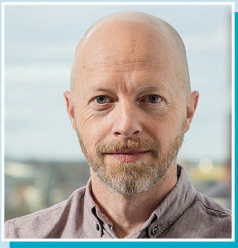
Leeds Business Growth Service – September 2026



Meet Your Leeds Business Growth Team


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Leeds Business Growth Service is here to help established businesses, whether you're expanding, innovating, looking to develop your staff or responding to new challenges. This newsletter highlights practical support, funding opportunities, events, and advice designed specifically for Leeds-based businesses.

LOOKING AHEAD: dates for your diary

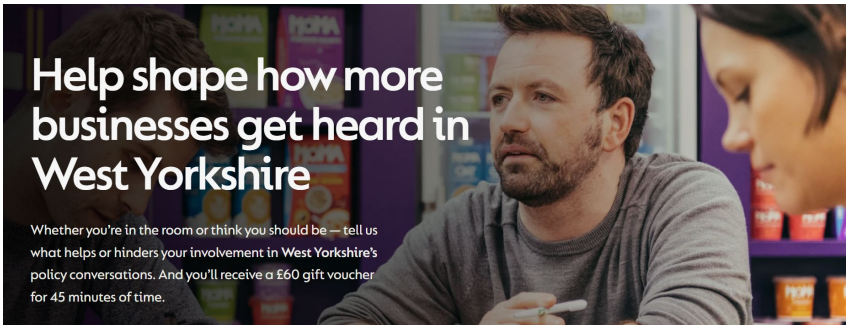
Living Lab: Digital Adoption Driving Business Growth Wednesday 23/9/26 (8.30am-10.30am) Taking place during Leeds Digital Festival, our next Living Lab explores how businesses are using digital technologies to transform operations, develop new products and services, enhance customer experience and unlock commercial opportunities. Speakers include **Jonny Ross**, founder of Fleek Marketing, **Nathan Cookson** from branded workwear and merchandising manufacturer Involution, **Temitope Falana**, KTP associate with The Freight Agency, **Anne Marie Gallagher**, business development manager from Leeds Beckett University and **Nick Edwards,** business relationship manager for the Made Smarter programme. Register now to secure your place: Living Lab - Digital Adoption For Business Growth Tickets, Wednesday, September 23 • 8:30 AM - 11 AM | Eventbrite

For those of you who've been to the Living Lab previously, you will know that the sessions focus on real-world implementation rather than theory, with business owners and decision makers sharing their own experience and insights to provide guests with actionable ideas and inspiration. Sessions are delivered in collaboration between Leeds Business Growth Service and The Knowledge Exchange (TKE) at Leeds Beckett University. If you'd like to be placed on the mailing list, email: businesssupport@leeds.gov.uk

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Business Growth Gathering - The AD:VENTURE Continues.... Tickets, Tuesday, October 6 • 9:30 AM - 1 PM | Eventbrite New funding has been secured for the AD:Venture programme to help entrepreneurs, founders, start-ups and growing businesses realise their ambitions. To celebrate. businesses, partners, stakeholders and support organisations from across the region will come together for a special launch event at Leeds Civic Hall. This is your opportunity to discover what support is available, make valuable connections and be part of the future of business growth in West Yorkshire.



SME business owners and decision-makers are being asked to share their experience, challenges and opportutnies as part of research being carried out by Be the Business, in partnership with The Productivity Institute and West Yorkshire Combined Authority. The insights gathered will help inform future business support and contribute to improving productivity and growth across the region. If you're a business leader based in West Yorkshire, register your interest in taking part. The online interview takes 45 minutes and you'll get a £60 voucher as a thank you for your time. For more information: West Yorkshire Small Business Leaders | Be the Business

Leeds Business – In the News



Leeds named as a top spot for manufacturing growth

Leeds has been named one of England's top cities to start or grow a manufacturing business, according to a new study. The five biggest manufacturing towns and cities in each region were scored on factors such as the availability of warehouse space, workforce size and broadband speed, which could support advanced manufacturing. Leeds took second position, scoring 63.9 out of 100 – largely driven by its established manufacturing community and workforce size. The figures were compiled by Unleashed as part of its Regional Manufacturing Growth Powerhouse Report, looking at the best places for small- to mid-sized manufacturers.

Healthy Working Lives

Leeds City Council offers two complementary programmes to help employers recruit, retain and support people with long-term health conditions, disabilities or other barriers to work. **Connect to Work** provides free, personalised recruitment and in-work support, including candidate matching, onboarding assistance, advice on workplace adjustment and job coaching for up to 12 months. **The Employer Incentive** programme, meanwhile, provides financial support worth up to **£10,000 towards the cost of recruiting** new employees and **£5,000 for retaining** an existing employees who have a health condition or disability. The programme can also help access specialist services such as occupational health, mental health support, HR advice, training and workplace adjustments. Together, the programmes help employers reduce recruitment and retention costs while supporting fair, inclusive employment. For further information, email: **esemployers@leeds.gov.uk** or visit: **www.inclusivegrowthleeds.com**

Funding Opportunities

Help navigating grants, loans and investment

Made Smarter Yorkshire & Humber: offers a combination of expert consultancy, training and grant funding to help manufacturers adopt digital technologies including robotics and process automation, sensor technology, IT systems integration, additive manufacturing and artificial intelligence.

Active Travel Grants: West Yorkshire Combined Authority is offering match-funded grants of up to £20,000 to businesses looking to promote workplace walking, wheeling and cycling. Grants can be used to improve facilities at work, including showers, changing rooms, lockers, CCTV, purchase a pool of bikes for your employees to use and to run bike maintenance sessions. Contact your Growth Manager to find out more.

Funding Leeds is a website that collates grants and other funding opportunities for organisations that are non-profit (charities, CIC, CIO). Registration is free and enables you to search for funding opportunities, including funds such as npower Business Solutions: **Our funding in action at the nBS Foundation** which supports grassroots initiatives and community-led programmes that are driving positive change across Yorkshire and the Midlands.

Help to Grow - Leadership and Management

Help to Grow is part of the national *Help to Grow: Management* programme, delivered locally by Leeds universities and business schools to support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Aimed at business owners and decision-makers, the 12-week programme costs just £750 and is designed to help you develop a plan for growth drawing on experts at the city's business schools and the experience of other SME business owners. Delivered by **local universities and business schools**, including:

- Help to grow: management | Business | Leeds Beckett University
- Help to Grow: Management Course | Leeds University Business School | University of Leeds
- Help to Grow Management - Courses - Leeds Trinity University

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Proudly supporting Leeds businesses