

Funding e-bulletin  
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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 ChargePoint's. 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 QEST Traditional Craft Grant and Business Support**

QEST 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](#).

### **2.43 North East Culture and Creative Investment – Equity**

Through the North East Culture and Creative Investment Programme, funded by the North East Combined Authority, Creative UK are investing £500,000 through equity finance in the region's cultural and creative industries. For further information [click here](#).

### 3. Grant Finder Service

#### 3.1 Better World Books - Literacy Grant

Grants are available to nonprofit organisations, libraries, and community groups in the UK, for projects that address literacy challenges and increase access to reading and education. A discretionary amount is available; the application deadline is 28 February 2026. For further information [click here](#).

#### 3.2 AHRC - Delivery of Creative Industries Clusters

Funding is available to deliver new UK Creative Industries Clusters, addressing a clear challenge in a specific region or sub-sector and developing commercially viable products, services or experiences, with AHRC funding 80% of the full economic cost. A maximum value of £6,750,000 is available, the application deadline is 3 March 2026. For further information [click here](#).

#### 3.3 Neighbourhood Planning Grant for National Parks (2025/26)

Funding available for National Park authorities in England to help cover the costs of delivering their neighbourhood planning duties in 2025/26. A maximum value of £20,000 is available, the application deadline is 6 March 2026. For further information [click here](#).

#### 3.4 British Council - Beyond Literature Borders

A grants programme supporting UK-based arts organisations that are diverse-led, or working with underrepresented voices, to develop new international projects. A maximum value of £7,000 is available, the application deadline is 27 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](#).

#### 4.6 Climate Action Fund - Food Systems

Climate Action Fund – Food Systems supports projects that strengthen our food system and reduce food insecurity for people and communities. For further information [click here](#).

## 5. Government Grant Service

### 5.1 Gambling Harms Treatment VCSE Grant Fund

NHS England's Gambling Harms Treatment VCSE Grant Fund represents a significant step forward in the transition to an integrated and evidence-based gambling harms treatment system under the new statutory levy. The purpose of this fund is to ensure the continued accessibility and development of VCSE sector provision for individuals experiencing gambling harms, whilst Integrated Care Boards implement longer term commissioning arrangements from April 2027. The grant fund is open to all voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations looking to provide services supporting the gambling harms treatment pathway in 2026-27.

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

Funding organisation: NHS England

Who can apply: Non-profit

How much you can get: From £50,000 to £5 million

Total size of grant scheme: £20 million

Opening date: 3 February 2026, 12:00pm (Midday)

Closing date: 20 February 2026, 12:00pm (Midday)

For further information [click here](#).

### 5.2 Accessible Information Regulation Support Grant (2026)

Accessible Information Grant. This grant supports small operators providing rail replacement coach services to provide audible and visible information consistent with the Public Service Vehicles (Accessible Information Regulations) 2023. This is for applications from 13 February 2026 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: 13 February 2026, 12:00pm (Midday)

Closing date: 31 March 2026, 12:00pm (Midday)

For further information [click here](#).

## 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

NCC cannot be held responsible or liable for any information or broken webpages and links provided by third parties.

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### Regeneration Programmes Investment Funding e-Bulletin

Click [HERE](#) to subscribe to the monthly Funding e-Bulletin or scan the QR-Code



### Northumberland County 4 Community

Click [HERE](#) for free access to funding information to support your local voluntary sector organisation or scan the QR-Code

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