

# STOCKPORT BUSINESS BULLETIN



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## March 2019

Welcome to the March 2019 edition of Stockport Business Bulletin, providing an overview of investment, news and networking opportunities in Stockport.



## New proposals announced to help clean up our air

The government has instructed Greater Manchester and many other areas of the UK to develop Clean Air Plans which will reduce high levels of NO<sub>2</sub> on local roads as soon as possible. Greater Manchester is tabling a proposal to introduce a [Clean Air Plan](#) that could see daily fines introduced for non-compliant vehicles. The proposal is for a Clean Air Zone, covering all 10 Greater Manchester local authorities, which would require owners of high-polluting, commercial vehicles (HGVs, buses, taxis, private hire vehicles, vans and minibuses) – but not cars – to pay a daily penalty for driving in Greater Manchester. Businesses are being encouraged to find out more about the proposed package of measures by visiting [www.cleanairgm.com](http://www.cleanairgm.com)

# Investment and Property Update



## Planning green light for Stockport's Grade II listed Bank Chambers

Hall & Co Property has secured planning permission for the transformation of the ground floor and basement of Stockport's iconic Grade II listed Bank Chambers on the corner of Market Place and St Petersgate. This will become home to the town centre's first dedicated co-working space, ProFolk. The centre will provide seven private offices and 20 co-working desks, along with a large space for meetings and events, plus breakout and relaxation space, a bike store, showers and lockers. Work has already begun on site, with ProFolk scheduled to open its doors in Summer 2019.

## The Range to open in Stockport

The Range Superstore Group, the fastest growing retailer in the UK, will open a new store in Stockport creating around 80 local jobs. With 150 stores across the UK, The Range has agreed to take over the former 44,000 sq ft Toys R Us unit at the Peel Centre and plans to extend into a further 10,000 sq ft to the rear of the unit, adding store space and creating a garden centre.



## Eden Point

Bridge Properties have completed the refurbishment, re-branding and relaunch of [Eden Point](#). The delivery team undertook a comprehensive remodelling and refurbishment of 14,000 sq ft of vacant space along with a new reception area together with the in house Eat @ Eden café with its interactive meeting booths. Located in a highly prominent position fronting the A34, Eden Point now provides office accommodation over four floors.

## Business Support & Funding News

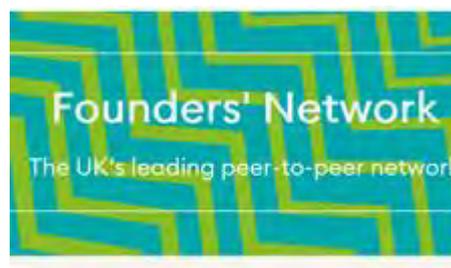


### South Manchester Digital Network

The first meeting of the South Manchester Digital Network took place in February. The network, organised in partnership with Manchester Digital, has been set up to explore current trends and issues in the digital/tech sector. A panel comprising representatives from Music Magpie, CDL, Thales and KMP Digitata led discussions on culture, workforce development, talent attraction and retention whilst highlighting Stockport as a destination for the growing digital sector. The next meeting will be held in early May. If you are interested in finding out more about the South Manchester Digital Network please email [growthteam@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:growthteam@stockport.gov.uk)

### Founders Network for Digital / Tech Entrepreneurs

Tech Nation is inviting early stage entrepreneurs to join their free [Founders' Network](#). Founders Network is a online peer-to-peer support network and forum allowing early-stage digital and tech entrepreneurs from across the country to connect with each other, get or give advice, post jobs, etc. To qualify digital/tech companies must be incorporated in the UK and have an annual revenue of less than £1.5 million to £2 million.



### Switched On masterclass

The GC Business Growth Hub is hosting [Switched On](#), a fully-funded business development programme designed to support SMEs in the Green Technologies and Services sector to grow. The programme features 3 workshops taking place over the course of 3 weeks providing delegates with the skills required to enter new markets, raise their company profile and grow their sales pipeline. Workshops will be held on 21st, 28th March and 3rd April.

## Launch of new Gander website

Gander's new website, [www.gandercareers.co.uk](http://www.gandercareers.co.uk), highlights opportunities for local employers to engage with and support Stockport's FE colleges, helping students to have a clearer understanding of career opportunities and what employers are looking for when recruiting. Gander's pool of inspirational speakers, mentors, interviewers and business hosts provide invaluable information and experience for students. The new website has a number of opportunities to get involved. If you're able to assist with any of the requests, or for further information, please contact Gander Coordinator, Stephen Dootson, [stephen@gandercareers.org](mailto:stephen@gandercareers.org)



## £5,000 Innovation Vouchers

[Innovation Vouchers](#) enable small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Greater Manchester to apply for up to £5,000 funding to access expertise, research and specialist facilities to accelerate the development of innovative products and services. The vouchers provide an opportunity to develop a partnership with a Greater Manchester university or a recognised research organisation. The kind of activities the vouchers can be used to fund include: Access to facilities and equipment; Product design; Research and development; Knowledge transfer; Consultancy. More information is available from [GC Business Growth Hub](#).

## Would you like to help improve your employees health and reduce sickness absence in your business?

Greater Manchester's [Working Well Early Help Programme](#) has been launched at the start of March to seek to do this. Working Well Early Help has been jointly commissioned by Greater Manchester Combined Authority and Greater Manchester Health & Social Care Partnership to provide free specialist advice and guidance to local employers to help reduce absences in the workplace. The service has a focus on providing free support to employees with a physical or mental health condition, and who are off work as a result. For more information on the service, please contact us on Tel: 0300 456 8107 or email [workingwellearlyhelp@maximusuk.co.uk](mailto:workingwellearlyhelp@maximusuk.co.uk)



## Events and Networking Opportunities



**Employing Apprentices**, 21st March, 8-10am, The Apprenticeship Store, Stockport

Interested in taking on an apprentice but not sure what it involves? This free event will provide you with the information you need and will also include the launch of the new £3,000 GM Apprenticeship Grant for eligible employers.

**Stockport Business Awards Launch Party** 21st March 2019, 6 - 8pm, Cornerstone, Edward Street, Stockport

Founders and organisers of the Stockport Business Awards, Clarke Nicklin, will be holding an evening event to launch the this years Stockport Business Awards. During the evening, guests will have the opportunity to network with businesses from the borough over a drink and a nibble, and hear the latest updates from this years awards, including new sponsors, new categories and even a new look.



## Other News



### **Flexible Working & Homeworking Opportunities in Stockport**

The Council and local partners are currently seeking to better understand the flexible and homeworking opportunities offered by Stockport's business community helping them to fully benefit from the local pool of motivated and skilled people.

Stockport Council would like to talk with any employers, who may be interested in promoting their flexible and homeworking employment opportunities to individuals seeking flexible work patterns, in particular those businesses that have an ongoing recruitment needs. For an initial discussion, interested employers are invited to please contact Nick Hill at either [nick.hill@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:nick.hill@stockport.gov.uk) or Tel: 0161 474 3736.

## The Goodness Collective – Connecting Business with Communities

New Stockport based Community Interest Company, the Goodness Collective, is building connections between local businesses who want to donate their time, skills and/or funding in response to local needs within the voluntary, community & social enterprise sector. The Goodness Collective supported the successful Sector Connector event in January this year, enabling several of Stockport's business and community organisations to explore ways in which they can support each other. Businesses interested in understanding how they can get involved in supporting their local communities can contact Simone Callaghan at [thegoodnesscollective@outlook.com](mailto:thegoodnesscollective@outlook.com) for further information.



## Stockport Council supports the Armed Forces Covenant. Could you?

The Armed Forces Covenant represents a promise by the nation that those who serve or have served, and their families, are treated fairly. The Armed Forces Covenant can be signed by private, voluntary and independent businesses of all sizes and signing the covenant means that you are supporting your employees as reservists and veterans. By becoming a forces friendly employer you can benefit from the wide range of unique skills and experiences that reservists and veterans can bring to your organisation. Employing armed forces community members can help diversify the talent in your workforce. Find out more about being a forces friendly employer by visiting [www.armedforcescovenant.gov.uk/](http://www.armedforcescovenant.gov.uk/)

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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.

