

Yorkshire and Humber Councils Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Yorkshire Universities

1. Introduction

The purpose of this MOU is to underpin a long-term, strategic partnership between Yorkshire and Humber Councils (YHC) and Yorkshire Universities (YU). In 2021, we agreed an initial MOU, and considerable progress has been made in the period since. This document represents an updated agreement.

The MOU sets out matters of shared interest, reflecting the spirit of co-operation between the two membership-based organisations. It is not intended to be legally binding or to create legal rights.

2. Strengthening joint activity

Building on our success, to date, we will strengthen our commitment to joint working with the aim of contributing towards achieving greater prosperity and well-being for the people, places and environment of the Yorkshire and Humber region.

To achieve this, YHC and YU will, in partnership, identify and develop new opportunities for improved and stronger collaboration between the local government and higher education sectors with a view to:

- Working together on projects that are of mutual benefit, and where we can co-design and share evidence, findings, and, where appropriate, recommendations.
- Sending a clear message to key stakeholders, in the region, and at national level, including government, of the value of the strategic relationship that exists between YHC and YU.
- Amplifying the voice of Yorkshire and the Humber.
- Using the distinct but complementary strengths of the local government and the higher education sectors to influence government policy, and that of its agencies, in areas of mutual interest to YHC and YU.
- Supporting stronger civic and anchor institution partnerships, involving universities, local authorities, and mayoral combined authorities, within and across the region.
- Increasing wider and deeper shared knowledge and understanding of the opportunities and challenges facing Yorkshire and the Humber and its places, economies, sectors, businesses, and communities.

3. Priorities and activities

YHC and YU will agree an annual work programme based around four headline and inter-connected priorities:

- Economic Growth.
- Devolution.
- Health and Wellbeing.
- Climate Action.

The following illustrates how we will deliver against the four priorities:

- Drawing upon our collective knowledge, expertise, and experience to make the case for increased and sustained public and private investment in Yorkshire and Humber.
- Responding collectively to UK government consultations/policy initiatives, within the three priority areas.
- Encouraging the government to recognise Yorkshire and Humber as a region at the forefront of identifying and applying innovative processes and products to increase productivity.
- Using the region's research and policy networks (e.g. Y-PERN and YPIP) to map research projects within the region – with the aim of encouraging wider active academic and policy participation in and learning from existing and emergent projects.
- Exploring opportunities to leverage and secure new forms of funding for expanding research and policy engagement in the region.
- Planning and delivering campaigns that support improved skills development, talent attraction and retention, and widening learning and employment opportunities, in the region.
- Holding joint local government and university learning and networking events – and engaging and involving other stakeholders where appropriate.

4. Senior contacts

YHC and YU will each nominate a senior contact, with supporting officers, who will be responsible in practice for ensuring effective liaison between them; preserving the underpinning principles outlined here; and maintaining an overall perspective on developments initiated through the MOU. In the first instance, this will be through the Chair of the YHC Chief Executives' Group and the Chair of the Board of YU. Officers within YHC and YU member institutions, reflecting specific themes and activities, will operationalise elements of the MOU (and annual work programme), and report to the YHC Chief Executives' Group and YU Board.

5. Other parties

Other parties may be invited at any time to join this informal partnership, participating in a separate memorandum, by agreement between the current parties.

This MOU does not preclude the parties from entering into other arrangements with different parties, whether or not legally binding.

6. General

Nothing in this MOU is intended to or shall be deemed to establish an exclusive relationship between the parties or to restrict any activities that either party would otherwise be able to undertake. Nothing in this MOU is intended to or shall be deemed to establish any partnership or joint venture between the parties or constitute any party as an agent of the other party.

The terms of this MOU may be amended at any time by agreement in writing between the parties. A review of the agreement will be held every three years on or before the anniversary of execution of this document.

7. Signatures

Signed on behalf of Yorkshire Universities

Signature



Name

Professor Dave Petley

Post

Chair of the Yorkshire Universities Board

Date

17 March 2025

Signed on behalf of Yorkshire and Humber Councils

Signature



Name

Sarah Norman

Post

Chair of the Chief Executives' Group

Date

17 March 2025