

BUSINESS

REDCAR | CLEVELAND



Business Bulletin

July 2026

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: **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](#)

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](#)

Exciting weekend ahead for Saltburn



Food lovers are in for a treat in Saltburn this weekend with the return of the Saltburn Food Festival and the opening of a brand-new venue.

Saltburn Food Festival returns on Sunday 26 July 2026 for its 11th year, bringing another fantastic day of street food by the sea. Visitors can enjoy a wide range of local producers, distillers, brewers and makers at one of the area's most popular food events.

Milton Street Market will also open its doors for the first time this Friday, offering diners a new communal food hall experience at the Old Methodist Church. Guests will be able to choose from four different cuisines, including Mexican and Greek, with more to be announced.

Find out more about both events using the links below:

[Saltburn Food Festival](#)

[Milton Street Market](#)

Business support opportunities

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 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 to apply to take part in the next cohort due to start in September, click the link below.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

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](#)

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](#)

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 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](#)

New Local Skills Improvement Plan sets out employer-led roadmap for Tees Valley



A new employer-led plan to ensure Tees Valley has the workforce needed to take the region's economy forward has been published by the North East Chamber of Commerce, working in partnership with Tees Valley Combined Authority.

The Tees Valley Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP) 2026-2029, funded by Skills England, sets out skills priorities identified by employers and outlines changes needed across education, training and business support to ensure local people can access the opportunities created by the region's economic transformation.

Drawing on extensive engagement with employers across Tees Valley, the plan identifies the practical actions needed to better align post-16 education and training with employer demand.

The report focuses on six priority sectors that will underpin the region's future growth: advanced

manufacturing; biomanufacturing and life sciences; chemical and process industries; clean energy; construction; digital and creative industries.

To find out more and view the plan click the link below.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

New Altrad partnership with Education Training Collective to deliver apprenticeship programmes across the UK



Altrad and the Education Training Collective (Etc.) are pleased to announce a new strategic partnership to deliver a comprehensive portfolio of apprenticeship and upskilling programmes across the UK.

Working with a network of further education colleges and training providers, Altrad and Etc. will combine their expertise, resources, and regional reach to deliver high-quality training across multiple apprenticeship disciplines.

The partnership will play a vital role in strengthening industry capability, supporting apprentices at all stages of their development, and ensuring access to high-quality training opportunities across the UK.

The Education Training Collective includes Redcar and Cleveland College. Altrad provide services Worldwide with a local presence on Skippers Lane.

Read more by clicking the link below.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Relief in Redcar and Cleveland as British Steel is nationalised



Hundreds of local jobs have been secured after the Government brought British Steel back into public ownership. Industry Minister Chris McDonald visited the Teesside Beam Mill at Lackenby alongside Redcar MP Anna Turley this week as part of the announcement speaking to local management and trade union representatives.

Between them Lackenby, which turns steel slabs into products for the construction industry, and the British Steel special profiles plant in Skinningrove, East Cleveland, employ more than 800 workers locally.

To read more, please click the link below.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

One of the largest rooftop solar installations in Teesside is now live at Teesport



PD Ports has successfully installed and commissioned a new 675kW solar PV system on the roof of the largest warehouse on the Tees Bulks Quay, featuring 2,000 solar panels and more than 20 kilometres of cabling.

The new system will generate about 900,000 kWh of renewable electricity each year – that's enough to power 330 UK homes for a full year. The system is expected to reduce Teesport's reliance on grid-supplied electricity by around 10% and cut Scope 2 carbon emissions by 118 tonnes of CO₂e annually.

This is the latest in a series of schemes across PD Ports' Teesside sites, including Teesport, Tees Commerce Park, Billingham and Groveport. In total the solar panels together generate around 1,590,000 kWh each year reducing our scope 2 emissions by 208.22 tonnes of CO₂e annually, with more planned.

Read more by clicking the link below.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Community news and opportunities

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?

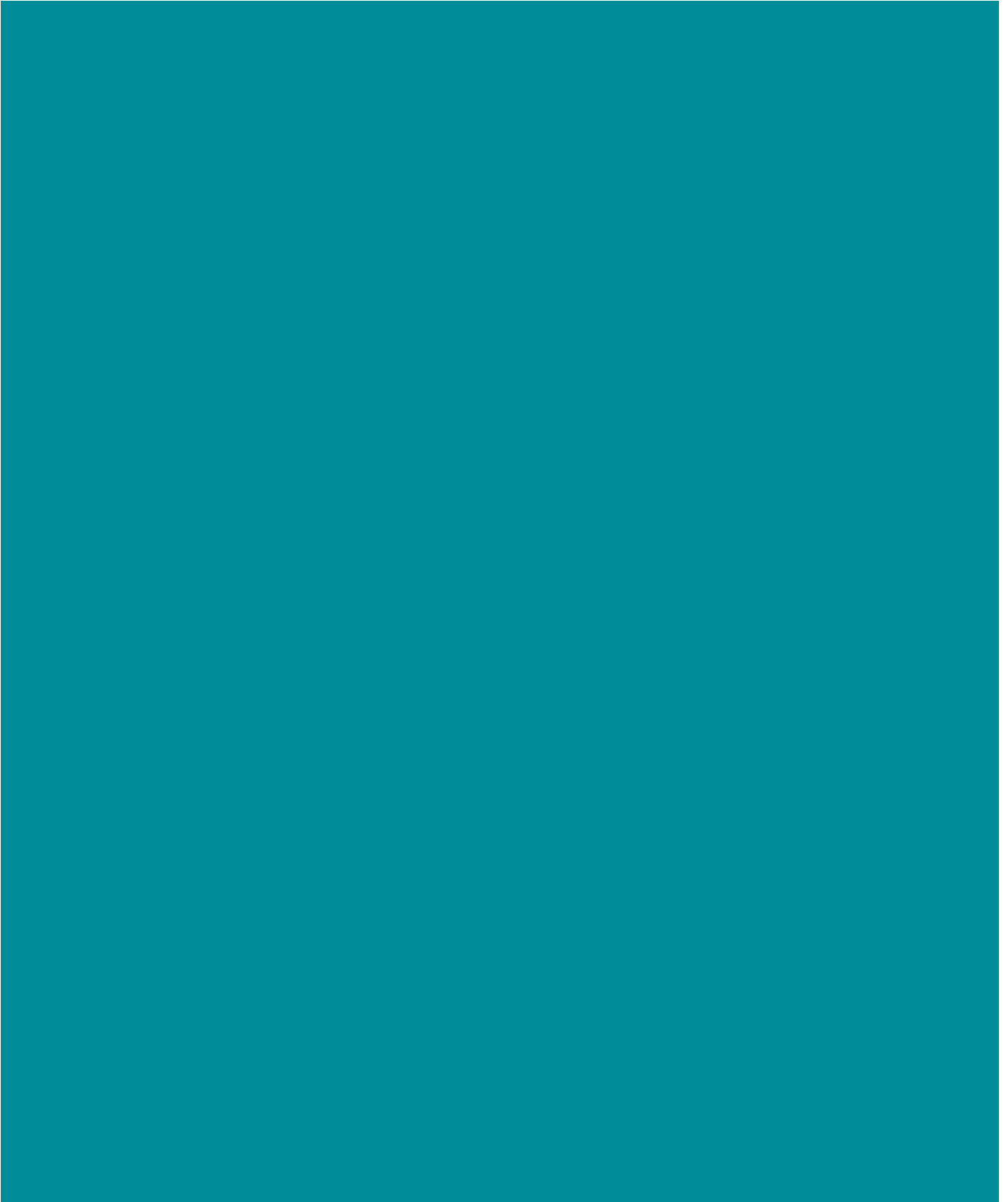
To find out more information and to register your business, please click [here](#).

Learn More:

Download the full guide linked below to discover how the scheme can benefit your business.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

TS6 Together Small Grants open to applications



PRIDE IN PLACE

LED BY YOU – BACKED BY UK GOVERNMENT

TS6 TOGETHER SMALL GRANTS

“SUPPORTING LOCAL IDEAS & PROJECTS WITH GRANTS
OF UP TO £1000.”

NOW open for applications



FOR MORE DETAILS PLEASE FOLLOW THE QR
CODE OR EMAIL: [ESTONTOWNDEAL@REDCAR-
CLEVELAND.GOV.UK](mailto:ESTONTOWNDEAL@REDCAR-CLEVELAND.GOV.UK)

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: FRIDAY 12PM 31ST JULY



Have an idea that could bring people together or make a positive difference in your neighbourhood?

Through the TS6 Together Small Grants scheme, local voluntary groups, not for profit organisations and residents can apply for funding to support community-led projects that celebrate local pride, strengthen connections, and help communities thrive. Apply today and turn your ideas into action.

Closing date for applications is Friday 31st July, 12 noon.

Information & guidance on how to apply and the type of things you can apply for are on our webpage, please visit the link below.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

[Business Engagement Team privacy notice](#)



redcarmacleveland.co.uk/business



Copyright © 2024 REDCAR | CLEVELAND, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
[You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.](#)