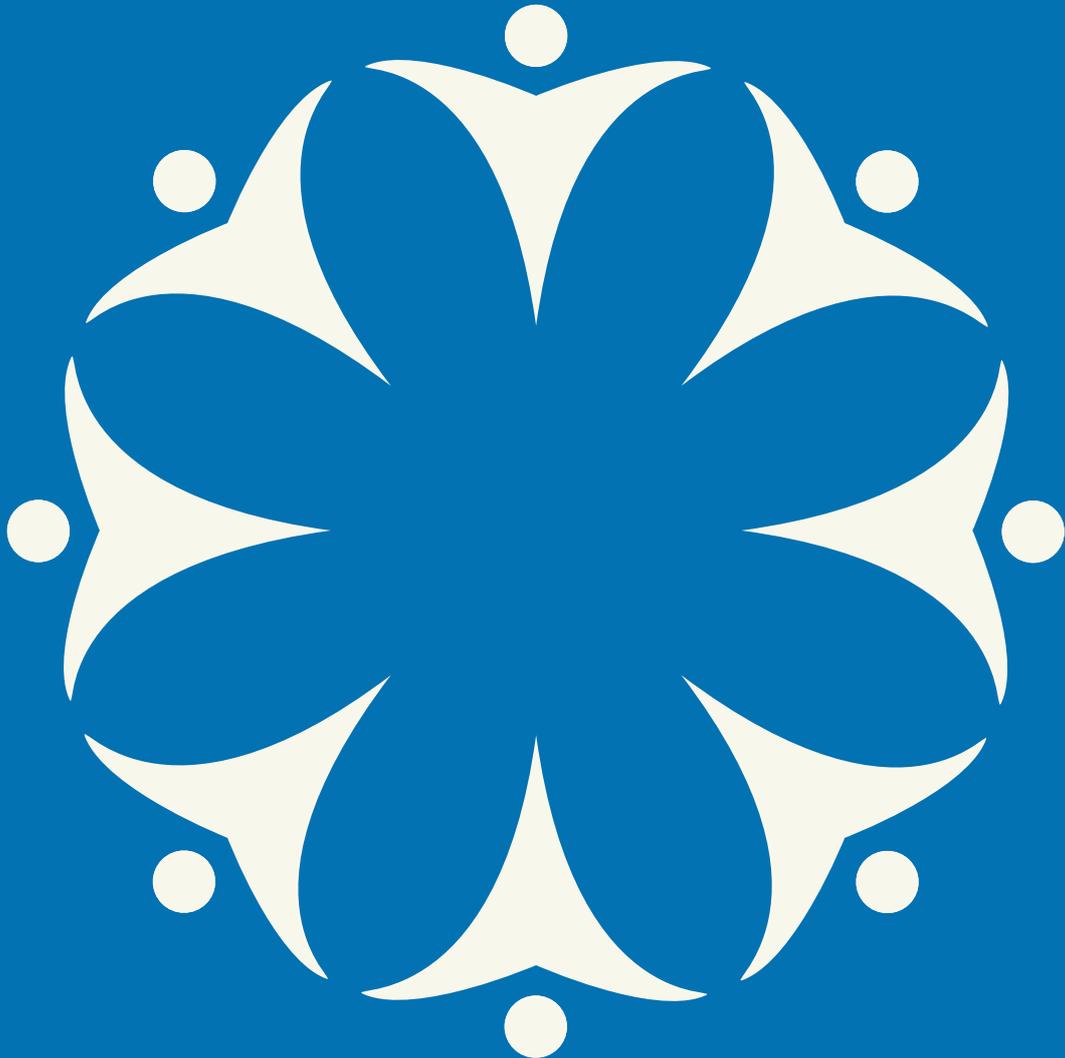


# Yorkshire Universities

2018–19 Annual  
Review Summary



Since 1987, Yorkshire Universities (YU) has been the regional voice for higher education (HE) in Yorkshire. YU represents eleven universities and one specialist higher education institution (HEI). The vice-chancellors and principals of these institutions form YU's board of directors.

The twelve members are the universities of Bradford, Huddersfield, Hull, Leeds, Leeds Beckett, Leeds Trinity, Leeds Arts, Sheffield, Sheffield Hallam, York, and York St John, as well as the Leeds College of Music. YU thus convenes a diverse eco-system of universities and HEIs within and across Yorkshire.

Board of Directors



Professor Shirley Congdon  
Vice-Chancellor  
University of Bradford



Professor Bob Cryan  
Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive  
University of Huddersfield



Gerry Godley  
Principal and Managing Director  
Leeds College of Music



Professor Margaret House  
Vice-Chancellor  
Leeds Trinity University



Professor Sir Chris Husbands  
Vice-Chancellor, Sheffield Hallam University  
Chair of the YU Board



Professor Charlie Jeffery  
Vice-Chancellor and President  
University of York



Professor Koen Lamberts  
President and Vice-Chancellor  
University of Sheffield



Sir Alan Langlands  
Vice-Chancellor  
University of Leeds



Professor Susan Lea  
Vice-Chancellor  
University of Hull



Professor Peter Slee  
Vice-Chancellor  
Leeds Beckett University



Professor Karen Stanton  
Vice-Chancellor  
York St John University



Professor Simone Wonnacott  
Vice-Chancellor  
Leeds Arts University

# Welcome

by the Chair of the Board

I was delighted to be appointed as Chair of the Board of Yorkshire Universities (YU), at the start of August 2018. I would like to thank my predecessor, Professor Koen Lamberts, for helping to steer a new course for the partnership following the commitment by the Board to strengthen member cooperation on place-based development in support of the regional economy.

Despite the continued political and economic uncertainty, YU is providing an effective voice for higher education and a vehicle for collaboration between Yorkshire Universities' members, and other partners nationally and regionally. Higher education is a key strength of the UK, and the sector is crucial to efforts to improve productivity, social inclusion and sustainability. In Yorkshire, YU members collectively make a significant contribution to the region, as the independent impact assessment we commissioned earlier this year demonstrates.

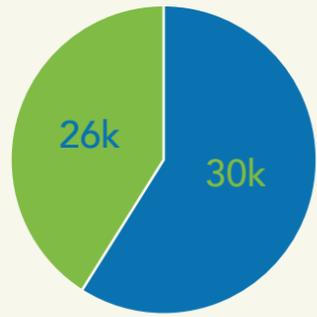
We started 2018–19 implementing an initial one-year operational plan, which laid the foundation for the Board to agree a revised financial settlement for YU, followed by a new three-year strategy for the period 2019–22, where the focus will be on strengthening our work in relation to innovation, research, knowledge exchange, skills, civic engagement and cross-sector collaboration. I am grateful to members of the Board for their visible support and commitment to YU.

In 2019–20, we welcome two new members to the Board, Professor Shirley Congdon, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Bradford and Professor Charlie Jeffery, Vice-Chancellor of the University of York. We look forward to working with them both. We also saw the departure from the Board of Professor Brian Cantor, who left the University of Bradford, and who was a long-standing friend of YU. We wish Brian well for the future.



Our Executive Director, Dr Peter O'Brien, and his team have had an excellent year, helping to raise the profile of YU and ensuring that we have greater influence with national, regional and local partners. A particular focus of activity has been to shape the emergent local industrial strategies and national policy thinking around the form and function of future public and private investment in local and regional development. These are issues where YU is building real credibility and justifies the vision and strategy agreed by the Board. Operationally, YU remains healthy both in financial terms and in management and governance, with our new Industrial Strategy Group, led by Professor Liz Towns-Andrews, providing an effective collective framework for us to realise our ambitions and priorities.

Professor Sir Chris Husbands,  
Vice-Chancellor, Sheffield Hallam University;  
Chair of the YU Board



# 56,000 (FTE) jobs

Support 56,000 full time equivalent (FTE) jobs: 30,000 of which are professional and managerial staff inside the HE sector and a further 26,000 FTEs jobs are based in the wider supply chain, underpinned by the spending of staff and students.

# 120+ countries

Attract a large and diverse student population from more than 120 countries.



A spend of:  
**£250m**  
in the local supply chain



...and a further  
**£340m**  
in the rest of the UK.



Generate nearly £30 million in consultancy contracts with over 1,400 non-commercial organisations and 3,000 companies of which 2,000 were SMEs.



Play a vital role in the region's civic, social and cultural life through community outreach and volunteering, creating accessible and vibrant public places through libraries, arts and sporting facilities.

**£2.9bn**

Contribute £2.9bn each year to the region's economy and play a critical role in generating jobs, creating innovation, talent, and enterprise and driving productivity.

# 180,000 Students

Annually have 180,000 students studying in Yorkshire, a third of whom were originally from within the region.



Collectively the 12 members of YU:



Invest £324 million in capital assets annually, helping to support local regeneration and capacity building in our region.

# 64,000



Develop highly-skilled people by producing over 64,000 graduates each year and creating opportunities for the region's workforce.



# Our Mission

Yorkshire Universities works to maximise the contribution of higher education to the region, and beyond, through collaboration, where this generates greater impact and public benefit, and aspiration and opportunity are supported. We are mindful of the external drivers shaping the wider economic, policy and institutional landscape in which HE and that of our members operate, as this enables us to all times add real value to our members' priorities.

YU is a unique partnership based on a shared commitment to strengthen the contribution that universities and HEIs make (individually and collectively) to the economic, social, cultural and civic life and well-being of people and places in Yorkshire.

In April 2018, Dr Peter O'Brien was appointed as YU Executive Director and a new executive team was formed with him in 2018–19. Professor Sir Chris Husbands became the new chair of the YU Board in August 2018 in the aftermath of the remit and purpose of the organisation being refreshed.

In particular, a new strategic focus was given to strengthening the role of universities and HEIs in 'place-based' development, and the 2018–19 YU Operational Plan centred on three key priorities:

- The productivity of place.
- The governance of place.
- The social, civic and cultural significance of place.

# Strategy & Activity



 Productivity  
of place.

 Governance  
of place.

 Social, civic  
and cultural  
significance  
of place.

## Productivity of Place In 2018–19, YU:

Enabled its members to play a central role in achieving the initial aims of the Industrial Strategy by (activities such as):

- Establishing an Industrial Strategy Group (ISG) as a new YU expert advisory group, tasked with promoting the contribution of the YU members to national and local industrial policy and strategy.
- Organising joint roundtables with Universities UK (UUK) and the four Yorkshire local enterprise partnerships (LEPs) on Local Industrial Strategies (LIS) and the Future of Degree Apprenticeships.
- Establishing a Task & Finish group to examine the government's '2.4% R&D and innovation' target and planning for YU members and partners in the region to make distinct contributions towards achieving the target.
- Informing the final recommendations of national UUK-Confederation of British Industry Flexible Learning Review.
- Coordinating Leeds City Region universities to help identify strengths against four Grand Challenges to inform the LIS.
- Collecting and promoting member case studies to showcase in the government's national Industrial Strategy mapping.
- Chairing meetings of the West and North Yorkshire Local Industrial Strategy Independent Expert Panel.

Enabled members to shape post-Brexit policy by:

- Facilitating a development session on how universities and partners in Yorkshire could influence and shape the nature of the proposed UK Shared Prosperity Fund and other related funding mechanisms;
- Setting up regular meetings with the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), and providing a channel for information between members and policy-makers.

Consultation responses:

- West Yorkshire Combined Authority / Leeds City Region LEP, Humber Local Enterprise Partnership Local Industrial Strategy call for evidence.
- House of Commons Science and Technology Committee inquiry on the 'Balance and effectiveness of research and innovation spending'.
- HM Treasury review of a post-European Investment Bank mechanism in UK.

## Governance of Place In 2018–19, YU:

Influenced the process of devolution and decentralisation by:

- Holding meetings with the Northern Powerhouse (NP) team and Northern Powerhouse Partnership, and accepting the invitation to contribute towards the proposed new Northern Powerhouse Strategy.
- Establishing stronger relationships and closer working with national and regional think-tanks and opinion-formers, including the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, IPPR North, N8, NP11 and the Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES).

Demonstrated place-based leadership by:

- Convening regular meetings with the region's LEPs/ Combined Authorities.
- Using Leading Places and Local Growth Academy approaches to inform YU's activity in relation to universities/HEIs and place, and to build stronger connections between HE and other sectors and institutions.
- Joining the Shadow Yorkshire Monetary Policy Committee.
- Co-publishing a think piece with the NHS Confederation on industrial strategies, universities and health and well-being.
- Joining Yorkshire & Humber Academic Health Science Network's (AHSN) Strategic Advisory Board.
- Establishing more effective relationships with the West Yorkshire Consortium of Colleges, Yorkshire and The Humber Association of Colleges, Sheffield City College, CBI, TUC, Bank of England and Institute of Directors.

Consultation responses:

- HE Commission's inquiry into Degree Apprenticeships.
- UK2070 Commission's inquiry into regional inequalities.
- RTP1: Ambitions of the North, People and Place.

## Social, Civic & Cultural Significance of Place In 2018–19, YU:

Deepened member roles as anchor institutions by:

- Hosting a roundtable on 'universities as anchor institutions', and a development session examining the activities of the Civic University Commission (CUC) and Civic University Agreements and what they mean in practice for YU members, culminating in two reports and actions plans for members.
- Drawing upon and disseminating international evidence from Australia and the United States of practical examples of the anchor institution approach.
- Contributing towards the development of a new Centre for Excellence initiative by CLES.
- Establishing an ongoing dialogue with the Leeds Community Foundation to strengthen the relationship between universities / HEIs and local communities in Leeds.

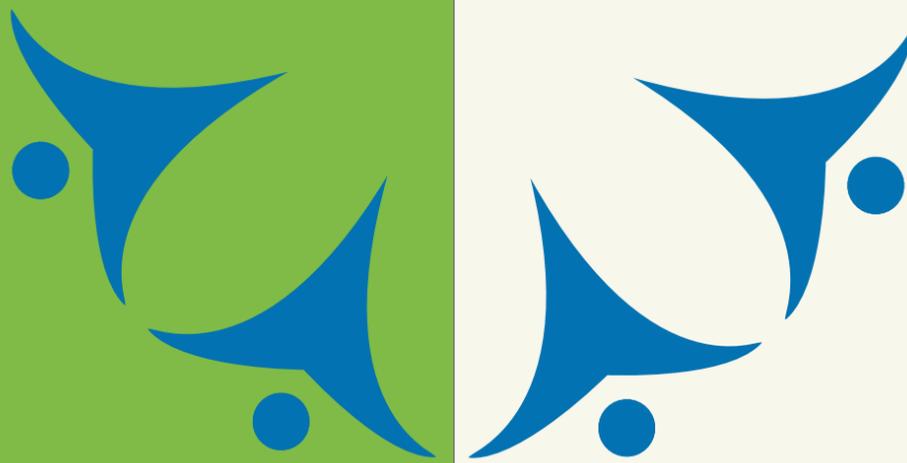
Increased cultural and creative impact by:

- Convening a group of small/specialist members seeking to develop initiatives on HEI skills and knowledge exchange within the LCR cultural and creative sector.
- Opening dialogue with GuildHE and the Arts Council to highlight potential Yorkshire-based case studies of university/ HEI activity within the cultural and creative sector.
- Engaging with the Leeds Culture Consortium to illustrate the role of YU members in the industrial strategy and in particular, the cultural and creative sector.

Consultation responses:

- Evidence to the Civic University Commission.
- Migration Advisory Committee: International Students – economic and social impact.

# In 2019 –2022 We Will...



Building on the 2018–19 Operational Plan, we will be moving into a new three-year Strategy focusing on three priorities: **Ideas, Talent and Communities**

Our activities under these priorities will fall within three categories: **Think, Convene and Deliver**

In July 2019, the YU Board agreed a new 3-year Strategy, which will provide the organisation with a longer-term framework in which to develop initiatives, instigate actions and demonstrate impact.



## For Ideas in 2019–22 we will:

- Promote university research and innovation capabilities in Yorkshire and their contributions towards national, pan-regional and regional R&D and innovation strengths.
- ‘Signpost’ possible investors in R&D and innovation towards potential ‘clients’.
- Support the development of ‘place sensitive’ innovation systems in the region.
- Encourage greater connectivity between YU members’ different capabilities to harness the potential of multi institution and multi-disciplinary research and innovation eco-systems.
- Promote greater integration between R&D/innovation and the skills strategies and funding mechanisms of national government and local and regional institutions.

## For Talent in 2019–22 we will:

- Strengthen our knowledge and understanding of the supply and demand for higher level skills within Yorkshire’s labour markets.
- Work with members and partners to improve graduate retention, employability and employment in the region.
- Convene strategic collaborations between HE and further education (FE) in relation to the higher-level skills and learning offer available to individuals and employers.
- Work with partners, especially business and FE, to ensure technical and vocational training, skills and learning reflects the social and economic priorities in the region.
- Support YU members to deliver, through knowledge exchange and diffusion, successful business development, and industry partnerships for local and regional growth.

## For Communities in 2019–22 we will:

- Provide a strategic framework for YU members to identify and share learning and good practice to encourage civic university and anchor institution activity within different places in the region.
- Actively promote and disseminate the social, economic and public value of HE within Yorkshire.
- Facilitate place-based leadership and public engagement actions between YU members and other anchor institutions.
- Build a new strategic partnership with the health sector and others to help drive greater collaboration between health and HE across the region in support of inclusive growth objectives.
- Work with partners to address the challenges (and realise the opportunities) facing Yorkshire that are presented by climate change.

## The expected outcomes will be:

- YU members strengthen their contributions towards increased R&D and innovation activity within the region.
- YU members enhance and extend their partnerships with other sectors to improve higher level skills pathways into continuous development and learning.
- YU members are recognised by regional partners and local communities as valuable and influential anchor institutions.

# Financial Report\*

YU's income is derived exclusively from member subscriptions.

In 2017–18, the expenditure of YU was £184,000, comprising:

Staff related costs: £78,000  
Contractor costs: £75,000  
Non-staff costs: £31,000

In 2018–19, the expenditure of YU was £226,000, comprising:

Staff related costs: £138,000  
Contractor costs: £59,000  
Non-staff costs: £29,000

In 2019–20, YU's planned operational budget will be £236,000, comprising:

Staff related costs: £134,000  
Contractor costs: £76,000  
Non-staff costs: £26,000

\* The financial statements, from which the above information has been extracted, have been examined by YU's Independent Examiner, Mark Heaton FCCA FCIE, who identified no concerns. Copies of the statements are available on request from [enquiries@yorkshireuniversities.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@yorkshireuniversities.ac.uk)

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