POLICY UPDATE

December 2023

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Yorkshire Chamber
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POLICY UPDATE : DECEMBER 2023

Regional / National

Transport
Following the government's announcement in the Autumn to cancel HS2, the Policy & Representation team are in discussions with relevant stakeholders ahead of reviewing it positions on various transport matters.

The Chair of the Chamber's Transport Group attended a meeting hosted by KPMG at which Department for Transport representatives spoke. The Policy team also attended a high-level meeting with senior West Yorkshire stakeholders, including council leaders and WYCA, at which future policy positions and possible lobbying was explored.

Further meetings with both Chamber members and other key stakeholders will occur in coming months to help establish any new lobbying activity. (More positively, the Chamber is encouraged by recent ministerial visits to Bradford and the prospects for Northern Powerhouse Rail.)

Economy
The latest Quarterly Economic Survey (QES) is complete, and a news release was due to be published in early January. Unfortunately, the findings lean more towards figures that add greater concern for next year, rather than reassurance. Global issues combined with continuing direct pressures such as inflation (at the time of the fieldwork) mean that growth prospects remain subdued.

The Bank of England agents for Yorkshire are regular attenders at the Chamber's Leadership Groups, and the Head of Policy & Representation recently shared a platform with them at a business briefing in Bradford. So lines of communication remain open on this key area. The QES remains a vital tool for gathering important and topical business data, and the Policy & Representation team urge all stakeholders, members and staff to help promote it at every opportunity – see our web-page here.

York & North Yorkshire

Devolution
The Devolution Alliance held its launch event at Fairfax House. The Alliance aims to bring together business leaders from across the region to create recommendations for the new mayor. Businesses are willing to work with elected officials and the Alliance can be the start of this. This has generated media attention from the BBC and Talk TV.

Leadership group
The Leadership Group met on December 5 to talk about the North Yorkshire plans for growth. There was an interesting discussion about this and focusing on how these plans fit in with a new mayoral authority.

AI/Digital
The Digital Forum decided to host an event focusing on an introduction to AI in March 2024. The Chamber is working on this event in partnership with the universities and York and North Yorkshire LEP.

The Policy and Representation Executive met with Camargue, a communications consultant, to discuss possible collaboration regarding property and development in the future.

Leeds

Property & Planning
The Chamber has submitted views into Leeds Council on its latest consultation on Local Plan 1. Chamber members from the property sector (mainly from the Property & Economic Forum Steering Group) met for a special 'single agenda item' session to discuss the matter, and a comprehensive response has now been provided to key Council officials.

While the details of the submission remain private (and this document currently is posted onto the Chamber's open access website), interested parties may be privy to more information if they contact the Policy & Representation team. The submission included comments in the areas of viability, carbon reduction, energy renewal, place-making and an offer of sharing expertise and resource from the Chamber's membership.

The head of policy, along with the Chamber's CEO and head of marketing, met with senior personnel at Leeds Trinity University for a tour of the campus and discussion about enhanced interworking.

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Bradford
Property & Planning

Policy team members have met with Bradford Council's appointed consultants charged with examining the District's future housing needs. A 'strategic housing assessment' piece of work is currently underway and it is expected that this will form part of the Council's ongoing process for the Local Plan. The team have also reminded the consultants and senior Council officers of our ongoing concerns on employment land shortages. (As with Leeds, this work is led by members of the Property Forum Steering Group.) The Chamber hosted the last Place Marketing and Investment Partnership meeting of the year. Members of the policy heard from Dan Bates (Executive Director BD25) as he provided a brand update and unveiled plans for the region, ahead of 2025. This was followed by a preview of the official website, provided by Strategic Lead for City of Culture, Nicola Greenan.

Media Coverage
December 2023 https://share.coveragebook.com/b/60c42012cfdea280

Stakeholder Meetings

Date	Brief details
1-Dec	Chamber Transport Group
1-Dec	Attend Festive Lunch @ Headingley
4-Dec	BCC Policy Steering Group
4-Dec	Meeting with Leeds Council City Centre Manager, Mark Durham
5-Dec	UKICE Conference on public views of parties and elections
5-Dec	Y&NY Business Support Professionals
5-Dec	Y&NY Leadership Group
5-Dec	LPEF event
6-Dec	Centre for Cities webinar on 'The Future of the High Street'
6-Dec	Leeds Trinity Uni Tour & Meeting
6-Dec	Bradford Place Marketing & Investment Partnership
6-Dec	Meeting with Jungle IT (Leeds)
6-Dec	Devolution Alliance Launch
7-Dec	Bradford Employment & Skills Board
8-Dec	Luminate Employer Board
8-Dec	Meeting with 'Mind in Bradford' to explain role of P&R groups
11-Dec	BCC Youth Skills Group
11-Dec	Attended 'Urban Transport Group' event with WY Mayor
12-Dec	BCC Employment & Skills Group
14-Dec	BCC Comms Group

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14-Dec	NY Shared Prosperity Fund Partnership
14-Dec	Interview on Talk TV over Devolution Alliance
14-Dec	Leeds and Airedale Manufacturing Alliance meeting.
14-Dec	Transport for the North Board Meeting
15-Dec	Transport Group Chair-P&R team catch-up (i.e. HS2/NPR)
18-Dec	BCC QES Results Briefing to Chamber Network
19-Dec	Head or P&R/CX catch-up with Mott MacDonald