

BUSINESS
REDCAR | CLEVELAND



Business Bulletin

July 2026

Invest in young talent with the new Youth Jobs Grant



The Youth Jobs Grant Scheme launched on **30th June 2026** across the UK providing employers who recruit an eligible young person a grant of £3,000.

The scheme is designed to support employers recruit and train young people, addressing the high levels of youth unemployment and inactivity we see in the current labour market. The scheme aims to support up to 60,000 job opportunities over three years, approximately 20,000 per year, and is open to employers of all sizes and sectors.

Key information:

- The Youth Jobs Grant will operate for three years until it closes to new participants in **October 2028**.
- Employers across GB who recruit an eligible young person (18-24, on Universal Credit, unemployed for 6 months) will receive a £3,000 grant per qualifying job outcome.
- This grant will be staged across 4 months, with £1,800 paid from 6 weeks and £1,200 after 18 weeks, after earnings are verified through HM Revenue and Customs Real Time Information (RTI).

For more information on the scheme and to apply click the link below.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Local Innovation Partnerships Fund



New funding is available to projects focused on innovations in clean energy and industrial decarbonisations with the potential to fuel skilled jobs and economic growth on Teesside and the Humber.

The UK Government has provided £30m for the joint Local Innovation Partnerships Fund programme including Tees Valley Combined Authority, Hull and East Yorkshire Combined Authority, University of Hull, Teesside University and local industry partners.

There is now the opportunity for local businesses to secure a portion of this grant funding, which will support innovative research and development activities relating to clean energy and industrial decarbonisation.

A call for collaborators is now open for local industry to propose activities focussed on offshore wind, hydrogen, sustainable aviation fuels, waste-to-X and carbon capture utilisation and storage.

For more information and to apply for the funding, visit the webpage below.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Free business workshops and support directory launched in Tees Valley



Businesses across Tees Valley can now access a new programme of fully funded workshops designed to help companies at every stage of their journey – from start-up through to growth and expansion into new markets.

The practical, hands-on sessions will provide expert guidance on key business topics including launching a business, securing finance, innovation, digital marketing, and opportunities in emerging sectors such as retrofit and the green economy.

Delivered in partnership with Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council and funded through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, the workshops aim to provide straightforward advice, practical tools and valuable networking opportunities.

Alongside the workshops, a new Business Support and Funding Directory has been launched by Tees Valley Combined Authority, bringing together local, regional and national support in one easy-to-use platform. The directory is designed to help businesses quickly identify the most relevant support based on their needs, sector and growth stage.

Workshop topics include **Start Up in Tees Valley, Build the Business You Set Out to Run, Get Funding Ready and Access the Finance Your Business Needs, Breathe New Life into Your Business, and Retrofit: A Growing Market.**

Businesses can find out more and register their interest in the workshops by clicking [here](#).

Explore the new Business Support and Funding Directory by clicking the link below.

FIND OUT MORE

Business support opportunities

WorkWell Tees Valley programme



Employers across the Tees Valley can access free support to help staff manage health issues at work through the WorkWell Tees Valley programme, delivered by Hartlepool Borough Council and the NHS.

Through this programme, you'll be able to receive **advice on reasonable adjustments, healthier workplace tips and support to manage workplace health.**

The programme can help your workplace with:

- Mental health
- Back pain and musculoskeletal issues
- Long-term conditions
- Financial stress

The type of support available can include:

- One-to-one coaching
- Advice on benefits and housing
- Workplace conversations
- Links to local services
- Personalised support for health and work
- Help with confidence, coping, and isolation
- Access to groups and funded therapies
- Advice on workplace adjustments
- Support with fitness
- Funding available to overcome issues such as travel

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

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Businesses invited to shape the future of Tees Valley tourism





Visitor economy businesses across Redcar and Cleveland are encouraged to take part in a new survey to help refresh the Tees Valley Destination Management Plan.

The survey is open to a wide range of businesses, including those in the night-time economy, attractions, accommodation providers, restaurants, cafés, venues, retailers, event organisers and other visitor-facing organisations. Feedback gathered will help shape priorities for the region's visitor economy over the next five years.

Organisers are aiming for at least 100 business responses and are asking regional networks, business groups and industry partners to share the survey as widely as possible.

To complete the survey please click the link below, it should take a few minutes to complete from start to finish.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Tyne-Tees Independent Foster Care Services contract open for new submissions



The Tyne-Tees Independent Foster Care Services Framework (Reference: OPEN20251949), supporting the 12 NEPO Member Authorities, remains open for new provider submissions ahead of the next intake period.

Managed by the Children & Families department, the framework was initially established for the period **1 July 2022 to 30 June 2025**, with three optional 12-month extension periods. The contract has been extended and is currently scheduled to run until **30 June 2027**, with a final 12-month extension option available to **30 June 2028**.

New successful submissions are expected to commence from January 2027. Providers interested in joining the framework should note that the indicative evaluation timetable is detailed within the tender documentation, specifically Section 10 of "ITT Part 2 – Summary Instructions and Details of Contract", and may be updated as required throughout the procurement process.

This ongoing opportunity enables local authorities across the NEPO region to continue accessing high-quality independent foster care provision while ensuring a diverse and sustainable supplier base to meet the needs of children and young people.

Further details on the opportunity can be found on the Open by NEPO portal below using contract reference OPEN20251949.

[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](#)

Opportunity to lease Tuned In!



An exciting seafront opportunity to lease Tuned In! is available and interest is invited in the venue which was originally designed as a performing arts space with a strong focus on youth engagement.

Prospective tenants are invited to bring forward proposals for a range of uses; however, youth engagement must remain a core function of the facility.

Applicants will be required to demonstrate how their plans incorporate performing arts, with a particular emphasis on delivering activities and opportunities for young people.

For more information on the opportunity and to contact the agent, visit the link to the Savills website below.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Opportunity to Operate Kirkleatham Walled Garden Catering and Events Facility



An exciting procurement opportunity is now live to provide site management and commercial development of the Kirkleatham Walled Garden facility, including visitor attraction activities, admissions, catering, retail, weddings, events and venue hire.

This is a concession contract with an initial duration of 5 years plus an optional 5 year extension available.

Key dates

Tender submission deadline: Friday 31st July 2026 2:00pm

Questions deadline: Friday 24th July 2026 2:00pm

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

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

News

Temporary reduced rate of VAT this summer



A temporary reduced VAT rate of 5% has been introduced across the UK from **25th June to 1st September 2026** to support businesses in the hospitality and tourism sectors during the summer period.

The reduced rate applies to qualifying children's meals consumed on the premises and to certain admission tickets and attractions. For theatres, concerts, cinemas, exhibitions and other live events, the reduced rate is limited to tickets sold specifically as child admissions or family admissions that include one or more children.

The measure also covers admission tickets for a range of family attractions, including circuses, fairs, amusement parks, adventure parks, soft-play centres, zoos, observation attractions, farm visitor attractions, nature reserves, museums and similar cultural venues, subject to the conditions and exclusions set out in the legislation.

The temporary VAT reduction is intended to encourage family participation in leisure and cultural activities while providing additional support for businesses during the peak summer season.

For more information on the scheme visit the government website below.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Warning to businesses to protect themselves from ransomware



Businesses are being warned about ransomware attacks and how to report them, as new figures reveal 323 companies were targeted last year, equating to more than 26 attacks each month.

Report Fraud is urging everyone to protect themselves and their businesses from the active threat of ransomware attacks, especially SMEs. This campaign also highlights how important it is to report when an organisation is attacked by cyber criminals.

Analysis shows that reports made where the sector of the organisation was listed, the manufacturing industry (42 reports), scientific and technical sector (21 reports) and education sector (19 reports) have all been impacted.

How does it work?

A ransomware attack happens when cyber criminals, who are part of an organised crime group, find a vulnerability in a company's network to gain access, then establish control and plant malware into the company's encryption software. The malware planted is designed to prevent a person or business from accessing a device and the data stored on it.

Once the malware is activated, it locks devices and access to data across the company's network and the cyber criminals behind the attack will then demand a ransom via an onscreen notification in exchange to decrypt the files or data held. The cyber criminals will often use an untraceable payment method, likely using a cryptocurrency.

What to do if you're under a ransomware attack

If you are a small or medium sized enterprise currently experiencing a ransomware attack, you should report it immediately by calling Report Fraud on 0300 123 2040. Report Fraud has a 24/7 phone line dedicated for businesses, charities or organisations who are under a cyber attack.

Do not pay the ransom. The National Cyber Security Centre and UK law enforcement do not encourage, endorse or condone the payment of ransom demands. There is no guarantee that access can be regained to data held and devices could still be infected.

Take the right steps to ensure your organisation is protected against ransomware by looking at the advice and guidance from the [National Cyber Security Centre](#).

Businesses and organisations can also ensure they are protected against the most common cyber threats using further resources from the National Cyber Security Centre:

- [Cyber Action Toolkit](#)
- [Cyber Essential](#)

If your business is looking for advice on improving your cyber security resilience or preparing for the Cyber Essentials accreditation you can contact Kelly Close, Cyber Protect and Prepare Officer at Cleveland Police via email at kelly.close2@cleveland.police.uk.

Shaping a greener future: SM Thompson powers up with major solar installation





Steel profiling and processing specialist SM Thompson has reinforced its commitment to sustainability with its largest environmental investment to date. The third-generation family business, which has built a reputation as an industry leader over more than 75 years, continues to balance traditional values with ongoing investment in innovation.

As part of its commitment to a greener future, the company has installed a large-scale solar photovoltaic (PV) system at its Skippers Lane manufacturing facility in Redcar and Cleveland. The project includes 234 solar panels fitted across the roof of the site's 100-metre-long building, marking a significant step in reducing the company's environmental footprint and supporting its long-term sustainability goals.

Read the full story on the SM Thompson website by clicking below.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Community news and opportunities

**Sign your accommodation business up to
England's Coast for free!**



[England's Coast](#) is an exciting marketing and booking tool, a one-stop shop to boost the number of visitors to our coastline.

They run major promotional campaigns to encourage more visitors to holiday on the coast and accommodation businesses in Redcar and Cleveland have the opportunity to include their business in England Coast's activity. This includes press releases, media trips, competitions and much more!

England's Coast have more than 2,000 businesses listed, these include accommodation providers within five miles of the coastline or within 15 miles for all other visitor-facing tourism businesses.

It's completely free and there is no catch, all users book direct with you.

You can list your business with England's Coast by clicking on the link below.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

[Business Engagement Team privacy notice](#)



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