



Newsletter

January 2024



Welcome

Welcome to this edition of **Business Bulletin** brought to you by the **Business Engagement and Account Management Team** at **Business Durham**, pulling together information that may be of benefit to your business.

We hope you find the content useful and if you have any questions, or would like to see articles on particular subject areas, please do get in touch with one of the Business Engagement and Account Managers.

Thank you.

The BEAM Team

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Get Set Green - Net Zero Showcase

On the 27th February Business Durham are hosting a event geared to assisting County Durham businesses like yours to take advantage of the support and opportunities that the green economy brings.

The event is being held at the Radisson Blu Hotel on the 27th February 2024 9-4pm.

About the event

Come and meet our experts and find out how to propel your business into a green future. The event will provide businesses with a four pronged line of attack for businesses to grasp the opportunity to 'Get Set Green – Net Zero Agenda including;

- How to access services from the Durham Business Growth Programme that can help to reduce energy use, with energy audits and grants on energy-efficient equipment
- Advice on how to access finance to invest in green technology
- Information on where to access support for green skills to help your business take advantage of the huge growth of the 'green economy' sector
- Opportunities to find out more about bidding for tender opportunities in the environmental services and goods sector from the County Durham Pound and partners.



[Find out more and book your place.](#)



Green Growth commitments in the Autumn statement

The Chancellor has announced £4.5 billion in funding for manufacturing to help boost investment in green technologies and clean energy.

The Government has set out plans to spend over £4 billion in the automotive industries, green energy industries, aerospace and life sciences, which the Chancellor Jeremy Hunt says will attract around £2 billion in additional investment per year over the next decade.

Part of the Autumn Statement package includes a £960 million Green Industries Growth Accelerator (GIGA) to “support investments in manufacturing capabilities for the clean energy sectors where the UK can gain the clearest strengths”.

Carbon capture, utilisation and storage (CCUS), hydrogen, offshore wind, electricity networks and nuclear are part of the GIGA plan that aims to enable the UK to take advantage of growth opportunities through the transition to net zero.

According to the Autumn Statement, the fund will sit alongside the long-term deployment support, set out in the Government’s [Powering Up Britain](#) report, which has the wide aim to deliver the clean energy transition and boost green investment across the country.

Speaking to the House of Commons, Chancellor Jeremy Hunt said: “Britain is now the eighth largest manufacturer in the world, recently overtaking France. To build on this success, we are targeting funding to support the sectors where the UK is or could be world leading.”

Over £2 billion will be made available for the automotive sector to support the manufacturing and development of zero-emission vehicles and battery manufacturing as well as strengthening their supply chains.

The Treasury has confirmed plans to amend the National Planning Policy Framework to “ensure the planning system prioritises the rollout of electric vehicle charging infrastructure, including EV charging hubs”.

The aerospace sector will receive £975 million to support the development of energy-efficient and zero-carbon aircraft technology.

The Chancellor also announced plans to bring forward legislation to provide the Crown Estate with borrowing and wider investment powers, which will help unlock a further 20–30GW of new offshore wind seabed rights by 2030, as well as creating opportunities for carbon capture and storage and hydrogen.



Occupiers and investor demand for green and sustainable buildings grows but costs holding industry back

Occupier demand for sustainable buildings in the UK has risen, and global appetite for green buildings is also increasing, but legislative uncertainty and increased costs are holding the industry back from making a real impact on net zero targets.

These are the [key findings of the global sustainability report for 2023](#), published by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS). Although both occupier and investor demand is rising, RICS warned that it is still seeing a lack of measurement.

As in the 2022 and 2021 reports, construction sector professionals were asked to give insights around embodied carbon assessment across projects. The 2023 results show that around 43% of respondents globally report they make no such measurement.

Even if carbon is being assessed, there is little evidence to suggest that it is having an impact on the choice of materials and components. To achieve targets, RICS emphasised, measurement must become common practice.

As well as high initial costs being the most significant hindrance to investment in green buildings, the report highlights that clarifying new UK energy performance certificates (EPC) standards for commercial real estate is essential to boost investment into energy efficiency measures and create greener buildings.

Tina Paillet, President Elect at RICS, said: “The built environment contributes 40% of the world’s carbon emissions. We cannot tackle global emissions without substantially reducing embodied and operational emissions from buildings and infrastructure. Because of this, RICS continues to develop its green standards for the sector, such as the recently developed Whole Life Carbon Assessment (WLCA) to guide the industry in a direction that supports greater sustainability and decarbonisation.”

What we can measure, we can then manage, she concluded.



[Click here to find out more](#)



Recruitment, skills and training

How businesses are attracting top talent through T Levels

To celebrate T level Thursday as part of National Apprenticeship Week, this webinar offers the chance to hear from employers who are already hosting T Level industry placements in the North East and to learn about the support available to help you.

Hosted by Louise Doyle, Co-founder and CEO of Mesma, a software-as-a-service provider, Lou will provide valuable insight into T levels through two lenses: as an employer hosting T -level industry placements; and as a Board member of the region's largest general Further Education College Group delivering T levels; Education North East Partnership.



[Click here to find out more and book your place today.](#)

Apprenticeship SME Brokerage Services

At New College Durham we are experienced professionals who can help your organisation to enhance your knowledge on Apprenticeships.

Have you considered employing an apprentice or investing in the development of your workforce, but aren't quite sure where to start?

At New College Durham, we are working in partnership with the Department for Education to help you!

Apprenticeship training can boost your workforce productivity in more than one way, and we would like to tell you how.

You will find out information on:

- The benefits of employing an apprentice
- Your commitment to employing an apprentice (financially and employment contract)
- Grant Incentives
- Help and assistance creating an Apprenticeship Service Account
- Recruitment Services
- Connections to Training Services in your area.
- Apprenticeship Ambassador Network Support



Register your interest by [clicking here](#) or contact Natasha Francis at Natasha.Francis@newdur.ac.uk



Featured events

Identifying and removing wasted time from your daily business activities

30th January, Ramside Hall

Is wasted time holding your small business back from its true potential? Join us at the picturesque Ramside Hall on Tuesday 30th January, for a transformative morning workshop from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM. This concise session offers a powerful exploration into revolutionising your approach to daily activities in your business.



[Click here to register](#)

Getting ahead with SEO

31st January, Radisson Blu

This session is designed to show businesses how to make the most of the opportunities the search engines provide. We will cover all aspects of SEO that are essential for businesses to improve their online visibility and drive more traffic to their website.



[Click here to register](#)



Amazing Networking - Why it Matters

6th February, The Work Place

Join Jeni Smith as she delves into the power of networking, knowledge transfer, and effective relationship management. The content has been selected to provide delegates with the tools and ideas to scale their businesses through effective networking activities.



[Click here to register](#)

Strategic Planning 2024: Maximising Success and Growth for SMEs

13th February, Derwent Manor Boutique Hotel

This fast-paced and interactive workshop will help ambitious owner-managers to understand how they can develop a plan to build a scalable, growth-focused business and successfully break through some of the growth barriers they are likely to encounter along the way.



[Click here to register](#)

Decarbonisation Quick Wins Masterclass

15th February, Online

An introduction to decarbonisation, followed by a deeper dive into achieving Quick Wins that businesses can implement; from low-cost, no-cost, up to £5,000. We will also touch on 'going further' with some renewable energy options, covering how they work and some of their pros and cons.



[Click here to register](#)

AI for your Business- A Practical Masterclass

22nd February, Radisson Blu Hotel

Join Jeni Smith as she delves into the power of networking, knowledge transfer, and effective relationship management. The content has been selected to provide delegates with the tools and ideas to scale their businesses through effective networking activities.



[Click here to register](#)

Navigating Funding and Finance for SME Success

27th February, We are UMi

The aim is to demystify the investment and financing jargon often used to help business owners become more confident when discussing their funding and finance strategy and approach investors and funders with more confidence. It is also to build awareness of the products and services out there to support growth within the above sectors and how to access them.



[Click here to register](#)



Funding and grants

Durham Business Growth Programme

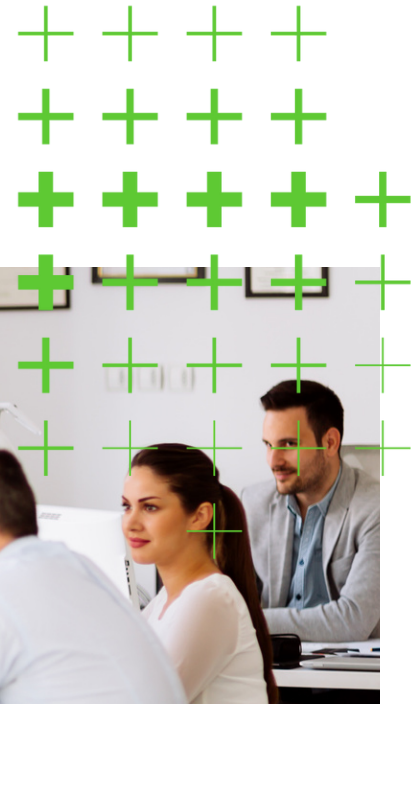
A new programme to help businesses enhance their productivity and accelerate growth was launched on 14th September by Business Durham, the business support service for Durham County Council, with delivery partners RTC North and UMi.

The programme combines the expertise of these three organisations to provide a simplified and accessible platform for businesses seeking tailored support and will run until March 2025.

The programme is open to all businesses in County Durham, regardless of their size or sector and will focus on engaging and building relationships with businesses, supporting productivity and growth and lastly, there will be a grant programme covering a wide range of projects aimed at catalysing business expansion and development.



[Click here to find out more about Durham Business Growth](#)



International Trade

UK Export Academy Masterclasses

The UK Export Academy have a jam-packed calendar of online Masterclasses coming up, all delivered by industry experts on hot topics in the world of global trade.

Topics cover insurance, marketing, finance, negotiating deals, contracts, logistics and top ticks for understanding VAT in Europe.



[To find out more visit the UK Export Academy website.](#)

Dept for Business and Trade - Requirement for Tech Solutions

The DBT Tech team in Singapore is engaging with a Singaporean company, [KLASS Engineering](#) who is scouting for new technologies in the UK. The company is a Singapore-based applied Research & Development (R&D) and custom solutioning firm specialising in the development of solutions for public safety/homeland security applications through the power of technology.

The company is looking for strategic partners from the UK that are interested to collaborate for Joint Research, Technology Scouting, Experimentation/Proof of Concept, Technology Transfer and Co-Creation with the objective to offer/facilitate product pitch to targeted end-users. There are 7 tech domains as listed below

Data Science and Natural Language Processing (NLP) Technologies
Speech Analytics Innovations
Synthetic Media Advancement
Mobile Robots (Air & Land)
IoT and Wearables
Physical Security Solutions



If you would like more information about this opportunity, please reach out to andre.pandean@fcdo.gov.uk Please send a company profile and mention the tech domain(s) that you are interested in.