkshire Combined Authority – Directors of Development
9 May	Bradford Property Forum Steering Group
9 May	Leeds Key Stakeholder Network
10 May	Bradford & Airedale Manufacturing Alliance Steering Group
10 May	Transport Group
10 May	West Yorkshire LSIP – Education & Business Leaders Discussion
11 May	Centre for Cities webinar – local election results
11 May	Leeds Manufacturing Alliance Steering Group
11 May	Leeds City Regional Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS)
12 May	Bradford Skills House Advisory Board
12 May	West Yorkshire Principles of Further Education (?)
15 May	Leeds City Square – Business Briefing
15 May	Leeds Rail Programme Board
17 May	Bradford Showcase @ UKREiiF
17 May	York & North Yorkshire Institute of Directors
18 May	York University Catch-Up
18 May	Leeds College skills of future event
18 May	UKREiiF Net Zero fringe event
19 May	Bradford Inclusive Growth round table with Aspen Institute
19 May	Leeds Leadership Group
22 May	Bradford Employment & Skills Strategy Refresh
22 May	North Yorkshire Shared Prosperity Fund Low Carbon group
22 May	York College Catch-Up
22 May	Morley Town Deal Board
22 May	LPF Quality, Place & Space sub-group
23 May	BCC Workforce Survey Briefing

23 May	Sir John Whittingdale MP/Kevin Hollinrake MP re hospitality sector
24 May	WY Fair Work Charter Steering Group
24 May	Scarborough breakfast
24 May	Y&NY Annual Dinner
25 May	Bradford Employment & Skills Board
25 May	YNY LEP Skills & Employability Board