



12-7PM, TUESDAY 23RD JUNE 2026

MOMENTUM YORK

YORK'S PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONFERENCE



YORK
& NORTH
YORKSHIRE
COMBINED AUTHORITY

DAVID
SKAITH
MAYOR

Introductions

Andrew Lawson
Executive Director
York BID
theyorkbid.com



Over the past decade, York BID has worked closely with nearly 1,000 city centre businesses, and one message has been consistent: York's Professional Services sector is one of our greatest strengths, yet one of the least visible. Today's event is about changing that.

Professional Services underpin the success of every part of our economy, from retail and hospitality to tech, manufacturing, and the creative industries. They help businesses grow, navigate challenges, and innovate for the future. As York evolves, with major developments such as York Central and the Minster Precinct reshaping the city, the expertise represented in this area will play a vital role in ensuring the city centre remains dynamic, competitive, and resilient.

York BID is proud to convene this sector alongside our partners at York St John University, York Professionals, HSBC, West & North Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce, and the City of York Council. Momentum York reflects our commitment to championing local businesses, strengthening networks, and creating the conditions for collaboration and growth. It builds on our wider work, improving the city centre environment, supporting business resilience, and ensuring York remains a place where people want to live, work, and invest.

Thank you for joining us for this first conference. I hope today sparks new conversations, new partnerships, and new ambition for what York's Professional Services sector can achieve together.

David Skaith
Mayor of York
& North Yorkshire
yorknorthyorks-ca.gov.uk



I am delighted to support and fund Momentum York, the first of two conferences dedicated to celebrating and strengthening York's Professional Services sector. Behind the scenes, York is home to an extraordinary community of innovators, advisors, creators, and problem solvers whose expertise underpins the success of businesses across the region and beyond.

Through the Business Innovation Fund, we are committed to backing the people and industries that drive inclusive economic growth. Professional Services play a crucial role in that ambition. They help our businesses start, scale, export, and innovate. They create high quality jobs, attract and retain talent, and contribute to a more resilient, future focused economy.

Momentum York embodies the principles behind our Business Innovation Fund: collaboration, knowledge sharing, and unlocking the potential that already exists within our region. By bringing together micro firms, established companies, and business leaders, this event strengthens the networks and clusters that help places like York thrive.

I am proud to support an initiative that shines a light on this vital sector, fosters new connections, and showcases the ambition and capability that make York such a distinctive place to live, work, and do business. Thank you for being part of this first step in building a stronger, more connected professional services community for our region.

Agenda

12:00pm

Lunch & Expo

Welcome by Andy Kerr, Director of Economy at York & North Yorkshire Combined Authority

1:30pm

It's All York:

Updates on York's Major Upcoming Developments

2:30pm

Emma Wilks

UK Economist at HSBC UK Global Investment Research

3:30pm

Break & Expo

4:00pm

Why York?

Three Local Businesses Share Their Experiences of Operating in York

5:00pm

Networking & Drinks

Hosted by York Professionals at York St John Student Union

About Momentum York

York is known as a beautiful heritage city, popular with tourists, and proud of its strong hospitality and retail offer. However, much less is known about York's diverse, dynamic, and exciting professional services sector, which often operates behind closed doors. This event will bring the sector together to connect, learn, and grow together.

Our ambitions are to:

- Convene and mobilise a new professional services network in York
- Showcase the depth of expertise and innovation within our historic city
- Foster connection and collaboration between micro-firms and global companies
- Position York as a hub for professional excellence in the UK

This inaugural conference marks the first of two conferences being delivered in 2026, with the ambition to host an annual event to build momentum for our professional services sector.

Momentum York is delivered by York BID in partnership with York Professionals, York St John University, HSBC, City of York Council, and West & North Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce, with the vital funding support of David Skaith, Mayor of York and North Yorkshire and York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority.

Meet the speakers

Session 1

It's All York

Tom Gilman

Managing Director,
McLaren Regeneration yorkcentral.info



Tom has been with McLaren since 2020 and leads the Regeneration business, focusing on urban renewal and aiming to positively impact on the social, cultural and economic challenges within urban areas. Tom brings significant experience which encompasses 25 years of property industry knowledge, with over 20 as a developer, delivering projects across the UK and covering all asset classes.

Ben Murphy

Head of City Development,
City of York Council york.gov.uk



Ben Murphy leads York's City Development portfolio, overseeing strategic planning, regeneration, economy, and place-making across the city. With a background in urban regeneration, place and programme management, he works closely with public and private partners to deliver sustainable growth, unlock investment, and shape a resilient future for York's economy.

Max Reeves

Development Director,
Helmsley Group helmsley.co.uk



Max has successfully overseen a varied range of projects, from sensitively converting scheduled ancient monuments to creating large-scale new build developments. As Development Director at the Helmsley Group, Max is leading the Coney Street Riverside masterplan, an ambitious and transformative regeneration scheme in central York.

David Colthup

Chief Operating Officer,
York Minster yorkminster.org



David joined York Minster after a distinguished 30-year career in the Army. Now Chapter Steward and Chief Operating Officer at York Minster, he oversees the cathedral's complex daily operations and leads a multi-disciplinary team across governance, security, visitor experience, heritage care, and more.

Garry Taylor

Director of City Development,
City of York Council york.gov.uk



Garry leads a diverse and transformative portfolio. Major projects include York Station Gateway and York Central, a flagship scheme unlocking 2,500 homes and significant business space. A Chartered Town Planner, he previously led Hull's UK City of Culture 2017 transformation.



Scan QR to find out more and watch
"It's All York" video

Session 2

Emma Wilks

UK Economist at HSBC Global
Investment Research
hsbc.com



As one of Bloomberg's consistently top-rated forecasters, Emma offers expert, evidence-led forecasting and analysis of the UK economy, drawing on a career spanning international finance, market strategy, and government policy to help organisations understand real-world economic impacts.

Session 3

Why York?

Presentations & Panel Discussion

Phil Clark

Managing Director, Say Yes sayyes.co



Phil is an eCommerce growth leader. Known within the industry as approachable and friendly with a wide industry knowledge across all facets of eCommerce, build and digital/retail operations. Founded by Sean Connell and Phil Clark, Say Yes was established to do something the market was missing: blend genuine technical expertise with creative brand thinking, strategic depth, and a client-first culture.

Emma Whiting & Tiggy Clifford

Partners, Torque Law torquelaw.co.uk



Emma and Tiggy founded Torque Law in 2016 with a simple vision – to do things differently. Today, that vision has evolved into a nationally recognised, award-winning force in employment law. Trusted by employers, in-house legal teams and senior executives, Torque Law navigates the most sensitive and business-critical employment law issues with strategic insight, professionalism and care.

Thom Feeney

Site Director & Operations Lead North,
Patch patch.work



As Site Director at Patch York, Thom Feeney brings a passion for community building and local enterprise, creating an inclusive space where businesses, creatives, and residents can connect and thrive. His work centres on nurturing partnerships across York's cultural and economic landscape, positioning Patch as a vibrant hub for ideas, collaboration, and citywide impact.

Exhibitors

Consultancy

New Light Insights



Delivering independent research and evaluation that turns complex social issues into clear evidence for better decisions.

newlightinsights.org.uk

Consultancy

CapacityPM



IT certified project management consultancy that specialises in helping organisations manage and deliver successful IT projects.

capacitypm.co.uk

Consultancy



Altran Consulting

Helping investors, boards and leadership teams make confident technology decisions across the investment and company growth lifecycle.

altranconsulting.com

Creative & Digital

United by Design



Award-winning design agency creating strategic, distinctive brands that connect, communicate, and drive growth.

unitedbydesign.co

Creative & Digital

LazenbyBrown



Award-winning creative agency crafting distinctive, strategic brands and experiences that inspire lasting engagement.

lazenbybrown.com

Creative & Digital

Studio YCS



Here for all your website design, video production, branding and printing needs through an experienced in-house team.

studioycs.co.uk

Education

York Business School



York St John University's degree apprenticeships blend academic study with practical experience to launch successful professional careers.

yorksja.ac.uk

Finance

HSBC



HSBC's SME Business Banking provides financial services that help small and medium businesses manage, grow and scale confidently.

hsbc.co.uk

IT & Tech

Techscend



A jargon-free, security-led IT company serving all businesses from sole traders to large SMEs.

techscend.uk

Legal

Torque Law



A specialist employment law firm providing clear, expert guidance on complex HR issues.

torquelaw.co.uk

Legal

Crombie Wilkinson



One of the largest law firms in North Yorkshire, offering fast, effective, and specialist legal advice to individuals and businesses.

crombiewilkinson.co.uk

Marketing

LEaF Translations



Delivering high-quality multilingual website, marketing and SEO content using expert native-speaker translators.

leaftranslations.com

Marketing

Neo Social



Providing a full-funnel growth partnership that scales brands through paid social, optimisation, and retention.

neofounders.co.uk

People

McMillan & Associates



Delivering pragmatic, people-focused HR and organisational development support that helps organisations maximise the potential of their workforce.

mcmillanandassociateshr.com

Property

Patch



Offering coworking, offices and event spaces that support productivity, collaboration and community-driven business growth.

patch.work

Local Support Services

York BID, York & North Yorkshire Growth Hub and City of York Council

A joint showcase of local business support services available to help organisations start, grow, and thrive.

Further information can be found on page 10

Scan the QR code to find out more



Local support services

York BID

Funded by local businesses to enhance York city centre and create a more profitable trading environment.

theyorkbid.com | info@theyorkbid.com | 01904 809970

City of York Council Business Growth

Providing tailored, localised support to help York businesses navigate local opportunities, regulations, and growth challenges.

york.gov.uk/support-businesses/grow-business
economicgrowth@york.gov.uk | 01904 551550

York & North Yorkshire Growth Hub

Connecting organisations to specialist advisers, funding opportunities, and programmes that drive growth across the region.

ynygrowthhub.com | support@ynygrowthhub.com | 0800 246 5045

Thank you to our partners and contributors:

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Martin Worsley-Speck, HSBC

Matthew Seddon, West & North Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce

We want to hear from you!

We're gathering your insights to understand current challenges and opportunities. Your feedback will shape the second Momentum conference and help tailor future support for local businesses. Follow the QR code to take part.



Proudly supported by





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