



**Business
Durham** 

Business Start Up Support

Economy and Enterprise

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

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County Durham Business Start Up Background



- Historically, start-up rates in County Durham have been below regional and national averages.
- Improving picture in recent years with growth in number of businesses comparable to regional and national rates.
- Annual number of business 'births' increasing over last 4 years from 1,565 in 2018 to 1,810 in 2021
- Survival rate of new businesses in County Durham above regional and national figures (75.1% survive 2+ years, 60.4% survive 3+ years)
- Increasing the number of start-ups important to strengthen our economy, hence one of four priorities under the Productivity pillar of the County Durham Inclusive Economic Strategy is to *"Provide excellent support at all stages for businesses to start-up, sustain, thrive and grow in County Durham"*
- Timely to review the current start-up 'ecosystem' and look at new ways to encourage and support more businesses to start-up in the County.

County Durham Start Up Ecosystem

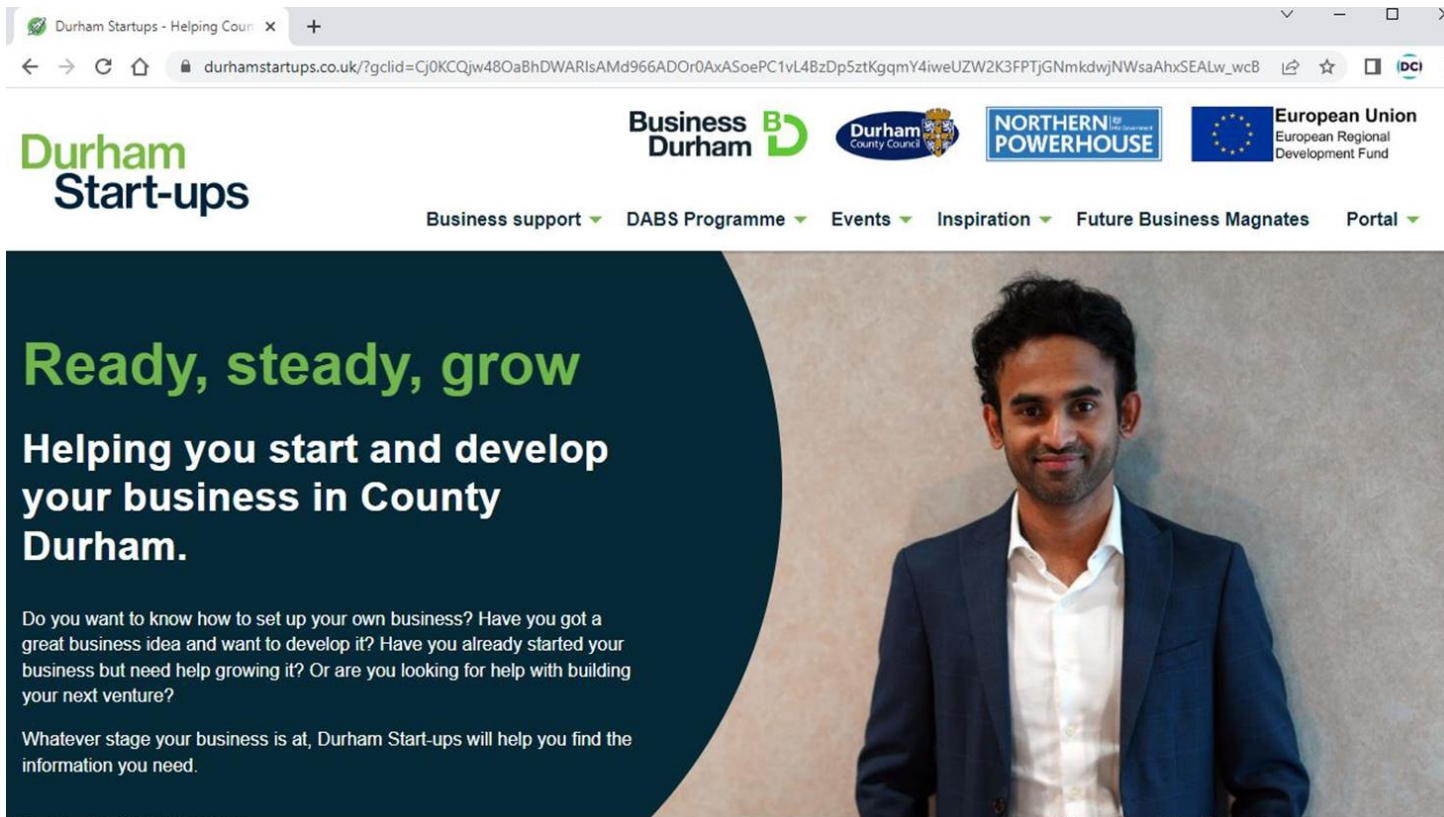


Durham Ambitious Business Start-ups (DABS)



- DABS programme has supported:
 - 150 pre-start individuals
 - 130 new start-ups
 - 16.68 FTE jobs created
- Annual Festival of Enterprise held
- Start-up Portal developed

Durham Start Ups Portal



Durham Start-ups

Durham City Incubator (DCI)



LOW CARBON MATERIALS
EARTHSHOT FINALISTS
DCI COHORT 1

- DCI has supported:
 - 72 high growth businesses over 9 Cohorts
 - Collectively raised over £8m investment
- Sectors include: social enterprise, digital technology, professional services, food & drink, and the green economy

Enterprising Durham Framework

Aim: 'To create an integrated partnership delivery approach to supporting enterprise and business start-up in County Durham.'

- **Enterprising People:** *'confident people with a can-do attitude spotting opportunities to transform their lives'*
- **Enterprising Start Ups:** *'a rising number of sustainable start-ups, driving economic and social change'*
- **Enterprising Places:** *'thriving places with a buzz of enterprising activity within communities'*

Conclusion

- Opportunity to join up support in the County to provide a better offer to business start-ups at all stages
- Builds on best practice and lessons learned from current start-up support programmes
- Strong support for partnership approach and appetite for continued and close collaboration
- Considerable knowledge and expertise amongst delivery partners
- UKSPF resources of £2 million allocated to take this forward, with delivery aiming to start from September 2023, subject to approval of the detailed delivery plan.
- Enterprising Durham Framework provides the foundation to build a start-up ecosystem that will deliver on the IES priority to provide excellent support at all stages for businesses to start-up, sustain, thrive and grow in County Durham.

Any Questions?