

STOCKPORT BUSINESS BULLETIN



March 2018

Welcome to the March 2018 edition of Stockport Business Bulletin, providing an overview of investment, news and networking opportunities in Stockport.



Stockport businesses up for the challenge in 2018

Stockport businesses have revealed they are cautiously optimistic about the 12 months ahead – with almost a quarter anticipating increasing their employment numbers.

Taking part in the fifth annual [Greater Manchester Business Survey](#), companies from across Stockport of different sizes and sectors took part in research looking at business performance and their outlook for the year ahead.

Looking at the plans businesses have for growth, skills and employment requirements and hopes for international trade; the research gives a detailed picture of Stockport's greatest areas of strength and commercial opportunities that are emerging locally. Whilst also allowing local experiences to be compared with those across the rest of Greater Manchester.

Investment and Property Update

Bredbury 25 Trade Park to create additional trade units

Completion of [Bredbury 25 Trade Park](#) this summer will make additional units available for growing businesses. With practical completion due in June 2018, the 2.9-acre development will offer nine new individual trade units ranging in size from 3,000 sq ft to 6,000 sq ft. and, if required, can be combined into larger units. For further information contact Mark Sillitoe at Williams Sillitoe on 01625 800 066



Green Light for second office at Stockport Exchange

A planning application for the next phase of development at [Stockport Exchange](#) has been given approval by Stockport Council's Planning and Highway Committee. The next phase will see Two Stockport Exchange, a new 60,000 sq ft, six-storey office building, developed alongside the existing 50,000 sq ft office created during the previous phase of works.

Business Support & Funding News

Start Smart - Support available to help start your own business

The Business Growth Hub has announced the launch of a new fully funded programme - [Start Smart](#), designed to help local residents start and grow their own business. If you've always wanted to explore self-employment, get in touch with the Business Growth Hub to find out how they can help.



Look out for the Duke of York's Inspiring Digital & Enterprise Awards (iDEA)

This new vocational programme helps people of all ages develop digital and enterprise skills, and showcase their achievements for free. iDEA is being promoted across Stockport schools and colleges, employment and training providers. iDEA badges help employers identify candidates who have invested time and effort in their own digital skills education - so look out for them on CVs and job applications. iDEA badges are endorsed by industry and have been developed to help plug the digital skills gap and generate economic activity. Find out more about [the launch of iDEA in Stockport](#) or [sign up for the awards](#) yourself to learn more.

£15m GM Co Investment fund for launched

A new £15m [GM Co Investment Fund](#) has been launched to support early-stage technology and innovation businesses across the region. Developed by The Growth Company, the GM Co Investment Fund is a new approach to increasing the supply of capital to the pipeline of early-stage technology and innovation businesses coming out of Greater Manchester.



Online Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)



The need for criminal record checks is well-known by those working with children or vulnerable adults, but did you know a basic DBS disclosure is available for any role and is not restricted by industry sector, even for the self-employed? Stockport Council is a registered umbrella body and has a dedicated and experienced team of experts. We can process applications for you and your company to enable you to make informed recruitment decisions. For more information please visit

<https://www.stockport.gov.uk/online-dbs> or contact us on 0161 474 3166

Food and Drink Trade Show

If you are a food and drink supplier or producer or work in the food and drink sector then put 20th June in your diary. This is the date of Stockport's first Food and Drink Trade Show. The event will connect buyers and suppliers within a 60 mile radius of Stockport, building local supply chains, making it easier for food and drink businesses to do business together. To exhibit at the event contact jo@foodsinc.co.uk or on 07912 758486 or if you'd like to visit the event register via [eventbrite](#).



Events and Networking Opportunities



[Action for Business](#), 20th March 2018, 12:00 - 2:00pm, Village Hotel Cheadle, SK8 1HW

A great opportunity to network, plus the chance for ten companies to give a 60-second pitch on the day.

[Stockport Business Awards Launch and Networking Event](#), 22nd March 2018, 6:00pm - 8:00pm, The Light Cinema, SK1 1SA

SK&Away Networking has rebranded as The Stockport Business Network. At the first event there will be an opportunity to see last years Stockport Business Awards highlights, meet the winners and highly commended, and a chance to network with some of the best business people in Stockport.





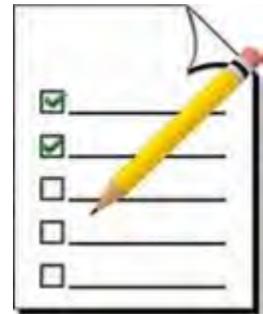
[Stockport and Tameside Construction Club](#), 22nd April, 08:00 - 10:00am, Curzon Ashton FC, Ashton Under Lyne, OL7 9HG

The event will focus on the development and construction opportunities in both Boroughs and will feature presentations on specific projects, including a buyer networking breakfast; Updates from Stockport and Tameside Council on specific projects; and an opportunity to network.

Other News

Stockport Salary Survey

Grassroots Recruitment has commissioned a questionnaire into compensation levels and remuneration for employers across the borough in order to produce a [Stockport Salary Survey](#). The results will be available publicly from April to help Stockport employers of all sectors and sizes attract and compete for the best candidates, as well as supporting local investment and overall business growth. Stockport businesses are encouraged to complete the survey.



Greater Manchester Good Employer Charter

Consultation on the [Greater Manchester Good Employer Charter](#) has recently been launched by Greater Manchester Combined Authority. The charter will support employers to reach best practice, helping them to grow and provide good jobs. The consultation is open until 13th April and employers and employees of all sizes and from all sectors are invited to have their say via www.surveymonkey.com/r/GMgoodwork

Tee off for charity

Fancy yourself as the Top Golfer in the office? Stockport Cerebral Palsy Society is holding its 25th Anniversary [Golf Day](#) on Friday 14th September 2018 and your business is invited to take part. Sponsorship opportunities are also available - please contact Sam Case for more information at Samantha@stockportcp.co.uk or on 0161 432 1248.



Follow us on Twitter

Whether you are starting up a business, trying to grow your company or thinking of relocating to Stockport, a range of services are available to help you. You can follow us on Twitter - [@SMBC Business](#) to keep up to date with the latest news and support available.