

Preferred site for Darlington Economic Campus unveiled as recruitment drive hits a century

- Chancellor Rishi Sunak unveils the remaining two contenders for permanent site of the government's Darlington Economic Campus, with Brunswick as the preferred location.
- Over 110 HMT staff now in post alongside staff from other departments at the campus.
- Milestone comes as more than 2,000 civil service jobs have already moved out of London to support the government's levelling up agenda.

Rishi Sunak visited the market town to hear from the new recruits about how they have settled into their roles – as the government comes good on its promise to ensure those living outside of the Westminster bubble can be at the heart of government decision-making.

The department has reached a third of its target to have up to 300 Treasury roles based at the new cross-government hub, as part of a drive to have more than 1,100 new roles based there by 2025 and a key example of how the government is delivering on its promise to level up. The majority of staff have been recruited directly to the campus and the remainder are existing staff who have also chosen to relocate from London.

While in Darlington, the Chancellor held a Q&A session with Darlington Economic Campus staff, local businesses, stakeholders and Darlington college students before taking part in a panel session with Director General Beth Russell, and the campus' first and most recent hires.

Today's news comes as the Chancellor unveils Brunswick and Central Park as the remaining two contenders for the permanent site of the Darlington Economic Campus – with the Brunswick site as the preferred location – as the Treasury reaches the final stages of the Government Property Agency's procurement process.

Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rishi Sunak said:

It's fantastic that so many talented people here in the North East and beyond have taken up the opportunity to work in the heart of government in Darlington with more than 110 Treasury staff now in post.

I am delighted that we are in the final stages of finding a permanent site for our new campus which is creating jobs for local people, spreading opportunity and levelling up. "And that allows us to tap into a diverse range of skills and talent from right across the UK to better reflect the communities we serve.

Beth Russell, Director General, Tax and Welfare, said:

I really passionately believe having the Economic Campus in Darlington is the right thing to do for the civil service – and for the Treasury in particular which has traditionally been one of the most London-centric of government departments.

It provides an opportunity for people who wouldn't otherwise be able to work in the civil service to do so, bringing in a much wider range of people with different experiences and perspectives to improve our advice to ministers and the services we provide the public.

Tees Valley Mayor, Ben Houchen, said:

Securing the Treasury's new Economic Campus for Darlington means local people from across Teesside, Darlington and Hartlepool can work at the heart of government without leaving the place they love and call home.

I am delighted more than 100 Treasury roles have now been filled and, as promised, the vast majority have been taken up by local people, proving that there's no need to move to a big city to secure a good-quality, well-paid job in the civil service.

This is only the beginning, with hundreds more upcoming jobs in the Civil Service giving local people huge opportunities to succeed.

The new starters include people from all walks of life, with a range of experiences and career history. This includes a former Met Police detective, a BBC documentary producer, a luxury car dealership manager and a member of the RAF. The roles range from entry level to experts and senior leaders, across all areas of policy.

This milestone follows a major recruitment campaign over the past six months as part of a drive to diversify policy making, widen opportunities to communities across the country and broaden access to skills and talent.

It comes just a year after the Chancellor announced Darlington would be the home for the Campus, which will have more than 1,100 new roles based there by 2025.

Alongside the Treasury, it will house teams from the Department for International Trade, the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, the Office for National Statistics and the Competition and Markets Authority. They will be working alongside the Department for Education who already have a base in Darlington.

Recruitment is ongoing for teams working alongside the Treasury across these Departments. More than 2,000 Civil Service jobs have already been moved out of London to support the government's levelling up agenda.

A recent recruit from the local area to work in the correspondence team, said:

As a recent graduate from Newcastle I spent a fair amount of time considering what career options were available to me and assumed I'd have to move down south to find a suitable position.

So the opportunity to work at the Darlington Economic Campus and effectively be at the centre of government without having to relocate became a really attractive prospect.

A staff member who relocated from London to work in the public spending group said:

The past few years have made a lot of us re-evaluate what are priorities are – the Darlington Economic Campus provides fantastic opportunities to continue working within the civil service, without the need to be based in London for Treasury roles.

I have really welcomed the opportunity to work in a smaller town and enjoy what living in County Durham offers – from a greener environment and more leisurely pace of life, to being able to walk to my workplace. It's really the small things that matter.

Staff are currently using Bishopsgate House as an interim office and will move into a longer-term temporary office in Feethams House later this year ahead of the new permanent site being ready.

Further information

- The Darlington Economic Campus supports the wider Places for Growth programme which aims to move 22,000 civil service positions out of London and the South East by 2030.
 - As set out in the Levelling Up White Paper, more departments have made fresh commitments to move roles out of London including the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and the Ministry of Justice (MOJ), who have confirmed they will move hundreds of roles out of London to locations across the UK. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) have also announced they will be moving 550 roles out of the capital by 2025 and 1,100 by 2030.
 - Pictures be available on the Treasury's [Flickr account](#).
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Business Secretary appoints the first Chair of the Office for the Internal Market Panel

Business Secretary Kwasi Kwarteng has appointed Murdoch MacLennan as the first Chair of the Office for the Internal Market (OIM) Panel.

Mr MacLennan brings a wealth of knowledge to his new role as the OIM establishes itself to support trade between the home nations of the UK.

As Chair of the OIM Panel, Mr MacLennan will play a key role in ensuring expert and independent advice is provided to the UK government and devolved governments. He will also be a Non-Executive Director of the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA).

Business Secretary Kwasi Kwarteng said:

The independent Office for the Internal Market will ensure we can maintain the effectiveness of the United Kingdom's internal market to ensure it continues to work for business and consumers.

With Murdoch MacLennan at the helm, I am confident the body will go from strength to strength as we bolster the benefits of trade to all parts of our great country.

Chair of the Office for the Internal Market Panel Murdoch MacLennan said:

The OIM's latest analysis puts the value of the UK internal market at more than £190 billion annually, so it is vital that it works effectively.

I am delighted to be appointed as Chair of the OIM Panel and I look forward to working with each of the 4 governments.

Our mission is to establish the OIM as a trusted centre of excellence on the internal market which benefits the whole of the UK.

CMA Chair Jonathan Scott said:

The quality of this appointment reflects the importance of the OIM and its work.

Murdoch brings a wealth of experience of leading high-profile organisations across the UK and Ireland.

I am delighted to welcome him as both Chair of the OIM Panel and as a Non-Executive Director on the CMA Board. I look forward to working with him.

Biography

Murdoch MacLennan has a background in media having held a number of senior positions, the most recent of which included Group Managing Director of Associated Newspapers (1995 to 2004) and CEO of Telegraph Media Group (2004 to 2017).

He was a member of the Commission on Scottish Devolution, was appointed an Honorary Professor attached to the Adam Smith Business School at Glasgow University in 2018 and was the Chancellor's Assessor on the Court of the University of Glasgow (2009 to 2017).

In addition to his role with the OIM, Mr MacLennan will continue to serve as Chair of PA Media Group, Chair of Mediahuis Ireland and Chair of the Scottish Professional Football League.

Further information

The OIM is part of the Competition and Markets Authority. The statutory objective of the OIM is to support, through the application of economic and other technical expertise, the effective operation of the internal market in the United Kingdom (see Part 4 of the United Kingdom Internal Market Act 2020 ('the Act')).

The Act provides for an OIM panel, consisting of a panel chair and a number of panel members. The OIM panel chair may constitute OIM tasks groups to undertake the OIM's work in line with authorisations from the CMA Board.

The OIM task groups must act independently of the CMA Board.

[The future of Defence Armed Forces recruiting reaches a new milestone](#)

News story

Bidders are selected to participate in competitive dialogue.



Military personnel on Parade. Copyright: Ministry of Defence

The Ministry of Defence has invited four bidders to compete in dialogue with the winning bidder set to deliver the tri-Service recruiting solution for the Royal Navy, British Army and Royal Air Force. The new recruiting solution will place the candidate at the heart of the recruitment process while ensuring the Armed Forces achieve the right quality and quantity of candidates to satisfy demand while remaining agile and responsive to change.

Last summer, the Armed Forces Recruiting Programme engaged with industry and issued a Contract Notice and Pre-Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ). Following PQQ evaluation, the Programme down-selected to four preferred bidders; these bidders will now embark on three rounds of Competitive Dialogue. Once Competitive Dialogue is complete, a winning bidder will be selected, with the contract awarded in 2024 and Service Commencement April 2025.

The final recruiting solution will develop and foster an engaging, vibrant and inclusive candidate experience that meets the needs of the Armed Forces. This will be achieved by transforming the traditional recruiting systems, using examples of industry best practice, whilst retaining the rich heritage of the single Services.

Further information about this award can be found on the [Defence Sourcing Portal](#).

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[Welsh business secures £2 million export contract](#)

- UK manufacturer Global Attractions wins its largest ever contract in South-East Asia with government backing
- Its world leading soft play centres are sold to the world from Wrexham

- The seasoned Welsh exporter uses government support to fuel its ambitious export led growth plans

Children in Thailand will soon be crawling over Welsh-made soft play centres as a Wrexham-based manufacturer secures a £2 million export contract with UK government help.

UK Export Finance (UKEF) has been working with Global Attractions to help them expand to the far corners of the Earth and boost British business.

The contract is the company's largest ever contract and is expected to help create local jobs as we build back stronger from the pandemic.

Global Attractions is the latest UK company to benefit from UKEF support. Last year, UKEF provided £12.3 billion for over 550 companies, which is estimated to have supported over 100,000 UK jobs directly and in the supply chain – showing how effective UKEF is in delivering for the country.

Minister for Exports, Mike Freer, said:

Companies that export are more productive, more profitable, and pay higher wages – which is essential for us to build back better from the pandemic.

I am delighted that UK Export Finance has delivered yet another multi-million pound export contract which will create jobs and boost GDP.

Andy Davies, Finance Director at Global Attractions, said:

Securing finance solutions for our customers unlocks vital overseas trading opportunities for us. The collaboration between UK Export Finance and the London Forfaiting Company has allowed us to find that solution, providing opportunities for us to grow and help our customers to fulfil their projects.

The vision of our parent company, SPI Global, is for Global Attractions to be the number one full concept supplier within the play & leisure industry worldwide. The fast-growing market demand coupled with our main manufacturing unit being right here in Wales, the export facility provided by UKEF will be significant in achieving that goal.

UKEF support for the project, provided through the London Forfaiting Company, allowed Global Attractions to offer its buyer favourable repayment terms, helping the company win the contract ahead of overseas competitors.

Global Attractions, a designer, manufacturer and distributor of family entertainment units, secured the international contracts to build and export

soft play centres to shopping malls in Pattaya City and Bangkok.

The company won the contracts internationally due to its high-quality British designs and expertise coupled with a competitive financing package backed by the UK government. This builds on projects delivered for global businesses for over 25 years including McDonald's, IKEA, KFC and Ferrari World Abu Dhabi – all from its base in Wrexham.

Its soft play centre will feature in one of the Pattaya City's largest malls, with 4 floors dedicated to family friendly activities that attract 1 million residents in the city just south of Bangkok.

This deal has opened a new trading market for Global Attractions. The company is now capitalising on this success by securing another deal to supply a soft-play centre to be shipped and installed in Bangkok, also with UKEF support.

Secretary of State for Wales, Simon Hart, said:

It is great to see a Welsh business, Global Attractions, win contracts worth over £2 million and I'm delighted that they have achieved this with the help of UK Export Finance.

There is phenomenal growth potential for this business in South-East Asia, and it's wonderful to see Global Attractions thriving despite the difficult circumstances that this pandemic continues to bring.

UK Export Finance is the UK's export credit agency and a government department, working along-side the Department for International Trade as an integral part of its strategy and operations.

Established in 1919, it exists to ensure that no viable UK export should fail for a lack of finance from the private market. It provides finance and insurance to help exporters win, fulfil and get paid for export contracts.

UKEF has a number of products available to support small businesses across Wales. Local exporters who want to know more about UKEF's support should contact their local [Export Finance Manager](#) to support their exporting journey.

UKEF support was provided through its [Bills & Notes Guarantee](#), which ensures UK exporters get paid immediately for their goods and services while the buyer benefits from longer repayment terms.

Government announces new crackdown on fly-tipping

Households will no longer have to pay to get rid of DIY waste under plans set out by government to change the rules that currently allows some Local Authorities to charge for DIY waste from households. Under the proposals, household DIYers would not be charged to get rid of waste including plasterboards, bricks and bath units.

This is part of a fresh move to crack down on fly-tipping, which has increased since the beginning of the pandemic.

The Government banned backdoor charges on local residents disposing of household rubbish at household waste centres in 2015 and since then guidance has made clear that this includes DIY household waste.

However, around a third of Local Authorities still charge for certain types of DIY waste, using rules designed for construction waste. The changes outlined in a technical consultation published today will change this rule and could save households up to £10 for an individual item – for example, a sheet of plasterboard.

Fly-tipping is a crime which blights communities, poses a risk to public health and the environment, and costs up to £392 million a year. Local authorities dealt with 1.13 million fly-tipping incidents in 2020/21, up by 16% from 2019/20.

Alongside this, a call for evidence on the use of booking systems at recycling centres will be launched today – some of which were brought in when restrictions were imposed during the pandemic – amid concerns these could be making it harder for people to dispose of their waste and increasing the risk of fly-tipping.

Finally, a number of councils in England will also be awarded grants to tackle fly-tipping through trial projects, including CCTV to target hotspots.

Environment Minister Jo Churchill said:

When it comes to fly-tipping, enough is enough. These appalling incidents cost us £392 million a year and it is time to put a stop to them.

I want to make sure that recycling and the correct disposal of rubbish is free, accessible and easy for householders. No one should be tempted to fly tip or turn to waste criminals and rogue operators.

Furthermore, the funding that we have announced for Local Authorities today will help them trial innovative new projects to

put a stop to fly tipping. We will learn from the successes – and replicate them.

There were over 60,000 fly-tipping incidents with construction, demolition and excavation material in 2020/21, an increase of 18% from 2019/20.

A number of local authorities charge for construction waste such as paving slabs and roofing materials, but the Government is today consulting (LINK) on amending legislation so that householders cannot be charged for of DIY waste at recycling centres.

In addition, new council grants totalling £450,000 will help fund a range of projects such as:

- CCTV: The use of covert and overt CCTV cameras at hot-spot locations can help to reduce the numbers of people dumping waste illegally, while also providing further evidence to help identify those that continue to offend.
- Artificial intelligence: Buckinghamshire Council plans to use a combination of AI enabled Rapid Deployable Cameras (RDC) and Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras to provide an alert to any visible left items at fly-tipping hotspots in real-time and link them to the vehicle that deposited them, allowing officers to rapidly investigate.
- Delivering education to communities on fly-tipping: Funding for Durham Council for CCTV will lead to individuals being directed to the council's self-funded digital educational tool for those issued with an on-the-spot fine for fly-tipping. The tool aims to educate and encourage long term behaviour change and completion reduces the amount of the fine.
- 'No bags on the street' policy - Newham Council will receive funding to prevent bags being on the street in front of business premises which can attract additional waste. They will scale up their trial of containers to house residential and commercial waste, which resulted in a 24% reduction in fly-tipping. Single items, such as furniture and mattresses, accounted for 16% of total fly-tipping incidents in 2020/21, rising by 7% from the year before. To tackle this, the Government is considering measures such as ecodesign, ecolabelling and extended producer responsibility – where manufacturers are responsible for the costs of dealing with waste created by their products.

Executive Director of the Environmental Services Association (ESA), Jacob Hayler, said:

There is no single 'silver bullet' to tackle the scourge of fly-tipping so we are pleased to see the Government announcing a range of new measures today to help deter this deeply anti-social criminal behaviour.

In addition to helping individuals recycle their household waste

materials at HWRCs, of particular importance is stopping this material from falling into the hands of organised waste criminals leading to larger scale fly-tipping, which is why the ESA also strongly supports digital waste tracking and reform of the licensing regime for carriers, brokers and dealers of waste material. This protects both the environment and legitimate recycling and waste operators.

Marcus Gover, WRAP CEO said:

The latest IPCC report clearly states that 'it's now or never' if we are to act on global warming. This stark reminder that how we use the world's natural resources is threatening our very existence signposts material efficiency and recycling among priorities.

Minimising waste is central to this and the introductions of grants to reduce fly tipping across England and Wales are necessary to help prevent the continual environmental cost of this illegal activity.

These new plans build on extra funding given to the Environment Agency to tackle waste crime as well as new powers to stop illegal waste sites posing a risk to the environment, including the ability to lock up sites and force rogue operators to clean up all their waste.

The action announced today comes after [plans to reform the waste industry, were launched in January](#). Digital waste tracking will mean those handling waste will record information from the point waste is produced to the stage it is disposed of, recycled or reused, making it easier for regulators to detect illegal activity and tackle fly-tipping and other waste crime.

Our reform of the licensing system for waste carriers, brokers and dealers will increase the competence and background checks needed to operate as a waste carrier, broker or dealer, and make it easier for regulators to enforce against non-compliant operators whilst making it harder for un-registered operators to find work in the sector.