

BUSINESS

REDCAR | CLEVELAND



Business Bulletin

June 2026

Opportunity to develop Tees Valley's new Business Support Digital Platform



TEES VALLEY

DARLINGTON
Borough Council

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TEES
VALLEY**

TEES VALLEY
**OPEN FOR
BUSINESS**

Help Shape the Future
of Business Support

Business Support Digital
Platform Procurement

Now Live!

Find out more

A procurement opportunity is now live for the development and delivery of a new regional 'Business Support Digital Platform' through Tees Valley Combined Authority.

With an estimated contract value of £1,440,000 (including VAT), the platform will help create a more connected and user-focused business support ecosystem, making it easier for businesses across Tees Valley to access support, funding opportunities and advice.

Who should be interested?

Digital agencies, software developers, platform providers, technology businesses and organisations with experience of delivering user-centred digital platforms and services.

Key dates:

Deadline for clarification questions: 19 June 2026, 3:00pm

Tender submission deadline: 29 June 2026, 12:00pm

Delivery deadline: November 2026

For more information on the opportunity and to express your interest, click the link below.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Enterprise Development Programme: Bitesize sessions success & test trade applications now open!



Over the past few weeks, the programme has delivered three Bitesize Enterprise Sessions as part of the Enterprise Development Programme, supporting local residents to build confidence, develop new skills and take the next steps in their business journey.

The sessions - *Trade Ready: The Essentials, Marketing That Works, and Energy Saving and Sustainable Business* - were extremely well received, with participants praising the practical advice, supportive environment and the chance to connect with others at a similar stage. We're delighted with the positive feedback and the enthusiasm shown by everyone who attended.

We are now inviting applications for the Festival of Thrift Test Trading Opportunity, giving local

entrepreneurs the chance to gain real world trading experience at one of the region's major events. This is a fantastic opportunity to showcase your products or services, build confidence and learn what works for your business in a busy, vibrant marketplace.

How to Apply

Applications are now open and will close at **midday on Monday 15 June**. To apply or to find out more, please email: business@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk

We encourage early stage businesses, new traders and those exploring enterprise for the first time to get involved. The process is designed to be accessible, supportive and open to a wide range of ideas and business types.

If you have any questions or would like guidance before applying, our team is here to help.

Supply Chain Tees Valley Workshops



Businesses are invited to book onto RTC North's upcoming Supply Chain Tees Valley Workshop series covering exporting, sustainability and a special visit to Boulby Underground Laboratory.

List of upcoming available workshops below:

[**Making Sustainability Work for SME Supply Chains**](#) - Led by a specialist, this session shows how circular, sustainable thinking can cut costs, boost efficiency and resilience, and help SMEs meet buyer expectations.

Thursday 18th June - 8:30am - 12:30pm

[**Boulby Mine Underground Science Laboratory Tour**](#) - This exclusive site visit offers Tees Valley Supply Chain programme beneficiaries a rare opportunity to see the ground-breaking scientific and technical work taking place at Boulby Mine first-hand.

Tuesday 23rd June - 7:15am - 1:45pm - Physical spaces for this event are limited, there is an option to join via a live link as part of this event.

You can book any of the available workshops by clicking on the links above.

Business support opportunities

Tees Valley Investment Zone: Research and Innovation Support





Teesside University is leading the Research and Innovation strand of the Tees Valley Investment Zone, an ambitious programme aimed at accelerating growth in the region's digital and creative industries. Backed by £9.4m from Tees Valley Combined Authority, alongside matched investment from the University, government and industry, the programme will deliver targeted, high impact support to turn cutting edge ideas into commercial success.

The programme features five pillars of support for digital and creative businesses:

- **Innovation vouchers** - businesses can apply for £50,000 or £300,000 vouchers to develop, and accelerate innovative ideas linked to the digital themes in the guidance document.
- **Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs)** - for businesses developing a new product, service, or process to accelerate growth.
- **Collaborative PhD studentships** - businesses pursuing long-term R&D or looking to solve complex technical challenges.
- **Proof of concept** - academics taking a research idea towards commercialisation, de-risking feasibility, and supporting spinout or product pathways.

- **Innovation fellows** - for short, high-impact projects that need specialist expertise to deliver quickly.

Find more information on this support by visiting the Teesside University website linked 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](#)

Woodsmith Foundation application support session





REDCAR

Application Support for Small Grants

Join us to fill out your Small Grant application and ask any questions along the way!

By booking only | register by email

24th June
Redcar Palace Hub
11am - 3pm

 Woodsmith
Foundation

Date: Wednesday 24th June

Time: 11:00am to 3:00pm

Venue: Redcar Palace Hub, TS10 3AE

Woodsmith Foundation are hosting a drop in session later this month at the Palace Hub for local organisations interested in applying for their 'Small Grants for Everyday Essentials and Activities' scheme (£50 to £2,000). If it's your first time applying for funding or find it difficult completing forms then this session is for you.

Join Rebecca Wagner and the Woodsmith Foundation team for a relaxed support session to help you fill out a 'Small Grant' application form and talk through your project. Please note this session is by booking only and the deadline for bookings is **Wednesday 17th June**.

Email info@woodsmithfoundation.org.uk to register your place. Please note that this session will only cover applications for 'Small Grants for Everyday Essentials and Activities'.

If you are looking to apply for a different grant please contact info@woodsmithfoundation.org.uk or contact Rebecca Wagner on **07756395535**.

For more information on the Small Grants fund visit the Woodsmith Foundation website linked below.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Tees Valley Digital Connectivity Survey

TEES VALLEY

Tees Valley Combined Authority is inviting businesses in Redcar and Cleveland to share your views on the digital infrastructure that supports your operations. Your feedback will help build a clearer picture of where future improvements are needed, based on the real business demand in our area.

This is your chance to highlight whether broadband speeds, network stability or mobile network coverage are holding your business back from growing and/or adopting smart technologies.

Please take a few minutes to complete the short survey linked below. Your insights are vital in shaping future digital connectivity improvements across our area.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Electric Vehicle Charging for Businesses





The Government have increased and extended the Electric Vehicle Charging Grants for businesses to **31st March 2027**.

The maximum amount of grant per charger is now £500 per socket with up to 40 sockets across all sites per applicant.

These sockets must be for your staff or fleet, not customers and be off road and dedicated to your business (even if in a shared car park). To apply for a voucher, follow the link below and provide the document to any authorised commercial chargepoint installer.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Land and property opportunities

Rental opportunities at the new Eston Precinct



The New Eston Precinct development is due for completion in September 2026, with expressions of interests now open for seven new retail units.

The scheme will feature 14,650 sq ft of accommodation arranged in an L-shaped parade with prominent frontage to the High Street and a new landscaped public space, with dedicated parking off Lodge Road.

Units will be delivered in shell condition with glazed shopfronts and roller shutters, supported by secure rear servicing, a shared service yard, and delivery facilities including a loading dock.

The precinct is intended to host regular events and revive an outdoor market, creating a vibrant destination for retailers and the local community.

Click the link below to view the brochure for full unit details and information. on how to register your interest.

You can register an interest by contacting Portland Dodds Brown on any of the following contact details.

Richard Wilson

M: 07894256309

E: rwilson@portlanddoddsbrown.co.uk

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Sembcorp backs Grangetown Community Hub solar project



Sembcorp recently supported the installation of solar panels at the Grangetown Community Hub, helping to reduce energy costs and improve the long-term sustainability of the local community facility.

The hub plays an important role in supporting local residents through services, activities and community programmes. This project means more of funding raised by the hub can now be redirected into the community.

The project is part of Sembcorp's wider commitment to investing in the communities closest to their global sites - delivering practical, long-term impact while supporting the transition to cleaner energy.

Lynn Pallister MBE, FROG Community Enterprise Manager said:

"We are incredibly grateful to Sembcorp for their generous support. The installation of these solar panels is a game-changer for the Grangetown Community Hub. By significantly reducing our ongoing energy costs, we are able to redirect those much-needed funds back into the services, activities and support networks that our residents rely on every day. It is fantastic to see a major local employer like Sembcorp, right on our doorstep at Wilton International, investing so meaningfully in the sustainable future of our community."

Find out more on Sembcorp's local community contributions by visiting their website linked below.

Government announces £350 million funding for chemical sector



The UK Government recently announced a £350 million fund aimed at strengthening the long-term resilience of the UK chemicals sector.

The funding package is designed to support strategically important chemical infrastructure and help underpin the future competitiveness of the sector as part of the wider UK Industrial Strategy.

Industry Minister, Chris McDonald said:

"At a time of global uncertainty it's never been more important to ensure Britain's resilience and back industries like chemicals on which the North East depends. This funding will support thousands of jobs and help put businesses on a secure footing for the long term."

"By acting swiftly with targeted support we're giving certainty to the industries crucial to both our everyday lives and economic future, and we'll work closely with NEPIC and the wider industry to deliver it."

Joanne Smith, CEO of NEPIC said:

"This is positive news for the chemical industry that forms a key foundation for the UK Industrial

Strategy. The announcement will provide confidence to investors that the UK chemical sector has a future."

Find out more about the intervention by visiting NEPIC's website by clicking the link below.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Community news and opportunities

The Kings Awards for Enterprise

 Department for
Business & Trade

The King's Awards for Enterprise

Applications now open!

Apply online.

Applications close 8 September.



Applications are now open for the 2027 King's Awards for Enterprise.

This year is a major milestone for the Awards, marking 60 years since the first honours were conferred

in 1966. Established in 1965, the programme has recognised more than 8,000 exceptional UK businesses over the years.

To mark the anniversary, and to reflect the changing landscape of UK business, they're introducing a new category: The King's Award for Enterprise – Young Founder, recognising founders aged 18–30 who are actively leading their businesses and driving growth and opportunity.

The deadline for applications **1:00pm on Tuesday 8 September 2026**.

To check your eligibility and how to apply click the link below.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Events

Redcar Racecourse Ladies Day



Date: Saturday 20th June

Time: 11:00am (gates open)

Venue: Redcar Racecourse, Redcar, TS10 2BY

Join Redcar Racecourse for a day of racing, fashion and fun on Ladies' Day.

Enjoy the glamour of Ladies' Day alongside top quality racing during the afternoon. Expect to see the best of Redcar's fashion on show!

Featuring Betty Leigh Boutique fashion show and some glittering prizes to be won in our Most Stylish Racegoer and Best Hat Competitions.

For further information and to book a ticket, click the link below.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Tees Valley Business Summit 2026



Date: Wednesday 1st July

Time: 9:30am to 4:00pm

Venue: Digital Life Building, Teesside University

Join us at next month's Tees Valley Business Summit where you can network with business owners, providers and stakeholders from across the region.

Benefits of attending the event as a free delegate or as an exhibitor include the opportunity to:

- **Showcase your brand:** Elevate your profile with sponsorship and exhibition opportunities
- **Win new business:** Connect with 750+ senior decision-makers
- **Gain insight:** Hear fresh ideas and expert views on Tees Valley's business landscape
- **Get involved:** Join meaningful discussions shaping the region's future
- **Expand your network:** Meet leaders, reconnect, and build valuable relationships

For more information and to book your place, please click the link below.

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