



# Textiles Showcase



# A world-renowned textile sector

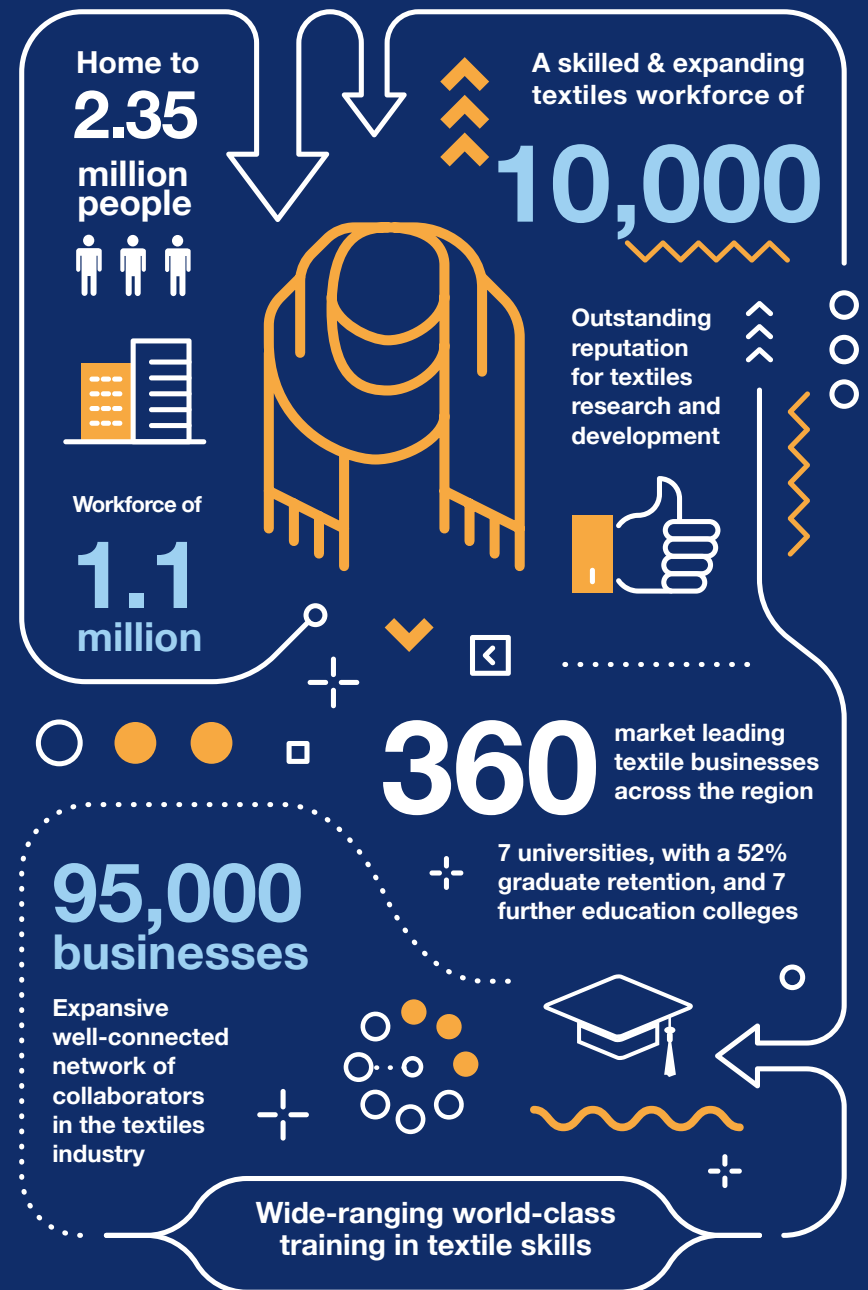


For over 300 years Kirklees has been at the forefront of the textiles industry. Around the globe, the name 'Huddersfield' is synonymous with quality, and known for its rich history in cloth-making.

The home of textile innovation, we lead the way in sustainable fashion and design, textile and product manufacturing. Our businesses supply innovative, exceptional quality fabric to the world's most prestigious and best-known fashion brands, with products exported across the world.

We're home to Lawton Yarns - the UK's largest woollen yarn spinner, W T Johnson and Sons - a world-leader in textiles dyeing and finishing, CJ Antich and Sons who supply a multitude of global brands, Camira Fabrics - world leaders in contract fabrics, and Roaches International - globally respected manufacturer of machinery and instruments. And that's just 5 of the 360 market-leading textiles businesses across the region.

Textile businesses investing in Kirklees will find a thriving, supportive ecosystem and sustainable, skilled talent pipeline across **West Yorkshire - the heart of the UK's textile industries.**



Note: Figures relate to West Yorkshire unless otherwise stated

# Perfectly placed

Part of West Yorkshire, Kirklees is strategically located at the heart of the UK and the centre of the Leeds, Manchester and Sheffield City Region triangle - a pivotal central location within the UK's £339billion northern powerhouse.

Excellent transport networks include:

- Easy access to the M62, M1 & A1
- Direct rail links to Manchester and Leeds in 30 minutes, through to London in 2 hours
- Manchester and Leeds Bradford airports within 45 minutes, and a direct train to Manchester airport
- Seaports at Liverpool, Hull, Immingham and Teesport within 2 hours





# Why Kirklees

**Kirklees is the perfect place for businesses to grow, innovate and improve efficiency. We have industrial property solutions for investing businesses, including priority areas offering incentives and opportunities for development of employment space.**

An integral part of our £8.35 billion GVA economy, 15,000 local businesses benefit from:



Commercial property rents up to c15% cheaper than competitor destinations



Grade A office space costing up to c63% less than nearby cities



Potential incentives to support delivery of employment space



Fast access to world-leading research and innovation centres



Affordable gigabit-speed internet services across 86% of the district



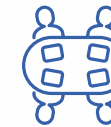
A highly developed sector supply chain and easy access to exporting



Access to 7 million consumers within one-hour's travel



Dedicated business support via Business Kirklees



A skilled local workforce, with significant labour-saving costs



A beautiful, vibrant place to live and work





# Innovation

**Kirklees first developed a worldwide reputation for cloth manufacture in the 1700s, and we've remained at the forefront of this industry by maintaining an innovative approach to textiles to this day.**

Kirklees has built on that history as knowledge is passed down through generations, and blended that internationally recognised expertise with the latest ideas and technologies. We are a leading force for innovation in the UK textiles sector which is ranked #1 in Europe for patents.

## Excellence in every field

Our local businesses work across natural, synthetic and composite fibres with a vast range of focuses. This includes knitting, spinning and weaving, all the way through to processes like polymerisation, nanotechnology and automation.

As a result, we have businesses excelling in every aspect of the textile industry – from fashion to health and safety, from medical equipment to agriculture, from building materials to use in digital technologies.

**Excellence in:** floortech, agrotech, healthtech, buildtech, mobiltech, clothtech, oekotech, geotech, packtech, homotech, protech, indutech, shoetech and sportech.





### Research and development

We have an outstanding reputation for world-class expertise in textiles-related research and development. The **University of Huddersfield’s Technical Textiles Research Centre**, the **Textiles Centre of Excellence** and the **Society of Dyers and Colourists** work with local businesses to shape this industry’s future.

We are home to the **3M Buckley Innovation Centre** and **Kirklees College’s Process Manufacturing Centre**, and we have close links with the **University of Leeds’ Centre for Immersive Technologies**, the **Future Fashion Factory**, **Leeds Institute of Textiles & Colour**, and the **National Physical Laboratory**.



### Green manufacturing

From the early 19th century, with the emergence of the shoddy and mungo industries, Batley and Dewsbury were hubs for recycling waste fibres into useful fabrics. Local businesses continue to lead the way in sustainable practices, blending centuries of knowledge with the latest technologies.

We lead the way with international initiatives such as **World Circular Textiles Day** and **Textiles 2030**, which are harnessing industry leaders’ expertise to help the UK’s textile industry become more of a circular economy.

In 2023, we were proud to host the **Textile Institute World Conference**, which focused on the transition to zero carbon and zero waste in the textile industry.

Our local businesses are at the forefront of responsible design and production, including greening, sorting, recycling and reusing. Sustainability, digitisation and future fashion are high on the agenda, from education through to industry.



# Skilled workforce

Kirklees is part of the largest higher education cluster outside of London, with a workforce of experts in future design and production of high-quality materials.



Seven universities, including the University of Huddersfield, produce world-class research and 34,000 skilled graduates every year.

The University of Huddersfield offers nine degrees involving textiles, all based in a state-of-the-art £30million facility, as well as work placements and entrepreneurial support via Enterprise Placement Years.

Local skills programmes have also created thousands of new apprenticeships, enabling thousands more young people to enter employment, education or training.

Kirklees College is one of the leading apprenticeship providers in the UK, offering 30 courses which train more than 1,000 apprentices each year. The Textiles Centre of Excellence is the largest provider of fashion and textiles apprenticeships in the UK and provides flexible training at all levels – from pre-entry to foundation degree equivalent programmes – with an eye on the future skills needs of the fashion and textile manufacturing sector.

We have a wealth of collaborative partnerships, including through the Woven festival, the Society of Dyers & Colourists, the UK Fashion & Textiles Association, the Leeds Institute of Textiles & Colour, and the Manchester Textiles Institute. Thanks to these partnerships, those developing industry skills in Kirklees have easy access to opportunities at other organisations and esteemed textile academic centres across the north of England.



# Dedicated team

Our team are ready to offer information, organise site visits, create opportunities, remove barriers and open doors to support your business relocation or expansion project.

We have a bespoke service to support you on:

- Economic and market intelligence
- Access to local supply chains
- Links to networks, trade bodies and business groups
- Land, property and infrastructure support
- Business information, advice and support
- Finance, funding and incentives
- Assistance with recruitment, education and training

## Get in touch

**Andrew Sharp** - Strategic Partnership Manager  
andrew.sharp@kirklees.gov.uk



**James Barker** - Inward Investment Project Officer  
james.barker@kirklees.gov.uk

**Jess Newbould** - Inward Investment Project Officer  
jess.newbould@kirklees.gov.uk







 [businesskirklees.com/invest](https://businesskirklees.com/invest)  
 [invest@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:invest@kirklees.gov.uk)  
 01484 221000

