

# BUSINESS

## REDCAR | CLEVELAND



Business Bulletin

May 2026

## Enterprise Development Programme 2026



Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council, in partnership with Anglo American, EMS and Festival of Thrift, has launched the Enterprise Development Programme (EDP) to support local people who want to start, test or grow a business.

The programme provides a structured pathway for early-stage entrepreneurs, beginning with our Bitesize Enterprise Sessions and progressing into supported test trading at the Festival of Thrift. Those who take part in test trading will then have the opportunity to explore further support to help develop their business.

As part of the programme, we are delivering three practical Bitesize Enterprise Sessions designed to

build confidence and core skills. For more information and to reserve your place, please follow the links below:

### **Trade Ready: The Essentials**

The session will include: legal considerations, effective product display and engaging with customers.

To register click [here](#).

### **Marketing That Works: Tips to Reach Your Customers**

The session will include: understanding your customer, choosing the right marketing channels and measuring the success of your marketing activities.

To register click [here](#).

### **Energy Saving and Sustainable Business: Changes That Make a Difference**

The session will include: energy saving, sustainability awareness and simple changes that reduce your environmental impact.

To register click [here](#).

Councillor Lynn Pallister MBE, Cabinet Member for Growth and Enterprise said *"With support from Anglo American and delivery partners including EMS and the Festival of Thrift, the programme offers practical skills development and the valuable and exciting opportunity for participants to test-trade at a major regional event."*

Places are limited and pre-booking is essential. To learn more about the Enterprise Development Programme, including how to register for the Bitesize Sessions and express interest in test trading at the Festival of Thrift, please visit our website below.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

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## **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 below, please note expressions of interest for this year's Innovation vouchers close on **Friday 29th May 2026**.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

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## Tees Valley Digital Connectivity Survey

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# 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 below. Your insights are vital in shaping future digital connectivity improvements across our area.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

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## Business support opportunities

### Start Up Loans



# 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



Connect with Shannon

### **Rowan Green**

rowan.green@befund.org

07483 996776



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](#)

# 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](#)

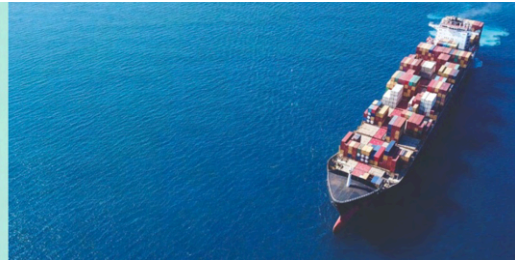
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## Export funding opportunity

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# Tees Valley Export Fund

Ready to Take Your Business Global? Access Grant Funding to Kickstart or Grow Your Export Activity.



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](#)

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## Fully funded support for mental health at work

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able  
futures

## Supporting mental wellbeing in the workplace

Able Futures is a strategic partnership delivering the Access to Work Mental Health Support Service on behalf of the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).

Led by Ingeus UK, and working in partnership with Case UK, Health 2 Employment, and The Better Health Generation, Able Futures provides mental health support to SME employers, employees, apprentices, and self-employed individuals across England, Scotland, and Wales.

This service offers fully funded mental health support for employees through DWP. In addition, employers can access guidance and resources to help them better support staff experiencing mental health challenges via the Able Futures Employer toolkit by clicking [here](#).

To learn more about Able Futures and find out how to get started, click the link below.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

## Social Media for E-Commerce training



Enterprise Made Simple are running a **Level 3 Certificate in Social Media for E-Commerce** over ten sessions running on the following dates: **21st May, 28th May, 3rd June, 10th June, 17th June, 24th June, 1st July, 8th July, 15th July and 22nd July.**

This course builds the skills and confidence to launch and grow a successful online presence using practical digital marketing and e-commerce techniques. You'll learn how to plan and manage digital projects, choose and use a Content Management System (CMS), and design an accessible, goal-driven website that you can manage independently. The course also covers content marketing, social media, and data analysis, helping you attract customers and measure results. By the end, you'll be able to plan, build, promote, and optimise an e-commerce website using real-world tools and insights.

This training is provided under the Free Courses for Jobs programme, and you need to be Age 19 or over to be eligible.

If this sounds of interest to you then contact [daniel.mearns@enterprisemadesimple.co.uk](mailto:daniel.mearns@enterprisemadesimple.co.uk)

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## Free workshops for Social Entrepreneurs



Voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations in Redcar and Cleveland can still access support via the LARCH (Local Access Redcar and Cleveland and Hartlepool) programme.

The LARCH programme is a £4 million investment and is one of only six areas in the UK to be chosen by Access Foundation for Social Investment and Big Society Capital, the main funders of LARCH, with support of two other partners – The Key Fund and Tees Foundation.

The programme is designed to accelerate the growth of social enterprises by facilitating tailored enterprise development support. This includes helping VCS organisations build sustainable income streams and offering access to blended repayable finance to support long-term growth.

LARCH clients can also access the School for Social Entrepreneurs online workshops for FREE! These workshops are designed to support growing social enterprises.

### **Future workshops:**

#### **Impact Storytelling**

18th May | 3 ½ hours | online

#### **Measuring Social Value**

23rd – 24th June | 2x 3 hours | online

For more information on LARCH and how it supports Redcar and Cleveland's social enterprises please contact Nicola Wylde - [nicola.wylde@vonne.org.uk](mailto:nicola.wylde@vonne.org.uk). To visit their website click the link below.

[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.**

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

## News

### Redcar firm urges 'Golden Opportunity' in home-grown biofuels



**NOVA**PANGAEA  
TECHNOLOGIES

Biofuels could play a vital role in strengthening the UK's energy security and reducing reliance on imported oil, according to Stewart Stewart, CEO of Nova Pangaea.

Mr Stewart says that agricultural and forestry waste alone could produce enough fuel for more than half of our aviation needs, with other sources making up the balance.

Mr Stewart continued: *"In the light of the Iran war, energy security is now a top priority. We need to reduce our dependence on imported oil. Over half of the UK's electricity already comes from renewables; however, transportation – and in particular aviation, shipping and heavy-duty vehicles – still depends on liquid fuels."*

*"North Sea oil production will not be enough to satisfy demand, nor will it supply us with aviation fuel or shield us from oil price shocks. Producing biofuels in the UK from waste materials is a key part of the solution – and the fact they are sustainable is a bonus."*

To view the full article click the link below.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

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## **Business Spotlight - Vintage by the Sea**





Our team visited Vintage by the Sea for a discussion about their business, their future plans and the support they have received.

Owner Clare Smith discussed their recent move to Saltburn and the business appearing twice on the TV show "Antiques Road Trip" featured on the BBC.

Read the full article on our website.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

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## Business Spotlight - Richardson Intelligent Systems

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Our team recently visited local business Richardson Intelligence Systems to speak with Wayne Richardson about the company's journey, his exciting product, and the support they have received.

Wayne also spoke about his experience in the Tees Valley Labs Pre-Flight programme, The Stable, and outlined the business's plans for the future.

Read the full article on our website.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

## Community news and opportunities

### The Kings Awards for Enterprise

# The King's Awards for Enterprise

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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 **1pm on Tuesday 8 September 2026**.

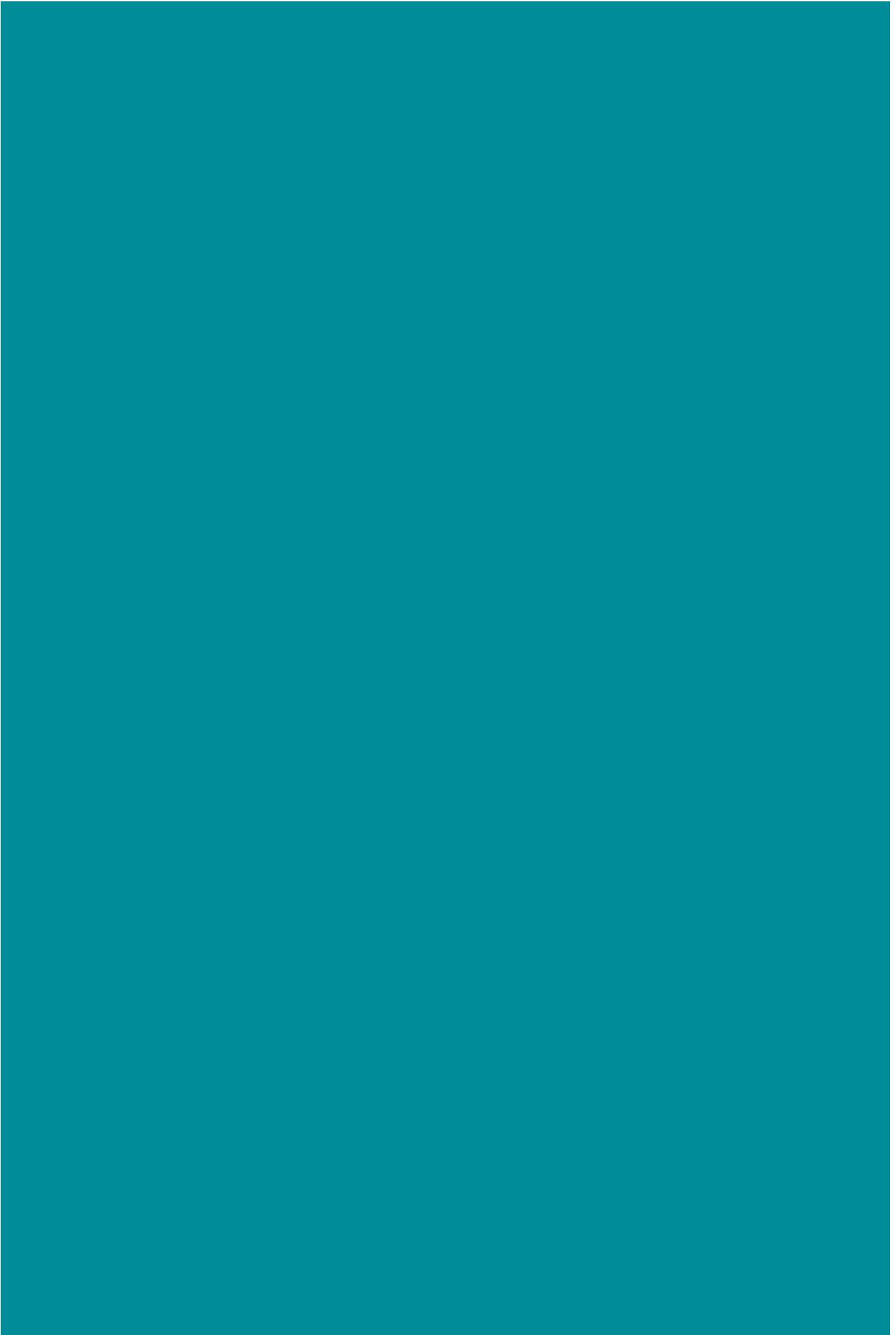
To check your eligibility and how to apply click the link below.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

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# Redcar Town Clock - Repairs contract









Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council is conducting a procurement exercise for the repair of Redcar Town Clock.

The contract start date is **Monday 6th July** to the contract end date **Wednesday 5th August**.

The deadline for submission of bids is **Friday 5th June at 2:00pm**.

To view the full information on the contract click [here](#).

To declare your interest click onto the e-procurement site below searching under tender reference **OPEN20261012**.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

[Business Engagement Team privacy notice](#)



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