

Support for economy sees NE1 given award

NEWCASTLE NE1 has received an award from the Arab-British Chamber of Commerce for its work supporting the North East economy.

The Business Improvement District was presented the award "in recognition of the organisation's work in supporting the region".

Tariq Albassam, head of operations at NE1, accepted the award at the event, hosted by the Arab-British Chamber of Commerce in London to commemorate its 40th anniversary.

The award was presented after NE1 hosted a delegation of high-level representatives from Arab Nations as part of an Arab-British Chamber visit in March 2017.

Commenting on the award, Mr Albassam said: "We were delighted to be invited to the Arab-British Chamber's 40th Anniversary celebrations following their successful visit to Newcastle earlier in the year.

"To be recognised for our work promoting the businesses of the city is such high praise from the Arab-British Chamber, and we are incredibly proud to have accepted it."

Over the year, NE1 has welcomed a host of foreign dignitaries to the North East, including acting US Ambassador Lew Luke-nis, First Secretary at the High Commission of India in London Sunil Kumar, and a delegation from the Construction & Economy Research Institute of Korea.

Newcastle NE1 chief executive Sean Bullick said: "Understanding how other countries operate at national and regional level helps us to gain new perspectives on a number of business and social agendas, which is why we ensure that foreign visits to the region are given high priority.

"When we hosted the delegation from the Arab Nations, we were impressed at their interest in the city, and the wide range of world-leading businesses located here. This award acknowledges the strong relationships that have been established and we very much look forward to working with the Arab-British Chamber and Arab Nations in the future."



> Dr Afnan Al-Shuaiby, secretary general and chief executive of the Arab British Chamber of Commerce in London, left, with Tariq Albassam, head of operations at NE1