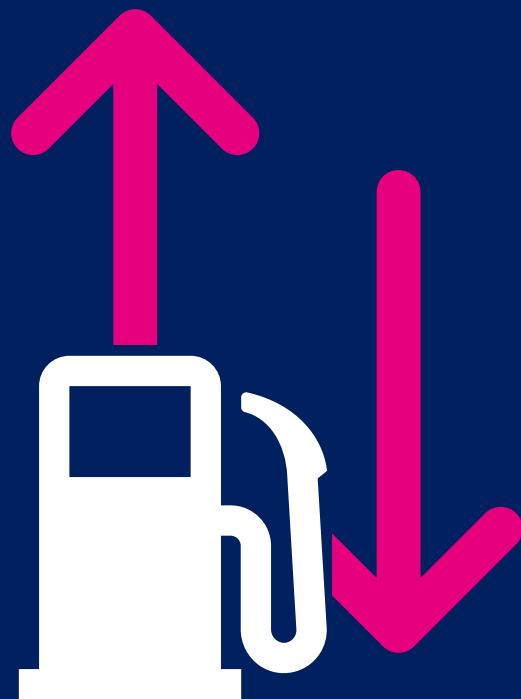




The Responsible
Business Network
Northern Ireland

COST OF LIVING A BUSINESS RESPONSE



WHO WE ARE

- Northern Ireland's only network for responsible business
- 230+ members
- Northern Ireland's leading companies that employ more than 40% of the working population
- We exist to support and challenge business to be a force for good in society

OUR BOARD

- Chris Conway, Group Chief Executive, Translink
- Roy Adair, Director, Ardmore Advertising
- Elaine Birchall, Group CEO, SHS Group
- David Gavaghan, Founder, Aurora Prime Real Estate
- John Healy, Vice President & Managing Director, Allstate NI
- Vicky Davies, Chief Executive, Danske Bank UK
- Grainia Long, Chief Executive, NIHE
- Joe O'Neill, Chief Executive, Belfast Harbour
- Jenny Pyper, Head of the NI Civil Service
- Michael Ryan, Vice President & General Manager, Bombardier Belfast
- Alan Taylor, Chairman, Arthur Cox Solicitors
- Michael Graham, Executive Chairman, GRAHAM



The Responsible
Business Network
Northern Ireland

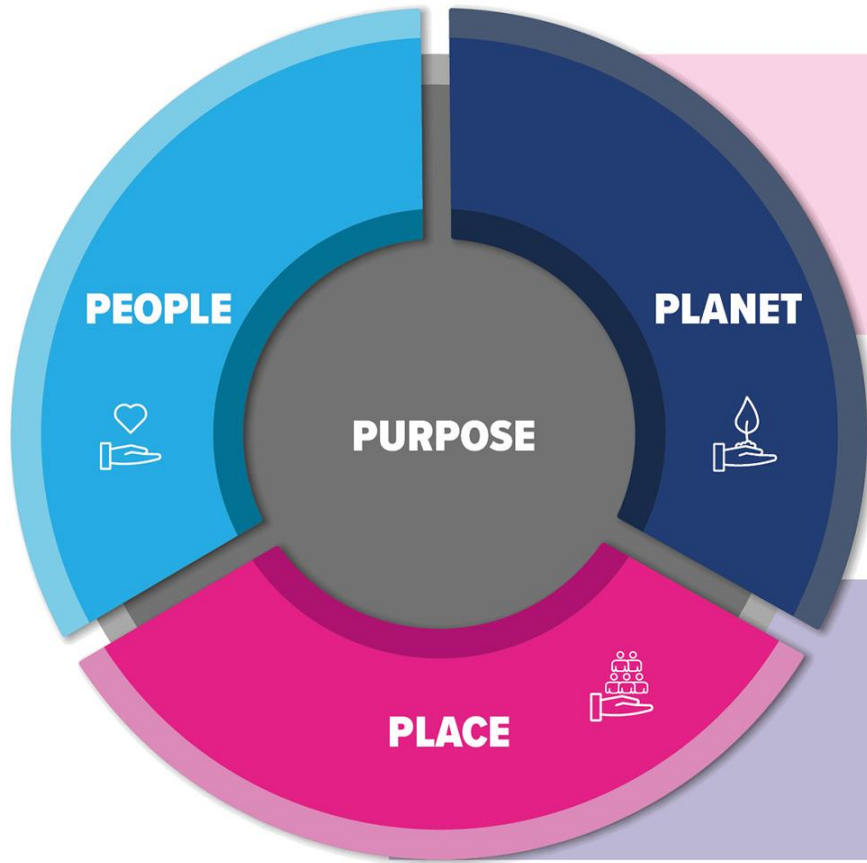
OUR VISION

**TO ACHIEVE A WORLD WHERE
RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS IS AT
THE CORE OF EVERY
ORGANISATION**

OUR PURPOSE

**TO INSPIRE AND SUPPORT
BUSINESS TO BE A FORCE
FOR GOOD**

WHAT MAKES A RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS?



HOW CAN BUSINESS IN THE COMMUNITY HELP YOU?

Objective 1
ENGAGING BUSINESS TO COLLABORATE IN TACKLING SOME OF THE BIGGEST ISSUES FACING SOCIETY



Objective 2
DEVELOPING AND GROWING THE MOVEMENT FOR RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS IN NORTHERN IRELAND



**“WE SIT WITH A COST-
OF-LIVING CRISIS, NOT
JUST ON THE
DOORSTEP BUT RIGHT
INSIDE OUR HOMES
AND BUSINESSES.”**



COST OF LIVING | THE CHALLENGES



Fuel crisis



**Rising grocery
costs**

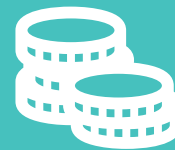


**Food
shortages**

NO GOVERNMENT



Inflation



Recession



Climate

WHAT THE NUMBERS TELL US

Just over
600
respondents

covering largely micro, small
and self-employed businesses –
sole traders, company directors
and partnerships.

Cost of Doing Business

**If Cost pressures continue,
without necessary support**

47% state business will
not survive next year
without help
1 in 5 are not concerned

Cash Flow

42%
cash flow position is weak (30% 2021)

1 in 10
report cash flow is critical (3% 2021)

Wage Inflation

- **55%** of businesses have increased wages during last 12 months
- **1 in 9** increased wages by more than 10%
- **31%** are very concerned about having to increase wages
- **21%** are very concerned about having to lay off staff

Cost Pressures

90%
state cost of raw materials
have risen

95%
state utilities/fuel costs have
risen, **45%** state rise by more
than **30%**.

- **94%** state vehicle costs have increased.
- **59%** state the cost of borrowing/financing has increased.

Profitability

31%
have seen turnover **decrease**
(34% 2021)

45% report decreasing profits
(39% 2021) – **1 in 10** cash flow
position is critical

Critical Requests

- **77%** Lower energy cap
- **46%** Business rates holiday
- **45%** Reduction in VAT

LABOUR MARKET STATS – 15 November 2022

- Payrolled employees and monthly earnings recorded an increase over the month – 781,300 (2.5% increase over the year, but tracking comparatively 4.3% below the overall UK rate).
- Economic inactivity sits at 27.7% - 6.1% higher than the overall UK rate

TRUST, VALUES AND ETHICS

RESPONDENTS FELT THAT BUSINESS IS NOT DOING ENOUGH TO ADDRESS THE FOLLOWING SOCIETAL PROBLEMS

52%

Climate
Change

49%

Economic
Inequality

46%

Workforce
Reskilling

Edelman Trust Barometer 2022

RESPONDENTS FELT THAT ALL STAKEHOLDERS HOLD BUSINESSES ACCOUNTABLE

58%

Will buy or
advocate for
brands based
on their
beliefs and
values

60%

Will choose a
place to work
based on their
beliefs and
values

80%

Will invest
based on their
beliefs and
values

Edelman Trust Barometer 2022

COST OF LIVING | A THREE-STEP BUSINESS RESPONSE



**CONVENING
BUSINESS**



**SUPPORTING
EMPLOYEES**



**SUPPORTING
COMMUNITIES**

COST-OF-LIVING TASKFORCE

COST OF LIVING | FOCUS AREAS

CONVENING BUSINESS

- 1) Sharing sectoral opportunities and challenges, including case studies and best-practice resources
- 2) A series of roundtable peer discussions (both online and in person) focusing on sharing experiences and learnings in relation to addressing cost-of-living challenges via the workplace.

SUPPORTING EMPLOYEES

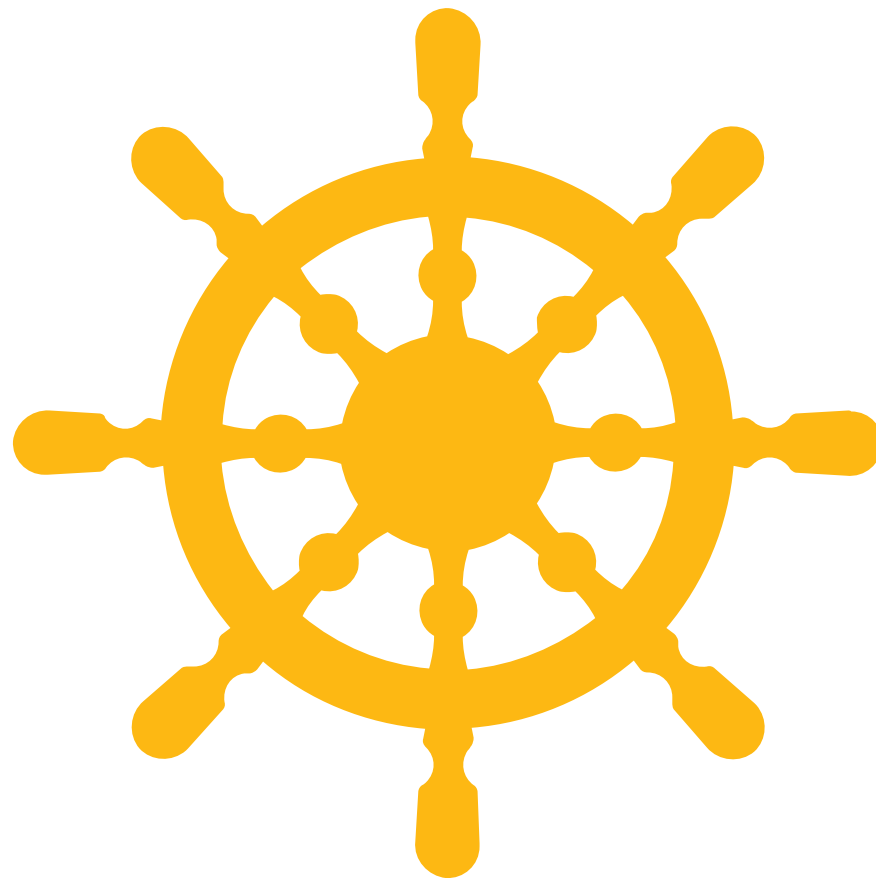
The rollout of an information campaign for employers and employees, highlighting potential interventions and areas of support, as well as delivering targeted webinars and training e.g. financial literacy. All available on our Cost of Living Hub.

SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES

The rollout of a grassroots intervention. This will be determined by the Taskforce, but ideas under consideration include interventions via local schools or capacity-building for local community groups. Delivery of two *Seeing is Believing* visits each year, bringing senior business leaders into communities to see issues first-hand.

COST OF LIVING | WHY THE TOURISM SECTION MUST TAKE ACTION?

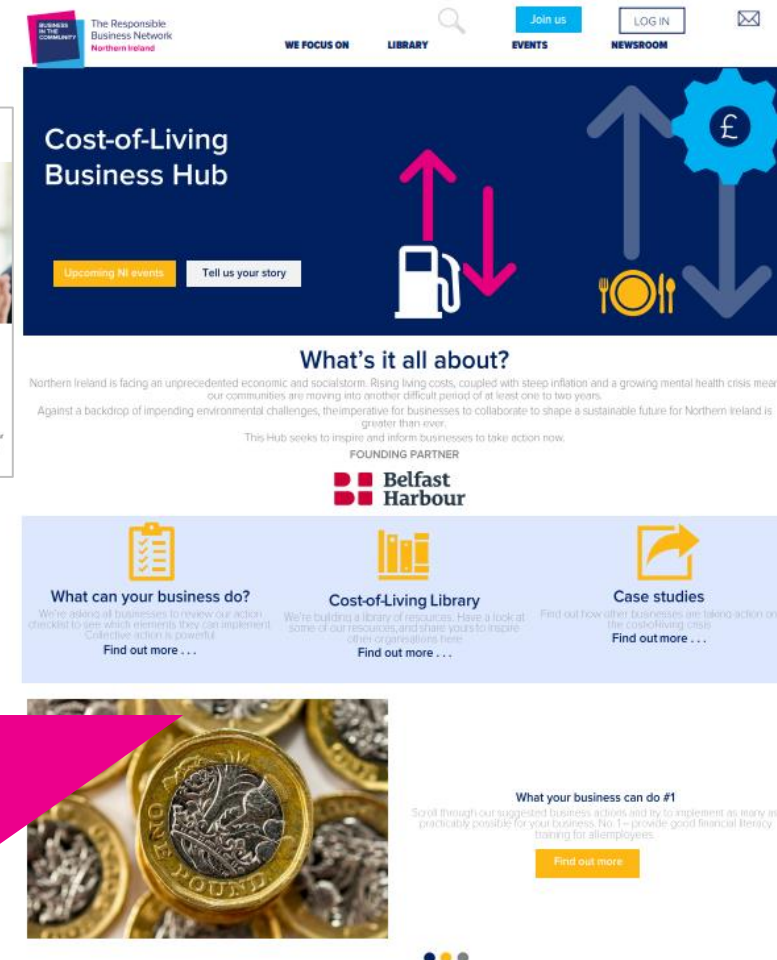
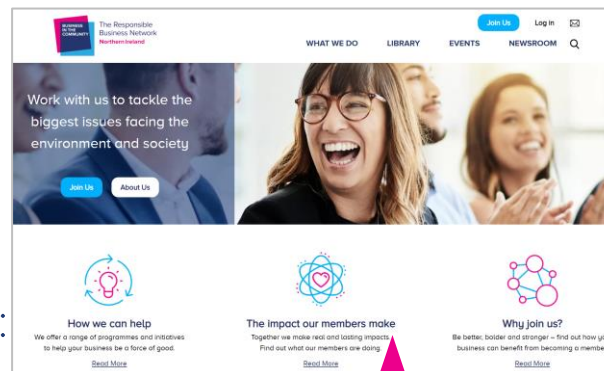
- ***Build trust and engagement*** with your employees, customers and supply chain at a time when they will be worried
- ***Reinforce your organisation's brand*** as one that is dedicated to supporting communities in challenging times
- ***Provide practical guidance and support*** to employees
- ***Enable your employees to volunteer*** in the local community to make a difference
- ***Communicate*** how your products, services and expertise can support others in difficult times
- ***Improve the resilience*** of your supply chain to external shocks



HOW BUSINESS IN THE COMMUNITY CAN HELP YOU

- *Cost-of-Living* Hub
- *Factsheets and toolkits*
- *Examples* of others taking action
- *Practical support* through our campaign teams:
 - Employment & Skills
 - Climate Action & Environmental Sustainability
 - Community Engagement
 - Wellbeing & Inclusion
- *Advisory services*

www.bitcni.org.uk



LAUNCHING
2 DECEMBER

HOW BUSINESS IN THE COMMUNITY CAN HELP YOU



News & Events

Keep up-to-date with the latest news from Business in the Community, our members and key responsible business partners.

News & Events

- Share your news
- Events
- Thought Leadership
- Case Studies
- CRUX Of The Matter

AWARDS FINALISTS ANNOUNCED!

News

Business in the Community Northern Ireland

5,721 followers

MEMBER NEWS | Allstate Northern Ireland unveils new office spaces and hybrid working policy amid recruitment drive for 100 technologists. Find out more: <http://ow.ly/INN750J8K4T> #ResponsibleBusiness

Social media

The Responsible Business Network Northern Ireland

WHAT WE DO **LIBRARY** **EVENTS** **NEWSROOM**

NAVIGATE

- News & Events
- Share your news
- Events
- Thought Leadership
- Case Studies
- CRUX Of The Matter

CAMPAIGN AREAS

- ☐ Climate Change & Carbon Footprint
- ☐ Community Resilience
- ☐ Corporate Responsibility
- ☐ Employee Wellbeing & Inclusion
- ☐ Social Inclusion and Prosperity

Success stories

- A not so 'Blue Monday' for Henry Brothers**
10 Feb 2022
The third Monday of January has been awarded the gloomy title of 'Blue Monday' and widely considered the most depressing day of the year due to a combination of post-Christmas blues, cold dark nights, the arrival of unpaid credit card bills, falling new year's resolutions and low motivational levels – but that was not the case for Henry Brothers personnel this year!
- Lidl Northern Ireland & Biodiversity**
13 Dec 2021
The team at Lidl has been busy as bees, looking at ways to further support biodiversity as part of its sustainability strategy, from green roofs and an ever-expanding pollinator friendly plant range, to the introduction of a pollinator-friendly stores concept.
- How ABP turned an obstacle into an opportunity to inspire and develop young people**
06 Dec 2021
This case study demonstrates how employers and the education sector can work in partnership to offer work inspiration & skills development to teenagers during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- SUKI Tea Makers**
08 Nov 2021
Organic GREEN TEA SENCHA
- Mid & East Antrim Borough Council**
- Northern Ireland Housing Executive**

Communities through the HANDHEAT Project

Thought leadership & blogs

20 Oct 2021

How do you turn climate anxiety into positive action – boosting inclusive growth and resilience for Northern Ireland?

By

Public Affairs

Public Affairs Strategy

MAKING RESPONSIBLE CONNECTIONS

2020 – 2021

Our App - MyBITCNI

MyBITCNI

Welcome to MYBITCNI

Embedding CR

Climate Action

Community Engag...

Partner with us

CASE STUDY

When the UK was hit by the coronavirus pandemic, we pivoted our operations and developed the National Business Response Network

Our ambition was for the National Business Response Network to become widely known by businesses, government and communities in the UK as the **go to** programme for organisations to partner with local communities in need of support, during the pandemic and beyond.

It had a two-part process: **RESPONSE & RECOVERY**. Helping communities, with the support of business, with their immediate needs, but also helping them build back.



**3,500+ MATCHES
ACROSS THE UK**

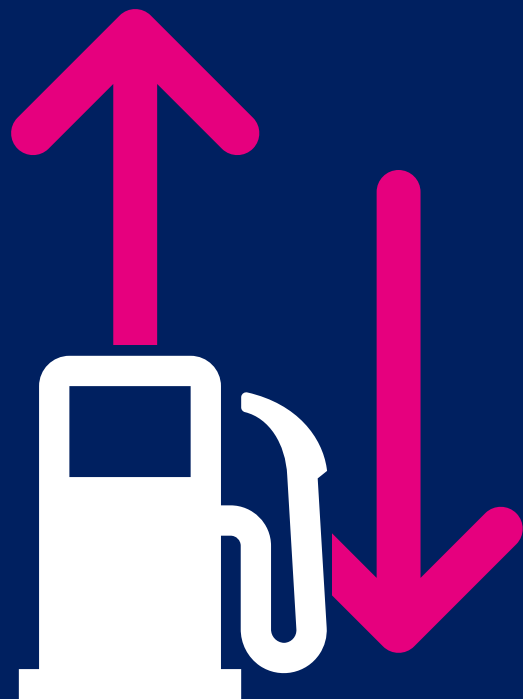
FOOD & CLOTHING

TECHNOLOGY

SKILLS



The Responsible
Business Network
Northern Ireland



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