



**Notice of a public
Decision Session - Executive Member for Economy and Strategic
Planning**

To: Councillor Waller (Executive Member)

Date: Tuesday, 23 March 2021

Time: 10.00am

Venue: Remote Meeting

AGENDA

Notice to Members – Post Decision Calling In:

Members are reminded that, should they wish to call in any item* on this agenda, notice must be given to Democracy Support Group by:

4:00pm on Thursday 25 March 2021 if an item is called in *after* a decision has been taken.

*With the exception of matters that have been subject of a previous call in, require Full Council approval or are urgent which are not subject to the call-in provisions. Any called in items will be considered by the Customer and Corporate Services Scrutiny Management Committee.

Written representations in respect of item on this agenda should be submitted to Democratic Services by **5.00pm on Friday 19 March 2021**.

1. Declarations of Interest

At this point in the meeting, the Executive Member is asked to declare:

- any personal interests not included on the Register of Interests
- any prejudicial interests or
- any disclosable pecuniary interests

which he may have in respect of business on this agenda.

2. Minutes (Pages 1 - 4)

To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 23 February 2021.

3. Public Participation

At this point in the meeting members of the public who have registered to speak can do so. Members of the public may speak on agenda items or on matters within the remit of the committee.

Please note that our registration deadlines have changed to 2 working days before the meeting, in order to facilitate the management of public participation at remote meetings. The deadline for registering at this meeting is **5:00pm on Friday 19 March 2021**.

To register to speak please visit www.york.gov.uk/AttendCouncilMeetings to fill out an online registration form. If you have any questions about the registration form or the meeting, please contact the relevant Democracy Officer, on the details at the foot of the agenda.

Webcasting of Remote Public Meetings

Please note that, subject to available resources, this remote public meeting will be webcast including any registered public speakers who have given their permission. The remote public meeting can be viewed live and on demand at www.york.gov.uk/webcasts.

During coronavirus, we've made some changes to how we're running council meetings. See our coronavirus updates (www.york.gov.uk/COVIDDemocracy) for more information on meetings and decisions.

4. One-year plan - Skills for employment in York (Pages 5 - 22)

This report informs the Executive Member about the development of the One-year plan – Skills for Employment in York, delivered through the city's Skills and Employment Board, and presents that plan for endorsement by the Executive Member.

5. MHCLG Consultation: National Planning Policy Framework and National Model Design Code (Pages 23 - 42)

This report provides an update on the consultation published by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) entitled “National Planning Policy Framework and National Model Design Code: consultation proposals”. The consultation runs until 27 March 2021.

6. Quarterly Economic Update (Pages 43 - 84)

This report provides a quarterly economic update for the period January 2021 to March 2021.

7. Urgent Business

Any other business which the Executive Member considers urgent under the Local Government Act 1972.

Democracy Officer

Louise Cook

Contact details:

- Telephone – (01904) 551031
- Email louise.cook@york.gov.uk

This information can be provided in your own language.

我們也用您們的語言提供這個信息 (Cantonese)

এই তথ্য আপনার নিজের ভাষায় দেয়া যেতে পারে। (Bengali)

Ta informacja może być dostarczona w twoim własnym języku. (Polish)

Bu bilgiyi kendi dilinizde almanız mümkündür. (Turkish)

یہ معلومات آپ کی اپنی زبان (بولی) میں بھی میا کی جاسکتی ہیں۔ (Urdu)

 (01904) 551550

For more information about any of the following please contact the Democracy Officer responsible for servicing this meeting

- Registering to speak
- Written Representations
- Business of the meeting
- Any special arrangements
- Copies of reports

Contact details are set out above

City of York Council

Committee Minutes

Meeting	Decision Session - Executive Member for Economy and Strategic Planning
Date	23 February 2021
Present	Councillor Waller (Executive Member)

6. **Declarations of Interest**

The Executive Member was asked to declare, at this point of the meeting, any personal interests not included on the Register of Interests, or any prejudicial or discloseable pecuniary interest that he might have in respect of the business on the agenda. None were declared.

7. **Minutes**

Resolved: That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 26 January 2021 be approved and then signed by the Executive Member at a later date.

8. **Public Participation**

It was reported that there were no registered speakers under the Councils Public Participation Scheme.

9. **Inclusive Growth Update**

The Executive Member considered a report that provided an update on the Inclusive Growth evidence base and the Inclusive Growth Initiatives Fund.

The Head of Economic Growth and the Interim Director of Place were in attendance to provide an update and answer any questions.

The Executive Member noted that:

- The voluntary group that was promoting the Poverty Truth Commission had struggled to raise the additional funding required for the work and had not been able to progress the project. Given the importance of this work for the

Inclusive Growth agenda, officers were seeking alternative partners to lead on this, which would help support the development of the Council's Economy Strategy and Skills Plan.

- The Council were unsuccessful in its bid to become a 'Good Help' organisation, largely due to a formal external funding bid made to the National Lottery and the Government failing at the final hurdle. The £25k set aside to support mental health remained unallocated. Officers had liaised with the Director of the University Counselling & Mental Health Clinic at York St John University and they planned to develop a rapid delivery project in partnership with business networks and membership bodies to provide practical help to those who were experiencing new or additional pressures on their mental health through the economic impacts of Covid-19.
- The Kickstart scheme was still progressing with LNER taking on 16 new recruits through the scheme and officers continued to work with small businesses to offer impartial information on applying for Kickstart.

The Executive Member thanked officers for their report and he welcomed an update at a future Decision Session. He noted the importance of ensuring projects such as the community jobs fairs continued and that those families who had found themselves in significant financial difficulties were supported.

The Executive Member welcomed the proactive work taking place to support the mental health and wellbeing of business owners and their employees and he supported the proposals highlighted in the report.

Resolved:

- (i) That the contents of the update, and in particular the emerging impacts on mental health and unemployment, be noted.
- (ii) That the approach set out to develop revised Poverty Commission and Mental Health projects for these themes of the Inclusive Growth Fund be agreed.

Reason: So that the Council nurtures a pipeline of projects that positively address inclusive growth in the City of York, and focusses funding where it is most needed.

Cllr A Waller, Executive Member

[The meeting started at 10.00am and finished at 10.10am].

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**Decision Session – Executive Member for
Economy and Strategic Planning**

23 March 2021

Report of the Assistant Director Education and Skills

One-year plan – Skills for employment in York**Summary**

1. The Executive Member for Economy and Strategic Planning received a paper on the Skills and Employment Board and Skills Strategy at his decision session on 22 September 2020. This set out York's key skills and employment related issues and highlighted the need to strengthen the city-wide partnership approach that had been adopted during the early phase of the pandemic to continue to help people through change.
2. A subsequent skills and employment update was provided to the Executive Member at his Decision Session on 22 December 2020. That paper provided an update on:
 - the skills and employment support available to people and businesses in York
 - progress made by the Skills and Employment Board's Task & Finish Group to build an evidence base to underpin the one-year plan and 10-year strategy
 - the timeline for developing the one-year skills plan.
3. This report informs the Executive Member about the development of the *One-year plan – Skills for Employment in York*, delivered through the city's Skills and Employment Board, and presents that plan for endorsement by the Executive Member.

Recommendations

4. The Executive Member is asked to:
 - i. note the content of the report;

- ii. endorse the *One-year plan – Skills for Employment in York*, recognising the strong partnership approach taken to understand, reflect and respond to local priorities.

Reason: To continue to help support people and businesses through change and begin developing the skills infrastructure that will support York's longer-term economic recovery from COVID-19.

Background

5. The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted individuals and businesses, with an increased need to support people of all ages into work, to progress or change careers, and to ensure that businesses can access the skills and talent they need to diversify or grow.
6. From the early stages of the first lockdown, skills and education partners across the city have been working together to help people through change; aligning, adapting and communicating the support available to both individuals and businesses.
7. The *One-year plan – Skills for Employment in York* builds on this approach by setting out 5 shared commitments:
 - **York works – skills support for individuals**
Support those entering, re-entering or displaced from the workforce to re-train or upskill and connect them with good jobs in sustainable and growth sectors.
 - **Empowered employers – skills support for businesses**
Support businesses of all sizes to access national, regional and local skills provision to help them plan, diversify and grow.
 - **Pioneering provision – productive partnerships**
Work in partnership to make the most of national, regional and local initiatives and adapt local skills provision in response to emerging needs.
 - **Education to employment and self-employment – York's pipeline**
Support positive progressions for all by preparing those transitioning from education or re-entering the world of work for a culture of lifelong learning and entrepreneurship.

- **York shares - communicating the offer**

Develop a coherent and effective marketing and communications strategy to ensure information advice and guidance is provided at the point of need in a timely and effective way.

8. Underpinned by an evidence base built over the past nine months, these commitments respond to the local impact of the pandemic on skills and employment and lay the foundations upon which York's longer-term skills strategy will be delivered.
9. The plan provides more detail on each commitment and how partners across the city will help to deliver on these over the coming months.

Next steps

10. The below diagram shows how the partnership approach to skills is working in York.



11. Commitment working groups – led by Askham Bryan College, York College, University of York and York St John University – have drafted implementation plans covering the partnership activity under each commitment.
12. At its meeting on 16 March, the Skills and Employment Board will review and feedback on the detailed implementation plans, including ownership for delivering, measuring and reporting activity.
13. The Task and Finish Group - resourced by Askham Bryan College, York College, University of York, York St John University, York Learning and the council – continues to build the local evidence base and support the Skills and Employment Board to develop the city's longer-term strategy.

14. Design and publication of the *One-year plan – Skills for Employment in York* is supported by the council's Skills and Employment Recovery Communications Plan.

Consultation

15. The Skills and Employment Board comprises education and skills providers, local employers and representatives, employee representatives, the Local Enterprise Partnership and City of York Council. The upcoming meeting on 16 March will be the Board's fourth meeting since December 2020, with members providing input to the one-year skills plan during and outside of meetings.
16. In addition to the Executive Members' Decision Sessions in September and December 2020, the one-year skills plan was a key agenda item at the commissioned joint scrutiny session (Economy & Place and Children, Education & Communities) on 1 February 2021. Members were invited to provide feedback on the shared commitments and this has been taken into account by the partnership.
17. Employer voice has helped to build the local evidence base and shape the plan. Examples of direct engagement include: Make it York Business Survey (Q2 2020), Sector Roundtables, York Business Week Skills Event, Business Leaders group and qualitative interviews.

Council Plan

18. The Council Plan identifies eight priorities, four of which are relevant to this work:
 - Well-paid and an inclusive economy;
 - A better start for children and young people;
 - Safer communities and culture for all;
 - An open and effective council.

Implications

19. The following implications have been considered:
 - Financial – no implications
 - Human Resources (HR) – no implications
 - Equalities – no implications.
 - Legal – no implications
 - Crime and Disorder – no implications.
 - Information Technology (IT) – no implications.

- Property – no implications.

Risk Management

20. No risks identified.

Contact Details

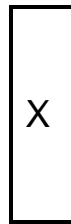
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Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Maxine Squire
Assistant Director – Education & Skills

Report
Approved



Date 11 March 2021

Background Papers: None

Annexes:

Appendix A: One-year plan – Skills for employment in York

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Helping people through change:

One-year plan - Skills for employment in York

Foreword

City of York Council recognises the role of skills for employment in helping residents and businesses to fully experience the benefits of York's enterprising, resilient and inclusive city.

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted individuals and businesses, with an increased need to support people of all ages into work, to progress or change careers, and to ensure that businesses can access the skills and talent they need to diversify or grow.

This plan has been developed in partnership and sets out how, over the next 12 months, we will continue to *help people through change*, respond to the impact of the pandemic on skills and employment and build the foundations upon which York's 10-year Skills and Employment Strategy will be delivered.

Key to this is York's *Skills and Employment Board* - a city-wide partnership approach to addressing the challenges and harnessing the opportunities of the next 2-10 years including enabling businesses to influence curriculum planning. Work is already underway and the 10-year strategy will be published later in 2021.

[Quote and Picture - Lee Probert]

[Quote and Picture - Cllr Waller]

York's Skills and Employment Board is a partnership body, bringing together education and skills providers, local employers and representatives, employee representatives, the Local Enterprise Partnership and the City Council.

Through its work, the Board seeks to facilitate a deep and long lasting partnership between skills providers, employers and partners to support the development of key sectors in the York economy and enable York residents to get well-paid and rewarding work.

One-year plan to address immediate Post COVID-19 Impact

Not all residents and businesses have been affected by the pandemic in the same way. This plan builds on the existing work of the Board, council and partners to support those with immediate skills and retraining needs.

The people and businesses that make up some of York's largest employment sectors are feeling the economic impact, resulting from multiple lockdowns, more than others. The loss of customer-facing activities in non-grocery retail, creative arts, tourism and hospitality sectors has led to a significant reduction in the number of employees needed to work during this time.

Conversely, as the health and social care sector continues to respond to the public-health impact of COVID-19, we have seen a large increase in the number of job adverts for both full and part-time roles. The construction industry is also recruiting locally and offering immediate starts.

Other sectors such as financial services, IT and digital, seen as important and growing sectors for the city, have been particularly resilient and in some cases have seen increased demand related to e-commerce and digital technologies.

High numbers of part time, low paid workers make up our most economically impacted sectors, with a high proportion of roles being fulfilled by young people and women. The Government's Job Retention Scheme is helping to keep many workers employed in the retail, creative arts, tourism and hospitality sectors but this is not the case for everyone. There has been an increase in local job losses and it's not yet clear what the impact will be on employment in these sectors in the coming months.

At the same time, the pandemic is continuing to disrupt the education of and transition to employment for young people.

As York's employment landscape changes it is essential that individuals who are entering the workforce or who have been displaced from one sector are able to identify and gain the skills needed to enter a different sector or start their own business.

This one year plan aims to help address the most immediate impacts of COVID-19 on the economy and the workforce by developing a series of training and education interventions aimed at those most affected.

Shared commitments

- **York works – skills support for individuals**
Support those entering, re-entering or displaced from the workforce to re-train or upskill and connect them with good jobs in sustainable and growth sectors.
- **Empowered employers – skills support for businesses**
Support businesses of all sizes to access national, regional and local skills provision to help them plan, diversify and grow.
- **Pioneering provision – productive partnerships**
Work in partnership to make the most of national, regional and local initiatives and adapt local skills provision in response to emerging needs.
- **Education to employment and self-employment – York's pipeline**
Support positive progressions for all by preparing those transitioning from education or re-entering the world of work for a culture of lifelong learning and entrepreneurship.

Underpinning enabler

- **York shares - communicating the offer**
Develop a coherent and effective marketing and communications strategy to ensure information advice and guidance is provided at the point of need in a timely and effective way.

Pages 8 to 11 provide more detail about these commitments and importantly, how we will work together over the next 12 months to deliver them.

How York is changing – the economic context

The scale of the economic impact of the pandemic is not yet fully understood but its effect on the labour market and unemployment is significant. Redundancy rates have increased, there are fewer full time job vacancies available and it is predicted that unemployment rates will increase further and remain above pre-COVID-19 levels until 2024.

The Job Centre Plus claimant count shows the largest increase in our city for at least 35 years – around 5,000 in April 2019 (the first full month following lockdown) compared to 1,800 pre-pandemic. In the months that followed, this number has remained stable, suggesting Government initiatives such as the Job Retention Scheme (JRS) and Self Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS), local distribution of grant funding and the resilience of particular sectors in the city have helped to keep more local people employed.

However, we know that not everyone who is out of work is eligible to claim unemployment benefits and data from the Government's Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), in April 2020 indicated there were 14,000 fewer workers in York than before the pandemic - with significant reductions in the number of full-time male and part-time female workers. These figures account for both York residents and those who travel to York for work.

Latest figures (January 2021) for the JRS and SEISS show a total of 11,500 people furloughed by York employers and a further 4,700 claiming self-employed support at the end of December 2020. The furlough figures have dropped substantially from the 24,000 reported in June 2020 and the self-employed figures have fallen slightly from 6,500. Although local figures have not yet been updated, ONS suggests that furloughing has increased again in the first quarter of 2021 and is now back at levels seen in July 2020, which would mean perhaps 20,000 in York on furlough.

The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) is set to continue until September 2021, and it's likely that those furloughed on the scheme remain at high risk of losing their jobs in the coming months. The peak of unemployment is expected in summer/autumn 2021 and current estimates for York suggest a potential rise in the benefit claimant count to around 10,000 at that time.

However, in counterbalance to the picture outlined above, in many ways York has come through the early economic challenges of the pandemic in a comparatively strong position. Unemployment has risen and some businesses have closed, particularly in high-street retail and hospitality chains but nationally, York is the UK city with the lowest percentage increase in unemployment.

Infographic of economic statistics

The 'York Works' commitment in this plan sets out how we will continue to support affected workers, whether they are able to claim benefits or not.

How York is changing – the impact on Post 16 education and training

This plan focuses on post 16 education and training but we recognise that COVID-19 has had a significant impact on the whole education and skills sector including early years education.

Post 16 Education

As many of us know first-hand, one of the most significant changes to Post 16 education has been the switch to remote learning delivered through online and blended learning. Educators have pulled out all the stops to ensure that young people can continue with their education despite the challenges of the pandemic. This radical change has meant that young people are learning in the home environment bringing advantages for some, but severe challenges for others.

For some, this new way of learning has had great benefits as it offers flexibility, opportunities for self-management of learning and can benefit mental health. However, for others these changes have had a significant negative impact on their engagement and progress. Some do not have the IT equipment or connectivity needed to access remote learning platforms, an issue that providers are trying to solve. Others have struggled with a lack of support and encouragement at home and an environment and space where they can easily engage with online learning.

The pandemic has also complicated the transition into the world of work or further and higher education pathways. Many young people have been unable to undergo work experience placements or visit their next education settings, placing increased importance on the role of quality careers education information, advice and guidance - linked the local labour market.

Apprenticeships

The pandemic has had a negative impact on the availability of apprenticeships nationally, with a key factor being the effect of lockdowns on organisations of all sizes. Rapid change, layers of uncertainty and financial pressures have dominated across all industry sectors and for many small and micro businesses their focus has been simply on survival. When times are tough, businesses focus less on training and more on core business which has a negative effect on apprenticeships.

In York, there were 27% fewer starts from August 2019-July 2020 when compared to the previous year. Key to this has been the dramatic reduction in new apprenticeship opportunities in the city's retail, hospitality and tourism sectors which, prior to the pandemic, had accounted for around 30% of advertised vacancies each year.

However, York's large employers in other sectors have continued to recruit apprentices, as have SMEs that have sustained or increased demand and this is most evident in pharmacy, dental, early years and care sector roles. It has become more common for recruitment and induction of apprentices to take place online, making digital skills, equipment and fast broadband speeds key to accessing opportunities.

As national lockdown restrictions begin to ease, it's important that employers are supported to make the most of the local talent pipeline and create apprenticeship roles that will help their business to recover and grow.

Higher Education

The impact on Higher Education has also been significant. The majority of courses have moved to being fully online for the majority of the previous 12 months and although universities have supported students in accessing the equipment and resources needed, these changes are disproportionately impacting students from lower income families.

In addition, it has been well documented that mental health issues amongst students have significantly increased since the start of COVID-19, in part due to the disruption of their studies and social isolation.

Alongside issues of access, students have also been exposed to greater financial insecurity due to the impact of COVID-19. Many students in York rely on part-time work in the retail and hospitality sectors to supplement their income during their time at university. With businesses in these sectors closing or scaling back their operations, part-time positions have been severely impacted resulting in financial hardship for some students.

Furthermore the opportunities for students to undertake work placements and internships have been reduced. This, along with an overall reduction in graduate jobs means that future graduates may be both less prepared for the world of work and have reduced opportunity to gain graduate level employment.

It is therefore important that Higher Education programmes are accessible by all, informed by businesses needs and provide the transferable skills, work experience and lifelong learning competencies that will be needed by graduates of the future.

Adult Learning

There is a strong offer of adult and community learning delivered by providers in the city and, just like mainstream schools and colleges, this has rapidly adapted to a remote-learning offer. Even some practical courses can be offered online using the right equipment although certain vocational or leisure courses cannot be offered without some physical component.

However, for people who have additional learning needs, low skills attainment and from disadvantaged backgrounds, remote learning may be more difficult to access and therefore disadvantage them further. It is clear that once the pandemic is over, there will be a need to return to face to face learning for many learners. In the short to medium term, there is still good online provision for basic skills needed for employment, such as English, maths, ICT and employability skills but face to face provision is still essential for some learners.

For people who are in work but on low incomes, the prospect of reskilling can be challenging for a number of reasons. Issues include lack of funding (either directly to pay for qualifications or for childcare), lack of confidence to embark on new training without clarity regarding what the benefits may be, and dealing with competing responsibilities that are more important than gaining new skills (e.g. paying the rent).

It's therefore important that information, advice and guidance can be accessed in community settings and helps people (at any age or with any level of experience) to understand the funded and flexible training that will help them progress in employment or self-employment.

Community Hubs

During the pandemic community hubs have been critical in delivering support to vulnerable people in the city. As we move into recovery, we will look to build on this extremely effective model to brigade voluntary and community organisations with other support mechanisms to reach residents, particularly those experiencing hardship.

Self-employment

In 2020 there was a rise in self-employment as people, displaced from other types of employment, opted to set up in business for themselves. Start-ups, given the right support to nurture talent and ambition, can be the growing SMEs of tomorrow. It is critical that people, of any age, embarking on self-employment or starting a business for the first time get the help they need, to maximise their chances of success in the longer term.

Developing “an enterprise for all” culture with the appropriate facilities, advice and training will be essential to ensure our new and existing start-ups not only survive but thrive and hopefully, in the long term, provide new jobs across the city.

The ‘education to employment and self-employment’ commitment in this plan sets out how we will support those young people who have had a disrupted experience of their formal education and support people of all ages to re-engage with education and training to develop the skills needed for the new world of work.

How York is changing – the new world of work

The full effect of the pandemic on business and the economy is not yet known, but we do know that many of the changes to our working lives will remain, for better or worse. What is clear is that the supply and demand for skills will be significantly impacted over the next few years. Some skills will see a spike in demand in the immediate future but will even out in years to come as the effects of the pandemic dissipate.

COVID-19 has accelerated trends that were evident to a lesser extent prior to the pandemic. The use of technology to enable safe, remote working in sectors that can accommodate it has become the norm rather than the exception. Business models have swiftly altered to offer accessible online access to goods and services, requiring new skills and resources to support the changes.

In April 2020 around 37% of adults in employment in our region were working from home as a result of the pandemic and data from businesses suggest that this trend is likely to continue for the foreseeable future. York has a comparatively high proportion of highly-skilled workers, in non-manual sectors, many of whom have worked from home since the first lockdown.

Whilst the benefits of remote working for businesses and individuals (cost savings, higher productivity and reduction in travel time) are becoming clear. These rapid changes inevitably have a knock on effect in terms of skills requirements both in the short and long term. Employees not only need the digital skills to utilise technology but leaders need to develop their management and communication skills to sustain performance and support mental wellbeing in remote teams.

Not all sectors are in decline and some have even seen a surge during the COVID-19 pandemic. Construction businesses, for example, have reported that after the first lockdown order books had returned to pre-COVID-19 levels. Currently, this sector can be considered buoyant in York and with large investment projects, such as York Central, in the pipeline, it looks set to grow further. Construction training provision in the city is high quality and offers a breadth of provision at a range of levels including apprenticeship provision. There is also a growing, responsive part-time offer that enables people mid-career to re-train or gain higher level skills in the sector.

As businesses have adapted, there has been high demand for entry level digital skills in all sectors right through to higher level, technical skills in the IT and digital sector, such as coding, programming and software engineering. Businesses providing tech services to help others to digitise or improve online working practices have also reported growth creating opportunities for people with the right skills. Strategic partnerships between businesses and education providers in the city are therefore vital in helping develop a pipeline of people with the skills needed to meet the increasing and evolving demands of this growth sector.

For adults in low skilled sectors which have been badly impacted by COVID-19 such as retail and hospitality, digital skills have become as important as maths and English to enable people to take on new roles or access jobs in new sectors. A challenge for the city is to ensure that people displaced from low skilled, and often low paid, sectors are supported to gain skills in sectors with job vacancies such as the care sector.

The top four occupations featured in job vacancies* in the last year are nurses, care givers, administrators and software developers. There are around 16,000 people employed in the health sector in York which is 14% of the entire workforce and is therefore incredibly important that the education providers in the city work in partnership to provide joined up provision pathways and raise awareness of opportunities in this sector. Provision must reflect that people may be entering the sector for the first time; some may be seeking full-time work, others part-time whilst those already within the sector might have distinct upskilling needs.

Businesses have told us that they value human skills such as resilience, adaptability and team work as much as the technical skills required in their sectors. This has been particularly apparent in dealing with COVID-19 when workers have had to deal with unparalleled change and ongoing personal and economic challenges. Employers have also become much more aware of the importance of mental health and are committed to their responsibilities to ensure mental wellbeing in the workplace as well as knowing how to support their employees in times of mental ill health.

The increased acceptance of flexible working and relaxation of the standard working week has been accelerated by COVID-19 as employers acknowledge that home working has not negatively impacted productivity, as they may have feared in the past. The benefits of decoupling physical proximity with work are having far reaching effects as business leaders and individuals explore the freedoms that it gives them.

The 'Empowered employers' commitment in this plan sets out how we will continue to support businesses of all sizes to access the skills and talent they need.

The world of work and education are both changing and we need new ways to ensure we have a workforce who can respond to change, and who can develop the skills and competencies that address the ever changing needs of business, through effective reskilling and upskilling programmes. Individual providers cannot do this in isolation and it is important that we develop sustainable but agile partnerships between local providers, employers and funders to develop employer informed innovative provision.

The 'pioneering provision' commitment in this plan sets out how we will continue to work together to align and adapt existing public-funded support; shape local implementation of new national initiatives and develop employer-informed skills and training packages .

How York is adapting – our skills and employment response

1. York works – skills support for individuals

Support those entering, re-entering or displaced from the workforce to re-train or upskill and connect them with good jobs in sustainable and growth sectors.

- Careers education, information, advice and guidance is available to people of all ages and reflects local labour market intelligence
- Support residents to access the equipment and digital skills they need to compete in the new world of work
- Support residents to access targeted skills packages and relevant funding to reskill and upskill
- Promote public-funded and private sector support for those who are unemployed, underemployed or facing redundancy ensuring that people new to unemployment gain modern job search skills, awareness of transferable skills, how to apply and be interviewed online etc.
- Support individuals back into employment who have been displaced from the sectors most affected by COVID-19 e.g. retail, tourism and hospitality
- A continued commitment to target and support those who are hardest to reach and may be further from the labour market as a result of the pandemic.

We will achieve this by

- Undertaking regular monitoring and analysis of labour market intelligence using data more intelligently to better understand people's destinations, supply and demand for labour in various sectors, identify gaps in training provision and ensure interventions to address gaps
- Working in partnership with local training and education providers to ensure there is a comprehensive directory of skills provision available for residents and business leaders that meets future skills needs
- Reviewing the current provision of funded Entry Level to Level 6+ training available in the city and developing initiatives to address the gaps and ensure clear progression routes for individuals
- Working in partnership to develop nationally-funded digital and technical bootcamps that meet local needs
- Ensuring a greater focus on training in communities where there are high numbers of low skilled residents and offering courses to help parents and carers develop their own skills while supporting their children's English and maths education
- Increasing the access to and building on the support available via the community hubs ensuring volunteers have the necessary skills to provide effective IAG
- Ensuring residents can access IT equipment to assist in retraining and gaining employment

2. Empowered employers – skills support for businesses

Support businesses of all sizes to access national, regional and local skills provision to help them plan, diversify and grow.

- Promote existing and future public-funded and private sector support to help businesses develop the skills of their employees.
- Make it easier for businesses to identify and access the skills and training they need
- Give businesses a voice to shape and inform future skills provision

- Support and engage with peer-to-peer business support mechanisms

We will achieve this by

- The establishment of York Skills and Employment Board with business representation to direct future skills needs and to explore and promote skills funding initiatives
- Supporting businesses to ensure they have access to the skilled workforce or training opportunities required to address technological and economic change prioritising those in the key growth sectors and those greatly affected by COVID-19
- Strengthening the business voice through strategic partnerships with education and training providers
- Supporting a growing number of businesses to develop skills plans and identify training needs, informing the curriculum to enable more employees to be supported to upskill
- Supporting local Apprenticeship Levy transfers in partnership with larger levy paying businesses, to encourage the take up of apprenticeships among SMEs

3. Pioneering provision – productive partnerships

Work in partnership to make the most of national, regional and local initiatives and adapt local skills provision in response to emerging needs.

- Align and, where possible, adapt existing provision to meet local needs
- Shape local implementation of new national initiatives
- Support the development of employer informed provision addressing new and innovative modes of delivery
- Embed a city-wide partnership approach to addressing the challenges and harnessing the opportunities of the next 2-10 years

We will achieve this by

- Supporting a growing number of businesses to develop skills plans and identify training needs, informing the curriculum to enable more employees to be supported to upskill (including digital needs).
- Working with businesses, Higher Education (HE), Further Education (FE) and other training providers to improve the skills of both the existing workforce and the future labour market, ensuring a better matching of skills to business needs to sustain economic growth.
- Encouraging greater investment in higher skills development to meet skills gaps in key sector areas such as Health and Social Care, Creative and Digital and Bioscience
- Providing sector specific skills pathways and innovative programmes to support recruitment into growth sectors and prepare people for the jobs of the future
- Work with Higher York partners to assess the potential of new progression routes to attain “Undergraduate and Postgraduate Qualifications in Professional Practice” through the development of modularised provision with an initial focus on big data, green skills, bioscience, leadership, project management and digital heritage
- Coordinate adult and community learning providers to build entry level and lower level skills for those furthest away from the job market with clear progression routes to higher level skills provision across the city.
- Developing a 10-year skills and employment strategy which responds to the local labour and skills market and the Local Skills Improvement Plan (FE Whitepaper)

4. Education to employment and self-employment– York’s pipeline

Support positive progressions for all by preparing those transitioning from education or re-entering the world of work for a culture of lifelong learning and entrepreneurship.

- Support young people who have had a disrupted experience of their formal education to re-engage with education, employment and training
- Support sustainable relationships between local employers and providers to help businesses develop their future workforce including initiatives to take on graduates
- Promote lifelong education, training and career pathways to attract and retain talent in key sectors
- Promote entrepreneurship and the support available to people looking to start a business for the first time or scale up an existing business.

we will achieve this by

- Facilitating sustainable relationships between employers and providers to ensure the city has the skilled workforce to support capital projects such as York Central, the Guildhall redevelopment and BioYorkshire
- Providing sector specific skills pathways to support recruitment into growth sectors and prepare people for the jobs of the future including the creation of more pathways from intermediate to higher level apprenticeships
- Engaging with local businesses and partners to provide transferable skills sessions, skills appraisements, paid internships and virtual work experience opportunities for all ages. Increase businesses involved in offering work placements for T levels.
- Exploring a ‘buddy’ system of links between existing employees and individuals interested in moving to a new sector.
- Providing new start and business mentoring and support for business owners
- Supporting people looking to become self-employed through the development and promotion of relevant training and advice, developing a culture of “Enterprise for All”
- Upskilling of staff in community hubs so they can provide IAG and signposting to those looking for work and those becoming self-employed
- Proactively supporting the development of The York Accelerator, developing links with professional services firms who can provide support to individuals engaging with the accelerator.
- Implement initiatives aimed at increasing graduate start-ups spaces and incubator labs such as the Venture Creation Lab which will also act as a feeder into the York Accelerator.

5. York Shares - Communicating the Offer

Developing a coherent and effective marketing and communications strategy to ensure information advice and guidance is provided at the point of need in a timely and effective way.

Individuals

- Developing a comprehensive communication plan to ensure information on training and funding is accessible and relevant for those seeking to enter or re-enter the workforce and for those who wish to retrain or upskill
- Communicating to individuals without L1-L3 qualifications how they can access the necessary training and relevant funding streams
- Using city wide partners to signpost individuals to IAG resources

- Improving communication with businesses to help them assist employees facing redundancy.

Employers

- The development of shared business engagement resources with effective signposting between partners to ensure enquiries are triaged efficiently and referred to right provision.
- The establishment of the York Skills Hub which will inform and signpost people to available skills provision, initiatives and support.
- Raising awareness of business networks and support available for peer learning

Provision

- Raising awareness of local and national initiatives including Youth Hub, Digital Bootcamps, Kickstart and the Lifetime Skills Guarantee and other funded provision.
- Sharing analysis of labour market intelligence to support a gap analysis of training provision and progression in key sectors

Employment

- Developing effective communication channels to raise awareness of education and training opportunities to young people who have disengaged with formal education soft skills they have missed out on
- Co-ordinating and promoting the support available across the city for those aged 14+ at risk of disengaging from education, to raise aspirations and support those from disadvantaged groups to access employability skills and training.

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**Decision Session - Executive Member for
Economy and Strategic Planning**

23 March 2021

Report of the Head of Development Services

MHCLG Consultation: National Planning Policy Framework and National Model Design Code**Summary**

1. On 30 January 2021 the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) published a consultation entitled [“National Planning Policy Framework and National Model Design Code: consultation proposals”](#). The consultation runs until the 27 March 2021.
2. The MHCLG consultation seeks views on draft revisions to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Revisions implement policy changes in response to the Building Better Building Beautiful Commission *Living with Beauty* report. Other proposed changes are largely refreshes/updates. MHCLG advise that a fuller review of the Framework is likely to be required in due course, depending on the implementation of the government’s proposals for wider reform of the planning system.
3. Proposed changes to NPPF are summarised as: (1) Implements policy changes in response to the Building Better Building Beautiful Commission recommendations. (2) Strengthen environmental policies, including those arising from our review of flood risk with Defra. (3) Legal issues. (4) Remove or amend out of date material. (5) New comment on planning control of statues. (6) Clarification on the use of Article 4 directions.
4. The consultation is also seeking views on the draft National Model Design Code (NMDC). This provides detailed guidance on the production of design codes, guides and other policies to promote successful design. Government expects local authorities to apply this

guidance and create their own design codes, guides and other policies to promote successful design.

5. MHCLG also intend to test the NMDC, by trialling its use to develop local Design Codes for a small number of local authorities, prior to its general release.
6. Summary analysis: Local Design Codes have the potential benefit of embedding good design quality into the heart of planning decision making, but there are many potential pitfalls to explore, which could have counterproductive outcomes.
7. Summary analysis: NPPF revisions are minor, with the exception of clarification on the use of Article 4 directions, which prevents LPA from amending the expansion of permitted development rights. These issues were explored in recent CYC executive member paper 26 Jan 2021.

Recommendation

8. The Executive Member is asked to:
 - a. Note the content of this report and annexes; and
 - b. Delegate to the Assistant Director for Planning and Public Protection to submit the Councils response to the MHCLG consultation referred to in this report.

Background

Existing policy context leading to the proposed National Model Design Code and NPPF revisions.

9. MHCLG *National Design Guide* (NDG), Oct 2019. Explains how to recognise well-designed places, by outlining and illustrating the government's priorities for well-designed places in the form of ten characteristics through which design is experienced- "context; identity; built-form; movement; nature; public-spaces; uses; homes-and-buildings; resources; lifespan". A secondary purpose of this is to standardise the design-language.
10. MHCLG commissioned *Living with Beauty*, Jan 2020 & MHCLG response Feb 2021. Independent body exploring ideas on how to promote and increase the use of high-quality design for new build homes and neighbourhoods.
11. MHCLG *Planning for the Future*, White Paper Aug 2020- proposals to "...streamline and modernise the planning process (in England), improve outcomes on design and sustainability, reform developer

contributions and ensure more land is available for development where it is needed". One principle of which ("Pillar two") concerns itself with "Planning for Beautiful and Sustainable Places", making explicit reference to widespread use of Design Codes to help achieve this.

National Model Design Code

Existing Design Guidance within the Planning System

12. Substantial existing design guidance is widely available and informs planning decisions as a material consideration to various degrees. Government, national bodies and expert groups, local authorities (including CYC) and local interest groups, all produce design guidance.
13. Design guidance can be highly varied. It ranges in topic, and scale, in mandatory to discretionary application, and can be objectively measurable by quantity or subjectively assessed as a quality.
14. Design guidance has various material weight within the planning system. Planning specific design guidance usually has the highest weighting and includes CYC planning policies, acts of planning law, the NPPF and its technical guidance. Design content is directly included within these documents or outsourced to other third party documents through naming standards (such as a "BREEAM" etc...) or requiring certain desirable qualities (such as, at its most vague, NPPF requirement for "good design", para 124 etc...).
15. Not all mandatory design standards are planning ones. For instance, Building Regulations, Highways Regulations or British Standards operate mostly outside of planning processes. These are often not overtly "design" standards, yet still have considerable impacts on design outputs (for instance, the prevention of crime or fire safety). These are often accepted constraints as part of the planning process.

The government aspired approach to the design of the built environment

16. To move away from text based descriptions of design outputs to visual representation, in order to try to clarify issues so they are not needlessly debated/disputed.
17. To use the same design terminology and design analysis, and to a degree- the same basic design standards, from place to place

(instead of the current situation, which is quite varied). This way, interested parties like developer and LPA communicate more effectively.

18. To return to perceived previous ways of building, where developers understood “beauty” and aspired to it. Alternatively, at least to return to tried and tested ways of doing things (such as “pattern book design”), rather than endlessly invent new forms for no clear reason.
19. To build in a way that the local community are more likely to accept because it is familiar and works, and to create additional local design standards that the public support.
20. To dismantle perceived culture clashes between “modern” and “tradition”, by laying bare “good design” that should apply to both.
21. To improve speed of planning decisions with more certain outcomes, or even remove the need to regulate some development, except in the lightest way (extension of permitted development rights etc...)
22. To increase the importance of evidenced good design as a decision factor in planning, thereby improving standards of design quality over time, turning the tide on the ever-increasing amounts poorly designed built environment.
23. As a result, development (less mystical, simpler and quicker) also becomes more appealing to wider sectors of society and less reliant on industry consultant specialists. Outcomes being more economic activity, twinned with better standards (two things that normally head in the opposite direction, all other things being equal).

Describing the *National Model Design Code* (NMDC) and its new companion document *Guidance Notes for Design Codes*.

24. Purpose- *“to provide detailed guidance on the production of design codes, guides and policies to promote successful design. It expands on the ten characteristics of good design set out in the National Design Guide, which reflects the government’s priorities and provides a common overarching framework for design”*. MHCLG recognises this is one tool available to local authorities to deliver design quality. It does not override or supersede existing documents informing design (for instance, local conservation area appraisals or design SPDs, or national guides like *Manual for Streets*).
25. Policy status- This document is not national policy, but government expects it to be used to inform the preparation of local Design Guides

and government is proposing changes to NPPF to expect local Design Guides to be used in planning decision making. In the absence of local design guidance, local planning authorities will be expected to defer to the *National Design Guide*, *National Model Design Code* and *Manual for Streets*, which can be used as material considerations in planning decisions. NMDC also appears to include an in-between option (NMDC, p4) of embedding NMDC content directly with Local Plans if a design code is not appropriate.

26. Format- NMDC is published in two parts. The first part is an explanation about what to expect a design code to do (“Purpose” and “Objectives”); how a local authority should go about applying it, including what geography extents to apply (“Application”); and how to develop code content (“Coding Process”). The second part is a separate document “*Guidance Notes for Design Codes*” (GNDC), which goes into further detail on possible code content.
27. The NMDC foresees some code being applicable to the whole area and some that might vary depending on twelve possible “area types” differentiated by urban characteristic like “industrial” or “outer-suburb” etc... The NMDC provides a content framework for local authorities to choose from, depending on what each local authority assesses as most appropriate for them, but NMDC does specify a minimum content.
28. In addition to “area types” there is also the option of including site specific content for larger development sites- ie masterplan content, which might be created by the LPA and/or developer.
29. Nature of design content- is mostly familiar urban design advice for good practice. It ranges from “musts”, to “preferable”, to “possible options” (possible options being for the LPA to consider choosing from). Some guidance is quality-based and so quite open to different interpretation. Guidance includes measurable standards as ranges (for example, density or building separation), but appears slightly hesitant to include fixed measurable standards.
30. Local Plan and measurable standards – Guidance often specifies the need for policy back up from a Local Plan, and is often silent for measurable standards, which it expects to be stated in policy elsewhere like a Local Plan (for example, car parking or cycle provision standards). However, it does give prompts to suggest some

measurable standards are a good idea to include in Local Plans (for example, Housing Space Standards, GNDC p74).

Analysis

31. Positives: It is obviously a good thing to improve focus on design quality in the planning system. Embedding design guidance more directly into NPPF, government publications such as NMDC, and ultimately local outcomes such as a possible adopted “York Design Code”, strengthens the planning mechanisms to achieve this. If adequately resourced, and subject to the future planning system being relatively the same, LPAs should be able to use this approach to speed up processes and improve outcomes. Whilst the list of “unknowns and concerns” below is longer, these are great potential benefits.
32. Unknowns and concerns: Government ambition to treat good design as simply a routine “pattern book” approach is unlikely to be achieved by this. NMDC is not a re-invention of urban design into an algorithmic process of rules generating guaranteed outputs. NMDC is quite a traditional Urban Design document, with plenty of scope for variation. This is not a bad thing, but possible future changes to the planning system might create an over reliance on code content.
33. Unknowns and concerns: “Beauty” is not demystified here, and many of the challenges to consider it are deferred and left to LPAs to consider when producing their own Design Codes. Adding emphasis to “Beauty” could end up in complex lengthy disagreements and it is unclear how the planning inspectorate would make such judgements either?
34. Unknowns and concerns: The local community is diverse and engagement challenges include: Representational engagement over a likely short time; complex and diverse views on something as emotive as this making it hard to coherently inform local Design Code content; possible over-conservative outcomes, which might stifle innovation.
35. Unknowns and concerns: There are potential conflicts between Local Plan anticipated growth and code content that implicitly limits growth. Understanding how code content influences outputs is complex. For example, possible limits on building height reduce profit, or desirable features of the code might increase cost. This might cause reduced deliverability that in turn limits growth. Countering reasoning includes “higher quality generates higher value” are true, but ones such as

“known constraints [such as code content] lowers land value to ensure deliverability” are likely to take years to bed in, given existing land investments anticipate returns based on the current system. This is likely to create tensions in its use.

36. Unknowns and concerns: Fundamental wider planning reforms are anticipated (Planning White Paper) with a strong driver to increase housing delivery. This will put pressure on using local Design Codes as fast track tick box processes, rather than tools to improve the current processes. This could easily have poor outcomes.

Direct Implications for CYC

37. Compatibility issues – local Design Guides need to be strongly integrated and compatible with policies in the Local Plan. York Local Plan is at an advance stage and unlikely to pause to be developed in parallel with a local Design Guide. This might mean subsequent Local Plan updates are required.
38. Significant resources will be needed to produce a local Design Code. The available funding for this is not currently clear. If funding does not match local Design Code ambition, the outcome will be a rushed and likely poor code. Funding availability should influence local Design Code ambition, with low-cost alternatives like no-code or enhanced/updated Local Plan policies being more desirable than an overly ambitious code that fails to deliver.
39. Production of a York Design Code (either through boosted in-house capacity and/or consultant(s) commission) should be closely and directly managed/owned by LPA colleagues to ensure it is fit for purpose.
40. A poor code could easily create counterproductive poor design quality outcomes, especially if a code becomes a tick-box type route to planning approval. This then becomes hard to challenge by the LPA and planning committee, which would also be counter to local accountability and democracy.
41. Adequate skills base within local authorities- NMDC and local Design Codes do not automate processes and remove/reduce the need for highly trained and resourced LPA officers and their supporting consultant colleagues. Colleagues will need to interpret and apply the code for each planning application.

Timetable and delivery

42. Next steps- Local Design Code trialling in sample authorities appears to end 1st September 2021, after which delivery nationally is unclear, but government will likely press for a fast roll out. It is also unclear what the adoption process will be, in detail, including whether Design Codes will need government scrutiny.

Proposed changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

43. The government is proposing to make a number of changes to the National Planning Policy Framework. Most of the changes relate to policy on the quality of design of new development, and which respond to the recommendations of the Building Better, Building Beautiful Commission.
44. There are also a number of environment-related changes, including amendments on flood risk and climate change. The amendments also include a small number of very minor changes arising from legal cases, primarily to clarify the policy. A few minor factual changes have also been made to remove out-of-date text (for example, the early thresholds for the Housing Delivery Test), to reflect a recent change made by Written Ministerial Statement about retaining and explaining statues, and an update on the use of Article 4 directions.
45. It should be noted that this is not a wholesale revision of the National Planning Policy Framework, nor does it reflect proposals for wider planning reform set out in the Planning for the Future consultation document.
46. The revisions are summarised below:
- Makes a number of changes to strengthen environmental policies – including those arising from our review of flood risk with Defra
 - Includes minor changes to clarify policy in order to address legal issues
 - Includes changes to remove or amend out of date material
 - Includes an update to reflect a recent change made in a Written Ministerial Statement about retaining and explaining statues.
 - Clarification on the use of Article 4 directions

The proposed changes

Chapter 2: Achieving sustainable development

47. The revised text reflects the government's response to the Building Better Building Beautiful Commission, and makes a small number of other minor changes:

48. The wording in paragraph 7 has been amended to incorporate the 17 Global Goals for Sustainable Development which are a widely-recognised statement of sustainable development objectives, to which the UK has subscribed.

49. Paragraph 8(b) has been amended in response to the Building Better Building Beautiful Commission recommendations to emphasise the importance of well-designed, beautiful and safe places in achieving social objectives of sustainable development.

50. The wording in paragraph 8(c) has been strengthened to emphasise the role of planning in protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment.

51. The wording of the presumption in favour of sustainable development (paragraph 11(a)) has been amended to broaden the high-level objective for plans to make express reference to the importance of both infrastructure and climate change.

52. The final sentence in footnote 8 (referred to in paragraph 11(d)) has been removed as the transitional arrangements for the Housing Delivery Test no longer apply.

Q1. Do you agree with the changes proposed in Chapter 2?

The changes proposed are supported as sustainable development is something that should be at the heart of the planning system. It is also considered that strengthening the emphasis on protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment is positive along with making specific reference to climate change.

Chapter 3: Plan-making

53. The revised text reflects the government's response to the Building Better Building Beautiful Commission, and recent legal cases:

54. In response to the Building Better Building Beautiful Commission recommendations, paragraph 20 has been amended to require strategic policies to set out an overall strategy for the pattern, scale and design quality of places.

55. Paragraph 22 has also been amended in response to the Building Better Building Beautiful Commission recommendations to clarify that councils who wish to plan for new settlements and major urban extensions will need to look over a longer time frame, of at least 30 years, to take into account the likely timescale for delivery.

56. Paragraph 35(d) has been amended to highlight that local plans and spatial development strategies are 'sound' if they are consistent with national policy – enabling the delivery of sustainable development in accordance with the policies in the Framework, and other statements of national planning policy where relevant. This ensures that the most up to date national policies (for example, Written Ministerial Statements) can be taken into account.

Q2. Do you agree with the changes proposed in Chapter 3?

The changes proposed are considered to be positive as it allows for a long-term vision and planning for new a settlement.

Chapter 4: Decision making

57. The revised text aims to clarify the policy intention for Article 4 directions:

58. In order to ensure Article 4 directions can only be used to remove national permitted development rights allowing changes of use to residential where they are targeted and fully justified, we propose amending Paragraph 53, and ask for views on two different options.

59. We also propose clarifying our policy that Article 4 directions should be restricted to the smallest geographical area possible. Together these amendments would encourage the appropriate and proportionate use of Article 4 directions.

Q3. Do you agree with the changes proposed in Chapter 4? Which option relating to change of use to residential do you prefer and why?

Do not agree. The changes in respect of changes of use to residential are considered to be unnecessary, the existing policy test is clear in its intention and sets out an appropriate policy measure for considering the use of article 4.

No view on the two options.

Chapter 5: Delivering a wide choice of high quality homes

60. The revised text aims to clarify the existing policy and reflects the government's response to the Building Better Building Beautiful Commission and recent legal cases:

61. Paragraph 65 has been amended to clarify that, where major development involving the provision of housing is proposed, planning policies and decisions should expect at least 10% of the total number of homes to be available for affordable home ownership. This is to address confusion as to whether the 10% requirement applies to all units or the affordable housing contribution.

62. Paragraph 70 has been amended to remove any suggestion that neighbourhood plans can only allocate small or medium sites. This was not the policy intention, so the wording has therefore been amended to clarify that neighbourhood planning groups should also give particular consideration to the opportunities for allocating small and medium-sized sites (of a size consistent with new paragraph 69a) suitable for housing in their area.

63. Paragraph 73 has been amended to reflect Chapter 9: "Promoting sustainable transport" in ensuring that larger scale developments are supported by the necessary infrastructure and facilities including a genuine choice of transport modes. Paragraph 73(c) has also been amended in response to the Building Better Building Beautiful Commission's recommendations to clarify that when planning for larger scale development, strategic policy making authorities should set clear expectations for the quality of the places to be created and how this can be maintained (such as by following Garden City principles) and ensure that masterplans and codes are used to secure a variety of well-designed and beautiful homes to meet the needs of different groups in the community.

64. Footnote 40 (referred to in new paragraph 74(c)) has been updated to reflect that the Housing Delivery Test has now come into effect.

65. New paragraph 80 (d) has been amended in response to legal cases in order to clarify that the curtilage does not fall within the scope of this policy.

66. New paragraph 80 (e) has been amended in response to the Building Better, Building Beautiful Commission's policy proposition 1 e) that it opens a loophole for designs that are not outstanding, but that are in some way innovative, and that the words 'or innovative' should be removed. This change is not proposed to rule out innovative homes, rather that it will ensure

that outstanding quality can always be demanded, even if an innovative approach is taken.

Q4. Do you agree with the changes proposed in Chapter 5?

The changes above are welcomed in order to provide clarity on affordable housing requirements and neighborhood planning references. Outlining in national policy the quality of large new developments to ensure they are fit for purpose and maintained is supported.

Chapter 8: Promoting healthy and safe communities

67. The revised text seeks to clarify existing policy:

New paragraph 92 (b) includes minor changes to help to clarify Government's expectations for attractive pedestrian and cycle routes. This supports the Building Better Building Beautiful Commission's recommendations on supporting walkable neighbourhoods.

68. New paragraph 97 has been amended to emphasise that access to a network of high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and well-being of communities, and can deliver wider benefits for nature and efforts to address climate change.

Q5. Do you agree with the changes proposed in Chapter 8?

Attractive pedestrian and cycle routes are something that CYC are keen to see and would support measures to ensure this is the case. Again emphasis on high quality open space and opportunities for sport and physical activity is something CYC is supportive of seeing in National Planning Policy.

Chapter 9: Promoting sustainable transport

69. The revised text reflects the government's response to the Building Better Building Beautiful Commission:

70. New paragraph 105 (d) has been amended to support the Building Better, Building Beautiful Commission's recommendations on encouraging walking and cycling.

71. New paragraph 109 (c) and supporting footnote 45 has been amended to prevent continuing reliance by some authorities on outdated highways guidance. Our amended wording states that in assessing sites that may be allocated for development in plans, or specific applications for development, it

should be ensured that the design of schemes and standards applied reflects current national guidance, including the National Design Guide and National Model Design Code.

Q6. Do you agree with the changes proposed in Chapter 9?

The changes proposed in terms of sustainable transport measures and ensuring sites are assessed in line with relevant guidance is supported.

Chapter 11: Making effective use of land

72. The revised text reflects the government's response to the Building Better Building Beautiful Commission:

New paragraph 124 has been amended to include an emphasis on the role that area-based character assessments, codes and masterplans can play in helping to ensure that land is used efficiently while also creating beautiful and sustainable places.

Q7. Do you agree with the changes proposed in Chapter 11?

One of York's key characteristics is its beauty and area specific assessments that ensure efficient use of land whilst ensuring beauty and sustainability is considered key to ensuring it's beauty is protected.

Chapter 12: Achieving well-designed places

73. The revised text reflects the government's response to the Building Better Building Beautiful Commission:

New paragraphs 125 and 127 have been amended to include the term "beautiful" in response to the Building Better Building Beautiful Commission's findings. This supports the Building Better Building Beautiful Commission's recommendation for an overt focus on beauty in planning policy to ensure the planning system can both encourage beautiful buildings and places and help to prevent ugliness when preparing local plans and taking decisions on planning applications

74. Paragraph 126 has been amended to clarify the role that neighbourhood planning groups can have in relation to design policies.

75. Paragraph 127 has been amended to emphasise that all local planning authorities should prepare design guides or codes consistent with the

principles set out in the National Design Guide and National Model Design Code and which reflect local character and design preferences.

76. A new paragraph 128 has been added in response to the Building Better Building Beautiful Commission's recommendations and our manifesto commitment to give communities greater say in the design standards set for their area. This reflects the Government's proposals for a National Model Design Code, which will include a model community engagement process, and will create a framework for local authorities and communities to develop a more consistent approach which reflects the character of each place and local design preferences. It also clarifies that the National Design Guide and the National Model Design Code should also be used to guide decisions on planning applications in the absence of locally produced guides or codes.

77. A new paragraph 130 has been added to reflect the findings of the Building Better Building Beautiful Commission and the Government's ambition to ensure that all new streets are tree-lined, and that existing trees are retained wherever possible.

78. New paragraph 132 and footnote 50 have been updated to refer to Building for a Healthy Life.

New paragraph 133 responds to the Building Better Building Beautiful Commission's recommendations to make clear that development that is not well designed should be refused, especially where it fails to reflect local design policies and government guidance on design. In addition, it clarifies that significant weight should be given to development which reflects local design policies and government guidance on design.

Q8. Do you agree with the changes proposed in Chapter 12?

Local level design codes being established are supported. However, it should be acknowledged that there is a need to accept that preparation in advance of a plan to feed into strategic development plans may incur a delayed time to enable robust preparation. Also, will need to manage any conflicts arising between local vs national design codes and have a clear evidence base supporting the local guides.

With regard to para 130, tree lined streets for urban design and climate change is supported. However, there is also a need to relate and balance against the delivery of biodiversity in section on Habitats and Biodiversity and net gain requirements coming in under the Environment Bill.

Chapter 13: Protecting the Green Belt

79. The revised text seeks to clarify existing policy:

New paragraph 149(f) has been amended slightly to set out that development, including buildings, brought forward under a Community Right to Build Order or Neighbourhood Development Order, is not inappropriate in the Green Belt provided it preserves its openness and does not conflict with the purposes of including land within it.

Q9. Do you agree with the changes proposed in Chapter 13?

Reserved comment on this as this may need to be considered on a case by case basis.

Chapter 14: Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change

80. The revised text seeks to strengthen environmental policies, including clarifying some aspects of policy concerning planning and flood risk:

81. The changes proposed are in part, an initial response to the emergent findings of our joint review with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) of planning policy for flood risk. The government's Policy Statement on flood and coastal erosion risk management sets out a number of actions to maintain and enhance the existing safeguards concerning flood risk in the planning system. Informed by this, we will consider what further measures may be required in the longer term to strengthen planning policy and guidance for proposed development in areas at risk of flooding from all sources when our review concludes.

82. On planning and flood risk, new paragraphs 160 and 161 have been amended to clarify that the policy applies to all sources of flood risk.

83. New paragraph 160(c) has been amended to clarify that plans should manage any residual flood risk by using opportunities provided by new development and improvements in green and other infrastructure to reduce the causes and impacts of flooding (making as much use as possible of natural flood management techniques as part of an integrated approach to flood risk management).

84. The Flood Risk Vulnerability Classification has been moved from planning guidance into national planning policy (set out in Annex 3 and referred to in

paragraph 162). It is considered that this classification is a key tool and should be contained in national policy.

85. New paragraph 163 has been amended to clarify the criteria that need to be demonstrated to pass the exception test.

86. New paragraph 166(b) has been expanded to define what is meant by “resilient”.

Q10. Do you agree with the changes proposed in Chapter 14?

It is fundamentally supported the addition of the clarification that all sources of flood risk should be considered and welcome this.

However, further consideration needs to be made as to how this works in practice for all sources of flooding. For example: Sequential Test and Exception Test are well established for fluvial or tidal flooding through a long record of flood mapping products and post event data analysis. Surface water flood risk mapping is improving rapidly but is not as mature.

In addition to this the surface water flood mapping also includes an infrastructure performance element and is not purely assessed on hydraulic outcomes like the fluvial/tidal mapping, in short the surface water flood risk shown in any one location is open for appropriate and robust challenge and is more likely to be mitigated through effective design/layout of the proposed development rather than by the ST moving the development to an area of lowest flood risk in terms of surface water.

Better guidance is needed on this in the NPPF Technical Guidance if this is to be updated?

Chapter 15: Conserving and enhancing the natural environment

87. The revised text seeks to clarify existing policy and reflects the government’s response to the Building Better Building Beautiful Commission:

88. New paragraph 175 has been amended in response to the Glover Review of protected landscapes, to clarify that the scale and extent of development within the settings of National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty should be sensitively located and designed so as to avoid adverse impacts on the designated landscapes.

89. New paragraph 176 has been separated from the preceding paragraph to clarify that this policy applies at the development management stage only.

90. New paragraph 179(d) has been amended to clarify that development whose primary objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity should be supported; while opportunities to improve biodiversity in and around other developments should be pursued as an integral part of their design, especially where this can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity and enhance public access to nature.

Q11. Do you agree with the changes proposed in Chapter 15?

No comments with respect to 175 and 176. Amendments to 179 in terms of conserving and enhancing biodiversity are supported.

Chapter 16: Conserving and enhancing the historic environment

91. The revised text seeks to reflect a change made to national planning policy by a Written Ministerial Statement on protecting our nation's heritage dated 18 January 2021:

92. New paragraph 197 has been added to clarify that authorities should have regard to the need to retain historic statues, plaques or memorials, with a focus on explaining their historic and social context rather than removal, where appropriate.

Q12. Do you agree with the changes proposed in Chapter 16?

CYC is aware of the issues with memorialised symbols.

Chapter 17: Facilitating the sustainable use of minerals

93. Minor changes have been made to clarify existing policy:

94. New paragraph 209(c) has been amended to refer to Mineral Consultation Areas in order to clarify that this is an important mechanism to safeguard minerals particularly in two tier areas, and to reflect better in policy what is already defined in Planning Practice Guidance.

95. New paragraph 210(f) has been amended to reflect that some stone extraction sites will be large and serve distant markets.

Q13. Do you agree with the changes proposed in Chapter 17?

The changes proposed are considered acceptable.

Conclusion

96. It is considered that the Local Design Codes have great potential and could result in embedding good design quality in the planning process and this should be welcomed. There are however potential issues that need exploration to ensure that the anticipated outcomes are achieved.

97. The revisions outlined to the NPPF in the majority are welcomed as they give greater weight to sustainable development along and should be supported. There are however concerns over the proposed changes to Article 4 directions and the potential for increased development within the Green Belt.

Council Plan

98. The following Council priorities are relevant:

- Good health and wellbeing
- A greener and cleaner city
- An open and effective council

99. Implications

- **Financial NMDC:** There are no resources to develop a local Design Code and costs will be significant. Government funding is unknown but might become available. NPPF Article 4s: limiting the ability of LPAs to amend permitted development rights through Article 4s will impact on planning fee income.
- **Human Resources (HR)** There are no HR implications
- **Equalities** There are no equalities implications
- **Legal** There are no legal implications
- **Crime and Disorder** There are no crime and disorder implications
- **Information Technology (IT)** There are no IT implications
- **Property** There are no property implications
- **Other** There are no other issues

Risk Management

100. There are no known risks

Contact Details

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Protection

Report **Date** 15 March 2021
Approved

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Design and Sustainability
Manager
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Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers: None

Abbreviations:

MHCLG - Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

NPPF - National Planning Policy Framework

NMDC - National Model Design Code

LPA - Local Planning Authority

NDG - National Design Guide

GNDC - Guidance Notes for Design Codes

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Decision Session – Executive Member for Economy and Strategic Planning

23 March 2021

Quarterly Economic Update

Summary

1. In what is now 12 months of various states of lockdown and social distancing, the past quarter has been the most consistent in terms of trading conditions for our business community. January 2021 saw a sudden and decisive move back to national lockdown, and the consistent period of closure since the start of the year, together with the support provided for businesses through grants, loans and furlough, has made a difficult period for the economy easier to deal with than the constant changes experienced through summer and autumn 2020.
2. Our work in City of York Council (CYC) has focussed on distributing those grants, continuing our close work with the business community, and developing solid plans to support the reopening of the city when that is allowed to happen. We continue to provide grant support for over half of York's 7,000 companies, getting mandatory rates-related grants swiftly and efficiently to those who are entitled to receive them, and focussing discretionary grants on the small and micro businesses that need them most.
3. Informal feedback, together with the emerging results of our evaluation of the effectiveness of micro-grants, shows the value of our "small grants to small business" approach. The Council's faith in grass roots business as the foundation of our economy and in engaging direct with them rather than through other larger entities is well received by the business community. The money we have provided through the 2020 microgrant scheme and our approach to distributing the Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG), with grants of £1000 to £3000 going to over 1,200 businesses, has made a real difference. It has enabled micro-businesses to change and adapt, and given confidence that the city values our foundation economy. Outside of York, such businesses are still awaiting support. Here, they have been at the heart of our response, and we are determined

to continue our approach and encourage others to adopt “the York model” of inclusive growth.

4. Businesses that have got this far are confident of re-emerging when lockdown lifts in early summer, however the strains of social distancing and forced closure has had a profound effect on many company owners and employees. We continue to work closely with our business networks and seek to respond where we can to emerging issues such as mental health, changing premises needs, changing skills needs and the challenges of trading in the city centre and beyond.
5. Many of our “Anchor institutions” are faring well. Large employers such as Aviva, LNER and CYC itself continue to work predominantly from home. Our Universities are coping well with the challenges of social distancing, with many of their students studying remotely but longing to get back to York and a more active life.
6. Recent announcements regarding Nestle’s plans for their York offices and Bosch’s expanding ETAS smart transport subsidiary demonstrate that York remains attractive for inward investment. As set out in our paper to the Executive Member’s November 2020 decision session, we are currently working with both Make It York and the LEP to consolidate and expand our inward investment teams, seeking to bring more investment to the city and increase opportunity for the people of York.
7. Feedback from the professional services sector and larger employers shows we are right to have confidence in the city’s economy. Patterns of use of space will change from how they were pre-2020, but that is not a threat to the York economy. Indeed, we are more confident that our office capacity, and the nature of York’s unique city centre offer, can cope with this change and that the range of occupiers we identified for York Central – regional centres of 100-500 staff, together with “niche corporates” – should remain our target market. The inward investment plan which will accompany the Economic Strategy will set this out in more detail.
8. Notwithstanding this confidence in our future, 20,000 York employees and self-employed are still furloughed or on Government support packages. Unemployment has remained stable and is beginning to fall, with the claimant count at just less than 5,000 for the past 9 months. With furloughing extended to September in the Chancellor’s March 2021 Budget, the period of concern has shifted to when that support ends and employers will have to choose whether to bring staff back or accept that roles have become

redundant. Our one year skills plan seeks to address this, and is presented separately to this decision session.

9. Our regular close engagement with business networks continues and will be “business as usual” in future. We thank once again our colleagues in the Federation of Small Businesses, Chamber of Commerce, Institute of Directors, York BID, Indie York and Make It York. The spirit of collaboration remains strong, and has been central to our approach. For example, through these networks, key issues around mental health emerged in January and February, and we are now working with York St John University to first properly understand how we can help, and then implement a programme of support through those networks.

Recommendations

10. The Executive Member is asked to note the contents of the report.

Reason: To support York’s economic response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

State of the Economy

11. This report covers the period January 2021 to March 2021. Following a period of Tier 2 status in December 2020 which saw strong but constrained trading in the retail and leisure economy, the national restrictions which started in January have seen a move back into full lockdown. Much of the consumer economy remains closed, awaiting the move through the steps which were announced in the Government’s roadmap to recovery in February 2021.
12. In the wider economy, many companies have continued to trade well, with national surveys¹ suggesting that around half of all businesses have seen decreased turnover, a third are unaffected by lockdown, and more than 10% have seen turnover increase. Nationally, 70% of businesses have all of their sites and premises open, and around 19% of the national workforce is furloughed, with that scheme available until September 2021.
13. The same survey suggests that 30% of all businesses, and 51% of those in the hospitality sector, are carrying less than 3 months cash reserves, putting them at significant risk of failure in the months ahead. Much of the effort, both locally and nationally, to shore up

¹<https://www.ons.gov.uk/businessindustryandtrade/business/businessservices/bulletins/businessinsightsandimpactontheeconomy/11march2021>

the economy has focussed on providing grants to help business cashflow. As discussed above, York has continued to distribute such funds widely and quickly, and our policy of modelling expenditure to reflect a longer period of lockdown than was indicated in headline announcements has proved to be wise. We retain sufficient discretionary funds to support further delays in moving through the roadmap steps.

14. The Chancellor's 2021 Budget saw a shift in focus from support through lockdown to providing help to reopen later in the year. A new portfolio of grants and loans have been announced, with the detail still to emerge. The extension of furlough to September underlines some of the detail accompanying the roadmap to recovery, which suggests that a move every 5 weeks through the steps represents the best case scenario but that there is a possibility that this roadmap might be delayed subject to public health considerations.
15. The impacts of changed border arrangements following EU exit are beginning to be seen in economic data. UK Trade figures for January 2021² show a 40.7% reduction in exports to the EU, and imports from the same territory down 28.8%. Clearly, January 2021 was not a normal month, with both a national lockdown and the first few weeks of new arrangements in place. Local businesses had reported some stockpiling at the end of 2020, and this too will be a factor in these reductions. There are signs from the Business Impacts survey referred to above that both imports and exports began to rise again at the end of January.
16. Local productivity figures – Gross Value Added (GVA) by Local Authority– are awaited, with the last publication being in February 2020. National Gross Domestic Product (GDP) figures³ show a fall in January 2021, consistent with the national lockdown and 5% below “normal” levels. These figures, together with the trade data, demonstrate that we still have some way to go in measuring the impact of the covid pandemic on the economy, with difficult times ahead. As highlighted above, 20,000 people in York are still reliant on furlough and self-employed support schemes, and it is at the end of those in September when the short term impacts will become more evident. Recovery will take at least 2 years, with some models

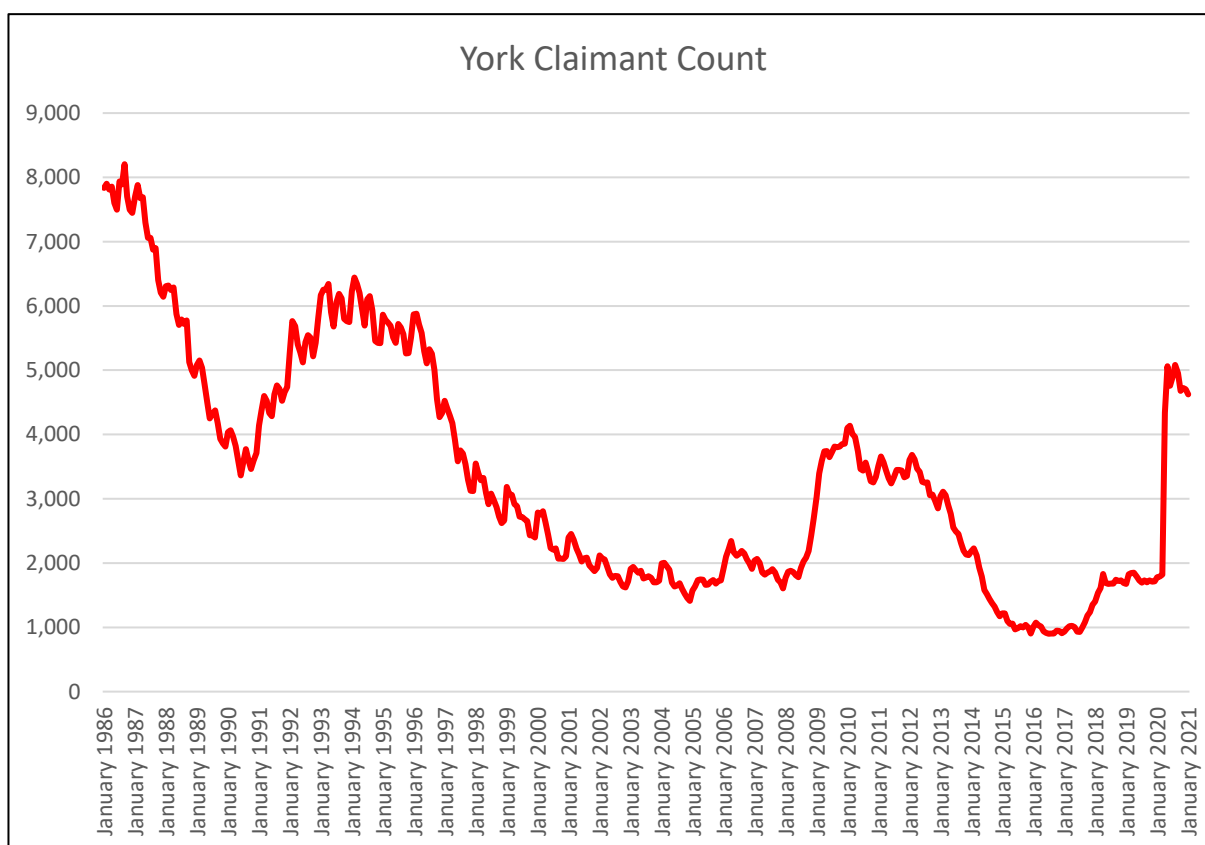
² <https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/nationalaccounts/balanceofpayments/bulletins/uktrade/january2021>

³ <https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/economicoutputandproductivity/output/bulletins/indexofproduction/january2021>

suggesting a slower 5 year return to pre-2020 levels of employment and productivity.

Unemployment (Annex 1 pp.12-13)

17. The impact of the COVID pandemic is shown very clearly in the claimant count⁴ shown in Fig 1 below. This saw the largest increase in at least 35 years in the months since lockdown when the count rose from 1,800 to 5,000 in April 2020, however the total has been falling since then.
18. Centre for Cities have been monitoring increases in unemployment across their cohort of 68 UK centres⁵. York continues to be the city with the lowest percentage increase in unemployment, despite the influence of our retail, tourism and hospitality businesses. Cities such as Bradford, Hull and Birmingham have seen unemployment rise at nearly 3 times the rate that York has experienced.



19. As previously noted, two factors are influencing our claimant count statistics.
 - We know that many of the city's students undertake part time work to support their studies, typically in the retail, tourism and hospitality

⁴ Data from <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/query/select/getdatasetbytheme.asp?collapse=yes>

⁵ <https://www.centreforcities.org/data/uk-unemployment-tracker/>

sectors. As students were sent home at the start of lockdown, they do not show in the York claimant count.

- As the claimant count measures those receiving out-of-work benefits, and its availability is influenced by other sources of household income, this is perhaps a consequence of the high level of part time work in the city, with many of those now out of work unable to claim benefits.
20. Updated figures for the Job Retention Scheme (JRS) and Self Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS) have been published by Government⁶. These show a total of 15,600 people furloughed by York employers at the end of January 2021 and a further 4,700 claiming self-employed support at the end of December 2020. The total number of people reliant on these grants is thus 20,300.
 21. The Job Retention Scheme is set to continue until September 2021, and those furloughed on the scheme remain at high risk of losing their jobs in the coming months. Our unemployment support, set out in the Skills paper also reporting to this Decision Session, will need to support such workers, alongside those who have already lost work, whether they are able to claim benefits or not.
 22. The Government KickStart scheme seeks to match unemployed young people with placements in local employers. After the initial interest from the August launch, the autumn period of 2020 when the KickStart programme was publicised to both organisations willing to apply to coordinate over 30 placements on behalf of employers, and all employers to engage with supporting placements, the approval of Gateway Organisations both nationally and locally became slower than expected due to volume constraints in the process, and internal acceptance and processing workloads at DWP. It should be noted that during this time DWP staff were also predominantly remotely working.
 23. On top of this, effects of firstly the early autumn lockdown, and then January to March lockdown, has slowed the number of employers being able to offer placements of any number across most affected sectors of employment. However, in the weeks since mid-January the pace has quickened with the now approval of local Gateway Organisations, and hence commencement of the processes for the placements they have secured from employers.

⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/coronavirus-job-retention-scheme-statistics-february-2021> and <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/self-employment-income-support-scheme-statistics-january-2021>

24. The general response in the York area is regarded as very positive by DWP, and there has been a good response from employers enquiries that are now in process. So, now there are vacancies in all stages of identification, uploading, advertising, matching of candidates, interviewing, selecting and now commencing placement. Some already agreed placements from late 2020, including approximately 20 with LNER, had their starts delayed from early January and are now starting to commence from March into April.
25. The DWP will not confirm exact numbers as they are working with Gateway Organisations, their own Work Advisers and the candidates on UC to advertise and match candidates, under rules of non-disclosure. However, the City of York Council Skills & Apprenticeship Hub is aware by working closely with one of the significant approved local Gateway Organisations, NYBEP, that they have 17 vacancies available and are working on a further 50 in the immediate pipeline. The Hub is also aware that YourConsortium, well known to the Skills Team in York, have recently achieved Gateway Organisation approval and are believed to have a similar number available as that would be required to achieve the approved status.
26. The Hub is also aware that nationally the FSB in partnership with Training Provider Adecco have secured approved Gateway Organisation status and that locally there is good expectation that it will support FSB members in region.
27. More information is available from:
 - <https://nybep.org.uk/kickstart>,
 - <https://yourconsortium.org/?s=KickStart> and
 - <https://www.fsb.org.uk/campaign/kickstart-scheme.html>
28. The Business Engagement Adviser within the CYC Skills and Apprenticeship Hub, has been handling about 4 enquires a week from employers about KickStart since around early November, with some drop off in early January. Impartial advice, guidance and sign posting has been given to answer employers questions and to engage them with suitable Gateway Organisations.
29. It should also be noted that from the launch of the KickStart programme in York, DWP identified a significant % of around 50% of the potential candidates between 16 and 24 and on UC, and or at risk of long term unemployment, were of an existing graduate level.

This factor has been much considered in promoting and scoping the type of KickStart placement job roles.

City centre economy (Annex 1 & Annex 3)

30. Our Springboard footfall counter data, (Annex 1 p3), shows the overall pattern of the year to date. The initial lockdown in March, April and May saw city centre customer numbers consistently below 30% of normal levels. With the easing of restrictions in July and August, people returned, with the peak at August Bank Holiday seeing levels above 80%. A slow but steady decrease across September saw levels in October down to around 60% prior to the second national lockdown in November, which brought numbers down to less than 40% of typical levels. December saw a return to higher levels of footfall with York in Tier 2 through the Christmas shopping period.
31. Since January 2021, footfall has been at levels last seen at the end of the first national lockdown in June 2020. The closure of non-essential retail and hospitality and leisure businesses, together with clear messages to leave the home only for essential trips has clearly had its desired effect.
32. As Annex 3 makes clear, footfall has been higher in January and February than it was in the early stages of the initial lockdown last year. As would be expected, 91% of those in the city centre have been from York or the surrounding local authority districts of Harrogate, Hambleton, Selby, Ryedale and East Riding of Yorkshire. The map on p.5 of Annex 3 shows where those in York city centre have come from, with the top locations being these neighbouring authorities, then elsewhere in Yorkshire, Durham, Manchester and Newcastle. We know that York is a much-loved destination for people from across the UK, and once restrictions are removed, can anticipate many more visitors to return to the city.
33. Shop vacancies in the city centre continue to rise (Annex 1 p4), but remain below national levels. Coney Street is particularly badly hit at present by national chain failures, and is the subject of a study into the future of both the street and the river frontage to shape future proposals. York Retail Forum is actively working to attract new shops to the city, while the resumption of the MyCityCentre initiative in coming months will also seek to make a positive impact and ensure that York retains a vibrant city centre culture. Outside

the city centre (Annex 1 p5) vacancies have decreased in Acomb, Clifton Moor and Monks Cross, and remain very low in Haxby.

Tourism (Annex 1 p4 + Annex 2)

34. Make It York's Tourism dashboard for December 2020 shows the scale of impact on that sector. While overall footfall remained at 70% or so through December, visits to our smaller attractions were down 80% on the year, and our hotels saw much reduced occupancy.

Regional updates

35. York and North Yorkshire LEP has begun to consider how their approach to Inward Investment might develop in coming years. A paper to their Business Board⁷ outlines their initial approach, focussing on key sectors such as Agri-Tech and available sites in Selby District and elsewhere. Discussions have begun to bring together our York approach with the broader aims of LEP and deliver a unified offer to potential investors.

Economic Strategy

36. Work continues to take place on developing a new Economic Strategy for York, with the approach outlined at the Executive Member's October 2020 Decision Session, and a detailed update provided at the Executive Member's January 2021 Decision Session.
37. Current activity is focused on developing plans around public engagement. This will follow a two-step process; an online survey for businesses, residents and partner organisations, and targeted focus groups to enable a broad range of views and ideas to be collated, especially from audiences that would not traditionally engage with the Council through our usual channels.
38. A detailed update on engagement activity will be presented to the Executive Member's April Decision Session. Consultation activity for the Council's new Economic Strategy is planned for late spring / early summer, with Executive sign off scheduled for December 2021.

⁷ <https://www.businessinspiredgrowth.com/publication/210208-yny-business-board-papers/>

BID Ballot update

39. The BID renewal ballot is in progress, running from the 18th February to 18th March 2021. Although the current COVID restrictions may have an impact upon turnout, early predictions are that a high proportion, around 80% of those who have voted, are in favour of a second term for the BID. The BID team and Street Rangers are making a concerted effort to chase up supportive business who have not yet cast their votes, prompting them to return their papers, or issue replacements where required. Two weeks in to the ballot, returned papers are estimated to have come from around 17% of businesses, with the number of votes cast expected to increase significantly by the time the ballot closes. Results from the ballot will be announced after 5 p.m. on 18th March.

Secondary shopping areas

40. The Future of Acomb Front Street pilot began in Sunday 7th March, with the full launch of the project taking place during the third week of March. The Council has commissioned a study to better understand the needs of Acomb Front Street, the traders who work there and the evolving needs and expectations of those who use the area. A questionnaire will seek clarity around how best to support Front Street in gaining productivity growth and boosting footfall. A draft report is expected the week commencing 31st May, at which point further detail will be shared.
41. The Haxby Retail Study has emerged in recognition of the requirement to better understand the needs of the local community, planning for a healthier, sustainable life for residents, and providing a 21st Century place to live, work and visit. The aim is to create a thriving future for Haxby and Wigginton as a robust micro economy, and the outcomes of this study will be used to identify both quick wins and longer term initiatives, built upon the aspirations of local residents, businesses and visitors. The preferred start date for this is the week commencing May 10th, with the project scheduled to run for 16 weeks.
42. On March 25th, the Executive Member will chair a roundtable session with guests invited from Traders' Associations and small businesses from various sectors across York. Also invited are the Federation of Small Businesses, representatives from the LEP and the Council. Delegates will share their views and concerns about reopening post-lockdown, be asked how they may wish to use funding available through the Inclusive Growth Fund, and to set out what support they would like to see from the Council and other

partners to aid footfall and trade. This engagement with small, local businesses is seen as an important pre-cursor to emerging from the current lockdown, as well as beginning to gather information about key issues that need to be addressed in the forthcoming Economic Strategy.

Consultation

43. Consultation on the economy and our COVID response has been through weekly intelligence calls with key partners, the civic partnership structures, 12 sector roundtables and regular meetings of the Executive Economic Recovery Group.

Council Plan

44. Our work addresses the following outcomes from the Council Plan:
 - Good health and wellbeing;
 - Well-paid and an inclusive economy;
 - A better start for children and young people;
 - A greener and cleaner city; and,
 - Safe communities and culture for all.

Implications

45. **Financial** – no new financial commitments.
 - **Human Resources (HR)** – no implications;
 - **One Planet Council / Equalities** – our work positively supports the Council's equalities objectives;
 - **Legal** – no implications;
 - **Crime and Disorder** – no implications;
 - **Information Technology (IT)** – no implications;
 - **Property** – no direct implications

Risk Management

46. There are no specific risks identified in respect of the recommendations.

Contact Details

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Tracey Carter
Interim Director of Place

Report **Date** 15 March 2021
Approved

Wards Affected: List wards or tick box to indicate all **All**

For further information please contact the author of the report

Abbreviations:

- BID – York Business Improvement District
- FSB – Federation of Small Business
- Chamber – York & North Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce
- IOD – Institute of Directors
- LEP – York and North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership
- NYBEP – North Yorkshire Business Education Partnership

Background Papers: None

Annexes

- Annex 1: Economic Recovery Data Pack – Feb 2021
- Annex 2: Make It York Tourism dashboard Dec 2020
- Annex 3: City Centre Performance, Jan & Feb 2021



City of York Council

Economic Recovery Data Pack

March 2021

Economic Recovery - Contents

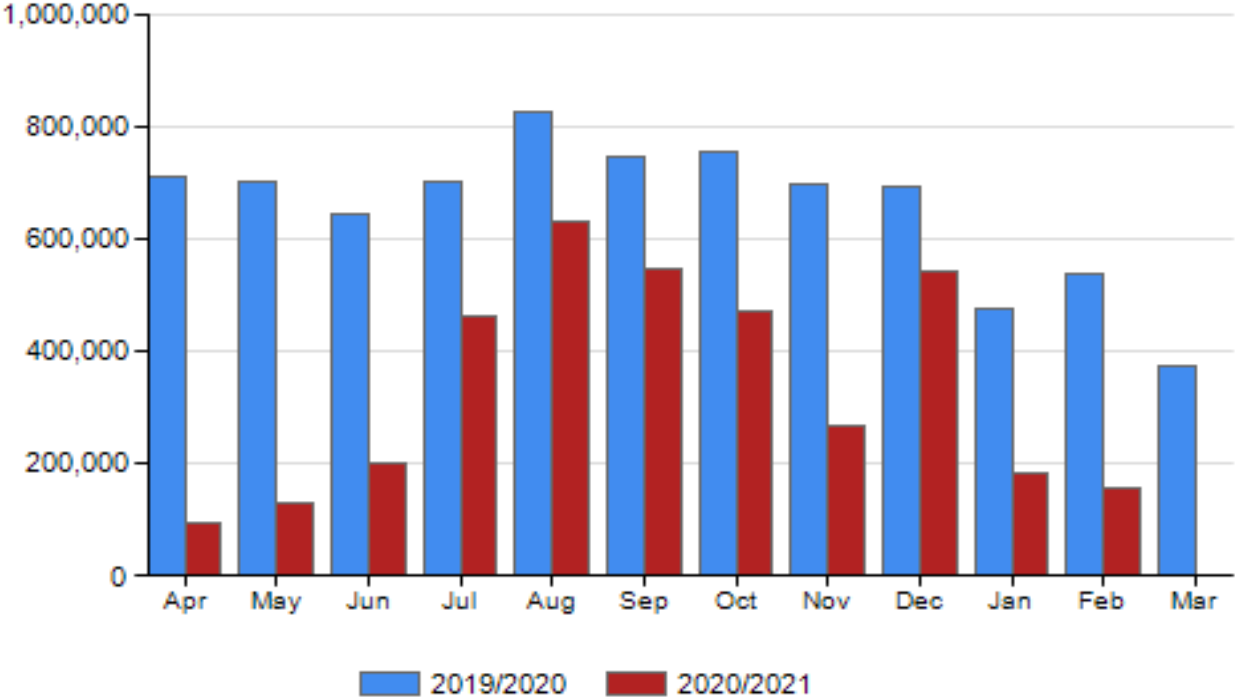
Table of Contents	Covering Data Period	Data Pack Updated
1. City centre and community mobility:		
Footfall	April-February	10-Mar-21
Tourism and vacancy rates	April-December	10-Mar-21
Community Mobility	April-February	10-Mar-21
2. Parking:		
Income	April-December	10-Mar-21
Occupancy from CCTV counters	May-March	10-Mar-21
4. Business Start Ups:		
BankSearch figures	February	10-Mar-21
5. Job Seekers Allowance / Universal Credit:		
York overview	January	10-Mar-21
JSA Claimants aged 18-24	January	10-Mar-21
JSA Claimants out of work for over a year	January	10-Mar-21
JSA claimants by gender	January	10-Mar-21
JSA & UC Claimants by Ward	January	10-Mar-21
Universal Credit claimants	January	10-Mar-21

Economic Recovery - City Centre

Footfall

- Following more positive footfall in December a reduction can be seen from the start of the year following the announcement of a third national lockdown. More positive numbers are anticipated from April with different households being able to meet outdoors shortly followed by non-essential shops opening.
- During February Parliament street footfall was around one third of the same period in 2019
- Footfall is predicted to be 49% down against the entire year

Parliament Street Footfall

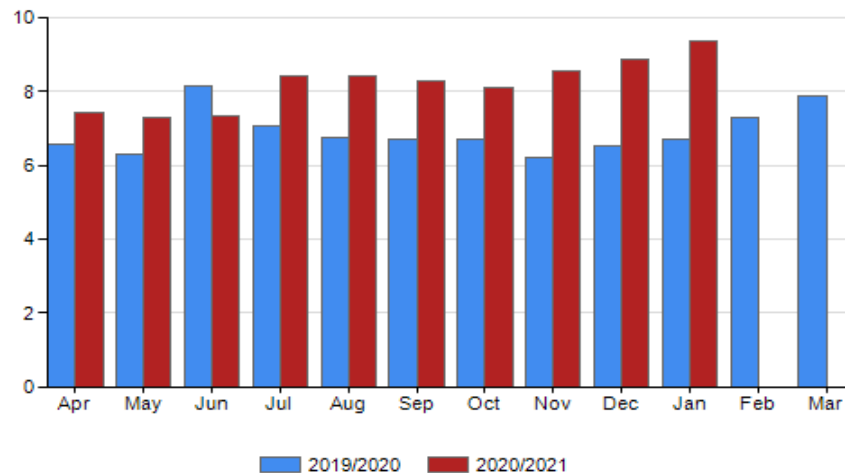


Economic Recovery - City Centre

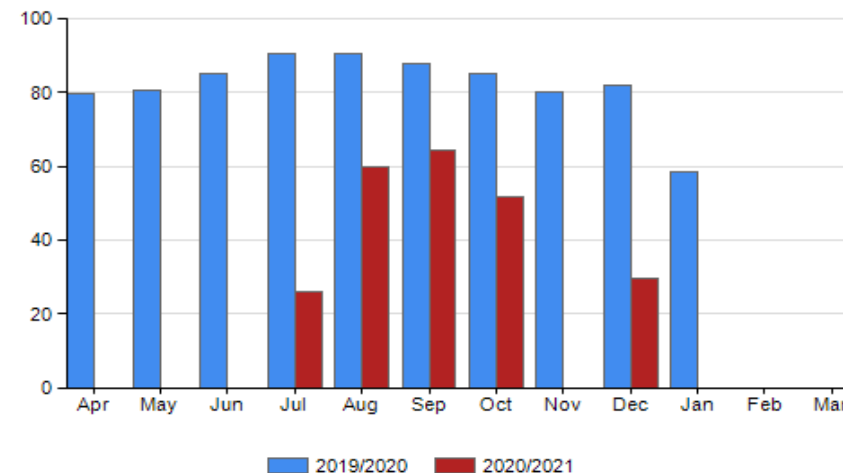
Tourism

- At the end of January 9.35% of shops within the city centre were vacant. This is an increase from 7.43% at the start of the year and the third consecutive month that vacancies have risen. The percentage vacant for the same period 2019 was 6.7%
- Room Occupancy data for December was 29% which is the lowest level since the end of the first lockdown. No data is available for this indicator during lockdown periods.
- Visits to Big attractions during December were at their lowest monthly levels since the start of the pandemic, these will not re-open this financial year.

% of vacant shops - City Centre



Room Occupancy (%)

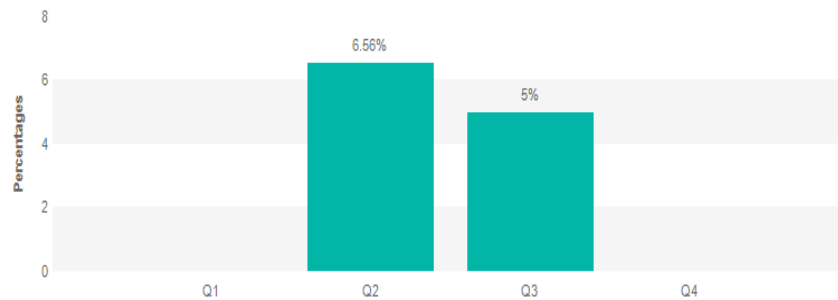


Economic Recovery - Secondary Shopping Centres

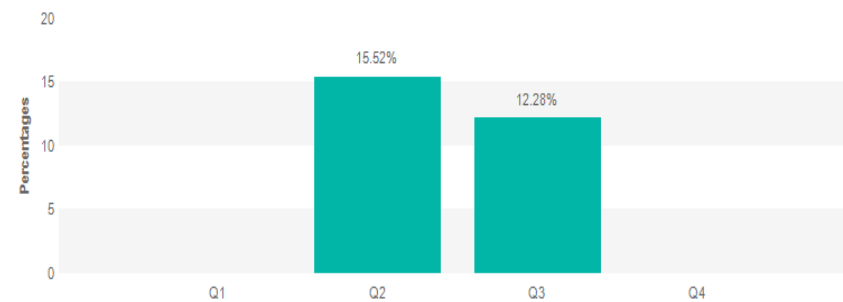
Secondary shopping centres

- From Q2 data has been captured on vacancies within the city's secondary shopping centres. Data up to the end of December indicates that vacancy levels are falling in these areas.
- These are local measures which differ to the retail based national measure and include recreation and service outlets along with retail premises. Premises include: All shopping outlets along with Restaurants, Public Houses, Hairdressing Salons, Cafes, Banks, Betting Shops, Wine bars and Launderettes

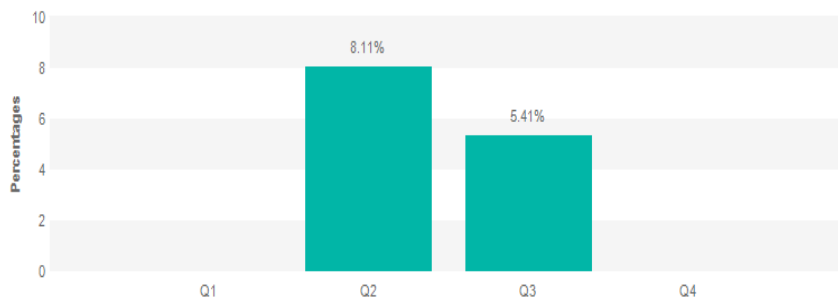
% of vacant premises (local measure including retail, recreation and service outlets) - Clifton Moor (by Quarter) - 2020/2021



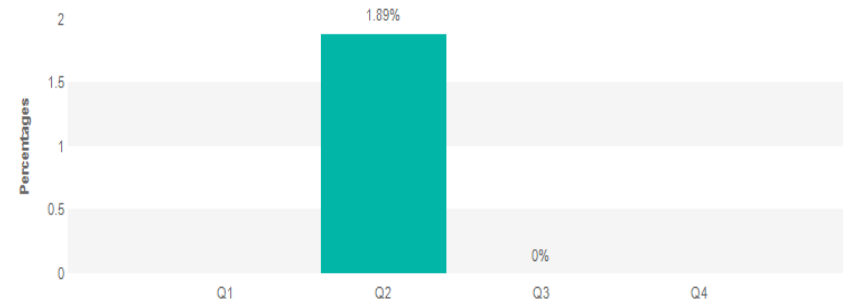
% of vacant premises (local measure including retail, recreation and service outlets) - Monks Cross (by Quarter) - 2020/2021



% of vacant premises (local measure including retail, recreation and service outlets) - Acomb (by Quarter) - 2020/2021



% of vacant premises (local measure including retail, recreation and service outlets) - Haxby Village (by Quarter) - 2020/2021

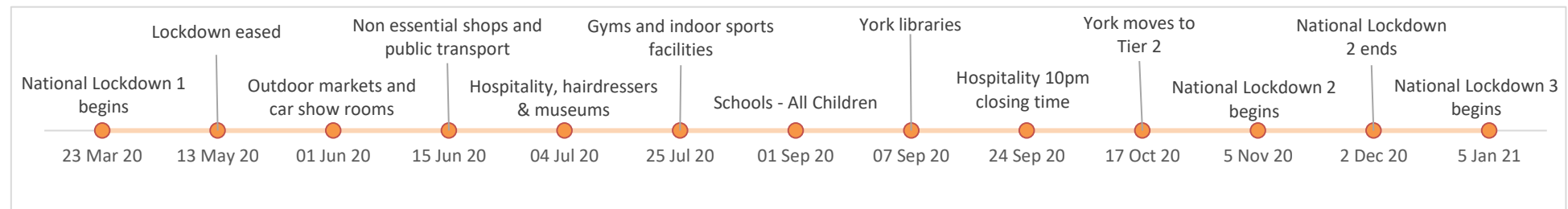


Economic Recovery - Community Mobility

Community Mobility

- Community mobility data has been available regularly from Google since the start of the pandemic to track how visits and length of stay at places such as shops and transit stations are changing.
- Data is sourced through phone location history where consented and changes for each day are compared to a baseline value for that day of the week taken during January and February 2020.
- The following charts show monthly snapshots of activity at retail and recreation, supermarket and pharmacy, public transport and workplace venues.

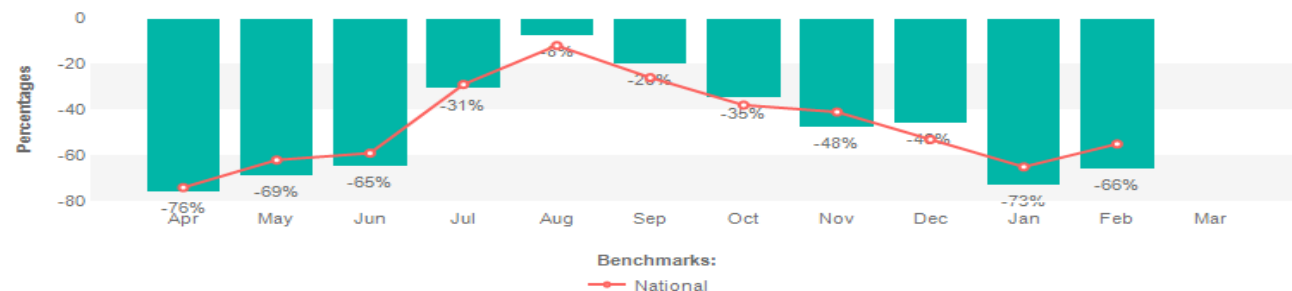
Key Reopening Dates



Retail and Recreation:

Activity levels for these venues during January and February have been slightly closer to the February 2020 baseline than in the first lockdown. However activity is much less than during the second lockdown and the national picture.

Community mobility compared to baseline (%) - Retail and recreation (by Month) - 2020/2021

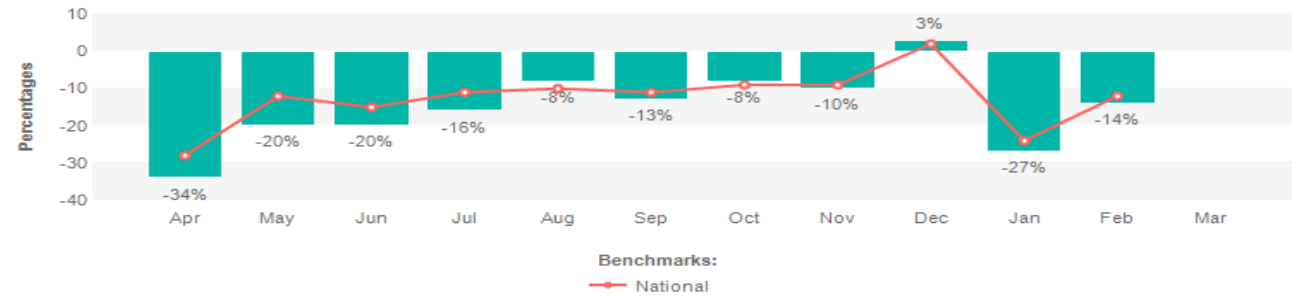


Economic Recovery - Community Mobility

Supermarket and Pharmacy:

Snapshots for the past 3 months show that, following an increase compared to baseline in December, time spent at supermarket and pharmacy venues has reduced following the latest lockdown but still remains fairly high.

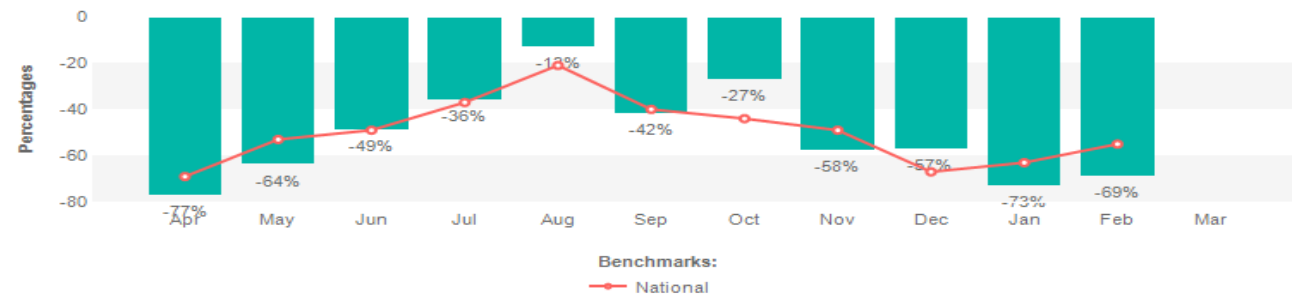
Community mobility compared to baseline (%) - Supermarket and pharmacy (by Month) - 2020/2021



Public Transport:

The snapshot for visits to transit stations for January and February are similar to those in the first lockdown. Less activity has been spent at these compared to the second lockdown.

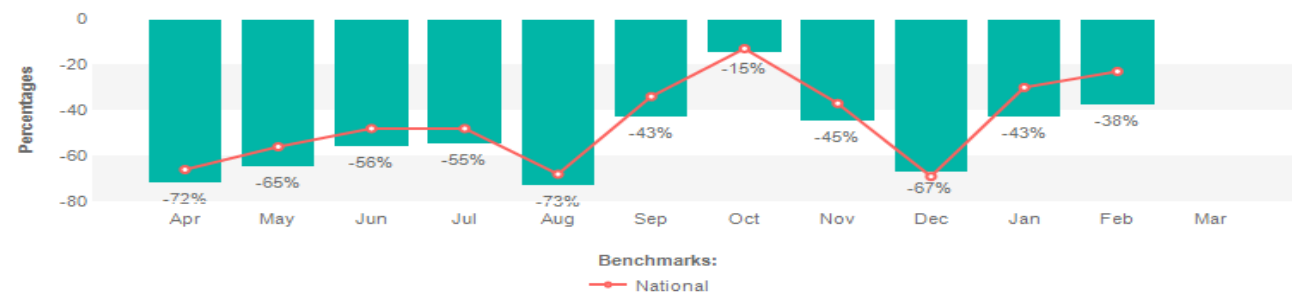
Community mobility compared to baseline (%) - Public Transport (by Month) - 2020/2021



Workplaces:

York follows the national trend for time spent at the work place whilst largely having less visits compared to the national data. Snapshots taken for January and February show that activity is greater than in the first lockdown

Community mobility compared to baseline (%) - Workplaces (by Month) - 2020/2021

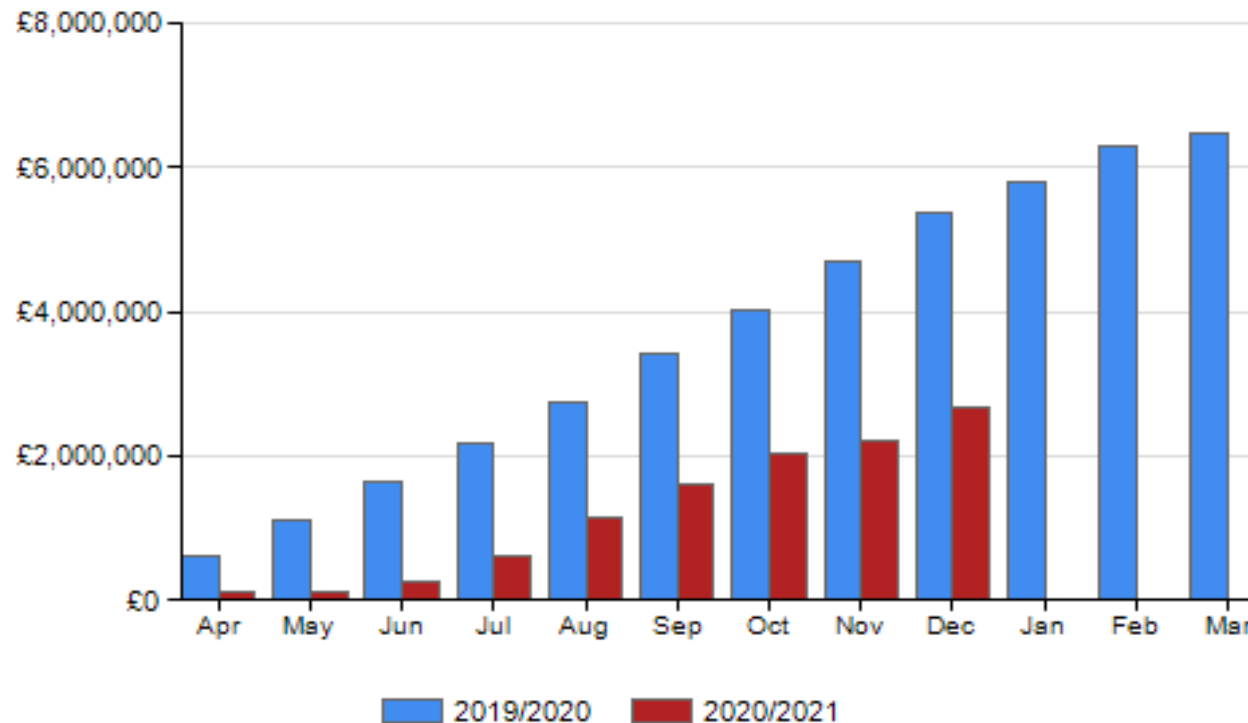


Economic Recovery - Parking

Income

- YTD Parking income at December was £2,664,565 this is just over half the target amount of £5,100,682
- YTD Parking fines income at December was £182,269 which is just over a third of the target amount of £465,637
- Parking is an area of income which will receive government funding for shortfalls due to COVID-19 and it is hoped the end of year picture will be more positive

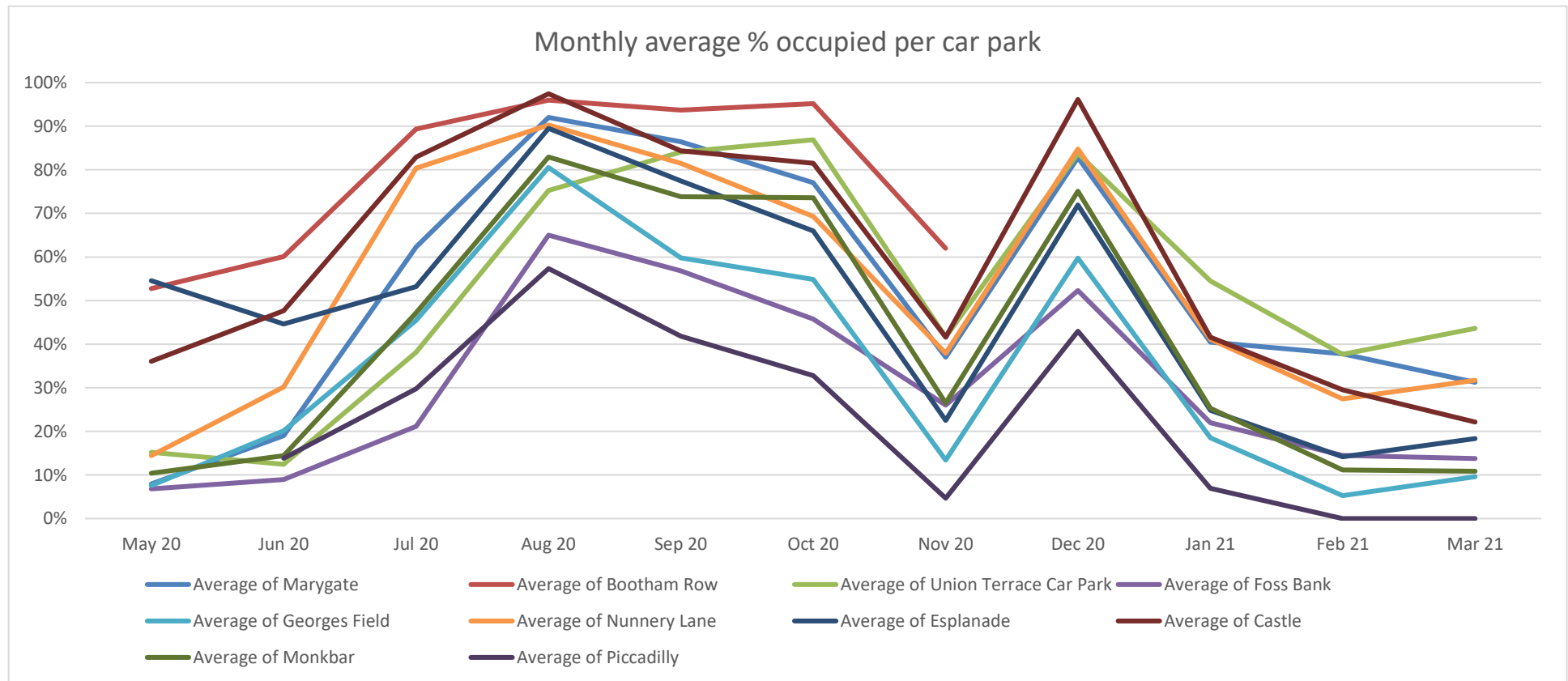
Parking - Income (£) - (YTD)



Economic Recovery - Parking

Occupancy - CCTV counters

- Parking counts via CCTV counters are available daily
- The chart below shows average occupancy from May to 10 March based on daily figures
- Occupancy rates reflect changes in travel guidance due to the pandemic and can be seen to drop during November and January-March whilst in national lockdown.

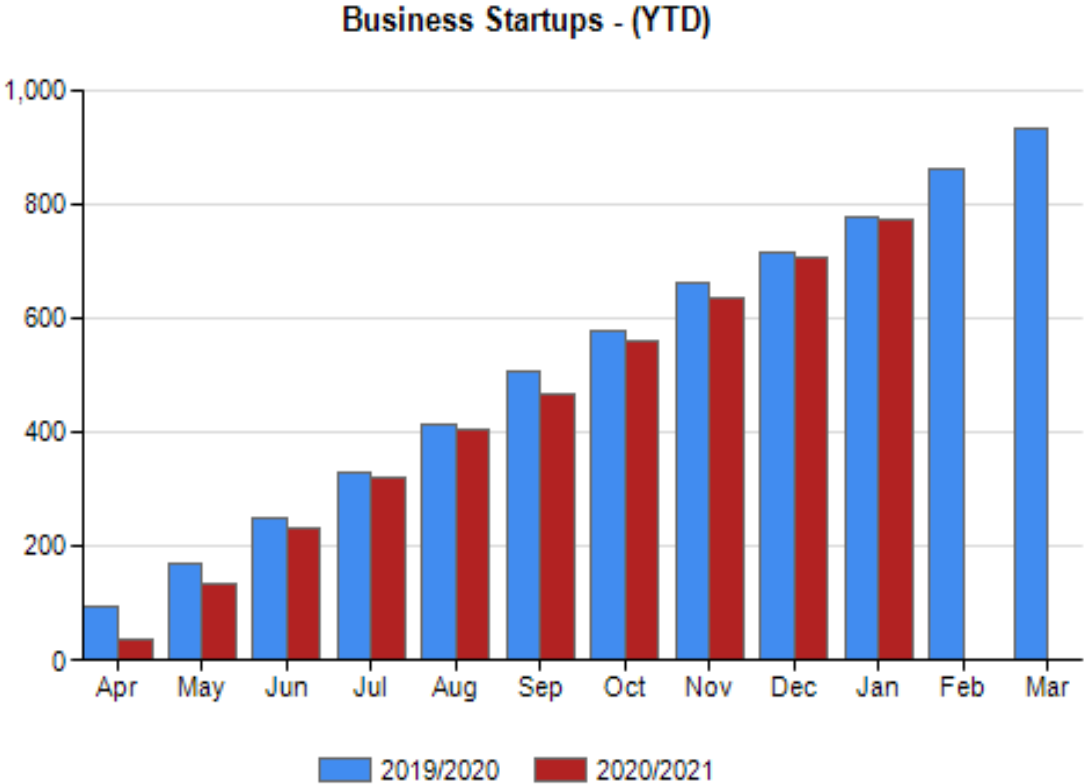


Data notes: St Georges Field and Esplanade have been closed at times throughout the winter due to flooding. Piccadilly car park closes during lockdown. Bootham Row camera has been out of action since mid November.

Economic Recovery - Business Startups

Business Startups - BankSearch

- The number of business startups YTD at January was 772 which is a rate of 55.6 per 10,000 working age population.
- Business start-ups continue to be at similar levels to last year, and follow similar geographic and thematic patterns as previous. This is an area predicted to be less affected by the pandemic at year end.

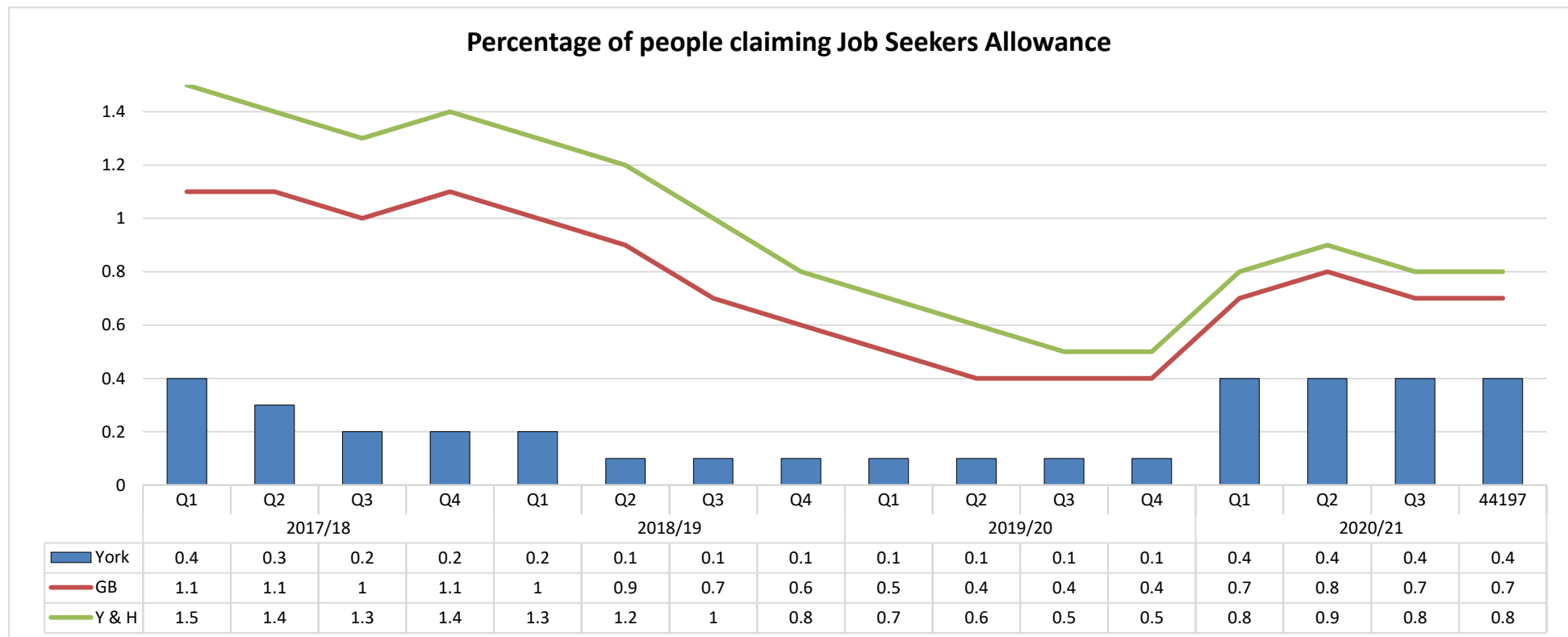


Job Seekers Allowance

January 2021

York overall picture:

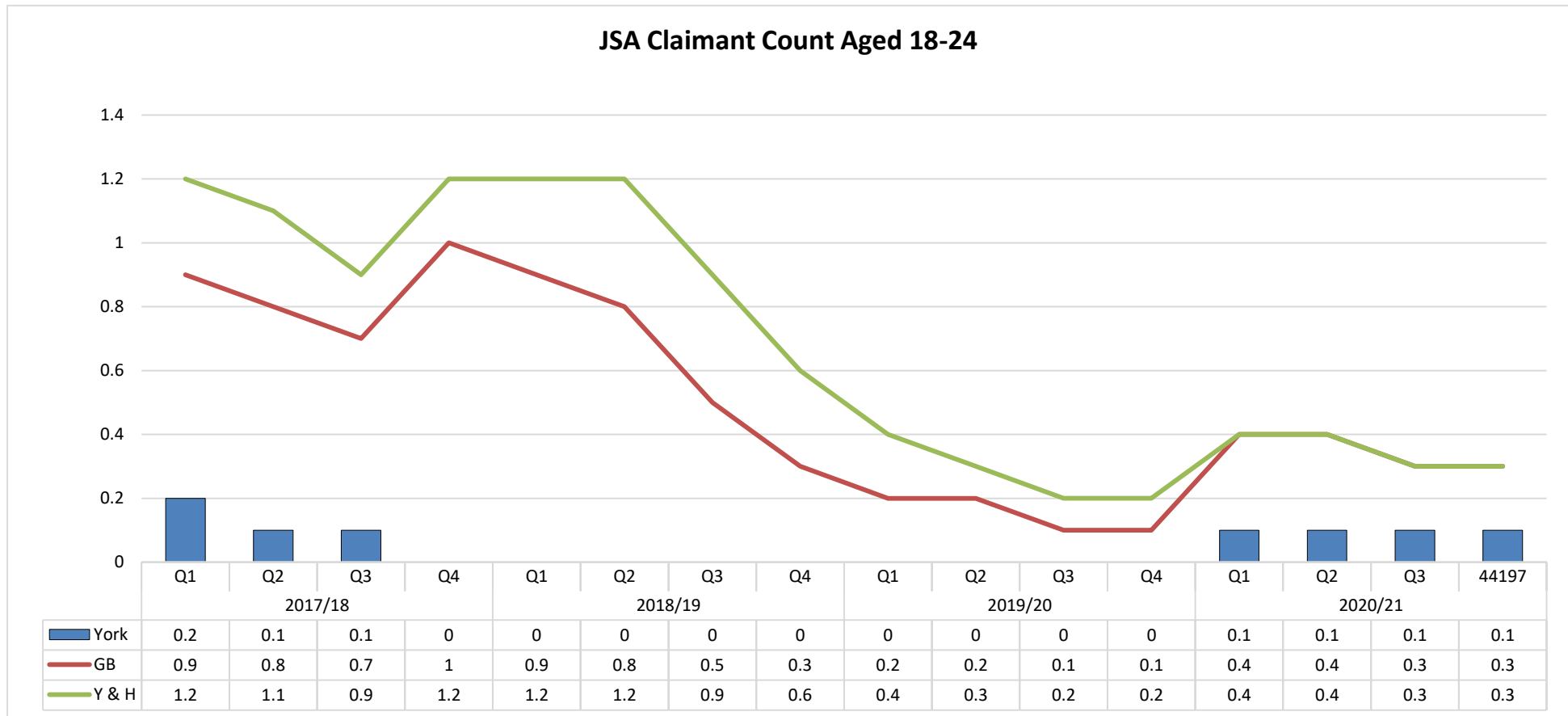
- The JSA claimant count for York in January 2021 is 520.
- In March 2019 the figure was 180, which is an increase of 188.9% .
- This represents 0.4% of the working age population.
- The region stands at 0.8% and GB at 0.7%.
- The highest JSA claimant count in York in the past 10 years (from January 2011) is from February 2010 with a figure of 4,110 or 3.1% of the working age population.



Source: nomis - official labour market statistics (ONS)

JSA Claimants 18 - 24 years old

- In January 2021 the total number of claimants (18-24) stood at 30, an increase of 30 from March 2019.
- This represents 0.1% of the working age population.
- The region stands at 0.3% and GB at 0.3%.

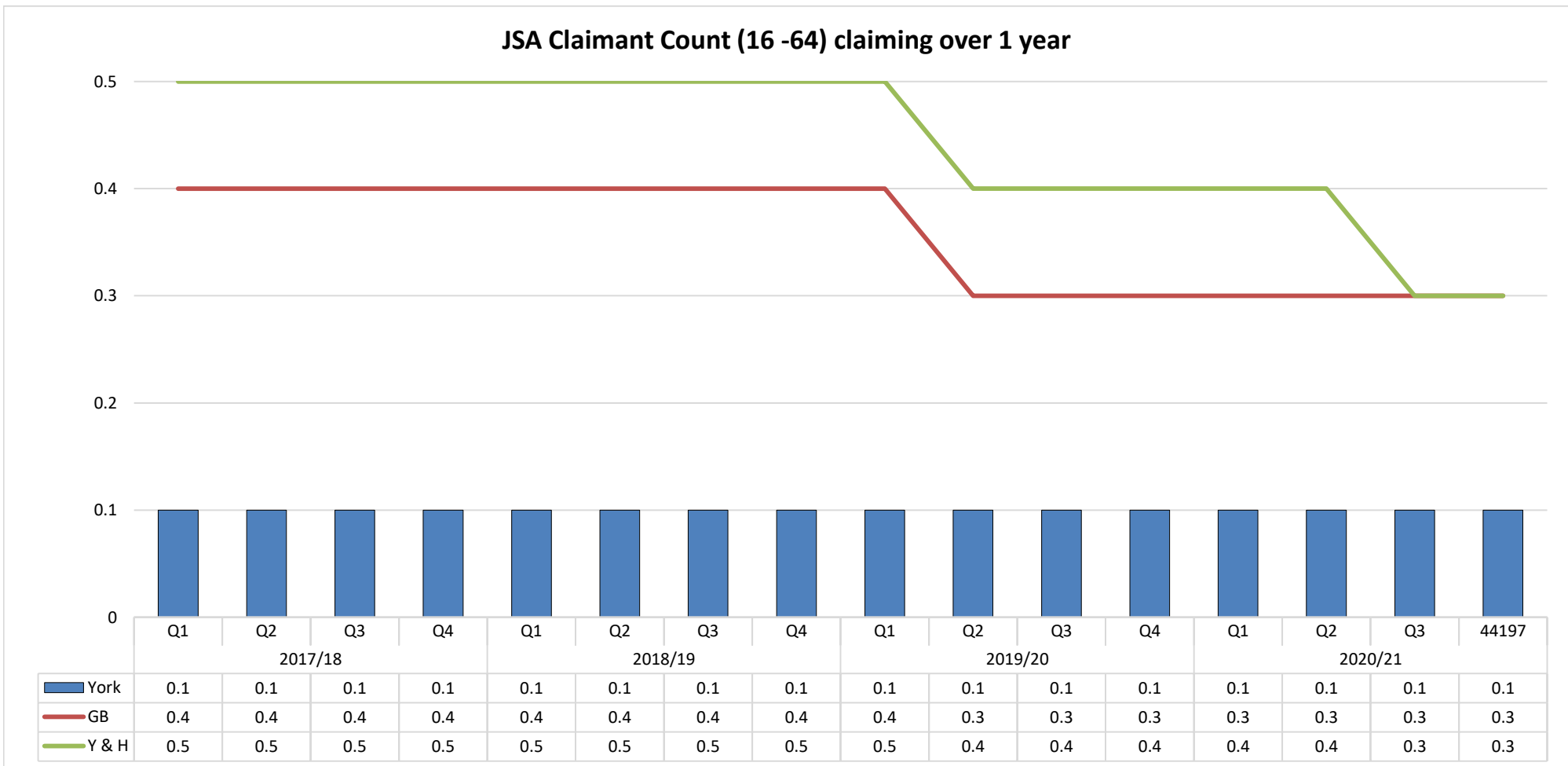


Source: [nomis - official labour market statistics \(ONS\)](https://www.nomis.gov.uk/)

Job Seekers Allowance

JSA Claimants out of work for over one year

- Claimants out of work for over one year, showed no change from last month, 5 less than one year ago - a 5.0% decrease.
- This represents 0.1% of the working age population who were out of work for over 1 year.
- The region stands at 0.3% and GB at 0.3%.

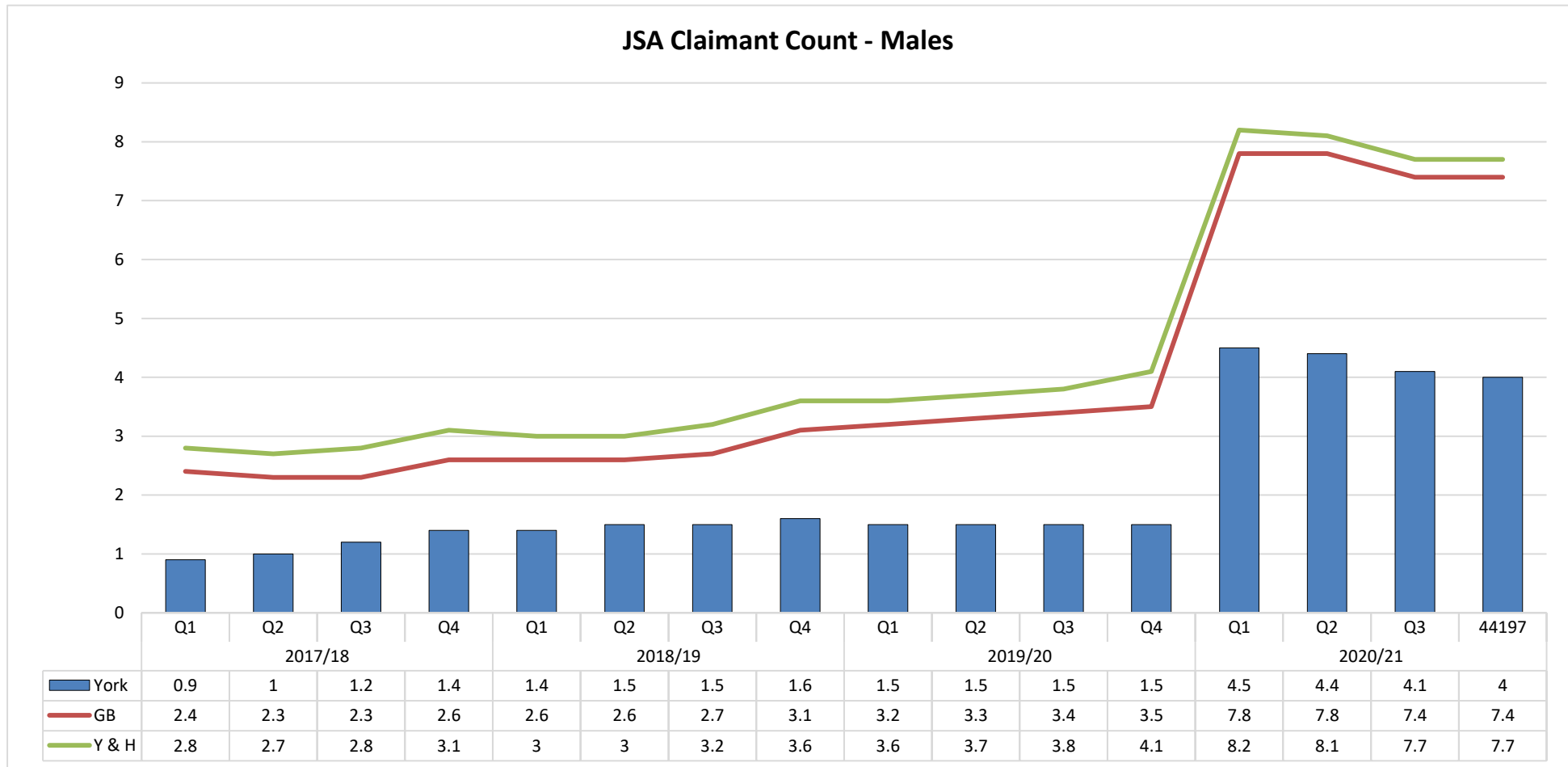


Source: [nomis - official labour market statistics \(ONS\)](#)

Job Seekers Allowance

JSA Male Claimant Count

- Male Claimants have increased by 25 from last month, totalling 275, 165 more than one year ago - a 150.0% increase.
- This represents 4.0 % of the male working age population.
- The region stands at 7.7% and GB at 7.4%.

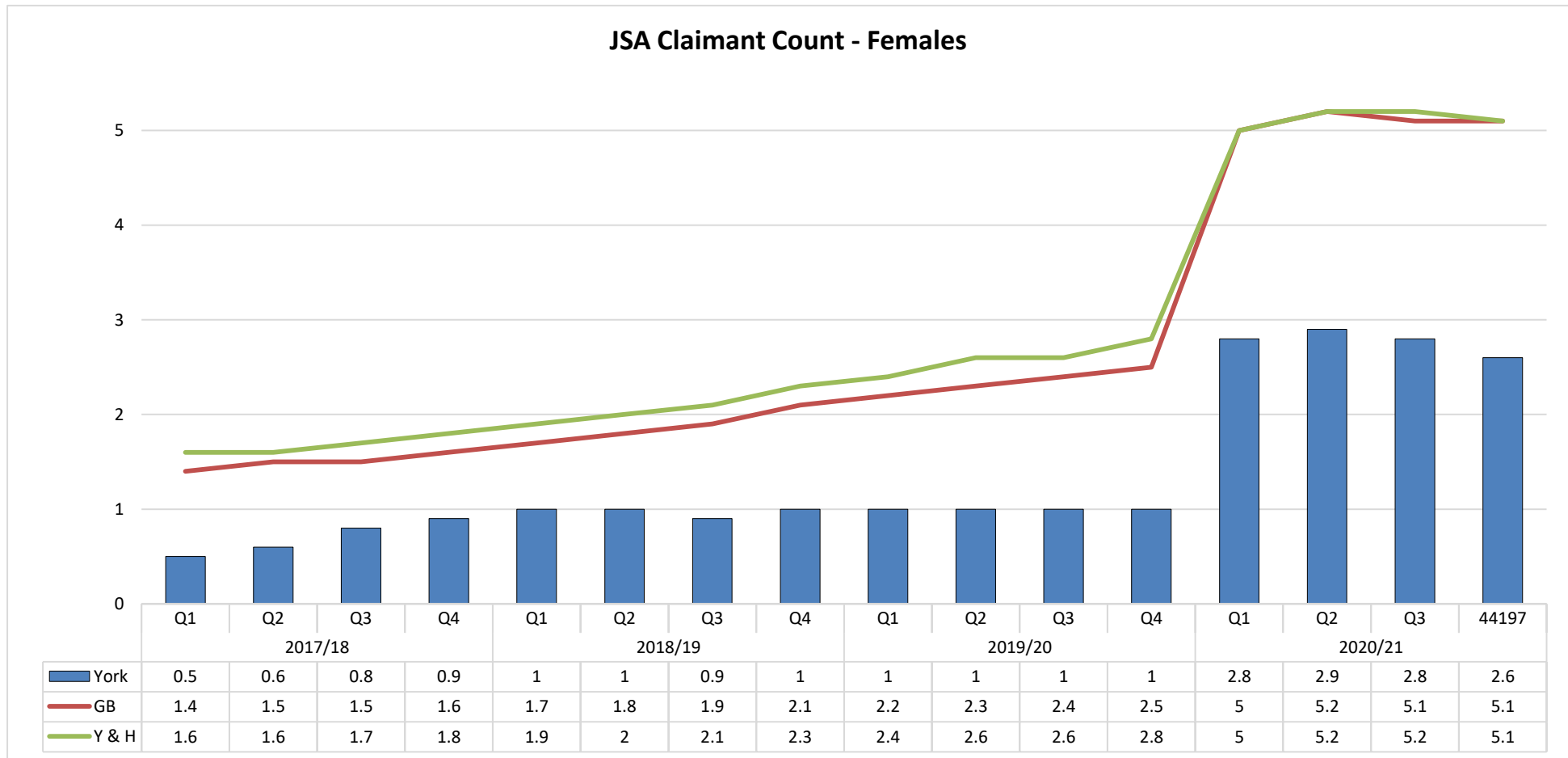


Source: [nomis - official labour market statistics \(ONS\)](https://www.nomis.gov.uk)

Job Seekers Allowance

JSA Female Claimants

- Female Claimants have increased by 5 from last month, totalling 245, 175 more than one year ago - a 250.0% increase.
- This represents 2.6 % of the female working age population.
- The region stands at 5.1% and GB at 5.1%.



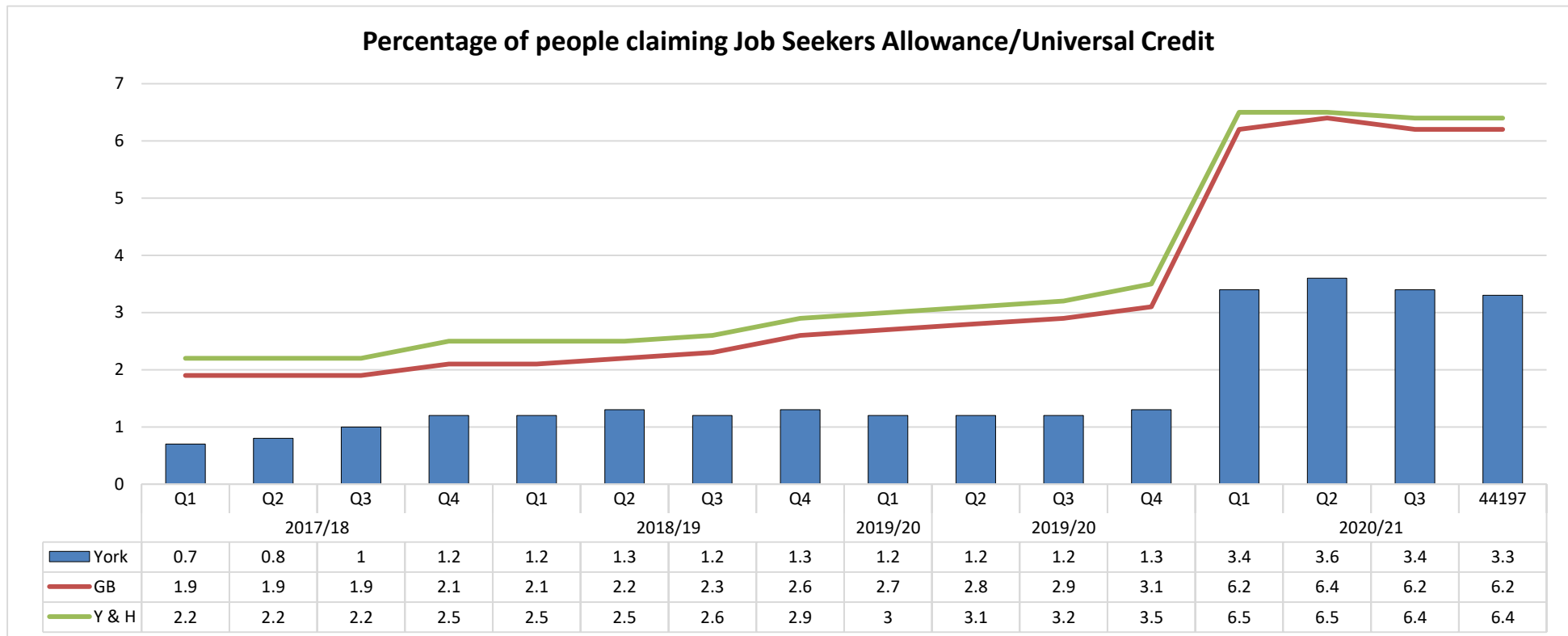
Source: [nomis - official labour market statistics \(ONS\)](#)

Job Seekers Allowance and Universal Credit Claimants

January 2021

York Jobseekers Allowance/Universal Credit overall picture:

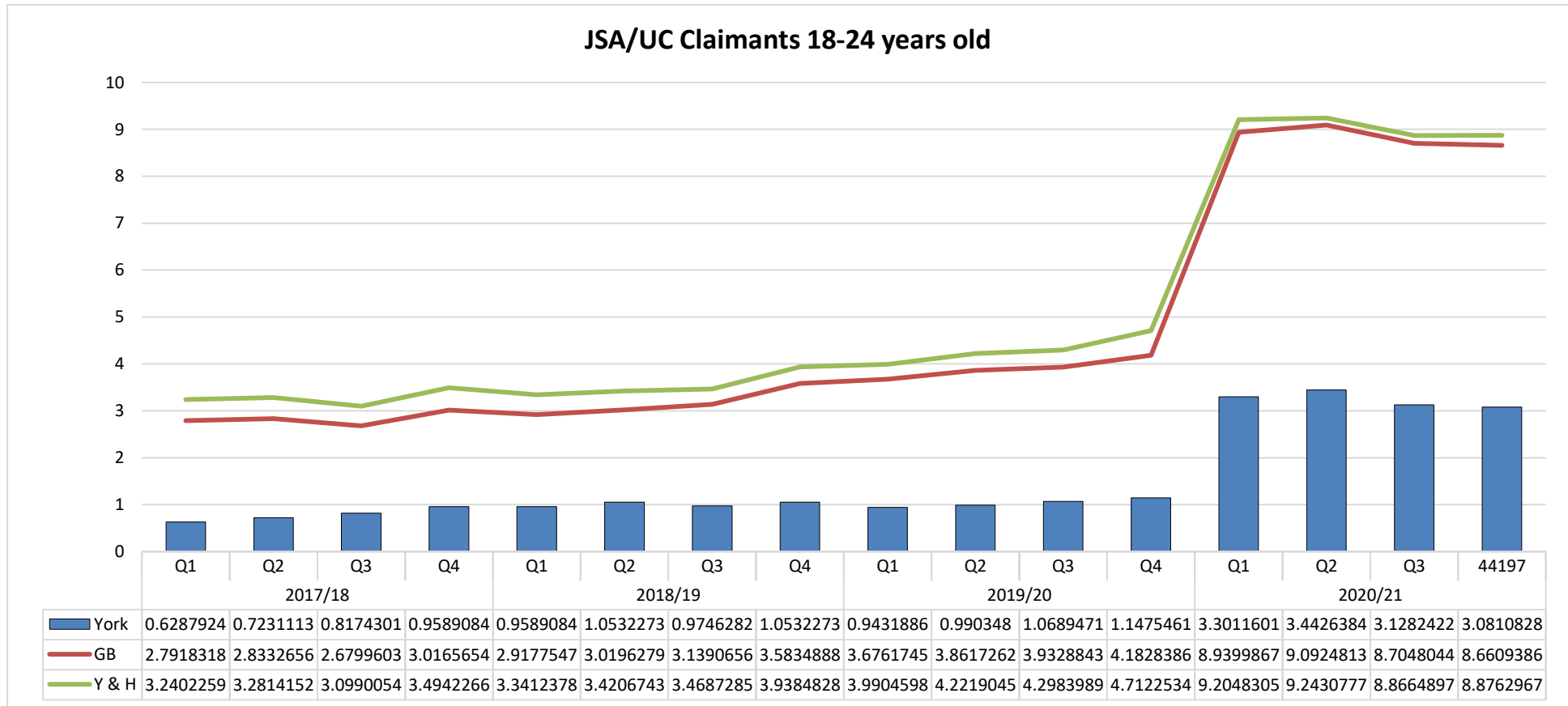
- The JSA/UC claimant count for York in January 2021 is 4,625.
- In March 2019 the figure was 1845, this is an increase of 2780 (150.7%).
- This represents 3.3% of the working age population.
- The region stands at 6.4% and GB at 6.2%.
- The highest JSA/UC claimant count in York in the past 4 years (from January 2017) is from August 2020 with a figure of 5,080 or 3.7% of the working age population.



Source: nomis - official labour market statistics (ONS)

JSA/UC Claimants 18 - 24 years old

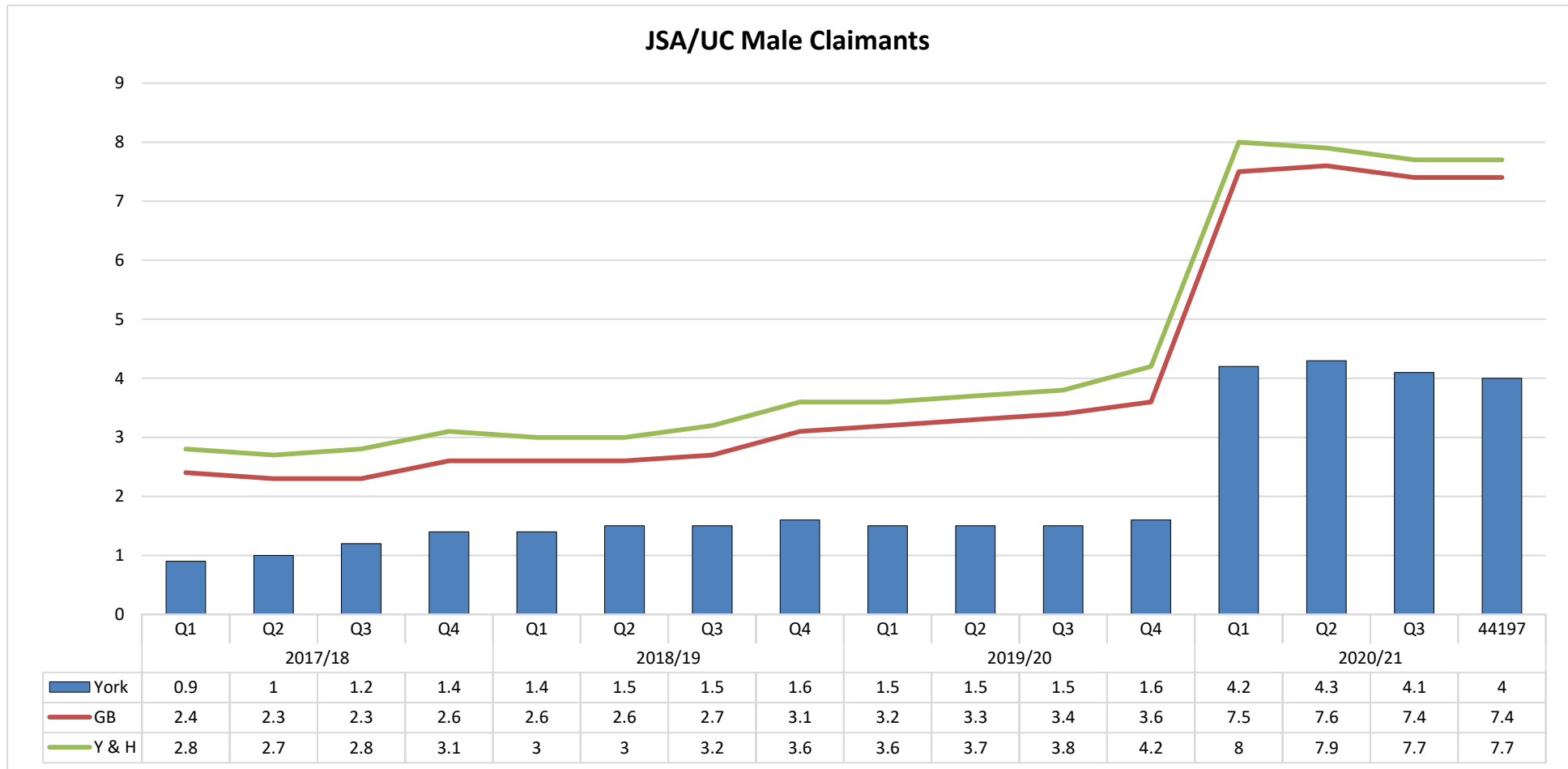
- In January 2021 the total number of claimants (18-24) stood at 980, a reduction of 15 (a 1.5% decrease) from December 2020.
- This represents 3.1% of the working age population.
- The region stands at 8.9% and GB at 8.7%.



Source: [nomis - official labour market statistics \(ONS\)](https://www.nomis.gov.uk/)

JSA/UC Male Claimant Count

- Male Claimants have decreased by 30 from last month, totalling 2,775, 1,645 more than one year ago - a 145.6% increase.
- This represents 4.0 % of the male working age population.
- The region stands at 7.7% and GB at 7.4%.

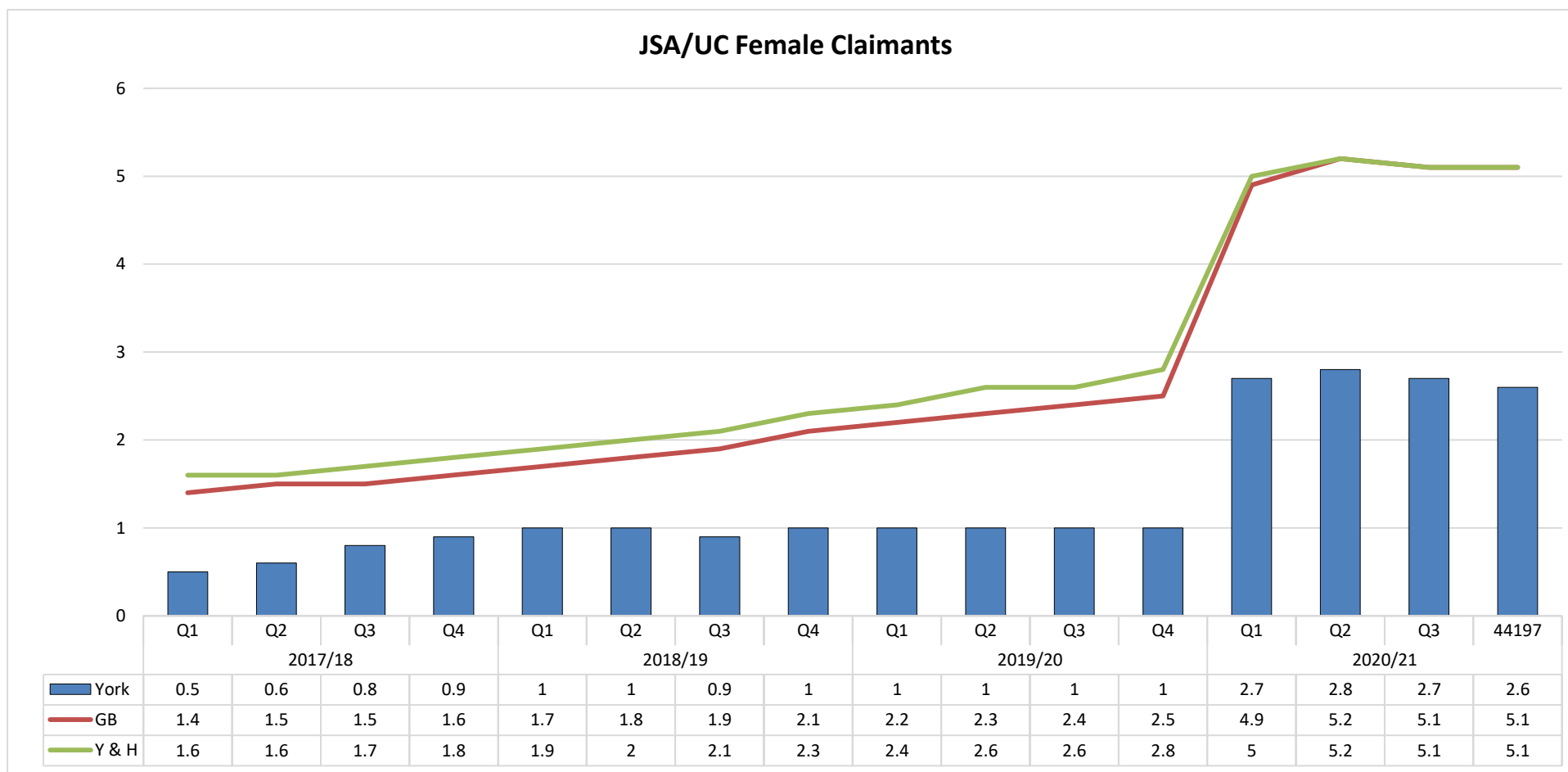


Source: [nomis - official labour market statistics \(ONS\)](https://www.nomis.gov.uk)

Job Seekers Allowance and Universal Credit Claimants

JSA/UC Female Claimants

- Female Claimants have decreased by 55 from last month, totalling 1,850, 1,140 more than one year ago - a 160.6% increase.
- This represents 2.6 % of the female working age population.
- The region stands at 5.1% and GB at 5.1%.



Source: [nomis - official labour market statistics \(ONS\)](#)

Job Seekers Allowance and Universal Credit Claimants

York Wards

Below are the claimant count for Wards comparing the latest available data with the previous month and the previous year.

Job Seekers Allowance And Universal Credit Claimants - Ward Analysis (Jan 2021)

Total JSA and U/C Claimants

Ward	January 2021		December 2020		January 2020	
Westfield	6.0	530	6.1	545	2.7	240
Clifton	4.6	450	4.6	470	1.9	195
Holgate	4.4	445	4.6	445	1.9	185
Heworth	4.4	380	4.4	400	1.8	165
Micklelegate	4.0	375	3.8	355	1.4	130
Acomb	3.6	320	3.7	325	1.3	135
Huntington & New Earswick	3.5	260	3.6	265	1.3	95
Dringhouses & Woodthorpe	3.4	260	3.6	265	1.2	105
Guildhall	3.1	235	3.2	245	1.3	80
Rawcliffe & Clifton Without	2.8	225	2.9	235	1.0	80
Heworth Without	2.7	210	2.4	205	1.0	70
Osbalwick & Derwent	2.5	200	2.5	210	0.7	75
Fulford & Heslington	2.5	150	2.7	140	0.7	40
Fishergate	2.5	120	2.5	120	0.9	35
Haxby & Wigginton	2.4	110	2.3	125	0.6	40
Bishophorpe	2.4	100	2.4	100	0.8	30
Strensall	2.2	60	2.5	50	0.8	20
Rural West York	2.2	55	2.3	60	0.7	15
Hull Road	2.1	50	2.1	50	0.8	15
Wheldrake	1.9	45	2.0	50	0.5	15
Copmanthorpe	1.8	40	2.1	50	0.5	10

[Source: nomis - official labour market statistics \(ONS\)](#)

Under Universal Credit a broader span of claimants are required to look for work than under Jobseeker's Allowance. As Universal Credit Full Service is rolled out in particular areas, the number of people recorded as being on the Claimant Count is therefore likely to rise.

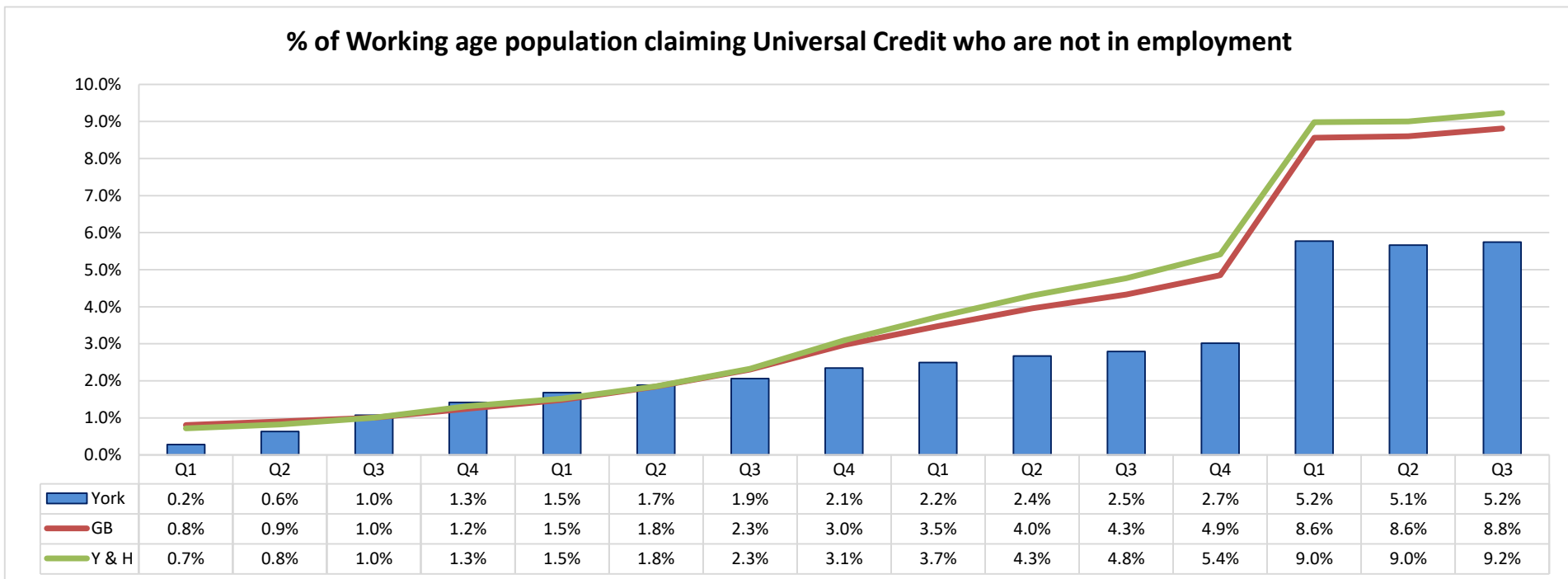
Job Seekers Allowance

Universal Credit Claimants

The JSA figures should be viewed in the context of the number of people receiving Universal Credit in York increasing from 13,137 in December to 13,238 in January. Under Universal Credit a broader span of claimants are required to look for work than under Jobseekers Allowance. As Universal Credit Full Service is rolled out in particular areas, the number of people recorded as being on the Claimant Count is therefore likely to rise.

Of which, in December, 7,180 were not in employment. The January figures will not be released until next month.

On 12 July 2017 Universal Credit became available to parents and couples in the York area, until this date Universal Credit was only available to single job seekers in the area. From November 2019 the provisional figures will show the total of those claiming Universal Credit. A breakdown will only be shown when the figures are revised.

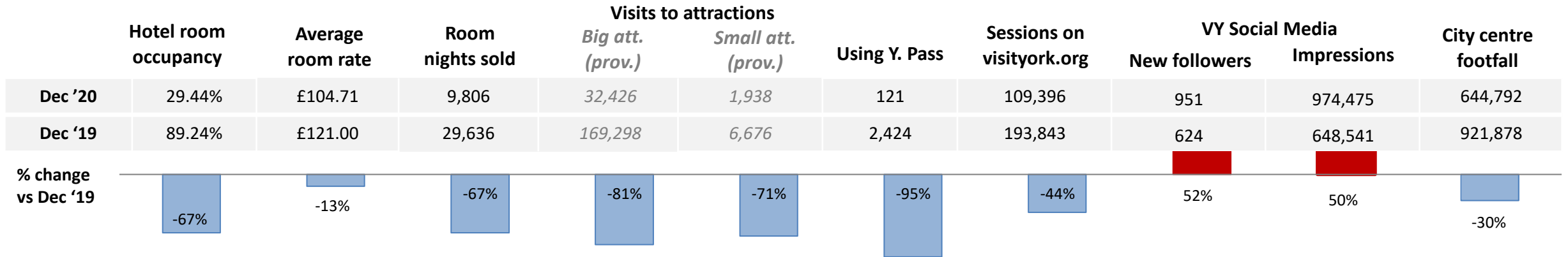


Source: [nomis - official labour market statistics \(ONS\)](#)

Following the introduction of Universal Credit, the claimant count takes into account:

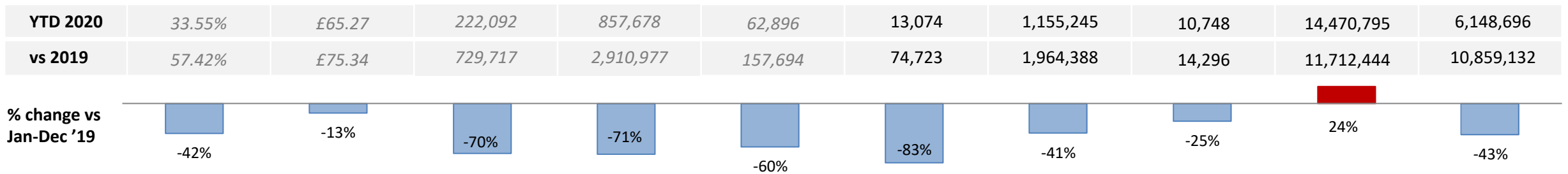
- people claiming contribution JSA (this is not affected by the introduction of Universal Credit)
- the figures for Universal Credit are provisional for the current month and may be revised in the next update.

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- December data for hotels shows a -67% decrease in hotel occupancy vs December 2019, most likely as December followed a 4-weeks long national lockdown period in November that brought down the consumer confidence to travel. ARR is down slightly with a -13% decrease vs December 2019. In terms of room nights sold, the hotels sector has seen a significant decrease this month with almost 20,000 less room nights sold vs the same month last year. Year to date all of the metrics continue to show a decline.
- Provisional data shows a significantly lower number of visitors to the attractions, with big attractions receiving -81% less visitors and small attractions showing a -71% decrease in visitors vs December 2019. This is also due to the reduced number of people travelling and many attractions operating at reduced capacity or being closed completely. Year on year data continues to show a decrease with big attractions reporting a -71% drop in visitors and small attractions showing a -60% decrease when compared to 2019.
- The number of visits using York Pass is significantly down (-95%) compared to December 2019, which is due to a reduced number of visitors travelling to York.
- Sessions on visityork.org have decreased (-44%) vs December 2019. However, social media channels have continued to rise in both number of followers (52% up) and impressions (50% up) vs December 2019. A number of impressions gained can be attributed to the Visit York Christmas Special video attracting viewers on Christmas Eve. Year to date, the number of impressions on social media appears to be the only positive indicator with a 24% growth year on year.
- City centre footfall is down by -30%, when compared to December 2019, while year to date the numbers are down -43%.

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Climate: Ave temp 4.5°C.

[Find out more about the profile of visitors to York and consumer sentiment here](#)

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City centre visitors JAN & FEB 2021

Summary report looking at footfall & visitor origin

FOOTFALL

Data from
SPRINGBOARD.

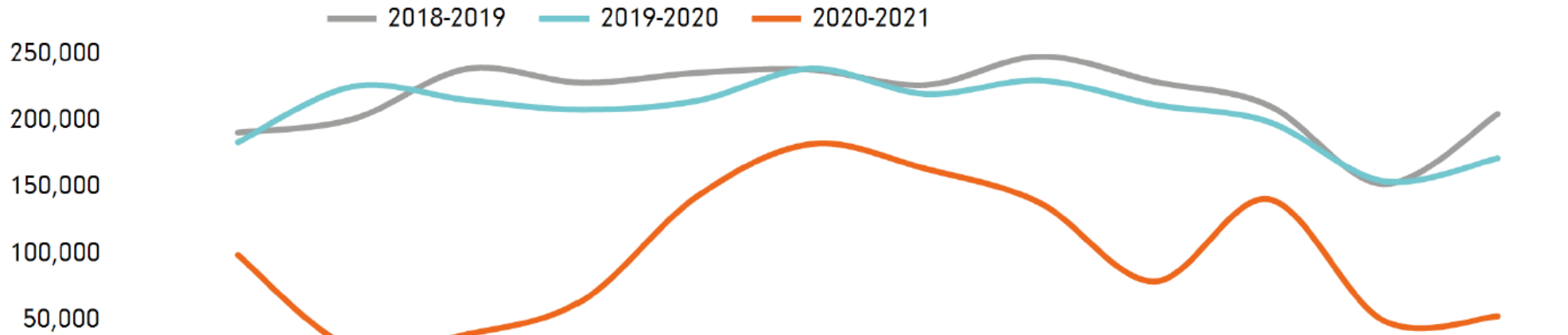
Counters provide an estimation of how many people are in the city centre and compares with historical trends

Footfall

ANNEX 3

Footfall way down on normal levels, but higher than spring 2020 lockdown

Graph: Footfall rolling 12 months



	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
2020-2021	99,003	29,274	39,459	64,651	142,896	182,341	163,794	138,169	79,171	140,882	49,832	53,064
2019-2020	183,683	225,532	215,503	208,308	214,885	239,034	219,982	230,190	212,040	198,987	154,574	171,751
2018-2019	191,073	200,981	238,849	228,600	235,905	238,230	226,767	248,254	229,284	211,344	152,470	204,976
Year on Year %	-46.1%	-87.0%	-81.7%	-69.0%	-33.5%	-23.7%	-25.5%	-40.0%	-62.7%	-29.2%	-67.8%	-69.1%

Jan & Feb 2021 has seen more people in the city than April & May 2020 during first lockdown

Year on year % is calculated by comparing the 2020-2021 period with the 2019-2020 period i.e the figure for February compares February 2021 to February 2020

VISITOR ORIGIN

Data from

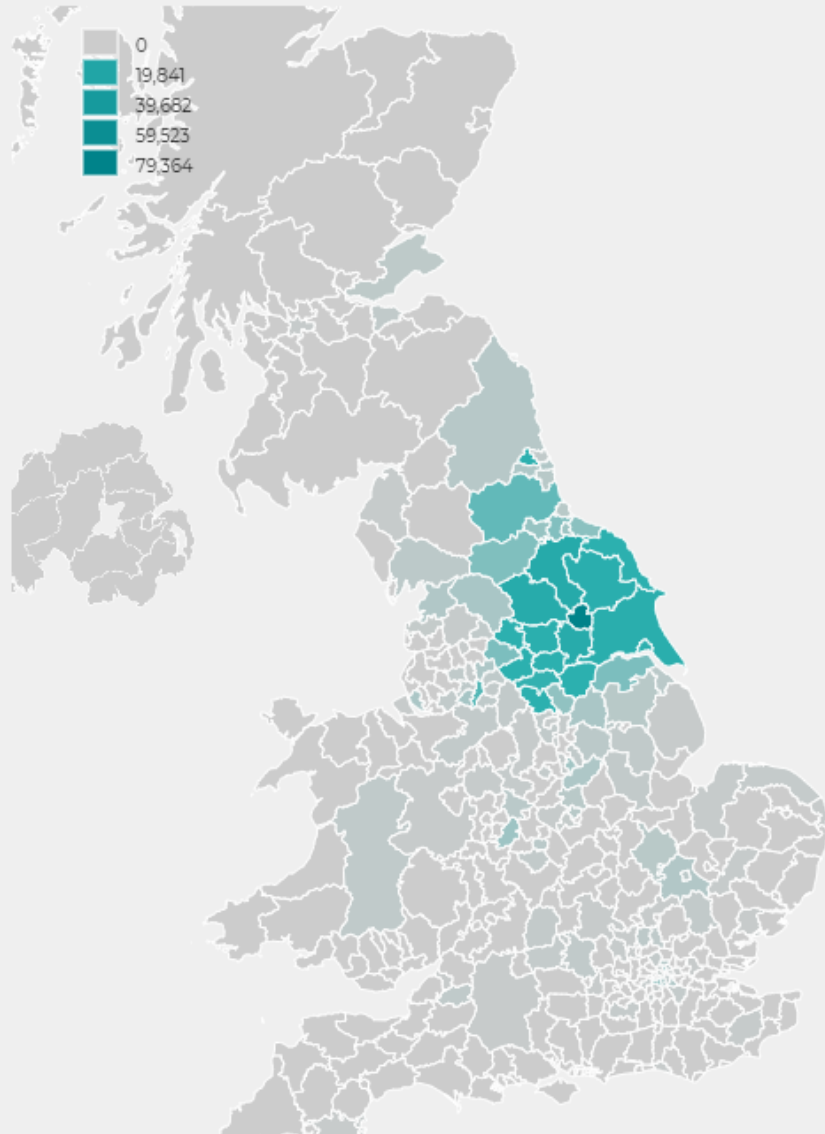
O₂

A counter in the city centre is able to determine the origin of visitors to York (anonymised)

Visitor Origin Jan & Feb 2021

ANNEX 3

Home Catchment - Local Authority District
Home catchment grouped by local authority district.



Top 20 Local Authorities by home location
Home catchment percentage split by local authority.

	Local Authority District	Home Volume	%
1.	York	79,364	62.97%
2.	Hambleton	10,435	8.28%
3.	Harrogate	8,971	7.12%
4.	Selby	8,232	6.53%
5.	East Riding of Yorkshire	4,305	3.42%
6.	Ryedale	3,137	2.49%
7.	Leeds	2,812	2.23%
8.	Wakefield	695	0.55%
9.	Scarborough	601	0.48%
10.	Bradford	519	0.41%
11.	Doncaster	514	0.41%
12.	Sheffield	512	0.41%
13.	Kirklees	466	0.37%
14.	Kingston upon Hull, City of	374	0.3%
15.	Newcastle upon Tyne	333	0.26%
16.	Barnsley	308	0.24%
17.	Manchester	244	0.19%
18.	County Durham	214	0.17%
19.	North Lincolnshire	161	0.13%
20.	Calderdale	161	0.13%

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- Data indicates that despite lockdown, visitors from further afield still coming to York

Thank You

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