

INTRODUCTION

Think Business

Think Gateshead

Gateshead is one of Europe's most exciting places to live, do business and spend leisure time. It is a modern town of 191,000 people and over 4,000 businesses.

Gateshead is located in the North East of England and extends nearly 13 miles along the south bank of the river Tyne and covers 55 square miles (142.5km²), an impressive mixture of modern urban vitality and rural charm.

Gateshead is the cultural heart of Tyne and Wear, which embraces Newcastle, Sunderland, North Tyneside and South Tyneside and covers an area of 208 square miles (540km²) with a population of 1.1 million.

Tyne and Wear is now one of the major centres of international investment in Europe.

Judged by the UK Government as a "three star" authority, Gateshead Council is focused on delivering a superb physical environment and top class services.

Gateshead already has many achievements to boast about. The riverside is the site of one of the largest capital regeneration schemes in Europe with a public and private sector investment of £500m. It has achieved global recognition for a number of ambitious projects which are part of a vibrant cultural and business area.

These include:

- Award winning Gateshead Millennium Bridge
- Leading contemporary art gallery, BALTIC
- The Sage Gateshead – a unique new music centre designed by Sir Norman Foster

Gateshead is also home to:

- The MetroCentre – Europe's largest shopping and leisure complex
- Team Valley – one of Europe's largest commercial areas with over 650 businesses employing 17,000 people
- Gateshead International Stadium – a regional centre of sporting excellence

Gateshead offers a variety and quality of lifestyle options with a good standard of living and an excellent choice of homes and locations.

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Gateshead Council is now concentrating on securing companies who want to do business in this fast moving environment

Economic regeneration is a big priority for the Council and Gateshead offers investors a range of attractive commercial, industrial and business park locations.

The Council and its partners are bringing forward sites and premises in superb locations and providing packages of assistance for businesses that are focussed on their needs.

Baltic Business Quarter

A new downtown commercial quarter built in a city centre style based around avenues and a central square.

Incorporating the Design Centre for the North and Gateshead College, this £250m investment with over 100,000 sq.m of commercial space will create up to 7,000 new jobs.

Knowledge Campus

Knowledge-based industries are thriving in the creative atmosphere of the North East, which is developing a reputation for cutting edge industry and forward thinking businesses. An example of this is Knowledge Campus, a global product development community. The first of its kind in the world it will allow its occupiers to collaborate successfully on new product development and introduction.

Gateshead International Business Centre

A new Council managed workspace facility in an enviable town centre location. The award winning, innovative building boasts hi-tech ICT facilities throughout, meeting rooms, a reception area, utility rooms and informal meeting places to service 51 offices

Team Valley is situated alongside the A1(M) covering over 275 hectares is home to over 650 businesses employing over 17,000 people, Team Valley continues to be a major economic driver in the region providing a wide range of office and industrial premises in an attractive location.

Watermark is a significant 18,000 sq.m development of major office buildings located on the banks of the River Tyne and just five minutes walk from the MetroCentre.

Follingsby Park is located on the A194 which joins both the A1(M) and A19 major roads. This 54.5 hectare site has around 70,000 sq.m of modern factory warehousing and office space employing around 1,500 people.

The Point rises above Gateshead Quays overlooking the River Tyne's famous Quayside. The Point offers contemporary design alongside stunning Edwardian buildings; setting new standards for the modern city centre businesses. Plans include office, leisure and hotel accommodation set in spectacular surroundings; the commercial heart of a true urban village.

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Gateshead is situated in the heart of one of the most dynamic regions in Europe – the North East of England – an integral part of the world's largest market – the European Economic Area (EEA)

The EEA consists of 28 countries with a population of almost half a billion people.

Gateshead is ideally located to take advantage of easy access to all local, national and international transport links to service the growing European marketplace.

The region boasts:

- A fully integrated public transport system: the Metro links air, rail, car, and ferry services and serves 1.6million people;
- Two international airports provide access to Europe and the rest of the world
- Excellent road and rail links - 2.5 hours by rail and under 5 hours by road to London;
- Freight to major European destinations within 48 hours, many within 24 hours;
- Six major ports serving Europe and the rest of the world;

A series of reservoirs guarantees continuous water supply for the region. Electricity, gas and effluent services are amongst the most competitive in Europe.

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The region's workforce is adaptable, highly skilled with strong work ethic and the ability to change and acquire new skills.

The dramatic economic changes of the 1980s, when the traditional heavy manufacturing industries of the region shed thousands of jobs, encouraged everyone to 'modernise' and become more flexible.

Local authorities, unions, employers, business support organisations, schools, colleges and universities pulled together to address the challenge and equip people with the new skills needed to support and build a diversified, knowledge-driven economy.

The workforce is:

- Adaptable
- Flexible
- Motivated
- Skilled
- Willing to learn

and:

- Employee costs are highly competitive
- Has the lowest sickness absence level in mainland Britain

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Gateshead Council is committed to raising educational standards and achievement and skill levels by creating 21st century learning environments

The area increasingly demands a world-class education and training infrastructure to support the skill needs and work ethic required to develop a prosperous, knowledge-based economy.

Gateshead Council works in partnership with major local, regional, national and international organisations to ensure that businesses receive highly motivated and flexible people with the right skills for the job.

The Gateshead Lifelong Learning Partnership is a local planning and coordinating group with close links to the Tyneside Learning Partnership. It ensures a coherent learning provision is made available throughout Gateshead to meet the current and future skill requirements of young people, adults and employers seeking skills for existing and future needs.

Gateshead Schools have done dramatically better than schools across the rest of the country in 2004, with more than six in ten of the borough's youngsters gaining at least five higher grade GCSEs.

Education Business Link is a joint service provided by Gateshead Council, the Gateshead Lifelong Learning Partnership and over 650 local businesses working together to raise the hopes and achievements of young people through vocational education activities.

The region has excellent universities, colleges and vocational training providers

Universities – There are five large universities in the Region – Newcastle, Northumbria, Sunderland, Durham and Teeside.

In 2003/2004 over 95,000 students attended full and part-time courses with over 15,000 graduating from the five universities.

Knowledge House is a collaborative service offered by the five universities and the Open University in the North. Their services are available to all companies, organisations and individuals to gain access to expert solutions for developing ideas and solving problems.

The region's universities are amongst the UK's leading research universities with a strong and vibrant interdisciplinary research base.

Disciplines in which the universities are particularly strong include:

- Medical Sciences and medicine related subjects
- Computing Science
- Design
- Built Environment
- Media Studies
- Engineering
- Microelectronics
- Languages
- Law

Further Education Colleges – Tyne and Wear has six main FECs operating from multiple campuses and giving easy access to educational resources no matter where you are in Tyne and Wear.

Gateshead, Newcastle, North Tyneside, City of Sunderland, Tyneside and South Tyneside Colleges have formed the G6 Partnership to work with key figures in education, business and government to promote Tyne and Wear as a centre of excellence, to share best practice and work to introduce education innovation.

There are 24 colleges in the region providing an inclusive range of part-time, full time, work-based and college-based courses as well as seminars, short courses, consultancy and business services for local companies.

Vocational Training Providers – There is an extensive network of private and public sector training organisations that provide employers with a superb range of training provision. Rising skills in the region mean that the area offers investors a potential workforce with a higher level of general work-based skills and industry recognised qualifications.

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