

POLICY UPDATE

July 2023



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

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Regional / National

Leadership Groups

Election meetings were held for each of the Chamber's three Leadership Groups during July. This included bringing in new representatives from businesses and key stakeholder organisations, plus deciding who would succeed outgoing presidents for Bradford, Leeds and York & North Yorkshire.

More on that [here](#).

Transport

The Chamber is to review its current transport policy positions as part of an ongoing update re-evaluation of the work and activities of the Policy & Representation team.

While transport policy remains a key aspect of the Chamber's lobbying activities, and with a General Election now not too far away (to be held by January 2025, latest, with many observers speculating it will happen in October 2024), it is important that our asks are relevant and up-to-date.

More info on previous transport and infrastructure activity [here](#).

Energy Costs

The Chamber has asked regulator Ofgem to step in to help with crippling energy costs to businesses, especially the hospitality sector. Following on from earlier work for businesses in that industry, including a [report](#) to highlight the problems, and the creation of a sector-specific forum, York & North Yorkshire president-elect, Sarah Czarnecki, has called on Ofgem to work with suppliers and help firms stuck on high tariffs to get more favourable terms.

More on this request and the Chamber's Hospitality Forum [here](#).

Great Yorkshire Show

The team helped raise the Chamber's profile in its first appearance at the Great Yorkshire Show this year. The Chamber gratefully piggy-backed Chris Black's Sound Leisure stand in Harrogate, speaking to many businesses and other attendees during the three-day presence.

York & North Yorkshire

The team have been rolling out the 'Chamber Chat' programme in order to increase the organisation's contact and activity in traditionally 'harder to reach' areas. Essentially drop-in sessions conducted in some of the smaller towns and villages, York & North Yorkshire's Business Engagement Officer has been meeting with members and others to listen to their concerns, but also their ideas for improving business support.

We attended the Made In Whitby Festival, meeting interesting businesses working collaboratively to shine a light on work they are doing. Conversations are continuing to explore ways that we can help and support them moving forward.

The President and Business Engagement Manager also paid a visit to a small range of businesses in North Yorkshire including North Star Engineers, a global business designing,

supplying and installing integrated technology into cruise ships, concert venues, hospitality sites and museums and attractions. It's a huge business operating from an idyllic base in an old granary surrounded by fields and a new apple orchard.

Transport

The P&R team has completed the North Yorkshire Council Local Transport Plan survey and shared it with York Leadership Group and wider membership.

Bio Net Gain

A successful Property Forum event focused on upcoming changes in development legislation in relation to the natural environment. Two specialist industry speakers presented at the Lakeside Conference centre, part of York BioTech Campus in Sand Hutton.

Local Enterprise Partnership

The Chamber is partnering with York & North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership to help deliver its annual Business Summit in October; members to be invited in due course.

Leeds

Waterfront

The team is helping to review the ongoing regeneration strategy focused on the area around the docks in Leeds. Working closely with the local authority and other key partners like the Canal & Rivers Trust, the Leeds Waterfront Group also feeds into the Chamber's Property Forum, with Yorkshire Design Group's Paul Ellison a key figure on both.

City centre public realm

One of the Property Forum's sub-groups is liaising with Leeds Council on various city centre public realm issues, in order to enhance the attractiveness of the city to visitors. The Quality, Place & Space group did a short walkabout recently, assessing several key streets and public spaces to see what can be spruced up and improved.

Innovation Arc

The Chamber submitted contributions to the consultation on plans to create an Innovation Arc from the Station to the University area. Submissions remain quite high level at this stage and the document the Chamber produced alongside planning, Property Forum and Leadership Group chairs was broadly supportive with just a few questions on certain elements of the strategy.

Leeds Manufacturing Festival

Exploratory meeting held at Sound Leisure's factory as to how to improve on this year's stellar performance.

Bradford

Darley Street Market

The plans for a new £20 million market were explored recently. A presentation by Kier Construction to a Property Forum audience intrigued many attendees, as it focused not only on how it will help change the face of the city, but it delved deep into the technical and mechanical challenges facing the workers on site. Working in confined spatial restrictions, the job has been challenging but remains on programme.

Energy Networks

A business audience also heard about plans to create a £50 million low carbon energy network across the city. Representatives from 1Energy outlined plans for a decarbonised network across the city, that will help deliver the aims in the Government's Energy White Paper.

First delivery on the new network is expected to be during 2025. Email representation@wnychamber.co.uk to request 1Energy's presentation.

Members of Parliament

Policy & Representation staff attended a meeting with local MPs Philip Davies and Robbie Moore. The Shipley and Keighley parliamentarians addressed around 50 local businesses at one of Mr Davies' regular breakfast sessions.

Stakeholder Meetings

July 3	Meeting with General Manager, Crown Spa, Scarborough
July 3	Cyber by the Sea Event
July 4	York & North Yorkshire Leadership Group Elections & Lunch
July 4	British Chambers of Commerce Climate Group
July 4	Leeds Rail Programme Board
July 4	York Enterprise Awards
July 5	Hospitality & Future Tech
July 5	Bradford Property Forum SG
July 5	Transport for the North Strategic Plan Workshop (Queens, Leeds)
July 5	Supporting Net Zero – YSJ and Y&NY LEP
July 6	Made in Whitby
July 6	Innovation Arc, Leeds
July 6	York Skills & Employment Board
July 7	Chamber Transport Group
July 7	Y&NY LEP Annual Conference
July 10	Leeds Property Forum Steering Group
July 10	Leeds Manufacturing Festival Review

July 11	BCC Employment & Skills Group
July 11	Integrated Rail Plan/HS2 meeting (Leeds Council & NPP)
July 11	English Heritage
July 11	York BID AGM
July 11	Morley Town Deal Board
July 11	BPF Steering Group
July 12	York Property Forum
July 12	Sarah Saville, DWP In-Work Progression Lead Officer
July 13	BCC Policy Steering Group
July 14	Leeds Leadership Group Elections & Lunch
July 17	Philip Davies MP Breakfast
July 17	LPF Quality, Place & Space sub-group
July 17	IRP-HS2 meeting (LCC & NPP)
July 17	NY Shared Prosperity Fund Business & Low Carbon Group
July 18	Bradford Leadership Group Elections & Lunch
July 18	BCC 'Impact of LSIPs' meeting
July 19	Chamber Chat (York)
July 19	Team Leeds (Council Leader)
July 19	WYCA Officers-Biz Reps Catch-Up
July 20	Leeds Waterfront Group
July 20	Chamber Housing Forum
July 20	Biz 66 Moulton
July 20	BCC Comms Network
July 24	NY Council Catch-Up
July 25	BPF (Full Forum)
July 25	BCC Trade Policy Group
July 26	York Executive Lunch
July 26	Hospitality Forum Chair Catch-Up
July 26	Leeds IRP/HS2 Catch-Up
July 27	North Star site visit
July 27	Y&NY Hospitality Forum SG
July 28	City of York Council