



Business Tees Valley Procurement Opportunities



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UK Government



Part of
BUSINESS
GROWTH
SERVICE



PROCUREMENT OPPORTUNITY

Bid to help deliver our new Business
Tees Valley service.

Find Out More

Tees Valley Combined Authority are looking for delivery partners to help shape a new, more connected approach to business support in the region.

Organisations with expertise, industry knowledge and a passion for supporting growth are invited to bid for the lots below.

Consortia bids are encouraged in addition to single provider responses, seven lots are available through the process:

- Foundational Economy - £3,500,000
- Advanced Manufacturing and Modern Industrial Technologies - £1,800,000
- Digital and Tech - £1,800,000
- Creative and Cultural Industries - £1,200,000
- Games - £600,000
- Female Founders - £600,000
- Specialist Expertise Network - £2,500,000

Tees Valley Mayor Ben Houchen said: *"We know our businesses want an easier system to navigate when accessing support. We want our local companies to come with us and make sure the new Business Tees Valley System does what it says on the tin."*

"Easier applications, easier to navigate and not applying over and over again for separate packages of support."

To support organisations interested in bidding a new [supplier noticeboard](#) has been launched, providing a space for potential partners - and our SMEs - to connect and explore collaboration opportunities ahead of submitting bids.

For more information on the announcement and details on the individual lots, visit the link below.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Tees Valley to Lead New Apprenticeship Scheme for Young People



Tees Valley has been selected as one of the first areas in England to pilot a new apprenticeship brokerage scheme, helping more young people build successful careers while supporting local employers to find the skills they need.

Connecting talent with opportunity

Backed by £9.4 million, Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) will work with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), employers, and training providers to test the scheme. It will help businesses create apprenticeships and navigate the system, while connecting 16 to 24-year-olds with vacancies - particularly those not in education, employment or training.

A university clearing-style process will redirect strong candidates who narrowly miss out on one apprenticeship to another suitable opportunity with a local employer. The pilot aims to generate

1,500 additional apprenticeship starts across Tees Valley and contribute to the Government's wider ambition to create 50,000 more apprenticeships for young people.

Backing young people and local business

The programme will use a range of methods to connect talented young people with new job opportunities, as well as helping small and medium-sized businesses identify and reach a wider pool of motivated candidates, address skills shortages, navigate apprenticeship delivery, and access practical support.

Tees Valley Mayor Ben Houchen said of the programme:

"Being chosen as one of the first places in the country to deliver this new scheme is a huge vote of confidence in Teesside, Darlington and Hartlepool..."

"We're bringing skilled jobs to our region and we need to make sure local people have the skills and opportunities to take them..."

"This scheme will build on the work we're already doing to help more people into high-quality apprenticeships and rewarding careers."

Businesses wishing to register their interest, or get support, including with apprenticeships, can Join the Business Tees Valley Community [here](#).

To find out more, visit the link below.

FIND OUT MORE

Practical Business Support, in Bitesize Chunks



Starting or growing a business can come with plenty of questions, from finding your customers and getting your marketing right, to reducing costs and making more sustainable choices.

That's where our **Bitesize Enterprise Sessions** come in. These short, practical workshops focus on key topics that matter to local businesses. Each session is designed to give you useful knowledge, straightforward guidance and practical ideas you can put into action straight away.

These sessions are suitable for all stages of business development; those with an idea, already trading, or looking to grow, it's a great opportunity to step away from the day-to-day and focus on an area of your business that could make a real difference.

Upcoming Bitesize sessions:

Energy Saving and Sustainable Business: Changes That Make a Difference
10 November 2026 | 1pm–3pm | Redcar Civic Centre

Marketing That Works: Tips to Reach Your Customers
Thursday 10th December 2026 | 1pm–3pm | Redcar Civic Centre

Both sessions are practical, accessible and packed with ideas to help you move your business forward. Book and find out more on the link below.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Business support opportunities

NEPO Supplier Partnership Programme



NEPO Supplier Partnership Programme is a free training programme that provides ongoing support to suppliers looking to maximise opportunities to win public sector business in the north east and beyond. If you're a supplier based in the Redcar and Cleveland area and you're ready to supply the public sector, then the NEPO Supplier Partnership Programme is for you.

What you'll gain

- **Insight into public sector contract opportunities**
- **A clearer understanding of contract values and competition**

- **Tools to make bidding simpler and more efficient**
- **Practical techniques for writing persuasive tenders**
- **Guidance you can apply to your own business**

With a range of training sessions available, choose the right one for you:

- **Introduction to Public Sector Tendering** - Discover how to find the right public-sector opportunities and craft clear, competitive bids.
- **Bid Writing Masterclass: New to Public Sector Tendering** - Build the skills to write winning, high-quality public-sector bids.
- **Social Value: Building It into Your Organisation** - Learn how to design, measure, and showcase social value that gives your bids a competitive edge.
- **Bid Writing Masterclass: Competing for Larger Contracts** - Sharpen your bidding skills to compete confidently for bigger regional and national contracts.

For more information and to register for these online sessions, please click on 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 November 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 via the following contact details.

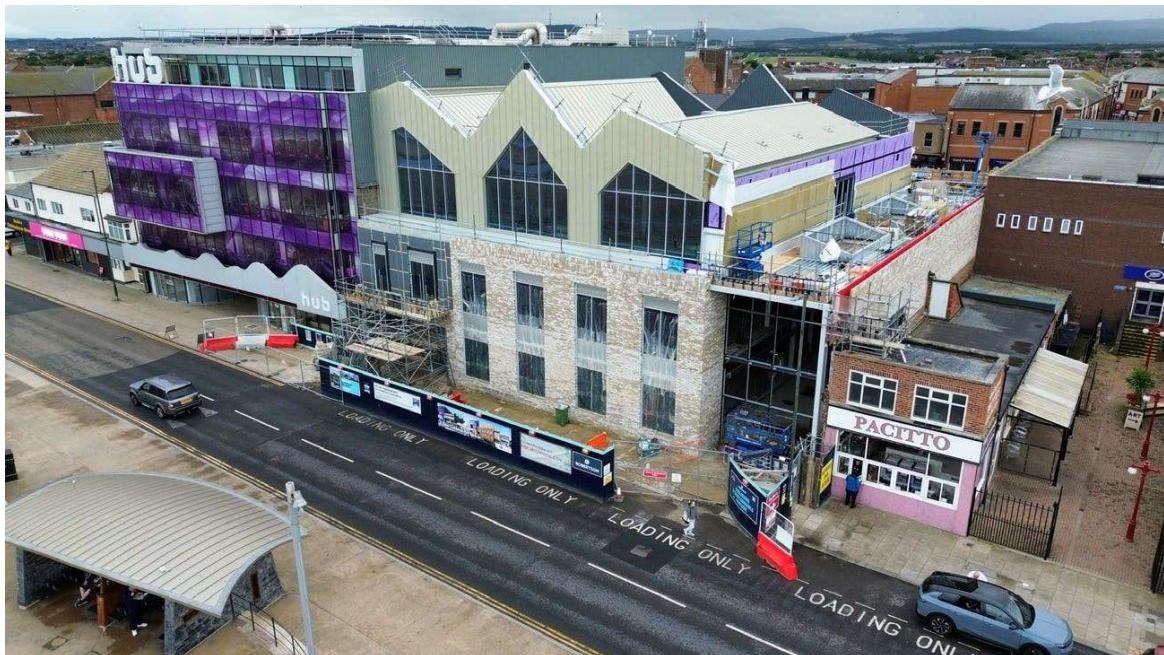
Richard Wilson

M: 07894256309

E: rwilson@portlanddoddsbrown.co.uk

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

The Lookout Takes Shape as Commercial Units Hit the Market



The commercial units within The Lookout, Redcar are now available and being marketed to potential operators. This marks a significant milestone in the development and an important step towards bringing The Lookout to life.

For further information, please contact [Josh Howe](#) at [Savills](#) on JHowe@savills.com.

Funded through the Redcar Town Deal, The Lookout is being developed on the former Marks & Spencer and Yorkshire Trading sites. The building will include a modern library and is proposed to also feature a flexible family entertainment zone alongside food and drink offers.

We're also keen to remind residents that businesses on the Esplanade remain open as usual during the works, and we encourage everyone to continue supporting local shops, cafés and businesses.

Councillor Lynn Pallister MBE, Cabinet Member for Growth and Enterprise, said: *"It's an exciting time to be inviting interest from potential operators as we take another step forward with The Lookout. We'd like to thank residents and businesses for their patience while work continues. The Esplanade remains open for business, and we would encourage people to continue supporting local traders. Once complete, The Lookout will be a fantastic asset for Redcar, creating a destination for residents and visitors to enjoy for years to come."*

For more information including particulars and a brochure, click the link below.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

News

Latest Energy and Sustainability Funding Opportunities



The Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) Energy has published its latest roundup of funding opportunities supporting energy efficiency, renewable energy and wider environmental projects.

While some schemes are restricted to specific regions or types of organisations, opportunities are available across England and the wider UK, with funding aimed at community organisations, charities, local authorities, schools and businesses.

Support includes grants for community-owned clean energy projects, urban tree planting, nature recovery and climate action, alongside funding to help community businesses reduce energy consumption and improve building efficiency. For example, Great British Energy is offering a share of £20 million for community-owned clean energy projects across England, Wales and Northern Ireland, with grants available for feasibility studies, development and project delivery.

Funding amounts, eligibility criteria and application deadlines vary, so organisations are encouraged to review individual schemes to determine their suitability.

The full list of opportunities, including further details and application links, is available through APSE Energy's funding opportunities bulletin below.

Redcar Training Academy Tackles Scaffolding Skills Shortage



A major scaffolding training centre in Redcar is helping tackle industry skills shortages, with a new employer-led initiative bringing fresh opportunities for local people looking to enter the sector.

This week, the **All Access Academy**, led by NETA Training and part of the Education Training Collective (Etc.), hosted an awareness day and launched a scaffolding academy programme in partnership with KAEFER UK & Ireland, on Monday 12th October.

From their regional office on Skippers Lane Industrial Estate, KAEFER UK & Ireland support a number of major energy and infrastructure projects across the region, including projects in Redcar and Cleveland.

Based on Corporation Road, Redcar, the centre is believed to be one of the largest scaffolding training facilities in the country. Its development was supported by government funding through the Levelling Up Partnership Fund, following a successful bid by **Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council**.

The latest collaboration aimed to address growing demand for skilled scaffolders, with industry figures from NASC reporting a shortage of 40,000 skilled workers across the UK.

KAEFER's Head of Operations, Richard Llewellyn, acknowledged the growing need for skills scaffolders and highlighted the importance of creating accessible routes into the profession. He said, "Working with NETA gives us an opportunity to do something practical about that, while creating a clear route into the industry for local people."

Funded by the Tees Valley Mayor and Combined Authority through its Adult Skills Fund, the 13-day academy programme combines an introduction to scaffolding with essential health and safety

training, including working at height, confined spaces and first aid. Participants also gain industry insight and the opportunity to interview with KAEFER, helping them take their first steps towards a career in scaffolding.

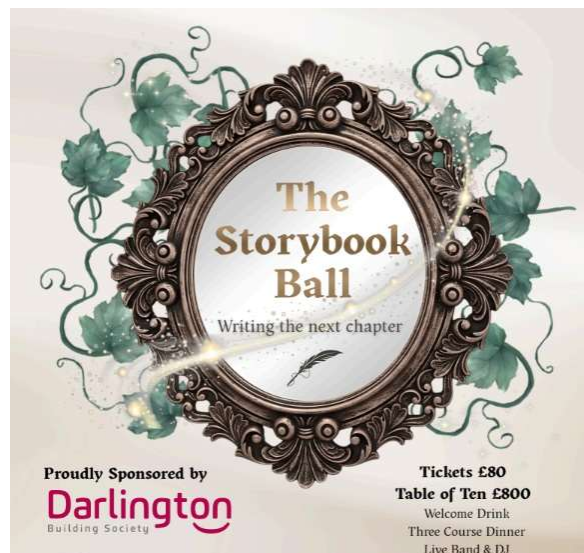
To find out what training opportunities are available for your business and sector, please contact the Education Training Collective via business@the-etc.ac.uk

To read more, click the link below.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Community news and opportunities

The Storybook Ball



Every child deserves the chance to dream beyond their circumstances, have someone in their corner and believe their story can have a brighter next chapter. This belief sits at the heart of The Junction's work with children, young people and families across Tees Valley.

On **Saturday 14th November**, The Junction Charity Ball: The Storybook Ball will bring people together at Gisborough Hall for a special evening of celebration, generosity and hope, raising vital funds to support local children and families.

The Junction works alongside children, young people and families through some of life's most difficult moments, providing support with mental health, young carers, poverty, isolation and barriers to education and employment. Through The Junction Multibank, the charity also works to tackle poverty and inequality across the community.

The evening is an opportunity to support this important work and help create brighter futures, from a young person discovering confidence to a family realising they are not alone.

Event details

- A welcome drink
- A three-course dinner
- Hosting and entertainment by Joanna Andrews

- Live music from The Fallen
- A disco until late

Tables of 10: £800

VIP tables have now sold out, but a small number of regular tables remain available, alongside very limited sponsorship opportunities.

Businesses and individuals are invited to get involved and help The Junction continue making a meaningful difference to children, young people and families across Tees Valley.

You can book via the Eventbrite link below. Alternatively, if you would prefer to pay directly, Dawn.Golightly@thejunctionfoundation.com can arrange for an invoice to be sent.

FIND OUT MORE

Funding Available for Local Community Groups



Dogger Bank Wind Farm Operators Fund applications are open until December 2026.

Community groups and charitable organisations across Redcar & Cleveland could access grants of up to £1,000 through the Dogger Bank Wind Farm Operators Fund.

The fund supports projects that improve quality of life for local residents, builds vibrant and sustainable communities, or encourage community spirit and participation.

Recent projects supported in the area include a football coaching programme for primary school children, volleyball coaching courses and improvements to a children's playground, showing how relatively small grants can make a meaningful difference locally.

The Operators Fund forms part of Dogger Bank Wind Farm's wider commitment to investing in coastal communities. The current fund provides grants to community groups delivering activities in Redcar & Cleveland, South Tyneside and East Riding of Yorkshire. Eligible organisations must have a constitution and an annual turnover below £100,000.

There's still time to apply. The 2026 funding allocation remains open until 31 December, before the scheme reopens in January 2027.

Find out more, check eligibility and apply using the link below.

FIND OUT MORE

Help Shape Transport to Work Solutions in Redcar and Cleveland

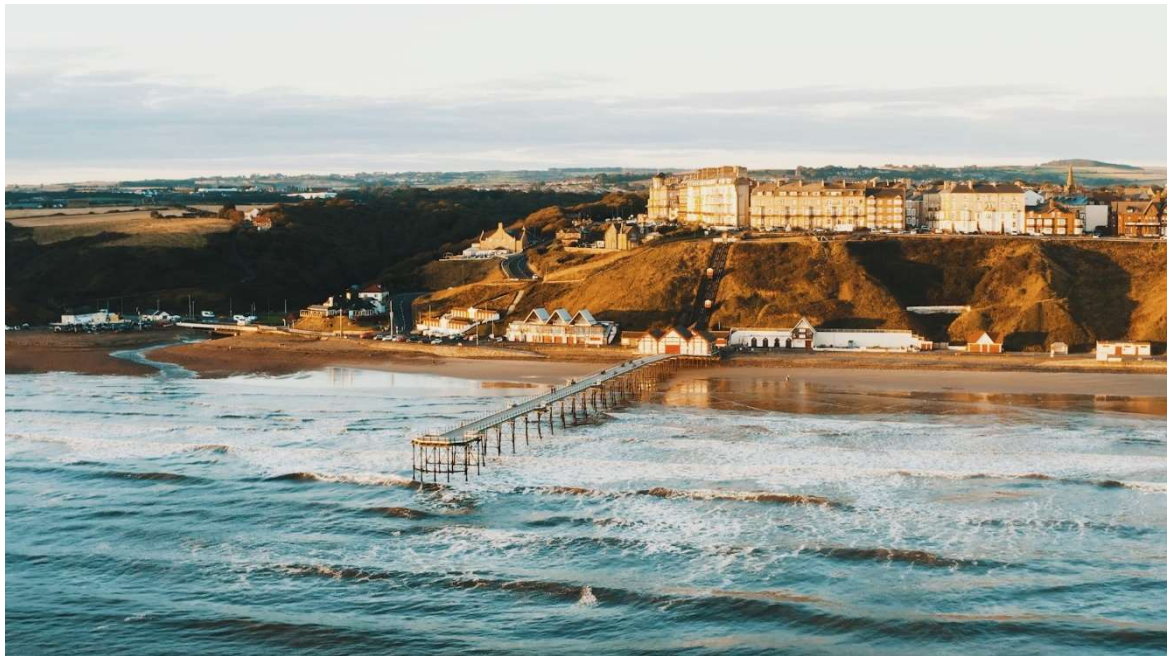


Does any member of your workforce struggle with transport to and from work in Redcar and Cleveland?

Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council are collaborating with Lloyds Bank Foundation and the Rural Design Centre on a transport to work solutions programme for businesses and organisations in Redcar and Cleveland.

If you are interested in speaking with the project team directly on your specific experiences, please contact Business@Redcar-Cleveland.gov.uk

Let's Celebrate Towns 2026



The Let's Celebrate Towns 2026 competition, led by Visa and Nationwide, is offering £20,000 grants to put toward community projects or initiatives; recognising the communities that are driving stronger, more vibrant local economies across the UK.

Focusing on the area's most important to the current and future success of towns, the five award categories are:

- High Street Revival
- Backing Local Business
- Protecting Valued Places
- Connected Places
- Community Pride

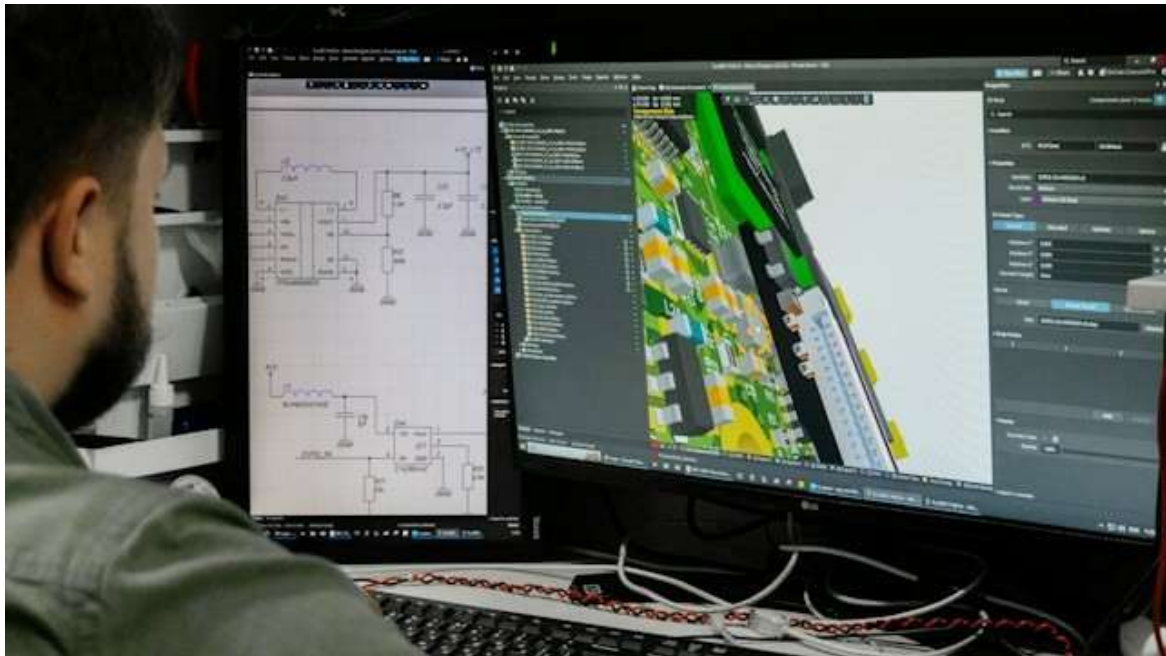
One winner from each category will receive £20,000 to invest in their nominated project. Entries close on **Sunday 25 October 2026**.

To find out more and enter the competition visit the link below.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Events

Digital Trade Testbed Interactive Demo Day



Date: Wednesday 21 October 2026

Time: 9.30am - 11.30am

Venue: Teesside International Airport, Darlington, DL2 1LU

Teesside University is hosting a free demonstration event, in partnership with Tees Valley Combined Authority and Teesside Freeport, to show SMEs how the Digital Trade Testbed can cut paperwork, reduce errors, strengthen security and improve how import and export systems connect.

Attendees will be able to meet experts and partners from trade, logistics, finance and government, watch practical demonstrations, identify common challenges and explore first steps to make importing and exporting smoother without a major transformation project.

The event is ideal for SMEs that already export or are considering exporting, offering practical guidance to make international trade processes smoother, lower risk and less admin heavy.

The event is open to the public and no booking is required. For more information, visit the link below.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Take Your Business Global This International Trade Week



Export Support Hub

Dates: 9th-13th November 2026

Venue: Online

If you're considering exporting, exploring new international markets or already trading overseas, the Export Support Hub offers a free and flexible way to get expert advice tailored to your business.

As part of International Trade Week 2026, the Hub brings together export specialists, market experts and global business advisers for one-to-one virtual appointments.

You'll be able to connect directly with the right people; discuss specific export challenges you wish to solve, or simply explore where your international opportunities might lie.

Experts available include:

- Accredited Chambers of Commerce
- BIST's Business Growth Advisers
- BIST's International Markets Teams
- British Chamber of Commerce
- ChamberCustoms
- Diplomatic Advisory Hub
- Santander
- UK Export Finance

You can use the Hub to get guidance on customs, regulations, market entry and growth strategies, identify priority markets, explore funding and support, and get answers to your export questions.

In addition, appointments are virtual and can be booked around your schedule, making it a straightforward way to access a range of trusted support organisations through one platform.

Ready to explore your international growth potential? Find out more and book your one-to-one appointment through the link below.

FIND OUT MORE

From Ambition to Action: Building Your Export Action Plan for International Growth



Date: Friday 13th November 2026

Time: 11am - 1pm

Venue: Online

As part of International Trade Week, 9th-13th November 2026, Business Academy is hosting an online workshop to help businesses move from export ambition to practical action. The session will guide participants through the foundations of a tailored export action plan, with practical support to help them identify opportunities, plan next steps and build confidence in international growth.

Key topics

- Assessing your export readiness
- Understanding the building blocks of an export plan
- Creating the foundations of a practical plan for international growth

Export specialists from **BIST (Department of Business, Innovation, Science and Trade)** will guide participants through the key components of an effective export action plan. Attendees can then explore market opportunities, consider routes to market and identify practical actions to support their next steps towards international growth.

Participants will work through a structured planning template during the session and leave with the foundations of their own export action plan.

To register and for further information, head to the link below.

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