

Business Bulletin October 2025

PROTECT YOUR BUSINESS FROM FRAUD



We want to make local businesses aware of an ongoing **scam activity** in the area and urge everyone to remain extremely vigilant—particularly when dealing with cold callers who may present false intentions under various guises, including:

- Business rates scams
- Energy broker scams

Financial scams

We've been working closely with Citizens Advice to raise awareness and protect businesses from falling victim to these fraudulent schemes.

Here are the steps you need to ensure for prevention of scams;

- Consult a solicitor before proceeding with any contracts.
- Gather all the details of the scam.
- Report the scam to Citizens Advice, Action Fraud and other organisations.
- Check if fees are typically charged for the service provided
- DO NOT DO BUSINESS WITH COLD CALLERS.

If you suspect a scam or believe your business may have been targeted, please report it using one of the following trusted methods:

Citizens Advice Online Form

Submit a report - **HERE.**

Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline

0808 223 1133

(Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm; closed on bank holidays)

Action Fraud

Report fraud and cyber crime - HERE.

For further guidance, please refer to the attached 4-Step Business Fraud Prevention Guide. - **HERE**.

We cannot stress enough the importance of staying alert. These scams are still active, and with your help, we can prevent more businesses from being affected.

For further information into fraud and economic crime please click on the link below

FIND OUT MORE



The Youth Guarantee Trailblazer is a fully funded opportunity through Tees Valley Combined Authority for local businesses to access funded three month paid work placements for young people aged 18-21 who are not in education, employment, or training. **We are looking for Businesses now to sign up to the next cohort with placements to begin in late November.**

With more than 700 young people signed up and over 180 local businesses taking part across Tees Valley this is an opportunity for your business to support the development of the next generation of young talent across Tees Valley.

To help your business take on a young person additional support is available including:

- Up to £2,000 is available to help you identify dedicated work-based mentors within your team as part of the taster sessions.
- Training grants are also available with up to £2,500 towards certified training, qualifications and upskilling
- Funding for any uniforms, PPE, tools or digital equipment the young person requires to carry out the role.

Paid placements will be subsidised for up to 25 hours per week, wages will be fully funded meaning there is no financial cost to your business.

Businesses can also offer flexible unpaid work taster sessions for young people to explore which sectors / roles they're most interested in.

Please note this programme is currently inviting expressions of interest from businesses with more than 5 employees, if you have less than 5 employees but are interested in the programme please contact our team at Business@Redcar-Cleveland.gov.uk

For more information, including FAQs, and to sign up, visit the Tees Valley Combined Authority website below.

FIND OUT MORE

Taste Of Redcar and Cleveland



Save the dates for the upcoming campaign (**5th November to 16th November**), whether you plan on enjoying the offers or taking part as a hospitality venue!

A Taste of Redcar and Cleveland is a food and drink campaign designed to showcase and support the wide range of hospitality venues establishments within our borough.

Led by Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council, the campaign helps to boost trade, attract new customers and keep consumer spending within the local area by offering exclusive deals. This allows customers to enjoy great value during hospitality businesses quieter periods.

Who can take part?

The campaign is open to all sit-in hospitality venues in Redcar and Cleveland. This includes bars, cafes, bistros, pubs, restaurants and hotels. Whether you serve food, drinks or both, you are eligible to participate.

What's involved?

Taking part is quick, easy and FREE. All we ask is that participating venues offer at least one deal or discount during the campaign, in line with the set price points £5, £10, £15, £20, £25 and £30+. Offers can be tailored to your business type, for example:

- Food Venues might offer a coffee and cake combo for £5 or a 3-course set meal for £25
- Drinks only venues might offer special cocktail 2 for 1 deals or discounted drinks packages
- Offers should be unique to the campaign and not be a discount you offer year-round.

Benefits of taking part

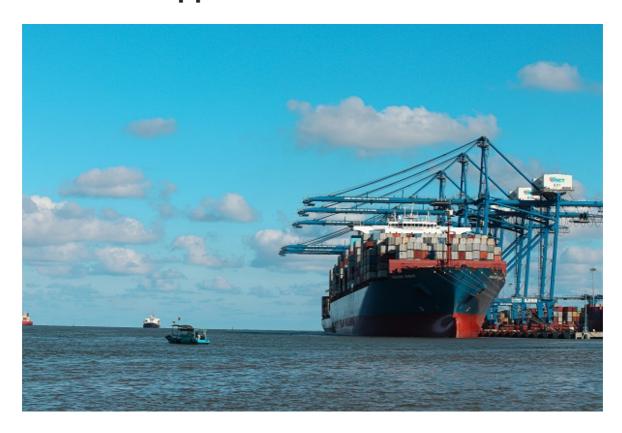
- Increased exposure to new customers
- Free promotion through Enjoy Redcar and Cleveland's tourism platform and social media
- Inclusion in printed and digital marketing

How to sign up

Simply complete the online sign-up form linked below, to take part in the campaign.

Business support opportunities

Tees Valley Supply Chain: Unlocking Growth Opportunities for SMEs



The Tees Valley Supply Chain Programme offers fully funded support to help businesses to access local, national, and global supply chain opportunities.

Delivered by RTC North and funded through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, the programme offers:

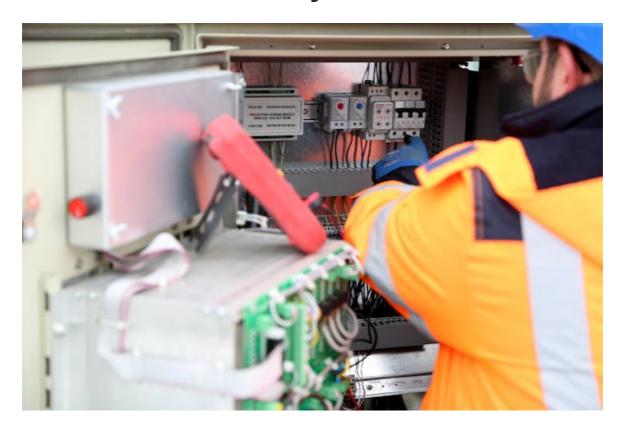
- Tailored one-to-one support from expert advisors and consultants.
- Workshops, exhibitions, and networking events to help businesses diversify and scale.
- Access to an online Supply Chain Exchange Portal.

- Sector-specific guidance in areas like clean energy, defence, healthcare, and digital.
- The opportunity to connect with supply chain opportunities from major players including OEMs, Tier 1 companies, and national infrastructure projects.

For more information please visit the link below.

FIND OUT MORE

Tees Valley Net Zero



Delivered by Decerna the fully funded Tees Valley Net Zero programme is back to support your business on its decarbonisation journey.

The programme provides a range of support to help your business fully integrate sustainability into your daily operations and make even greater carbon reduction and cost savings, available to new enquiries and businesses who worked with Decerna on the previous programme.

Support includes:

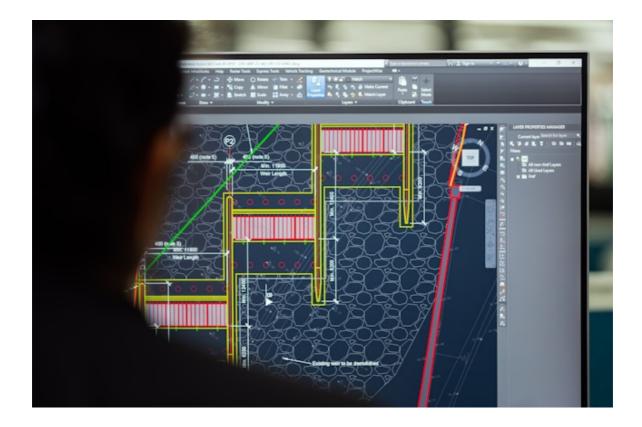
- Carbon Emissions Tool Calculate your baseline carbon footprint and track progress year on year.
- Decarbonisation Plan Take meaningful steps to achieve real-world emissions reductions and hit your Net Zero targets.
- Change at Work: Practical Help Get hands-on advice to implement change across your team.
- Sustainable Manufacturing Expert guidance to help cut waste and improve efficiency.
- Energy Audit In-depth analysis to identify energy-saving opportunities with expert support.
- Access to Finance Explore funding available to bring your plans to life
- Build Your Knowledge Discover factsheets and videos on a wide range of decarbonisation topics, focused on what you can implement to save energy in your business.
- Sustainable Business Network Learn from industry experts, share ideas, develop new contacts, and hear about other businesses' experiences.

Support is fully funded for Redcar and Cleveland businesses by the UK Government via the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and delivered by Decerna on behalf of the Tees Valley Mayor, Business Board and Combined Authority.

Sign up to this year's Tees Valley Net Zero programme by clicking the link below.

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Made Smarter Adoption North East



Redcar and Cleveland manufacturers looking to become more efficient and implement digital technology into your business are invited to take part in the latest Made Smarter Adoption North East programme which includes the opportunity to apply for up to £23,500 in grant funding to help access expert technical advice and to purchase and implement new software/equipment.

- Get hands on help to develop a digital roadmap for your business wherever you're at on your digital journey.
- Access specialist training and workshops on digital transformation, road mapping, process mapping, leadership development and industrial cyber security.
- Grants of up to *£3,500 to access expert technical advice.
- Grants of up to *£20,000 to help you purchase and implement new software and/ or equipment (up to 50% of the overall cost).

Find more information on the programme and range of support to make your manufacturing business more efficient and productive below.

FIND OUT MORE

Supply Chain Opportunities

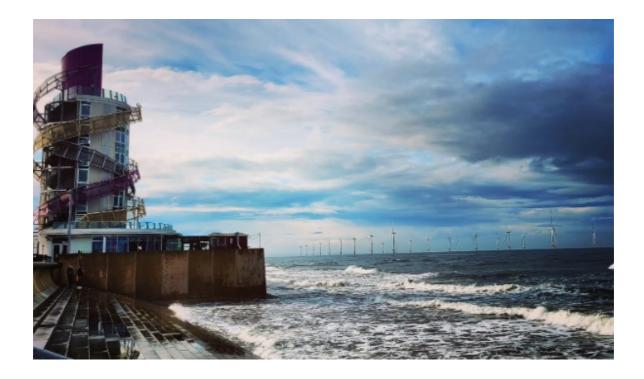


Tender opportunities are live for the £4 billion Northern Endurance Partnership project, opportunities in logistics, engineering, manufacturing and services are listed on the Energy Pathfinder platform below.

The Northern Endurance Partnership is a UK joint venture led by bp, Equinor, and TotalEnergies that is building onshore and offshore infrastructure to transport captured CO2 from industrial sites in Teesside and Humber to permanent storage in the Endurance saline aquifer beneath the North Sea, enabling large-scale decarbonisation of these regions as part of the East Coast Cluster.

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Back the Best of British



Airbnb is launching the £1 million Best of British fund, to help support the stays, experiences and attractions that make Britain great. This is an exciting opportunity to support tourism businesses and organisations across the UK. The fund offers grants between £25,000 and £100,000 for projects that enhance the visitor experience within one of the following categories:

- Nature & Outdoors
- Food & Dining
- Music & Art
- Culture & Heritage

Applications are open to a wide range of recognised organisations (including small businesses, social enterprises, community groups, and cultural or heritage orgs).

The application deadline is **23rd November 2025.**

Click below for FAQ and to apply!

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TikTok Local Shop Competition



TikTok Shop has unveiled its new 'Shop Local' programme, designed to help British small and mediumsized enterprises (SMEs) grow their reach and boost sales through the platform.

With a total investment of £750,000, the initiative will provide five selected local businesses with tailored support packages worth over £150,000 each. These packages include expert guidance to get started on TikTok Shop, mentorship, training, and comprehensive PR and marketing assistance.

Eligible UK-based SMEs that sell locally produced goods are encouraged to apply. To enter, simply create and post a TikTok video showcasing your business, products, or community impact. Be sure to include the hashtag #ShopLocalComp, tag @TikTokShop_UK, and submit your entry by 13 **November 2025 at 23:59**.

Click the link below to learn more and apply

News

Wilton Centre Celebrates 50 Years of Innovation and Impact



The business community and distinguished guests recently gathered to mark the 50th anniversary of the Wilton Centre, a renowned hub for research and development that holds a prominent place in Europe's R&D landscape.

The celebration was led by Pioneer Group, the UK's leading specialist in life sciences infrastructure and venture development. The event honoured five decades of supporting businesses and entrepreneurs driving innovation and advancing the circular economy.

The milestone brought together long-standing site members—whose combined service spans an impressive 170 years—current occupiers, the Mayor of Redcar and Cleveland, Councillor Ian Hart, and representatives from local charities Zoe's Place Baby Hospice and Footprints in the Community.

Highlights of the event included keynote speeches, the unveiling of a commemorative mosaic and video premiere, a networking lunch, and the launch of a special anniversary booklet. Proceeds from booklet sales will support the Middlesbrough branch of Zoe's Place, a long-standing charity partner of the Wilton Centre.

Steve Duffield, Wilton Centre Site Director and long-time team member of 29 years, reflected:

"It is incredible that Wilton Centre has been at the heart of science and innovation for half a century. When I joined in 1996, it was already a landmark of research and discovery.

What has kept it special ever since are the people—those who've worked behind the scenes to maintain, develop, and reimagine the space for each new generation of innovators.

The breakthroughs made here have shaped industries, products, and everyday lives—from materials that transformed global manufacturing in the 1970s to today's pioneering work in sustainability and life sciences."

Today, the Wilton Centre is home to approximately 60 businesses, with ambitious plans for growth. Following recent planning approval, Pioneer Group will develop nearly 150,000 sq ft of new laboratory, technical, manufacturing, and office space within the Teesside Freeport zone—further cementing the Centre's role as a catalyst for innovation and economic development.

Click below to find out more about the celebration.

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Community news & opportunities

Showcasing Dog Friendly Businesses in Redcar and Cleveland



Is your Redcar and Cleveland based business dog friendly?

Get in touch with our Enjoy Redcar | Cleveland team to receive your official dog friendly window sticker and let everyone know dogs are welcome at your business!

Contact the team via email at enjoy@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk or phone 01642 444600.

Make Your Business a Welcoming Space for Families: Join the 'Welcome to Breastfeed' Scheme



Are you a local business that welcomes families through your doors? The Welcome to Breastfeed Scheme for South Tees is a fantastic opportunity to show your support for mothers and children while enhancing your customer experience.

This initiative invites public, private, and voluntary sector organisations to create more inclusive environments by supporting breastfeeding mothers. Research from the National Breastfeeding Welcome Scheme shows that staff trained to support breastfeeding mums often extend that care to all customers, resulting in higher customer satisfaction.

Why Join?

- Boost your reputation as a family-friendly business.
- Increase footfall from parents seeking welcoming spaces.
- Get listed on the Council website, making it easier for local families to find you.

Signing up is simple—and it's a meaningful way to show your commitment to community wellbeing.

Interested?

Email: <u>breastfeedingwelcome@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk</u>

Learn More:

Download the full guide by clicking on the link below to discover how the scheme can benefit your business.

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Events

NetWORK in Redcar this November



Date: Wednesday 26th November

Time: 10:00am - 12:30pm

Location: The Regent Cinema, Newcomen Terrace, Redcar, TS10 1AU

Join NetWORK NotWORK CIC for the second NetWORKing event at the iconic Regent Cinema in Redcar.

Whether you're a seasoned business professional or just starting out, this event is designed to spark new connections and fresh ideas. Expect a lively atmosphere with music, games, and expert insights from a line-up of Nexpert guest speakers and panellists. Expand your network locally, connect with business leaders from across the Northeast to support the growth of your business.

Event Agenda:

10:00 - 10:30 | Informal NetWORKing & Music

10:30 – 10:45 | Welcome & Nexpert Speaker

10:50 - 11:20 | NetWORK Games

11:20 - 11:50 | Nexpert Panel

11:50 – 12:00 | Update from NetWORK Partner

12:00 – 12:30 | Informal NetWORKing & Music

Don't miss this opportunity to connect, collaborate, and grow your business.

Spaces are limited, so be sure to book your ticket early!

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Cluster Connect - November Event



Date: Thursday 20th November

Time: 9:00am - 11:00am

Venue: TBC

This free, monthly meeting brings together NEPIC members and offers the opportunity to make introductions, develop connections and gain support and inspiration from industry colleagues, along with helping to raise your personal and business profile.

Speakers:

Lauren Bathan - Jackson Hogg

Emma Dickinson - PD Ports

Joy Toner - Tracerco

PLEASE NOTE: If you are a NON-Member and would like to attend a Cluster Connect please contact: <u>Anya.Farlow@nepic.co.uk</u> and we will be able to discuss this.

For more information and to attend, please click on the link below.

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International Trade Week 2025



Join the Department for Business and Trade (DBT), for the fifth edition of International Trade Week between 3rd and 7th November 2025 for five days of free online and in-person events, designed to help UK businesses grow through exporting.

Led by the Department for Business and Trade and sponsored by Santander UK, in partnership with industry, International Trade Week allows you grow your export knowledge with Essentials sessions or build on your existing skills with by taking part in Masterclasses, Sector and Market events.

From expert-led webinars to interactive workshops, there's a mix of free in-person and online events tailored to support your business growth and exporting journey. International Trade Week brings together industry experts, practical insights, and real opportunities for businesses of all sizes and sectors. Discover new opportunities and practical insights, all designed to help you take the next step.

For more information and a list of all upcoming events please click on the link below.

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CIE Prestigious Lecture



Date: 6th November 2025

Time: 6:00pm

Venue: T1.10, The Curve, Teesside University, Middlesbrough TS1 3QD

Join the Cleveland Institution of Engineers for their next AGM and Prestigious Lecture, where they welcome former President Chris McDonald MP, FREng CEng FIMMM, Minister for Industry, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) and the Department for Business and Trade. speak about the "Scientific and industrial development in the North East and how this aligns with the Government Industrial Strategy".

To view the location on maps please click <u>here</u>.

For those not able to attend in person please click the link below to attend

Age UK November Teesside Event



Date: Friday 28th November

Time: From 6pm

Location: Thornaby Cricket club

Age UK Teesside are holding a Charity Fire & Ice Event, it's a great team building activity and an opportunity for you to raise money for our Charity.

For more information please click the link below:

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