



12-7PM, 18TH NOVEMBER 2026

MOMENTUM YORK

YORK'S PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONFERENCE



DAVID
SKAITH
MAYOR

Introductions

Rachel Bean
Project Manager
York BID
theyorkbid.com



Welcome to Momentum York, our new conference designed by professional services, for professional services.

We were delighted to welcome over 140 professionals to our inaugural conference in June, where we heard about York's upcoming developments, the economic landscape, and why businesses choose to set up here. The feedback exceeded expectations:

96% gained a better understanding of York's upcoming developments

83% agreed York now feels like a thriving hub for the sector, and

74% said they made valuable new connections

Attendees also told us that business growth is both a major priority and a significant challenge. They wanted greater insight into strategic growth plans for the sector, practical support to help their businesses succeed, and more structured opportunities to connect. We've used that feedback to shape today's programme around what matters most to you: helping businesses learn, connect, and grow.

Momentum York is about building a connected, confident, and ambitious professional services community that contributes to the wider success of York's economy. As Thom Feeney, Site Director & Operations Lead North at Patch, said at the June event, "York is a Goldilocks city," big enough to have exciting opportunities and investment, and small enough that businesses can have an impact. We hope Momentum York continues to showcase York's unique strengths as a thriving hub for the professional services sector, sparking new partnerships and creating more opportunities for York's professional services community to feel better connected and informed.

Thank you to everyone who has supported Momentum, particularly Mayor David Skaith and the York & North Yorkshire Combined Authority for funding our first two conferences, and to all of you for being part of today's event. By working together, we can help York thrive as a place to live, visit, work, and invest.

Help us keep the Momentum going. We're already looking ahead to the future of Momentum. If you'd like to support future conferences, get in touch at Rachel.Bean@theyorkbid.com. I'd love to hear from you.

Richard Webb
Chief Executive
City of York Council
york.gov.uk



York has a strong and resilient economy. The latest published figures show that economic output per head has continued to grow and remains among the highest in the region. Professional services are an important part of that success. Professional, scientific, and technical activities form York's largest business sector by number of enterprises. Together with financial and insurance services, they have also made a substantial contribution to the city's economic output.

Many of those businesses are small, specialist, and highly innovative. That is one of the sector's strengths, but it also points to an opportunity. By connecting firms more effectively with one another, with larger employers, and with new investment in the city, we can help businesses grow, people develop, and create more high-quality jobs.

That matters for York's wider ambitions. As a city, we want more graduates from our universities to see their future here, and we want experienced professionals and entrepreneurs to choose York as a place to build careers, establish businesses, and bring new ideas to market.

York is entering a period of exciting change, with major investment set to reshape the city. York Central will deliver up to 2,500 homes and more than 1 million sq ft of commercial space, while the Station Gateway and Reimagining York

programmes will improve public spaces, access, and movement around the city. Across the city centre, plans for Coney Street Riverside will bring underused buildings back into productive use and reconnect Coney Street with the River Ouse, while proposals at Castle Gateway aim to enhance public space, connectivity, and the setting of key heritage assets. The Minster's neighbourhood plan will also support long-term investment in the Precinct, including new visitor, learning, and heritage facilities.

These developments give us an opportunity to shape our growth. Working with the Mayor, the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority, businesses and other city partners, we can ensure that investment supports York's long-term economic, social and environmental ambitions.

As a Council, our ambition is for York to be One City, for all, with a thriving and inclusive economy. Our Business Growth team helps businesses start, grow and invest in York, and I encourage you to speak to the team today.

I would like to thank York BID and everyone involved in Momentum York for championing this sector and creating the space for businesses to collaborate.

I look forward to seeing you and hope you have a productive and enjoyable conference.

Agenda

- 12:00pm** Lunch & Expo
- 1:30pm** **York's Growth Agenda**
How your business can benefit and win new opportunities
- 2:30pm** Break
- 2:45pm** **Roland Emmans**
Sector Head for Technology & Growth Lending, HSBC UK
- 3:30pm** Break & Expo
- 4:00pm** **Growing Through Uncertainty**
Lessons from local business leaders
- 5:00pm** **Networking & Drinks**
Including Speed Networking hosted by York Professionals

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

The June event considered why businesses choose to establish themselves here and helped build confidence in York's future. This follow-up event moves the conversation from why to how, with a specific focus on business growth, local support, and meaningful networking.

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.



Scan the QR code to watch our It's All York promotional video

Meet the speakers

Session 1

Richard Webb
Chief Executive,
City of York Council york.gov.uk



Richard was appointed as Chief Executive of City of York Council in March 2026 and brings more than 30 years' leadership experience across local government and the NHS. Passionate about people, places, and partnerships, he is focused on driving sustainable growth, strengthening communities, and ensuring York continues to thrive as a great place to live, work, invest, and do business.

Chloe Wilcox
Head of Procurement,
York & North Yorkshire Combined Authority,
City of York Council yorknorthyorks-ca.gov.uk



Chloe leads procurement and commercial activity that helps deliver public services and regional investment. With extensive experience in public sector procurement, Chloe is passionate about creating opportunities for businesses, improving access to contracts, and ensuring public spending delivers maximum value for communities and the local economy.

Rob Wolfe
Managing Director,
CHY Consultancy chyconsultancy.com



Rob is a recognised leader in social value, procurement, and community impact. With more than 20 years' experience, he helps organisations maximise the social and economic benefits of investment and procurement. Recently appointed by York Central, Rob is helping to embed social impact throughout the development, ensuring it delivers lasting benefits for local communities, businesses, and the wider economy.

Session 2

Roland Emmans

Sector Head for Technology
& Growth Lending, HSBC UK
[hsbc.com](https://www.hsbc.com)



A highly regarded technology sector specialist, Roland brings over 25 years of banking experience and is passionate about helping businesses innovate, scale, and succeed in a rapidly evolving digital economy. At HSBC UK, Roland works with technology businesses ranging from ambitious start-ups to established multinational firms.



Momentum York, June 2026

Session 3

Michelle Mook

Founder & Managing Director,
Pro-Development (UK) Limited
pro-development.co.uk



An award-winning business leader, speaker, and people development specialist, Michelle has spent over 30 years helping organisations strengthen leadership, culture, and employee engagement. She now works with businesses across Yorkshire to develop talent, improve performance, and drive sustainable growth.

Mat Lazenby

Creative Director & Co-founder,
LazenbyBrown lazenbybrown.com



Mat has led his award-winning creative studio for over 20 years. Working across brand strategy, identity, and communications, Mat and his expert team has helped shape the way many of Yorkshire's leading organisations, businesses, and cultural institutions present themselves. A serious advocate for the city's creative community, he is also an academic creative fellow, school speaker, facilitator, and editor of independent York magazine City Folk.

Rana Harvey

Founder & Managing Director,
Monster Group UK monstershop.co.uk



Rana has grown her York-based business from a start-up launched in her spare bedroom into a multi-million-pound international retailer. A respected entrepreneur and business leader, she is passionate about innovation, growth, and building resilient, high-performing businesses.



With thanks to York City Football Club for donating four premium hospitality tickets.

Stay for the evening networking session to find out if you've won an unforgettable matchday experience!

Exhibitors

Finance



HSBC

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

hsbc.co.uk

Finance



Azets

Helping businesses and individuals thrive through expert accountancy, tax, audit, and advisory services, delivering practical support, insight, and confidence for growth.

azets.com

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

People



Diverse HR Consultancy

Helping businesses tackle HR challenges with confidence through practical, personalised support focused on compliance, employee wellbeing, and positive workplace culture.

diversehrconsultancy.com

Charity

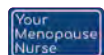


York Cares

Dedicated local charity bringing employers together to support communities, reduce isolation, enhance green spaces, and create opportunities for younger people.

yorkcares.co.uk

Business Training



Your Menopause Nurse Ltd

Providing expert, evidence-based menopause support through specialist nurse-led consultations, workplace training, and education, helping women and organisations navigate menopause with confidence.

yourmenopausenurse.co.uk

Business Support



York Professionals

With more than 170 members, York Professionals is the trusted voice of York's professional services sector, championing collaboration, innovation, investment, and sustainable economic growth since 2001.

york-professionals.co.uk

People



Pro-Development

Helping you to attract, retain and develop your staff to achieve business success together through leadership and development training.

pro-development.co.uk

Legal



Ware & Kay

One of Yorkshire's leading independent law firms, providing trusted legal advice to businesses and individuals across corporate, commercial property, employment, dispute resolution, and private client matters.

warekay.co.uk

Legal



Roche Legal

Award-winning private client solicitors and legal professionals specialising in probate, estate administration, Wills, Lasting Powers of Attorney, Trusts and inheritance planning and court of protection, providing clear, compassionate legal guidance.

rochelegal.co.uk

Property



ACollective

ACollective provides move-in ready serviced offices for small teams of up to 8 people. Located in the heart of York, overlooking The Shambles, we offer flexible contracts built for growing businesses.

acollective.co

IT & Tech



Zest Consult

Delivering innovative, ethical AI solutions that help organisations improve safety, security and operational performance.

zestconsult.co.uk

Creative & Digital



LazenbyBrown

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

lazenbybrown.com

Creative & Digital



See Green

Yorkshire-based digital agency creating bespoke websites, business systems, and CRM solutions. With 18+ years' experience, we help organisations grow, streamline operations, and strengthen their online presence.

seegreen.uk

Print



Press Green

At Press Green, we see print as a strategic asset in your business (not just a commodity) - it's our mission to help create marketing and display materials that work harder for you and your team. It's why York's leading organisations have trusted us with their print since 1985.

pressgreen.com

Office Equipment



Lundia

A family-run specialist in ergonomic office equipment, combining expert knowledge and quality products to create healthier, more comfortable, and productive workplaces.

lundia.co.uk

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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Matthew Seddon, West & North Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce

We want to hear from you!

We're gathering your insights to better understand current challenges, opportunities, and the support that would make the greatest difference over the coming months. Your feedback has helped shape today's conference and will continue to inform future support for local businesses. **Follow the QR code to take part.**



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