

# Hull & East Yorkshire Business Support & Funding Handbook

**April 2026**



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# Overview

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2026 will see substantial changes to the funded business support landscape in the Hull and East Yorkshire region. With the end of UK Shared Prosperity Funding in March 2026, many business support and funding programmes have reduced in scope or come to an end.

However, there have been a number of recent changes to the business support and funding landscape in the region. The continued growth and development of the Hull & East Yorkshire Combined Authority (HEYCA) will bring changes to the business support and funding offer in the region, with the HEY Growth Hub having transferred to the MCA on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026.

The launch of the Local Growth Fund (LGF) in 2026 means that new business support and funding programmes have replaced those formerly funded by UKSPF. Furthermore, the launch of government's Business Growth Service in 2025 has led to new, nationally delivered, business support programmes which will continue to evolve.

The Hull & East Yorkshire Combined Authority, and its Growth Hub, are keen to ensure that all businesses, support organisations, advisors and intermediaries are aware of the range of support and funding that is currently available in the region. This is to ensure that businesses are aware of and can quickly and easily access the support and funding that they require; to avoid duplication of provision; and to ensure seamless and effective cross-referrals of client businesses between support agencies and schemes.

This business support handbook provides a summary of the currently available business support and funding programmes in the Hull & East Yorkshire region. All listings are publicly funded programmes, or organisations and schemes that are non-commercial and/or not for profit. All information contained within this handbook was correct at the time of writing. The handbook will be continuously updated over time and new versions will be issued as and when required.

Should you have any feedback, questions, or comments about this handbook, please get in touch with the HEY Growth Hub team at [growthhub@hullandeastyorkshire.gov.uk](mailto:growthhub@hullandeastyorkshire.gov.uk).

**The HEY Growth Hub team**

**April 2026**

# Programmes Summary

## Type of Support

This is the type of support that each programme offers, for example grants, advice or mentoring.

Programme	Grant	Loans / Finance	Advice & Guidance	Mentoring	Peer Support / Development	Training
HEY Growth Hub			✓			
Invest Hull – Supporting Business Growth	✓		✓	✓		
Invest East Yorkshire – Business Support Services	✓		✓		✓	✓
Made Smarter	✓		✓		✓	✓
Growing Places Fund	✓	✓				
HEY Manufacturers Network			✓	✓	✓	✓
Yorkshire Regional Defence & Security Cluster			✓		✓	✓
Export Support from the Department for Business & Trade			✓			
Business Growth Service – Business Academy			✓			✓
Innovate UK Business Growth	✓	✓		✓		
The Supply Chain Network			✓			
HEY Resource Portal			✓			
Help to Grow: Management				✓	✓	✓
BIPC Humber Partnership			✓			✓
Hull City Council – Inward Investment Team			✓			
Hull City Council – Managed Workspace Centres			✓	✓	✓	
Invest East Yorkshire – Inward Investment			✓			
Invest East Yorkshire – Business Centres			✓		✓	
Making Changes for Careers (MC4C)	✓		✓	✓		✓
The Employment Hub	✓		✓			✓
Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTP)	✓		✓		✓	
Start Up Loans		✓				
Acorn Fund		✓				
Sirius		✓	✓	✓		
Northern Powerhouse Investment Fund II (NPIF II)		✓				

## Business Stage

These are the business stages that each programme supports, for example support to pre-start clients or Scale-Up businesses.

**Pre-Start:** An individual that has not yet started to trade or is not yet registered with HMRC

**Start-Up:** A business that has been trading for less than 3 years (and must be registered with HMRC)

**Established:** A business that has been trading for at least 3 years

**Scale-Up:** A business that has grown, or has the potential to grow, by 20% per year over 3 consecutive years

Programme	Pre-Start	Start-Up	Established	Scale-Up
HEY Growth Hub	✓	✓	✓	✓
Invest Hull – Supporting Business Growth	✓	✓	✓	✓
Invest East Yorkshire – Business Support Services	✓	✓	✓	✓
Made Smarter			✓	✓
Growing Places Fund			✓	✓
HEY Manufacturers Network		✓	✓	✓
Yorkshire Regional Defence & Security Cluster		✓	✓	✓
Export Support from the Department for Business & Trade		✓	✓	✓
Business Growth Service – Business Academy	✓	✓	✓	✓
Innovate UK Business Growth		✓	✓	✓
The Supply Chain Network		✓	✓	✓
Resource Portal	✓	✓	✓	✓
Help to Grow: Management			✓	✓
BIPC Humber Partnership	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hull City Council – Inward Investment Team			✓	✓
Hull City Council – Managed Workspace Centres	✓	✓		
Invest East Yorkshire – Inward Investment			✓	✓
Invest East Yorkshire – Business Centres	✓	✓	✓	
Making Changes for Careers	✓	✓		
The Employment Hub			✓	
Knowledge Transfer Partnerships			✓	✓
Start Up Loans	✓	✓		
Acorn Fund			✓	
Sirius	✓	✓	✓	
Northern Powerhouse Investment Fund II (NPIF II)			✓	✓

## Programme Theme

These are the business themes that each scheme covers, for example Exporting or Innovation.

Programme	General Support	Funding Provider	Digital Adoption	Exporting	Investment Readiness	Energy Efficiency	People/Skills/ Workforce Dev	R&D and Innovation	Resource & Process Efficiency	Sales & Marketing	Supply Chains / New Markets
HEY Growth Hub	✓						✓				
Invest Hull – Supporting Business Growth	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Invest East Yorkshire – Business Support Services	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Made Smarter		✓	✓			✓	✓		✓		
Growing Places Fund		✓			✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
HEY Manufacturers Network	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Yorkshire Regional Defence & Security Cluster	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓
Export Support from the Department for Business & Trade				✓							
Business Growth Service – Business Academy	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Innovate UK Business Growth	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
The Supply Chain Network											✓

HEY Resource Portal	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Help to Grow: Management	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
BIPC Humber Partnership	✓							✓			✓
Hull City Council – Inward Investment Team	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hull City Council – Managed Workspace Centres	✓		✓				✓			✓	
Invest East Yorkshire – Inward Investment	✓				✓		✓				✓
Invest East Yorkshire – Business Centres	✓										
Making Changes for Careers	✓	✓									
The Employment Hub	✓	✓					✓				
Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTP)		✓	✓			✓		✓	✓		✓
Start Up Loans		✓									
Acorn Fund		✓									
Sirius	✓	✓			✓					✓	✓
Northern Powerhouse Investment Fund II (NPIF II)		✓									

## Sector Focus

These are the business sectors that that each programme supports, for example firms in the Construction or Visitor Economy sectors.

Programme	Agri-Food & Agri-Tech	Construction	Creative Industries	Defence & Security	Digital & Tech	Education & Skills	Energy	Financial Services	Health & Social Care	Life Sciences	Manufacturing	Ports & Logistics	Professional & Business Services	Public Administration (inc. VCSE sector)	Retail & Wholesale	Visitor Economy (inc. Culture, Leisure & Hospitality)
HEY Growth Hub	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Invest Hull – Supporting Business Growth	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Invest East Yorkshire – Business Support Services	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Made Smarter	✓			✓						✓	✓					
Growing Places Fund	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓			
HEY Manufacturers Network	✓			✓						✓	✓					
Yorkshire Regional Defence & Security Cluster				✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Export Support from the Department for Business & Trade	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓					✓
Business Growth Service – Business Academy	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Innovate UK Business Growth	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			
The Supply Chain Network	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
HEY Resource Portal	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Help to Grow: Management	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
BIPC Humber Partnership	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hull City Council – Inward Investment Team	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hull City Council – Managed Workspace Centres		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Invest East Yorkshire – Inward Investment	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Invest East Yorkshire – Business Centres		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Making Changes for Careers (MC4C)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
The Employment Hub	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTP)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓					
Start Up Loans	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓					✓
Acorn Fund	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓					✓
Sirius	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓					✓
Northern Powerhouse Investment Fund II (NPIF II)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓					✓

## Geographic Coverage

This is the area that each programme covers; either Hull, East Yorkshire, or both areas.

<b>Programme</b>	<b>Hull</b>	<b>East Riding of Yorkshire</b>
HEY Growth Hub	✓	✓
Invest Hull – Supporting Business Growth	✓	
Invest East Yorkshire – Business Support Services		✓
Made Smarter	✓	✓
Growing Places Fund	✓	✓
HEY Manufacturers Network	✓	✓
Yorkshire Regional Defence & Security Cluster	✓	✓
Export Support from the Department for Business & Trade	✓	✓
Business Growth Service – Business Academy	✓	✓
Innovate UK Business Growth	✓	✓
The Supply Chain Network	✓	✓
Help to Grow: Management	✓	✓
BIPC Humber Partnership	✓	✓
Hull City Council – Inward Investment Team	✓	
Hull City Council – Managed Workspace Centres	✓	
Invest East Yorkshire – Inward Investment		✓
Invest East Yorkshire – Business Centres		✓
Making Changes for Careers (MC4C)	✓	
The Employment Hub	✓	
Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTP)	✓	✓
Start Up Loans	✓	✓
Acorn Fund	✓	✓
Sirius	✓	✓
HEY Resource Portal	✓	✓
Northern Powerhouse Investment Fund II (NPIF II)	✓	✓

# HEY Growth Hub

**Project Sponsor:** Hull & East Yorkshire Combined Authority

**Launch Date / Status:** Live

**End Date:** March 2029

**Target Business Stages:** Pre-Start, Start-Up, Established, Scale-Up

**Geographic Coverage:** Hull & East Yorkshire



## Support Available

HEY Growth Hub, is part of the Hull and East Yorkshire Combined Authority (HEYCA) and provides businesses with quick and easy access to local and national business support, resources and funding to support their growth.

Part of the Growth Hub network in England, the Growth Hub is funded by the government Department for Business and Trade (DBT) and seeks to streamline the support and funding available to businesses in Hull and East Yorkshire, making it easier for business owners to concentrate on growing their business.

The Growth Hub has a team of experienced and impartial business advisors, with some advisors based within the two Hull & East Yorkshire local authorities, thus ensuring a joined-up approach to business support in the region via a 'hub and spoke' delivery model.

The Growth Hub website is a valuable source of business information, guidance and resources, and is updated on a regular basis. The website also contains a business support directory where businesses can search for currently available support and funding in a quick and easy to use way.

For details on further support / services available from HEY Growth Hub, please view:

- Made Smarter Yorkshire & Humber (page 16)
- Hull & East Yorkshire Manufacturers Network (page 18)

## Eligibility Information

The Growth Hub can support any business based within Hull & East Yorkshire, regardless of size, sector or maturity.

Please note that some eligibility criteria may exist for specific Growth Hub Programmes, such as Made Smarter. Please find these details in the listings below.

## Contact Details

**Website:** [heygrowthhub.com](http://heygrowthhub.com)

**Email:** [growthhub@hullandeastyorkshire.gov.uk](mailto:growthhub@hullandeastyorkshire.gov.uk)

**Phone:** 07483 680411

**Facebook:** N/A

**X:** @HEY\_Growth

**LinkedIn:** /company/hey-growth-hub

# Invest Hull – Supporting Business Growth

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**Project Sponsor:** Hull City Council

**Launch Date / Status:** Live

**End Date:** Ongoing

**Target Business Stages:** Pre-Start, Start-Up, Established, Scale-Up

**Geographic Coverage:** Hull



## Support Available

A range of business support is available via Invest Hull. The core offer consists of free, impartial, one-to-one business support, utilising the extensive experience of our in-house delivery teams. The programme incorporates delivery across several Council teams including Enterprise Development, Employment Hub, Youth Enterprise, Managed Workspaces, Major Projects, Visit Hull & East Yorkshire (VHEY) and Hull Culture & Leisure (HCAL).

## Information, Advice & Guidance

In addition to the range of knowledge available via our delivery teams, support is available to access web-based resources, workshops and webinars, templates for business planning and financial forecasts, including the unique offer from the Business & Intellectual Property Centre (BIPC) via HCAL.

## Grants

- **Revenue grants - for existing businesses.** Grants will be available at 50% of eligible identified expenditure subject to a minimum grant of £1,000 and a maximum grant of £2,500.
- **Startup grant - for pre-start individuals.** Start-up grants are available up to a maximum of £500 to cover reasonable costs involved in starting the business and subject to a successful application.

## Workshops

An extensive programme of workshops has been developed in partnership with East Riding of Yorkshire Council (ERYC) covering topics such as social media for business, human resources, manufacturing and process improvements, sales and marketing, and carbon reduction. All future workshops can be found on the events page on our Invest Hull website.

## Youth Enterprise - Test Market Grants

The Youth Enterprise and Micro Business team delivers youth entrepreneurship programmes which support young people aged 16-29 who want to run their own business. Working with the John Cracknell Youth Enterprise Bank, they can support aspiring young entrepreneurs with business training, test market grants (to support test trading in their first year or a new business idea), and mentoring.

All grant applications must be prepared with the support of an HCC Business Advisor (direct applications will not be accepted).

### **Eligibility Information**

Provision is available to Hull businesses, tailored to business needs focusing on pre-start, start-up and growth support. All business types, sizes and sectors, including third sector/social enterprises can access support, however some elements such as grant schemes may have more focused criteria.

### **Contact Details**

**Website:** [investhull.co.uk/business-support](https://investhull.co.uk/business-support)

**Facebook:** N/A

**Email:** [business.support@hullcc.gov.uk](mailto:business.support@hullcc.gov.uk)

**X:** @investhull

**Phone:** 01482 615359

**LinkedIn:** /company/invest-hull

# Invest East Yorkshire – Business Support Services

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## INVEST EAST YORKSHIRE

**Project Sponsor:** East Riding of Yorkshire Council

**Launch Date / Status:** Live

**End Date:** Ongoing

**Target Business Stages:** Pre-Start, Start-Up, Established, Scale-Up

**Geographic Coverage:** East Yorkshire

### Support Available

Offering a comprehensive range of services, the team directly supports all types of businesses from across the East Riding. Whatever stage your business is at support is directly tailored to your individual business needs giving access to the relevant services required to help you thrive.

The services include:

**1-2-1 Advice** - Whether you are considering starting a business or already established, our highly experienced and knowledgeable team of advisors understand how complex business can be. Offering a variety of expertise against many business disciplines and sectors the team collectively work together to ensure you have access to the most appropriate knowledge and experience the team have to offer, including accessing other internal departments and procuring specialists where required. Every business is different, and your personal nominated business adviser will work with you to understand where you are in your journey and what your specific needs and challenges are to support you to grow and develop.

### **Grants**

- **Revenue grants - for existing businesses.** Grants will be available at 50% of eligible identified expenditure subject to a minimum grant of £1,000 and a maximum grant of £2,500.
- **Startup grant - for pre-start individuals.** Start-up grants are available up to a maximum of £500 to cover reasonable costs involved in starting the business and subject to a successful application.

**Workshops and events** – From business intelligence & insight that is gathered by our team of business advisors, events are considered, designed, and delivered to meet the current needs of our business community.

A wide range of workshops, sector events, networking are consistently available giving you access to everything from starting a business and business planning, to specific business disciplines such as marketing and HR compliance through to being introduced to business opportunities through different meet the buyer events.

**Signposting** - Understanding the wider business support landscape, we work closely with other services and partners to ensure that as a business, you get the appropriate support, advice, or funding from the most relevant source. Where required, we also directly contract with specific business or sector specialists to complement our existing services to deliver workshops, resources, and advice.

**Resources** – As well as working with the team you also have access to The Invest East Yorkshire Resource Portal a one-stop-shop where you can find a variety of useful information, articles, videos, tools, and templates to support your business growth (see page 41)

In addition, you can access **The Supply Chain Network** (see page 23), a free business directory and opportunities map managed by the team. Where you can showcase your products and services, identify suitable companies to collaborate with, increase your visibility, and generate new enquiries. In addition, through the opportunities map you can search for additional pipelines of opportunities or look for a supplier yourself by posting opportunities on the free and easy to use platform.

For details on further support / services available from Invest East Yorkshire, please view:

- Invest East Yorkshire – Inward Investment (page 30)
- Invest East Yorkshire – Business Centres (page 31)
- The Supply Chain Network (page 23)
- or visit [investeastyorkshire.co.uk](http://investeastyorkshire.co.uk)

### **Eligibility Information**

Support is available to all East Riding residents and businesses, as well as businesses planning to set up a new firm in the East Riding. Further eligibility for specific services such as grants are subject to the type of business and project in question and can be discussed with members of the team.

### **Contact Details**

**Website:** [investeastyorkshire.co.uk/business-support/](http://investeastyorkshire.co.uk/business-support/)

**Email:** [business.support@eastriding.gov.uk](mailto:business.support@eastriding.gov.uk)

**Phone:** 01482 391622 / 01482 391640

**Facebook:** /investeastyorkshire

**X:** @InvestEastYorks

**LinkedIn:** /company/invest-east-yorkshire

# Made Smarter Yorkshire & Humber

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**Project Sponsor:** Hull & East Yorkshire Combined Authority  
**Launch Date / Status:** Live  
**End Date:** March 2027  
**Target Business Stages:** Established, Scale-Up  
**Geographic Coverage:** Hull & East Yorkshire

# MADE SMARTER

## Support Available

Made Smarter is a government funded programme to drive growth amongst UK manufacturers via increased adoption of industrial digital technology. Made Smarter was formed following a review of UK manufacturing that recommended faster implementation and adoption of industrial digital technologies. Made Smarter will boost the digital skills of industry leaders, bringing businesses and research development together to develop new technology, and helping makers embrace new digital tools.

There are many benefits that investment in technology can bring to your business. Reducing inefficiencies and cutting waste, increasing your sales growth and new market opportunities, overcoming capacity and resource issues, boosting your competitiveness, and increasing resilience, agility and innovation.

If you're a manufacturer in Hull and East Yorkshire, speak to our Made Smarter Digital Transformation Specialist today to enrol onto the programme. The support available includes:

- **Digital Roadmaps** – a bespoke digital transformation audit and roadmap for your business.
- **Capital Expenditure (Capex) & Intensive Technology (ITG) grants** – match funded grants to contribute towards the capital costs of new digital solutions such as specialist hardware & software.
- **Leading Digital Transformation** – management development training that equips business leaders and digital champions with the skills they need to drive digital transformation in their firms.
- **Digital Internships** – 3 month funded graduate / post graduate placement within the business to support digital adoption projects
- **Industry 4: 0 Workshops** – free workshops aimed at 'demystifying' industry 4.0 digital solutions

## Eligibility Information

To access Made Smarter, a business must:

- Be a manufacturing business (based on SIC code)
- Must meet the definition of a Small or Medium Enterprise (SME)
- Must have a trading address within Hull & East Yorkshire

## Contact Details

**Website:** [www.madesmarter.uk/yorkshire](http://www.madesmarter.uk/yorkshire)

**Facebook:** N/A

**Email:** [les.selby@hullandeastyorkshire.gov.uk](mailto:les.selby@hullandeastyorkshire.gov.uk)

**X:** @MadeSmarterUK

**Phone:** 07562 910840 (Les Selby)

**LinkedIn:** /company/made-smarter-yorkshire-humber

# Growing Places Fund

**Project Sponsor:** Hull and East Yorkshire Combined Authority

**Launch Date / Status:** Live

**End Date:** Ongoing

**Target Business Stages:** Established, Scale-Up

**Geographic Coverage:** Hull & East Yorkshire



## Support Available

The Growing Places Fund (GPF) supports businesses from a wide range of sectors, who are continuing to underpin a vibrant local economy in both Hull & East Yorkshire, and are looking for capital grants and/or loans for capital expenditure.

Grants of between £5,000 and £250,000, and loans of between £75,000 and typically up to £250,000 are available to eligible organisations, so that they can invest in the things they need to help their businesses grow. The grants are for capital expenditure only; revenue costs are usually unable to be funded.

Businesses applying will need to demonstrate profitability, that the project is viable and ready to proceed. Applicants may also wish to consider potential additional benefits such as how their project may contribute to the wider clean growth and carbon reduction targets of Hull and East Yorkshire.

## Eligibility Information

The GPF investment and associated outputs must be within the Local Authority areas of Hull and the East Riding of Yorkshire. Only incorporated businesses are eligible to apply to the fund.

Please note that the eligibility of any organisation is subject to UK Subsidy Control criteria.

## Contact Details

**Website:** [www.hullandeastyorkshire.gov.uk/heyca-1/growing-places-fund](http://www.hullandeastyorkshire.gov.uk/heyca-1/growing-places-fund)

**Facebook:** N/A

**Email:** [fundingenquiries@hullandeastyorkshire.gov.uk](mailto:fundingenquiries@hullandeastyorkshire.gov.uk)

**X:** N/A

**Phone:** 07876 347286 (Jaquie Newman)

**LinkedIn:** N/A

07702 922864 (David Shepherdson)

# HEY Manufacturers Network

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**Project Sponsor:** Hull & East Yorkshire Combined Authority  
**Launch Date / Status:** Live  
**End Date:** Ongoing  
**Target Business Stages:** Start-Up, Established, Scale-Up  
**Geographic Coverage:** Hull & East Yorkshire



## Support Available

The Network supports the growth and prosperity of the Hull and East Yorkshire manufacturing sector, by bringing together manufacturing firms to share best practice, develop knowledge, champion the sector, and raise awareness of trading challenges and issues. The Network currently has over 25 active member businesses, and continues to grow.

Membership is free of charge for any business engaged in manufacturing in the Hull & East Yorkshire region, and the Network welcomes firms from a variety of manufacturing sub-sectors including fabrication, tooling, chemicals, food & drink, leisure home & caravan manufacture, and much else besides.

The network has a rolling programme of monthly events which includes:

- Workshops covering process efficiency, resource efficiency, workforce development, and more
- Behind the scenes 'Industry Insight' visits to regional manufacturing firms
- Symposium style events covering topics such as recruitment and skills, industrial digital technology, and net zero
- Networking events

The network also operates a bi-monthly newsletter featuring updates from the world of manufacturing and business support. The network is also planning to develop a membership directory to support networking between regional manufacturing firms.

## Eligibility Information

Any manufacturing business based within Hull and East Yorkshire is able to join the network and attend its events. Unless specifically invited, organisations other than manufacturing firms are not permitted to join the network or attend events, including professional services firms, business consultants, recruitment consultants, and training providers.

## Contact Details

**Website:** [heygrowthhub.com](http://heygrowthhub.com)

**X:** @HEY\_Growth

**Email:** [growthhub@hullandeastyorkshire.gov.uk](mailto:growthhub@hullandeastyorkshire.gov.uk)

**LinkedIn:** /company/hey-manufacturers-network

# Yorkshire Regional Defence & Security Cluster (RDSC)

**Project Sponsor:** Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authorities, the MoD and UKDI

**Launch Date / Status:** Launches June 2026

**End Date:** Ongoing

**Target Business Stages:** Start-Up, Established, Scale-Up

**Geographic Coverage:** Hull & East Yorkshire



**Yorkshire**  
Regional Defence  
& Security Cluster

## Support Available

Supported by the Ministry of Defence (MoD) through UK Defence Innovation (UKDI) and overseen in partnership with the four Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authorities, the Yorkshire Regional Defence and Security Cluster (YRDSC) fosters collaboration, accelerates innovation, and helps businesses to bring new ideas to market through practical support and commercialisation.

Following launch in June 2026, the YRDSC will:

- Provide a clear overview of regional capability, including business, universities, specialist facilities, and enabling assets, to improve regional, national and international visibility and engagement
- Facilitate better access to national demand, customer chains, end-user needs and challenge-led opportunities from the MoD, UKDI, the Defence & Security Accelerator (DASA) and prime contractors, offering stronger routes to market and clearer pathways for exploitation, commercialisation and pull-through into real-world capability.
- Offer practical support to members through market intelligence, sector analysis, awareness-building, Q&A, skills, workforce and talent pipeline development, recruitment awareness, and guidance on security, accreditation and operating in the defence ecosystem.
- Become a platform for knowledge exchange, mutual support and collaboration across the region and with other regional RDSC clusters, with improved access to regional R&D, specialist facilities and enabling infrastructure, together with better visibility of investment and funding opportunities.

## Eligibility Information

Any business based within Hull and East Yorkshire that already works with, or supplies into the defence and security sector - or that wishes to do so - can apply to become a member of the cluster via the website. Membership is free, but subject to verification by the cluster management team for verification purposes.

## Contact Details

**Website:** [www.yorkshirerdsc.co.uk](http://www.yorkshirerdsc.co.uk)

**X:** N/A

**Email:** N/A

**LinkedIn:** N/A

# Export Support from the Department for Business & Trade

**Project Sponsor:** UK Government  
**Launch Date / Status:** Live  
**End Date:** Ongoing  
**Target Business Stages:** Start-up, Established, Scale-Up  
**Geographic Coverage:** Hull & East Yorkshire



Department for  
Business & Trade

## Support Available

The Department for Business and Trade (DBT), the UK Government's department for economic growth, has the right support available for your business to sell internationally, no matter where you are on your export journey, and take advantage of global demand.

For the first time, DBT has integrated its business support in a single, accessible place – the Business Growth Service. This is designed to help businesses across the UK start, scale and succeed globally. Through tailored market advice, free Business Academy training, UK Export Finance, and our global network, we are making it easier for businesses to navigate global markets, seize opportunities, and build resilience.

Developing your knowledge is key to successful trading, so why not have a look at the many events we run, or see if an overseas trade mission could help you accelerate your growth by connecting you directly with international buyers.

Check out the step-by-step guides to exporting on [business.gov.uk](https://www.business.gov.uk) along with the country factsheets featuring key information for your initial research.

## Eligibility Information

Any business looking for support to export.

## Contact Details

**Website:** [www.business.gov.uk/export-from-uk/](https://www.business.gov.uk/export-from-uk/)

**Facebook:** /BizTradegovuk/

**Email:** [export.support@businessandtrade.gov.uk](mailto:export.support@businessandtrade.gov.uk)

**X:** @tradegovuk\_NPH

**Phone:** 020 4566 5206

**LinkedIn:** [company/department-for-business-and-trade/](https://www.linkedin.com/company/department-for-business-and-trade/)

# Business Growth Service – Business Academy

**Project Sponsor:** UK Government

**Launch Date / Status:** Live

**End Date:** Ongoing

**Target Business Stages:** Start-up, Established, Scale-Up

**Geographic Coverage:** Hull & East Yorkshire



Department for  
Business & Trade

## Support Available

For the first time, DBT has integrated its business support in a single, accessible place – the Business Growth Service. This is designed to help businesses across the UK start, scale and succeed globally. The free Business Academy training – including the Business Academy on Demand - makes it easier for businesses to develop their businesses seize opportunities, and build resilience.

Business Academy's live events and on-demand videos connect you with expert support and help you master new skills for your business. Whether you're starting out, scaling up, selling overseas, or sharpening your digital skills, we've got you covered.

Over 30,000 businesses across the UK are already benefiting from our training. It's completely free to join and takes only a few minutes to get started.

## Eligibility Information

Any business looking for support to grow their business.

## Contact Details

**Website:** [www.business.gov.uk/business-academy/](http://www.business.gov.uk/business-academy/)

**Facebook:** /BizTradegovuk/

**Email:** [enquiries@businesssupportservice.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@businesssupportservice.co.uk)

**X:** @biztradegovuk

**Phone:** 0800 998 1098

**LinkedIn:** company/department-for-business-and-trade/

# Innovate UK Business Growth

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**Project Sponsor:** Innovate UK

**Launch Date / Status:** Live

**End Date:** Ongoing

**Target Business Stages:** Established, Scale-Up

**Geographic Coverage:** Hull & East Yorkshire



## Support Available

Innovate UK Business Growth enables ambitious, innovative businesses with strong commercial potential to accelerate their growth and achieve scale whilst significantly improving the UK economy.

The services available are broad and fit into the following three pillars:

- Exploit & manage business innovation.
- Source funding & finance.
- Enter new markets.

This coaching activity may include but is not limited to: strategic planning, business model/value proposition innovation, Intellectual Property, financing your innovation, internationalisation and strategic partnering.

## Eligibility Information

Innovation-led high growth or high growth potential businesses up to 250 employees from any sector but primarily aligned with the UK's Industrial Strategy areas.

## Contact Details

**Website:** [www.iukbg.ukri.org](http://www.iukbg.ukri.org)

**Facebook:** N/A

**Email:** [andy.taylor@iukbg.ukri.org](mailto:andy.taylor@iukbg.ukri.org)

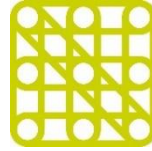
**X:** N/A

**Phone:** 0300 123 3066

**LinkedIn:** [company/innovate-uk-north](https://www.linkedin.com/company/innovate-uk-north)

# The Supply Chain Network

**Project Sponsor:** East Riding of Yorkshire Council  
**Launch Date / Status:** Live  
**End Date:** Ongoing  
**Target Business Stages:** Established, Scale-Up  
**Geographic Coverage:** Hull & East Yorkshire



## The Supply Chain Network

### Support Available

The Supply Chain Network (TSCN) has been developed to support our regional business community by showcasing their products and services to a wider market as well as encouraging and supporting a more local supply chain.

Through three main tools, The Supplier Directory, The Opportunities Map and The Supply Chain Promise, TSCN aims to promote new private and public sector work opportunities, encouraging businesses to commit to, where possible, using local and regional suppliers when sourcing goods and services for their business by promoting their opportunities directly to a regional supply chain.

Working alongside Local Authorities, the HEY Growth Hub and other key partners in the region we are committed to developing our local economy by supporting the growth of your business with TSCN being a key tool. By giving you free access to a business directory and an opportunities map, we are not replacing your own procurement processes but enhancing your reach to potential new markets and customers as well as having a platform to increase your opportunity to find a wider supplier pool.

Register your business with The Supply Chain Network to:

- 1) Showcase your company's products and services
- 2) Increase your visibility
- 3) Help identify new suppliers
- 4) Generate enquiries
- 5) Receive alerts on opportunities in the sectors or disciplines you are interested in
- 6) Browse and search the map for new contracts.
- 7) Promote your own supplier opportunities

Take 'The Supply Chain Promise' to:

- 1) Drive down costs for your business, by working with local producers and suppliers where possible
- 2) Appeal to a wider market of potential suppliers who understand that you are committed to buying locally where possible
- 3) Improve or cement your reputation with your customers, staff and suppliers, as an ethical business
- 4) Demonstrate your consideration of environmental and social impacts, and your commitment to making a positive difference.

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- 5) Use of The Supply Chain Promise Badge symbolising to other companies and organisations a commitment to these shared values.

Don't miss the opportunity to be seen by local, regional, national and international companies who have signed up to support the growth of their regional supply chains.

Register now for FREE and complete your business listing by visiting: [www.thesupplychainnetwork.co.uk](http://www.thesupplychainnetwork.co.uk)

### **The Supply Chain Network**

**Making Opportunities Visible, Accessible & Winnable.**

#### **Eligibility Information**

All businesses within the region.

#### **Contact Details**

**Website:** [www.thesupplychainnetwork.co.uk/](http://www.thesupplychainnetwork.co.uk/)

**Facebook:** N/A

**Email:** [supplychain@eastriding.gov.uk](mailto:supplychain@eastriding.gov.uk)

**X:** N/A

**Phone:** 01482 391622 or 01482 391640

**LinkedIn:** /supply-chain-net

# HEY Resource Portal

**Project Sponsor:** East Riding of Yorkshire Council  
**Launch Date / Status:** Ongoing  
**Target Business Stages:** Pre-start, Start-Up, Established, Scale-Up  
**Geographic Coverage:** Hull & East Yorkshire



## Support Available

The Resource Portal is a free tool for those who are seeking resource materials or guidance to help with their business. Operated by East Riding of Yorkshire Council on behalf of HEY Growth Hub and Hull City Council, the portal is available to all businesses across Hull & East Yorkshire.

The Resource Portal has 6 main categories of resource:

- ❖ Start Ups
- ❖ Business Finance & Legal
- ❖ Business Planning & Strategy
- ❖ Operations
- ❖ Sales & Marketing
- ❖ New Product/Service

Resources range from; templates, guides, hints & tips, videos, external links - all covering topics on cashflow, business planning, social media, marketing, tax returns and much more!

Through setting up notifications on the portal, you can follow categories that interest you and be updated via email when new resources are added in your areas of interest. You can also save useful resources in your 'Favourites', and your dashboard will be tailored to the types of resources that you are interested in.

## Eligibility Information

The resource portal can be accessed by anyone at any business stage; from established business owners to those thinking of starting a business. Any business or individual based in Hull and East Yorkshire can access the Resource Portal.

You must register a user account to access the resources available on the portal; however, it is **FREE** to sign up.

## Contact Details

**Website:** [heyresourceportal.co.uk/](http://heyresourceportal.co.uk/)

**Facebook:** N/A

**Email:** [business.support@eastriding.gov.uk](mailto:business.support@eastriding.gov.uk)

**X:** N/A

**Phone:** 01482 391622

**LinkedIn:** N/A

# Help to Grow: Management

**Project Sponsor:** University of Hull  
**Launch Date / Status:** Live  
**End Date:** Ongoing  
**Target Business Stages:** Established, Scale-Up  
**Geographic Coverage:** Hull & East Yorkshire



## Support Available

Help to Grow: Management Course is designed to boost the performance and resilience of businesses.

Designed and delivered by entrepreneurs and industry experts at world-class business schools, this leadership course will provide participants with time away from the challenges of running a business to invest in leadership, and to learn how to take their business to the next level.

The course runs over 12 weeks and includes online and face-to-face sessions, 1-to-1 mentoring and peer networking. With just one session a week, it is designed to fit around existing work and personal commitments. Participants will finish the course ready to lead on the delivery of increased profitability, innovation, and growth. Throughout the course they will:

- Develop leadership skills across all areas of business including strategic planning, employee engagement, finance and marketing.
- Develop strategies for market segmentation, positioning and targeting to streamline your marketing
- Gain exclusive access to a local, regional and national peer network to share practical challenges, ideas and experiences.
- Work with a mentor to develop a Growth Action Plan tailored to their business and its journey.
- Learn how to engage employees on the business journey and plan the structure of the organisation.
- Identify new technologies and digital approaches to enhance innovation and productivity in their business model.
- Improve operational efficiency to save time and money.

The course is 90% funded by Government meaning that participants pay just £750.

## Eligibility Information

Leaders and senior management from businesses that have been operating for over a year with 5 – 249 employees are eligible. Businesses with 10 or more employees can register 2 people (must be leaders).

## Contact Details

**Website:** [exeducation.hull.ac.uk/help-to-grow-hull/](https://exeducation.hull.ac.uk/help-to-grow-hull/)

**Facebook:** N/A

**Email:** help-to-grow@hull.ac.uk

**X:** N/A

**Phone:** N/A

**LinkedIn:** <https://www.linkedin.com/showcase/hull-university-business-school/>

# Business & Intellectual Property Centre (BIPC) Humber Partnership

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**Project Sponsor:** Hull Libraries

**Launch Date / Status:** Live

**End Date:** Ongoing

**Target Business Stages:** Pre-Start, Start-up Established, Scale-Up

**Geographic Coverage:** Hull & East Yorkshire

**Business & IP Centre  
Humber  
Partnership**



## Support Available

We offer:

- One-To-Ones; Business Ideas
- One-To-Ones; Bookkeeping
- IP Attorney sessions (ProBono)
- One-To-Ones; Business Insurance
- Patent Searches
- One-To-Ones; Innovation
- Intellectual Property Support
- Networking Events
- Business Workshops (Hull & East Riding local BIPC's)
- British Library webinar streaming
- Databases (COBRA, Statista etc please visit [www.hulllibraries.co.uk](http://www.hulllibraries.co.uk) for the latest list)
- Makerspace

## Eligibility Information

Any business owner, sole-trader, or start-up.

## Contact Details

**Website:** [www.hulllibraries.co.uk/business-support-intellectual-property/business-ip-centre](http://www.hulllibraries.co.uk/business-support-intellectual-property/business-ip-centre)

**Facebook:** /BIPCHull

**Email:** [reference.library@hcandl.co.uk](mailto:reference.library@hcandl.co.uk)

**X:** @BIPCHull

Phone: 01482 223344

LinkedIn: /BIPC-Hull

# Hull City Council – Inward Investment Team

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**Project Sponsor:** Hull City Council  
**Launch Date / Status:** Live  
**End Date:** Ongoing  
**Target Business Stages:** Established, Scale-Up  
**Geographic Coverage:** Hull



## Support Available

The service offers bespoke packages of support to eligible businesses including:

- Identification of local and national packages of grant funding.
- Identification of potential commercial lenders as well as venture capital funders, and development of pitches.
- Identification of potential property opportunities, from locations for a soft landing through to the provision of move on space.
- Provision of a single point of contact for all dealings within the Council and wider public sector provision.
- Identification of potential supply chain partners.
- Provision of business intelligence and insight.
- Facilitation of new connections and introductions to business networks
- Leverage PR to develop clients brands locally.
- Assistance with the recruitment and retention of members of staff.

## Eligibility Information

The serviced is focused on providing support for:

- Indigenous large and medium sized companies
- New investors to the area
- Potential high growth business

## Contact Details

**Website:** [investhull.co.uk/inward-investment](http://investhull.co.uk/inward-investment)

**Facebook:** N/A

**Email:** [Richard.Lowther@hullcc.gov.uk](mailto:Richard.Lowther@hullcc.gov.uk)

**X:** N/A

**Phone:** 01482 613089

**LinkedIn:** N/A

# Hull City Council – Managed Workspace Centres

**Project Sponsor:** Hull City Council  
**Launch Date / Status:** Live  
**End Date:** Ongoing  
**Target Business Stages:** Pre-Start, Start-Up, Established  
**Geographic Coverage:** Hull



## Support Available

By joining one of our MWC's you don't just get an office or workspace, you get a dedicated support team to help you to develop your business. We welcome all businesses of all sizes and at all stages. Working closely with businesses and understanding their needs to drive their business to the next desired stage is something that we thrive on providing.

The team are passionate and focused – delivering confidential advice to your business to help prevent failure and the struggles that businesses can come across. We advise businesses to help them grow.

MWCs warmly welcome businesses of all sizes and stages, with a primary focus on starter, small, and SME-type enterprises. We engage in a close collaborative approach to intimately understand their distinctive needs. Our hallmark is forging a tight-knit partnership with these businesses, navigating their unique challenges, and steering them toward their envisioned success—an integral aspect and cornerstone of our unwavering commitment.

We have three business centres located across the city of Hull:

- Louis Pearlman Centre – situated in the West of Hull
- Bespoke Centre - situated in the North of Hull
- Craven Park Enterprise Centre – situated in the East of Hull

## Eligibility Information

Any business looking to base themselves within one of the HCC Managed Workspace Centres.

## Contact Details

**Website:** [www.hull.gov.uk/CommercialProperty/managed-workspace-centres](http://www.hull.gov.uk/CommercialProperty/managed-workspace-centres)

**Facebook:** /HCCMWC

**Email:** [managedworkspace@hullcc.gov.uk](mailto:managedworkspace@hullcc.gov.uk)

**X:** @hccmwc

**Phone:** 01482 612478

**LinkedIn:** N/A

# Invest East Yorkshire – Inward Investment

## INVEST EAST YORKSHIRE

**Project Sponsor:** East Riding of Yorkshire Council

**Launch Date / Status:** Live

**End Date:** Ongoing

**Target Business Stages:** Established, Scale-Up

**Geographic Coverage:** East Yorkshire

### Support Available

The work of the Inward Investment Team is focussed on providing all new investors to the area and indigenous companies with a full range of services including:

- Locating suitable sites and/ or premises
- Developing business/site infrastructure
- Sourcing grants and financial assistance
- Advising on workforce and skills requirements - (<https://skillshullandeastyorkshire.co.uk/>)
- Liaison with other local and government departments including:
  - Planning | Supply Chain Network | Business Support Services | Highways | Business Rates`

**NB:** The above list is not exhaustive

For details on further support / services available from Invest East Yorkshire, please view:

- Invest East Yorkshire – Business Support Service (page 14)
- Invest East Yorkshire – Business Centres (page 31)
- The Supply Chain Network (page 23)

### Eligibility Information

The service is available to all, but is focused on:

- Indigenous large and medium sized companies
- New investors to the area (foreign & domestic)

### Contact Details

**Website:** [investeastyorkshire.co.uk/land-opportunities/](http://investeastyorkshire.co.uk/land-opportunities/)

**Facebook:** /investeastyorkshire

**Email:** [Invest.eastyorkshire@eastriding.gov.uk](mailto:Invest.eastyorkshire@eastriding.gov.uk)

**LinkedIn:** /company/invest-east-yorkshire

**Phone:** 01482 391614

# Invest East Yorkshire – Business Centres

## INVEST EAST YORKSHIRE

**Project Sponsor:** East Riding of Yorkshire Council

**Launch Date / Status:** Live

**End Date:** Ongoing

**Target Business Stages:** Pre-Start, Start-Up, Established

**Geographic Coverage:** East Yorkshire

### Support Available

Encouraging new business and business growth within the East Riding is paramount to our work. As part of this ongoing commitment, we have invested in a range of modern business centres with office and workshop accommodation suitable for businesses at all stages: start-up, medium-sized and established.

Our business centre occupants share a stimulating, friendly and professional business environment with other dynamic companies. This gives the advantage of the collegiate support available within large corporations and allows excellent networking opportunities.

In uncertain times it is particularly important to be able to respond quickly to changes in business circumstances, and our business centre occupants can downsize or expand within a business centre without penalty and with ease. They can utilise the facilities of another business centre within the portfolio or move on, without further costs on the giving of one month's notice due to the flexible licence agreements we have in place.

To complement the offices and workshops we also have modern, inspiring meeting and conference spaces available to hire – whether it's an ad-hoc private chat, or a big group getting together, our business centres have adaptable space making us the ideal location for your next conference or event.

With 24/7 access, shared breakout and kitchen spaces, free onsite parking and a manned reception where your clients will be signposted in a professional manner; our business centres will provide the perfect place for you to start, grow or locate your business.

For details on further support / services available from Invest East Yorkshire, please view:

- Invest East Yorkshire – Business Support Service (page 14)
- Invest East Yorkshire – Inward Investment (page 30)
- The Supply Chain Network (page 23)

### Eligibility Information

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We have business centres located in Bridlington, Driffield, Beverley, Market Weighton, Brough, Hessle and Goole. All businesses are eligible to take space, excluding those in retail and the motor industry.

Ergo Business Centre at Hessle is sector specific and we would be looking to accommodate businesses directly involved or in the supply chain to the low carbon / renewable sector.

### **Contact Details**

**Website:** [Business Centres | Invest East Yorkshire](#)

**Facebook:** /investeastyorkshire

**Email:** [bridlington.business.centre@eastriding.gov.uk](mailto:bridlington.business.centre@eastriding.gov.uk)

**X:** @InvestEastYorks

**Phone:** 01482 395360

**LinkedIn:** /company/invest-east-yorkshire

# MC4C - Making Changes for Careers

**Project Sponsor:** Hull City Council  
**Launch Date / Status:** Live  
**End Date:** Ongoing  
**Target Business Stages:** Pre-Start, Start-Up  
**Geographic Coverage:** Hull



## Support Available

Making Changes for Careers is an enterprise programme that has experience and success in supporting young people aged 16 to 29 to start their own businesses and realise their entrepreneurship ambitions.

Through our Business and Big 13 Enterprise Skills sessions, it helps develop the knowledge and skills needed to start-up and function in the business world.

Training sessions cover getting started, structures, tax/HMRC, finances, marketing and mental wellbeing.

There is also a possible opportunity to access a test market grant, thanks to funding from UKSPF and the John Cracknell Youth Enterprise Bank, an organisation that has supported hundreds of Young Entrepreneurs.

Young people will have the opportunity to access an experienced business mentor, who will be on hand to offer expert advice and guidance.

## Eligibility Information

Young entrepreneurs between the ages of 16 and 29, who are at pre-start or start-up stage, or in the early stages of a business start-up journey

## Contact Details

**Website:** [www.mc4c.co.uk](http://www.mc4c.co.uk)

**Facebook:** /MFCinHull

**Email:** [youth.enterprise@hullcc.gov.uk](mailto:youth.enterprise@hullcc.gov.uk)

**Instagram:** mc4cinhull

**Phone:** 01482 616219

**LinkedIn:** N/A

# The Employment Hub

**Project Sponsor:** Hull City Council  
**Launch Date / Status:** Live  
**End Date:** Ongoing  
**Target Business Stages:** Established  
**Geographic Coverage:** Hull



## Support Available

The Employment Hub provides a comprehensive range of recruitment and employability services to support businesses across the Hull area. If you are looking to attract and recruit staff, we can help you reach suitable candidates quickly and effectively.

We can promote your vacancies directly to our customer base within the Employment Hub as well as to a wide network of partner organisations across the city. This ensures your opportunities reach individuals who are actively seeking employment and have been supported to become job-ready.

Our team can arrange and manage a tailored **Meet the Employer** event on your behalf. Events are held at the Employment Hub, located within Hull Central Library, and are **offered to businesses at no cost**.

## During an event:

- Your organisation will host and engage directly with candidates
- You can discuss available roles, expectations, and next steps
- Our advisors will ensure suitable candidates are sourced and supported to attend

We take care of planning, promotion, and organising; allowing you to focus on meeting new employees.

## What Your Business Can Expect

- **Free candidate sourcing** aligned to your job requirements
- **Tailored promotion** of your vacancies to relevant audiences
- **Pre-screened candidates**, improving the quality of applicants you meet
- **A central, accessible venue** for engaging with jobseekers

## Eligibility Information

Open to all businesses. All our services are provided completely free of charge

## Contact Details

**Website:** [www.hull.gov.uk/jobs-volunteering/employment-hub](http://www.hull.gov.uk/jobs-volunteering/employment-hub)

**Facebook:** /HullCCEmploymentHub

**Email:** [employmenthub@hullcc.ov.uk](mailto:employmenthub@hullcc.ov.uk)

**X:** @Hull\_hub

**Phone:** 01482 616623

**LinkedIn:** /the-employment-hub-bb1554210

# Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTP)

**Project Sponsor:** University of Hull (for Hull & East Yorkshire)

**Launch Date / Status:** Live

**End Date:** Ongoing

**Target Business Stages:** Established, Scale-up

**Geographic Coverage:** Hull & East Yorkshire



## KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER PARTNERSHIPS

### Support Available

A Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) is a UK government-supported initiative, that enables businesses to overcome strategic challenges and accelerate innovation.

A KTP is a three-way collaboration involving your business, the University of Hull, and a qualified graduate who works full-time on your innovation project. The university provides academic expertise and research support, while the graduate - employed as a KTP Associate - delivers the project within your organisation. This partnership allows your organisation to access specialist knowledge, research, and technology that may not be available internally, helping you develop new products, services, or processes that drive growth.

The University of Hull supports you throughout the process, from project scoping and funding applications to delivery and evaluation. KTPs typically run for 12 to 36 months, depending on the scope and complexity of the project.

### Eligibility Information

KTPs are proven to improve business performance, increase productivity, and support long-term growth. The programme is funded by Innovate UK with the company partners contributing financially, depending on their size. Funding covers a significant portion of the costs:

- Small to Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs): Up to 67% grant funded
- Large Businesses: Up to 50% grant funded

### Contact Details

**Website:** : [www.ktp-uk.org/](http://www.ktp-uk.org/) / [www.hull.ac.uk/work-with-us/business/knowledge-transfer-partnerships](http://www.hull.ac.uk/work-with-us/business/knowledge-transfer-partnerships)

**Facebook:** N/A

**Email:** [ktp-enquiries@hull.ac.uk](mailto:ktp-enquiries@hull.ac.uk)

**X:** N/A

**Phone:** 01482 465161

**LinkedIn:** N/A

# Start Up Loans

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**Project Sponsor:** British Business Bank  
**Launch Date / Status:** Live  
**End Date:** Ongoing  
**Target Business Stages:** Pre-Start, Start-Up  
**Geographic Coverage:** Hull & East Yorkshire



## Support Available

A Start Up Loan is a government-backed personal loan available to individuals looking to start or grow a business in the UK. In addition to finance, successful applicants can receive 12 months of free mentoring and exclusive business offers to help them succeed.

The loan is unsecured, so there's no need to put forward any assets or guarantors to support an application. All owners or partners in a business can individually apply for up to £25,000 each, with a maximum of £100,000 available per business

- Borrow up to £25,000
- Fixed interest rate per annum (per year)
- Repay the loan over a term of 1–5 years
- No fees for arranging the loan or paying it back early
- Support with writing business plans and cash flow forecasts
- 12 months of free mentoring once you receive a first loan
- A range of useful templates and how-to guides

Start Up Loans is administered by British Business Bank but delivered through various partners which the website will direct them to dependent on location and business circumstance.

## Eligibility Information

You can apply for a Start Up loan if:

- You're 18 years of age or older
- You're a current UK resident, and have the right to work in the UK
- You're starting a new business or have been trading for up to 60 months (five years)
- You're unable to secure finance from other sources (self-declaration is ok)
- Your business is based in the UK
- Your business type and loan purpose is eligible under terms of the scheme
- You pass credit checks and you can afford to repay the loan

## Contact Details

**Website:** [www.startuploans.co.uk/](http://www.startuploans.co.uk/)

**Facebook:** /StartUpLoansUK

**Email:** [Cat.smith@british-business-bank.co.uk](mailto:Cat.smith@british-business-bank.co.uk)

**X:** BritishBBank

**Phone:** N/A

**LinkedIn:** /start-up-loans-company

# Acorn Fund

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**Project Sponsor:** Chamber Acorn Fund (Humber) Limited

**Launch Date / Status:** Live

**End Date:** Ongoing

**Target Business Stages:** Established

**Geographic Coverage:** Hull & East Yorkshire



## **Support Available**

Acorn is a business-to-business lender providing loan finance to sole traders, Limited companies, partnerships and LLP's. The minimum loan amount is £50,000. Loans are secured, normally against land or property.

Personal guarantees and debenture required when lending to limited companies. Loans can be for any purpose – such as property purchase, property development, working capital, property alterations etc. Any business sector is considered.

Interest rates typically between 8% per annum to 12% per annum fixed, with maximum loan terms of 10 years. The loan interest can be repaid interest-only or repayment. In some cases, interest can be accrued

A 1% loan arrangement fee of the loan amount is charged as a setting up fee which can be added to the loan or paid separately.

## **Eligibility Information**

Any business sector considered

Minimum 3 years evidence of trading or relevant previous business experience

Applicants are required to evidence good personal and business credit history

## **Contact Details**

**Website:** [www.chamberacornfund.com](http://www.chamberacornfund.com)

**Facebook:** N/A

**Email:** [c.simpson@chamberacornfund.com](mailto:c.simpson@chamberacornfund.com)

**X:** N/A

**Phone:** 01482 324976

**LinkedIn:** N/A

# Sirius

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**Project Sponsor:** Sirius  
**Launch Date / Status:** Live  
**End Date:** Ongoing  
**Target Business Stages:** Pre-Start, Start Up, Established  
**Geographic Coverage:** Hull & East Yorkshire



## Support Available

Sirius is a Department of Business & Trade approved Local Enterprise Agency, and part of The National Enterprise Network offering free business advice, support and on-going mentoring to the self-employed and businesses situated in Hull and the East Riding of Yorkshire.

With more than 24 years of operation we have financially assisted approx. 390 businesses which has helped create approx. 1,950 jobs. In addition to that number, we have also assisted approximately 300 further individuals or businesses per year with our free, qualified, advice and support to either start up, or grow their businesses. That's over 7,000 self-employed or businesses!

Sirius, over the last 24 years has loaned over £3,200,000 to new and existing businesses to help with starting up and expansion. From this we have levered over £11,000,000 of traditional funding.

We would conservatively estimate that we have helped well over 12,000 local people to either set up their own business, grow or expand their business, or become self-employed. An accurate count of the jobs created is anyone's guess, but we would consider it to be over 15,000!

At Sirius Business Centre in Hedon, we have met with over 12,000 people on a one to one basis, offering free business start-up support, advice, & planning - with qualified advisors. We can support with:

- Help with business plan compilation
- Market research
- Free business advice & planning strategies for growing/expanding your businesses
- Business loans
- Investment readiness & cashflow planning
- Help with grant applications & information
- Finance procurement
- Liaison with banks & other agencies
- Advice & negotiation for property
- Acting as an information gateway
- Sourcing specific training
- Marketing and planning
- Tax & skills advice
- Health & safety support
- Mentoring & support for existing companies
- Financial advice in disputes, ombudsman, factoring,

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- Cash flow planning & debt recovery
  - Networking support

### **Eligibility Information**

Pre-start, Start-up, or established businesses looking to grow based in Hull or East Yorkshire.

### **Contact Details**

**Website:** [www.sirius-hull.co.uk](http://www.sirius-hull.co.uk)

**Facebook:** /SiriusHull

**Email:** [Info@sirius-hull.co.uk](mailto:Info@sirius-hull.co.uk)

**X:** @siriusnull

**Phone:** 01482 890146

**LinkedIn:** /Sirius-enterprise-agency

# Northern Powerhouse Investment Fund II (NPIF II)

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**Project Sponsor:** British Business Bank  
**Launch Date / Status:** Live  
**End Date:** Ongoing  
**Target Business Stages:** Start-Up, Established, Scale-Up  
**Geographic Coverage:** Hull & East Yorkshire



## Support Available

The Northern Powerhouse Investment Fund II will build on the success of the first Northern Powerhouse Investment Fund and will deliver a £660 million commitment of new funding to smaller businesses. The fund aims to drive sustainable economic growth by supporting innovation and creating local opportunity for new and growing businesses across the North of England.

The Northern Powerhouse Investment Fund II offers a range of commercial finance options with smaller loans and debt finance from £25,000 to £2 million and equity investment up to £5 million. The fund covers the whole of the North, including rural, coastal and urban areas, and will increase the supply and diversity of early-stage finance for smaller businesses across the North of England, providing funds to businesses that might otherwise not receive investment and helping to break down barriers in access to finance.

The fund offers three different commercial finance options designed to tackle identified funding gaps across the North of England:

### Smaller Loans

- Loans of between £25,000 and £100,000
- For new or growing businesses
- By fund manager Business Enterprise Fund - [BEF | Business loans up to £250,000 \(befund.org\)](#)

### Debt Finance

- Loans of between £100,000 and £2 million
- For businesses that can demonstrate growth potential
- By fund manager Mercia Asset Finance - [Northern Powerhouse Investment Fund II - NPIF \(mercia.co.uk\)](#)

### Equity Finance

- Equity investment finance of up to £2 million
- Early stage equity funding
- For businesses with ambitious growth plans
- By fund manager Mercia Ventures - [Northern Powerhouse Investment Fund II - NPIF II Equity Finance \(mercia.co.uk\)](#)

The NPIF II funding options can support businesses with a range of business development projects, including:

Funding expansion projects	Leasing new commercial premises	Making asset acquisitions
Hiring a new team	Purchasing new machinery or equipment	Launching a new product or service

### **Eligibility Information**

Businesses based within the Northern Powerhouse area may be able to apply, subject to specific eligibility criteria set by the fund managers. From start-ups to those with expansion and growth plans, if a business can demonstrate growth potential, it may be eligible to apply.

### **Contact Details**

**Website:** See weblinks to fund manager websites above

**Facebook:** /britishbusinessbank

**Email:** See fund manager websites for details

**X:** @BritishBBank

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# Epilogue

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Should you wish to provide feedback on this business support handbook, or wish to list your project or scheme in future editions of the handbook, then please contact the HEY Growth Hub team:

**T:** 07483 680411

**E:** [growthhub@hullandeastyorkshire.gov.uk](mailto:growthhub@hullandeastyorkshire.gov.uk)