

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 and Yorkshire Universities.

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

2. Ambition of joint activity

To develop a shared commitment towards joint working that will aim to deliver greater prosperity and well-being for the people and places of the Yorkshire and Humber region.

To achieve this, Yorkshire and Humber Councils and Yorkshire Universities will work together to identify and develop new opportunities for stronger collaboration between the sectors with a view to:

- Facilitating improved collaborative working between Yorkshire and Humber Councils and Yorkshire Universities.
- Co-operate on other opportunities and projects, as they arise, and which are seen to be of mutual benefit.
- Sending a clear message to key stakeholders of the strategic relationship between Yorkshire and Humber Councils and Yorkshire Universities.
- Amplifying the voice of the region.
- Using the distinct but complementary strengths of the local government and the higher education sector to influence government policy.
- Focusing on the respective and complementary strengths of Yorkshire Universities' members around research and innovation, skills, knowledge exchange and other capabilities that contribute towards the economic and social development of the region.
- Further strengthening and adding value to the universities' regional role and civic mission.
- Improving wider understanding and shared knowledge and analysis around the opportunities and challenges for Yorkshire and the Humber and its places, economies and communities.

Initially, the focus of the partnership should be:

- Identifying opportunities for greater collaboration between Yorkshire and Humber Councils and Yorkshire Universities.
- Increasing Universities' engagement with local authorities who do not host a university.
- Collaboration on joint research projects and the sharing and dissemination of findings and analysis.

3. Actions and activities

Yorkshire and Humber Councils and Yorkshire Universities will annually agree a programme of work.

For 2021/22, the following priorities are identified:

- Levelling up.
- Health and well-being.
- Environment (especially Climate Change).

Work will also be undertaken around the following:

- Responding collectively to UK government consultations/policy initiatives as appropriate.
- The joint production of evidence bases and analyses to support influencing national government as appropriate.
- Development and dissemination of a database of ongoing and proposed research projects within the region – with the aim of encouraging wider active research and participation in/learning from projects.
- Exploring the opportunities for joint bidding for research funding and projects.
- Joint university and local authority learning/networking programme – engaging and involving other stakeholders where appropriate.

Work will also be undertaken between Yorkshire Universities and those Councils who do not host a university, to discuss what the higher education sector contributes to the region's economy and civil society, how to build on and add value to existing and emerging partnerships, and to see where a closer relationship between local authorities and the region's universities could be taken forward.

4. Senior contacts

Yorkshire and Humber Councils and Yorkshire Universities 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 this MOU. In the first instance this will be through the Chair of the Chief Executives Group and the Chair of the Board of Yorkshire Universities.

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 then current parties.

This MOU does not preclude the parties from entering into other arrangements with different parties for the joint provision of higher education or otherwise, and 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 two years on or before the anniversary of execution of this document.

8. Signatures

Signed on behalf of Yorkshire Universities

Signature	
Name	Professor Shirley Congdon
Post	Chair of Yorkshire Universities
Date	13 th July 2021

Signed on behalf of Yorkshire and Humber Councils

Signature	
Name	Kersten England
Post	Chair of the Chief Executives Group
Date12 July 2021.....