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BUSINESS

REDCAR | CLEVELAND



Business Bulletin

April 2026

Kicking off the Summer in Redcar and Cleveland



Date: Thursday 7th May

Time: 3:00pm to 5:00pm

Venue: Redcar Racecourse, Redcar, TS10 2FD

Local businesses are invited to join us at Redcar Racecourse for a special event celebrating everything that's happening across Redcar and Cleveland this summer.

The event will shine a spotlight on the borough's vibrant visitor economy, showcasing the wide range of festivals, events, attractions and experiences set to welcome visitors over the summer months.

Attendees will hear how this activity is driving footfall, extending visitor stays, supporting local businesses and how your business can look to benefit from the events by knowing when, where and what is taking place this summer across Redcar and Cleveland.

A panel discussion featuring local visitor economy businesses and organisations will explore:

- How businesses can work together more effectively.
- Upcoming plans and visitor trends.
- Ways local businesses can maximise the benefits of a busy summer programme.

Full agenda and speakers for the event will be added shortly.

Attendees will be invited to stay after 5:00pm as guests of Redcar Racecourse for the evening's racing, details on the 'Beach Party' evening racing can be found [here](#).

Please make clear when booking your ticket(s) if you wish to stay for the evening racing as places are limited, tickets are limited to 2 per organisation.

To book your place at the event, click the link below.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

C W Russell Haulage completes £500,000 site investment to drive growth plans



Family-run haulage firm C W Russell Haulage has completed a £500,000 investment at its Middlesbrough Road East site as the business prepares for the next phase of its expansion.

Founded in 1993 by owner driver Charlie Russell, the Redcar and Cleveland business has grown from a single vehicle operation into a leading service provider to the construction industry, delivering a range of specialist haulage, aggregates, crushing and screening, waste removal and support services across the region.

As a result of the investment, C W Russell Haulage has created additional jobs and strengthened its ability to service and expand its 74 vehicle fleet, which supports clients across major construction and infrastructure projects.

Tom Russell, Director of C W Russell Haulage, said:

"This £500,000 investment is a major milestone for the business and reflects our long term commitment to growth, our people and our customers. By expanding our workshops and hardstanding on the site, we have significantly increased our capacity to support our growing fleet, whilst creating

new jobs and laying the foundations for further expansion as we look ahead to developing our third site at Skippers Lane.”

Read the full story by clicking the link below.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Start Up Loans Update

Start Up Loans are **changing**

From 6 April 2026, the interest rate and eligibility criteria for **new Start Up Loan applications** will be different.

If you've already taken out a Start Up Loan **before this date**, don't worry. The terms of your loan stay the same.

What's changing?

- The fixed interest rate for new Start Up Loan applications is increasing from 6% to **7.5%**
- Businesses can now apply for a Start Up Loan if they've been trading for up to **60 months (five years)**, up from 36 months (three years)

Any questions?

Not sure what this means for your business? Talk to our North East Start Up Loans Team for more information.

Shannon Donaghy
shannon.donaghy@befund.org
07484 482675



Rowan Green
rowan.green@befund.org
07483 996776





Connect with Shannon



Connect with Rowan



If you are interested in finding out more about the Start Up Loans changes, and if the scheme can benefit your business, click the link below.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Business support opportunities

Made Smarter - Developing your Digital Future



Date: Wednesday 22nd April

Time: 09:30am - 11:15am

Venue: Teesworks Skills Academy, Dorman Point Way, TS6 6BD

Made Smarter is back to host a special event next week, bringing together Tees Valley manufacturers and digital experts to explore how digital adoption can boost productivity, unlock innovation, and drive growth in your business.

Click [here](#) to book your place.

Discover funding and support available from RTC North, hear local success stories and meet with service providers.

Redcar and Cleveland manufacturers looking to become more efficient and implement digital

technology into your business are invited to take part in the 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.

Support includes:

- 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).

For more information on the programme and the range of support to make your manufacturing business more efficient and productive, click the link below.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Depot Charging Scheme



In order to assist businesses with the process of transitioning to electric vehicles, the Government have launched a Depot Charging Scheme to help pay for up to 70% of the cost of installation of charging equipment for businesses, where the primary use will be to charge commercial vehicles. For the purposes of this grant, a depot is defined as 'a commercial site where HGVs, vans and/or coaches are housed and maintained, and from which they are dispatched for service'.

This funding will be spread across several years with the first funding window opened on **25th March 2026** and runs to **30th June 2026** (or earlier if funding is exhausted). The second 2026 window opens on **28th October 2026** and close on **29th January 2027**. In both cases, installations have to be complete by **31st March 2027**.

In addition to the Depot Charging Scheme, there are still grants available for the purchase of electric

vehicles. These are listed on the government website [here](#). No application is required as the grant amount is automatically deducted by the dealer at the point of sale.

For more information click the link below.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Export funding opportunity



Are you looking to take your products or services to international markets?

The Tees Valley Export Fund is here to help you do just that, whether you are an SME or a larger business.

This grant programme is funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and delivered in partnership with the Department for Business and Trade (DBT). The programme offers financial support to businesses that are either starting out on their export journey or looking to grow/diversify their current export activities.

This could include help with the costs associated with:

- Market research
- International compliance and certifications
- Translation services
- Export-focused promotional materials
- Attendance at international trade shows

The fund allocation for Tees Valley is £200,000, for business grants between £3,000 and £10,000 for eligible businesses. 25% match funding is a requirement of this programme.

Businesses can apply for project activity which will take place and be completed up to the end of August 2026.

For more information and to apply, click the link below.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Cyber alert guidance



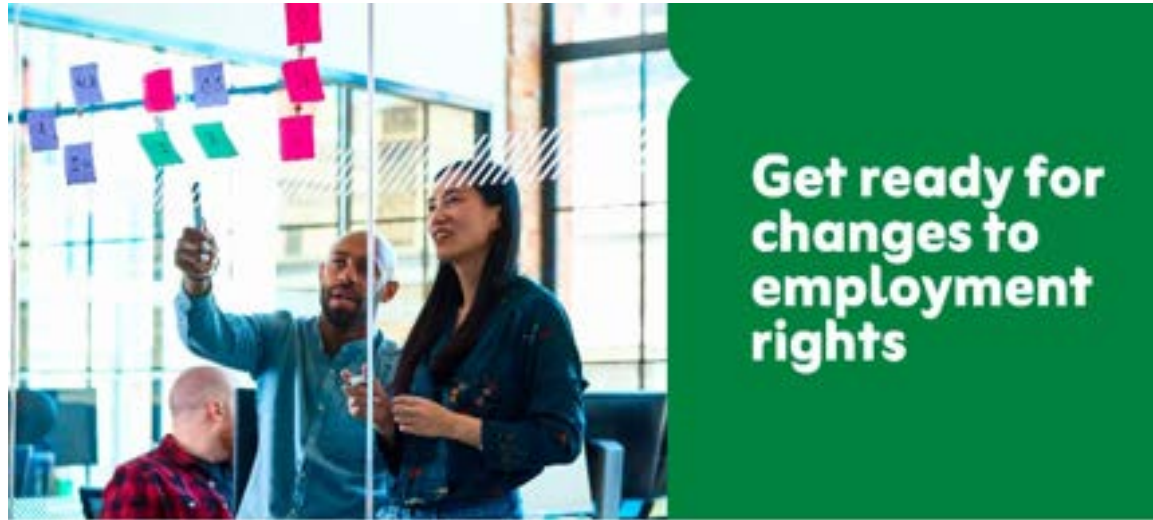
In response to the evolving events in the Middle East, National Cyber Security Centre is advising that UK organisations review their cyber security.

Based on the NCSC's guidance, Security Awareness Training for Small Businesses provides employees with a basic yet effective understanding of their cyber environment and the confidence to recognise and report potential security issues.

To learn more and to book on the training sessions available, click the link below.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

New employment rights: guidance for businesses and workers



As of April 2026, updated employment rights have taken effect for both employers and employees.

For more information on how these changes effect your business, please click the link below, where guidance is updated regularly as further changes are expected in 2026 and 2027.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

SWEF Business Grant funding opportunity



Young people in Redcar and Cleveland can apply for up to £2,000 in grant funding to start or expand their businesses.

Delivered by [Point North](#) the '[SWEF](#) Business Grant' is available to business owners aged between 18 to 30 who are either looking to start a business or have been trading up to 2.5 years.

The fund is designed to support young entrepreneurs facing challenges in starting/growing their businesses.

For full eligibility details and to apply, visit the Point North website below.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Land and property opportunities

Commercial property to let in Saltburn



A unique commercial property opportunity has become available on Saltburn's Victorian upper promenade. Positioned along the seafront and close to major attractions such as the Victorian Pier and the Saltburn Cliff Tramway, The Outlook has now been made available for potential tenants.

The plot occupies a prominent area with adjoining beach front access via stairs to the lower promenade. Saltburn's Victorian seafront is surrounded by a mix of local hospitality and leisure businesses including Café/Restaurant's, Crazy Golf, beach hut hire, Surfing School and the Pier Amusements Arcade as well as further businesses in the Valley Gardens and the wider town.

The deadline for informal tenders to be submitted is by **12 noon Friday 17th April 2026.**

For more information about this opportunity, click the link below.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Commercial properties available for lease in Brotton



Two properties have become available in Brotton, High Hills and 45 St Margarets Way are situated predominately in a residential community located a short distance from the North York Moors National Park.

The properties are positioned on the northern periphery of the village, offering a convenient location for families and community services with good public transport links.

The deadline for informal tenders to be submitted by **12 noon Friday 15th May 2026.**

For more information about this opportunity, click the link below.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

News

Wilton Centre becomes a strategic space for NZT Power project



Wilton Centre has welcomed Technip Energies and Balfour Beatty as part of the NZT Power and Northern Endurance Partnership (NEP) project. The development is set to be the world's first commercial scale, gas-fired power station with carbon capture and storage and the UK's first CO₂ transportation and storage infrastructure project.

The flagship project will play a pivotal role in the UK's energy transition, creating and supporting thousands of jobs in the North East of England.

To support delivery, project partners have taken 12,000 sq ft of office space at Wilton Centre.

Steve Duffield, Wilton Centre's Site Director, said: "*Wilton Centre has long been a magnet for*

companies looking to get involved in the green tech industrial revolution here on Teesside, so we're delighted that Technip Energies and Balfour Beatty have chosen to lay down roots at the Centre and join our thriving ecosystem of businesses tackling human and planetary health challenges."

"As well as driving the UK towards achieving net zero, this exciting project will play a key role in boosting regional economic growth in the North East, creating thousands of employment opportunities. The site is buzzing with innovation and new opportunities for collaboration, and we're very much looking forward to supporting the continued success of our occupiers."

To read the full press release by click the link below.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

UK Docks signs landmark deal with Bangladesh Navy to regenerate former Royal Navy ship



UK Docks Marine Services has signed a major contract with the Bangladesh Navy to help restore and regenerate the Asian country's newest purchase, the former HMS Enterprise.

The contract will see the vessel towed from Portsmouth to Teesside, so work can begin on bringing her back into service.

UK Docks plans to employ three permanent staff dedicated to programme oversight, working with three major original equipment manufacturers in Norway.

In addition, there will be 20 new, fixed-term contracts for specialists drawn from across the ship repair and maritime engineering sectors.

Jonathan Wilson, UK Docks MD, said *"The fact that this is a capital project for the newly-formed*

Bangladesh Government and that it was signed by the equivalent of the first and second Sea Lords of the British Admiralty, shows its importance to Bangladesh and significance to us."

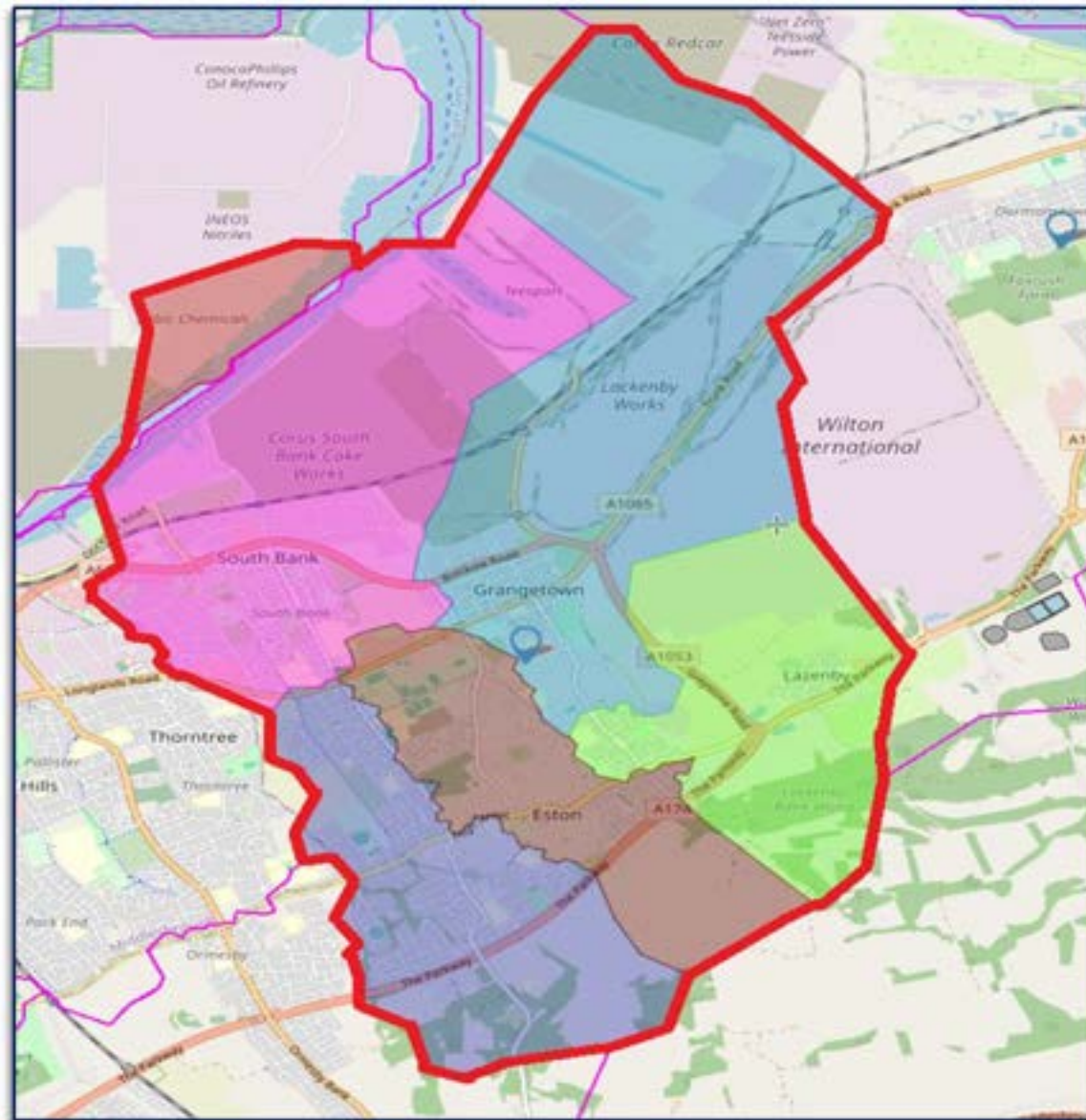
"Without doubt, it's one of the biggest moments in UK Docks' history, stretching back over 30 years of increasing growth."

Read the full press release by clicking below.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Community news and opportunities

**Your chance to shape local pride across TS6:
apply for Neighbourhood Board Chair**



An opportunity to become the Independent Chair for the Pride in Place Neighbourhood Board covering the TS6 area of Redcar and Cleveland is now available.

The TS6 Together Pride in Place Programme have received confirmation that the four-year investment plan has been approved by Government. This will see up to £8 million of Government funding made available to TS6 over the next four years, covering the areas of South Bank, Eston, Normanby, Teesville, Grangetown, and Lazenby.

Local people will be at the heart of shaping this initiative by helping to drive the project forward and having their say on activities and projects relating to:

- Safety & Security
- Regeneration
- High streets & Heritage
- Education & Opportunities
- Community Cohesion

The Chair's role is to lead the Board, bring diverse voices together, and ensure the programme genuinely reflects what local people want for their area.

A community conference is taking place on Monday 8th June at Inspire 2 Learn, Normanby Road, South Bank, TS6 9AE. To find out more/to get involved at the community conference please contact estontowndeal@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk.

For more information about the Pride in Place Neighbourhood Board and how to apply to become the Independent Chair, click the link below.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Events

The Mayors Charity Ball 2026



Date: Friday 24th April

Time: From 7:00pm

Venue: Gisborough Hall, Whitby Lane, Guisborough, TS14 6PT

Join us on Friday 24th April, for the Mayor's Charity Ball at Guisborough Hall.

You'll enjoy a welcome reception drink followed by a delicious three-course dinner and be able to dance the night away with live music from popular local band Foot Tapper.

Tickets are £60 and all proceeds raised will go towards two worthy local causes Footprints in the Community and the Tower Restoration Fund for St Cuthberts Church in Ormesby.

Mayor of Redcar and Cleveland, Cllr Ian Hart, said: *"The Mayor's Charity Ball is always a highlight of the year, and I am delighted to invite residents to join us for an evening of celebration, great entertainment and community spirit. The event raises funds for two causes close to my heart both of which make a real difference to local people."*

To purchase a ticket, donate a prize or for further information please contact Jane Holmes at Jane.holmes@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk or call 01642 444501.

To view the promotional poster, please click the link below.

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Digital Connectivity Drop in and Investment Zone Roundtable

**TEES
VALLEY**

DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY

Business Drop In: Redcar & Cleveland



Wednesday 29 April, 09:00 – 17:00,
at The Palace Hub, Redcar

Date: Wednesday 29th April

Time: 9:00am - 5:00pm

Venue: The Palace Hub, 28-29 Esplanade, Redcar, TS10 3AE

Come and speak to Tees Valley Combined Authority's Digital team to share your views on how digital connectivity can help support businesses like yours.

Digital Connectivity is essential to running a successful business – from having suitable internet connectivity and mobile phone coverage, to utilising smart technology to support seamless daily operations, drive growth and maintain a competitive edge. There are so many ways that the right digital infrastructure can help our local firms grow.

In addition to the all day drop in event a Tees Valley Investment Zone Roundtable will take place from 10:00am until 12:00pm focused on digital and creative businesses. This informal session will focus on Digital & Creative Industries and is designed to help shape and refine the

Investment Zone's business support offer. TVCA keen to hear your insights and experiences to ensure support is aligned with the needs of local businesses.

The Tees Valley Investment Zone represents a major opportunity for the region, with £160 million dedicated to accelerating growth across digital and creative sectors. Attendees will also learn more about Research & Innovation support available through their partners at Teesside University.

To book your place at the roundtable please click [here](#), to book onto the Digital Connectivity Drop In please visit the link below.

FIND OUT MORE

[Business Engagement Team privacy notice](#)



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