

General UK and North East business news

The SME Brexit support fund, launched in February, has awarded SMEs with just a third of its total funds so far – with many stating that the application process is complex and confusing: <https://bmmagazine.co.uk/news/only-a-third-of-20m-business-brexit-support-paid-out-as-government-misses-target/>

The North East England Chamber of Commerce has written to the Prime Minister stating that Brexit is causing difficulties for firms in the region – such as a drop in exports and a shortage of HGV drivers: <https://www.business-live.co.uk/economic-development/north-east-business-leaders-call-21157594>

New Open for Britain report from the Federation of Small Businesses shows more work needs to be done to support smaller businesses: <https://www.fsb.org.uk/resource-report/open-for-business-21.html>

Regional volunteer collective Fund Her North has partnered with NatWest to boost investment opportunities for female entrepreneurs: [Fund Her North partners with NatWest to boost investment opportunities for female entrepreneurs - Business Live \(business-live.co.uk\)](https://www.business-live.co.uk/fund-her-north-partners-with-natwest-to-boost-investment-opportunities-for-female-entrepreneurs)

A report by Bankers for NetZero finds that small businesses are not getting enough support to help the UK reach net zero: <https://smallbusiness.co.uk/smes-left-behind-in-government-net-zero-goal-2555639/>

150 UK small business grants to apply for right now – updated list: <https://smallbusiness.co.uk/small-business-grants-uk-2548113/>

General North East events

Trading with the EU: Helping Exporters Find Solutions | Invest South Tyneside – 30th July.

[Trading with the EU: Helping Exporters Find Solutions - Invest South Tyneside](#)

Chamber Connections: North | North East Chamber of Commerce – 5th August.
Providing an opportunity for members to connect online with Relationship Managers.

[Chamber Connections: North](#)

Export Academy | Department for International Trade – 24th August.
Help your business sell internationally.

[Export Academy](#)

Digital Business Meetup – Digital Health | KTN – 8th September.
For innovative SME's with ideas and solutions for health, social care or wellbeing sectors.

[Digital Business Meetup - Digital Health | KTN](#)

Accelerating Investment and Innovation Summit | Innovation Super Network – 23rd September.

Building connectivity between the region's innovative businesses and investor community.

[Accelerating Investment and Innovation Summit](#)

Digital Business Meetup – Sustainability | KTN – 20th October.

For SME's with innovative ideas and solutions that can bring change to the environment.

[Digital Business Meetup - Sustainability | KTN](#)

Digital Business Meetup – Next Generation Services | KTN – 24th November.

Share innovation stories and network with other businesses to spark new collaborations.

[Digital Business Meetup - Next Generation Services](#)

Lunch Networking Events | Network B2B – weekly.

Find your local meeting location to network over lunch.

[Networking Lunch Meeting Tips & Events | Network B2B](#)

Northumberland

UMi Network profile engineering and construction company Merit Holdings who received a grant from the North of Tyne Growth Fund and mention that Construction News named Merit as one of 10 construction companies to watch in 2021: [Move to total offsite modular construction a winning strategy for North East company | UMi \(weareumi.co.uk\)](#)

Construction company Compass Developments has been appointed to build a new 80-bedroom Premier Inn hotel in Alnwick: [Contractor appointed to bring Premier Inn hotel to Northumberland town - Business Live \(business-live.co.uk\)](#)

Knitwear startup KnitLab North has won a £30k Rural Growth Network grant as part of its expansion plans: <https://bdaily.co.uk/articles/2021/07/27/northumberland-knitwear-startup-announces-30k-funding-in-expansion-plans>

Northumberland events

Hexham Business Networking Breakfast | Network B2B – every Tuesday.

Speak to friendly professionals from all sectors and share business advice.

[Hexham Business Networking Breakfast](#)

West Northumberland Business Networking | Business Northumberland – 30th July.

Meet other local businesses as well as representatives from Business Northumberland and learn more about the free support available to your business.

[Online Networking: West Northumberland Business Networking](#)

North Northumberland Business Networking | Business Northumberland – 20th August.

Meet other local businesses as well as representatives from Business Northumberland and learn more about the free support available to your business.

[Online Networking: North Northumberland Business Networking](#)

South East Northumberland Business Networking | Business Northumberland – 21st September.

Meet other local businesses as well as representatives from Business Northumberland and learn more about the free support available to your business.

[Online Networking: South East Northumberland Business Networking](#)

North Tyneside

Offshore specialist Kinewell Energy is to create new green jobs after securing funding through the TIGGOR programme: [Tyneside offshore wind specialist Kinewell Energy creates new green jobs - Business Live \(business-live.co.uk\)](#)

Wholesale retailer Kitwave has reported its sales volumes heading back to pre-pandemic levels: <https://www.business-live.co.uk/retail-consumer/tyneside-wholesale-retailer-kitwave-sees-21152415>

North Tyneside events

Tynemouth Business Networking Breakfast | Network B2B – every Tuesday.
Speak to friendly professionals from all sectors and share business advice.
[Tynemouth Business Networking Breakfast](#)

North Tyneside Business Networking | Network B2B – every Thursday.
Speak to friendly professionals from all sectors and share business advice.
[North Tyneside Business Networking Event](#)

Speed Networking VWorks | Village Hotel – 29th September.
Come enjoy some Business-To-Business Speed Networking.
[Speed Networking VWorks](#)

Newcastle

A site on City Road could potentially create 1,000 jobs if planning permission is granted for a 12-storey curved office, residential and leisure space: [“Rare” Newcastle Quayside development site could create 1,000 new jobs | Bdaily](#)

IT services provider Razorblue has posted record results. With offices around the UK, including Newcastle, it now plans to create a further 25 jobs: [North IT specialist razorblue to create 25 jobs after toasting record results - Business Live \(business-live.co.uk\)](#)

Newcastle College’s 10-year strategy includes plans to invest £650,000 to play a key role in the North East to develop the skills and talents of its students – including a new Digital Hub at its main city campus: [North East college unveils £650,000 investment plans as part of 10-year strategy to play central skills role - Business Live \(business-live.co.uk\)](#)

Newcastle events

Women's Property Group Evening Meeting | Women’s Property Group – 27th August.
An opportunity to dine with women in the property sector and discuss opportunities within the industry.
[Women's Property Group Last Friday of the Month Evening Meeting](#)

The Secret Tower Breakfast Networking Event | Jacksons Law – 9th September.
Enjoy breakfast and networking in a relaxed setting with other like-minded professionals.
[The Secret Tower | Breakfast Networking Event](#)

South Tyneside

Tech specialist eQuality Solutions Group has acquired London diversity and inclusion consultancy Equality Works Group: [North East tech firm acquires London diversity consultancy in seven-figure deal | Bdaily](#)

Manufacturer Metec UK has agreed offshore renewable contracts worth over £6.5m: [North East manufacturer Metec rides wave of success with £6.5m offshore contract wins - Business Live \(business-live.co.uk\)](#)

South Tyneside events

AMF Summer Social | Advanced Manufacturing Forum (AMF) – 30th July.
Come along to this local brewery and socialise over a beer.
[AMF Summer Social \(in person\)](#)

Networking: Bar 52 | White Digital – 5th August.
An informal face-to-face social networking event over a drink or two.
[Networking: Bar 52](#)

Business Networking | Network B2B – every Friday.
Speak to friendly professionals from all sectors and share business advice.
[South Shields Virtual Networking](#)

Gateshead

Two new restaurants will be coming to the Metrocentre – US brand Slim Chickens and Italian Doppio Malto: [New restaurants unveiled for Metrocentre as hospitality recovery gathers pace - Business Live \(business-live.co.uk\)](#)

Gateshead events

ATOMICON 2021 - UKs Leading Small Business Conference | Atomic – 9th November.
Hosted at the Sage in Gateshead, a conference with an all-star line-up.
[ATOMICON 2021 - UKs Leading Small Business Conference](#)

Sunderland

Baby scan business Before We Meet is expanding after a period of growth, and moving to the North East Business and Innovation Centre:
<https://bdaily.co.uk/articles/2021/07/26/midwife-relocates-baby-scan-business-after-supporting-over-1000-mothers-to-be>

A new service launched by local travel company HDC Travel, called My Town Washington, is supporting local businesses in the area: <https://www.sunderlandecho.com/business/new-venture-supporting-local-businesses-in-washington-and-the-north-east-as-it-battles-to-promote-the-high-street-in-the-wake-of-the-pandemic-3321234>

Nissan is recruiting for 400 positions at its Sunderland plant: [Nissan recruiting for 400 jobs as it continues positive momentum - Business Live \(business-live.co.uk\)](#)

Sunderland events

Washington Network Event | Network B2B – every Tuesday.
Speak to friendly professionals from all sectors and share business advice.
[Washington Networking Event](#)

North East Automotive Expo 2021 | North East Automotive Alliance – 30th September.
Reconnecting the region's automotive sector.
[North East Automotive Expo 2021](#)

Durham

More than 300 County Durham businesses have been supported through a County Durham coronavirus recovery grant: <https://www.eastdurhamnews.co.uk/2021/07/27/more-than-300-county-durham-businesses-helped-by-coronavirus-recovery-grant/>

A new report finds that Bishop Auckland has seen its economy boosted following a £33.2m Town Investment Fund in local tourist attractions:
<https://bdaily.co.uk/articles/2021/07/23/economic-boost-for-bishop-auckland-following-33m-heritage-investment>

Printing company AlphaGraphics has acquired its client Class Fundraising:
<https://www.insidermedia.com/news/north-east/printing-firm-acquires-client>

A North East and London sustainability partnership, the ANTENNA project, has been awarded £1.9m of funding. The collaboration involves Durham University, Procter & Gamble and Imperial College London: [Sustainability project receives £1.9m boost as London and Durham partnership launches | Bdaily](#)

Durham events

Durham Ambitious Business Starts (DABS) Networking Event | Business Durham – 5th August.
Hear from business owners and entrepreneurs about their journey starting up their own business and what they have learned along the way.
[Durham Ambitious Business Starts \(DABS\) networking event](#)

DBN Wag & Walk Meeting | Do Business Network – 20th August.
Bring your dog for a walk with other DBN members.
[DBN Wag & Walk Meeting](#)

East Durham Business Network Relaunch | Peterlee Business Park – 22nd September.
Face-to-face networking with other members of East Durham's business community.
[East Durham Business Network relaunch](#)

DBN Cuppa & Cake | Do Business Network – 15th October.
An opportunity to network with other DBN members over tea and cake.
[DBN Cuppa & Cake](#)