SOCIAL IMPACT REPORT
2026

Reigniting ambitions

Defying the doom and gloom with another record-breaking year of investment in Northern SMEs

Business Enterprise Fund

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It's been a year of spiralling costs, political indecision, and a parade of international crises heaping pressure on supply chains. Small business owners can be forgiven for wanting a bit of good news for a change.

Well, here it is.

2025/26 saw Business Enterprise Fund delivering record-breaking investment in startups and SMEs across the North of England. These funds are creating and protecting jobs. They're strengthening local economies in some of the UK's most underserved areas. Our loans are reigniting ambition, proving the North can compete effectively..

This report shows you exactly where these funds are going. Of course, there's always more work to do, even as a rising tide lifts all boats. We must ensure that we continue to focus on women and minority-led businesses. That remains at the heart of our mission as a community development finance institution (CDFI).

For now though, let the stats speak for themselves. We're proud of what our three hubs have achieved this year. We're grateful to our network of valued partners who make this success possible. We're optimistic and ambitious about the kind of opportunities we hope to provide in the coming year.

REFLECTING ON A

RECORD-BREAKING YEAR

Tim Hamilton
Chair

I'm continually inspired by the work of BEF and its family of three CDFIs operating across the country. I'm also proud to lead a proactive, skilled and ambitious board. The work of a CDFI can be challenging, often a world apart from mainstream commercial finance. Not least because we're a mission-led business focused on maximising impact, not profit.

We believe in the work we do and remain committed to the mission that underpins that work. The results, and the commitment of our colleagues, is a real cause for celebration.

£25.6m of investment, 1,108 loans in total, is a tangible achievement. It represents a 25% uplift compared to 2024/25, and 45 more individual loans. Even the average loan size has increased by around £2,600.

What this means in practice is that we are having a positive impact in the communities we serve. Transforming them for the better. More money is flowing into the UK's most economically underserved areas. Businesses that have been neglected by traditional finance are thriving. New ideas which would have otherwise remained on paper are now succeeding in the real world.

Never one to rest on our laurels, the BEF Group board now look ahead to the future. We notice, for example, that the amount lent to female-led businesses has fallen by 2.5%. Lending to all ethnic minority-led businesses has also fallen. There is always more to do.

We have a clear strategic direction, and we aim to keep supporting communities through our placed-based approach to lending.

Steve Waud
Chief Executive

In the 21 years I've been leading BEF, I've had the joy of seeing the work we do impact more of the nation's hardest-to-reach communities. Over that time, we've seen a significant step up in the benefit these areas feel.

Communities like this, up and down the country, need this change. Every loan we provide represents part of the solution. And this year, we've delivered more than eleven hundred such loans which have created wealth, facilitated new jobs, and transformed communities

Last year we began a phase of strategic growth which is already seeing results. Our North East hub, led by Lee Vickers, is expanding strongly, completing 301 loans worth over £7m. Business Finance Northwest, meanwhile, invested just under £3.2m in their first year. Huge credit goes to Simon Truby and his team for hitting the ground running.

But this isn't just a win for strategic foresight. Everyone involved at every level of operations deserves their fair share of credit. From our Start Up Loan admin team to HR, legal, compliance, marketing, and of course the Loan Managers themselves. We've succeeded because everyone shares the same mission, purpose and values.

Our funding partners place their trust in us, and I'm proud of the way we've repaid that trust. My deepest thanks to Lloyds Bank, Unity Trust Bank, Ceniarth, and Better Society Capital (via Social Investment Scotland).

Together, all of us, we represent the change that communities across the UK need so desperately. Loan by loan, year by year, we make that change a reality.

2025/26

THE YEAR AT A GLANCE

£25.6M

TOTAL INVESTMENT IN
NORTHERN STARTUPS AND SMES

1,108

INDIVIDUAL BUSINESS
OWNERS SUPPORTED WITH LOANS

4,626

JOBS CREATED OR SAFEGUARDED
THROUGH INVESTMENT

379

NEW BUSINESS FOUNDERS
GIVEN STARTUP FINANCE

£19.1M

INVESTED IN THE UK'S
MOST DEPRIVED AREAS

£6M

INVESTED IN YOUNG
ENTREPRENEURS AGED 18-35

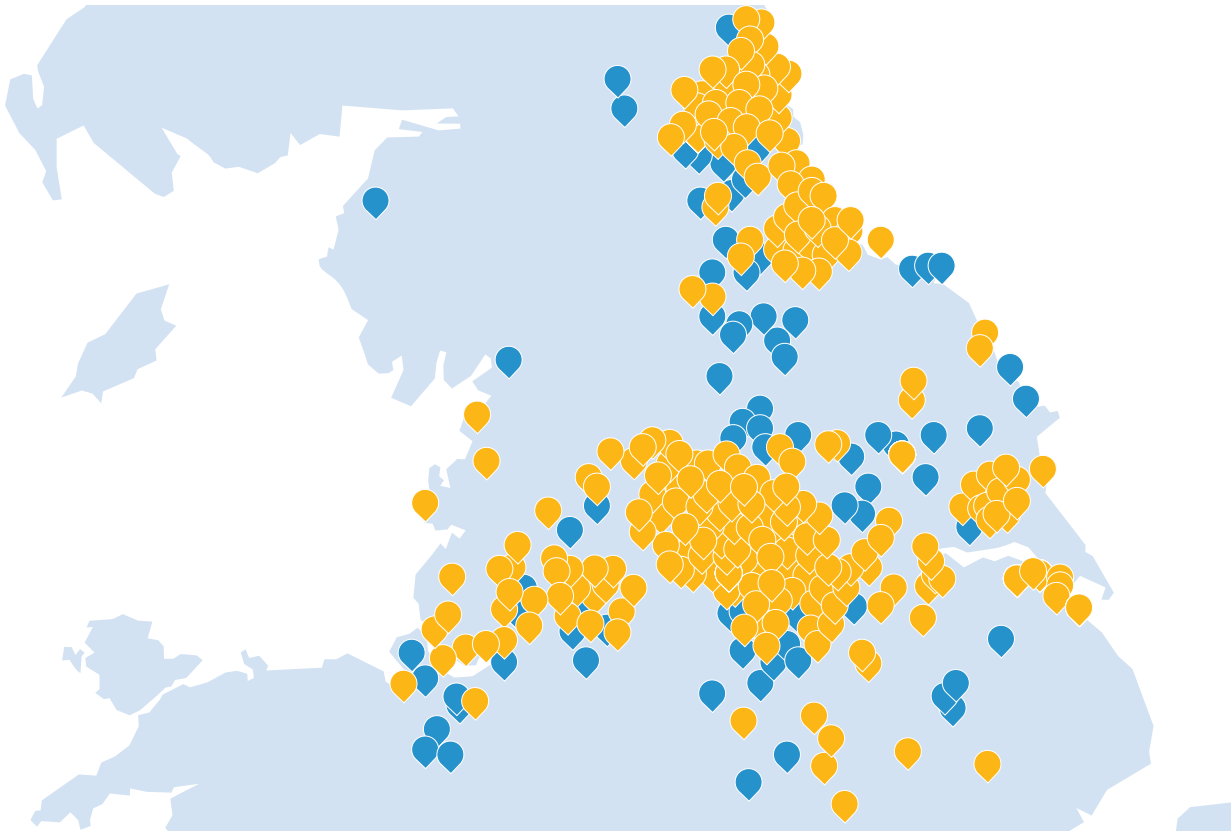
£102.4M

ADDED TO THE NORTH'S REGIONAL ECONOMY

13,296

HOURS OF INVESTOR READINESS SUPPORT

WHERE WE INVESTED



Yellow pins denote the Lower Super Output Areas

Regional breakdown

NORTH YORKSHIRE	WEST YORKSHIRE	NORTH WEST	SOUTH YORKSHIRE	NORTH EAST & TEESSIDE	EAST RIDING
£1.5M	£5.7M	£4.9M	£4.7M	£5.8M	£0.8M

Every loan tells a story

- 75% of lending (£19.1m) went to the UK's most deprived areas
- 834 loans within the lowest 35% lower super output areas in the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), 115 of these were BEF capital

WHO GOT FUNDED IN 2025/26?

Young business owners took big steps forward this year. The number of loans given to entrepreneurs aged 25-34 rose nearly 10% from 2024/25.

In terms of gender disparity, the amount lent to women dropped by 2.5% to 24.5%. However, women still accounted for 35.1% of individual loans provided overall. Given that total lending across all demographics rose by £3.8 million, the overall picture is very healthy.

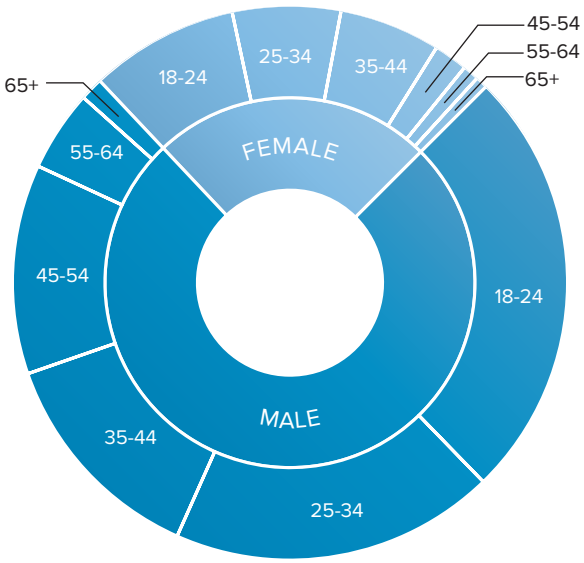
GENDER OF BORROWERS

	TOTAL £M	% OF TOTAL	% CHANGE FROM 2024/25
FEMALE	6.3	24.5	-2.5
MALE	19.1	74.6	+2.6
OTHER	0.13	0.5	-0.5

ETHNICITY OF BORROWERS

	QUANTITY	% OF QUANTITY	% CHANGE FROM 2024/25
WHITE BRITISH	886	80%	+19
ANY OTHER WHITE BACKGROUND	86	7.8	-15.2
MIXED/MULTIPLE ETHNIC GROUPS	10	1	0
ASIAN	75	6.8	-2.2
BLACK	33	3	-0.5
OTHER	11	1	-1.5

GENDER AND AGE OF BORROWERS



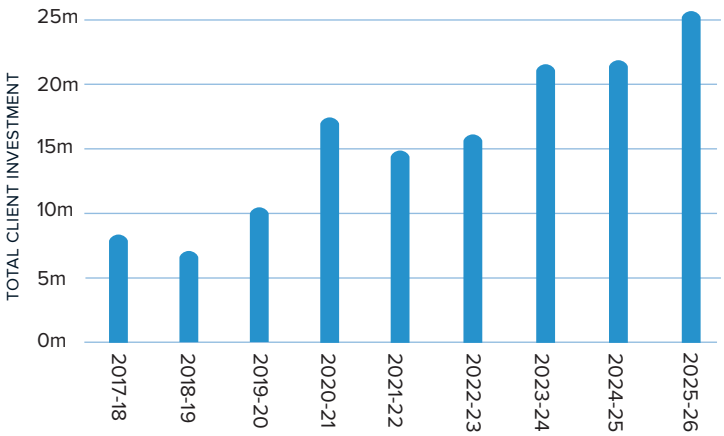
AGE OF BORROWERS

RANGE	TOTAL £M	LOANS	% OF LOANS	% CHANGE FROM 2024/25
18-24	0.6	61	5.5	+3.5
25-34	4.6	309	27.9	+9.9
35-44	8.7	382	34.5	+4.5
45-54	6.4	223	20.1	-8.9
55-64	3.9	108	9.8	+7.2
65+	1.4	23	2.1	-1.9

HUBS, FUNDS AND SECTORS

BEF Group's total lending is split across our three regional hubs. It's also drawn from several different funds, including that of the government-backed Start Up Loan Company (SULC).
Lending has risen steadily year on year, and every hub increased their activity in 2025/26. For Business Finance North West, this was their first year of operations, with an impressive £3.2m lent.

YEAR-ON-YEAR LENDING



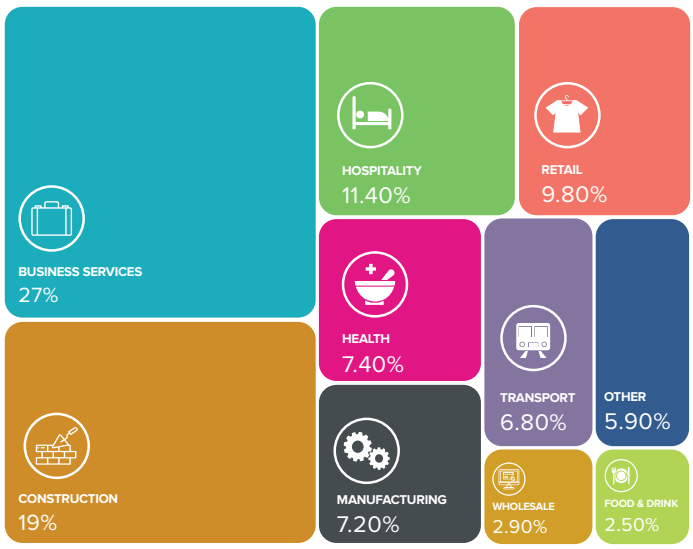
HUB BREAKDOWN

	LOANS	TOTAL £M	% OF TOTAL
BUSINESS ENTERPRISE FUND	658	14	54.7
BEF NORTH EAST	301	7	27.3
BUSINESS FINANCE NW	38	3.2	12.5
OTHER	111	1.4	5.5

FUND BREAKDOWN

	LOANS	TOTAL £M
SULC	910	10.3
BSC LLOYDS	88	7.5
GGS UNITY 2	35	3
NPIF 2	43	2.5
GGS UNITY	9	0.79
RGF11	9	0.72
BSC LLOYDS 2	3	0.34
CEN	5	0.31

SECTOR BY SECTOR ANALYSIS



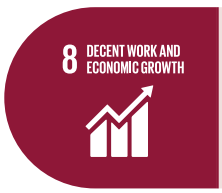
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

IN ACTION

The 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs) are targets for making the world a cleaner, safer, fairer place.

Any organisation can identify the UNSDGs which are most relevant to their work and build their operations around meeting them. This creates a shared framework, giving everyone a stake in a better world.

In 2018, BEF identified five UNSDGs to prioritise, areas where we can make the biggest positive impact.

GOAL	WHAT DOES IT MEAN?	WHAT WE DID THIS YEAR	OUTCOME FROM 2025/26
	Ending poverty in all its forms everywhere.	Proactively invested in the UK's most economically underserved regions.	£19.1m invested in the UK's poorest communities.
	Empowering all women and girls to achieve equality.	Championed female entrepreneurship. Promoted fairer access to finance.	£6.3 million invested in women-led businesses.
	Inclusive, sustainable growth and productive employment for all.	Provided hundreds of founders with the funds they need to blaze their own trails.	379 founders received startup finance.
	Building resilient infrastructure that fosters innovation and promotes inclusive, sustainable industry.	Directing funds to underserved former industrial areas, encouraging regeneration and revitalisation.	17 different sectors invested in across 93 postcode areas.
	Closing the economic gap between people and nations.	Helping create and protect thriving businesses in the UK's least affluent areas.	£14.4m loans delivered in the UK's most underserved communities.

Impact that goes beyond finance

Creating positive outcomes for some of the UK's most underserved communities sits at the heart of everything we do. The loans we provide let business owners keep serving their local areas with confidence.

But that's only one side of things. Our teams also volunteer their time and expertise. We partner with good causes who reflect our own mission to close the economic gap and empower marginalised people.

One In A Million

Based in Bradford, One In A Million engages with children and young people through sports, the arts and enterprise. Bradford has one of the UK's fastest-growing youth populations, with many living in areas of high deprivation. That makes this work essential, much of which happens within the country's poorest communities.

"

One In A Million is proud to work alongside BEF as a long-standing and committed partner. Bradford is building on the legacy of a successful year as the UK City of Culture 2025. Keeping up this momentum through sustained support for young people has never been more vital.

BEF's ongoing commitment plays a crucial role in enabling our work across disadvantaged communities in the Bradford MDC. It's helping us inspire, develop and empower young people and ensure the next generation has the confidence and opportunity to thrive.

CRAIG MCHUGH,
CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS & EVENTS DIRECTOR

"

Yorkshire and the Humber

Business Enterprise Fund's biggest and longest-established hub had another terrific year. Hundreds of business owners accessed finance, creating or protecting thousands of jobs across the UK's largest historic county.

658

INDIVIDUAL LOANS

£14.1m

INVESTED

2,322

JOBS CREATED OR SAFEGUARDED

226

NEW BUSINESS FOUNDERS GOT LOANS

Neurohappy: A personal story inspiring positive change for neurodivergent young people

Melissa Bullen, a paramedic with 18 years of healthcare experience, developed Neurohappy for her own autistic son. This neutral-tasting powder supplement which can be added discreetly to food or drink. Perfect for young people with sensory sensitivities.

Encouraged by improvements in her own son's mood, Melissa expanded development. A Start Up Loan from Business Enterprise Fund financed manufacturing, R&D, and business growth.

Now, hundreds of children have benefitted from Neurohappy supplements. Melissa has even won awards for championing both neurodiversity and female entrepreneurship. She plans to build on this success with an expanded product range. The future is bright for Melissa, her son, and the whole young neurodivergent community.

"I couldn't be where I am now without the whole package of support. And not just the money, but access to the whole wider network. Even if you're in a position where you have money to invest yourself, I'd definitely recommend getting the broader perspective. I felt like I didn't have to go it alone in this niche market."

MELISSA BULLEN, FOUNDER

Moal Associates: eCommerce up-and-comer beats the pressure with BEF

Saadia Khan set up Moal Associates, her eCommerce business, in 2021 while also working as a supply teacher. Thanks to a carefully chosen product line and deep knowledge of the Amazon environment, her brand quickly started thriving.

But a technical issue in 2024 impacted Moal's product rankings. Revenue started to slip. A Momentum Loan from Business Enterprise Fund provided enough working capital to ease the strain on cashflow.

Now, Moal Associates' products are back at the top of the product rankings. With a new website, Saadia is expanding her range and securing an even brighter future for her growing business.

"Seeing the loan was government backed, that was like a sigh of relief for me. I could trust there'd be no hidden costs as with private lenders.
The whole process was quick, the support was quick, I got emails back fast when I needed them. I just want to thank BEF for all their support."

SAADIA KHAN, FOUNDER

Make a Difference Provision creates space for change

LOCATION: Sheffield

LOAN: Momentum

Make a Difference Provision is addressing a growing shortage of high-quality, trauma-informed alternative education for students with complex needs.

After opening in a Grade II listed building in September 2024, rising demand soon called for more space, specialist resources, and additional staff.

A Momentum Loan funded a dedicated life skills classroom and a new dining area. With plans to expand into an adjacent building, Make a Difference Provision is increasing capacity, delivering lasting social impact through therapeutic learning environments.

> “Emma was fantastic-responsive, clear, and supportive throughout the process. I never felt left in the dark, which is so important when you’re running a growing business and juggling a hundred moving parts.”
> ADRIAN ANDERSON, FOUNDER

> “It’s been a privilege to support Make a Difference Provision. Adrian’s vision is powerful, and the impact this space is having on young people is both immediate and long-term. This is exactly the kind of social impact business that our loans are designed to support.”
> EMMA BASHFORTH, LOAN MANAGER

Zest Consult tackles violence against women on public transport

LOCATION: York

LOAN: Momentum

In 2020, Zest Consult was born from a vision to transform safety and security across public services using AI. That includes a current project to identify violent or threatening behaviour against women and girls on buses.

A loan from BEF has significantly accelerated product development. Now, Zest is poised to bring its cutting-edge AI products to market, showing what's possible for ambitious tech businesses growing in Yorkshire.

> "The loan has taken the pressure off immediately. It means I can think ahead to next year. Instead of worrying month to month, I can now focus on accelerating product development, paying engineers, getting equipment, and even securing office space at York Science Park."
>
> GEOFF HOYLE, FOUNDER OF ZEST CONSULT LTD

Adventure Village Grimsby launches with Start Up Loan support

LOCATION: Grimsby

LOAN: Start Up

Founders Lee and Holly Fishwick dreamed of transforming a disused tiling warehouse into a miniature town. A positive environment for children to explore, play, and learn more about everyday life.

Adventure Village opened its doors in 2025. The site is now a go-to destination for families seeking creative, educational play opportunities for their young children. A shining example of startup finance revitalising underserved communities.

> “We wanted to create something magical for local families. An environment where children can build confidence, develop social skills, and have a lot of fun. Securing the Start Up Loan has been a gamechanger. It’s given us the financial boost needed to turn an empty unit into something special for our community.”
>
> LEE FISHWICK, CO-FOUNDER OF ADVENTURE VILLAGE GRIMSBY.

> “It’s been wonderful working with Lee and Holly and seeing their vision for Adventure Village come together. Their passion, creativity, and commitment to delivering a fantastic community asset is truly inspiring. We’re proud to have supported them on this journey.”
>
> JANE CUSSE, INVESTMENT MANAGER AT BUSINESS ENTERPRISE FUND

BEF North East

Our Sunderland-based hub continues its steady rise with a phenomenal year of growth. Last year, we invested £3.69 million into communities across the North East and Teesside. This year, the team delivered £7 million to 301 individual entrepreneurs, the overwhelming majority of which went to NE and TS postcodes.

301

INDIVIDUAL LOANS

£7m

INVESTED

1.338

JOBS CREATED OR SAFEGUARDED

118

NEW BUSINESS FOUNDERS GOT LOANS

Momentum Loan lets Middlesbrough's MTP Gas take flight

LOCATION: Stanley

LOAN: Momentum

When Mark Taylor left the RAF, he swapped pilots for pilot lights and set up MTP Gas. After a decade of steady progress, he found he still had enormous amounts of room to expand. But he needed some way to fund that growth.

Conversations with the Tees Valley Combined Authority led him to BEF North East, and Loan Manager Antony Nicholson.

An initial five-figure loan in 2024 was followed by another in 2025. These transformed MTP Gas. Within two years, turnover had quadrupled.

Mark could now operate his own offices and storage units. New tools and vehicles let him capture every opportunity. Even more importantly, he's creating secure jobs and giving young people a route into the trade.

Two apprentices, Luke and Will, have received their career starts at MTP Gas. Here, Mark's military background comes in handy. He's naturally gifted at instilling high standards in those he leads. The results speak for themselves: Both apprentices look set to stay loyal to their Air Chief Marshal and continue in their roles after completing their courses.

> "Antony was brilliant. He asked the right questions, gave me little pushes in the right direction. I always like to take advice from multiple people on the business strategy side of things; Ant definitely helped me as a businessperson as well as arranging my loans."
>
> MARK TAYLOR, FOUNDER

Rigga Repairs gives watch owners the luxury of time

LOCATION: Gateshead

LOAN: Start Up

Richard Rigg has devoted over 20 years to working with leading luxury watch brands like Rolex, Cartier, OMEGA and TAG Heuer. Rigga Repairs makes high-quality watch servicing more accessible, offering expert repairs at around half the typical cost.

A Start Up Loan gave Richard the working capital to invest in specialist tools and vehicles. Now trading confidently, Richard is looking to expand into a world-class workshop, demonstrating how skilled craftsmanship in the North East can operate at the highest level.

> “I didn’t realise how simple the process was going to be. And I was getting the kind of advice which I could have done with 18 months ago, like how to sharpen up my business plan. I recommend it to anyone who’s starting up their own business but hasn’t looked at finance. If I could do it all again, I’d go straight to BEF and get that support for my first 12 months.”
>
> RICHARD RIGG, FOUNDER

> “It has been highly rewarding to work with Rigga Repairs Ltd and secure this loan. Richard is one of the region’s true craftsmen. His expertise proves that the North East can compete with anywhere in the UK, provided the right opportunities are available.”
>
> SHANNON DONAGHY, START UP LOAN MANAGER

Charles Grey Menswear stays a cut above the competition

LOCATION: Stanley

LOAN: Momentum

Two old friends, Stephen Dial and Stuart Brand, traded in their teaching and football coaching careers for men's formal wear. Rapid success saw them quickly moving to larger premises and taking on bigger orders.

A Momentum Loan let them stock upwards of 7,000 suits at a time. Now, Charles Grey Menswear is kitting out some of the top names in North East sport and pursing a range of high-profile brand partnerships.

> "We'd met Antony from BEF North East at an expo, and we needed further funding because we'd just bought in 7,000 suits.
>
> We got everything done and dusted within 11 days, which is crazy. Antony was very accessible, on the phone whenever we needed him.
>
> Honestly, if we could go back two years and start everything again, we'd come to him and BEF right away the first time we needed funding."
>
> STEPHEN DIAL, CO-FOUNDER

Dough & Desserts gets a pizza the action

LOCATION: Stanley

LOAN: Start Up

After a 20-year career, takeaway entrepreneur Mohammad Khalaghe set his sights on providing an elevated late-night dining experience. But disaster struck not long before the grand opening of his new restaurant. Heavy rain collapsed the roof of the premises.

A Start Up Loan let him make all the necessary repairs in time to open on schedule. 750 people queued down Stanley Front Street, and Dough & Dessers is now a beloved community fixture.

> “I can’t fault my Investment Manager, Shannon Donaghy, for any reason. I’d give her 20 out of 10 for communication. If I got stuck, I’d just say ‘Shannon, I don’t know what to do next,’ and she’d explain everything. One concept after another. Perfect. Fantastic.”
> MOHAMMAD KHALAGHE

> “Unique venues like Dough & Desserts quickly become much-loved community hubs. So we were very pleased to be able to help Mohammad realise his vision for what an empty property could become.His expertise and knowledge of his industry were clear from the start. This is exactly the kind of venture CDFIs like us are naturally set up to support. By helping create jobs and bringing footfall back to North East high streets, we’re making a huge positive impact.”
> SHANNON DONAGHY, START UP LOAN MANAGER

Business Finance North West

BFNW's first full year as an independent CDFI has been hugely impressive. With a team of only two Loan Managers, they've delivered over three million pounds and protected more than six hundred jobs. With the North West team set to grow this year, the sky's the limit.

38

INDIVIDUAL LOANS

£3.2m

INVESTED

£83,974

AVERAGE LOAN SIZE

613

JOBS CREATED OR SAFEGUARDED

Maple Health Group Ltd

LOCATION: Preston

LOAN: Momentum

With Maple Health Group, Paula Day has created a specialist healthcare business. She combines dietetics, mental health support, and weight management through her Healthy Futures programme. As a result, organisations can offer their members and employees more opportunities to enjoy better health outcomes.

Paula took out a Momentum Loan to invest in marketing, including a new website and outsourced social media support. This has enabled her to build awareness and strategically reach thousands of local people from nearby communities.

With a new structured pipeline of new clients, the business is on a clear path to regional expansion and future franchising.

> "The loan didn't just fund marketing; it gave me the time and consistency to properly grow the business. Ronnie and the team made the whole process feel simple, supportive and really quick, and that's when everything started to shift."
> PAULA DAY, FOUNDER

> "Paula's knowledge and enthusiasm shone through the entire loan application process. We were able to help her rapidly secure the funds she needed to let more potential clients know about the health options available to them. It's always particularly rewarding when our loans have a direct positive impact on people's health."
> RONNIE HARRIS, LOAN MANAGER

Partnerships: A little help from our friends

Our mission is made possible by our partner organisations who share the vision of a fairer, more sustainable regional economy.

Together, we're raising awareness of the different funding options available to business owners. We're connecting key local players and creating supportive, uplifting networking spaces.

As a result, thousands of entrepreneurs have accessed the funds and made the connections they need to thrive.

FIRST: Enterprise skills for young people, graduates, and jobseekers

FIRST is a learning and development agency whose courses inspire courage, self-belief and motivation, helping learners progress into work or self-employment.

BEF North East is the proud headline sponsor of FIRST's Start Up Awards North East. These awards represent an ongoing showcase of top new North East business talent.

British Business Bank

The UK's economic development bank is 100% Government owned and independently managed, tirelessly improving access to finance for smaller businesses.

Many of our investments are supported by British Business Bank programmes like Start Up Loans, the Growth Guarantee Scheme, and the Northern Powerhouse Investment Fund II.

LLOYDS BANK | BETTER SOCIETY CAPITAL

Lloyds Bank is the lead investor in the Community Investment Enterprise Fund (CIEF). This helps small businesses across England and Wales access the finance they need to grow, create jobs and stay resilient.

Support from funds like CIEF lets us extend our work to helping even more underserved businesses across the North.

Founded over ten years ago, the Pink Link network connects women in business through events, networking, and knowledge sharing. Business Finance North West, part of the BEF Group, sponsor Pink Link's Enterprise Vision Awards (EVAs). This is the UK's biggest celebration of women in business, an established platform to champion female entrepreneurship.

Ceniarth is a single-family office investing in funds, intermediaries and social enterprises that support marginalised and vulnerable communities.

Today, Ceniarth has over £554m of assets under management with a focus on impact-first investment. This is different to conventional returns-focused impact investment strategies. Impact-first investment's primary concern is directing capital into low-income communities.

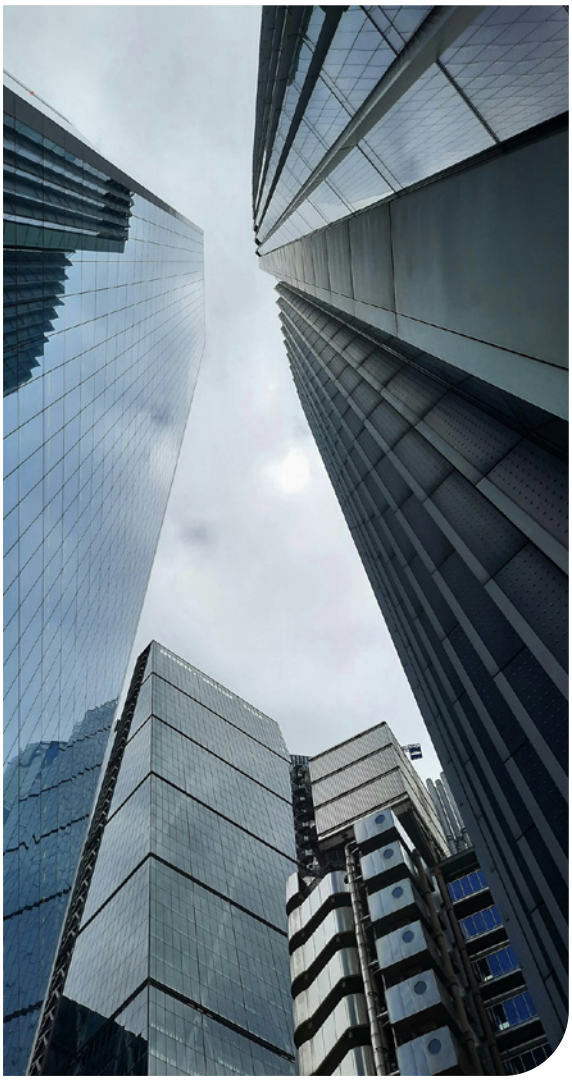
BEF is a proud member of Responsible Finance. This is the national network for Community Development Finance Institutions (CDFIs) committed to building a fairer, more inclusive financial system.

Through Responsible Finance, BEF plays a critical role in ensuring that no viable business is left unsupported and no community is left behind.

Commercial finance brokers: You're in good company

Brokers help SME owners decode the UK's business finance landscape. As more and more options come onto the market, brokers become an increasingly vital part of the funding process.

Brokers' dedicated industry expertise, well-developed lender networks, and broad market access represent huge assets for business owners. And in turn, our specialist approach to lending is often a huge asset for brokers themselves.



How does BEF work with brokers?

The National Association of Commercial Finance Brokers (NACFB) published their Intermediary Outlook report in February. The data in that report highlights the synergies which underpin our strong relationships with brokers.

87% of NACFB brokers' clients are either microbusinesses with 2-9 employees, or small businesses employing 10-49. That lines up perfectly with our own typical client profile.

In terms of what brokers want from lenders like us, 49% called for better direct underwriter contact. 60% said deals were getting bogged down by slow turnaround.

Our human-centric, relationship-focused approach aligns perfectly with what most brokers are saying they want. We prioritise communication and get the right deals placed fast.

Why do your clients need alternative finance?

SME owners and startup entrepreneurs alike are turning away from the impersonal, algorithm-dominated nature of traditional business finance. CDFIs like us take the time to understand the ambition which might not be reflected in a business' credit score.

We're experts in refinancing costly short-term debt, an increasingly common driving force behind seeking finance. Best of all, we have strong regional roots which let us understand clients' local business context.

If your clients have been told 'No,' we could be the ones who say 'Yes.'

Together, lets get the right deals placed first time.

LOANS BUILT AROUND

REAL UK BUSINESSES

Two loans from one lender, driven by one positive mission. Business Enterprise Fund steps up when traditional loan providers let business owners down. Whatever stage your brand is at, we can help fuel faster growth.

Start Up Loans

- £500 - £25,000
- For businesses up to 5 years old
- 7.5% fixed interest
- 12 months free business mentoring
- Typically funds in 4 - 6 weeks

Business Enterprise Fund is an official Business Support Partner for the British Business Bank's Start Up Loan scheme. We've helped thousands of new and young businesses find their place in the market and grow with confidence.

Momentum Loans

- Up to £250,000
- For growing businesses
- Competitive interest rates
- Dedicated relationship manager
- Typically funds in 2 weeks

Across the North of England, businesses from a huge range of sectors are thriving again, thanks to BEF Momentum Loans. As a CDFI, we have a mandate to invest in underserved regions, strengthening communities through robust enterprise.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

PLANS FOR 2026/27

This has been a significant year for investment in underserved regions across the UK. Record-breaking lending, a new hub supporting hundreds more communities, thousands of jobs created or safeguarded.

But we always have one eye firmly on the horizon. Here's what's coming up in the next 12 months for our teams and the communities we serve.

Staying on top of changing trends

As the regional, national, and global economies continue to shift, driven by unpredictable forces, demand for finance will keep changing. We'll continue to monitor which sectors are hit hardest by supply chain disruption. Wherever possible, we'll move to stabilise these businesses with the most appropriate funding options.

Expanding across the UK

Our mandate to invest in the UK's most economically underserved communities means we have to go where we're needed. Our hubs in Yorkshire, the North East, and the North West are performing strongly. Now, we're able to look at other areas where we might be able to help. Stay tuned for more news coming soon.

Streamlining our lenders' journey

We have no plans to compete with the likes of online lenders who prioritise speed over communication and human-focused relationships. That's just not how we operate. However, we're always exploring ways to refine our clients' experience. Lowering friction, without sacrificing the quality of service we provide.

Reinforcing community presence

We're nothing without the network of partner organisations and community groups who support our mission. This year, expect to see us deepening links with these groups and forging new connections with others. Catch us at more events, meeting more people who share our vision of a fairer, more sustainable regional economy.

Let's build better communities together

Putting fairness, sustainability, and transparency at the heart of British business

Business Enterprise Fund Group is made up of three dedicated hubs, each serving a region of Northern England.

This year, we've delivered a record-breaking £25.6 million of investment to businesses in the UK's most economically underserved areas.

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