

# THE Bulletin

Issue 56 Autumn Edition 2025

## Who made the 2025 Barnsley & Rotherham Business Awards Shortlist?



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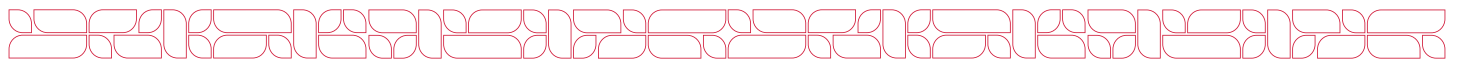
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# A season of progress and opportunity



**As we head into the autumn season, I am delighted to welcome you to the latest edition of the Chamber Bulletin. The past few months have been a fantastic period of activity and growth for our Chamber, and I'm proud to share some of the highlights with you.**

**W**elcome to the Autumn edition of The Bulletin, packed with updates on the Chamber's recent activities and successes. It's been a busy few months for our team, our members, and the local business community, and we're delighted to share some of the highlights with you.

Our flagship Chamber Means Business Expo was our biggest and best yet, bringing together more than 500 in attendance from across South Yorkshire.

The energy in the room was incredible, with businesses of all sizes showcasing their services, making valuable connections, and strengthening relationships that will no doubt support future collaboration and growth. A sincere thank you goes to everyone who exhibited, attended, and supported the event.

Looking ahead, our Business Awards continue to shine a spotlight on the very best of our region. The shortlist has now been announced, and I extend my warmest congratulations to all those who have been recognised.

We can't wait to celebrate with you all on 14th November at what promises to be another outstanding evening of inspiration, celebration, and community spirit.

We are also thrilled to welcome two new Patrons to the Chamber community: Handelsbanken and Adam Bradley Business Growth Consultancy.

Their support further strengthens our network and underlines the value of collaboration across our business community.

In addition, I'm delighted to see the decision to move forward with re-opening Doncaster Sheffield Airport. This is a hugely positive step for South Yorkshire – boosting connectivity, attracting investment and creating new opportunities for our businesses and communities.

Alongside colleagues at Doncaster and Sheffield Chambers, we've been making the case for the airport's importance since its closure, and I'm proud to see our collective efforts helping to deliver this outcome.

Thank you, as always, for your continued commitment and involvement. Together, we are building a thriving, supportive environment for businesses to succeed, and I look forward to the months ahead with great optimism.

**Thank you to our Patrons and members for your continued support and for shaping our business community. We look forward to celebrating with you at the Barnsley & Rotherham Business Awards, here's to another year of growth across Barnsley and Rotherham.**



Shane Young  
Operations Director, Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber

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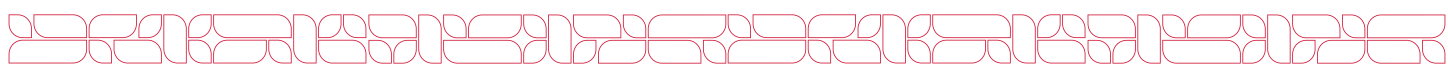
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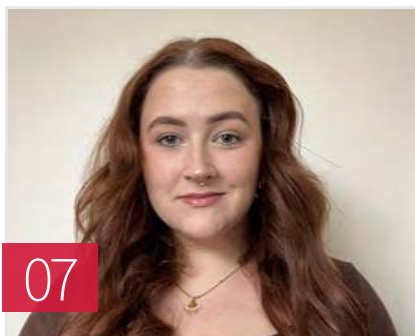
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Carrie Sudbury, Chief Executive of Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber, has been named the winner of the President's Award at the British Chamber of Commerce (BCC) Business Awards 2025.

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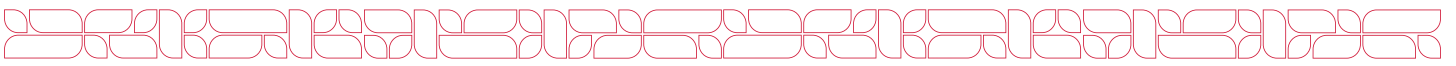
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# Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber Appoints New Membership Executive

**Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber is delighted to announce that Megan Lomax has stepped into a new role as Membership Executive, following her successful tenure as Business & Skills Executive.**

In her previous role, Megan worked closely with local businesses to address training needs and provide account management support, helping members to get the most out of their membership through Chamber Skills Solutions and services.

Her experience in sales, marketing, and business development has been instrumental in supporting the growth of South Yorkshire businesses.

As Membership Executive, Megan will focus on expanding the Chamber's reach and creating value for members. She will work to strengthen the local business network, build relationships that help members maximise their benefits, and raise the Chamber's profile through networking and outreach.

Her efforts will ensure businesses across Barnsley and Rotherham have access to opportunities for growth, collaboration, and support.

On moving into her new role, Megan said:

"I'm delighted to step into my new role as Membership Executive at Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber of Commerce. My focus will be on networking and business development, sharing all the positive work the Chamber and our members are doing.

The Chamber really is like a family, and I want to help widen that community by welcoming more local businesses, strengthening supply chains, and



creating even more opportunities to connect and grow.

I'm really looking forward to meeting local business owners, building relationships across Barnsley and Rotherham, and supporting the Chamber's continued growth and influence.

By helping to attract new members and increase engagement within the organisation, I'll hope to help raise the Chamber's profile with key organisations, ultimately creating more opportunities for the Barnsley &

Rotherham business community and existing members.

If you know a business that might benefit from joining, please do refer them my way – there's even a £25 Meadowhall voucher as a thank you!"

You can reach out to Megan for any membership related queries via email at [megan.lomax@brchamber.co.uk](mailto:megan.lomax@brchamber.co.uk) or by phone at 07376801688.

For more information on Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber's membership services, visit [www.brchamber.co.uk](http://www.brchamber.co.uk).





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# Enzygo lays foundations for Cambridgeshire growth

**A Sheffield-based environmental and planning consultancy which launched its operations with just three employees is set to welcome it's 100th employee, as part of its future growth and expansion plans.**

**E**nzygo provides a comprehensive range of services designed to help businesses navigate their way through the planning system by providing specialist planning, development and environmental support. As part of its future growth plans, the company has announced plans to launch a dedicated hub, designed to support businesses in Cambridge and the South East.

The new regional hub will create ten new jobs and will be headed by experienced geotechnical engineer Jamie Austin. With over 20 years' industry experience, Jamie joined Enzygo as the company's head of geotechnical engineering in 2024. Throughout his career, Jamie has worked extensively in delivering a wide range of projects throughout the home counties and the South East, where he has specialised in undertaking ground investigations, land assessments and working with contaminated land.

In recent years, Enzygo has delivered a wide range of public and private sector projects including major infrastructure, housing and renewable energy developments.



The move follows a significant period of investment in the company's operations in Cambridge. In 2023, the company acquired longstanding Cambridgeshire-based environmental specialists Brown 2 Green Associates, as well as strengthening and diversifying its core services to help businesses unlock the potential offered by future development sites.

Jamie Austin, Head of Enzygo's Cambridge Regional Hub, said: "Over the past two years, we have enjoyed a significant period of growth, and we hope that our new site will not just help to create new, skilled jobs within Cambridge and the South East, but also contribute to delivering a wide range of infrastructure projects by helping developers address local housing shortages, as well as boosting Britain's green energy economy."

Matt Travis, Managing Director, Enzygo, said: "When we launched the business in 2008, we wanted to challenge the industry norm when it came to accessing environmental support services, by helping developers access a wide range of support services from a single point of contact. Never in my wildest dreams could I have imagined that today the business is on the cusp of welcoming our 100th member of staff.

We actively looking to strengthen our existing team across the UK and as well as creating ten new jobs in Cambridge, we are hoping to build on the success we have enjoyed in recent years, by strengthening our team of environmental specialists across the UK. Over the past two years we have seen the



business grow by more than 20%, and our new Cambridge site forms a key part of our long-term future growth plans."

Launched in 2008, Enzygo operates as a full-service consultancy, bringing together a comprehensive range of specialist environmental disciplines. The company has enjoyed a significant period of growth and expansion, and having launched with just three members of staff, today, the company has firmly established itself as one of the UK's leading environmental and planning specialists, operating from seven regional hubs across the UK.

**For more information about Enzygo's environmental consultancy services, visit [www.enzygo.com](http://www.enzygo.com) or email [info@enzygo.com](mailto:info@enzygo.com) to find out more.**



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# Adam Bradley Business Growth Consultancy Becomes 21st Patron of Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber

**Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber of Commerce is proud to welcome Adam Bradley Business Growth Consultancy Ltd to its exclusive group of Patrons.**

**A**s the Chamber's 21st Patron, Adam Bradley's consultancy joins a select network of influential local businesses committed to supporting the region's economic growth and business community.

Founded by award-winning business growth expert Adam Bradley, the consultancy is renowned for delivering bespoke strategies and hands-on support to help businesses of all sizes achieve measurable growth. With over 20 years of experience, Adam has helped companies scale to multi-million-pound turnovers, expand into over 38 countries, and even achieve prestigious accolades such as the Queen's Award for Enterprise.

Adam Bradley Business Growth Consultancy offers a unique, personal approach to business development, acting as a Strategic Leader, Sales Director, and Coach all in one. The consultancy provides tailored services including 1:1 growth planning, strategy days, workshops, and a collaborative Business Growth Hub, all designed to increase sales, revenue, and profitability.

Shane Young, Operations Director at Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber, commented:

"We are absolutely delighted to welcome Adam Bradley Business Growth Consultancy Ltd as our 21st Patron. Adam's passion for helping businesses



grow, combined with his proven track record and commitment to the local economy, makes him a perfect fit for our Patronage. This partnership strengthens our mission to support and champion the success of businesses across Barnsley and Rotherham."

As a Patron, Adam Bradley Business Growth Consultancy will play a key role in shaping the Chamber's strategic direction, contributing to thought leadership, and supporting initiatives

that drive innovation and prosperity in the region.

Businesses interested in joining a network designed to build commercial connections and drive local growth are encouraged to explore the benefits of joining as a Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber of Commerce member.

**For more information about Adam Bradley Business Growth Consultancy Ltd, visit: [www.adam-bradley.co.uk](http://www.adam-bradley.co.uk)**





# Chamber Means Business celebrates record year

More than 500 business owners and delegates from across South Yorkshire came together to collaborate, cultivate new business connections and discover how to tap into public sector opportunities at the sell-out Chamber Means Business Expo.



**H**osted by Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber, and taking place at the AESSEAL New York Stadium, Chamber Means Business has firmly established itself as one of the most popular and successful business events of its kind.

The event attracted a record number of delegates, and with the exhibition selling out in less than 24 hours, many of the businesses taking part went above and beyond the call of duty to stand out from the competition.

The power of networking was the theme of the day, and delegates were given the chance to take part in a special masterclass, learning how to make the most of networking opportunities.

Hosted by Chamber Vice President Mark Smith, as well as featuring industry experts Hayley Koselogu, Phil Turner and Joada Allen, the seminar offered an insight into how to make the most of

business networking, as well as sharing some of the secrets of their success. Sponsored by KAT Communications, KCM Waste Management and EntrySign, the exhibition also gave delegates an exclusive preview of some of the opportunities available to local businesses offered by the re-opening of Doncaster Airport.

Following the recent funding announcement, the airport aims to reinvest back into the local economy by engaging with local suppliers ahead of the planned re-opening.

The exhibition also provided opportunities to find out more about how goods and services are procured from key public sector partners including local authorities, education providers and the NHS.

The event also saw two longstanding members of Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber receive special 'Salutes to

Business' awards in recognition of their time-honoured contribution to the regional economy.

Rotherham-based training provider Why? Change celebrates its 10th anniversary in 2025, whilst Sheffield-based marketing company Objective Creative will mark its 15th anniversary. Both companies were presented with special certificates during the event.





# EXPO CHAMBER MEANS BUSINESS

*Bringing business together*



Shane Young, Operations Director, Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber, said:

“Business success rarely happens in isolation. It’s the result of collaborating with others, forging partnerships and building relationships. Chamber Means Business is often the first step in that journey and offers an insight into the strength and diversity of South Yorkshire’s local economy.

From the minute the doors opened, the event was buzzing. Networking and collaboration was the theme of the day, and with a record number of delegates taking part, and with the exhibition selling out within less than 24 hours, Chamber Means Business offered something for everyone. It was clear that many of those exhibiting at the show had spent a great deal of time in planning and preparing for the event – adding to the unique atmosphere.



Finally, I would like to personally thank everyone who took part in the day, especially our sponsors, KAT Communications, KCM Recycling and EntrySign, as well as the chamber’s events team who worked tirelessly behind the scenes.”

For more information on upcoming Chamber events, including the Barnsley & Rotherham Business Awards taking place on Friday 14th November visit the Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber website.





# Handelsbanken joins the Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber as 22nd Patron

**The Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber is delighted to announce Handelsbanken as our 22nd Patron, further strengthening the Chamber's commitment to supporting local businesses and encouraging economic growth across the region.**

**H**andelsbanken, known for its relationship-driven banking model and strong local presence, joins a growing network of influential organisations that support the Chamber's mission to champion business success in Barnsley, Rotherham and the wider South Yorkshire area.

## Who are Handelsbanken?

A local relationship bank built on human values of trust and respect for the individual, empowerment and long-term thinking.

Offer bespoke, customer-led banking services and wealth management for private and corporate banking customers.

Experts in their branches form trusted long-term relationships, with customers in their local area, who want a bank that really understands them and their needs.

Their values of trust and respect for the individual mean they have a decentralised approach where colleagues are empowered to make decisions in their area of expertise.

For example, their branch colleagues across the country are empowered to decide which customers to work with, and how best to serve them.

Steve and the team at Handelsbanken

bring a wealth of experience and a deep understanding of the local business landscape. Their patronage will help enhance the Chamber's ability to deliver meaningful support, networking opportunities, and advocacy for its members.

Shane Young, Operations Director at Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber, commented:

"We're thrilled to welcome Handelsbanken as a patron of the Chamber. Their values align closely with ours, and we look forward to working closely with Steve and the team to support our members and the wider business community. This partnership marks another exciting step in our journey to build a stronger, more connected local economy."

Steve Stocker, Branch Manager at Handelsbanken Barnsley, added:

"We're proud to become a Patron of the Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber. At Handelsbanken, we believe in building strong, lasting relationships with our customers and communities. Partnering with the Chamber gives us a fantastic opportunity to support local businesses and contribute to the region's continued success."

The Chamber looks forward to a fruitful collaboration with Handelsbanken and is excited about the opportunities this new partnership will bring.

**For more information about Handelsbanken Barnsley & Rotherham, visit: [www.handelsbanken.co.uk](http://www.handelsbanken.co.uk).**



# The Pride of Yorkshire is coming to Barnsley and Rotherham!

**Businesses in Barnsley and Rotherham are being invited to play their part in Pride of Yorkshire – the most ambitious public art trail South Yorkshire has ever seen, with a £2.8 million fundraising target for Sheffield Children’s Hospital Charity.**

**R**unning throughout summer 2026, the trail will celebrate 150 years of Sheffield Children’s Hospital with 150 large lion sculptures painted by artists, and 150 lion cubs decorated by schools and community groups.

For the first time, the trail will extend beyond Sheffield into Rotherham, Doncaster and Barnsley, bringing creativity, footfall and community pride to all corners of the region.

The project builds on the success of the Herd of Sheffield (2016), which attracted 175,000 visitors, raised over £560,000, and encouraged thousands of visitors to spend longer in the city centre.

It also follows the Bears of Sheffield (2021), which raised more than £1 million to help build a new Cancer and Leukaemia ward at Sheffield Children’s.

Now, Pride of Yorkshire promises to be even bigger- celebrating the whole region, whilst raising vital funds to support specialist care, research and treatments at Sheffield Children’s, a lifeline for thousands of families across the UK.

On Thursday 6 November from 9am – 11am at True North Bar in Barnsley’s Glass Works.

Sheffield Children’s Hospital Charity will be peeling back the curtain of their latest sculpture trail, and revealing how Barnsley will be involved and see its streets turned into a safari!



At the event, meet the charity team over a coffee, get a sneak peek at some of the lion designs and come face-to-face with its dazzling ‘launch lion’ sculptures.

Interested businesses can also find out more about becoming a sponsor for the trail, and how their business can benefit from the campaign.

Businesses are also invited to sponsor a sculpture, with packages starting from £6,000 + VAT

Each sponsorship includes:

- Full branding on the sculpture plinth
- The chance to select from shortlisted artist designs
- Access to exclusive events
- The opportunity to align with one of the region’s most trusted charities

To find out more or register your interest, head to [prideofyorkshire.org/](https://prideofyorkshire.org/) businesses or contact [sculptures@sheffieldchildrens.org](mailto:sculptures@sheffieldchildrens.org).

**Sheffield Children’s Hospital Charity**



# Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber Unveils 2025 Business Awards Shortlist

**Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber has revealed the eagerly awaited shortlist for the 2025 Barnsley and Rotherham Business Awards.**



**S**ponsored by Barnsley College, the annual awards are a flagship event in the region's business calendar and will return to Magna on Friday, 14 November 2025, bringing together hundreds of business leaders to celebrate success and innovation.

Special guest, Colin MacLachlan, SAS veteran, best-selling author and former SAS: Who Dares Wins instructor, who has handled hostage negotiations, hostage rescue and been a hostage himself, will be hosting the awards ceremony.

The black tie event will be a night to remember, featuring 14 different awards that honour excellence in areas such as Sustainability, Commitment to People Development, Business Growth, and Community Impact, including the highly coveted title of Business of the Year.

Three exciting new categories have also been introduced for 2025, Small Business of the Year, Campaign of the Year and Social Value Business of the Year, further recognising the diversity and creativity of

the local business community.

A key highlight is the Large Business of the Year award, recognising some of the most influential businesses in our region. Five local charities have also been shortlisted for the highly sought-after Charity of the Year award, which includes a generous cash prize and continued support throughout 2025/26 as the Chamber's Charity of the Year.

Individual achievements will be celebrated with the Apprentice of the Year and Business Person of the Year awards, highlighting individuals who have made outstanding contributions to their organisations and the wider community.

In recognition of their longstanding contribution towards shaping South Yorkshire's economy, businesses celebrating a significant milestone in 2025 may be eligible to receive a special "Salute to Business" award, which will be presented during the evening.

Following a rigorous judging process

after a record number of award entries, the finalists have now been chosen. Carrie Sudbury, CEO of Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber of Commerce, highlighted the significance of the awards, saying:

"We've been blown away by the quality and creativity of this year's entries. Every business that applied has contributed to showcasing the remarkable talent in Barnsley and Rotherham. Everyone is a winner in our eyes and has achieved something incredible. We can't wait to come together in November for a night that celebrates your hard work and the success driving our region forward."

With the shortlist now revealed, excitement for the 2025 Barnsley and Rotherham Business Awards is rising. Tickets are expected to sell out quickly, as the Chamber's business community eagerly anticipates this unmissable event.

Only a limited number of tickets remain, visit the Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber website to book your spot.



**In alphabetical order, the shortlist is as follows:**

**Apprentice of the Year Award Shortlist**  
*(Sponsored by The RNN Group)*

Becky Smith – Barnsley Hospice  
Joe Cockerill – Mears Group  
Leon Reed – Balliante  
Max Brough – Airmaster  
Sam Collumbine – Equans

**Business Community Impact Shortlist**  
*(Sponsored by Rotherham Together Partnership)*

BetterYou Ltd  
Equans  
Henry Boot Construction  
Naylor Group  
Reloved Boutique

**Business Growth Award Shortlist**  
*(Sponsored by Sky High Tree & Ground Maintenance Services)*

Actus  
Elecomm  
Gala Technology  
TwentyFour IT Services  
Utility Source Limited

**Business Person of the Year Shortlist**  
*(Sponsored by Secure Power)*

Dr Perdita Mousley – Rotherham Opportunities College  
Lisa Hawksby – Total Training Provision  
Mark Smith – MAKE YOUR MARK UK  
Martine Tune – Barnsley Hospice  
Rob Shaw – Glu Recruit

**Campaign of the Year Award Shortlist**  
*(Sponsored by Chapter II)*

ACW Medical Services Ltd  
Flux Rotherham  
Gala Technology  
Rotherham Hospice  
Utility Source Limited

**Charity of the Year Award Shortlist**  
*(Sponsored by Rotherham Enterprise Agency Limited – REAL)*

Barnsley Hospice  
Crossroads Care Rotherham  
Kiveton Park & Wales Community Development Trust  
Rotherham Abuse Counselling Service  
Rotherham Samaritans

**Commitment to People Development Award Shortlist**  
*(Sponsored by Barnsley College)*

Actus  
Crossroads Truck and Bus Ltd  
Glu Recruit  
Rotherham Hospice  
Vaughandale Construction Ltd

**Excellence in Customer Service Shortlist**  
*(Sponsored by MKB Solicitors LLP)*

Equans  
IT Desk (UK) Limited  
Natural Cement  
Wayv. Talk and Broadband for Business  
Wentworth Woodhouse

**Large Business of the Year Shortlist**  
*(Sponsored by SOTpay)*

Equans  
Hargreaves Industrial Services  
KCM Waste Management Ltd  
Naylor Group  
Newell and Wright Transport

**Most Promising New Business Shortlist**  
*(Sponsored by IT Desk (UK) Limited)*

Adam Bradley Business Growth Consultancy Ltd  
Empress Ballroom  
Jiggle  
Nexus 360 Ltd  
Pest Risk Management Group Ltd

**Small Business of the Year Shortlist**  
*(Sponsored by ACW Medical Services)*

Balliante  
Empress Ballroom  
Gravitate Digital Accounting  
GrowTraffic Ltd  
Steel City Marketing

**Sustainability Award Shortlist**  
*(Sponsored by Enzygo)*

Barnsley Hospice Retail Hub  
Hydrov Ltd  
Magna Trust  
Naylor Group  
Riverlution

**Social Value Business Award Shortlist**  
*(Supported by Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council)*

Equans  
Esh Group  
Field Management Ireland (Rotherham Baby Pack)  
KCM Waste Management  
The Dwelling Doctors



**BARNSELY AND ROTHERHAM  
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# Doncaster-Sheffield

## Airport cleared for take-off with £160m of funding

**South Yorkshire's Mayor Oliver Coppard and Council Leaders have taken a historic decision to reopen Doncaster Sheffield Airport, approving a £160m (£159.52m) funding package that will see commercial flights return to the region.**

**T**he decision was made at a meeting of the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority Board, held on Tuesday 9th September at Doncaster Sheffield Airport. All five board members voted unanimously in favour of the funding, paving the way for the airport's reopening.

The approved funding is on top of the £16m already committed previously by the Board. The decision was taken by the Board made up of South Yorkshire's Mayor who chairs it, the Leader of Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council Sir Steve Houghton, Mayor of City of Doncaster Council Ros Jones, Leader of Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council Chris Read and Leader of Sheffield City Council Tom Hunt.

Doncaster Sheffield Airport closed in November 2022, leaving South Yorkshire one of the largest UK city regions without an international aviation presence.

Since it closed, the Mayors of South Yorkshire and Doncaster, along with local authority partners and central government have worked at pace to explore the opportunity to return aviation to the region through a reopened airport with a viable future.

South Yorkshire's Mayor Oliver Coppard, said:

"We're reopening DSA. Today, we've made a historic decision; to invest in the plans to reopen Doncaster Sheffield

Airport, and to create a sustainable aviation and advanced manufacturing hub at Gateway East.

"I've always said I wanted to reopen DSA, but we needed to know exactly what the plan looked like. That's why we've taken the time and done the work. No plan of this size or scale is ever easy, or without risks, but today we've taken a bold step forward, backed by data, expertise, and a shared vision for the type of South Yorkshire we want to build, because DSA is a unique opportunity.

"The plan we have backed today is about more than holiday flights or passenger numbers, it's a long-term commitment to drive jobs, growth and opportunities in sustainable aviation, advanced manufacturing, freight, and even the defence sector, here in South Yorkshire."

Commenting on the decision reached, Carrie Sudbury, Chief Executive, Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber said: "The decision to re-open Doncaster airport

today is a milestone moment for South Yorkshire and we welcome the decision reached today.

Today marks the end of an extensive consultation period, which clearly laid out the strong business case for re-opening. I hope that with funding now secured and consultations completed, this marks the beginning of an exciting new phase which will ultimately see flights return to the skies in South Yorkshire.

My hope is that the re-opening of Doncaster airport will act as a catalyst towards boosting growth across the region, helping to connect the truly unique and innovative work being delivered throughout South Yorkshire, as well as helping our business community to explore new opportunities within international markets. At the same time, the decision is likely to create many new jobs within the regional economy as well as helping to drive inward investment into South Yorkshire."



# “A temple of Innovation”

## in Rotherham - former PM Rishi Sunak

**Former Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has described a new state-of-the-art Rotherham development as “a temple of innovation”.**

Opening AESSEAL’s Factory for the Future, Mr Sunak said the country could learn from the success of the company. He told more than 200 guests at the Mill Close headquarters ceremony that it was not just about founder and managing director Chris Rea building a “world leading company”, but how he had gone about it.

The Conservative MP for Richmond and Northallerton said:

“He is a deeply principled man who is committed to making the world a better place than he found it. All of you have been part of this extraordinary story of what makes this company special.”

AESSEAL was formed with five employees in 1979, and now serves more than 100 countries with almost 2,000 staff.

Mr Sunak said its growth was a success story the country could learn from, and added: “One of our biggest challenges is the sense that we’ve lost that innate confidence that tomorrow will be better than today.

“What makes Chris stand out is his belief in the future. He knows that our best days are ahead of us, that we should walk confidently into the years ahead, that our country is home to great innovators and entrepreneurs like himself, and that there is little that we can’t do when we have confidence in ourselves and in our vision. AESSEAL is successful because the company defines reliability. You can trust AESSEAL – signed, sealed and delivered. This is a temple of innovation.”



Mr Rea said the building was called the Factory for the Future, not the Factory of the Future, because it represented something that was “always evolving and not static”.

He added:

“We have facilities we could close down and fill tomorrow but that is not our style. We make tasks redundant but we never make people redundant. If you have space and you have great people and great customers, you will fill it.”

Introducing Mr Sunak, chairman of manufacturers’ organisation Make UK, Lord Richard Harrington, said: “I live in London and speak to a lot of people in banking and real estate who say ‘things are really bad, what are we going to do?’

“I come here and I see this factory, the orders, the people working here and the latest technology, and know this is where the strength of the country is.”

Representatives from the worlds of manufacturing, engineering, politics and national media – as well as AESSEAL staff from across the globe, including the US, Spain, Colombia, Canada, Germany, Brazil and the Middle East – were given guided tours of the factory, showcasing innovations and sustainability, and Tree Walk tours on which green initiatives were highlighted.

Designed in collaboration with Race Cottam Associates, the building doubles the size of the previous plant to create a 175,000 sq ft state-of-the-art global showcase for sustainable manufacturing.

It includes £5.8 million of green only investment on solar panels, battery storage and other energy-saving or environmental measures.

Construction began in 2022, with the project voted Sustainable Development of the Year at the South Yorkshire Property Awards 2024.



# Powerstar appoints David Seabridge as Chief Executive Officer

**Powerstar, a leading provider of smart power solutions for the energy transition, has announced the appointment of David Seabridge as Chief Executive Officer.**

**T**he move comes at a pivotal time for the manufacturer, as it focuses on driving growth and accelerating innovation across its portfolio of energy-saving technologies.

Formerly Chief Financial Officer of Powerstar, David first joined the company in 2022 and has played an instrumental role in shaping strategy and improving operational performance across the business.

Joining him on the executive board, Solon Mardapittas returns to Powerstar as Chief Technical Officer to lead product development across Powerstar's technologies, which cover Voltage Optimisation (VO), Low Loss Transformers, and Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS).

"Having served as Chief Financial Officer and more recently as Interim CEO, it's been a privilege to work alongside such a talented and dedicated team during this period of transformation," said David Seabridge. "I'm looking forward to continuing this journey with our colleagues, partners, and customers across both Powerstar and the wider D2Zero group as we shape the future of energy resilience and smart power solutions."

Solon Mardapittas, CTO added:

"Our focus remains on delivering cutting-edge solutions that meet the evolving needs of our customers in a fast-moving energy landscape, where efficiency

and decarbonisation are critical. And we're already working on some exciting technical developments that will bring Powerstar into a new era."

The appointments come as demand for Powerstar's technology grows, across the breadth of UK manufacturing, the public sector, and the hotel and hospitality industries. Particular demand comes from the food and drink sector, driven by the ongoing energy crisis and a need for energy reliance and resilience, efficiency, and carbon reduction.

A recent £1 million contract with one of the UK's premium food and clothing retailers will see 36 LV MAX Voltage Optimisation systems installed across the country. These advanced systems are designed to reduce energy consumption,

lower carbon emissions, and improve efficiency, supporting the retailer's net zero goals.

This rollout will take the total number of Powerstar VO systems in the retail sector to 930, reinforcing the company's position as a leading energy technology partner for UK businesses.

With David Seabridge and Solon Mardapittas both steering the business forward, Powerstar is set to charge ahead in the UK's energy transition, using its electrification solutions to power a brighter, more sustainable future.

**For information about Powerstar, visit [www.powerstar.com](http://www.powerstar.com), email [info@powerstar.com](mailto:info@powerstar.com) or call 0114 257 6200.**



# South Yorkshire gains dedicated Green Shield Group renewable energy consultancy

**A new renewable energy consultancy has launched in South Yorkshire, providing reliable advice and hands-on solutions to help local organisations reduce their energy bills and lower their carbon footprint.**

**A**dam Elder, with 15 years of experience in IT financing sales, has joined Green Shield Group as a franchise partner. He now offers local businesses personalised renewable energy advice supported by a national delivery network.

Adam is known for his consultative style and strong customer service, aiming to help South Yorkshire organisations adopt sustainable practices that make good business sense.

“I’ve spent the last 15 years in IT sales, helping businesses invest in technology that drives efficiency and growth. Delivering best-in-class customer service has always been my priority. As the world shifts toward sustainability, I saw a clear opportunity to apply my experience to a sector that genuinely makes a difference – renewable energy,” explained Adam.

When considering business options, Adam was drawn to Green Shield Group’s professionalism, strong reputation, and people-first ethos.

“I was looking for a business model that offered long-term growth, strong market demand, and a support structure that could help me transition into a new industry with confidence. Green Shield Group stood out immediately. Their ethos of integrity, transparency, and customer-first thinking aligns perfectly with how I’ve always operated,” he added.

Adam believes that South Yorkshire has many forward-thinking businesses,

but many are still figuring out how to approach sustainability in a practical and affordable manner. By bringing Green Shield Group to the area, he aims to help close that gap by offering honest advice and solutions that make renewable energy accessible and impactful for businesses.

“The biggest opportunity is the potential for businesses to reduce energy costs while improving their environmental impact, a real win-win. The challenge is often knowing where to start. There’s so much noise in the market, and many businesses are unsure which solutions are right for them. That’s where a trusted, local approach becomes invaluable,” said Adam.

Now available locally through Adam, Green Shield Group’s consultancy offers full support for organisations ready to take real steps into renewable energy. Whether it’s solar, battery storage, voltage optimisation, or energy audits, the team focuses on understanding each client’s bespoke requirements and giving advice that works both technically and financially.

“With my background in sales and customer service, I’ll work closely with businesses to ensure they receive advice that’s not just technically sound but strategically smart. No off-the-shelf answers, just honest guidance designed to deliver real value,” Adam explained. “I want to be a trusted partner for businesses looking to make smarter energy decisions. Beyond the commercial benefits, I hope to

contribute to a more sustainable, resilient local economy. If I can empower even a handful of organisations to lower their emissions and contribute to their success, then that’s a legacy worth building.”

Adam urges South Yorkshire business leaders not to delay:

“Don’t wait. The longer you delay, the more opportunities you miss – not just in savings, but in future-proofing your business. Renewable energy shouldn’t be a question of if but more of a question of how soon, and with the right advice, it’s easier and more beneficial than you might think. Green Shield Group is already trusted by businesses across the UK, and now we’re here in South Yorkshire to do the same.”

Green Shield Group is a leading UK provider of renewable energy consultancy and technology solutions, helping businesses transition to sustainable energy models.

Through its franchise network, Green Shield Group delivers tailored support in areas such as solar PV, energy efficiency, and carbon reduction planning.

**For more information, visit: [www.greenshieldgroup.co.uk](http://www.greenshieldgroup.co.uk)**





## The UK's most trusted provider of business telecoms, broadband and IT



Sheffield-based provider of business phone systems, broadband and IT support, Wayv, are consistently rated top in their industry on Trustpilot. What is it that makes them stand out to customers? Liam Parnell, Managing Director, offers advice to businesses on how to stand out in a competitive market.

### What one piece of advice would you give to people launching a business in today's economy?

Establishing differentiation has to be central to your strategy. What's your story, what makes you and your business truly different? You need to find your unique point of difference that the customer can relate to, and have tangible measures in place to prove this differentiation.

### How should businesses start trying to define this differentiation?

Get to know your target market! Who do you want to attract? What's important to them? Discover their challenges, their needs, and where they see value. And be ready to adapt to reflect those needs, values and challenges, if and when they change.

### What do you consider as central to maintaining company ethos as a business grows?

People! From starting with a small team, where individuals may wear several hats, to a growing team with more defined departments, your business relies on people who believe in what you're trying to achieve. Identifying people who understand your business mission - and recognise their part to play - is invaluable.

It goes back to differentiation again - if you can articulate what you want to achieve, something that's different and exciting, and find people who believe in those goals - then you have the foundations for building a great business.

### What's the biggest challenge you've had to overcome since launching Wayv?

First and foremost has been getting the right people in, as I've already mentioned. As with all industries, the evolution of technology means that we're constantly having to adapt, and so we come up against challenges on a daily basis. Having a team who will go the extra mile, every time, for every customer, makes these challenges much easier to face - and overcome.

As a team, we work incredibly hard to realise the goals we set ourselves, so ranking top in the industry on Trustpilot is testament to this hard work!

After finding the right team, the challenge is making enough noise to be a contender for customers. Telecoms is a highly competitive industry, with many, very well established, big fish. But our strength comes from what sets us apart - and when we deliver time and again on our promises (where others fall short) we reap the rewards. Every time we get a new review or other positive feedback, it reaffirms that we're on the right track.

### Any final words of advice?

Don't fall into the trap of thinking that just because the competition are doing something, it's what your customers want. Having real conversations with real people in your target market will give you unrivalled insight into what direction you need to go in!

Let's talk

[info@wayvtalk.com](mailto:info@wayvtalk.com) | [wayvtalk.com](http://wayvtalk.com) | 0114 5534777



Our customers rate us 4.9/5 on



and



# 57 Media expands regional network with the launch of Barnsley Radio

Local radio has officially returned to South Yorkshire with the launch of Barnsley Radio, which began broadcasting on September 1st.

Operated by 57 Media, the station is already making waves across the town, delivering a mix of local news, sport, music, and community storytelling to listeners on DAB, smart speakers, RadioPlayer, and through the dedicated Barnsley Radio App.

Since going live, Barnsley Radio has quickly established itself as a voice for the community, championing local people, celebrating the town’s spirit, and restoring something many felt was missing since Dearne FM was rebranded in 2020.

The launch completes 57 Media’s South Yorkshire network, joining Rotherham Radio and Doncaster Radio in reconnecting local audiences through relevant, regional broadcasting.

Programme Director Stewart Nicholson said: “We’ve seen the incredible appetite for local radio in Rotherham and Doncaster. Now it’s Barnsley’s turn. We’re passionate about putting local back on the dial – with shows that sound like Barnsley and talk about what matters here.”

The community’s enthusiasm has been clear from the start. The Barnsley Radio App attracted over 5,000 downloads within its first week, demonstrating

strong early support from listeners.

The app, available free on iOS and Android, gives users instant access to live programming, podcasts, and local updates, keeping Barnsley connected wherever they are.

57 Media Managing Director James Knight said: “The response from both the public and local businesses has been phenomenal. Our aim is to deliver first-class local radio while creating an effective and affordable commercial platform for Barnsley’s business community.”

Listeners can now tune in to a line-up of presenters that includes well-known Yorkshire broadcasters and new local talent, many with strong ties to the area. Programming ranges from local news and grassroots sports coverage to a wide variety of music shows, all underpinned by a clear mission to reflect Barnsley’s character and culture.

A key part of Barnsley Radio’s commitment is its support for local musicians and creators. The station regularly features homegrown artists, interviews, and live sessions, giving Barnsley’s music scene a platform to reach wider audiences.

For the town’s business community, the station provides an affordable

and powerful way to reach local listeners. Through targeted advertising, sponsorships, and community-driven content, Barnsley Radio offers opportunities for brands to connect with customers in an authentic and trusted environment.

While the station proudly carries traditional local values, it also embraces innovation. Broadcasting on DAB, smart speakers, and online via [barnsleyradio.co.uk](http://barnsleyradio.co.uk), it combines modern technology with a passion for community-led storytelling, ensuring local radio thrives in the digital age.

With Barnsley Radio now live, the town once again has a station that sounds like home, a place where local voices are heard, local talent is celebrated, and local stories matter.

For more information about Barnsley Radio, visit [www.barnsleyradio.co.uk](http://www.barnsleyradio.co.uk), or contact [info@barnsleyradio.co.uk](mailto:info@barnsleyradio.co.uk).



## DIAMOND MEMBERS





# South Yorkshire economy stabilising as confidence in Artificial Intelligence grows

South Yorkshire businesses are ambitious about embracing Artificial Intelligence, but a significant number admit they are not yet ready to do so, according to the latest Quarterly Economic Survey.

**T**he Q3 QES survey delivered jointly by Doncaster Chamber, Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber, and Sheffield Chamber in partnership with the British Chambers of Commerce – provides one of the largest and most respected snapshots of business conditions across the UK.

Nationally, QES results feed directly into HM Treasury and the Bank of England's policymaking, while locally they give crucial insight into South Yorkshire's economic climate.

This quarter's survey, sponsored by the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority, placed a spotlight on AI readiness to align with the region's newly launched Growth Strategy for South Yorkshire.

Between 18th August and 15th September 2025, 290 local businesses shared their views, providing one of the clearest pictures yet of how South Yorkshire is preparing for the opportunities and challenges that AI presents as well as current economic conditions for the region.

Almost nine in ten firms (86%) said they plan to increase AI integration across business areas. Yet when asked how prepared they were, the responses revealed a mixed picture: just 14% felt "very prepared" with a clear strategy, while 55% said they were only "somewhat prepared" and developing



plans. Alarmingly, almost a third (31%) admitted they had ambitions for AI but were "not yet well prepared."

Dan Fell, Chief Executive of Doncaster Chamber, said:

"Businesses in our region clearly see the potential of AI, but too many are trying to run before they can walk. One in three have ambitions to integrate AI but don't yet have the skills, policies or leadership structures in place. That's a risk, but also an opportunity. With the right training and collaboration, South Yorkshire firms can be at the forefront of responsible and impactful AI adoption. The stabilisation we're seeing in the wider economy this quarter shows that now is the right

moment to get serious about investing in innovation."

The survey found that formal AI policies remain rare. Just one in five (21%) have a live AI policy, while a further 20% have policies in development. Collaboration is also limited, with more than half (54%) of businesses working independently and only 29% actively partnering with others – most commonly with tech companies or consultants.



Representing half of South Yorkshire, the Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber of Commerce. Carrie Sudbury, Chief Executive of Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber, commented:

***“These results shine a light on both the potential and the pitfalls of AI for South Yorkshire.***

***It’s encouraging that marketing, operations and customer service teams are already leading the way, but we mustn’t ignore the gaps in areas like HR.***

***The biggest barriers cited – lack of knowledge, lack of in-house skills and uncertainty about ethics – are all areas where collective action can make a difference.***

***Our members are also clear that alongside innovation, Government must address fundamentals like taxation and labour costs if we want to maintain momentum on growth.”***

This sits against a wider backdrop of gradual stabilisation in the local economy. More businesses reported that UK sales and orders had remained steady compared with last quarter, and cashflow turned positive for the first time in three quarters. Export demand, while still weaker than a year ago, also improved.

Recruitment remained cautious,



however, with permanent hiring at its second-lowest level in over four years. Temporary recruitment saw a slight rise, and skills shortages eased overall – particularly for clerical workers – though they remain acute for skilled manual and technical roles.

Confidence is recovering slowly. More firms are optimistic about turnover and profitability than in recent quarters, but worries about corporate taxation and inflation remain high, with half of businesses reporting more concern about tax than three months ago.

Louisa Harrison-Walker, Chief Executive of Sheffield Chamber and co-chair of Mayor Coppard’s Business Advisory Board, said:

“The QES is always a reality check – it tells us exactly where businesses are thriving and where they are anxious. It’s reassuring to see confidence creeping back and export performance improving, but the message on AI is stark: ambition is not enough. Businesses want to embrace new technologies but lack the tools, skills and trust to do so at scale.

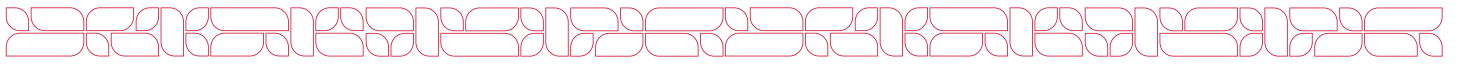
That’s why SYMCA’s Growth Strategy, with its focus on innovation and skills, is so timely.

It’s a chance to position South Yorkshire not only as a region that adopts AI but as one that does so responsibly, inclusively, and with real economic benefit.”

The message from this quarter is clear: South Yorkshire businesses are stabilising after a challenging year and are hungry to embrace innovation.

But with the Chancellor’s Budget setting the tone for the months ahead, firms are looking for more than rhetoric. Without targeted support on AI skills, knowledge and ethics – backed up by practical measures on taxation, investment and workforce development – a significant proportion risk being left behind.





# Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber Hosts Summer Social at Tankersley Manor



**Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber of Commerce welcomed members from across South Yorkshire to its annual Summer Social, held at the scenic Mercure Barnsley Tankersley Manor Hotel and Spa.**

**T**he event brought together professionals from across South Yorkshire for an afternoon of networking, live music, and seasonal hospitality.

Set in the grounds of a beautifully restored 17th-century manor, attendees were greeted with a welcome drink, either a crisp beer or sparkling prosecco before enjoying a BBQ buffet featuring cheeseburgers, spicy chicken thighs, and fresh salads.

Sponsored by Objective, a B2B creative marketing agency and proud Chamber Patron, the event highlighted the

importance of collaboration and community within the local business landscape.

The relaxed atmosphere was enhanced by live music from Capture The Revolvers, a talented duo of recent Barnsley College graduates, whose performance added a vibrant energy to the afternoon.

Special thanks were extended to Daniel Broadbent, Nick Dickson, and Carl Richardson for their efforts in making the event a success.

Visit [www.brchamber.co.uk](http://www.brchamber.co.uk) for events.



B2B STRATEGY, CREATIVE & DIGITAL



# RNN Group launches new Employer Academy

**The RNN Group welcomed Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber of Commerce as its newest Employer Academy this week in the area of business administration and launched the partnership at one of its Autumn Business Breakfasts held at the RNN Group's University Business Centre.**

**E**mployer Academies enable learners, educators and employers to identify collectively the necessary knowledge, skills and behaviours which are essential for success in industry and this collaboration allows us to ensure employers influence our curriculum to deliver a future workforce that develops practical skills and experiences that employers need in their employees.

RNN Group is proud to team up with Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber of Commerce alongside our other Employer Academies: Brunton Shaw, c-learning, Europa Engineering, Equans, Everlast, Marshalls, Esh Construction, Henry Boot, LimeTree Nursery, Marshalls, Mears, Momentous Football Academy, Nexus, Prem-tech, RMBC, Rotherham Titans, South Electrical, Spa at Ye Olde Bell, Thornbury Animal Sanctuary, Wentworth Woodhouse and Wrights Renewables with this initiative which brings together learners, educators and employers to establish long term partnerships that will inspire the next generation into specific industries.

The benefits are numerous for companies including leading on a number of activities for our learners such as masterclasses, workshops, site visits, volunteering opportunities and industry placements; alternatively, businesses can run projects and competitions that our learners can take part in, testing their knowledge and skills in a real business context.

The Employer Academies also offer

businesses the opportunity to recruit from our pool of talented and ambitious learners, giving employers the chance to choose their future workforce from the local area.

Not only that, employers gain access to a range of training and promotional opportunities including online staff training packages, webinars supporting student experience and promotion of their organisation.

Shane Young, Operations Director, Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber of Commerce, said, "We are delighted to be partnering with the RNN Group as an Employer Academy.

"We have a fantastic relationship with the Group and work with them on many initiatives and events so to finally have this Employer Academy Partnership is win-win for us both."

Jason Austin, CEO and Principal commented, "I am delighted to welcome Barnsley and Rotherham Chamber as an Employer Academy Partner as we have a long-standing relationship with them through the Chamber and they have had some apprentices with us too.

"Employer Academies are the result of the RNN Groups investment toward consistently improving skills and job opportunities for learners and employers. By involving employers in the design and delivery of our curricula, we are showing our integrity to further align our strategy with employer needs by ensuring our learners develop modern

and sector specific skills for success.

"A central feature of our sector specific academies will be the opportunity for employers to become an active member of our new initiative. In time, with an academy for each of our subject areas, employers can become an integral part of our comprehensive and collaborative approach to academic and hands-on learning and progression onto securing employment.

"We look forward to working with the Chamber in this initiative in the coming months and year to ensure an inclusive approach to developing this academy.

For more information on our employer academies visit: [www.rnngroup.co.uk/employer-academies/](http://www.rnngroup.co.uk/employer-academies/).

To discuss becoming part of this initiative, contact James Godsell Director of Employer Partnerships on 07896984983 or email [jgodsell@rnngroup.ac.uk](mailto:jgodsell@rnngroup.ac.uk).





# BCC Research:

# Budget Must Tackle Persistent Hiring Problems

The BCC Insight Unit's latest Quarterly Recruitment Outlook (QRO) shows that difficulties in finding staff persist despite rising unemployment.

**J**ust over half of firms (54%) surveyed said they had attempted to recruit in the last three months. Of those firms trying to hire staff, 75% said they experienced difficulties, up slightly from the previous quarter (73%).

The research for Q3 was carried out between 18 August and 15 September, with more than 4,600 businesses across the UK (91% of whom are SMEs) responding.

The hiring landscape continues to show wide variations across different sectors, with 85% of firms in construction reporting recruitment difficulties. Other services firms were the next highest at 78%, while transport, hospitality and professional services were all at 74%.

Most firms did not increase the size of their workforce in Q3, with 61% saying staffing levels remained the same. Less than a quarter (22%) did increase their staff numbers, down slightly from 23% in Q2. Looking forward, most firms do not plan to hire extra staff, with 63% expecting their workforce to remain the same size. Meanwhile 12% expect to lose staff with 25% expecting to increase.

Labour costs remain the biggest cost pressure for businesses, cited by 72% of respondents. But again, there are big sectoral variations



with that pressure highest in hospitality (80%) and lowest in retail (66%).

Faced with those rising costs, training investment remains relatively static, with 24% of firms

saying they increased investment in Q3, compared with 23% in Q2. Most businesses (57%) didn't spend any more on training in the last three months, while 19% reduced investment, similar to Q2.





**What business say:**

“We are just about keeping our business going, but with the tax rises, we are not investing and definitely can’t afford to hire new people or grow.”

Micro professional services firm in the West of England.

“Employment law changes will slow employing people as it’s risky to take a

chance on new people.”

Medium manufacturing firm in East Midlands

Jane Gratton, Deputy Director of Public Policy, at the British Chambers of Commerce said:

“Employers are battling against sky-high employment costs and widespread skills shortages. The stark reality for firms trying to recruit is that it’s still far harder than it should be. Unless more is done to boost access to skills and contain employment costs, economic growth will remain stunted.

“The skills crisis also has far-reaching implications for government policy. While Ministers have pledged to get the nation building again, with recruitment difficulties in construction spiking to 85%, delays to getting vital infrastructure in place are inevitable.

“And with 72% of firms saying costs are putting pressure on them to raise prices, the spectre of higher inflation will continue to hover.

“The situation is not improving, and there is a growing urgency to find solutions. The new technical excellence colleges

will help increase the supply of some vital skills. But much more needs to be done and the coming budget presents a golden opportunity to unlock potential through targeted investment and incentives.

“There is a huge talent pool in the UK that remains untapped. Almost a million young people are not working, training or in education, while three million people are missing from the workplace due to long-term sickness.

“The government should use the tax system to help people stay in – or quickly return to – employment when they experience ill health. Tax breaks for health services that businesses provide to their workforce are an obvious solution, to protect people’s livelihoods and keep skills in the workforce. And for those struggling to get into work, we need a wage subsidy scheme, similar to Kickstart, to unlock employment opportunities for young people with long-term health conditions.”



British Chambers of Commerce

**WE’RE HERE TO HELP.**



# Creating an effective wellbeing strategy

Every successful wellbeing strategy is backed up by a supportive culture.

Our free interactive e-book takes you through everything you need to know to create an effective wellbeing strategy, drive culture change and help your people build positive habits that stick.

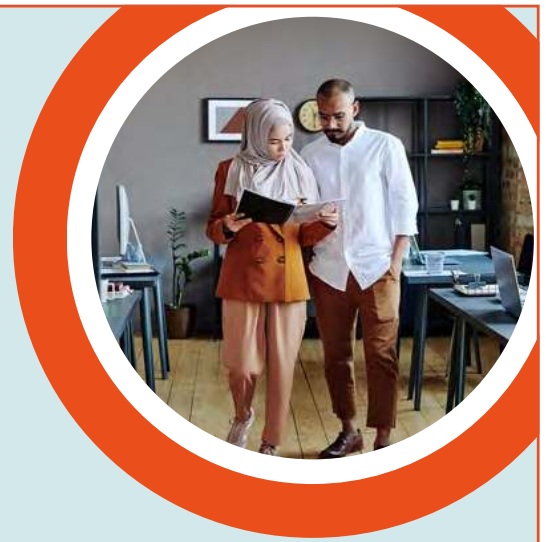
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# Doncaster Engineers achieve Distinctions in Level 5 Leadership Apprenticeship

**Two Workshop Managers at Agemaspark, a precision engineering company, are celebrating exceptional success after completing their Level 5 Leadership Apprenticeship with Rotherham training provider Why? Change – both achieving the highest possible grade of Distinction.**

**F**ormer apprentices Paul Preskey and Sam Buxton joined Agemaspark around 20 years ago and have since progressed through the business step by step. Today, they play key roles in leading the workshop team alongside company founder and Managing Director, Paul Stockhill.

In addition to completing the apprenticeship, Paul Preskey also gained a Distinction in the Chartered Management Institute (CMI) Level 5 Diploma in Management and Leadership, further strengthening his skills and commitment to continuous professional growth.

Anne Wilson, tutor at Why? Change, praised their achievement:

“Huge congratulations to Paul Preskey and Sam Buxton of Agemaspark on achieving their Level 5 Operations Manager Apprenticeship, both with a fantastic Distinction! Their journey is nothing short of inspiring. Starting out as engineering apprentices, they’ve grown with the business step by step and now lead the company with owner and founder Paul Stockhill.

This achievement is a true testament to their hard work, dedication, and commitment to continuous learning, as well as the culture of trust, support, and empowerment fostered within their business.”

Agemaspark Managing Director, Paul Stockhill, added:



“We are incredibly proud of Paul and Sam for their well-deserved success. They’ve shown outstanding dedication, not just to their studies but to Agemaspark and the people they lead.

Their journey shows what’s possible when you combine opportunity with commitment – they’re proof that apprenticeships can open doors to fantastic careers in engineering and leadership.”

This success reflects Agemaspark’s strong culture of learning and development, where employees are encouraged to grow their skills, take on new challenges, and progress within the business.

With this latest achievement, the company hopes to inspire more young

people in the region to consider apprenticeships as a route into rewarding and long-term careers in engineering and manufacturing.

Agemaspark Ltd is a Doncaster-based precision engineering company specialising in complex components for aerospace, automotive, and medical sectors.

Why? Change is a Rotherham-based training provider delivering leadership, management, and quality improvement qualifications to businesses across the region.

**To learn more about Why? Change, visit [www.whyychange.com](http://www.whyychange.com), email [info@whyychange.com](mailto:info@whyychange.com) or call them on 0114 400 0077.**



# Clear Quality makes UK Apprenticeship history with Governance Officer success

Clear Quality is proud to celebrate a major milestone in our journey to champion governance excellence.

In June 2025, our first cohort of learners successfully completed the newly launched Governance Officer Level 4 Apprenticeship, making us the first provider in the UK to deliver this trailblazing qualification from start to finish.

Even more impressively, the group achieved a 100% pass rate in their End Point Assessment, with learners from across sectors including education, healthcare, technology, and manufacturing.

Among the successful learners was our very own CEO, Debbie Whitehead, who completed the programme alongside the cohort demonstrating her belief in continuous learning and the power of governance in every corner of business. The Governance Officer Level 4 Apprenticeship is a brand-new qualification developed by a cross-sector Trailblazer Group, featuring governance professionals from the NHS, civil service, professional services, charities, education, and listed companies.

Debbie Whitehead, CEO of Clear Quality, commented:

“As CEO, I am incredibly proud that



our organisation has led the way in delivering the very first Level 4 Governance Officer Apprenticeship and achieved a 100% success rate. It’s been a rewarding and transformative journey to help shape and deliver this pioneering programme over the past two years. I am especially proud of the talented women involved whose commitment and excellence set a powerful standard for those to follow.”

Beth Rhodes, Training Director and course tutor, added:

“It’s been an incredibly fulfilling journey being involved in the creation, development, and delivery of this brand-new apprenticeship standard over the past two years. I am beyond proud of the women in the inaugural cohort, whose dedication and hard work led to their remarkable achievement. It has been a privilege to work with, teach, and learn from them.”

To find out more about Clear Quality and the Level 4 Governance Officer Apprenticeship, visit [clearquality.co.uk](http://clearquality.co.uk).

## PLATINUM MEMBERS



# Why Your Business Should Use an Independent Energy Consultant

In today's volatile utilities market, buying business gas, electricity, and water can feel like navigating a maze — one where the signs keep changing and the exit moves every few months.

**P**rices fluctuate due to global and climate conditions, contract terms can be tricky to compare, and the wrong decision can cost your business thousands.

Unlike suppliers, who can only offer their own products, independent consultants work on your behalf to search the whole market, negotiate competitive rates, and make sure you get a strategy that truly fits your needs. Here are some key benefits:

## 1. Secure Better Energy Rates

With access to the full utilities market (gas, electricity, and water), independent consultants can source bespoke prices, often at preferential rates you wouldn't get by going direct. They manage the complex tendering process on your behalf, cutting through hidden costs and restrictive clauses to negotiate flexible, cost-effective contracts that protect your bottom line.

## 2. Reduce Risk with Market Insight

Energy markets are unpredictable, but an independent consultant helps you stay ahead. By analysing trends and implementing tailored procurement strategies, they safeguard your business against sudden price spikes. Regular weekly and monthly reports keep you fully informed of market movements,

providing budget certainty, better financial planning, and the confidence that your energy is being managed strategically.

## 3. Support With Billing & Supplier Issues

If something goes wrong with your billing or service which it often does — your consultant should be your first point of contact. They'll liaise directly with suppliers on your behalf, resolving problems quickly and saving you the frustration of dealing with lengthy disputes.

## 4. Stay Ahead of Regulatory Changes

Energy regulations evolve rapidly, bringing risks of unexpected costs. An energy consultant ensures your business stays compliant, flags new opportunities, and shields you from unnecessary expenses. For example, with the introduction of new non-commodity charges, consultants should identify where exemptions may apply, helping you avoid inflated bills.

## 5. Help With New Connections, Disconnections & Supply Changes

Whether you're expanding, downsizing, or relocating, your energy needs may change. Sometimes this means altering existing gas, electricity, or water supplies, while in other cases it requires arranging a completely new installation

for a new site or disconnecting services for one that's closing.

These processes can be complex, often involving multiple parties such as planning teams, local Distribution Network Operators (for electricity infrastructure changes), contractors, electricians, and utility providers. An independent consultant can take this burden off your shoulders, coordinating everything to ensure the right solution is delivered smoothly and on time.

## 6. Comprehensive Energy Solutions

A great independent consultancy goes beyond contract negotiation. They provide a full suite of energy services, from energy efficiency advice and CCL rebate support to utility changes and sustainability planning. By developing tailored strategies, consultants not only optimise your current energy use but also future-proof your organisation, helping you stay aligned with the UK's Net Zero 2050 target.

Don't leave your business exposed to rising prices and complex contracts.

**Contact Professional Energy People today for a free, no-obligation review of your current energy contract, visit [www.pepgb.com](http://www.pepgb.com).**



# Proud Chamber Patron donates nearly £4k to domestic abuse charity Hopian

**Yorkshire-based accountants Brearley & Co have made a significant donation to local charity Hopian after over a year of fundraising efforts.**

**T**he grand sum of £3,750 was raised at events hosted by Brearley & Co over the past 18 months, including their 40th anniversary celebration in March last year.

Hopian – formerly Rotherham Rise – supports adults, young people, and children affected by Domestic Abuse and Child Sexual Exploitation. Over 2,000 individuals were supported by their services between April 2024 and March 2025.

The charity relies heavily on donations, and it says the funds raised by Brearley & Co will go a long way to helping them provide outings for children and parents living in their refuge accommodation.

A cheque was handed over at Hopian’s community café, Frith Space, in Rotherham as two pillars of the local community came together. Hopian have worked in Rotherham since 1976 while Brearley & Co was founded in Swinton in 1984.

Brearley & Co invited hundreds of staff, clients, and partners to the AESSEAL New York Stadium in Rotherham last year to commemorate 40 years of operation, with a large portion of their donation to Hopian collected on the evening.

The accountancy firm also hosted a casino night last November to further supplement their donation pot and made continued collections at their expanding number of offices across South Yorkshire.

Next year, Hopian will be marking their 50th anniversary – and extended an



invitation to Brearley & Co as a valued supporter of their work.

Mark Smallman, Brearley & Co Managing Director, said: “We’re incredibly proud to have raised this money for a fantastic charity operating in Rotherham. Supporting the local community has always been a huge part of what we do and Hopian are certainly at the centre of that.

“Their work is incredibly valuable, and we’re delighted we can support their cause in some way. The total donation sum was made possible by the exceptional generosity of everyone who attended our events last year, from staff and clients to partners and friends.”

While the accountancy firm are reputed for their empowerment of regional businesses through their wide-ranging

services, they are also renowned for their commitment to the local community.

Along with their support for Hopian, they are regular donors to other local charities like Rotherham Hospice and Bluebell Wood, as well as the main club sponsor for Dinnington Town FC.

**For further information about Brearley & Co, visit [www.brearleyandco.co.uk](http://www.brearleyandco.co.uk).**



# Chamber CEO Wins President's Award at British Chamber of Commerce Business Awards

**Carrie Sudbury, Chief Executive of Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber, has been named the winner of the President's Award at the British Chamber of Commerce (BCC) Business Awards 2025.**

The President's Award is one of the most distinguished honours presented by the British Chambers of Commerce, celebrating individuals who have demonstrated exemplary dedication, innovation, and impact within the UK's Chamber network. The President's Award recognises the exceptional work and impact of someone who has gone above and beyond to support their Chamber, their local business community, and the wider global Chamber network.

Carrie was selected from an exceptional field of finalists from across the UK and internationally in recognition of her transformative leadership and her commitment to strengthening South Yorkshire's business ecosystem. In the past 18 months Carrie has successfully led and delivered initiatives on business rates, social value and pathways to work. Her work has helped the Chamber become a trusted and respected voice in the region, and nationwide.

Nominees for the President's Award were:

- Elspeth Stewart – British Chamber of Commerce in Korea

- Eileen Perry – East Midlands Chamber
- Phil Smith – Business West
- John Brown – Cornwall Chamber of Commerce
- Carrie Sudbury – Barnsley and

economy.

As Chair of Barnsley's Inclusive Economy Board, Carrie has also been instrumental in bridging the gap between education and employment, ensuring that businesses have access to the skilled workforce they need while empowering young people to build sustainable careers in South Yorkshire.

Carrie's journey within the Chamber began over a decade ago. Rising through the organisation from the membership team to Chief Executive in 2023, she has led with vision and purpose, driving membership growth and achieving some of the highest retention rates of any Chamber in the UK.

Reflecting on the award, Carrie Sudbury said:

"Receiving the President's Award is a real honour – but I wouldn't have been able to achieve so much, without the amazing team at Barnsley and Rotherham Chamber. My aim is simple, building an environment where every business can achieve its full potential."

The British Chambers of Commerce Chamber Business Awards celebrate the best of British business and the people driving growth and innovation across the Chamber network. Carrie's national recognition underscores the growing influence of Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber.



Rotherham Chamber of Commerce

Among her many achievements, Carrie has worked in partnership with Rotherham Council to deliver its groundbreaking "Buy Local" initiative. A programme that has increased local authority investment in regional supply chains by 72%, with £77.2 million reinvested directly into the local





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# Fundraising Powerhouse Sophie Barnett Joins YWCA Yorkshire

**YWCA Yorkshire, a leading charity dedicated to empowering women, children and families, is excited to announce the appointment of Sophie Barnett as Fundraising Manager.**

**W**ith a strong background in corporate partnerships and a passion for mission-driven work, Sophie brings a wealth of experience to the organisation.

Sophie joins YWCA Yorkshire at a pivotal time, as the charity expands its reach and impact across the region.

“I’m thrilled to join YWCA Yorkshire and contribute to their vital mission,” said Sophie. The opportunity to set up the department, build strong, purpose-driven partnerships and drive fundraising efforts that directly support women, young people and families is incredibly motivating to me. I believe in the power of collaboration to create lasting change, and I’m eager to work with the team to expand our community of supporters.”

“The staff and volunteers are so lovely and honestly, I feel incredibly lucky to be working in such a compassionate, inclusive and knowledgeable team. I know that together we are going to achieve great things.”

Prior to her role at YWCA Yorkshire, Sophie spent almost three years building successful corporate partnerships and leading impactful fundraising campaigns for Rotherham Hospice.

Her expertise lies in crafting innovative strategies that align business goals with charitable causes, creating mutually beneficial relationships that generate significant support. An eye for detail and



process, with a creative flare, Sophie has a background in business and professional services, including finance, events and venue management. Sophie has previously volunteered for St Luke’s Hospice (skydiving 15,000ft in 2016 to raise vital funds), has travelled to 11 countries over ten months on a round-the-world trip, and used to be a figure skater.

YWCA Yorkshire’s Chief Executive, Diane Offers, said of the new appointment,

“Sophie’s experience and dedication are exactly what we need to drive our fundraising efforts. She is incredibly warm and personable, and her values align perfectly with our culture and our mission. We are confident that her leadership will help us secure the resources needed to continue providing life-changing services for vulnerable people in South Yorkshire. We are absolutely thrilled to welcome Sophie to

the team.”

Sophie Barnett’s appointment as Fundraising Manager signifies YWCA Yorkshire’s commitment to strengthening its fundraising capabilities and ensuring the long-term sustainability of services. The new role is the first in what is planned to be a series of appointments that aim to grow value-led supporter relationships.

YWCA Yorkshire supports women, children and families to create better futures in Doncaster, Sheffield and Rotherham. By working with incredible businesses, other not-for-profits, community and faith groups, the charity delivers positive impact and generational change for vulnerable families living in South Yorkshire.

**To learn more about corporate volunteering and partnership opportunities, please contact: [sophie.barnett@ywcayorkshire.org.uk](mailto:sophie.barnett@ywcayorkshire.org.uk).**





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# Lights, Camera, Check!

## LensGo Supports Bend & Check Breast Cancer Awareness Push

**LensGo Visual Media, an award-winning film production agency, has proudly supported this year's Bend & Check campaign in Bawtry, a creative awareness drive forming part**

**T**he campaign, inspired by Reese Witherspoon's famous 'Bend and Snap' scene in *Legally Blonde*, has been reimaged as 'Bend and Check', a powerful reminder for people to take charge of their breast health.

Shot across well-known Bawtry hotspots including The Crown Hotel, As She Knows lingerie boutique, Fairfax & Favor, and Hollies Bar, the video features Yorkshire and Nottinghamshire pageant contestants performing their own pink-powered version of the iconic move.

The Bend and Check campaign forms part of Visit Bawtry's Wear It Pink campaign, which is raising funds for Breast Cancer Now, the UK's leading breast cancer research and support charity.

LensGo, which works with a wide range of clients, from corporates and sports organisations to entertainment and grassroots charities, brought the film to life as part of its ongoing commitment to supporting impactful charity campaigns.

To mark Breast Cancer Awareness Month, LensGo Visual Media has also turned its logo pink throughout October.

Stuart Turner, owner and director of LensGo Visual Media, said:

"We are incredibly proud to have been part of such an inspiring and important campaign. At LensGo, we believe film has the power to spark action and make a real difference, and supporting charities and community causes is a huge part of who we are. The Bend & Check film is a brilliant example of creativity being used



to spread an important message, and it has been a privilege to play our part."

Charlotte, CSR & Partnerships manager of The Crown Hotel and organiser of the Bend and Check campaign, added:

"Stuart at LensGo was absolutely amazing to work with from start to finish. He was professional, friendly, and so kind to all the models. He really put us at ease, had us laughing all day. I am so grateful to have had Stuart on the Bend and Check video; he really did make my vision come to life perfectly."

This year's Wear It Pink campaign continues Bawtry's strong tradition of fundraising for Breast Cancer Now, the UK's leading breast cancer research and support charity. Since 2014, local businesses have united each October to raise awareness and vital funds, from bra bunting to headline-grabbing creative

campaigns like Bend and Check.

LensGo Visual Media regularly partners with charities, grassroots organisations, and community initiatives, using storytelling and film to inspire action and amplify fundraising efforts.

**To find out more about LensGo Visual Media, visit [www.lensgo.co.uk](http://www.lensgo.co.uk).**



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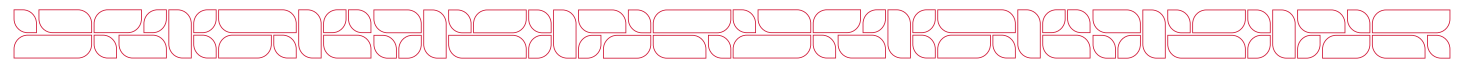
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# Specialist college secures charity milestone

**A unique education provider that helps young adults with special educational needs to realise their full potential has been granted charitable status by the Charities Commission.**

**R**otherham Opportunities College, which helps young adults aged 16-25 to prepare for life after education, was recently awarded a good rating by OFSTED, and becoming a charity means the college will be able to develop its fundraising efforts, which are used to provide vocational support for its students.

The college is expecting to welcome 75 students in September, and the unique learning approach that has been pioneered by the organisation has seen it attract interest from students across South Yorkshire, Kirklees and North East Lincolnshire.

Rotherham Opportunities College aims to equip its learners, many of whom have complex needs, with the vital skills needed during adulthood, with many of its students going on to live independently and secure full-time work.



The college enjoys close working relationships with local businesses, with its students benefitting from supported internships, whilst staff and students also work together to run the popular ROC Café, which operates on Tuesdays and Thursdays at Ulley Country Park. Students also play an active role in supporting their local community by undertaking a wide range of vocational activities throughout the college year.

Dr Perdita Mouseley, Principal, Rotherham Opportunities College, said:

“Becoming a registered charity is something we have been working towards for some time. It is an important milestone for the college because it will help us to explore new opportunities when it comes to accessing new streams of funding.

We believe that everyone who spends time at our college can play an important role in our local community. Our learning experiences are designed to equip our students with the vital skills needed to enjoy many of the things that we all take for granted in adulthood.

Over the years, we’ve forged some terrific partnerships with local businesses and community-led organisations, and we are hoping to extend our offering to ensure that no young adult with special educational needs is left behind.

We’ve got some exciting plans for the college and becoming a charity is central to us realising those ambitions.”

**To find out more about Rotherham Opportunities College, visit: [www.theroc.co.uk](http://www.theroc.co.uk).**





# Events

For further event details and to book your attendance, please visit our website [www.brchamber.co.uk/events](http://www.brchamber.co.uk/events) or call 01709 386 200

**November 11 at 9:00 AM- 11:00 AM**  
**Chamber Coffee Morning – Drop In**

*The Business Village, Barnsley*

Beat the autumn chill with a warm welcome at our November Coffee Morning! Looking for a relaxed space to network and connect with fellow Barnsley businesses? Join us for our November Chamber Coffee Morning, the kettle's on and the conversation's flowing!

You can expect:

- Friendly networking with local businesses
- Informal chats with the BR Chamber team
- Real insight into how membership supports your growth
- A free cup of coffee to warm you up

No need to book, just come along and say hello!

**November 20 at 12:00 PM- 1:30 PM**  
**Annual General Meeting – 2025**

*IBIS Styles Barnsley*

Join us for the Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber of Commerce AGM, where we will discuss the achievements and challenges of the past year and outline our plans for the future. This is a great opportunity to hear about the work we have been doing to support the business community and to meet other members who share our passion for making a difference.

We will be electing Board members, reviewing our financial statements and annual report. You will also have the chance to ask questions and provide feedback on our activities.

Lunch will be provided after the presentations. Don't miss this important event in the life of our organisation. We look forward to seeing you there!

**December 2 at 8:30 AM- 11:00 AM**  
**Unlocking the Potential of South Yorkshire Real Estate**

*AESSEAL New York Stadium*

Join leading property developers, investors, planners, and policymakers for an in-depth exploration of the opportunities shaping the future of South Yorkshire's real estate landscape.

This dynamic event will highlight emerging trends, key investment zones, regeneration projects, and strategic partnerships that are redefining the region. Whether you're looking to invest, develop, or collaborate, this is your gateway to unlocking growth in one of the UK's most promising property markets.

Sponsored by Spawforths.

**December 4 at 12:00 PM- 2:30 PM**  
**Chamber Christmas Brunch 2025**

*Market Kitchen Barnsley*

Join your fellow members, patrons, Chamber staff and directors for a fresh and exciting take on festive celebrations at the Chamber Christmas Brunch, hosted at Market Kitchen, Barnsley, offering a delightful, relaxed setting to connect and share the holiday spirit.

On arrival, enjoy a warm welcome with a complimentary drink. The fun continues with a shared tapas-style menu, perfect for mingling and savoring a variety of delicious bites in a relaxed and festive atmosphere. Whether you're looking to strengthen business connections or simply enjoy good food and company, this is the perfect way to celebrate the season!

Places are limited so book now to avoid disappointment!

Looking to promote your own Event?  
Get in touch with our Chamber team





# Chamber Skills Solutions

For further course details and to book your training please visit our website [www.brchamber.co.uk/chamber-training](http://www.brchamber.co.uk/chamber-training) or call 01709 386 200

## Essential Skills Training - Emergency First Aid

January 14 at 9:30 AM- 4:30 PM

Member price – £90.00 + VAT (Save £30)

Non-member price – £120.00 + VAT

Duration – 1 Day

This course is ideal for the smaller workplaces where the candidates will receive a certificate to become an Emergency First Aider.

Full qualified First Aiders will benefit from the additional support from emergency first aiders/ This is especially relevant where the workplace may consist of several floors, or work is operated in shifts.

**\*Only 12 spaces available\***

## Essential Skills - Fire Warden Training

February 3 2026 at 9:30 AM- 1:30 PM

Member price – £72.00 + VAT (Save £12)

Non-member price – £84.00 + VAT

Duration – Half Day

Learners will learn basic fire safety principles, including: causes of fires in the workplace, basic fire safety duties and responsibilities, principles of fire risk control, safe use of portable fire-fighting equipment and more.

This regulated and nationally recognised qualification provides learners with the opportunity to develop their fire safety awareness to help ensure that they are keeping themselves and others safe at all times in the workplace.

## Skills Series - #6 Level Up Your LinkedIn

Talisa Coe - 10X Marketing

January 27 at 9:00 AM- 12:30 PM

Price – £50.00 + VAT

Duration – Half Day

Is your LinkedIn profile working for you? Or just sitting idle?

LinkedIn remains the #1 platform for B2B marketing, personal branding, and professional networking. Whether you're looking to grow your business, boost your career, or attract new leads, this workshop will show you how to optimise your profile and strategy to stand out in a crowded digital space.

This hands-on session, packed full of insights, tools, and techniques is designed to help you build an impactful LinkedIn presence that supports real business outcomes.

## Skills Series #7 – Employment Law

Irwin Mitchell

February 26 at 9:00 AM- 12:30 PM

Price – £50.00 + VAT

Duration – Half Day

Major employment law reforms are expected in March 2026, is your business ready?

Join legal experts from Irwin Mitchell for a strategic and informative session designed to help HR professionals, managers, and business owners prepare for the upcoming legislative changes.

While final details are still to be confirmed, this course offers vital early insight, helping you adapt now to avoid risk later.

**\*Only 10 spaces available\***

Browse the full range of training available from Chamber Skills Solutions



## Discounted Services



# Discounted Services

For further details about exclusive Discounted Services for members, please visit our website [www.brchamber.co.uk/discounted-services](http://www.brchamber.co.uk/discounted-services) or call 01709 386 200

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# New Members

A list of our latest Chamber members over the past 3 months.

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## FWD Motion Ltd

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## Old Hall Garden Maintenance

Trades/Construction  
07361 380055

## Secprint Ltd

Branding, Design & Printing  
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secprint.co.uk

## Siroflex Ltd

Wholesale/Retail  
01226 771600  
siroflex.co.uk

## T I B Accountancy Services

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tibgroup.co.uk

## TravelMaster

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## Assured Consultancy Services Ltd

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## Austin Banks

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wortley-arms.co.uk

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newellwright.co.uk

## True North Brew Co Ltd

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truenorthbrewco.uk

## Volarex Commercial Consultants Ltd

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volarex.co.uk

## C2 Safety

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## Hopian

Charitable & Voluntary Organisations  
07711 008350  
hopian.org.uk

## Investors In Community

Charitable & Voluntary Organisations  
07948 351909  
investorsincommunity.org

## Mediright Ltd

Health & Wellbeing  
01909 813131  
mediright.co.uk

## Rotherham Abuse Counselling Service

Charitable & Voluntary Organisations  
01709 835482  
rothacs.org.uk

## Tivoli Travel

Leisure, Tourism, Hospitality & Events  
07516 641688

## Member Referral

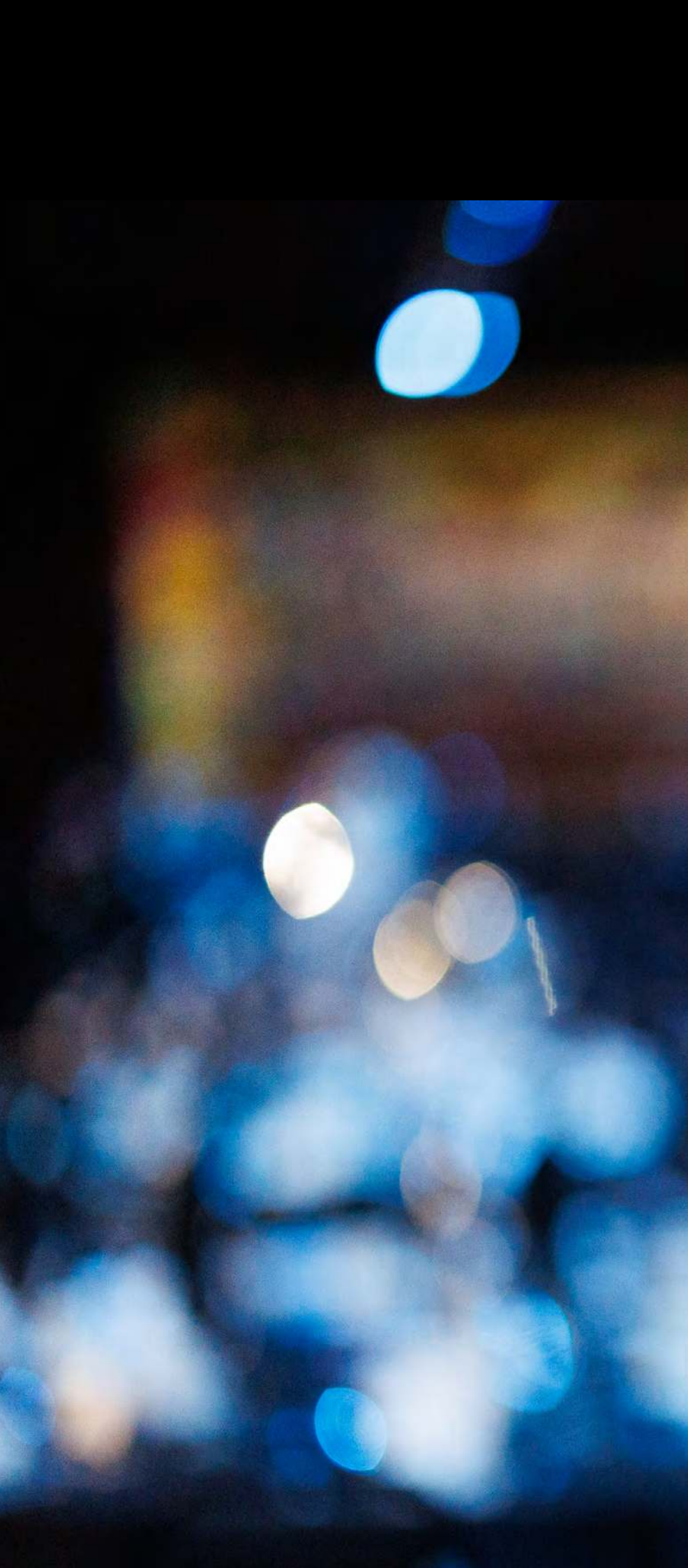
Refer a business and receive a £25 Shopping Voucher.

New members receive a 13-month membership for the price of 12 months.

Head to [www.brchamber.co.uk/membership/chamber-referral-scheme](http://www.brchamber.co.uk/membership/chamber-referral-scheme) to refer a business.



BARNLEY & ROTHERHAM



Barnsley & Rotherham  
Chamber of Commerce  
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