

In a year that has brought the key pillars of PACE to the fore under the pandemic, and a renewed focus on digital transformation, climate change, corporate governance and ethics, the country is looking to the government to deliver on policy measures to ensure an economic recovery that is equal across all regions of the UK.

2020 Activity

May



Reviving the Northern Powerhouse Economy: Removing the Padlock

In this webinar by *TheBusinessDesk.com* and our firm, we heard from fourspeakers who shared their insights on the impact of government policy and its direction, the priorities for the Northern economy, and the strengthened importance of the green economy – as well as how businesses could prepare for, and benefit from, the changes.

[Watch Recording](#)

Speakers

- James Wharton, Senior Advisor, Squire Patton Boggs
- Eve Roodhouse, Chief Officer, Economic Development at Leeds City Council
- Tom Bridges, Director, Cities Advisory, Arup
- John Alderton, Partner, Squire Patton Boggs

June



Reviving the Northern Powerhouse Economy – [Published Articles](#) on *TheBusinessDesk*

- The battle cry for infrastructure investment in the North
- Shifting political sands puts Powerhouse onus on the North
- The future of cities
- How do you need to restructure your business post-COVID-19
- Action needed now as job opportunities plummet



August



[Insight Into the Issues Driving Change](#) by Matthew Kirk, Hannah Kendrick and Diarmuid Ryan

- UK Politics and Policy
- Trade Deals and Global Markets
- Building Back Better



[COVID-19 Accelerating Automation](#) by Jonathan Ross and Andrea Cropley

- Technology and Automation
- Innovation and Cybersecurity
- Smart and Green Infrastructure



[Climate Considerations in the New Normal](#) by Anita Lloyd and Louise Barber

- Climate Change and Emissions
- Sustainability
- Green and Ethical Investing



[Ethics Considerations in the New Normal](#) by Rob Elvin and Catherine McKenna

- Corporate Behaviours and Values
- Diversity and Inclusion
- Regulation and Governance

September



Progressing the Powerhouse: The Next Phase

Our panellists explored what further policy devolution and regional collaboration is needed to drive the productivity of the Northern Powerhouse, how the North can work with the Department for International Trade to ensure we are competing on a global scale, and the opportunities and challenges that freeports can bring.

[Watch Recording](#)

Speakers

- Rt. Hon. Jake Berry MP
- Rt. Hon. Simon Clarke MP, Minister for Regional Growth
- Ben Houchen, Tees Valley Mayor
- Nicola Headlam, Independent Policy Consultant
- Susana Cordoba, Director of International Trade, GM Chamber of Commerce
- Diarmuid Ryan, Partner, Squire Patton Boggs

October



Accelerating Automation in the New Normal

Our panellists examined which sectors will gain value from investing and deploying automation and what is next for Human-AI synergy innovation and investment. With increasing opportunities and threats for business and workforces, what compliance and regulation will be required to underpin growth and protect reputation, and what ethical issues will automation raise? Ultimately, can automation fill the productivity gap in the “new normal”?

[Watch Recording](#)

Speakers

- Furqan Alamgir, Chief Executive Officer, Connexin
- Elizabeth Clark, Co-founder and CEO, Dream Agility
- Paul Hallett, Co-founder, Vet-AI
- Matthew Kirk, International Affairs Advisor, Squire Patton Boggs
- Barry Singleton, Chief Relationship Officer, Scaled Insights



November



Accelerating Automation in the New Normal – [Published Articles](#) on *TheBusinessDesk*

- Automation to have a global impact on labour market
- The two sides of AI and automation
- What's next for AI?
- A disruptive 2020 has created opportunities to accelerate change
- Catalytic effect of Covid-19 on digitalisation
- Manufacturers being Made Smarter and delivering tech transformation

November



The Future of Green Energy

Joined by the Rt. Hon. Kwasi Kwarteng, Richard Gwilliam at Drax, Helen Boyle at Cadent Gas, Victoria Merton at Peel Group and Steve Cox at Electricity North West, our panel explored the future of green energy and the challenges faced by the industry, as well as highlighted the significance of the “green industrial revolution” in fuelling economic recovery.

[Read Client Insight](#)

[Watch Recording](#)

Speakers

- Rt. Hon. Kwasi Kwarteng MP, minister for energy
- Richard Gwilliam, Drax Group
- Helen Boyle, Cadent Gas
- Steve Cox, Electricity NW
- Victoria Merton, Peel Energy

November



Trade Talk: What the Election Results Tell Us and What Is Next for Trade and Investment

With a variety of potential trade deals and partners on the table, it is needless to say that the future of UK trade will significantly impact businesses, for better or worse. This was an unmissable opportunity to have questions answered by politicians with inside knowledge, to successfully plan for business continuity as we transition from the EU.

[Watch Recording](#)

Speakers

- Joe Crowley, Former US Congressman on Trade
- John Boehner, 53rd Speaker of the House of Representatives
- Conor Burns MP
- Rt. Hon. Jake Berry MP
- Hannah Kendrick, Partner, Squire Patton Boggs