



The GBCC Black Business Collective Bulletin

Welcome to your fourth edition!

In this quarterly bulletin, you will find opportunities, events and content all aimed at, and curated for, the black business community.

Our partners



Thinking Business - Adapt, grow and succeed

Trowers & Hamlins has launched the latest issue of **Thinking Business**.

The law firm's bi-annual publication shares insights into topical issues to help businesses adapt, grow and succeed in a rapidly changing world.



This edition includes:

Managing EDI in a time of political change – with a tumultuous view coming from the west about EDI, we discuss the importance of it within the workplace for businesses in the UK

Embracing AI's opportunities and challenges for business data – with AI continuing to be one of the hot topics for businesses, we take a look how it can affect your business data, whether it is a boon or if it's a hindrance

Devolution plans create business opportunities – with Devolution giving local authorities more powers, we discuss how this positively affects businesses

We hope you'll enjoy reading this and that you'll find some interesting food for thought over the course of the following pages.

[Read more](#)

In our recent news



Business park welcomes new café to its community



Mentoring programme launched to support aspiring Black lawyers

Aston Villa Foundation celebrates Benjamin Zephaniah Localism Awards



The **Aston Villa Foundation** has celebrated the work of 10 individuals through the **Benjamin Zephaniah Localism Awards**.

The awards connect to the '**supporting**' pillar of the Foundation's strategic function, exploring how the Foundation can play a role in empowering and becoming an advocate for micro-community and charitable organisations within the city of Birmingham.

Coinciding with **Benjamin Zephaniah Day**, the awards honour the life and legacy of the legendary writer and poet, casting a spotlight on those who have embodied '**localism**' in their community:

Included in the recipients is **Keith Shayaam-Smith**, vice-chair of the Black Business Collective.

Keith is described as a positive role model for local black creatives and social entrepreneurs. He is nominated for the award for his contributions to the **Legacy**

Centre of Excellence in Newtown, where both creatives and entrepreneurs can expand and develop their skills to thrive in competitive markets.

[Read more](#)

Sponsor content:

What start-up founders need to know about the law



Amardeep Gill, a Partner at **Trowers & Hamlins**, talks about the importance of law, IP and some of the different challenges startups face from a legal point of view.

[Watch the video](#)

Innovate UK Business Growth



Innovate
UK

Business
Connect

Innovate UK Business Growth offers tailored support to small and medium-sized innovation-driven SMEs in the UK.

The programme aims to help businesses scale by providing resources, advice and opportunities across various stages of growth. Services range from protecting intellectual property to accessing global markets and investment readiness support.

[Find out more](#)

Innovation Funding Service



The **Innovation Funding Service**, managed by **Innovate UK**, is a platform that enables UK-based businesses and research organisations to search for and apply to various government-backed funding opportunities.

These opportunities support activities such as researching and developing new products, processes or services; testing innovative ideas, and collaborating with other organisations.

[View opportunities](#)

Thinking about global expansion?

Join the Business Export Exchange Programme (BEEP) Export Bootcamp



Get export-ready fast and with confidence

For export-curious early-stage **#Founders** who want to test global market feasibility, the **BEEP Export Bootcamp** on **Thursday 29th May** will help you to:

- 👉 Meet the delivery team and international expansion expert mentors and coaches
- 👉 Preview the Export Bootcamp curriculum and microcredential stack
- 👉 Get tips on building your export operations and network with other founders

[Register here](#)

[About BEEP](#)

SheTrades Commonwealth+ Programme



UK-funded SheTrades Commonwealth+ Programme

Calling UK Businesses: Source from Nigerian suppliers

Open to UK-based importing companies and wholesalers in the following sectors to connect with Nigerian women-led suppliers: fresh and processed agrifood (including spices), textiles and apparel, and beauty sectors. Your expression of interest may qualify you to participate in upcoming B2B activities, including:

- Halal Expo Manchester 2025 on 28 - 29 June
- UK - Nigeria Trade Mission
- Virtual B2B meetings with potential women-led suppliers

APPLY BY 31 MAY 2025



As part of **International Trade Centre's** flagship **Women and Trade** programme, the UK-funded **SheTrades Commonwealth+ Programme** aims to connect women entrepreneurs from selected countries in Africa and Asia, to global markets – particularly to the UK.

They are launching a **Call for Expressions of Interest** for UK companies looking to source from **Nigeria**, in which selected UK companies will be invited to participate in various B2B activities. These could include the **UK – Nigeria Trade Mission** or virtual B2B networking sessions with relevant women-led suppliers – based on matching with suitable Nigerian suppliers.

Apply now

Made in the Gambia – Gambia’s Good Market



The poster features a dark blue background with a white and green diagonal stripe on the left. At the top, there are logos for the Gambia coat of arms, the European Union (with the text 'Funded by the European Union'), and the International Trade Centre. The main text is in white and purple, including 'EU YEP', 'TOURISM AND CREATIVE INDUSTRIES', 'GAMBIA'S GOOD MARKET', and 'QUALITY PRODUCTS BY YOUTH'. A stylized Gambia flag is positioned to the right of the main title. Below the main title, the date 'DATE: 31st May, 2025' and venue/time 'VENUE...Palma Rima TIME: 09:00 to 19:00hrs' are listed in purple. At the bottom, there are logos for GWCC (Gambia Women's Chamber of Commerce) and GSCC (Gambia Start-up Chambers of Commerce).

1st place Business Travel, based in Birmingham, is proud to be part of the **Gambia Start-up Chambers of Commerce** campaign! Together, they aim to drive innovation, collaboration and growth in the startup community.

If are you an entrepreneur in the **tourism** or **creative** sectors, then you don't want to miss the opportunity to be part of **Gambia's Good Market (GGM)** - a vibrant monthly pop-up experience that celebrates the creativity and talent of youth and women in The Gambia's tourism and creative industries.

[Find out more](#)

Birmingham Black Business Show 2025

Saturday 14th June

9:00am - 6:00pm

The NEC, Hall 10, Birmingham

60 free tickets available until the end of May!



4,000+ face-to-face attendees

70+ live speakers

100+ exhibition stands

Get ready for the electrifying return of **Birmingham Black Business Show** in 2025!

With an exclusive lineup of **speakers, panel discussions, workshops, 1-on-1 free career/business advice**, this event provides a unique and exciting space for people and organisations to network, discuss and take action on advancing the development of ethnic minorities in the UK.

By creating a progressive and positive arena in which black businesses can come together, the show will assist attendees and exhibitors to make meaningful

connections and promote the development of black talent.

Keynote speakers



Dame Denise Lewis DBE

Presenter, broadcaster and former gold medal-winning athlete

Denise is one of the “golden girls” of British athletics; winning gold at the 2000 Sydney Olympics and subsequently being inducted into the UK Athletics Hall of Fame in 2011. Denise was honoured with an OBE in 2000, followed by a Damehood in 2023 and an Honorary Doctorate from Birmingham City University in the same year.



Timothy Armoo

Pioneer in the world of influencer marketing and brand building

Aged twenty-one, Timo founded Fanbytes, helping global brands including Nike, Samsung, Deliveroo and the UK Government engage with Gen Z, via Influencer Marketing. In 2022, Timo sold Fanbytes to global marketing company Brainlabs in an eight-figure exit. This marked Timo’s second successful exit, having sold his first business EntrepreneurXpress – a business media publication – to Horizon when he was just seventeen.

[Find out more](#)
