

Yorkshire & Humber picks York in survey on GBR HQ

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A poll which asked 1,000 people in Yorkshire and the Humber where the best place in the region would be for the new Great British Railways headquarters decisively picked York.

The data was collected by British Polling Council member [Focaldata](#).

The survey results said 6 in 10 Yorkshire and the Humber adults selected York as the best location for the GBR HQ, compared to 2 in 10 selecting Doncaster, 1 in 10 Wakefield and 1 in 10 Hull.

The campaign Yes2York said this was a significant majority, noting that three times as many people selecting York as any other Yorkshire and Humber option.

Transport Secretary Grant Shapps launched the competition to host the GBR HQ on the 4th October 2021 with 42 towns and cities having thrown their hats in the ring. Shortlisted locations will be announced in May with the final choice being announced after a public vote in the summer.

The winning location will benefit from a number of high-skilled jobs and fresh investment from the

government. York already has six times the concentration of rail expertise that anywhere else in the country and with the addition of GBR's HQ would become a world-class cluster and powerful force for levelling up the North.

Additionally, the representative polling also shows that:

- **7 in 10** think that having GBR's HQ in York would be **good for the economy of Yorkshire**
- **7 in 10** think that having GBR's HQ in York would be **good for job opportunities in Yorkshire**
- **7 in 10** agree that **'York would be a good place to locate the Great British Railways headquarters'**

Great British Railways will be a single accountable public body responsible for running Britain's railways and transforming the railway industry to be more innovative and passenger focused.

As part of the Government's commitment to level-up the UK and shift civil service jobs outside of London, the new GBR HQ will be based outside of the South East. In deciding where the headquarters of GBR will be located, the government is thinking about factors such as: how the town/city can contribute to 'levelling up' the UK, how connected and easy to travel to the town/city is, historic links to the railways, opportunities for Great British Railways (such as partnering with local universities, skilled local workers, a pleasant place for workers to live etc), value for money and local public support.

Cllr Carl Les, Leader of North Yorkshire County Council said:

"This gold-standard poll shows that the people of Yorkshire have clearly said Yes2York for the Great British Railways headquarters. People know that York has the ability to help level up the North, the right skills and people to make GBR a success and the potential to be globally competitive and create a new major Northern services export."

Kevin Hollinrake, MP for Thirsk and Malton said:

"The government has rightly said that it wants to create a globally competitive city in every region, level up the UK and spread opportunity and investment around our country and ensure we are a scientific, engineering and technological superpower."

York can tick all of those boxes with the addition of the GBR HQ alongside our world-class universities and £60m transformation of the National Railway Museum that will inspire the next generation of Brunels."