

POLICY UPDATE

January 2024



West & North
Yorkshire Chamber
of Commerce

POLICY UPDATE : JANUARY 2024

Regional / National

Transport

Members of the Policy & Representation team – plus several members of our Transport Group – attended one of the two recent all-day conferences organised for stakeholders of the Trans-Pennine Express rail group. (The conference was repeated in the two cities of York and Manchester.)

The well-organised event (with around one-third of attendees being TPE personnel) is part of an ongoing PR exercise for the TOC (train operating company) to rebuild relations with customers and others. (In a separate discussion, the Chamber is looking to put on an event to discuss trans-Pennine rail services.)

More info on TPE – including the ongoing Trans-Pennine Route Upgrade – can be found at <https://www.tpexpress.co.uk/>

Flood Resilience

The team are working with organisations to help create a community interest company (CIC) to help tackle flooding in parts of West Yorkshire.

Although it is initially focused on protecting Leeds, it is recognised that the River Aire catchment area goes all the way to Malham so also passes through the Bradford District area. The team have been liaising with the Environment Agency, Rivers Trust and Leeds Council, who have all recently met with and presented to the Chamber's Sustainability Group. We have also promoted two recent webinars, which we know some members joined.

More info at <https://aireresilience.org/>

Private Equity Scrutiny

Team members attended a lunch with some of the sub-region's key players in the private equity and mergers and acquisitions sector. The Business Desk Rainmakers' seminar was attended by around 60 and helped inform the team in this important policy area. (The P&R staff member was also joined by a Membership Department colleague to help promote the Chamber's activities and services.)

York & North Yorkshire

Property and Economic Forum

The Chamber hosted a roundtable in collaboration with City of York Council, focused on developing relationships with developers and planners in the city for the benefit of those living and working in York. The paper following this event is currently being finalised and recommendations will form part of further co-working with the council.

The group submitted consultation response to the Community Infrastructure Levy consultation.

Tourism

A member of the team attended four of the five sessions on the North Yorkshire Destination Management Plan. This was to finalise the action plan for the DMP and address immediate concerns. The Chamber were explicit in the need for more involvement with businesses, particularly in hospitality and tourism, and will be involved in the action plan going forward.

Environment

The Policy and Representation Executive and chair of the Property and Economic Forum attended the York Climate Commission relaunch, focusing on sustainability within many facets of life, from waste to transport. The Chamber will be represented at the steering group going forward, and will lead on the Future Economy group focusing on green skills and jobs.

Civic Duties

Team members attended the Executive Lunch. As well as good networking opportunities, we also hosted a table and managed to catch up with some members of our York & North Yorkshire policy groups. The speaker was Andrew Morrison of York Civic Trust.

Politics

The P&R team were invited by new Selby and Ainsty MP to meet to exchange views on local economic needs. We met at his constituency office in the town and agreed to stay in touch.

A North Yorkshire mayoral hustings, run in conjunction with CBI, FSB and Make UK is set for April 10 at York St John. Private event for businesses only and only by invitation. Tasmin from Harrogate's Stray Ferret publication to host.

Research

Strategic partnership confirmed between ourselves and LocalIQ, which will include them spreading awareness of the QES. Runs to York and Bradford.

Leeds

Economy

The team were visible at an Inclusive Growth Partnership event, at Royal Armouries.

While the Partnership also involves the non-business communities of Leeds, the Chamber is part of a key sub-group called 'Business Anchors' that focuses on the economy, growth, productivity and other topics more pertinent to many of our members.

Hopefully, the Partnership is doing what it says on the tin, but if you wish to know more about the Business Anchors and the wider Inclusive Growth Strategy, take a look at <https://www.inclusivegrowthleeds.com/>

Manufacturing

The Chamber's involvement with the Leeds and Airedale Manufacturing Alliance continues at pace. In face meetings, with actions, now taking place, this month at the Leeds Welding Company in South Leeds. Mark to 'MC' the launch of the Leeds Manufacturing Festival in March.

Politics

West Yorkshire mayoral hustings event confirmed for April 16 at York St John. Run in conjunction with CBI, FSB and Make UK. Private event for businesses only and only by invitation. Greg Wright from TYP to host.

Bradford

Property

A senior team member met with four former Chairs of Bradford Property Forum. One – Allan Booth of Rance Booth Smith Architects – recently retired, so this was an opportunity to both thank him for his support to the Chamber, and also catch up with experienced and seasoned industry professionals.

The first Bradford Property & Economic Forum took place in early January. The group got hear from council officials regarding developments on Bradfords Local Plan. This was followed up by a presentation from Muse. Simon Dew (Muse) Simon Woodhurst (Bradford City Council) and Ian Thompson (Counter Context) provided valuable updates to the group about City Park. A scheme that will provide the city centre with up to one thousand homes.

Education

A member of the team attended and provided an LSIP (Local Skills Improvement Plans) update at the first SkillsHouse Advisory Board meeting. This was an opportunity for members of the group to provide valuable educational updates, along with how the LSIP will develop across the year.

Prior to the first Leadership Group meeting of the year, a member of the team joined a call with the chair of the Business, Employment and Skills Board and the Project Director for Employment and Skills at Bradford Council to discuss their annual report. This report will be presented to the Leadership Group in February.

Bradford Showcase

Members of the Property & Economic Forum attended a Bradford Showcase event at the newly opened City Park. This evening event included valuable updates from the new CEO of Bradford Council, along with a great opportunity for members to network and support a pivotal scheme for the region.

Transport

Team members represented the Chamber at the first Southern Gateway Borad meeting at the University of Bradford. This classified meeting, went into detail about the latest plans and developments for a new Station in the city centre. This included regeneration aims, Mass Transit updates and investment opportunities for the district.

Bradford Business Together

Members of the team and the chair of the BAME committee, joined the community launch for Bradford Business Together. This project aims to help Bradford achieve its potential and bring Bradford businesses closer together and give everyone the chance to succeed and helping communities thrive. The launch, at the University, also provided an excellent opportunity to meet and network with other Bradford –minded people.

Politics

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Media Coverage

[January 2024](#)

Stakeholder Meetings

Date	Brief details
05-Jan	Met with CYC senior leadership re: planning roundtable
08-Jan	Resolution Foundation webinar – Has the economy turned a corner?
08-Jan	Leeds Rail Programme Board
09-Jan	BCC Employment & Skills Group
09-Jan	UKICE webinar – Election Year (70 countries, inc. US, India, EU & UK)
10-Jan	Sustainability Group Co-Chairs – discuss Leeds flood resilience project
11-Jan	LMA meeting at Leeds Whelding Co
12-Jan	Leeds Leadership Group
12-Jan	Keir Mather meeting
16-Jan	Strategic Partnership with LocalIQ
18-Jan	Leeds Property & Economic Forum Steering Group
19-Jan	Catch-up with Emma Kerrywood of Linley & Simpson
22-Jan	Centre for Cities webinar – launch of annual ‘Cities Outlook’ report
23-Jan	Bradford SkillsHouse Advisory Board
23-Jan	York & North Yorkshire Executive Lunch
23-Jan	BCC Trade Policy Committee
25-Jan	Yorkshire Learning Providers board meeting
26-Jan	Leeds Inclusive Growth Partnership event
26-Jan	Catch-up with former Chairs of Bradford Property Forum
29-Jan	Trans-Pennine Express Stakeholder Conference (York)
30-Jan	Bradford Southern Gateway Board
30-Jan	Leeds Station Development catch-up with Council