

STOCKPORT BUSINESS BULLETIN



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December 2018

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



Pioneer 10

Tech start up company, **Wattl**, has won £15,000 of business support after being announced as the winner of this year's [Pioneer 10 competition](#).

Led by Stockport Business and Innovation Centre (SBIC), Pioneer 10 aims to support early stage innovative businesses to grow. During the competition ten shortlisted participants were subjected to a 'Dragons Den' style grilling as they pitched their business plan to a panel of judges. This year's winner was **Wattl**, a free-to-download app that uses artificial intelligence and cloud-based technology to provide a bird's eye view of the web's most interesting clips

and pictures. In return for scooping the top prize, the company, received a package of services for their business worth up to £15K, including their own office for a year in Stockport Business & Innovation Centre.

Investment and Property Update

Stockport Exchange

Work has started on site to develop the next phase of offices at [Stockport Exchange](#). The impressive new six-storey office building is being constructed next to the popular 1 Stockport Exchange and is anticipated to complete in February 2020.



Business Support & Funding News

Stockport Business Finance Scheme

DJ and music producer Joe McBride has launched a new record store and café in Stockport using an £8,000 loan from the [Stockport Business Finance Scheme](#). The scheme provides a range of finance to suit all business needs, with business loans available from £500 through to £500,000. Appropriate start-up, growth and mentoring support is also provided to those securing funding through the scheme.



Gigabit Voucher Scheme

Full fibre networks are the future and getting ready for gigabit speed is a key step for most businesses. If you are a SME, you may be able to get a [gigabit voucher](#) worth up to £2,500 to upgrade your business broadband to a fast and reliable connection over gigabit capable infrastructure. [Z Film Studios](#) in Heaton Mersey boosted the voucher value by joining together with neighbouring businesses.

Working Well - Supporting out-of-work residents

'Working Well' is a Greater Manchester wide support service, set up for a range of out-of-work residents facing barriers to employment. The programme is run by [InWork GM](#), integrating their offer with a range of health, housing and other services. InWork GM have an active Employer Engagement programme and are keen to talk to businesses about how they can work together to support their recruitment.

**WORKING
WELL**
WORK & HEALTH PROGRAMME



Made Smarter

The [Made Smarter North West programme](#) is set to engage with 3,000 SME manufacturers based in the North West to boost growth. Companies involved in the project will get the chance to access match funded support to revolutionise their manufacturing operations. The programme will help manufacturers understand how digital technologies can be implemented through access to specialist advice & resources to make it smarter. Find out how your business can be made smarter by visiting www.madesmarter.uk.

Transport for Greater Manchester Launch Flexible Working Survey

Transport for Greater Manchester is finding out how businesses and organisations across the region are working and have created two surveys, one to be completed by the [HR Manager at your organisation](#) and another by [employees](#). Flexible working helps to reduce congestion at peak times and can have many health benefits. TfGM is seeking to understand the range of flexible options employers offer to their staff.



Events and Networking Opportunities

UNIQUE
ladies

[Unique Ladies Stockport](#) 9th January
2019, 9.00 - 11.30am, Hallmark Hotel,
Handforth

The event provides an opportunity for women to network and hear from an inspirational speaker.

Other News

Stockport's Christmas Winter Wonderland

This year's Christmas theme is a [Winter Wonderland](#). We can all dream of a White Christmas but it's going to be a very icy December in Stockport Town Centre this Christmas. Working in partnership together, Totally Stockport, Merseyway and Stockport Council are lighting up Stockport for Christmas with a fun packed agenda including an animatronic polar bear and fabulous ice sculpture.



Have your say on the future with Stockport Council's consultations

Stockport Council is encouraging businesses and residents to have their say on a number of proposals in areas such as transport, street maintenance and libraries. The closing dates on Stockport Council's current consultations range from 15th December 2018 to 25th January 2019 with further information available at www.stockport.gov.uk/haveyoursay

Meet the Buyer - Supporting local suppliers

More than 120 businesses attended 'Meet the Buyer', which was designed to help local firms pitch for business with major public sector organisations. The event allowed businesses from Stockport, Rochdale, Trafford and Tameside to speak directly to buyers from key organisations to understand bidding for contracts in all areas of public sector spend. More information about doing business with the public sector can be found at www.star-procurement.gov.uk



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](https://twitter.com/SMBC_Business) to keep up to date with the latest news and support available.

For further information on any of the topics covered, assistance with any economic information or if you have any comments please contact us.



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