



Durham Employment Forum

Friday 25th July 2025



Working together to
connect people and jobs
across County Durham

Funding Opportunities Forum



**Working together to
connect people and jobs
across County Durham**

1	Refreshments & Registration	08.30-09.30
2	Networking	08.45-09.30
3	Welcome & Introductions	09.30-09.35
4	Northeast Growth Hub	09.35-09.55
5	Karbon Homes	09.55-10.15
6	National Chair of Parish Councils	10.15-10.35
7	Previous Forum update & feedback	10.35-10.45
8	Break & Networking	10.45-11.00
9	Business Durham	11.00-11.20



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10	Durham Community Action	11.20-11.40
11	TRN Company Spotlight	11-40-11.50
12	Questions & AOB	11-50-12.00



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Northeast Growth Hub

Ben Munshen





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Northeast Growth Hub

Presentation on
separate PDF



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Karbon Homes

Community Investment Fund

Suzanne Jobson



Karbon Community Investment Fund

Karbon Homes

Funding with Karbon

- Our Community Connectors can help you access our Community Investment fund.
- We welcome applications from not-for-profit and voluntary organisations as well as local schools.



Our Grants

- Targets initiatives that make a significant impact on our customers and the communities in which we work.
- We understand that it's not always possible for projects to solely cover these areas, but we'd hope that you could demonstrate how it will/could benefit them in some way.
- The maximum you could be awarded is £4,000 per year with a maximum project length of 2 years. Applications of £1,500 or less will be assessed by the community investment team with applications over £1,500 being assessed by the residents' grants panel following appraisal by the team.
- Please note, this fund is aimed at supporting projects and initiatives and is not targeted at large scale capital investment in assets.



Our themes

karbon
homes

karbon
homes

Cost of Living

- Targeted support for individuals and families experiencing hardship because of the cost-of-living increases
- Address food poverty and holiday hunger
- Support community organisations that are facing increased demands and challenges as a direct result of the cost-of-living increases
- Organisations that support residents maintaining tenancies
- Alleviate digital poverty
- Help Karbon customers to maintain their tenancy





Karbon
homes

Bringing people together to build strong relationships in communities

- Connect members of the community to tackle social isolation, physically or virtually
- Connect residents to available support and employment
- Provide opportunities to bring people together around food

Health & Wellbeing

- Address local health and social wellbeing inequalities
- Provide opportunities for people to take part in physical activity
- Focus on improving mental wellness
- Support initiatives for victims of domestic abuse





karbon
homes

Improving Places

- Encourage people from all backgrounds to shape their community and improve belonging
- Build capacity in the community through training and upskilling groups
- Provide diversionary activity where there is an identified issue with community safety, drug related issues or anti-social behaviour
- Improve the environment on our estates

Get in touch

- Apply online or get in touch at: [Community Funding](#) | [Karbon Homes](#)

Fix it Pay it Find it Report it

Amount of grant from Karbon

£

End Date of Project



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National Chair of Parish Councils

Councillor Anne Bonner



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Previous Forum update & feedback

🗨️ Farewell Message: 😭

“A Sad Goodbye to Suzanne”

After years of dedicated service, we say a heartfelt goodbye to Suzanne, our inspiring Karbon Homes, Foundations for Life Manager.

Suzanne has been a mentor, motivator, and champion for our team and community. Her passion for inclusion and tireless work have shaped Durham Employment Connections into the trusted service it is today.

Her legacy lives on in every partnership, every success story, and every life she’s helped transform.

Though we’re sad to see her go, we’re proud of all she’s achieved—and excited for what’s next.

Thank you, Suzanne.

You’ll always be part of the DEC family.—The Durham Employment Connections Team ❤️



dec

**Durham
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Business Durham

Craig Mayhew





Business Durham 

Business Durham Overview

25th July 2025

Craig Mayhew
Business Engagement Officer



Business Durham Strategy

Vision

Durham has a thriving and inclusive economy with more and better jobs and fewer people suffering from the hardships of poverty and deprivation*

**Durham County Council Plan 2022-26 & Vision for County Durham 2035*

Mission

To enable business growth and deliver more and better jobs and a strong competitive economy for County Durham

Values

- **O**utcome Focused
- **P**eople Focused
- **E**mpowering
- **iN**novative

Strategic Aims

To support the delivery of the County Durham Inclusive Economic Strategy through:

1. Communicating County Durham's powerful value proposition to attract and support business investment and growth.
2. Strong financial performance enabling sustainable investment in the property portfolio and business services to unlock economic growth.
3. Delivering integrated support to businesses at all stages, from early stage to subsequent growth and expansion, to support sustainability and accelerate growth.
4. Enhancing the existing enterprise and innovation ecosystem, leveraging the strengths of major employment and key opportunity sectors to create a thriving economy.

Three main functional areas

Business Property

Property North

Property Central

Property South

NETPark

Capital projects (development of new business space)

BD Finance – income generation

Business Growth

Business Engagement

Account Management

Productivity & Growth Programme (UKSPF)

Inward Investment

Sector Development

Finance Durham Fund

Space North East England

Enterprise

Enterprising Durham - Durham Startups (UKSPF)

Durham City Incubator

Future Business Magnates

Project Support & Monitoring

Marketing & Communications

Business Events & Networks

DURHAM BUSINESS
growth



Business Durham 

RTC
inspiring growth

umi

Durham
County Council

Funded by
UK Government

NE North East
Combined
Authority

Eligibility

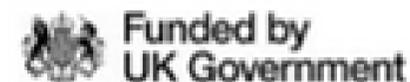
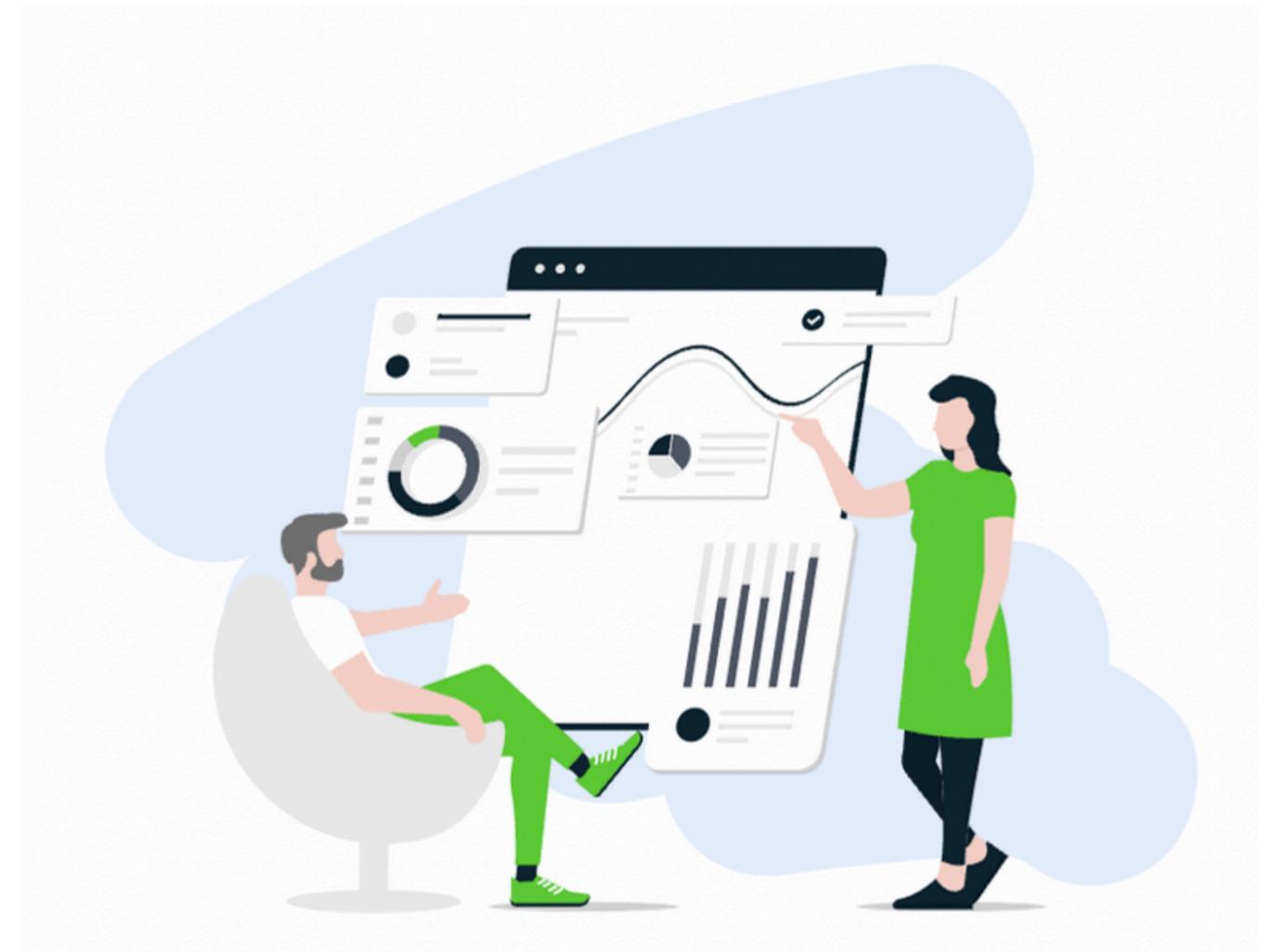
We welcome businesses of all sizes and across a diverse array of sectors who are trading in or planning to move to County Durham.





Helping you generate **higher profits & faster growth** through better productivity.

Durham Business Growth will help you to achieve your productivity and growth aspirations through our dedicated team of experts who are here to help you unlock the full potential of your business.





Productivity & Growth Support

Specialists will help develop actionable plans to improve productivity, reduce carbon emissions and generate growth.



Energy Efficiency Support

The programme will fund external technical experts to deliver energy audits



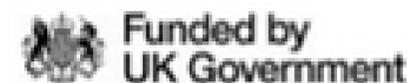
Revenue Grants

Available between £1k and £10k for costs associated with engaging external experts, software and small items of equipment.



Capital & Equipment Grants

Available between £10k and £200k for costs associated with plant, machinery, equipment, premises and fit-out works.





North

Lisa Wall – Key Account Manager

Stuart Armstrong – Business Engagement Officer



South and West

Chris Perry – Key Account Manager

Craig Mayhew – Business Engagement Officer



East and Central Durham

Guy Bashford – Key Account Manager

Michelle Mann – Business Engagement Officer



County Wide Areas of Focus

Andrea McGuigan – Team Manager Business Engagement
(Strategic Accounts)

Jo Martin – Business Engagement Officer (Rural)

Gemma Stephenson – Business Engagement Officer
(Tourism)

Case Studies

NetKno

Accessed the programme for:

- Website development
- Diversifying revenue streams
- Revenue Grant



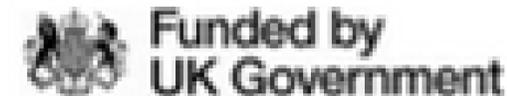
Jeni Smith





To find out more **VISIT**

www.durhambusinessgrowth.co.uk





Working together to
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across County Durham

Durham Community Action

Isla Ballard



DURHAM COMMUNITY ACTION

Funding Advice and Support



**DURHAM
COMMUNITY
ACTION**



VOLUNTEER CENTRE
County Durham Volunteer Centre



Durham Community
Action is a member of
the ACRE Network



Durham Community Action



Durham Community Action works with and for communities across County Durham. We believe County Durham is a better place for having thriving community organisations. Our work is divided into four main themes:

- Providing Expertise and Advice
- Supporting Community Initiatives
- Enabling Good Volunteering
- Providing a Voice





Information and Advice

We offer governance support to organisations including

- Setting up a new group including advice on legal structures
- Registering as a charity
- Trustee roles and responsibilities
- Policies and procedures
- Board effectiveness and strategic planning



Supporting Volunteers



Durham Community Action follows the 5 core functions linked to Volunteer Centre Quality Accreditation:

1. Strategic Development of Volunteering – engaging with local networks and decision makers to encourage volunteering to flourish.
2. Good Practice Development – improving consistency in volunteering programmes.
3. Developing Volunteering Opportunities –increasing and improving the quantity, quality and diversity of volunteering locally.
4. Voice for Volunteering – increasing the awareness of issues impacting on volunteering.
5. Brokerage – providing the general public and all sectors with access to an effective and efficient brokerage service.

CountyDurhamVolunteering.org.uk



Funding Support and Advice



- Completing a funding search to identify potential funders for your project
- Offering advice on community consultation, helping you collect the evidence that demonstrates your project is meeting the communities needs
- Reviewing funding applications as a critical friend
- Supporting you as you develop a fundraising strategy
- Offering advice and guidance as you complete monitoring of successful funding applications



Virtual Funding Information Sessions - Meet the Funder



We have invited a range of funders and grant-giving organisations to run a series of virtual funding information sessions for representatives of voluntary and community groups across County Durham.

Information will be given on the various funds they have available, how to apply and there will be an opportunity for you to ask questions directly to the funder.



Training and Development



We provide training courses to support you to develop your funding strategy and bid writing:

- Completing a Funding Application: Bring your Project to Life
- Community Engagement
- Boost your Income through Trading
- Becoming Capital Funding Ready



Other areas of information



Durham 4 Community



Contact Details



Isla Ballard: Isla.Ballard@durhamcommunityaction.org.uk



**DURHAM
COMMUNITY
ACTION**



VOLUNTEER CENTRE
County Durham Volunteer Centre



*Durham Community
Action is a member of
the ACRE Network*





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TRN

Richard Whiteley





**Durham
Employment
Connections**



LOOKING ahead: WHAT'S

Next



Working together to
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Your Future Starts here

DEC Jobs Fair

Sponsored by Waythrough
Thursday 4th September 2025





Durham Employment Connections (DEC) Collaborating for a Stronger Workforce and Thriving Local Economy

What is DEC?

Durham Employment Connections (DEC) is a collaborative partnership formed to connect, strengthen, and empower the local employment and skills sector in County Durham. By bringing together key stakeholders, we're working towards addressing labour and skills shortages, supporting local businesses, and helping residents access employment opportunities.

Our mission

We aim to improve access to employability support, enhance job opportunities, and develop the skills of local residents, ultimately building a more inclusive, dynamic, and resilient workforce. By strategically connecting employability services with the local labour market, DEC ensures that businesses and job seekers are equipped to succeed in an evolving economy.

Follow Durham Employment Connections (DEC) on LinkedIn.



DEC's Core Partners Include:



Your future starts here!



DEC Job Fair 2025 sponsored by Waythrough

Thursday 4 September, 2025, 9.30am – 2pm

We start with a quiet hour to support neurodiverse individuals from 9.30 - 10.30am.

Location: Geoff Cook Suite, Tower 3, Seat Unique Riverside Cricket ground, Chester-Le-Street, DH3 3QR.

Whether you're looking for your first job, or you want to change your career path, our Job Fair will give you a great opportunity to meet local employers with fantastic career opportunities.

Some of the industries represented include tech, healthcare, financial services, retail, law, hospitality and catering, rail careers, training providers, security, education, recruitment agencies, construction, charity and voluntary, sales and the Department for Work and Pensions.



Top tips

Make sure you check out the job vacancy boards and chat to the exhibitors to make the most of the event.

If you have a CV, bring multiple copies to present to employers. It's not essential though as we have employment advisors that can help you.

FREE ENTRY

Scan the QR code to book your free tickets





**Durham
Employment
Connections**



Future Forums

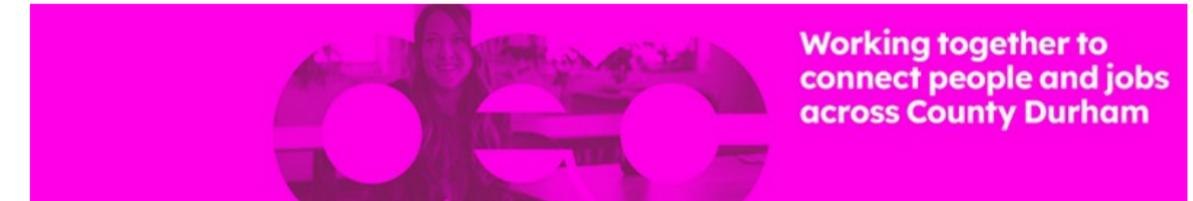
Empowerment for All

The Inclusive Employment Forum

Date: 19th September 2025

We have a full agenda 😊

- Altrad
- DCC Supported Employment
- Waythrough Criminal Justice Team
- Durham Enable UKSPF
- Police
- Bridge Creative



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Empowerment for All – Building Success Through Inclusion

Date: 19th September 2025

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/945473545827?aff=oddtcreator>

Strategic Employment

Date: 21st November 2025

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/strategic-employment-forum-november-2025-tickets-1365194656969?aff=oddtcreator>



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Any ideas, comments or suggestions please get in touch.
Also, please leave feedback from todays or any of our forums via
the QR code below.



Thank you

Scan to view LinkedIn page:



Funded by:
Durham County Council's
Area Action Partnership



Follow Durham Employment
Connections (DEC) on LinkedIn.

A partnership between:

