

THE Bulletin

Issue 57 Winter Edition 2026

Meet The Team Behind Your Membership



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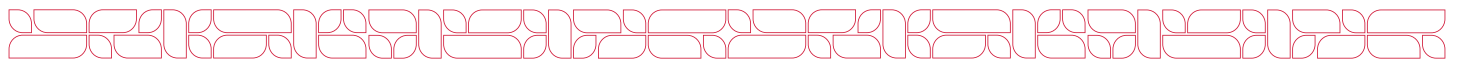
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New Year, New Optimism And New Faces In 2026



Welcome everyone to the start of a new year! I'm thrilled to have been asked to introduce the latest instalment of the Chamber Bulletin as we look ahead to what 2026 has in store.

This is a special edition for me, as we shine a spotlight on the Membership Team. We're bringing fresh energy to the Chamber, and we're delighted to introduce new members of our team who will be supporting you and your organisations throughout the year.

The start of a new year offers a moment to reflect, reset and look ahead with renewed optimism. While businesses continue to face pressure, the strength, resilience and ambition across our region remains clear.

In this edition of The Bulletin, we focus on the people and initiatives shaping the months ahead. On **Page 22**, we shine a spotlight on the Membership Team and introduce new faces who will be supporting you and your organisation throughout 2026. Their role in creating connections and adding value sits at the heart of the Chamber.

We also look forward to two key events in our calendar.

International Women's Day 2026 on **Page 9** will celebrate the achievements of women in business through our #GivetoGain event, focused on leadership, inclusion and shared success.

On **Page 30**, you'll find details of our Construction Expo, bringing buyers, contractors and suppliers together to create opportunities across the sector.

On **Page 29**, the latest Quarterly Economic Survey reveals a challenging picture for South Yorkshire. Business confidence has fallen to a three-year low, with rising costs, recruitment pressures and uncertainty continuing to impact investment and training plans.

These results reflect national trends and reinforce the importance of strong representation for our business community.

Despite these challenges, this edition is filled with positive member news. From awards and national recognition to business growth, promotions and milestones, these stories demonstrate the determination and talent across our network.

The Bulletin is here to inform, connect and champion our members as we move forward together into 2026.

As always, thank you for your continued engagement and support, we're excited for the year ahead and to work with you every step of the way.

Thank you to our Patrons and members for your continued support and for shaping our business community. I look forward to connecting with many of you in the months ahead, here's to another year of growth across Barnsley and Rotherham.

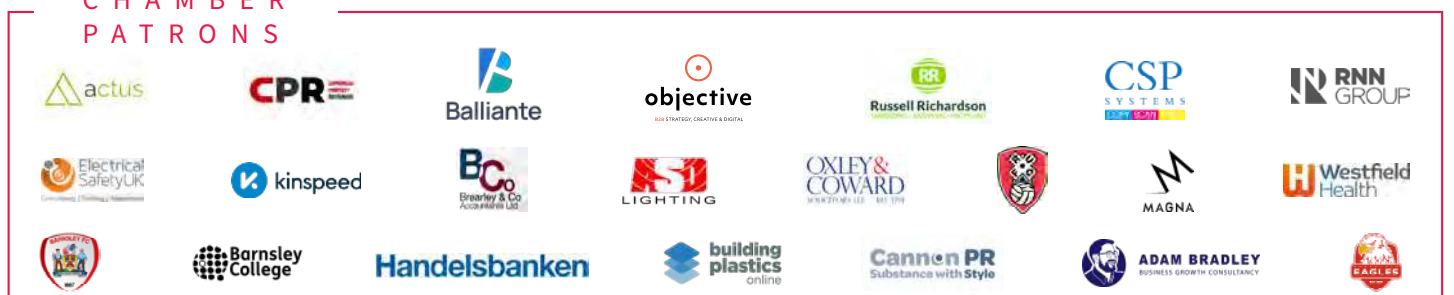
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IPM Group Celebrates Fourth Site Win with HARRON Homes Limited expanding Solar and CCTV Coverage in Rotherham, Sheffield and Doncaster.

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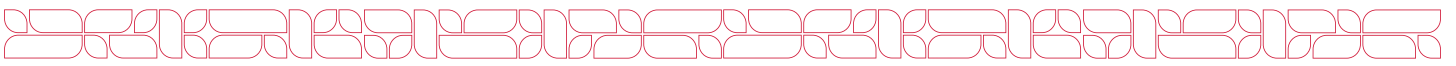
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Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber Welcomes New Membership Account Executive To The Team

Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber of Commerce are delighted to announce the appointment of Olivia Thompson to the Chamber team.

Olivia has been appointed as a Membership Account Executive and will be working in the membership team to support Silver and Gold members across Rotherham and Doncaster, acting as a dedicated point of contact and helping businesses get the most from their Chamber membership.

With a background in sales across the construction and automotive sectors, Olivia brings strong commercial awareness and a people-focused approach to member support.

Shane Young, Operations Director at Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber of Commerce, said: "It's exciting times ahead for the Chamber. We are moving into a 'new era' and we're delighted to strengthen the membership team with Olivia's appointment. Olivia is a great addition to the Chamber and is eager to support our members to help them maximise their membership. I know she's looking forward to meeting as many members as possible."

Her career to date has included working collaboratively across departments while maintaining a friendly, professional approach to customer relationships. She has also been recognised externally, having been featured in a major industry magazine as a "one to watch", highlighting her impact and future potential within her field.



In her role as Membership Account Executive, Olivia will support Chamber members across Rotherham and Doncaster by responding promptly to enquiries, signposting relevant services, and ensuring businesses are actively engaging with the opportunities available through Chamber membership.

Speaking about her appointment, Olivia said: "I'm really looking forward to helping members fully benefit from the support of the membership team, while also encouraging stronger collaboration across the wider Chamber member network. Creating opportunities for

members to connect, support one another, and ultimately accelerate their business growth is something I'm particularly excited about."

As she begins her role, Olivia is keen to hear from members: "I'm really looking forward to getting to know you all and working with you. Please get in touch anytime with any questions, ideas, or if you'd like support in making the most of your membership."

Reach out to Olivia for any membership-related queries via email at olivia.thompson@brchamber.co.uk.





Chamber Celebrates International Women's Day 2026 With **#GivetoGain Event**

Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with sponsor AESSEAL, is proud to announce its celebration of International Women's Day 2026.

This inspiring event will take place on Friday, 6th March 2026, from 11:30am at the AESSEAL New York Stadium in Rotherham.

Themed #GivetoGain, this year's campaign champions the power of reciprocity and support. Giving is not a subtraction – it's intentional multiplication.

When individuals, organisations, and communities give generously, opportunities for women increase, and when women thrive, we all rise. Together, we can forge a gender-equal world that is diverse, equitable, and inclusive. Attendees will enjoy a warm welcome with a complimentary drink on arrival, followed by a delicious two-course lunch.

The day promises to inspire and empower through keynote speeches, a Q&A panel, and meaningful conversations that celebrate women's achievements and explore how giving can drive positive change.

Hosted by Chamber Vice President, Hayley Koseoglu, Founder of iekos. Hayley brings her expertise and passion for business growth and leadership to guide the day's discussions and ensure an engaging experience for all attendees.





Ava Jones



Allie Dransfield

Keynote Speaker:

Ava Jones – Head of Marketing and Executive Assistant to Group Managing Director, AESSEAL

Ava Jones began her journey with AESSEAL at just 17 as a Business Assurance apprentice.

Over the years, Ava has gained experience across multiple departments including Business Assurance, Commercial, Despatch, Marketing, and overseas operations.

Today, Ava serves as Head of Marketing and Executive Assistant to the Group Managing Director.

In the past year, Ava contributed to operational improvements in Germany as part of a continuous improvement project and is now embarking on a two-year development plan to oversee European Operations, as well as supporting the AVT Reliability Ltd business with a new ERP system implementation.

Passionate about sustainability, change management and people development, Ava has led numerous marketing initiatives and campaigns while driving continuous improvement across the business for the last seven years.

Q&A Panel– Focusing on #GivetoGain:

Allie Dransfield – Head of Agency, Chapter II

Allie Dransfield is an experienced PR professional with more than 20 years in the public relations and communications industry and is head of agency at Chapter II.

Having progressed through every role within the company, she brings deep industry knowledge, an extensive contact list and a passion for all things communications.

A media studies and print journalism graduate, Allie began her career in the media team at Sheffield Wednesday Football Club.

Highly skilled across media relations, reputation and crisis management, and award writing, she has delivered award-winning integrated campaigns across a range of different sectors.

Outside work, she cheers on her two sporty children and captains Wickersley Vixens second team in the South Yorkshire Women and Girls’ Cricket League.

Additional speakers and panellists will be announced in the coming weeks, ensuring a dynamic and thought-provoking programme.

Join us in this important celebration as we acknowledge women in business and work together to build a more inclusive and equitable world.

This event offers an excellent opportunity for individuals and businesses across Barnsley and Rotherham to connect, share experiences, and celebrate the contributions of women in our region. By embracing the spirit of giving, we can accelerate progress towards gender equality and create a future where everyone thrives.

For tickets and further details about the event, scan the QR code below, head over to the events page on the website or contact events@brchamber.co.uk.

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Long Established Rotherham Legal Firm Joins Deputy Panel

Rotherham’s oldest law firm, Oxley & Coward has successfully applied to join the panel of deputies for the Yorkshire and North East area.

The panel consists of lawyers who are appointed to manage the affairs of people who cannot do this themselves and where there is no one else able or willing to do so, on behalf of the Court of Protection.

Oxley & Coward, who will celebrate their 235th birthday this year were established in 1791, are one of only two solicitors’ firms in South Yorkshire on the panel and the only one outside of Sheffield.

The Court of Protection is the part of the court system that protects people who cannot protect themselves and where necessary appoints professionals to manage the financial affairs of people who have lost mental capacity and do not have a Lasting Power of Attorney in place, or where their Attorneys are no longer able to act.

Chris Shaw TEP, the head of the Wills & Probate team at Oxley & Coward under which the Court of Protection work will be carried out, said:

“After a period of evolution over the last few years at Oxley & Coward the appointment to the panel of deputies is a great step forward in the firm being able to support our clients in all of life’s challenges. We recommend that everyone who is able to do so makes a Lasting Power of Attorney but there are many situations where this is not appropriate or possible which is where the Court of Protection is able to step in to make sure their affairs can be managed appropriately”.



The management of someone’s affairs can mean dealing with everything from buying someone’s shopping each week to arranging and carrying out improvements to their homes. This is most commonly the case of someone who has become suddenly disabled through an accident, for example. Where people have lost their mental capacity through dementia or other progressive illnesses this can mean ensuring that household bills or care fees are paid for by the person.

Sarah Steel who is the Court of Protection specialist at Oxley & Coward said:

“Managing the affairs of those who cannot do this themselves can be very complex but rewarding and I am excited to be able to help more people in the future.”

Richard Sheppard, the managing partner of Oxley & Coward, who is the official

deputy, commented: “Panel deputies have to undergo a stringent application process and I am delighted that Oxley & Coward have made the approved list. If anyone is thinking of appointing a deputy, it is always helpful to consult the list to find a professional who has the necessary expertise to assist.”

Oxley & Coward Solicitors’ main offices are on Bradmarsh Business Park with an office in Rotherham town centre. They are a full service law firm with departments covering:

Wills & Probate, Residential Conveyancing, Commercial Conveyancing, Family, Care & Divorce, Dispute Resolution & Company law, Prison law and Personal Injury.

Contact Oxley & Coward Solicitors LLP by telephone on 01709 510999 or by email at mailbox@oxcow.co.uk. To find out more visit www.oxcow.co.uk.



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Matt Travis Named One Of The UK's Top 50 Most Ambitious Business Leaders

Matt Travis, president of Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber of Commerce and founder of specialist environmental consultancy Enzygo, has been named one of the UK's best and brightest entrepreneurs by private equity investor LDC, part of Lloyds Banking Group.

Now in its eighth year, the Top 50, delivered in partnership with The Times, celebrates the drive and ambition of UK-based entrepreneurs and recognises the important contribution entrepreneurs make towards shaping Britain's economy through job creation, championing sustainability and embracing innovation.

Matt was one of three people who co-founded Enzygo in 2008, in a bid to help businesses to navigate their way through Britain's complex planning legislation, particularly when it comes to understanding the environmental impact of planned future developments.

Since taking the helm as managing director, under Matt's leadership, Enzygo has enjoyed significant growth and success, building a 100-strong workforce, which operates from its Sheffield-based headquarters with regional offices in Bristol, Manchester, Belfast, Cambridge and Cardiff.

Matt was recognised on the list not just for the impressive growth enjoyed by Enzygo but also for his commitment to investing in training and development, inspiring the next generation by delivering outreach work with schools and universities, as well as giving back to the communities served by the business.

This year the programme received almost 700 nominations, showcasing the exceptional individuals who are building successful medium-sized businesses right across the UK.

The business leaders featured in The LDC Top 50 for 2025 are making a powerful impact by creating jobs, making a difference in the communities they serve, championing sustainability and expanding internationally. They are also demonstrating resilience as they drive growth and develop new ideas to innovate and diversify.

The entrepreneurs recognised in the 2025 awards operate from 67 towns and cities across the UK and span every sector of the economy, whilst collectively they employ almost 10,000 people and generate combined revenues of £1.2bn.

Matt Travis, Managing Director, Enzygo, said:

"Securing a place as one of Britain's top 50 entrepreneurs is an incredible honour and one that would not be possible without the incredible hard work and dedication of the entire Enzygo team. Over the past three years, we've set ourselves some bold targets, successfully delivering significant year-on-year growth, as well as expanding our regional network. However, I also recognised that business success shouldn't be simply judged on headline turnover and profitability figures but on the way it plays a role in making a positive contribution to society.

As environmental specialists, we have made a commitment, and we are on course to significantly reduce our carbon emissions across the business. We also recognised that our area of



work is a highly specialised field, and we are actively investing back into the communities we serve by working with schools, helping to equip and inspire the next generation with the skills needed to succeed in their future careers."

John Garner, Managing Partner at LDC, added:

"This year's cohort has shown drive and ambition in their growth journeys, proven remarkable resilience, and together they are making a real difference to their employees, the communities they work in and society at large. I'd like to congratulate them on everything they've achieved so far. Their success stories are only just beginning, and we're excited to see where their journey takes them next."

For more information about Enzygo, visit www.enzygo.com or email info@enzygo.com to find out more.



Active Fusion Founder Named Finalist in Northern Power Women Awards

Active Fusion is delighted to announce that its Founder and Director, Lindsay James, has been nominated and selected as a finalist in the 10th Northern Power Women Awards, in the Person with Purpose category.

The Person with Purpose category recognises leadership driven by community impact and social change.

With more than 1,800 nominations submitted nationwide, Lindsay has been named among the final eight finalists, recognising her dedication to purpose-led leadership and her long-standing commitment to improving the lives of young people and communities through sport, physical activity, and social change.

The Northern Power Women Awards celebrate individuals who challenge the status quo, inspire others, and create meaningful impact across the North. Lindsay's nomination reflects not only her professional achievements, but also the values at the heart of Active Fusion — collaboration, inclusion, and creating opportunities that enable people to thrive.

Reflecting on the recognition, Lindsay said:

“I've never seen myself as a 'Power Woman'. I see myself as someone driven by passion and purpose — focused on lifting others and creating real change. The people and communities I work alongside every day are the true inspiration behind this recognition.”

Since founding Active Fusion, Lindsay has been instrumental in developing innovative, community-led programmes that use sport and physical activity



as a catalyst for positive change. Her leadership has helped shape a culture where young people are empowered, voices are heard, and purpose is embedded in everything the organisation does.

As a proud Yorkshire lass, Lindsay is also known for her world-record-breaking achievements, love of sport, and tireless advocacy for the voluntary and community sector — qualities that make her a respected leader both regionally and nationally.

The Northern Power Women Awards ceremony will take place later this year, celebrating a decade of recognising

changemakers who are shaping a more inclusive and purpose-driven future. Active Fusion, who were recently awarded the Kings Award for Voluntary Service, congratulates all finalists and thanks everyone who continues to support and champion Lindsay's journey and the organisation's mission.

For more information about Active Fusion, visit: www.activefusion.org.uk contact them at info@activefusion.org.uk or call them on 01302 637276.



Yorkshire Set For Growth Opportunities Following Autumn Budget

The Autumn Budget has opened several significant construction opportunities for Leeds and the wider Yorkshire region, according to Rider Levett Bucknall’s (RLB UK) latest Construction Market Intelligence (CMI) report.

New regional analysis from the independent built environment consultancy, highlights that the region is well positioned to benefit from major investment in transport, regeneration and housing, even as the national construction market sees only marginal tender price movements following the Autumn Statement.

The Budget reaffirmed support for Northern Powerhouse Rail, a commitment that strengthens regional connectivity and could drive substantial construction activity in the coming years.

David Robinson an RLB Associate based in Yorkshire, said:

“The area has been given a clearer platform for growth, with long-term funding commitments that support regeneration, housing and major transport improvements.”

“However, opportunity sits alongside challenge. Rising labour costs, tightening regulatory requirements and tax increases are placing real pressure on project viability. These pressures risk slowing investment decisions and may limit short-term profitability, even in a region now bolstered by new public funding commitments.”

“While investor confidence should strengthen as policy direction becomes clearer, delivering schemes will still require careful planning and realistic cost strategies.”

RLB added that the introduction of the Mayor’s Growth Fund is expected



to channel targeted investment into business and infrastructure projects across the region, likely stimulating activity around key regeneration zones, commercial centres and transport hubs.

The Autumn Budget provided renewed optimism for the residential construction sector, with government commitments to accelerate planning reform and maintain ambitious housing targets.

Although the precise implementation of these measures is yet to be clarified, RLB notes that Leeds and the wider region could see strengthened activity in the medium term, particularly where regeneration and housing strategies align

RLB’s CMI shows only marginal movements in Yorkshire and Humber tender price inflation:

- Forecasts for 2025 have remained

the same at 3%

- Forecasts for 2026 have eased marginally from 3.5% to 3%

Across the UK, near-term market conditions remain challenging as rising input costs, including higher wage rates, continue to place pressure on contractors and outpace tender price movements.

RLB’s CMI shows only marginal movements in national tender price inflation:

- Forecasts for 2025 have seen a slight uplift from 3.03% to 3.17%
- Forecasts for 2026 have eased marginally from 3.41% to 3.27%.

To find out more about Rider Levett Bucknall, head to www.rlb.com/europe/offices/sheffield or contact summerhill@uk.rlb.com.





Winners Announced For Barnsley And Rotherham Business Awards 2025

On Friday, 14th November, Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber of Commerce hosted the annual Barnsley and Rotherham Business Awards at Magna in Rotherham.



The event, headline sponsored by Barnsley College, welcomed over 550 guests from across Barnsley, Rotherham, and South Yorkshire.

The evening was a spectacular blend of entertainment and recognition of leading businesses and outstanding individuals across the region, featuring live music, a DJ set, and the thrilling Miami Wave ride returned to conclude the festivities.

Hosted by SAS veteran, best-selling author and former SAS: Who Dares Wins instructor, Colin MacLachlan, the awards ceremony included the presentation of 13 prestigious awards plus the overall 'Champion of Champions' Business of the Year award, recognising exceptional achievements across a diverse range of organisations and industries.

The awards celebrated everything from outstanding entrepreneurs vying for Business Person of the Year to apprentices demonstrating exceptional dedication to career development.

Carrie Sudbury, Chief Executive of

Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber, said:

"The Barnsley and Rotherham Business Awards truly highlighted the strength and creativity of our local business community.

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to making the evening such a success, and a special mention to Barnsley College, our headline sponsor, for bringing something extra to the event. To all our sponsors, your support and commitment to South Yorkshire businesses is invaluable.

Congratulations to all our winners, highly commended entries, and shortlisted businesses, what an incredible achievement!"

For 2025, three new categories were introduced: Small Business of the Year, Campaign of the Year, and the Social Value Award, alongside awards recognising best practices in sustainability, commitment to staff development, customer service, and business growth.

Among the evening's standout winners was Naylor Group, which took home the coveted Business of the Year award. The fourth-generation manufacturer has transformed its business through £18m investment, innovation, sustainability, and employee development, growing sales to £70m while championing inclusivity, mental health, and community impact.

The Charity of the Year award went to Rotherham Samaritans, recognised for their incredible work in providing 24/7 emotional support and running the Pathway Project, which reduces isolation and suicide risk through volunteer-led outreach and crisis intervention in partnership with local NHS services.

A special tribute was paid to long-serving businesses that have contributed to the region's economy, with milestone certificates awarded to Age UK Rotherham (40 years), Kinspeed (40 years), Steel City Marketing (45 years), Rotherham United (100 years), and Shorts (135 years).



2025 Barnsley & Rotherham Business Award Winners

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

Winner – Max Brough, Airmaster
Highly Commended – Becky Smith
Highly Commended – Joe Cockerill
Shortlisted – Leon Reed
Shortlisted – Sam Collumbine

Business Community Impact Shortlist (Sponsored by Rotherham Together Partnership)

Winner – Equans
HC – Henry Boot Construction
HC – Reloved Boutique
Shortlisted – BetterYou Ltd
Shortlisted – Naylor Group

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

Winner – Utility Source Limited
HC – Actus
HC – TwentyFour IT Services
Shortlisted – Elecomm
Shortlisted – Gala Technology

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

Winner – Martine Tune
Highly Commended – Dr Perdita Mousley
Highly Commended – Mark Smith
Shortlisted – Lisa Hawksby
Shortlisted – Rob Shaw

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

Winner – Rotherham Hospice
HC – ACW Medical Services Ltd
HC – Utility Source Limited
Shortlisted – Flux Rotherham
Shortlisted – Gala Technology

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

Winner – Rotherham Samaritans
Highly Commended – Barnsley Hospice
Highly Commended – Rotherham Abuse Counselling Service (Rothacs)
Shortlisted – Crossroads Care Rotherham
Shortlisted – Kiveton Park & Wales & Community Development Trust

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

Winner – Glu Recruit
HC – Rotherham Hospice
HC – Vaughandale Construction Ltd
Shortlisted – Actus
Shortlisted – Crossroads Truck & Bus Ltd

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

Winner – Equans
HC – IT Desk (UK) Limited
HC – Wayv. Talk&Broadband for Business
Shortlisted – Natural Cement
Shortlisted – Wentworth Woodhouse

Large Business of the Year Shortlist (Sponsored by SOTpay)

Winner – Naylor Group
HC – Equans
HC – Hargreaves Industrial Services
Shortlisted – KCM Waste Management
Shortlisted – Newell & Wright Transport

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

Winner – Jiggle
Highly Commended – Empress Ballroom
Highly Commended – Nexus 360 Ltd
Shortlisted – Pest Risk Management Group Ltd
Shortlisted – Adam Bradley Business Growth Consultancy Ltd

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

Winner – Balliante
HC – Empress Ballroom
HC – Gravitate Digital Accounting
Shortlisted – GrowTraffic Ltd
Shortlisted – Steel City Marketing

Sustainability Award Shortlist (Sponsored by Enzygo)

Winner – Riverlution
Highly Commended – Hydrov Ltd
Highly Commended – Naylor Group
Shortlisted – Barnsley Hospice Retail Hub
Shortlisted – Magna Trust

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

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



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South Yorkshire Chambers Respond To Airport Airspace Consultation

The three South Yorkshire Chambers of Commerce have submitted a letter of support to City of Doncaster Council’s Doncaster Sheffield Airport Airspace Change Proposal, underlining the airport’s role in driving South Yorkshire’s economy.

They highlighted the positive implications the reopening will have on the region’s growth and reputation as a great place to do business.

In their response, the Chambers stress that reinstating controlled airspace is a critical step toward the swift reopening of DSA, central to the South Yorkshire Airport City programme. With 17 years of proven safe and efficient operation, this airspace offers greater predictability and is key to ensuring timely airport reopening.

The Chambers reinforce the forecast that this project is expected to create around 5,000 high-quality, future-facing careers and deliver significant inward investment. The Chambers highlight the importance of freight capability as a key component of the airport’s future success, aligning with South Yorkshire’s strong manufacturing and export profile.

They also support the call for operational flexibility, including minimal restrictions on flight timings, to ensure the airport can meet the needs of business travellers and cargo operators. These factors have the potential to drive international growth for local businesses and bring increased investment into the region and thereby underpinning Mayor Coppard’s South Yorkshire Growth Plan 2025-35.

Dan Fell MBE, Chief executive of the Doncaster Chamber said: “Doncaster Sheffield Airport is South Yorkshire’s flagship regeneration project. Reinstating

its airspace is fundamental to delivering jobs, investment and connectivity for our region. The business community stands firmly behind this process and urges swift progress.”

Louisa Harrison-Walker OBE, Chief Executive of the Sheffield Chamber, added: “Reliable air connectivity underpins competitiveness, investment and international trade. The reinstatement of controlled airspace at Doncaster Sheffield Airport will play a critical role in supporting the region’s businesses, particularly those operating globally. A flexible, freight enabled airport is essential to futureproofing South Yorkshire’s economy.”

Carrie Sudbury, Chief Executive of the Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber of Commerce said:

“Reopening Doncaster Sheffield Airport is a once in a generation opportunity for South Yorkshire. Restoring the airport’s-controlled airspace is a proven, safe

solution that will unlock growth across advanced manufacturing, logistics and exports — sectors that are vital to our local economy. We strongly support the swift reinstatement of the former airspace structure to keep momentum moving.”

Support for the reopening of DSA across the South Yorkshire Business Community, whilst not unanimous, is strong. The three Chambers have consistently shown their support, on behalf of the majority view, for the economic growth catalyst that is the DSA.

Recognising the need for swift progress, the Chambers support reinstating the tried-and-tested airspace structure that operated safely for more than 17 years, describing this as the quickest safe route to reopening. They reaffirm their commitment to working with partners to ensure DSA reopens for freight in 2027 and passenger services in 2028.



Tree Of Hope Creates Platform of Possibility For SEND Students

Students from Rotherham Opportunities College are stepping into the Christmas spirit in a bid to spread some festive cheer to passengers at Meadowhall railway station by unveiling a special tree of hope.

Displayed in the station's waiting room, the special Christmas tree was unveiled by Giselle Roderigo, the immediate past Mistress Cutler, at a special event that celebrated the college's adoption of the railway station, which attracts over 1.8 million passengers every year.

In the coming months, unique artworks produced by students at the college will be installed on the platforms, and the college is also planning to host a series of special events and activities, designed to highlight and showcase the achievements of young adults with special educational needs.

Rotherham Opportunities College decided to adopt the station, after working with SYMCA as part of a travel training scheme called Try the Train. The scheme offers groups, including young adults with special educational needs, the chance to learn new skills and build confidence in using public transport independently which has helped students to plan journeys effectively, manage money, broaden their horizons and stay safe.

The unveiling of the tree marks the completion of a week of activities organised by Rotherham Opportunities College to celebrate the Power of Specialist FE Awareness Week, a UK-wide initiative organised by Natspec, the Association of National Specialist Colleges, to highlight the important role specialist education can play in improving the life chances of young adults with special educational needs.



Dr Perdita Mousley, Principal, Rotherham Opportunities College, said: "Adopting Meadowhall station is an incredibly exciting prospect for our students. We encourage our students to play an active role in the local community, and with more than 1.7 million people starting and ending their journeys at the station, it will help to showcase some of the incredible work our students produce each year.

Our tree of hope will allow visitors to the station to leave a positive message, remember a loved one or share their dreams, and it not only marks the beginning of our exciting plans for the station but also will help our students to develop the vital skills needed to realise

their full potential as they prepare for life after college."

Rotherham Opportunities College is an independent specialist college that supports young adults aged 16-25 who have a wide range of special educational needs. The college provides tailored education programmes, which take a holistic learning approach towards helping its students to develop the vital skills needed to live independently, secure employment and build rich and fulfilling lives during adulthood.

To learn more about Rotherham Opportunities College, visit www.theroc.co.uk or email info@theroc.co.uk.





Qualter Hall Appoints New Chief Operating Officer To Drive Profitable Growth

Qualter Hall & Company Ltd, the established engineering business based in Barnsley, West Yorkshire, today announced the appointment of its highly experienced Technical Director, Graham Carr, to the role of Chief Operating Officer.

Drawing on 39 years of service, including 23 years as a director, Graham brings unparalleled operational knowledge to the COO role. His understanding spans the business's core operations and competencies, key markets and diverse client base.

Martin Kelly, Executive Chairman of Qualter Hall said: "Graham's commitment and operational insight are invaluable as we navigate the future. The Board of Directors are ideally placed to address the challenges in our marketplace and look forward to leading the business to continued profitable growth."

Graham commented: "Having worked side-by-side with the senior leadership team for over two decades, I'm delighted to be stepping into this key role, and confident of a seamless transition.

My priority is to support the ongoing development of our talented team and operational efficiencies, ensuring that we continue to evolve in response to changing client needs and maintain our reputation for quality and innovation. This will provide the stability needed to navigate today's challenging marketplace as we pursue our sustained growth strategy."

The Board is unanimous in its belief that this strategic promotion strengthens the company's leadership structure and positions it for sustained success in the competitive engineering landscape.

Qualter Hall specialises in Mechanical, Electrical, Instrumentation, Control and Automation (MEICA) engineering services, with a heritage dating back to 1860. Renowned for solving highly complex and unique engineering challenges, the business provides complete turnkey solutions from design and fabrication through installation, commissioning and aftermarket support.

Operating from a 10,000 sqm production

facility in Barnsley, West Yorkshire, Qualter Hall has a multi-disciplined team of over 100 employees. The company serves critical infrastructure sectors, including Bridges and Transport, Harbour Infrastructure, Flood Control and Water Infrastructure, Nuclear and Mining.

For information about Qualter Hall, visit www.qualterhall.co.uk, email sales@qualterhall.co.uk or call 01226 205761.





Chamber Members Apollo Safety Ltd And Green Shield Group Upgrade To Platinum

Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber proudly announces that two forward-thinking local businesses, Apollo Safety Ltd and Green Shield Group, have upgraded to Platinum Membership, reinforcing their commitment to strategic collaboration.

Their upgrade reinforces the Chamber’s mission to support economic growth by connecting ambitious businesses with strategic opportunities, decision-makers, and influential partners across the region.

Following the launch of the Green Shield Group franchise for South Yorkshire in September 2025, Regional Director Adam Elder has taken the next decisive step to deepen the company’s presence in the region by committing to Platinum Membership.

When asked about the Platinum upgrade, Adam Elder, Regional Director of Green Shield Group said:

“I’m excited to share that after launching the Green Shield Group franchise for South Yorkshire in September 2025, I’ve now upgraded to Platinum Membership with Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber of Commerce.

For me, choosing Platinum Membership was more than a business decision, it was a statement that I was serious about investing in this region and building meaningful partnerships with local businesses.

Green Shield Group is dedicated to driving innovation in the renewable energy sector and we are on a mission to empower businesses to gain control over their energy costs by providing bespoke solar system designs and smart, data-driven solutions that are practical, cost effective and make sense.”

Adam Elder added:

“The Platinum membership goes a long way to showing the local community that we are here for the long term not for the quick wins, we want to create long lasting partnerships and be an important partner for all things sustainability within the community.

Direct introductions have also proven useful and I will be utilising this service more as it’s possibly underestimated how much value can be taken with a direct referral as opposed to cold outreach.”

Apollo Safety Ltd, a leading UK health and safety consultancy, which helps businesses create safer workplaces and stay compliant, has also upgraded to Platinum Membership.

The company serves a wide range of sectors, including manufacturing, construction, engineering, and public services, supporting businesses in meeting essential safety standards, from risk assessments and audits to training and ISO implementation.

The Chamber welcomed their upgrade as a significant step in strengthening Apollo Safety’s profile and supporting their commitment to building deeper connections across Barnsley and Rotherham.

Luke Palmer, Director of Apollo Safety Ltd shared why he decided to upgrade to Platinum:

“We chose to upgrade from Gold to Platinum because the Chamber has genuinely helped support and raise the profile of Apollo Safety Ltd. As the

business is currently growing, it felt like the right moment to deepen that relationship and make the most of the extra visibility and connections that come with Platinum membership.

My experience with the Chamber has been excellent. The team is friendly, supportive, and always willing to help. I’ve met great people, opened new doors for the business, and felt part of a community that truly wants local businesses to succeed. Upgrading was an easy and natural next step.”

Sally Taylor, Membership Manager at Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber of Commerce, said:

“We’re thrilled to welcome Apollo Safety Ltd & Green Shield Group as Platinum Members. This upgrade reflects their ambition to strengthen their profile and build meaningful connections within our business community. I look forward to working with Luke and Adam as they begin to make the most of their new membership and supporting them on this exciting journey.”

If you’re looking to upgrade, head to our website, speak to your account manager or email us at info@brchamber.co.uk.





Meet The Membership Team

Real people supporting real businesses across the region



Ever wondered who to call when you want more from your Chamber membership? Or who's behind the emails, event invites and check-in calls that land in your inbox?

Behind your membership is a team of people who genuinely care about local businesses and want to help them get real value from being part of Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber of Commerce.

From first conversations to long-term support, the Membership Team are there to answer questions, share opportunities and help members feel connected.

In this article, we're going to be getting to know them a little better, who they are, what they do and how they support businesses, like yours.

A quick conversation with the Membership Team can lead to new connections, useful introductions and opportunities you might not even realise are included in your membership.

Whether it's events, training, discounted services or introductions, knowing who to speak to can make a big difference to how you use your membership.

SALLY TAYLOR Membership Manager

Sally joined the Chamber in March 2025 after more than 15 years in recruitment and now works closely with Platinum and Diamond members across the region.

Her role focuses on building long-term relationships and helping senior leaders get real value from being part of the Chamber.

A day in Sally's world usually includes catch-ups with members, planning how businesses can be featured across our Chamber channels, making introductions and working with the team to ensure Platinum and Diamond members feel supported and heard.

"I love helping members raise their profile and seeing collaborations come from simple introductions."

Outside of work, Sally is a proud mum of two and has a memorable past working in themed restaurants at Meadowhall in the 90s costumes, singing and all.

Connect with Sally on LinkedIn or email her on sally.taylor@brchamber.co.uk.





DAVID HESTER
Membership Account Executive

David looks after Silver and Gold members across Barnsley and Sheffield and has been part of the Chamber team for over seven years. He enjoys building strong relationships and helping members understand what support is available to them.

A typical day for David often involves, speaking with members, talking through benefits they might not yet be using, making them aware of events or sharing ways that could help them save money or raise their profile.

“I enjoy showing members the benefits they didn’t realise they already had.”

Outside work, David is a keen musician, a Sheffield Wednesday fan, cat lover and has an eye for playing tennis player

His favourite member benefit is our Discounted services.

If you’re a Silver or Gold member in Barnsley or Sheffield and would like to know how to get the most out of your membership, give David a call on 01709 386214 or on email at david.hester@brchamber.co.uk.

Your Membership Team across the region



OLIVIA THOMPSON
Membership Account Executive

Olivia joined the Chamber in January 2026 and supports Silver and Gold members across Rotherham and Doncaster. She enjoys meeting new people and helping members feel part of the Chamber community.

In a typical day, Olivia could be out meeting members, welcoming new businesses to the network, or helping members get involved in events and introductions that help grow their connections.

“Being part of the Chamber means you’re surrounded by people who want to help.”

When she’s not working, Olivia swaps the office for the slopes she qualified as a ski instructor in Banff, Canada.

Her favourite member benefit is Growing your network.

Contact Olivia if you’re a Silver or Gold member based in Rotherham or Doncaster to explore your membership benefits further, give her a call on 07496993263 or email her at olivia.thompson@brchamber.co.uk.



Feature



MEGAN LOMAX
Membership Executive

Megan joined the Chamber in December 2024 and spends much of her time meeting businesses across South Yorkshire. She enjoys hearing business owners' stories and connecting people who could benefit from knowing each other.

A day in Megan's role often includes attending events, meeting new members, following up on introductions and helping businesses feel confident getting involved in the Chamber network.

"I see so many great connections being made at our events, it's one of the best parts of the role."

Outside of work, Megan enjoys reading, cooking, craft projects and getting to the gym. She's also passionate about weightlifting, having returned to the sport after recovering from a spinal injury.

Megan's favourite member benefit are the Chamber Events run throughout the year.

If you're reading this for the first time and you're thinking of becoming a member, get in touch with Megan on email megan.lomax@brchamber.co.uk or call her on 07376801688.

"A quick conversation with the Membership Team can lead to opportunities you might not even realise are included."

SUE BALL
Membership Support Officer



Sue has been part of the Chamber since 2006 and is a key part of keeping everything running smoothly behind the scenes. She's often the first person members speak to when they have a question about their membership.

Sue's day-to-day role includes answering member queries, keeping membership records up to date, supporting the wider team and managing Member to Member offers so businesses can access savings and opportunities easily.

"I really enjoy helping members and making sure everything behind the scenes is working as it should."

Sue's favourite member benefit are the exclusive Member to Member offers, that members can upload to their member portal to share with other members.

Reach out to Sue for any admin support, membership and Quest logins at susan.ball@brchamber.co.uk.

Not sure who to speak to?
Visit the Membership Team page.



Scan to meet the team



Member Must Knows

Already a member? Here are 5 member must knows, to ensure you get the most from your membership...

1 Your Member Portal

Login into your member portal via the brchamber.co.uk website to your upload news, events and member to member offers to promote your business online.

2 Discover Discounted Services

Get access to discounted business services that can help save you money. With discounts from brands such as AA Fleet, AXA Health, Westfield Health and UnLTD Business.

3 Book a Meeting Room

Looking to host an offsite meeting? Members can book meeting rooms online. Gold members and above can reserve up to 10 FREE hours in the media suite.

4 Member Mailing List

Gold members and above will receive a GDPR-compliant mailing list to contact members about your services, benefiting your sales and marketing efforts.

5 Discounted Chamber Training

Considering upskilling your team? Chamber Training partners with local providers and Skills Bank to offer tailored, funded training designed to meet your business needs.



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Check out our
website →



Local Radio Is Thriving In Barnsley

57 Media are based in Mexborough and own and operate three radio stations across South Yorkshire.

Initially they launched Rotherham Radio and Doncaster Radio in 2020 and have enjoyed considerable success over the years with key partners such as Rotherham College, Rotherham Council, Doncaster Council, Parkgate Shopping, Stadium Garage, Magna, Trade Centre and many more.

Both stations broadcast on DAB in their respective areas and on numerous digital platforms such as Smart Speakers, Radioplayer and their own dedicated Apps.

On the 1st September 2025 Barnsley Radio was launched with a number of Outside Broadcasts across Barnsley, including at the Glassworks and at Barnsley Football Club.

With well-known local radio names like Matt Foister, Alex Duffy, Steve White, Leanne Dundas and Lee Barber the station gained a substantial following very quickly.

In fact, over the course of one weekend, three weeks prior to its launch over 5000 people downloaded the App. This was unprecedented and proved that Barnsley really wanted its own radio station once again.

So far we've teamed up with the likes of Yorkshire Rose Coach Holidays, Metrodome, the Glassworks, Buzz Bingo,

BARNSLEY RADIO



Barnsley Football Club and Barnsley Council to name a few.

The listenership is already well over 10,000 and well in excess of 75.000 across our South Yorkshire Radio Group.

The Barnsley area will soon have its own DAB platform and of course we are already signed up to be on it.

Paul Chadbourne, one of the owners said:

“Barnsley Radio sounds great on air and we’re delighted that its audience continues to grow at an impressive rate, which really benefits our advertising partners.”

If you want to put your business on the map across Barnsley, Rotherham or beyond please drop us an email to sales@barnsleyradio.co.uk or sales@rotherhamradio.com.

You can advertise on any single radio station in the group or choose to put your message across any combination you require, including all three.

Feel free to follow us on our socials @barnsleyradioofficial & @rotherhamradioofficial.

For more information about Barnsley Radio, visit www.barnsleyradio.co.uk, or contact info@barnsleyradio.co.uk.

DIAMOND MEMBERS





Survey Shows South Yorkshire Business Confidence At Three-Year Low

South Yorkshire's latest Quarterly Economic Survey, published towards the end of 2025, paints a challenging picture for the region's business community. Over 250 businesses across South Yorkshire shared their views on current economic conditions, highlighting mounting pressures and declining confidence.



The Quarterly Economic Survey is the UK's largest independent survey of business sentiment, gathering insights from hundreds of companies each quarter on sales, cash flow, investment, recruitment, and confidence.

In South Yorkshire, the three local Chambers lead the survey, sponsored by South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority, capturing the views of businesses across all sectors.

Overall, the results reflect growing difficulties across almost all indicators, with several measures reaching their weakest levels for a number of years.

Sales and cash flow have fallen sharply, becoming key areas of concern for the South Yorkshire Chambers as core indicators of business health. Rising operational costs continue to accelerate, severely undermining investment confidence.

With fieldwork taking place during a period of uncertainty surrounding the Chancellor's Autumn Budget, business optimism declined markedly.

Expectations of improvement are at their lowest for several years, and overall business confidence has fallen to a three-year low. Concerns around the cost of hiring and levels of corporate taxation have risen to record highs.





Labour demand weakened after improving over the previous two quarters, while recruitment difficulties intensified.

Reflecting continued caution, recruitment into temporary roles increased for the second consecutive quarter, reaching its highest level in almost three years.

As businesses looked ahead to the New Year, many businesses remain in a holding pattern, awaiting clarity from the Budget and forthcoming Employment Rights Bill.

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

“These results closely mirror what we’re hearing from our members across the region.

Many businesses are navigating an exceptionally challenging economic climate, shaped in part by ongoing

uncertainty around government decisions and the Budget process.

At times like these, it’s more important than ever that we champion our business community and help rebuild confidence wherever we can.

Your local Chamber remains firmly by our member’s side, whether that’s through support on Social Value or the wider guidance and advocacy they need to move forward.”

Dan Fell MBE, Chief Executive of Doncaster Chamber, said:

“These results show just how relentless and unforgiving 2025 was, driven by the tax, regulatory and employment landscape.

They are nothing short of a canary in the coal mine. If we fail to heed this warning, not only will the country fall short of the growth needed to achieve prosperity, but we risk heading in the opposite direction.

I hope these findings send a clear message to policymakers locally, regionally and nationally: continued uncertainty and pressure on businesses will only push the trajectory further downward.”

Louisa Harrison-Walker OBE, Chief Executive of Sheffield Chamber of Commerce and Industry comments:

“Confidence and turnover have dropped to its lowest level in three years – with cashflow not looking much better. What a devastating set of results.

What this shows is just how hard our businesses have worked, and how much they have achieved in 2025 despite the economic conditions and uncertainty created by government policy.

Businesses in South Yorkshire are remarkable, but they could achieve even more if taxation and the cost of employing people were manageable.

If anything, it makes me look ahead to 2026 with cautious optimism and a renewed determination to represent our members, including working closely with South Yorkshire’s Mayor and our local authorities to deliver the growth that we know will benefit South Yorkshire.”





Dates For Your Diary

11
FEB

Meet the Buyer Construction Expo 2026
9:30 AM - 12:30 PM
Holiday Inn, Rotherham, S60 2XL

24
FEB

Chamber's Charity Quiz 2026
6:30 PM - 10 PM
Holiday Inn, Barnsley, S75 3JT

6
MAR

International Women's Day 2026
11:30 AM - 3 PM
AESSEAL New York Stadium, Rotherham, S60 1FJ

25
MAR

Meet the Buyer – Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Expo | 9:30 AM - 12 PM
Holiday Inn, Rotherham, S60 2XL

15
APR

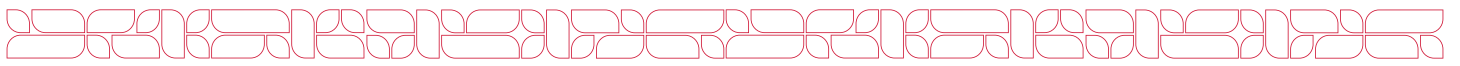
Director's Lunch 2026 | 11:30 AM - 2PM
Barnsley Football Club, Oakwell Stadium, S71 1 ET

24
APR

Using AI - Meet The Expert Session
9 AM - 10:30 AM
Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber HQ, S60 1DX

For further event details and to book your attendance, please visit our website www.brchamber.co.uk/events or scan the QR code.





IPM Group Celebrates Fourth Site Win With Harron Homes Limited

IPM Group Celebrates Fourth Site Win with HARRON HOMES LIMITED expanding Solar and CCTV Coverage in Rotherham, Sheffield and Doncaster.



We are proud to announce the successful award of a new site with Harron Homes, marking another key milestone in our growing partnership.

This latest project in Dinnington, Rotherham becomes the fourth Harron Homes site we now support, further strengthening our position as a trusted provider of solar-powered solutions and fixed CCTV systems across their developments.

The continued expansion reflects Harron Homes' confidence in our ability to deliver dependable, secure, and sustainable site infrastructure.

Our comprehensive security solution combines solar technology with fixed CCTV, all supported by 24/7 live monitoring from our IPM Group head

office. This ensures constant oversight, rapid response, and uninterrupted protection, providing peace of mind around the clock.

Securing this new site is a testament to the dedication of IPM Group team and the quality of service we consistently deliver.

As our presence across Harron Homes developments continues to grow, we remain committed to providing innovative, reliable solutions that add real value to every project we support.

Who are IPM Group UK?

IPM Group UK is an award-winning, multi-service security and facilities management provider headquartered in Sheffield, South Yorkshire. They serve clients locally, regionally and nationally across the UK.

Founded originally in 2006 with a focus on security services, IPM Group has expanded into a full facilities management organisation through steady growth and service diversification.

Our Leadership team has 50+ years of combined security sector experience, emphasising professional delivery and quality.

Our range of services allows businesses to consolidate security, monitoring and operational support through one provider.

To know more about IPM Group UK and how they can secure your Construction development, visit www.ipmgroupuk.com or email swilkinson@ipmgroupuk.com.





BCC Research:

Cost Pressures Hit Jobs Market Further

Despite hiring problems easing, fewer firms are expecting to grow their workforce in early 2026, according to the latest data from the British Chambers of Commerce (BCC).

The BCC's Quarterly Recruitment Outlook shows less than a quarter (23%) of surveyed businesses are planning to increase the size of their workforce in the next three months, down slightly from 25% in Q3 survey.

Meanwhile 63% expect their staffing levels to remain the same, 14% are expecting to reduce their workforce

The research shows recruitment pressures eased at the end of last year. Of those businesses who attempted to recruit in Q4, 70% said they experienced difficulties, compared with 75% in the previous quarter.

The research for Q4 was carried out between 10 November and 8 December, with more than 4,600 businesses across the UK (91% of whom are SMEs) responding.

The hiring picture is slightly different across sectors. The construction sector is the most vulnerable to recruitment difficulties, with 78% of businesses reporting problems. 75% of manufacturing firms said they experienced hiring difficulties in Q4. Meanwhile, in the retail sector the figure was 63% of businesses.

Only a fifth (21%) of firms increased the size of their



workforce in Q4, with half of businesses (62%) saying their staffing levels remained the same. 17% of businesses said they'd cut the size of their workforce.

Labour costs remain the biggest

cost pressure for businesses, cited by 72% of businesses, the same level as Q3. But again, there are big sectoral variations, with that pressure highest in hospitality (82%) and lowest in retail (66%).





Faced with those rising costs, firms are struggling to invest in staff training.

Most businesses (57%) reported that their investment in workforce development remained unchanged over the past three months.

Only 21% said they increased training investment in Q4, 22% made cuts.

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

“As more firms struggle under the weight of rising cost pressures, we are beginning to see an adverse impact on the jobs market.

“Fewer businesses are taking on new staff, while others are having to let staff go. It’s reflected nationally in the rise in unemployment, particularly for young people.

“Unsustainable cost increases mean firms also have less budget to invest in training. Our survey shows that more than a fifth have had to cut their training budget, at a time when the economy is being held back by pervasive skills shortages.

“High taxes and rising wage bills present huge barriers to investment and growth. On top of this, the cost burden of the Employment Rights Act – which the government continues to underestimate – will create further problems.

“To stimulate the economy, the government must now look for every opportunity to minimise business costs, support employers and provide a compelling blueprint for economic growth.”



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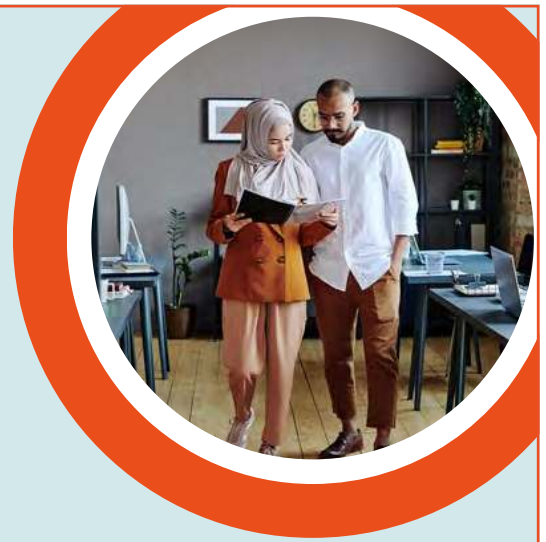
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Glu Recruit Announces Three Key Promotions Following Award-Winning Year

Following a standout year of growth and success, Glu Recruit is proud to announce three internal promotions as the business continues to invest in structure, leadership and people development.

The promotions come shortly after Glu Recruit was recognised with the Commitment to People Development Award at the Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber of Commerce Awards – a milestone that reflects the company’s ongoing dedication to developing talent from within.

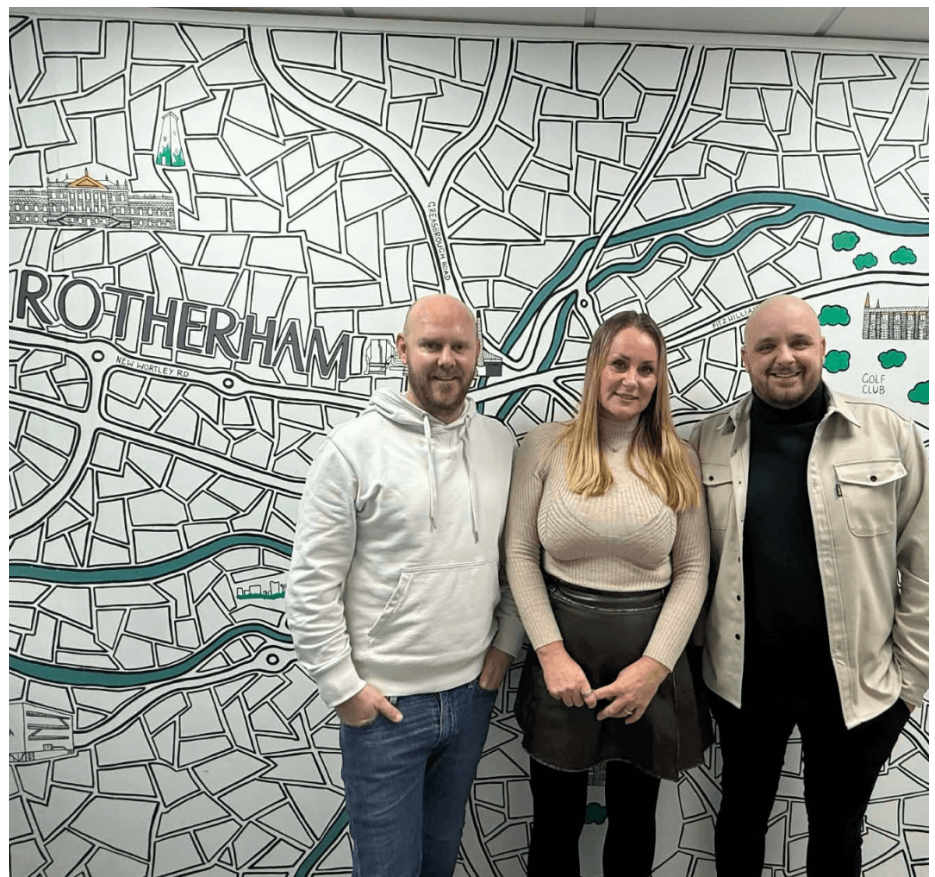
Karen Hughes has been promoted to Head of Recruitment, recognising her exceptional leadership and commercial performance. Karen plays a pivotal role in managing the recruitment team, setting strategic targets, conducting one-to-one development sessions and driving business growth.

Alongside her leadership responsibilities, she continues to lead by example, consistently achieving targets and bringing new business into the organisation.

Jack Crookes steps into the role of Recruitment Team Leader following a highly successful period as a Senior Recruitment Consultant. In his new position, Jack will act as Karen’s right-hand support, helping to manage team workloads, lead key meetings and contribute to the training and development of consultants.

This role allows Jack to further build on the skills and experience he developed as a senior consultant while supporting the wider team’s success.

Joe Hall has been promoted to Head of Operations, taking ownership of the operational side of the business. Having



developed a strong understanding of Glu Recruit’s financial processes, Joe will now oversee operations across the business, focusing on process improvement, efficiency and performance.

He will also remain the go-to person for all finance-related matters, working closely with temporary candidates and clients to ensure smooth and compliant operations.

These promotions reflect Glu Recruit’s commitment to recognising talent,

creating clear progression pathways and building a strong leadership team to support continued growth.

The team at Glu Recruit would like to congratulate Karen, Jack and Joe on their well-deserved promotions and wish them every success in their new roles.

To learn more about Glu Recruit, visit www.glurecruit.co.uk, email eyup@glurecruit.co.uk or call them on 0114 321 1873.



Celebrating 30 Years Of Compassionate Care In Rotherham

2026 marks a truly special milestone for Rotherham Hospice – 30 years of providing compassionate, specialist care to people living with life-limiting illnesses and their families. For three decades, the Hospice has been a cornerstone of our community, offering dignity, comfort, and support when it matters most.

But this incredible work is only possible thanks to the generosity of local people and businesses.

As we celebrate our 30th Anniversary, we're inviting the Barnsley and Rotherham Chamber of Commerce business community to join us in making this year unforgettable – and ensuring the Hospice can continue its vital services for the next 30 years

Why does your support matter?

Every year, Rotherham Hospice needs to raise over £10 million to keep its doors open. With only a fraction funded by the NHS, the rest comes from donations, fundraising, and partnerships. Your business can make a real difference – whether through sponsorship, employee fundraising, volunteering, or becoming a corporate partner.

What's happening in 2026?

We have a calendar of exciting events and initiatives planned to celebrate this milestone, from our 30th anniversary ball at the stunning Wentworth Woodhouse to our brand-new 24-Hour Fitness Challenge.



These are fantastic opportunities for businesses to get involved, showcase their commitment to social responsibility, and connect with others who care about making a positive impact locally.

How you can help:

- Sponsor a campaign or donate prizes
- Donation of end of line or surplus stock for our shops

- Join our Forge Club business network
- Encourage your team to volunteer or take part in our anniversary activities

Together, we can ensure that Rotherham Hospice continues to provide exceptional care for generations to come.

If your business would like to be part of this incredible journey, please contact our Relationships Manager, Eleanor Hughes at Eleanor.hughes@

PLATINUM MEMBERS



Winter Energy Tips - Smart Ways To Save On Heating And Power

When winter hits, energy bills often climb, but your business doesn't have to face the chill unprepared. Energy Partner, Professional Energy People explain how by making a few smart changes to how you heat, light, and manage your workspace, you can lower costs, reduce waste, and improve comfort for everyone.

Here are some easy, effective ways to make your business more energy-efficient this winter.

1. Heat Your Business Efficiently

Heating can account for more than half of your winter energy bill, so even small adjustments go a long way.

- **Optimise Thermostat Settings** - Lowering the temperature by just 1°C can cut heating costs by up to 10%. Keep occupied areas between 19–20°C, and program thermostats to automatically reduce temperatures overnight and at weekends.
- **Zone Your Heating** - Only heat the areas that are in use. Close doors between heated and unheated spaces and consider installing wireless thermostatic radiator valves for greater control.
- **Maintain Your Systems** - Regularly service boilers and HVAC systems to keep them running efficiently. Replace filters during heavy use and bleed radiators to ensure even heating. If your system is outdated, an energy-efficient upgrade can deliver quick payback through savings.

2. Boost Insulation to Lock in Warmth

- **Seal Air Leaks** - Check windows, doors,

and loading docks for drafts. Use weather stripping, door sweeps, and insulated curtains to stop warm air escaping.

- **Insulate Pipes** - Wrap hot water pipes to reduce energy waste and prevent freezing. Insulating cold water pipes can also prevent costly damage.
- **Upgrade Roof and Wall insulation** - Good insulation keeps heat inside and improves overall comfort. It's one of the best long-term investments for energy savings.
- **Use Natural Warmth** - Let the sun do some of the work, open blinds on sunny days to benefit from solar gain and close them at night to retain heat.

3. Save with Smarter Lighting and Equipment Use

With shorter winter days, lighting efficiency matters more than ever.

- **Maximise Natural Light** - Position desks and workspaces near windows to make the most of daylight.
- **Switch to LED Lighting** - LEDs use up to 75% less energy and last much longer than traditional bulbs — a simple upgrade with immediate impact.
- **Power Down After Hours** - Encourage staff to shut down computers and office equipment at the end of the day.

Using smart plugs or power strips helps eliminate standby energy use.

4. Involve Your Team

Energy efficiency works best when everyone contributes.

- **Dress for the Season** - Promote a sensible winter dress code so employees can stay warm without relying solely on heating.
- **Share Your Goals** - Communicate your company's energy-saving targets and celebrate teams that help achieve them. A little recognition can go a long way in building awareness.

5. Go the Extra Mile

- **Take Advantage of Time-of-use Rates** - If your supplier offers off-peak tariffs, consider moving energy-intensive processes to cheaper hours. If unsure discuss this with your energy provider.
- **Maintain Ventilation Efficiency** - Install heat recovery ventilators to retain warmth from outgoing air while maintaining good air quality.

Book an energy audit with the team at Professional Energy People today and discover how your business can save energy, money, and carbon this winter. Visit www.pepgb.com to find out more.



Boutique Hotel Launches in Mexborough As Empress Building Reveals Celebrity-Themed Suites

Empress Building launches 12 luxury hotel suites celebrating Mexborough icons, marking a major £500,000 investment in the town's future.

The historic Empress Building in Mexborough has unveiled its new boutique hotel offering 12 luxury Empress Suites, each dedicated to a celebrated son or daughter of the town.

Honouring beloved figures such as Brian Blessed, Kevin Keegan, Dennis Priestley, Graham Oliver, John Jo Irwin and former Miss World Alice Lavender Lee, the development represents one of the most significant local investments in recent years and a milestone in Mexborough's ongoing cultural revival.

The project, funded by local entrepreneur and Gala Tent CEO Jason Mace, represents over £500,000 of investment and has transformed the site in under 12 months from approved plans to opening day. Each suite combines heritage-inspired interior design with the latest hospitality technology, including smart-lock self check-in, enabling instant, queue-free entry with a secure PIN. The result is a modern guest experience offering complete comfort and total convenience.

The refurbishment follows a dramatic rise in demand for weddings, private parties, tribute nights, and large-scale concerts at the newly revitalised Empress Ballroom, now operated by business partners Jemma Evans and Amanda Gear. The pair, who have also taken on the contract to service the boutique suites, have been instrumental in reshaping the venue into one of South Yorkshire's most exciting entertainment destinations, recently winning highly commended awards from the Barnsley and Rotherham Chamber of Commerce.



The hotel's arrival responds to a long-recognised need in the region: high-quality, local accommodation for guests attending events at the Empress Ballroom. With super king-size beds, luxury en-suites, digital entertainment, kitchen facilities, and high-speed Wi-Fi, the suites offer a new level of comfort for visitors to Mexborough and an experience unlike anything else in the area.

A connecting door to the acclaimed 5-star-rated Goa Spice Bar & Restaurant further elevates the guest offering, with room service available from 5:30pm to 10pm, pairing standout Goan cuisine with Cobra beer, wines, and spirits.

Brian Blessed to return home and stay in his own themed suite

One of Mexborough's most extraordinary exports, actor Brian Blessed, will return to the Empress Ballroom on 3rd and 4th December 2025 for two exclusive live evenings and will stay in the suite created in his honour.

Speaking ahead of his return, Blessed said:

"I am overjoyed to be returning to my beloved hometown of Mexborough, where my journey as an actor began. Mexborough holds a special place in my heart, and I can't wait to share this unforgettable evening with the people who have supported me throughout my career."

Jemma Evans, operator of the Empress Ballroom and co-manager of the new hotel, said:

"The Empress Building has always been a place where memories are made, and these suites take that legacy to the next level. Celebrating so many Mexborough icons under one roof is incredibly special. Our vision is to create a destination that the community is proud of combining luxury, innovation, and local heritage in a way that truly belongs to this town."

To learn more about Empress Building, visit, www.empressbuilding.co.uk.

With Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber membership you have access to Chamber HR.

Access practical HR support whenever you need it with the Quest service through Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber of Commerce. Enjoy unlimited access to qualified employment law and HR specialists who can provide guidance on issues like employee absenteeism, disciplinarys, and redundancies. As a member, you'll also have access to a documents library containing HR templates such as contracts and employee handbooks. Plus, with £1 million excess-free insurance, you can confidently defend against employee disputes.

Gain peace of mind by speaking directly to an HR expert through our Chamber HR advice line at 01455 852037. Members don't need to book a call; simply pick up the phone. You'll receive clear, friendly, and practical advice to help you make important decisions or resolve HR matters.



Included in this service is

- Unlimited* FREE advice line access to experienced HR advisers – available 24/7, 365 days a year.
- Guidance from experienced, qualified HR professionals.
- Advice on good HR practice.
- Assistance regarding the use and interpretation of the contents of the ChamberHR Website.
- Included through the Chamber HR Portal
- A compliant Contract of Employment.
- A compliant Employee Handbook.
- A compliant Health and Safety Policy.
- A description of the law and considerations relating to the major pieces of legislation covering employment law and health and safety.
- Access to over 400 downloadable employment documents including policies, forms, letters, templates and fact sheets.
- Preferential rates for bespoke human resource and health and safety consultancy.
- A 'My Account' area which includes a documents store.
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Access to document validation, pre-employment checks and written advice. Toolkit through our partner Westfield Health and access to Free Chamber HR, H&S, Legal and Tax & VAT services (documents & telephone advice).



Join Us For The **Meet The Buyer Construction Expo**

The Barnsley & Rotherham Construction Forum is set to host its Meet the Buyer – Construction Expo on 11 February 2026, from 9:30am to 12:30pm in the Peter Elliott Suite at the Holiday Inn Rotherham, proudly sponsored by Equans.

This event provides a unique opportunity for businesses in the construction sector to connect directly with buyers, explore new suppliers, and create partnerships that support growth across the South Yorkshire region.

Attending delegates gain direct access to decision-makers actively seeking new products, services, and solutions. Every conversation offers the potential to form long-term collaborations, secure contracts, or identify suppliers that can improve project outcomes.

By meeting buyers face-to-face, businesses can engage in meaningful discussions that deliver immediate value, avoiding the delays and uncertainties of traditional networking or online searches.

Exhibitors benefit from the focused nature of the event, presenting their expertise and services to a highly relevant audience. With a concentrated gathering of buyers, contractors, and professional service providers, the Expo ensures that each interaction has a practical purpose, enabling businesses to showcase innovations, raise their profile, and generate commercial opportunities that have a direct impact on growth.

Delegates also gain insights into regional construction trends, upcoming projects, and procurement plans, equipping them with knowledge to make informed decisions and remain competitive.

The event's structure allows for productive engagement, ensuring



participants leave with actionable contacts and new opportunities to enhance their business operations.

“This Expo is about making connections that matter,” said Shane Young, Operations Director at Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber.

“It brings together suppliers and buyers in a way that accelerates business growth, supports the regional construction sector, and helps our members build partnerships that have real impact.”

Past events have attracted over 100 businesses, fostering a dynamic environment where networking leads to tangible results.

Exhibitors and attendees alike benefit from the curated audience, targeted conversations, and practical outcomes that can translate into immediate business development and long-term

regional impact.

The Expo is free to attend and is designed to be accessible for businesses of all sizes, from established contractors to emerging suppliers.

Limited exhibition space is available, giving suppliers a focused platform to engage directly with decision-makers and position themselves as trusted partners within the local construction community.

For businesses seeking to expand their network, discover new suppliers, or stay informed on industry developments, the Meet the Buyer – Construction Expo 2026 offers a morning of purposeful engagement and measurable business value.

For more information and to register, scan the QR code, visit the Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber website or contact the events team at events@brchamber.





MEET THE BUYER CONSTRUCTION

11.02.2026 | Holiday Inn Rotherham, S60 2XL

- Gain key regional insights ◀
- Build valuable industry connections ◀
- Tickets open to all businesses ◀

*Exhibition stands available for suppliers of goods and services to the construction industry



Book your FREE place!
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A Chance To Join The Celebrations With Local Charity

Age UK Rotherham is excited to announce a spectacular Gala Ball to celebrate forty years of supporting older people in Rotherham.



The event will be held on **Saturday 21st March at the beautiful and historic Aston Hall Hotel and tickets are available now.**

The charity warmly invites residents of Rotherham to join this special occasion, along with its supporters, VIP guests and local dignitaries.

The Gala Ball promises to be one of the most memorable social events of the year, celebrating and showcasing the work of Age UK Rotherham over the decades.

Tickets for the evening are priced at £65

per person, offering excellent value, for a night filled with elegance, celebration and entertainment.

For those looking to make it a group experience, tables of ten can be reserved for £600. The tickets include:

- A sparkling drinks reception
- Three course dinner with wine
- Superb entertainment by local band
- Dancing into the night
- Auction and raffle

Whether you are an individual seeking a glamorous night out or a company looking to entertain clients and colleagues, the Age UK Rotherham 40th Anniversary Gala Ball presents

an exceptional opportunity to enjoy a fantastic evening while supporting a local cause.

There are also sponsorship opportunities for local businesses, so for more information on the event, or to book your tickets contact Denise Caldecott on 07970 866 824 or fundraising@ageukrotherham.org.





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Access our meeting rooms and media suite.

Our online calendars below allows you to select your desired date, time, and duration, making the reservation process quick and hassle-free.

To reserve our meeting room, simply select a room below and navigate to the calendar booking form. Fill in the necessary details, including your preferred date, time, and any additional requirements you may have.

We look forward to hosting your upcoming meeting and assisting you with all your business needs.



Chamber Media Suite

The Media suite, is a dynamic space designed to cater to entry level multimedia needs. Whether starting out or looking to build on your existing content our Media Room is a great hub for capturing, producing, and delivering media content.

Step into our Media Room and unleash your creativity in an environment equipped with a green screen, photography equipment, videography capabilities, and podcasting facilities.

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- Create promotional Videos
- Take new Photography
- Record corporate Audio

Small Meeting Room & Large Meeting Room

Designed to cater to the needs of executive teams and decision-makers, this Board Room space provides an exceptional environment for productive meetings.

Large Meeting Room Room for 10 people

- Access to secure fast WIFI
- Easy access to power sockets
- 65 inch interactive computer and presentation screen

Small Meeting Room for 6 people

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- Easy access to power sockets
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Brown & Brown Launch New Innovation & Life Science Insurance Solution

At Brown & Brown, we know that the world of science and technology is transforming at unprecedented speed. From breakthrough medicinal products to advanced robotics, from laboratory-grown foods to carbon-capture technologies - innovation isn't slowing down. And neither are we.

That's why we are proud to announce the launch of our **New Innovation & Life Science Insurance Solution**, designed specifically to support organisations operating at the cutting edge of science, technology, and applied research.

Built on deep industry understanding and collaboration, this new product provides tailored commercial insurance support for a wide scope of life science and technology sectors:

- Medicinal products & medical devices
- In-vitro diagnostics
- Cosmetics, dietary supplements & medical foods
- UK clinical trials
- Professional service providers
- Laboratory-grown food products
- Laboratory chemicals, culture media & biocides
- Laboratory equipment and robotics
- Carbon-capture & waste-capture technologies
- Materials science, including ceramics, composites, nanomaterials, textiles, and polymers
- PPE products, including Cat 3 life-threatening risk categories
- Aviation, space & advanced transport technologies
- Military Products

Our goal is simple: To enable innovators to innovate - confidently, safely, and without compromise.



We also ensure clarity and integrity in our offering by clearly defining areas we avoid, including high-hazard chemical operations, primary nanoparticle production, firearms, explosives, and significant transportation or civil engineering risks.

This ensures our clients benefit from certainty, transparency, and true specialist focus.

As your partners in progress, we're excited to bring this enhanced solution to market and support the next generation of life-changing technologies. Whether you're advancing materials science, developing breakthrough medical devices, or pushing the boundaries of robotics and applied tech, we're here to protect what moves you forward.



Events

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

February 11 at 9:30 AM- 12:30 PM
Meet the Buyer – Construction Expo 2026

Holiday Inn, Rotherham

We are inviting businesses to connect, collaborate, and build new opportunities at this superb Construction focused, Meet The Buyer Expo, sponsored by Equans.

Hosted in the Peter Elliot Suite at the Holiday Inn Rotherham, this event brings together a diverse range of local organisations, each showcasing their expertise, services, and innovations within the construction sector.

Delegates will have the chance to meet face-to-face with industry buyers, discover new suppliers, and explore opportunities that support growth across the region.

February 24 at 6:30 PM- 10:00 PM
Chamber’s Charity Quiz 2026

Holiday Inn, Barnsley

Join us for the Chamber’s Charity Quiz 2026! Get ready for an evening of fun and fundraising in support of the Chamber’s Charity of the Year, Rotherham Samaritans.

This event is open to everyone, so gather your team of up to five players or come solo, and we’ll match you with a mixed team. Our quizmaster will cover a wide range of topics, ensuring something for all ages and interests!

On the night, we’ll host a raffle, with all proceeds going directly to the Rotherham Samaritans. Do you think you could be the Chamber’s Charity Quiz 2026 champion? Book now!

February 17 at 9:00 AM- 11:00 AM
Chamber Coffee Morning – Drop In

The Business Village, Barnsley

Beat the winter chill with a warm welcome at our February Coffee Morning! Looking for a relaxed space to network and connect with fellow Barnsley businesses? Join us for our 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!

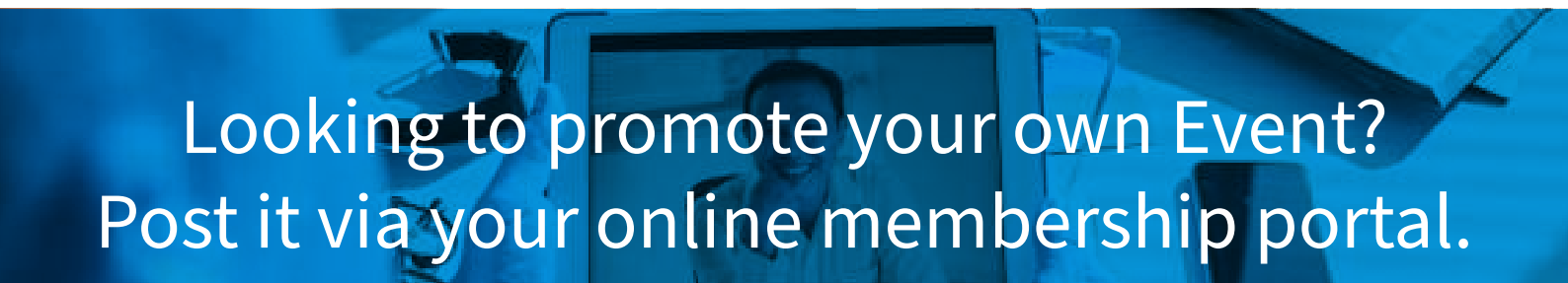
March 6 at 11:30 AM- 3:00 PM
International Women’s Day 2026

AESSEAL New York Stadium, Rotherham

The day will offer the opportunity to be inspired and empowered through insightful talks and discussions from our speakers and panelists, alongside meaningful connection and conversation.

Attendees can look forward to a warm welcome with a complimentary drink on arrival, followed by a delicious two-course lunch enjoyed during the event.

We are delighted to announce the host of the event will be Hayley Koseoglu of iekos. We also have a stellar panel of guests to answer a Q&A session as well as great line up of keynote speakers, featuring Ava Jones of AESSEAL and Allie Dransfield of Chapter II.



Looking to promote your own Event?
Post it via your online membership portal.



Chamber Training

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

Introduction to Exporting

11th & 12th February at 9:00 AM- 1:00 PM

Member price – £195.00 + VAT (Save £25)

Non-member price – £210.00 + VAT

Duration – Half 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 10 spaces available

Skills Series - #7 Employment Law

Delivered by Irwin Mitchell

February 26 at 9:30 AM- 1:30 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 5 spaces remaining

Essential Skills - First Aid at Work Requalification

10 & 11th March 2026

Member price – £120.00 + VAT (Save £80)

Non-member price – £200.00 + VAT

Duration – 2 Days

Is your team's first aid certificate due to expire? Don't let it lapse, renew with us and keep your workplace safe and compliant.

This accredited 2-day course refreshes vital skills, from CPR to managing injuries and major illnesses, with a new certificate valid for 3 years.

Only 10 spaces remaining

Skills Series #8 – Managing Difficult Conversations

Delivered by Abbeydale Training

March 24 at 9:30 AM- 1:30 PM

Price – £50.00 + VAT

Duration – Half Day

Every workplace has moments where tough conversations are unavoidable, whether it's handling underperformance, delivering difficult feedback, or navigating sensitive topics with customers or colleagues.

This interactive workshop is designed to help you approach challenging conversations with clarity, confidence, and empathy. Through guided discussion and proven frameworks, you'll learn how to prepare and communicate effectively in high-stakes situations.

Only 10 spaces available

Browse the full range of training available from Chamber Training



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New Members

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

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Environmental
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absolute-water.co.uk

Barnsley Foodbank Partnership

Charitable & Voluntary Organisations
01226 593782
barnsley.foodbank.org.uk

BeBeautiful

Health & Beauty
01226 245456
bebeautifulbarnsley.co.uk

Care Ideals Ltd

Business Services
07763 070881
careideals.com

Clario Professional Services

IT, Financial Services & Human Resources
07920 203827
clario-services.co.uk

KAIZ3N LTD

Business Services
07812 075387
kaiz3n.uk

Norton Financial Services Ltd

Financial Services
01709 518518
nortonfinance.co.uk

Pure Atom Energy Ltd

Energy, Utilities, Water
07928 621798
pureatomenergy.co.uk

Shiloh Rotherham

Charitable & Voluntary Organisations
01709 559504
shilohrotherham.org.uk

Autism Plus Limited

Charitable & Voluntary Organisations
0114 3840284
autisplus-employmentservices.co.uk

Gallagher

Insurance/Risk Management
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ajg.com/uk

GPS Care Services Ltd

Health & Wellbeing
03335 772231
gpscare.uk/

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Energy, Utilities, Water
07785 928636
electricitytransmission.com

Ninehundred Communications

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ninehundred.co.uk

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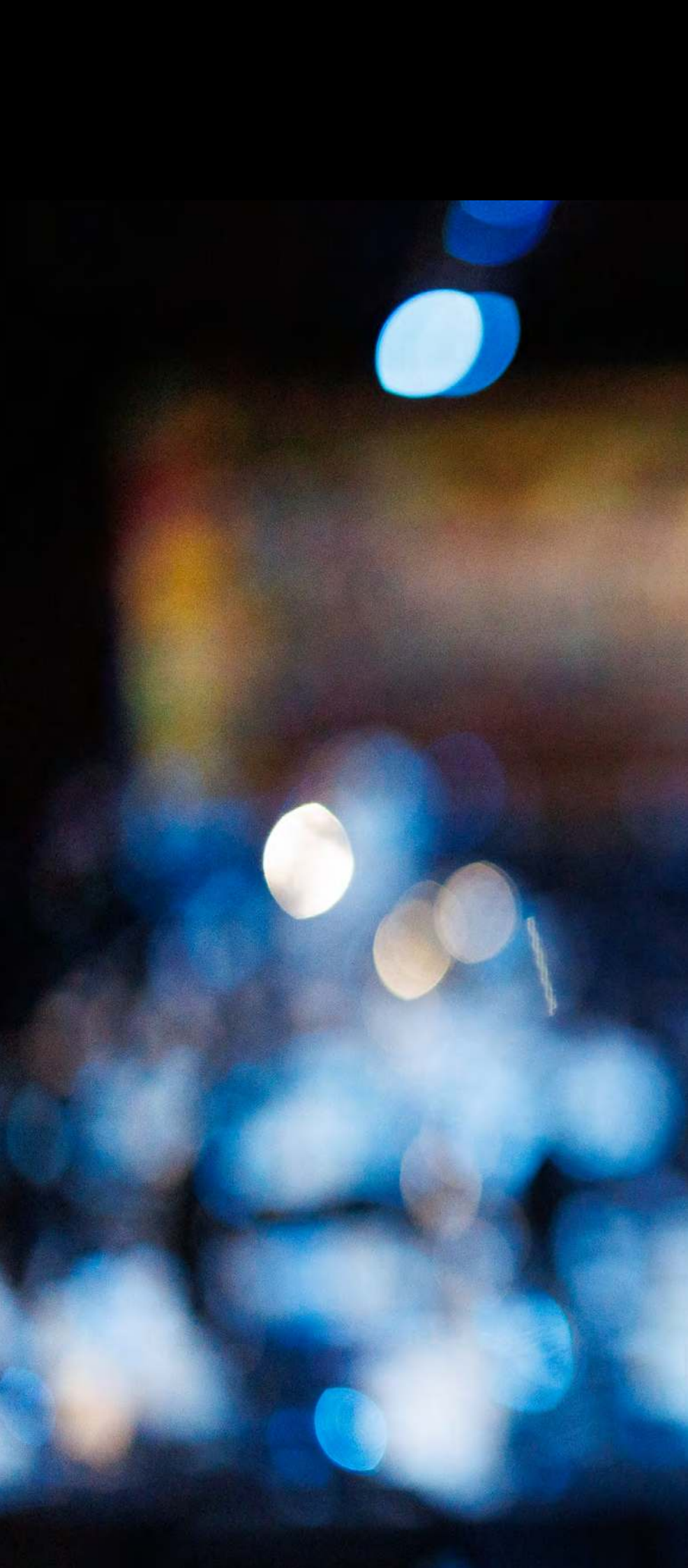
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