

POLICY UPDATE

February 2024



West & North
Yorkshire Chamber
of Commerce

POLICY UPDATE: FEBRUARY 2024

Regional / National

Transport

Mark and Mike met with Ben Mallow, Angela Lawson, Neil Moore and Rebecca Cheung – along with our own Transport Group chair Ali Gordon about Leeds station and how its redevelopment would be considered.

The Transport Group also met, and heard from Trans-Pennine Route Upgrade representatives on the latest progress and improvements being made.

Budget

Numerous members in North Yorkshire, as well as Mark, were mentioned in a double page spread in The Times ahead of the Budget. Interviews conducted in Feb.

Tax

Mark met with Heathrow Airport representative about backing their lobbying for tax free shopping to be restored (a national BCC policy objective).

Fair Work Charter

Two members of the team attended the first Fair Work Charter Steering Group meeting at WYCA's Leeds office. The role and aims of the Steering Group were discussed, along with presentations from Greensborough, who oversee selling the Charter across West Yorkshire. This detailed presentation included targets, timescales and the support needed by businesses and organisations. A marketing and communications update was also provided, which included the ways the Charter will be accessible for people, throughout this year.

York & North Yorkshire

Leadership Group

The Bank of England's Paul Mount gave a detailed briefing on the state of the regional economy. Members of the group also gave positive contributions on how to increase overall Chamber membership, while there were also updates on the hospitality and property forums.

Devolution

Charlie and James attended the launch of the new Combined Authority for York and North Yorkshire. Mark spoke to That's York TV on its importance. Interviews for the report took place over the course of the month by Gemma and Charlie.

Hospitality

Hospitality Forum was on 15 February, where the group spoke about policy areas and football in the city. A campaign of positive stories in the summer in North Yorkshire was suggested, which will be mapped out in March.

Charlie attended a briefing about café licenses on Church Street in York, with business owners affected by the changes. The Council are considering different options and will be responding in due course.

Transport

Charlie attended the first Transport group of the York Climate Commission, which was the start of work to lobby for a more sustainable transport network in the city. She will be attending the steering group for the wider commission going forward.

Culture

Charlie, Phoebe and Mark met with Kathryn Blacker from York Museums Trust about a potential summer cultural event. They also spoke about links to policy.

Heritage

Charlie attended the Ripon Cathedral Consultative Council to learn of its expansion plans and spoke about the importance of economic inclusion in the plans.

Connecting

Successful netwalking event in Ridding Park, Harrogate – well attended.

Leeds

Roundtable

Mark was a part of a roundtable discussion on AI and future employment challenges hosted jointly by Allica Bank and The Yorkshire Post.

Anchors

Mark attended the latest Business Anchors meeting for the private sector in Leeds.

UK REIIF

Mark met with Nolan Tucker from Deloitte to discuss the Chamber's involvement with UK Reiiif. Nolan is reviewing the delegate list to see which members have stands. We will then approach to utilise part of their space.

Manufacturing

Mark compered the launch of Leeds Manufacturing Festival.

Robots

Mark saw a demonstration of a robot which can 'eat' plastic discarded in water which may be deployed on the River Aire to ease pollution.

Work Experience/Placements

Leeds Beckett University representatives were introduced to business leaders at the Property Forum event in the city. Dr David Haigh of the Geography School wants to provide more business engagement to some of his more advanced students, and came along to the event with this in mind.

Bradford

Marketing

Mark attended the Place Marketing meeting at City Hall.

Property

The first Property and Economic Forum took place at the Latitude Building, Madisson Offices. This well attended event provided a host of the region's businesses, a first chance to look at some of the programme delivery for BD25, along with their new logo/brand. Kersten England CBE provided this informative update and included a section on business engagement. Dr Stewart Davies (Chair of Bradford Sustainable Development Partnership) provided a presentation about Bradfords energy and environmental goals. Dr Davies also provided information about specific funding available for Bradford Manufactures, helping them and the region achieve Net Zero.

Leadership

The first Leadership Group meeting took place at the end of the month. Schofield Sweeneys offered to host and the group heard from Harriet Hudson (Harri) who is BD25 Brand Manager. Hari provided imagery of their new brand and logo. This also included the research conducted prior to the change. Will Richardson, Tina Lafferety and Mick Chandsoor from Bradford Council joined the group. They provided a detailed presentation about last year's Bradford Employment and Skills Annual report, local education statistics and ways the Bradford world can interact.

Business Challenge

Will from the team participated in a Smart Futures Bradford event at EXA. This Ernest Young project allowed a selection of college students the opportunity to develop an echo-friendly business that promotes environmental sustainability". Will was one of four acting on a judging panel to critique, promote and engage the students. A valuable opportunity for the students and for the Chamber to be seen.

Collaboration

Will started quarterly meetings with Bradford Council's, Business Support team. Satnam Khela, joined with in provided updates regarding current workloads and how both organisations can help each other. In particular, the current funding available for Bradford Manufactures, wanting to become more environmentally friendly.

Site Visit

News of Bradford BID having a new office was circulated to the team recently. Will joined Jonny Noble in having a tour of their new office space. A successful meeting as the next Leadership Group meeting will be hosted there.

Skills/Education

Bradford Employment and Skills Board provided a Data Deep Dive into the issue facing the region regarding skills, education and employment. Will attend this, on behalf of team and was joined by education providers, business organisations, charities and other Bradford Businesses.

Stakeholder Meetings

Date	Brief details
Feb 1	CA launch at York Guildhall
Feb 5	Joint meeting with CABS/LUBS & CoC Representative to discuss Help to Grow Programme
Feb 6	YP roundtable with Allica Bank
Feb 6	Booked UKICE Webinar: Does UK have an Industrial Strategy?
Feb 7	Res Foun Gen Elect Webinar
Feb 7	Booked Barclays Webinar: Understanding AI Hi-Gwth Cos
Feb 7	Special BESB - Data Deep Dive

Feb 9	Ripon Cathedral engagement
Feb 9	Catch up with Nolan Tucker UKREIIF
Feb 14	Meeting with LCC, WYCA and Chamber to discuss station messaging
Feb 15	Mike Cartwright / Alastair Gordon
Feb 12	Catch-up with Alex Ross Shaw
Feb 13	Netwalking Rudding Park
Feb 13	First Steps in AI catch up
Feb 19	York St John patron chat
Feb 20	Bradford PEF
Feb 20	Dave Haigh Leeds Beckett
Feb 22	York Museums Trust
Feb 22	Bradford Exec Lunch
Feb 28	York Central/Insider event
Feb 26	Skills Board deep dive
Feb 29	BD25 branding