

Funding e-bulletin  
Issue Number: 26.01.12 January 2026

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## 1. North East Combined Authority (NECA)

### 1.1 Accelerate Ashington

Accelerate Ashington is a package of support services available to local businesses currently trading and operating in Ashington. The programme consists of two elements: digital support with funded access to the introduction of digital tools for day-to-day business activity, and start-up support providing a programme of workshops covering the key skills needed to start and establish new businesses. [click here](#)

### 1.2 Business Growth Fund

The Business Growth Fund is a £3.5 million programme of investment funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF). It supports business growth across the local authority areas of Gateshead, Newcastle, North Tyneside, Northumberland, and Sunderland. The Fund is delivered by UMi and will attract £11.5 million of private sector investment with an aim to create a minimum of 268 new jobs. For further details [click here](#)

### 1.3 Create Growth Programme

The Create Growth Programme is designed for creative businesses with high-growth potential to become investment ready. Providing high-growth businesses between the seed and scaling stages, with the support and the investment they need to grow their business and turn their innovative creative ideas into the leading creative businesses of the future. Through a suite of business support initiatives, delivered in partnership with Creative UK and Innovate UK this tailored support for high growth creative businesses aims to develop businesses knowledge, skills and access to finance, so they are able to secure investment to enable growth, turning their innovative creative ideas into the leading creative businesses of the future. For further details [click here](#)

### 1.4 Culture and Creative Investment Programme

The Culture and Creative Investment Programme, delivered in partnership with Creative UK, offers a combined package of financial and business support designed to grow the creative and cultural industries in the region. The package of support includes business support, masterclasses and bootcamps, open access networking events, webinars and access to finance. The programme is open to freelancers and businesses working in the culture and creative industries in North Tyneside, Northumberland and Newcastle. For further details [click here](#)

### 1.5 Flexible Social Finance

Flexible Social Finance has been designed with the social sector, for the social sector with the aim to provide access to affordable and flexible, repayable finance for socially trading organisations in Newcastle, North Tyneside and Northumberland looking to grow their social impacts and improve self-sustainability. This fund is specifically designed to address the challenges faced by socially trading organisations who are delivering significant social impact and may struggle to secure loans from traditional sources. For further information [click here](#)

### 1.6 Green New Deal

The Green New Deal Fund is a low carbon investment fund established by the Combined Authority and managed by Amber Infrastructure Group. Business interested in applying to the Green New Deal Fund should visit the fund's website for further information. For further information [click here](#)

### 1.7 Invest North East England

Invest North East England is the first point of contact for businesses looking to locate and invest in our region. Working alongside the region's seven local authorities, their aim is to support new inward investment and promote the region as a prime location for businesses to locate, grow and prosper. For further details [click here](#)

### **1.8 Northumberland Small Business Fund**

The Northumberland Small Business Service, delivered by Business Northumberland, offers a comprehensive range of support for individuals looking to pursue a business idea and small and micro businesses across Rural Northumberland. The package of financial and business support is designed to grow and enhance resilience across new and existing businesses in Northumberland. The support includes grant funding, business support, masterclasses, 1-2-1 consultancy and advice and open access networking events across the whole of Northumberland. It is jointly funded by the North East CA, the UKSPF and the Rural England Prosperity Fund. For further details [click here](#).

### **1.9 North East Property Fund**

A £20 million property fund aimed at supporting smaller scale North East construction and property development projects will provide an important boost for the construction industry. The North East Property Fund has been created in response to strong demand from small and medium-sized (SME) construction and property development companies who are unable to access mainstream finance from traditional sources and is hoped it will help kick start development in smaller scale property ventures across the North East. For further details [click here](#)

### **1.10 North East Commercial Property Investment Fund**

A £35 million commercial property fund that supports developers in the North East.

The North East Commercial Property Investment Fund is managed by FW Capital and backed by the North East Combined Authority. The fund addresses a gap in the market and will drive economic growth and create new jobs in the North East. For further details [click here](#)

### **1.11 The Mayor's Opportunity Fund**

Partnered with Community Foundation Tyne & Wear and Northumberland and Point North to deliver the £1million Mayor's Opportunity Fund. The Fund supports the North East's commitment to a fairer North East through creating opportunity. Round two of the fund launched on 3 June 2025 and will invest £225,000 in supporting community-led places and spaces that meet people's basic day-to-day needs whilst also helping to create opportunity, improve skills, digital access and health outcomes, and reduce child poverty. For further information [click here](#)

## **2. North East Growth Hub**

### **2.1 North East Screen**

Funded by North East Screen Industries Partnership, North East Screen is a regional screen agency for filmmakers, producers and creative professionals looking to start and grow their careers in the industry. For further information [click here](#).

### **2.2 Creative Enterprise Business Builder**

The Creative Enterprise Business Builder is a grant initiative designed to support companies who work in moving image for storytelling, spanning film television, games, animation and immersive industries. With grants of up to £2,500, beneficiaries will be able to work with a consultant to build meaningful connections and create opportunities for business growth. For further information [click here](#).

### **2.3 CITB Skills and Training Fund**

CITB offer support to industry through their grants and funds. CITB grants cover day to day training and funds cover specific projects and commissions. For further information [click here](#).

### **2.4 Northern Accelerator**

Northern Accelerator is an exciting collaboration between the North East's universities, creating real-world impact from world-leading research, commercialising innovation and boosting the region's economy. For further information [click here](#).

### **2.5 North East Fund**

Funding for companies based in Northumberland, Tyne & Wear and County Durham. For further information [click here](#).

## **2.6 Northumberland Small Business Service**

A service of business support to help small and micro businesses across Northumberland to start and grow. For further information [click here](#).

## **2.7 North East Enterprise Agency**

North East Enterprise Agency is a unique collaboration of multi-award winning enterprise agencies supporting businesses across the North East of England. For further information [click here](#).

## **2.8 Made Smarter Adoption North East**

Made Smarter Adoption North East helps manufacturers in the region increase profits, improve efficiency and grow by investing in smart technology. For further information [click here](#).

## **2.9 Business Energy Saving Team (BEST)**

Save energy and money with free energy guidance and support from BEST. For further information [click here](#).

## **2.10 Key Fund**

The Key Fund invests in incorporated Community and Social Enterprises that have traditionally been excluded and turned down by mainstream lenders; particularly those in disadvantaged areas. For further information [click here](#).

## **2.11 Grant Investment Fund**

Eligible businesses in Northumberland can apply for a grant between £10,000 - £300,000. For further information [click here](#).

## **2.12 Northern Powerhouse Investment Fund II – Smaller Loans**

As part of the Northern Powerhouse Investment Fund II NEL are offering Smaller Loans from £25,000 to £100,000. For further information [click here](#).

## **2.13 Northern Powerhouse Investment Fund II – Equity Finance**

As part of the Northern Powerhouse Investment Fund II Maven are offering Equity finance up to £5 million for ambitious businesses located across the North East of England. For further information [click here](#).

## **2.14 New Innovators in Communication Networks 2024**

UK registered micro and small businesses can apply for a share of up to £500,000 to develop adoptable and investable innovations within communication networks. This funding is from the Telecoms Technology Missions Fund programme. For further information [click here](#).

## **2.15 Energy Resilience Fund**

The Energy Resilience Fund is an initiative assisting community businesses in retrofitting their buildings with energy-saving measures. The Energy Resilience Fund is an initiative assisting community businesses in retrofitting their buildings with energy-saving measures. The programme is funded by Power to Change and delivered by Key Fund with investment amounts ranging from £10,000 to £150,000. For further information [click here](#).

## **2.16 Green Seed Fund**

Cranfield University Green Seed Fund gives entrepreneurs and start-ups access to capital, alongside advice and education from the Bettany Centre for Entrepreneurship to help scale their businesses. The amount of funding will depend on the nature and scope of the proposed business idea. The maximum amount is £25,000 (or up to £50,000 for sustainability-related businesses). For further information [click here](#).

## **2.17 Gigabit Voucher Scheme**

Eligible homes and businesses can apply for up to £4,500 to cover the costs of a gigabit-capable connection. For further information [click here](#).

**2.18 Northern Powerhouse Investment Fund II – Debt Finance**

As part of the Northern Powerhouse Investment Fund II NEL are offering Debt Finance from £100,000 to £2m. For further information [click here](#).

**2.19 Flexible Social Finance**

Flexible Social Finance has been designed with the social sector, for the social sector. For further information [click here](#).

**2.20 Creative Growth Finance II**

Creative Growth Finance provides scale-up loans of £100k to £1m to UK businesses in the Creative Industries. For further information [click here](#).

**2.21 Workplace Charging Scheme**

Government support towards the up-front costs of the purchase and installation of electric vehicle chargepoints. For further information [click here](#).

**2.22 Pathways to Funding**

Growing inclusive funding opportunities for business For further information [click here](#).

**2.23 North of Tyne Business Support Fund**

A fund designed to drive economic growth by helping businesses to access external expertise to implement business growth and improvement plans. For further information [click here](#).

**2.24 Open Business Creators Fund for Women in Business**

£50k sponsorship from NatWest to support ideas and early-stage businesses founded by women. For further information [click here](#).

**2.25 CoSTAR National Lab Call: Advanced Production Technology**

The CoSTAR National Lab is exploring emergent forms of advanced production that can deliver efficiencies or enhance production workflows in support of impactful audience facing experiences. For further information [click here](#).

**2.26 Defence and Security Accelerator**

The Defence and Security Accelerator (DASA) finds and funds exploitable innovation to support UK defence and security quickly and effectively, and support UK prosperity. For further information [click here](#).

**2.27 Start-up Loans for businesses 0-36 months**

Funding loans of up to £25,000 available to entrepreneurs within their first 3 years of trading, with potential top up loans within years 3-5 of trading. For further information [click here](#).

**2.28 UKSE Business Loans and Investments**

Working with UKSE gives you more than just finance. Benefit from the support and knowledge of people who have been there before. For further information [click here](#).

**2.29 North East Property Fund**

A £20 million fund offering development funding to SME house builders, construction and property development companies For further information [click here](#).

**2.30 North of Tyne Culture and Creative Investment - Loans**

Through the North of Tyne Culture and Creative Investment Programme, funded by the North East Combined Authority, Creative UK are investing £1.5m in loans in the North of Tyne's cultural and creative industries. For further information [click here](#).

**2.31 North of Tyne Culture and Creative Investment - Equity**

Through the North of Tyne Culture and Creative Investment Programme, funded by the North East Combined Authority, Creative UK are investing £625k of equity finance in the North of Tyne's cultural and creative industries. For further information [click here](#).

**2.32 Flexible Finance Fund**

The Flexible Finance Fund by the Social Investment Business, The Ubele Initiative, and Create Equity offers a blend of grants and loans to Black and Racially Minoritised-led charities and social enterprises in England. For further information [click here](#).

**2.33 Growth Guarantee Scheme (GGS)**

Designed to support access to finance for UK smaller businesses as they look to invest and grow. For further information [click here](#).

**2.34 North of Tyne Inward Investment Fund**

The North of Tyne Combined Authority has £10m available to support businesses looking to invest and create jobs in the North of Tyne. For further information [click here](#).

**2.35 UnLtd - Awards**

Grants plus business support are available to social entrepreneurs that are looking to start or grow an existing social venture. For further information [click here](#).

**2.36 The North East Commercial Property Investment Fund**

A £35 million commercial property fund that supports developers in the North East. For further information [click here](#).

**2.37 Business Growth Fund**

Support for businesses looking to expand or establish new operations in the North East Combined Authority areas. For further information [click here](#).

**2.38 Life Sciences Innovative Manufacturing Fund (LSIMF)**

The Life Sciences Innovative Manufacturing Fund supports businesses investing in life sciences manufacturing projects in the UK. For further information [click here](#).

**2.39 Franchise Angels**

Franchise Angels is an investment initiative to assist the rapid growth of proven businesses via franchising. For further information [click here](#).

**2.40 Growth Impact Fund**

Investing in... Your social mission. What makes you different. Growing your organisation. For further information [click here](#).

**2.41 QUEST Traditional Craft Grant and Business Support**

QUEST offers three grants to support makers and conservators at various career stages, strengthening the pipeline of talented craft professionals in the UK. For further information [click here](#).

**2.42 Business Enterprise Fund**

Flexible business loans to start and grow your business. For Further information [click here](#).

### 3. Grant Finder Service

#### 3.1 Creative Careers Service Grant

Funding for the public sector, non-profit sector and private sector to design and deliver a refreshed UK-wide creative careers service for young people in the UK that is ambitious and significantly wide-reaching over a three-year period. A discretionary amount is available; the application deadline is 16 February 2026. For further information [click here](#).

#### 3.2 Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust – Rise Programme

Grants are available for small or medium armed forces charities to pilot projects that provide additional capacity to charities within the UK. A maximum value of £30,000 is available, the application deadline is 18 February 2026. For further information [click here](#).

#### 3.3 Ramblers Path Accessibility Fund

Grants are available for groups to make improvements on public rights of way in England and Wales. A discretionary amount is available; the application deadline is 14 March 2026. For further information [click here](#).

#### 3.4 Great British Energy Supply Chain Fund: Offshore Wind and Networks

Capital grant funding for UK-registered companies to support the construction or expansion of manufacturing facilities producing constrained components for the offshore wind and electricity networks supply chain in the UK. A discretionary amount is available; the application deadline is 31 March 2026. For further information [click here](#).

### 4. The National Lottery Funding

#### 4.1 National Lottery Awards for All England.

We fund community-led projects that tackle the climate and nature emergency, improve the environment, and help people connect with and enjoy nature locally. **Amount:** £300 to £20,000 **A decision in:** 16 weeks **Programme status:** Open to applications. For further information [click here](#).

#### 4.2 National Lottery Awards for All England – Environment

We fund community-led projects that improve the environment and help people connect with and enjoy nature where they live. Funding size £300 to £20,000 for up to two years. Application deadline 17 December 2025. For further information [click here](#).

#### 4.3 Reaching Communities England

We fund projects that strengthen communities and improve lives across England, with priority for the people and places that need it most. **Amount:** £20,001 to £20,000,000 **A decision in:** 40 weeks **Programme status:** Open to applications For further information [click here](#).

#### 4.4 The Solidarity Fund

Funding in England for projects tackling root causes of inequality. We support lasting change led by people with lived experience, with projects that can grow and last. **Amount:** £1,000,000 to £5,000,000 **A decision in:** 35 weeks **Programme status:** Open to applications For further information [click here](#).

#### 4.5 The UK Fund

Larger amounts of funding for to expand on existing work. We'll fund projects that help bring diverse communities together. We'll also fund projects that help children and young people use their voice to influence change. Application deadline – Ongoing. For further information [click here](#).

## 5. Government Grant Service

### 5.1 [Bus Operator Accessible Information Regulation Support Grant \(2025 Application Period\)](#)

Accessible Information Grant. This grant supports small bus operators to provide audible and visible information consistent with the Public Service Vehicles (Accessible Information Regulations) 2023. This is for applications from 1st July 2025 onwards

Location: National, England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, North East England, North West England, South East England, South West England, Midlands

Funding organisation: Department for Transport

Who can apply: Non-profit, Private Sector

How much you can get: From £100 to £90,000

Total size of grant scheme: £4.65 million

Opening date: 1 July 2025, 12:01am (Midnight)

Closing date: 31 December 2025, 11:59pm (Midnight)

### 5.2 [Tree Health Pilot](#)

The Tree Health Pilot (THP) scheme is testing different ways of slowing the spread of pests and diseases affecting trees in England. It expands on support available through the Countryside Stewardship Woodland Tree Health grant. The THP supports owners and managers of trees in woodland or trees outside woodland to deal with tree health issues. Funding from the pilot can go towards a range of measures including: felling and treating diseased or infested trees and necessary infrastructure improvements; restocking with new trees and capital items to assist this; maintenance of newly planted trees biosecurity items. The Tree Health Pilot guidance on GOV.UK sets out the aims of the pilot in detail including eligibility and application details.

Location: England, North East England, North West England, South East England, South West England, Midlands

Funding organisation: Forestry Commission

Who can apply: Personal / Individual, Public Sector, Non-profit, Private Sector

How much you can get: From £500 to £500,000

Total size of grant scheme: £30 million

Opening date: 1 August 2021, 12:01am (Midnight)

Closing date: 31 December 2025, 11:59pm (Midnight)

### 5.3 [Skills for Space UK Space Agency Internships Programme](#)

Funding for UK-based organisations to host paid, project-based summer internships that support skills development, diversity, and regional growth in the UK space sector.

Location: National, England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, North East England, North West England, South East England, South West England, Midlands

Funding organisation: UK Space Agency

Who can apply: Public Sector, Non-profit, Private Sector, Local authority

How much you can get: From £6,000 to £6,000

Total size of grant scheme: £325,000

Opening date: 2 December 2025, 12:00pm (Midday)

Closing date: 23 January 2026, 12:00pm (Midday)

### 5.4 [Urgent Capital Support](#)

Urgent Capital Support is intended for academy trusts and Voluntary Aided (VA) schools, not in receipt of school condition allocation, and sixth-form colleges that want to apply for funding assistance to address urgent building condition issues that threaten the closure of the whole, or a significant part of the school. Applications are subject to a financial assessment, using the core financial returns shared with the Department for Education. For all academy applications, financial health is considered at academy trust level and not against the individual school. Please note that most successful applications will be funded through loan arrangements, where these are deemed affordable for the recipient.

Location: England, North East England, North West England, South East England, South West England, Midlands

Funding organisation: Department for Education

Who can apply: Public Sector

Opening date: 1 April 2025, 12:01am (Midnight)

Closing date: 31 March 2026, 11:59pm (Midnight)

### **5.5 [Trees, woodlands and forestry - Woodland Creation Planning Grant](#)**

The Woodland Creation Planning Grant (WCPG) offers funding of up to £30,500 for the production of a UKFS-compliant woodland creation design plan. Landowners, land managers and public bodies can apply. WCPG is open for applications year-round. The 'Find a grant' tool requires a 'closing date' to be specified, however 31 March 2026 reflects the period WCPG funding is currently confirmed until, rather than a known closure date. The scheme was re-launched in autumn 2020 to enable more people to apply and help proposals move more quickly through the Environmental Impact Assessment process and future planting and establishment grant funding.

Location: England, North East England, North West England, South East England, South West England, Midlands

Funding organisation: Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs / Forestry Commission - Nature for Climate Fund

Who can apply: Personal / Individual, Public Sector, Non-profit, Private Sector

How much you can get: From £1,500 to £30,500

Total size of grant scheme: £708,607

Opening date: 1 December 2015, 12:01am (Midnight)

Closing date: 31 March 2026, 11:59pm (Midnight)

### **5.6 [Community Hub Bursaries](#)**

Skills Bursaries provide grants of up to £1,000 for people seeking to grow their expertise in community heritage work.

Open to applicants at any stage of their personal or professional journey, these bursaries can be used for training, mentoring, attending workshops, or other professional development activities related to heritage and community engagement to be determined by you. Offered on a rolling basis, Skills Bursaries are designed to be accessible and responsive, helping to build confidence and capacity across the sector—particularly among those who may not have had access to such opportunities before.

Location: National, England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, North East England, North West England, South East England, South West England, Midlands

Funding organisation: The National Archives

Who can apply: Personal / Individual, Public Sector, Non-profit, Private Sector, Local authority

How much you can get: From £10 to £1,000

Total size of grant scheme: £26,269

Opening date: 15 September 2025, 12:01am (Midnight)

Closing date: 3 July 2027, 11:59pm (Midnight)

### **5.7 [Life Sciences Transformational R&D Investment Fund \(TRIF\) Pilot](#)**

The Life Sciences Transformational R&D Investment Fund Pilot offers capital grants to support large-scale R&D projects in the UK life sciences sector (eligible projects must exceed £100 million in total costs). It aims to boost research and development within the UK's Life Sciences sector by supporting large-scale investments focused on innovation and strengthening health resilience, as well as projects with the potential to generate economic benefits. This fund complements the separate Life Sciences Innovative Manufacturing Fund (LSIMF).

Location: National, England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, North East England, North West England, South East England, South West England, Midlands

Funding organisation: Department for Science, Innovation and Technology

Who can apply: Private Sector

How much you can get: From £5 million to £25 million

Total size of grant scheme: £50 million

Opening date: 25 September 2025, 12:01am (Midnight)

Closing date: 31 March 2028, 11:59pm (Midnight)

## Looking for funding?

Northumberland County 4 Community is a user-friendly and professional community funding database for Northumberland which has already helped secure millions of pounds worth of support to the area.

It is an online funding database and a step-by step process which enables you to identify and select funding schemes and awards that are appropriate to your project, and:

- a convenient one-stop-shop of funding information.
- an information source with thousands of funding schemes including grants, loans and awards from local, regional, and national UK government, charitable trusts, and corporate sponsors.
- content ranging from modest community funds at one end of the spectrum to major, multilevel initiatives at the other.

To access Northumberland County 4 Community, you must register some basic details. Northumberland County Council funds this service, and partners and community users can access this free of charge. Registration will give you immediate, free, and unrestricted access to the comprehensive database of funding opportunities and business advice services. You can browse or search for funding, generate reports, access news items in full and set up alerts to receive updates regarding suitable funding opportunities.

To register as a user - [click here](#) or scan the QR barcode below: Northumberland County 4 Community

The Funding e-bulletin is designed to be viewed as an email or an electronic device and therefore is not formatted for printing.

1. Simply browse the overview to each fund
2. If anything catches your interest, simply click on the **click here** link at the end of the paragraph or the **active hyperlink** and this will take you directly to the funder's website
3. You can then view and print any information from there

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If you have any questions or wish to contribute a funding opportunity, please [contact us](#).