

# growth & impact

#WETAKEADIFFERENTVIEW

April 2022 // March 2023

# THE YEAR AT A GLANCE



750

Client deals



396

New UK businesses created



£16m

Of client investment



1,885

UK jobs created or safeguarded



£64m

Added to the region's economy  
(£392.4m in the last 11 years)



66%

Of total lending within LSOA's  
in the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)

## A note from our CHAIR & CHIEF EXECUTIVE



Tim Hamilton  
Interim Chair

The board of BEF recently attended an away day with the staff. As part of that away day we were asked what were we proud of. It is easy to say what makes us proud.

“ AS A BOARD, WE ARE THRILLED ABOUT THE PROGRESSIVE SCALE OF IMPACT WE MAKE ACROSS THE UK, PARTICULARLY THE NORTH OF ENGLAND, AND WE ARE PLEASED TO SEE THAT THIS YEAR WE HAVE GONE FURTHER, HIGHER, AND FASTER, TO BORROW A PHRASE FROM THE OLYMPICS.

Serving on the board at BEF requires us to oversee the executive team, hold them to account, and ensure that we meet our statutory and regulatory obligations. If we just did that it would be a dull business.

As a board, we are thrilled about the progressive scale of impact we make across the UK, particularly the North of England, and we are pleased to see that this year we have gone further, higher, and faster, to borrow a phrase from the Olympics.

The board's commitment to support the executive team and staff of BEF to achieve greater impact is what motivates us. We are delighted that we can bring experience and expertise to the board, along with our enthusiasm for the work that BEF does in changing communities for the better.

On behalf of the board, I thank our partners who have helped us impact so many businesses, lives, and communities.

I hope you enjoy reading the great client stories that are included in this Social Impact Report.



Steve Waud  
Chief Executive

Serving as the CEO of BEF has been a wonderful experience. At BEF we have a committed and professional team of conscientious colleagues who are dedicated to the principle of serving communities and tackling issues of deprivation and poverty through finance.

“ AT BEF, WE WANT TO CHANGE COMMUNITIES FOR THE BETTER, THROUGH THE INNOVATIVE USE OF FINANCE, USING OUR INCREDIBLE STAFF TO MAKE THOSE IMPACTS AND DIFFERENCES COUNT.

We have had colleagues who have spent long careers in banking join us and discover a renewed purpose to their careers. These same colleagues then work with a generation of financial professionals, who want to deliver finance with a conscience.

We take a huge amount of pride in developing and supporting staff in a career in finance that takes a different view.

That view is all about impact. There are plenty of financial institutions out there, but very few who put communities at the heart of what they do. At BEF, we want to change communities for the better, through the innovative use of finance, using our incredible staff to make those impacts and differences count.

This year we have delivered impact in spades, and I am thrilled to see the spread of the work we do all over the UK.

We have some fantastic stakeholders who buy into our mission and working with those partners underpins our values and purpose.

Of course we need to acknowledge the clients who are creative, resilient and tenacious.

Please read this report and see all the lives that are positively impacted by the work of BEF.

April 2022 // March 2023

## OUR IMPACT

$$\begin{array}{rcccl}
 \text{BEF Capital} & & \text{Start-up Loans} & & \text{NPIF} \\
 \text{£7.8m} & + & \text{£6.7m} & + & \text{£1.5m} \\
 & & = & & \\
 & & \text{£16m} & & 
 \end{array}$$

9,000

Hours of investor readiness support

### 11 YEAR TOTAL

4,833

Client deals

£392.4m

Added to the region's  
economy

£108m

Client investment

2,170

New UK  
businesses created

13,140

UK jobs created or  
safeguarded

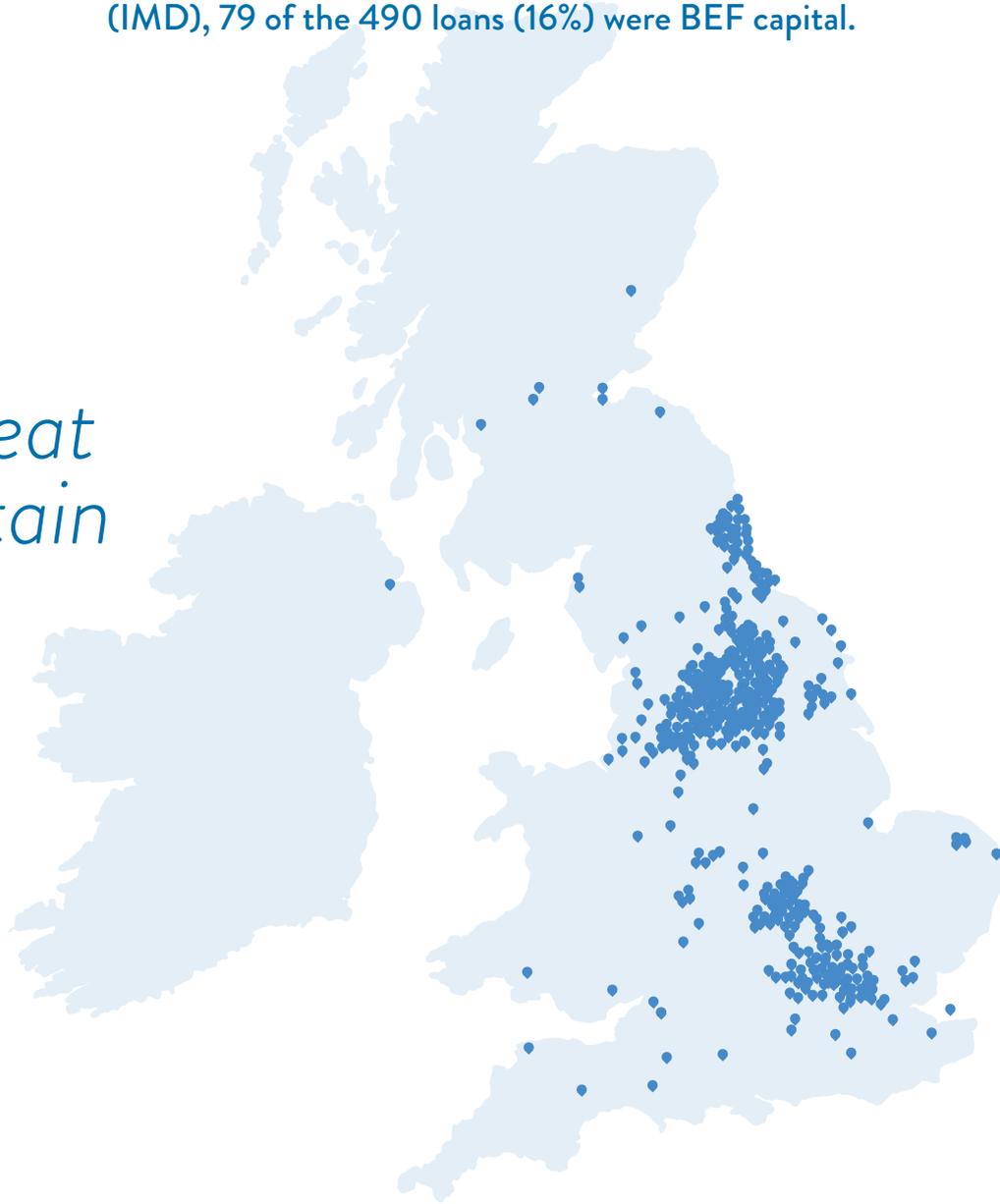
£473,054

Granted to organisations  
matching our aims and  
objectives including  
charities

# WHERE WE INVEST

66% loans (£10.6m) of our lending was within the most deprived areas of the UK.  
 490 loans were issued within the lowest 35% of LSOA's in the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), 79 of the 490 loans (16%) were BEF capital.

Great Britain



**Business Services**  
 18% / £2.87m / +200k from 2020/21

**Construction**  
 13% / £2.01m / -£1.0mm from 2020/21

**Creative**  
 6% / £894k / +£599k from 2020/21

**Education**  
 3% / £452k / -£115k from 2020/21

**Healthcare and Beauty**  
 9% / £1.54m / +£360k from 2020/21

**Hospitality**  
 14% / £2.30m / +£400k from 2020/21

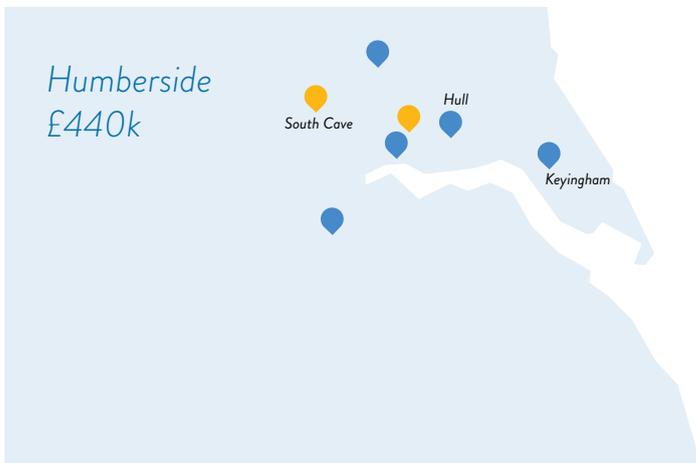
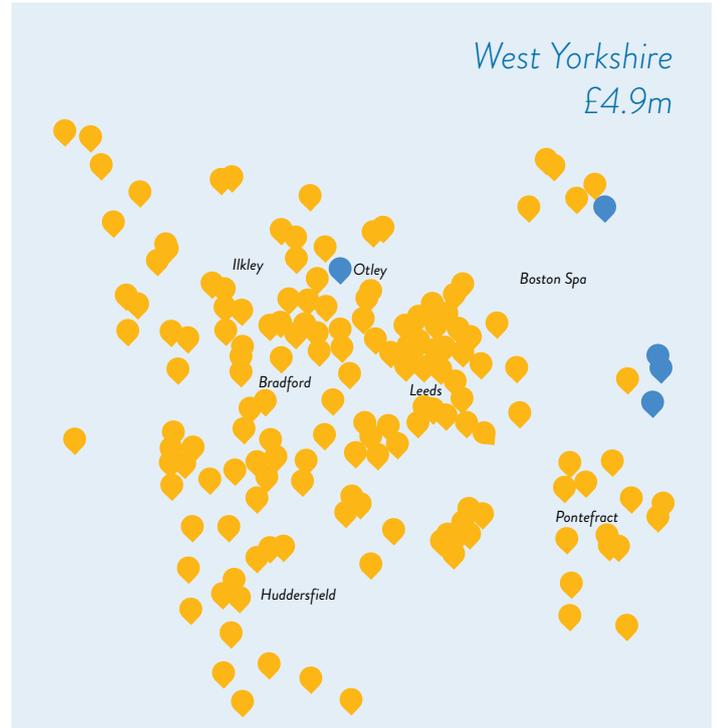
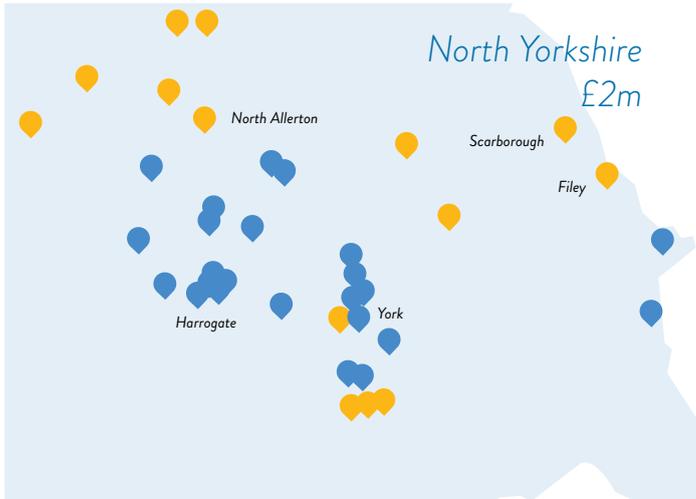
**Logistics**  
 3% / £467k / - £623kk from 2020/21

**Manufacturing**  
 11% / £1.85m / -£300k from 2020/21

**Retail**  
 16% / £2.53m / +£930k from 2020/21



It's great  
**UP NORTH**  
 (Levelling up)



Yellow pins denote the LSOAs

# Impact SUMMARY

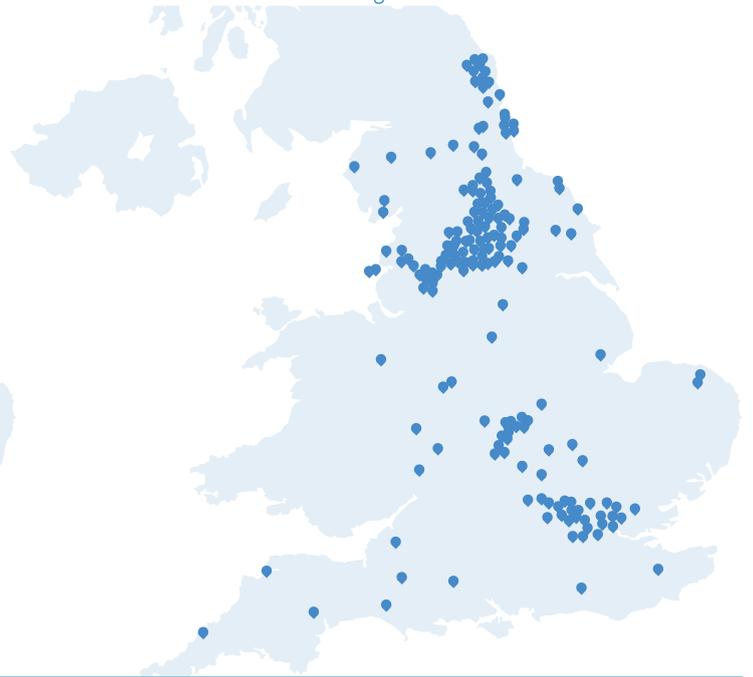
## YOUNGER ENTREPRENEURS (18 - 35)

Total lending £4.4m (30%)



## FEMALE ENTREPRENEURS

Total lending £5.7m (36%)



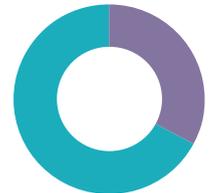
## AGE OF BORROWERS

RANGE	QUANTITY	VALUE	% OF QUANTITY	% CHANGE FROM 2021/22
18 - 24	26	£294k	2%	-8
25 - 34	252	£4.36m	28%	-6
35 - 44	244	£4.56m	28%	-2
45 - 54	158	£3.46m	21%	+2
55 - 64	50	£1.57m	9%	+2
65+	20	£854k	5%	+3



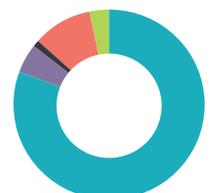
## GENDER OF BORROWERS

	TOTAL £M	% OF TOTAL	% CHANGE FROM 2021/22
FEMALE	5.7m	36%	+3
MALE	10.3m	64%	-3



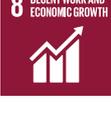
## ETHNICITY OF BORROWERS

	TOTAL	% OF TOTAL	% CHANGE FROM 2021/22
WHITE BRITISH	474	79	+3
ANY OTHER WHITE BACKGROUND	33	5	+1
MIXED/MULTIPLE ETHNIC GROUPS	7	1	-1
ASIAN	58	10	+3
BLACK	16	3	+1



# Sustainable DEVELOPMENT GOALS

In 2018 we announced our commitment to adopt a long-term plan to support the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs). The UNSDGs were developed in 2016 to tackle the root causes of poverty and unite us together to make a more positive change for both people and planet, creating an improved environment for future generations.

GOAL	UN DEFINITION	HOW WE APPLY THE GOAL	MEASURE	£ OF TOTAL LENDING 2022/2023	£ OF TOTAL LENDING 2022/2023	2023 TARGET
	End poverty in all its forms everywhere	We continue to work in some of the most challenging and economically and socially deprived communities in the country and now support businesses across the North of England. By supporting the lowest income communities and most disadvantaged areas, we aim to alleviate poverty in the communities we serve	Volume of lending into lower layer super output areas (LSOAs) and areas with the highest indices of multiple deprivation (IMDs)	£ 10.6 m	66%	5% year-on-year increase
	End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	There is a recognition that the poorest families also have the poorest diets and nutrition. By seeking to alleviate poverty we improve families' nutrition	Volume of lending into lower layer super output areas (LSOAs) and areas with the highest indices of multiple deprivation (IMDs)	£ 10.6 m	66%	5% year-on-year increase
	Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	We increased our contribution to this goal by 32% – more than doubling our lending. We achieved this by actively supporting organisations that improve the health and well-being of individuals within the communities they serve	Business type and description	£1.9m	15%	10% of all lending will be to these types of businesses
	Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	We supported SMEs that deliver learning opportunities to individuals and communities, ensuring education is accessible to all and individual needs are met. We continue to support charities, SMEs, universities, schools and colleges that promote and develop enterprise education	Continued monetary support to charities that promote this goal at local level e.g. One In A Million, alongside lending to a proportion of SMEs that lead on this goal through their products or services	£499k	2%	To reach and maintain levels of 10% of all deals
	Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	Women-led businesses are a vital part of our communities and economy. We continue to actively promote funding support to women and are playing an active role in addressing the funding gap to this demographic	Gender of main business owner	£5.7m	36%	To maintain current levels; > 20% of all the deals we do with women entrepreneurs
	Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	We will actively support those businesses that seek to promote sustainable management of water and sanitation	Business type	Working towards reporting on this goal for our future portfolio	Working towards reporting on this goal for our future portfolio	To support and promote clients that operate in this sector
	Ensure access to sustainable and modern energy for all	We work to support businesses that supply affordable and clean energy	Business type	£270k	2%	5% of all deals will be to these types of businesses
	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	Everything we do is to support the economic growth and development of the areas we serve. This is part of our Company Articles	Every loan we provide	£16m	100%	100% of all activity
	Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation	We work to support innovation and sustainable development of enterprise within the communities we serve	Volume of lending into lower layer super output areas (LSOAs) and areas with the highest indices of multiple deprivation (IMDs)	£ 10.6 m	66%	5% year-on-year increase

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Using our Responsible Finance model, we continually contribute to these goals. We measure success by the volume of lending attributable to each goal. We are proud that over the past year we have seen a significant increase in lending that supports No Poverty, Zero Hunger, Good Health and Wellbeing, Quality Education and Gender Equality.

GOAL	UN DEFINITION	HOW WE APPLY THE GOAL	MEASURE	£ OF TOTAL LENDING 2022/2023	£ OF TOTAL LENDING 2022/2023	2023 TARGET
	Reduce inequality within and among countries	It is not possible for us to work out the inequalities amongst countries, but we can between people groups in the areas we serve. Therefore, we commit to support underrepresented demographics through our lending activity	Ethnicity, age and gender	£11.2m	70%	Maintain current levels of lending to diverse communities and underrepresented people groups
	Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	Everything we do is to support the sustainable communities through economic regeneration and the creative use of finance. We work in the most disadvantaged communities in the North of England and beyond	Volume of lending into Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs) and areas with the highest Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMDs)	£10.6m	66%	5% year-on-year increase
	Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	We will actively encourage all our clients to adopt sustainable consumption and production practices	Providing support or signposting clients to such organisations who can assist in improving their procurement and selling practices	Working towards reporting on this goal for our future portfolio	Working towards reporting on this goal for our future portfolio	To continue to support and educate all clients on sustainable best practices
	Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	We will actively encourage all our clients to adopt sustainable consumption and production practices to minimise and reduce their environmental impact	Providing support or signposting clients to such organisations who can assist in improving their environmental footprint	Working towards reporting on this goal for our future portfolio	Working towards reporting on this goal for our future portfolio	To continue to support and educate all clients on sustainable best practices
	Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development	We will work with such clients whose primary activity is within oceans, seas and marine resources to adopt and apply such best practice as to protect, restore and manage sustainable ecosystems	Providing support or signposting clients to such organisations who can assist in improving their environmental footprint	Working towards reporting on this goal for our future portfolio	Working towards reporting on this goal for our future portfolio	To continue to support and educate all clients on sustainable best practices
	Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss	We will work with such clients whose primary activity is within agriculture or land management to adopt and apply such best practice as to protect, restore and manage sustainable ecosystems	Providing support or signposting clients to such organisations who can assist in improving their environmental footprint	Working towards reporting on this goal for our future portfolio	Working towards reporting on this goal for our future portfolio	To continue to support and educate all clients on sustainable best practices
	Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels	We will work with clients to promote inclusive societies through their business activity	Providing support or signposting clients to such organisations who can assist in improving the work they do to promote inclusive societies	Working towards reporting on this goal for our future portfolio	Working towards reporting on this goal for our future portfolio	To continue to support and educate all clients on sustainable best practices
	Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development	We are committed to partnering in the promotion of these goals within the areas we serve, reporting and evidencing against the targets we have outlined	Board-level commitment	Working towards reporting on this goal for our future portfolio	Working towards reporting on this goal for our future portfolio	To deliver against targets for all goals

# SUPPORTING GOOD CAUSES



## ONE IN A MILLION

One In A Million helps disadvantaged children and young people break the cycles of deprivation while valuing and celebrating their uniqueness and letting them know they are 'one in a million'. In the last year, we raised over £4,645 to help them engage young people through sports, the arts and enterprise in the Bradford area.



One In A Million is extremely grateful for BEF's continued unwavering support for our charities work during the past year. As a valued Corporate Partner, BEF have helped us achieve our mission to positively impact the lives of children and young people living in disadvantaged communities within the Bradford MDC.

As a charity, children and young people are at the heart of all we do. I'm delighted that BEF share in our vision and care enough to contribute to our success year after year. Thank you.

Craig McHugh, One In A Million

# NSPCC

## NSPCC

BEF raised £4,409 in sponsorship donations for the NSPCC, the UK's leading children's charity. The charity works to prevent abuse, help rebuild children's lives and support families.

BEF CEO, Stephen Waud, made the major donation when he completed the 2023 TCS London Marathon on behalf of #TeamNSPCC.

Child abuse and neglect happens every day, in every walk of life, all around the UK. At least two children in the average primary school classroom have experienced abuse or neglect. By the time they turn 18, this number rises to at least 4.



Steve's fundraising as part of #TeamNSPCC in the London Marathon means that we can continue to be there for every child who needs us. We can train more Childline practitioners to answer more calls for help, provide counselling for more children, reach more children in schools, and families in local services, and prevent abuse from happening. Thank you, Steve, for helping us to fight for every childhood. We couldn't be there for children without amazing people like you.

NSPCC



## CITY HUB

City Hub consists of 18 offices and 5 meeting spaces spread across 4 floors in the heart of Little Germany in Bradford. Owned by The Business Enterprise Fund (BEF), it was renovated and launched in 2013 as an incubator office space for local SME businesses.

Since its launch, City Hub has become an integral part of the local business community. Formerly dubbed, 'The Legal Hub' for the sheer volume of legal sector tenants, today City Hub is home to a diverse range of local businesses from media creatives to business service providers to therapists.





# DELAPRE POST OFFICE

Delapre Post Office is a village post office found in the East Midlands market town of Northampton. As an integral part of the community, it serves the villagers with a comprehensive range of products and services including postal items, personal banking, a 24-hour ATM, and a host of other essential post office facilities.

It's new owner, Sarmelan Subramaniam, was confident that he could grow the business and deliver a better customer experience with the introduction of an off-licence facility and extended opening hours. He approached BEF for the funding to transform the business.



## Loan

£20,000 Start Up Loan

## Purpose

To buy equipment and stock

## Impact

3 jobs safeguarded  
and 1 job created

## UNSDGs





# FALL TIMBER

Fall Timber Ltd, which was founded more than 45 years ago, supplies timber for national building projects as well as agricultural clients, self-builders, and gardeners from its base in Leeming, North Yorkshire.

Over the last three years, the family-run business has been on a journey of growth and overcoming the setbacks the pandemic brought. This funding will facilitate the continued growth one of the few remaining UK timber merchants.



## Loan

6-figure RLS-backed  
BEF + NPIF

## Purpose

To invest in cutting equipment,  
staff, and stock

## Impact

2 jobs safeguarded  
and 8 jobs created

## UNSDGs





## GREAT NORTH EASTERN BREWING COMPANY

The Great North Eastern Brewing Company brews real ale which it sells by the cask or keg to pubs, clubs and hotels in the north east and beyond. The business also sells direct to consumers through their brewery shop and website.

The £100,000 BEF investment provided working capital to expand sales to hospitality businesses based in Edinburgh, York, and the Lake District, with the business recently being added to the suppliers list at a leading high street pub chain.



### Loan

£100,000 RLS-backed BEF

### Purpose

Working capital to support growth

### Impact

3 jobs safeguarded

### UNSDGs



# LA PIOLA

## LA PIOLA

Based in the financial quarter of Leeds city centre, La Piola is an Italian dining experience run by talented chef, Fabio Rua, who has over 20 years' experience in the restaurant business. Opening La Piola was a lifetime goal for Fabio who previously managed numerous Italian restaurants in the UK.

As its name suggests, the modern café and bistro is a destination for families to enjoy authentic Italian food made from locally sourced, prime quality ingredients. All recipes are based on home cooking traditions from Fabio's hometown of Cuneo, Italy.



### Loan

£20,000 Start Up Loan

### Purpose

To buy equipment and stock

### Impact

1 job created

### UNSDGs



*nina d*  
 illustration ◦ hem ◦ inspiration

# NINA D

**NINA D specialises in a luxurious range of Scandi inspired table mats and placemats, coasters, serving trays, table runners and napkins. The business is the brainchild of Swedish born Nina Daniels, whose lightbulb moment struck during a visit to her favourite boutique in Stockholm. What started as a shopping trip to replenish placemats turned into the realisation that Nina could own a successful business selling her own creations.**

When Nina approached BEF in August 2022, she wanted to secure a modest, low-cost loan to support stock acquisition for the upcoming Christmas season. Thanks to the funding the Christmas season was a success, in fact the best to date.



### Loan

£6,000 Start Up Loan

### Purpose

To buy stock

### Impact

1 job safeguarded

### UNSDGs





# MY MARKETING BUTTON

**My Marketing Button is a software platform which offers CPD-accredited marketing and marketing training services to SMEs and SME business owners. The new online platform is a subscription-based offering, which allows the user to have their own bespoke marketing plan to be used with colleagues and manage tasks in line with a proven and accredited process.**

Having been created, developed, and soft-launched during the Covid-19 pandemic, the joint NPIF and BEF investment helped bring the product to market.



## Loan

£50,000 RLS-backed  
BEF + NPIF

## Purpose

To bring the product to market

## Impact

3 jobs created

## UNSDGs





# ZIXTEL

Zixtel Ltd, founded over 26 years ago, are specialists in IT recycling for businesses with redundant equipment. With a mission to never send anything to landfill, Zixtel dismantled all products by hand prior to the investment. The investment enabled the business to purchase new machines that helped improve efficiencies which means it can now recycle more equipment at a quicker rate.

The business can now easily separate materials such as precious metals and these then go on to be recycled further and re-introduced to the market, lessening the need for mining of raw materials.



## Loan

£150,000 RLS-backed  
BEF + NPIF

## Purpose

To buy equipment  
and staff recruitment

## Impact

5 jobs created  
and 2 jobs safeguarded

## UNSDGs



# WHAT MAKES US UNIQUE



Our mission is to provide flexible finance to businesses, helping grow and improve the wealth of the regional economy and the people we serve. We provide loans to new and established SME businesses across the North, and as a social enterprise, our profits are re-invested to further our social aims. This is unique business lending. Whatever your idea, we take a different view to other lenders.

## OUR LOANS



### START UP

Government-backed loans for businesses trading less than three years

£500-£25,000 | 6% fixed

Terms up to 5 years  
Support on offer from experienced business mentors  
No set up or early repayment fees  
Personal loans for business use



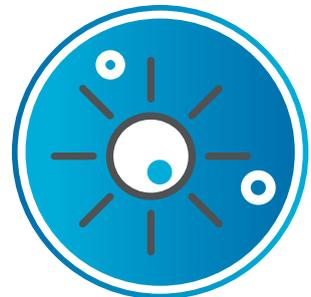
### HOSPITALITY RECOVERY

Finance for hospitality, food, retail, and supply chain businesses of all ages

Up to 25% of pre-pandemic or current turnover

Terms up to 5 years  
Flexible rates, set up and early repayment fees  
Tangible security may be required

\*For businesses based in Yorkshire, The Humber and Tees Valley



### BUSINESS

Unsecured finance for businesses of all ages

Up to £250,000\*

Terms up to 5 years  
Flexible rates, set up and early repayment fees  
Tangible security may be required

\*Within the NPIF region (£150,000 outside the NPIF region)

## Community Investment **TAX RELIEF (CITR)**



The Community Investment Tax Relief (CITR) scheme encourages investment in disadvantaged communities by giving tax relief to investors who back businesses and other enterprises in less advantaged areas by investing in accredited Community Development Finance Institutions (CDFIs).

The tax relief is available to individuals and companies and is worth up to 25% of the value of the investment in the CDFI. The relief is spread over 5 years, starting with the year in which the investment is made.

BEF provided £8.7m in tax relief to investors during 2022/23. If you are interested in investing your monies for good and seeing a healthy financial return on your investment, contact us and we can make that happen.

## Partnership Investment **FINANCE (PIF)**



Partnership Investment Finance (PIF) was amongst the first ERDF funds for the region back in 2004 and successfully delivered over £41.5m to support SMEs across the Objective two areas of West, North and East Yorkshire and Humberside.

BEF took over most of the delivery of the legacy funds for the region in August 2021. This was matched with an additional £4m from the Unity Trust Bank. To date, BEF have delivered £3m.

# Future FOCUS



**SME businesses are the lifeblood of the UK economy. Once again, the flexible finance we deliver has supported stability, growth and job security during a challenging period. In doing so, our investments have delivered economic and social benefits to businesses and communities across the UK.**

Demand for Start Up Loans has been the strongest we have ever seen as a greater number of individuals transition from employee to business owner. Many businesses are now beginning to grow despite the cost-of-living crises and the ongoing war in the Ukraine. Our commitment to source and provide flexible finance to help businesses begin, expand and flourish continues.

We are also committed to supporting the UK government's net zero strategy which will transition the UK to a sustainable, zero-carbon global economy by 2050. Further investments in our people, infrastructure, and processes will be made in support of net zero. Our transition to net zero will impact our supply chain and lending to clients as we look to engage with partners and develop products that fully support net zero.

Strong partnerships are key to our success and we wouldn't exist without our network of capital funds, intermediaries, banks, local authorities, growth hubs, education institutions, and net zero specialists. We will continue to strengthen our relationships with partners and stakeholders while working hard for the businesses and communities we serve together.

# MEET THE TEAM

Our lending decisions are made by humans



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# OUR STAKEHOLDERS



AD:VENTURE supports high growth businesses from start up to expansion within the Leeds City Region. The AD:VENTURE programme delivers funded growth support for people planning to start a business within the Leeds City Region and existing businesses in their first 3 years of trading. Support is generally aimed at businesses who supply to other businesses (B2B).



The British Business Bank also collaborates with ten Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) in the North West, Yorkshire, the Humber and Tees Valley to deliver the Northern Powerhouse Investment Fund (NPIF). Supported by the European Regional Development Fund, NPIF provides commercially focused finance through Microfinance, Debt and Equity Finance funds.



The Hull and East Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership covers the two Council geographies of Hull and the East Riding of Yorkshire. The HEY LEP represent the region's private sector in conversations with Government on economic development and ensure the region's influence is maintained at NP11, Northern Powerhouse and Transport for the North as well as looking for opportunities to collaborate on geographical or sector issues with other parts of the UK and Yorkshire.



Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership unlocks the Leeds City Region's vast economic potential by enabling businesses to grow and develop. It works with partners across the public and private sectors with the goal of stimulating growth that will create jobs and prosperity for everyone who lives, works, and does business in the West Yorkshire local authority areas of Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds, and Wakefield. Working with the West Yorkshire Combined Authority, Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership manages several programmes that are delivered over a wider geography, including our Leeds City Region Growth Deal-funded projects, business support and our efforts to boost trade and inward investment.



Established in 1992, the NACFB is the largest trade association for commercial finance brokers in the UK. It is the professional association of choice for all commercial finance brokers and lenders servicing the needs of business borrowers and property investors.



Its vision is to create a fair financial system in the UK by scaling up the community development finance institution (CDFI) sector. This will enable investment to flow into communities to create positive economic, social and environmental impact

# OUR STAKEHOLDERS



Led by Mayor of South Yorkshire Oliver Coppard, SYMCA bring together the local authorities of Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield and the private sector through their Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP). Under the devolution deal with Government, it has taken on responsibilities previously held in London; for the local economy, transport, skills, housing and infrastructure. Its goal is to create a vibrant, thriving South Yorkshire where people want to live and work. This means attracting new investment to the region and helping create good jobs, by backing businesses to grow, invest and locate in South Yorkshire.



The Start Up Loans Company is part of the British Business Bank and delivers the Government’s Start Up Loans programme, providing finance and support for businesses who struggle to access other forms of finance. Their aim is to drive sustainable growth and prosperity across the UK, and to enable the transition to a net zero economy, by supporting access to finance for smaller businesses.



The Tees Valley Combined Authority was created in April 2016. Its purpose is to drive economic growth and job creation in the area. Under the devolution deal with Government, it has taken on responsibilities previously held in London; for transport, infrastructure, skills, business investment and culture and tourism. The Tees Valley Combined Authority wants to see Tees Valley as the demonstration region for the circular economy in England as they look to become a high-value, low-carbon, diverse and inclusive economy. Its ambition is to create 25,000 additional jobs and add an additional £2.8billion into the Tees Valley economy by 2026.



Unity Trust Bank is an award-winning, independent commercial bank that businesses can be proud to bank with. For nearly 40 years they have been helping organisations to prosper and contribute to positive economic, social and environmental change.



The West & North Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce exists to support business. Its mission is to be recognised as an essential part of growing businesses by sharing opportunities, knowledge and expertise, with a strong business voice influencing decision makers at all levels



The York & North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership sets the strategic direction for government investment in their region to drive good growth in our economy and bring forward every opportunity for people, places, and businesses to thrive. Their vision is for York and North Yorkshire to become a greener, fairer, stronger economy. This means ensuring that their towns and the City of York are great places to live, work, visit and invest.

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# NOTES

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## Our Partners

