

BUSINESS

REDCAR | CLEVELAND



Business Bulletin

August 2026

Funded support to recruit young people

UK Government

YOUTH GUARANTEE

FUNDING OFFER TO EMPLOYERS

▶ £1,000 additional payment for hiring apprentices aged 16-18.	NEW FROM OCTOBER 2026 ▶ £2,000 for SMEs who hire apprentices aged 16-24.	NEW FROM JUNE 2026 ▶ £3,000 for employers who hire 18-24 year olds who have been on Universal Credit for over 6 months.
▶ No NICs for employees under 21, or apprentices under 25.	▶ £2,000 for employers who hire foundation apprentices aged 16-21.	▶ Jobs Guarantee Fully subsidised work for long-term unemployed 18-24 year olds.

Apprenticeships

Employers looking to attract new talent and develop future skills can benefit from a range of government-backed programmes through Jobcentre Plus. The **Build Your Future Workforce** initiative is designed to help businesses recruit, train and retain young people aged 16 to 24, while reducing recruitment costs and supporting workforce growth.

- **Work Experience Placements:** Offer young people practical workplace experience for between one and eight weeks, helping them build skills while giving employers access to enthusiastic candidates and fresh perspectives.
- **Work Trials:** Trial potential recruits for up to 30 days without paying wages, as participants continue to receive their benefits. This provides a low-risk way to assess whether a candidate is the right fit before making a permanent offer.
- **Jobs Guarantee:** National rollout is planned for Autumn 2026, the scheme offers eligible 18 to 24-year-olds who have been on Universal Credit for a minimum of 18 months a six-month paid job of up to 25 hours a week. Employers providing jobs will be reimbursed 25 hours per week at the age relevant National Minimum Wage or National Living Wage for 6 months. National Insurance Contributions and minimum automatic enrolment pension contributions, where relevant, will be covered for 6 months.
- **Youth Jobs Grant:** From 30 June 2026, employers can receive £3,000 for each eligible 18 to 24-year-old they hire who has been claiming Universal Credit and seeking work for six months or more. The grant is paid in two instalments and helps reduce employment costs while building a motivated workforce. Eligible roles must be at least 25 hours per week and expected to last four months or more.
- **Apprenticeships:** £2,000 payment for non-levy paying businesses from all sectors hiring an apprentice aged 16 to 24, available from October 2026.

Additional £2,000 payment if you are hiring a foundation apprentice aged 16 to 21. Foundation apprenticeships are available in construction, engineering, digital, hospitality, retail, and health and social care.

£1,000 to support a young person aged 16 to 18 (19 to 24 with education, health or care plan or care leavers) when they start their apprenticeship training.

- **Other support:** No employer NIC contributions for employees under 21 years old or for apprentices under 25 years old.

For more information on how to access the funded support mentioned above please visit the Department for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade website by clicking on the link 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.

Upcoming workshops include:

Thursday 3rd September | 9.30am – 4pm

[Get Funding Ready and Access the Finance Your Business Needs](#)

Monday 7th September | 9am – 11.30am

[Retrofit, a Growing Market, and a Real Opportunity](#)

Wednesday 9th September | 9am – 12.30pm

[Grow with Google Tees Valley: AI Essentials for Business](#)

View the full slate of workshops and register your interest by clicking [here](#).

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

FIND OUT MORE

Public Health South Tees Launches Hydration Stations Initiative





Public Health South Tees is encouraging businesses to join its new Hydration Stations Initiative, helping residents, visitors and workers access free drinking water.

The initiative aims to create a network of locations across the Public Health South Tees area where people can refill water bottles free of charge, supporting community health, reducing inequalities and encouraging sustainable behaviours.

Features of hosting a hydration station include:

- Free to join for businesses, organisations and community venues.
- Hydration Stations provide free tap water refills during normal opening hours.
- Participating organisations receive an official Hydration Station sticker and welcome pack as well as support from the Public Health South Tees team throughout the onboarding process.

- Locations can choose to be promoted through Public Health South Tees marketing channels and an online map.

How to Get Involved

Businesses interested in becoming a Hydration Station can register by contacting Public Health South Tees via email at publichealthsouthtees@middlesbrough.gov.uk

For more information on the programme including the wider benefits and steps involved in providing a hydration station click the link below.

FIND OUT MORE

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](#)

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.

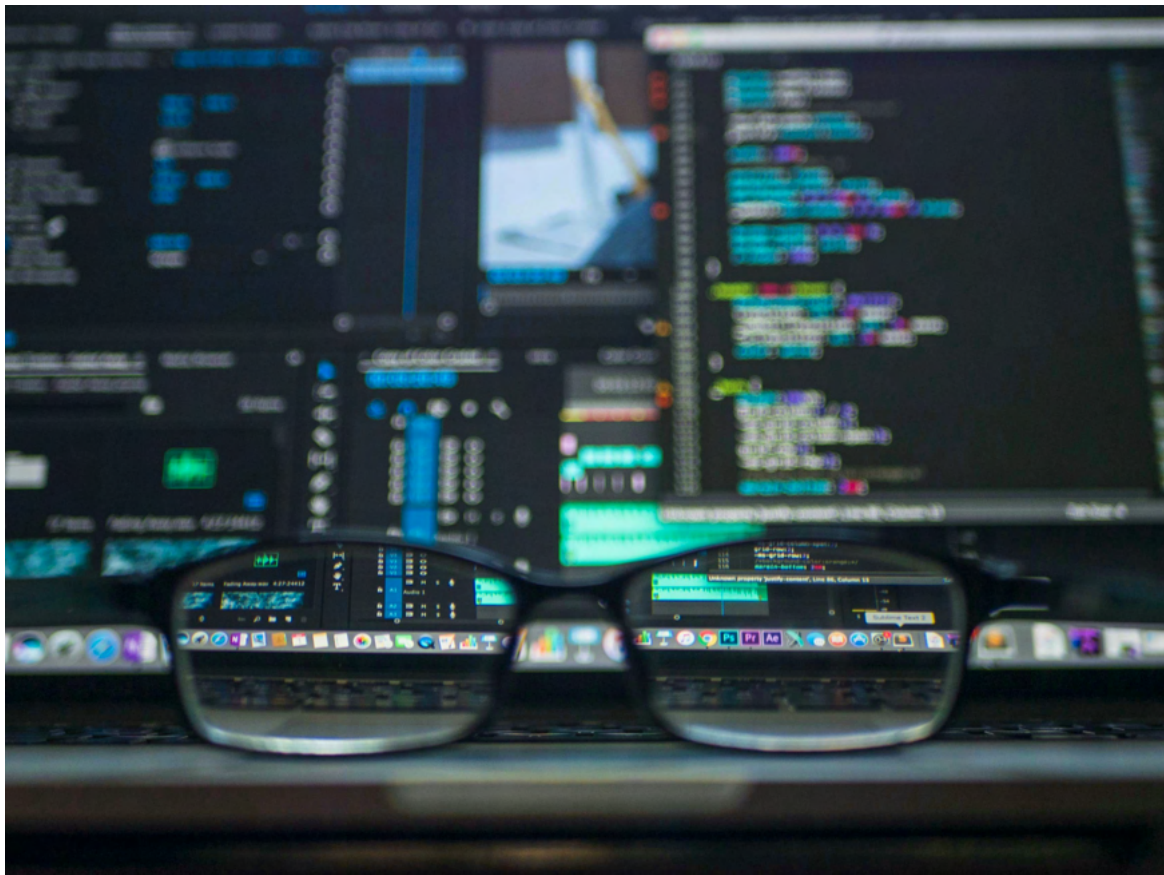
Applications to the Export Fund will be closing on Monday 31 August. All activity must be delivered and associated expenditure incurred by mid-September 2026.

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

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Data Insights and Machine Learning courses





Teesside University are delivering a technical programme designed for anyone looking to build advanced data capability and unlock deeper insight from their data. Focusing on the practical application of data analytics and machine learning, giving you the tools and techniques needed to prepare data, build models and extract meaningful insight, including hands-on learning with tools such as Power BI and Python.

Funding of up to 90% of course costs is available for eligible learners, delivered by Teesside University in partnership with Tees Valley Combined Authority as part of the Adult Skills Fund.

For more information 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 information on the site.

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

Richard Wilson

M: 07894256309

E: rwilson@portlanddoddsbrown.co.uk

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Nursery opportunity at Dormanstown Family Hub



Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council is inviting interest from nursery providers for an exciting opportunity at Dormanstown Family Hub.

The Council is seeking a nursery operator to provide **year-round childcare for children aged 0–5 years. This includes funded places for children aged from 9 months to 4 years, in line with early years statutory guidance, and provision that is suitable and inclusive for children with Special Educational Needs (SEN).**

Located in a well-populated area, the Family Hub offers an excellent opportunity to support families within Dormanstown and the surrounding communities. The available space includes partition walling, allowing it to be used either as one open-plan area or as two separate rooms. Both rooms benefit from children's toilets, with approximately 79 sqm of internal space in total and an outdoor play area of around 284 sqm.

The property is available to let by licence or lease.

Bid Deadline: 12 Noon on 25th September 2026

For more information, please click on the link below or contact Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council's Strategic Assets team via strategicassets@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk

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Commercial unit available at The Palace Hub



An exciting opportunity has become available to rent a commercial unit on the Esplanade in Redcar. A part of The Palace Hub, the property occupies a prime kerbside position on Redcar seafront, benefiting from excellent visibility and footfall in one of the town's most prominent locations. Prospective tenants can also benefit from the exciting regeneration taking place across the seafront, including "[The Lookout](#)" which is currently under construction.

This ground floor unit of circa 500 sq.ft in size comprises a modern open plan space with extensive glazed frontage overlooking the Esplanade, providing excellent natural light and visibility. Fitted out to a good standard, the unit includes ancillary preparation and storage space together with fitted stainless steel workstations and sinks. A commercial service and delivery yard is available at the rear of the building.

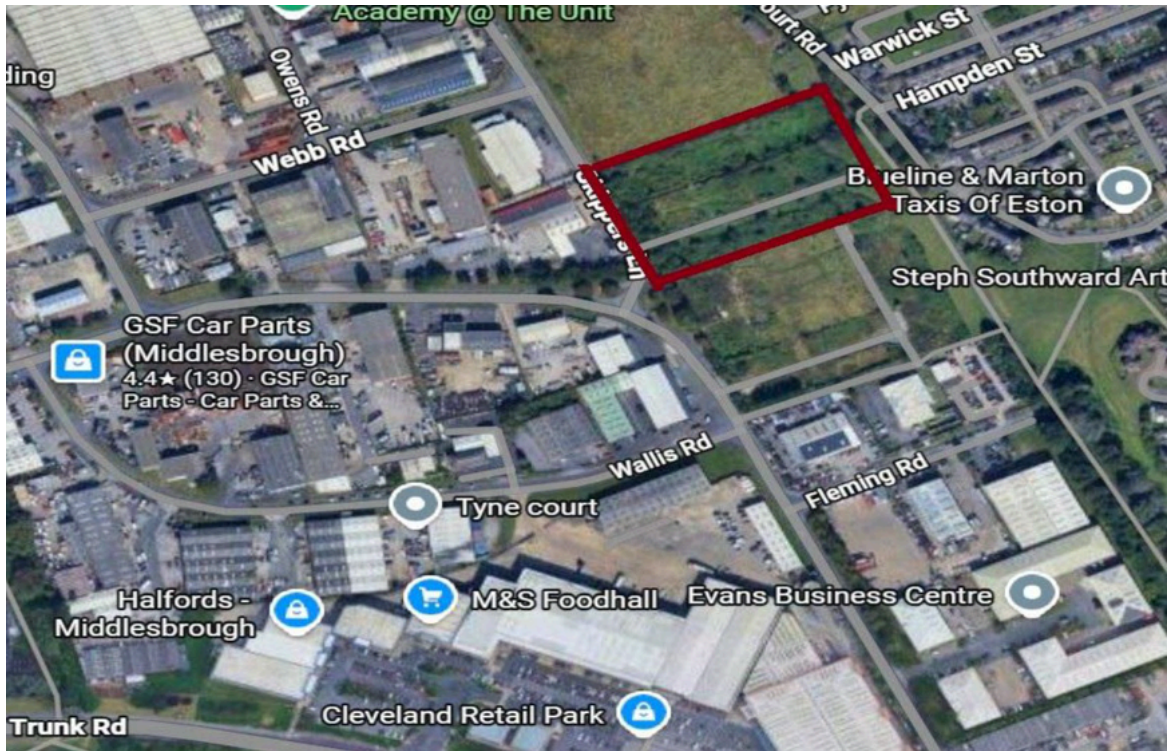
The unit is suitable for a variety of retail, leisure and commercial uses, subject to the necessary planning permissions.

Bid deadline: 12 noon on 25 September 2026

For more information, please click on the link below or contact Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council's Strategic Assets team via strategicassets@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk

FIND OUT MORE

Harcourt Road Allotment Site - Commercial Development Opportunity



We are pleased to share with you an opportunity to purchase a c.4 acre parcel of land on Skippers Lane Industrial Estate. The land is now open to offers by way of informal tenders, located at the intersection of Sotheby Road parallel to Harcourt Road the site is available for interest from either build to let developers and owner occupiers with a target of c.30% coverage for light industrial space.

The site comprises former Harcourt Road allotments, is currently undergoing works to include remediation of the site and construction of a spine road from Skippers Lane and the realignment of the existing roads to facilitate access. The spine road has been constructed with ducts running underneath to allow for the installation of electrical cable by a prospective purchaser without the need to dig the road up again. A prospective purchaser will need to bring their own utilities onto site and will need to undertake their own investigations.

Bid deadline: 12 noon on 30 October 2026

Click the link below to view the brochure for information on the site.

You can register an interest by contacting Connect Property North East on any of the following contact details.

Andrew Wilkinson

M: 07904 622277

E: andrew@cpne.co.uk

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News

Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council celebrates Gold Award for support for the Armed Forces community



Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council has been awarded the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme (ERS) Gold Award – the highest honour available for organisations that demonstrate outstanding support for the Armed Forces community.

This achievement has only been possible thanks to the outstanding work of the Council's Armed

Forces Liaison Officers, whose work has helped strengthen relationships with the Armed Forces community, local charities, businesses and partner organisations. Their efforts have promoted the Armed Forces Covenant, strengthened employment opportunities, established an Armed Forces Staff Support Network, developed new policies and most importantly built lasting partnerships that will continue to make a difference.

Carl Lamb, Armed Forces Liaison Officer at Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council commented:

"The Armed Forces Community is a diverse and loyal one, it is interwoven into the fabric of all our communities. That community is the veteran, the partner, the children, and sadly far too often the bereaved. They are your neighbour, your plumber, your child's best mate, and perhaps even your daily chinwag. To be part of a team that can enable more support to that community, my community, is a privilege."

The official Gold Award signing ceremony will take place on 11th September and local businesses are welcome and invited to attend to find out more about the Armed Forces Covenant and hear more on how to get involved.

Full ceremony event details below:

Date: 11 September 2026

Time: 10:15am for a 10:30am start

Location: Redcar Civic Centre, Ridley Street, Redcar, TS10 1TD

If you would like to learn more about how your business can support the armed forces community but are unable to attend the ceremony, you can visit our dedicated webpage linked below for information.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Events

Tees Business Live: August 2026





Claire Preston
(Tees Businesswoman
of the Year 2018)



Zoe Lewis CBE DL
(Middlesbrough College
Group)



Ann Ming MBE
(extraordinary campaigner)



Rachel Burke
(Tees Businesswoman
of the Year 2025)

/ The Auxiliary, Middlesbrough
/ Wednesday August 26
/ 11am-1pm

Networking, refreshments, expert panel discussion

Series Associate:
North East Chamber of Commerce



Date: Wednesday, 26th August 2026

Time: 11am – 1pm

Location: The Auxiliary, 31 Station Street, Middlesbrough, TS1 1SR

What gives someone the courage to challenge convention, overcome adversity and change lives? That question will be at the heart of the next Tees Business Live as five remarkable women whose work has transformed thousands of lives come together for a powerful discussion on leadership, resilience and making a lasting difference.

The event will explore the qualities that define exceptional leaders, from standing up for what's right and overcoming setbacks to creating opportunities for others and inspiring the next generation.

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

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[Business Engagement Team privacy notice](#)



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