

POLICY UPDATE

March 2024



West & North
Yorkshire Chamber
of Commerce

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York & North Yorkshire

Artificial Intelligence

The Chamber hosted an event about the First Steps in AI for businesses who were interested in hearing more about AI and machine learning. Charlie was one of the two hosts of the event, where speakers from North Yorkshire told businesses about the ways that they had applied AI to their business.

Devolution

Charlie, James and Sarah met with Felicity Cunliffe-Lister, the Liberal Democrat candidate for mayor, as part of wider talks with the mayoral candidates.

The Devolution Alliance interviews are almost completed, and the paper is set to be published in April.

Hospitality

Charlie attended the Scarborough Hospitality Expo and met with representatives from Crown Spa Hotel and Castle Employment in Scarborough to talk about the way that the Hospitality Forum can help in the region.

Charlie met with Chris Bush from York BID to talk about York Hospitality Week. We publicised the event and spoke about the impact that these kinds of events have on the hospitality industry.

Property

Charlie and Mark met with members of the Property and Economic Forum Steering Group for the initial scoping session for the planning protocol, taking inspiration from the same work undertaken in Leeds.

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 compèred 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

Events

Will and Mike attended a meeting with Bradford Council to discuss a joint event focussing on Bradford Businesses and ways they can become 'better employers'. This first meeting involved highlighting the initial aims of the event, times, dates and format. These include the Fair Work Charter, Safeguarding and Inclusivity.

Transport

Network Rail hosted an evening webinar to Bradford residents and businesses operation within the city centre. Will heard from their team regarding the planned works coming to Bradford Forster Square. This included a list of times and dates and major work and the overall benefits this will bring. An article involving the inner details of the works can be found on our website.

Business Breakfast

The first Business Breakfast took place at Shipley Golf Club. Hosted by Philip Davies MP, business leaders in Shipley got the chance to hear from Dan Bates (Chief Executive Officer at BD25) about their latest developments and programme updates. For some this was their first chance hearing about this. Will represented the team and got a chance to ask Philip Davies questions about the legacy of BD25.

Collaboration

Will was joined by Dan Starkey (Spawforths) for the first of quarterly meetings with Councillor Alex Ross-Shaw. A valuable first meeting which provided information regarding the Local Plan, Planning, road works, BD25 and BD Live etc.

Celebration

Will was joined by members of the leadership group to witness the launch of Bradford 2025 City of Culture, the Brand. For the first time, the public got a chance to see adverts, logos and designs for the upcoming City of Culture. Hosted at Valley Parade, it was a great opportunity for people to come together and start the countdown to 2025. Further conversations have since happened with the team at BD25 and the Chamber regarding further collaboration.

Legacy

Bradford University and Bradford 2025 provided an all-day event for the cultural and business community highlighting the success and legacies of Major events. Attendees got the chance to hear from policy planners that worked in previous UK City of Cultures and European Capital of Culture.

Employer Network

Mike and Will attended a morning networking session in Bradford and Coleman training. The events focus was inclusivity within workplaces, which included presentations from HR specialists and businesses helping young adults get into work. Due to the work being to with Bradford Council, this provided individuals to learn more about what businesses are saying and doing around inclusivity in the workplace.

Skills/Education

The second Bradford Employment & Skills Board meeting took place at Bradford College. Will provided the latest LSIP update, including the aims of stage two and the core themes being prioritised. The group heard from some of Bradford's local skills-based charities



focusing on improving mental health and skills-based progression in the workplace. Will also provide more information on the Chambers new LSIP Project Manager.

Smart Futures

Will return to Exa for the Ernest Youngs Smart Futures programme to provide awards and advice to the winners of their programme. These were the same individuals that were judged in January.

Stakeholder Meetings

Date	Brief details
1 Mar	Leeds Rail Programme Board
1 Mar	Convention of the North
4 Mar	BCC QES Briefing
5 Mar	Scarborough Hospitality Expo
5 Mar	Leeds Digital Forum
6 Mar	York Economic Partnership Thriving Businesses task and finish
7 Mar	WY Professional Services Network
7 Mar	Bradford Employment & Skills Board
7 Mar	BCC Policy Steering Group
8 Mar	York Tourism Advisory Board
11 Mar	BMDC reps on possibility of 'inclusive employers' event in city
11 Mar	York Planning Protocol Group
12 Mar	BCC Employment & Skills Group
12 Mar	UKICE Post-Budget Assessment webinar
13 Mar	Belfrey Impact Meeting
13 Mar	Sustainability Group

13 Mar	Centre for Cities webinar: Place-based approach to R&D Growth
14 Mar	Bradford Inclusive Employer Network event
14 Mar	Meeting with Mark Mills, Asset Management team, LCC
14 Mar	First Steps in AI Event, York
18 Mar	Philip Davies MP Business Breakfast
18 Mar	Discuss possible Fair Work Charter/Safeguarding event with BMDC reps
19 Mar	UKICE Devolution webinar
19 Mar	UKSPF Sector Development Update
20 Mar	WYCA officer-business reps catch-up
21 Mar	BCC Comms Group
21 Mar	Housing Forum
21 Mar	Arup new office opening
21 Mar	Follow-on meeting on Bfd safeguarding issues
21 Mar	Elmet Forum
21 Mar	All-Member Lunch, York
25 Mar	Centre for Cities webinar on mayoral elections
26 Mar	BCC Trade Policy Committee
27 Mar	York Climate Commission Future Economy group