

STOCKPORT BUSINESS BULLETIN



May 2018

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

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) becomes law across the UK as of 25th May and Stockport Council wants to make sure it's fully compliant. If you receive, or have received already, an email from Stockport Council asking if you'd like to continue receiving the Stockport Business Bulletin, please make sure to click on the 'Yes' button. In doing so, you consent to our privacy policy, which respects your personal rights.



Stockport Business Awards open for entry

Entries for the [Stockport Business Awards](#) are now open and Stockport based businesses are encouraged to enter for a chance to win at this year's prestigious awards dinner which will be held on Thursday 11th October at Stockport Town Hall.

The event celebrates all that is great about business in Stockport and all businesses are encouraged to take a look at the categories and submit an application. The awards are free to enter and businesses can enter as many categories as they like. The closing date for entries is **Friday 1st June**.

Investment and Property Update

Business investment into Stockport at an all time high

Business investment into Stockport is at an all-time high, with deals on over one million square foot of commercial space completed during the past 12 months. Creating 2,060 new jobs and ensuring another 952 stay in Stockport for the future, the news comes as the town continues to undergo an exciting £1 billion transformation that reinforces its position as a leading business location.



Visitors have another reason to head to Redrock as The Gym opened its doors

Offering access to the latest fitness equipment and exercise classes 24/7 The Gym is a fantastic addition to Redrock. The Gym is the latest name to join the growing line up which already boasts The Light Cinema, Berretto Lounge, Zizzi and PizzaExpress. The Gym's opening comes just two weeks after dessert restaurant Creams came to Stockport.

Business Support & Funding News

Funding available to upgrade broadband connection

Full fibre networks are the future and getting ready for a gigabit speed is a key step for most businesses. Demand for greater digital connectivity is set to accelerate in future years, and full fibre connections will be able to support that demand. Through the Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme, small or medium sized business may be able to get a gigabit voucher worth up to £3,000 to upgrade their business broadband to a fast and reliable connection.



Food and Drink Trade Show

Stockport's first Food and Drink Trade Show is being held on 20th June. Meet the producers, suppliers, service and support industries operating in the region that can help you develop your business. To exhibit at the event contact jemma@foodsync.co.uk or if you'd like to visit the event register via [eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com).

Take 5 Funding for Manufacturers

TAKE 5

[Take 5](#) offers grants of £3,000 - £5,000 to support new projects with manufacturers in Greater Manchester. If you have a new project valued at around £10,000 - £15,000 you may be eligible for a grant of 30%. To find out more call 0161 359 3050.



Northern Powerhouse Investment Fund

[NPIF](#) provides over £400m of investment to boost SME growth in the North of England. Commercial finance is available through three types of product funds: Microfinance, Debt Finance and Equity Finance. These funding options are designed to plug common gaps in the provision of finance, giving SME's access to the funding they need to help them grow.

50-50 Energy Efficiency Grant

SME's in Greater Manchester may be eligible for a new [50-50 Energy Efficiency Grant](#). The grants are available for a limited time on a first-come first-served basis and can go towards, for example, a new LED lighting system for your premises, heating equipment upgrades, replacement drives or motors, or another energy efficiency project that your business needs.



Events and Networking Opportunities



[Make your Marketing Matter Masterclass](#), 15th May, 10am - 12pm, Stockport Business and Innovation Centre, Broadstone Mill

Over the course of this masterclass you will discover how you can grow your business through engaging and meaningful messaging. An entertaining and lighthearted presentation this is an interactive session that encourages participation through workbook exercises.

Employers Breakfast Morning, 30th May, 8.15am - 10.00am, The Apprenticeships Store, Stockport

A great opportunity for local businesses to come together to gather information on relevant topics such as; the support the business growth hub has to offer, the new Gigabyte voucher scheme, incentives offered by Transport for Greater Manchester, an overview of apprenticeships and what facilities the Apprenticeships Store have to offer to you and your business.



The Management and Leadership Development Programme - Cohort 5, 7th June, 8.30am - 1.00pm, venue tbc

The programme comprises four interactive task-orientated workshops with a focus on completing a work-based project, followed by a 1:1 coaching session with a Leadership and Workforce Development advisor.

Heathrow Business Summit, 8th June, 10.00am - 4.00pm, A J Bell Stadium, Manchester.

The regional Heathrow Business Summits are unique opportunities for SMEs to connect and trade face to face with Heathrow's supply chain and connect to growth opportunities locally, nationally and internationally.



Social Media for Business & Self-employment 13th June, 1.00 - 5.00pm, Stockport Business and Innovation Centre, Broadstone Mill.

The workshop will cover the fundamentals of generating leads through social media including: How to approach Social Media - tone and style of content; A review of existing Facebook Business pages; Creating Facebook ads; Paid for posts; Using Facebook Insights to measure effectiveness.

Other News

Higher wages and more jobs likely in upbeat forecast by Stockport employers

A new report into labour market trends in Stockport has revealed that almost 90% of businesses plan to hire new staff over the next 12 months and higher rates of pay than Manchester city centre can be expected for some of those roles, as employers invest in attracting the best applicants to stay local. [The Stockport Salary Survey 2018/19](#) commissioned by Grassroots Recruitment, points to an extremely positive outlook for business growth and job creation in Stockport.



Stockport 'skills swap' set to boost region's physical and financial fitness

Businesses across the region are to be given an opportunity to enhance their staff's physical and financial wellbeing, thanks to a successful ['skills swap'](#) between two Stockport organisations. Life Leisure has teamed up with Clarke Nicklin Financial Planning, to exchange respective in-house expertise in order to jointly develop wellbeing workshops around improving personal health and wealth.

Clean Air Day 2018

Clean air day will be taking place on the 21st of June and Stockport Council would like local businesses to take part. The focus for businesses will be on how to enable their staff to use less fuel and create less air pollution when they travel. Particularly by keeping their tyre pressure correct on their vehicle and not leaving the engine running when they are parked. To assist the Council has developed a free support pack. Copies are available by emailing transportation@stockport.gov.uk.



Conference facilities from Stockport Events

[Stockport Events](#) manage a portfolio of impressive venues across Stockport, their Venues of Distinction range from the historic and elegant Bramall Hall to the instantly iconic Stockport Town Hall. Stockport Events are now able to offer meeting rooms and conference facilities to external businesses and organisations. For more information or to make a booking please contact the Events Team on 0161 474 3451 or visit their website www.stockportevents.co.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](#) 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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