

# Business Durham Annual Report 2018/19

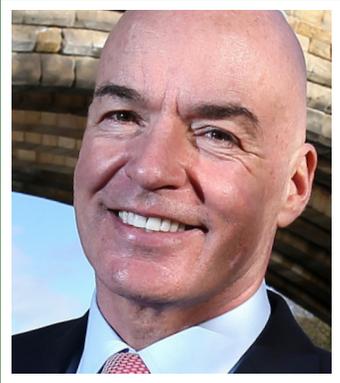
“ It’s all about the passion, willingness and the energy to succeed ”

James Ramsbotham, NEECC



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BY PEOPLE

## Foreword



It's been an exhilarating year for Business Durham and the County.

We have seen the launch of the £200m Aykley Heads development which will deliver 6000 jobs and a £400m economic boost for the County. With some £3.4Bn of planned investment across the region there can be no better place to invest, start or grow a business than Durham.

Such growth will see 100,000 new jobs in an area that really is powered by people. Business Durham has itself grown and delivered some extraordinary results over the last year.

That success is down to the brilliant team we have here and colleagues across the Council and wider partnership who have all played their part in the success story that is County Durham.

Thank you for your continued support.

**Brian Archer,**  
Managing Director.



## Highlights of the Year

- We launched Durham City Incubator in partnership with Durham University and New College Durham to help fledgling companies grow and thrive.
- Our Finance Durham Fund has invested £3.36m into 11 County Durham companies to date, leveraging £5.2m of private sector finance.
- Our seven inward investment success included VBites, which took over the former Walkers factory in Peterlee, creating up to 350 jobs.
- We launched Digital Drive County Durham helping 198 companies make the most of digital technology since its launch in January 2018. Overall there are 573 businesses registered on the programme.

“ There’s immense power in the people here to make things happen ”

Anne-Isabelle Daulon, Eleven Arches



10th anniversary  
Tanfield Lea  
Business Centre



VBites



Digital Drive



DBOP Team

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## Highlights of the Year

- We hosted the annual Satellite Applications Conference “Discover the Possibilities” attended by over 100 business and industry experts.
- The North East Ports testbed was launched to connect ports with digital businesses to transform services.
- We won £1.25m from the Govtech Catalyst fund to help transform local authority services with intelligent analysis of data.
- A new 1km road was completed at NETPark opening up 26 acres of development land.
- Overall occupancy of our commercial portfolio increased to 84%.

“ There’s a real appetite for business and a genuine desire for success ”

Richard Kirk, Polyphotonix



Evince



“Discover the Possibilities”



Hot Desking - Salvus House



NETPark Development

## Major Company Milestones

- Quorum Development Ltd moved to new offices at the NETPark's new Explorer building in Sedgefield as it continues to grow 20% year on year.
- High Force Research, which supports new product development in the fine chemicals, pharmaceutical, diagnostics and printed electronics industries, opened a second Research Laboratory at NETPark in Sedgefield as the company continues to grow.
- Vivarail, the manufacturer of eco-friendly passenger trains, has accelerated expansion of its plant at the Spectrum Business Park, Seaham, beating its three year workforce target in just over a year. The site has doubled in size and they are committed to further investment.
- NETPark based pioneering biotechnology firm, ReViral, will start the next phase of clinical trials of its antiviral drug this year after winning US\$55 million from US and European investors.



## Driving Productivity

Business Durham added £113M of GVA growth to the County's economy through the businesses we worked with.

With 300 hectares of development land Business Durham continues to take a lead role in shaping the local industrial strategy;

- Investing in strategic employment sites and improved connectivity
- Delivering innovation support through commercialisation of knowledge
- Strengthening business and education partnerships
- Ensuring County Durham is a great place to invest, start and grow a business



HM Government

## Industrial Strategy

Building a Britain fit for the future



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Business Durham is supported by:



## Powered by People

There's a real sense of partnership in County Durham; a willingness to help others achieve their goals with positive, proactive and collaborative networks that break down barriers, create opportunities and provide the support businesses need. We have a business friendly council and Business Durham; a dedicated economic development organisation for the county delivering the environment for business and economic growth.

Community spirit is strong in this part of the world. Businesses here are rooted in their local communities, in a symbiotic relationship that provides many opportunities to support and have a significant impact on the lives of others.

Learn more at: [durhampoweredbypeople.co.uk](http://durhampoweredbypeople.co.uk)



## Durham City Incubator

Successful launch of Durham City Incubator- an accelerator programme for entrepreneurs and growing businesses in County Durham. Delivered in partnership with Durham University and New College Durham the programme has got off to a tremendous start delivering;

- 8 high growth businesses launched with over £100,000 of investment funds raised in 6 months
- Plastech Innovation won two National Awards SCidea 2019 and Shell LiveWIRE
- DCI has supported budding entrepreneurs through various competitions such as Innovate 19 and Blueprint Enterprise Challenge
- Sponsored of Entrepreneurs Forum Conference which provided inspiration and networking opportunities for DCI founders



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Find out more

## Business Durham,

Salvus House, Aykley Heads,  
Durham DH1 5TS

t: +44 (0) 3000 261 261

e: [enquiries@businessdurham.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@businessdurham.co.uk)

w: [www.businessdurham.co.uk](http://www.businessdurham.co.uk)

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📘 @businessdurham12

“ The skill set is here  
because these are places  
where people want to live ”

Ed Twiddy, Atom



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