

Stockport County Football Club and Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council - Memorandum of Understanding

1.0 Introduction

This Memorandum sets out the key principles to underpin a strategic partnership between Stockport County Football Club (the Club) and Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council (the Council) that will help deliver the ambitions of both the Club to maximise its success and the Council to share in the impact of this success across Stockport and to its residents.

2.0 Stockport County Football Club

In January 2020 Mark Stott acquired Stockport County Football Club. Since then significant progress has been made in re-energising the Club - there has been substantial investment in the facilities for spectators, the fan base has been re-activated, there has been significant investment in players, the acquisition of a short-term interest in Manchester City Football Club's former training facilities at Carrington, Trafford and new education facilities have been created through a Partnership with Stockport College to support skills development of a wide cohort of young people who primarily live in Stockport.

This has resulted in success on the pitch and promotion back into League Two and an increase in the feelgood factor, both in and around the Club and the wider town and borough.

The Club are looking to build upon this success and believe this 'cycle of success' will help drive the following ambitions:

- Promotion from League Two and progression as quickly as possible to at least become a Championship side within the next 5 years;
- Widening the active fan base locally to support the Club's continued success;
- Secure the maximum association of the Club with a range of community-based activities including education for young people; and
- Maximise the positive impacts of the Club's success on Stockport, the town centre and in the neighbourhoods where its facilities are located.

All these outcomes will require further significant investment predominately by the Club in the Team and in facilities for the Club and the Community.

Both Parties recognise the need to promote economic and social growth throughout the Borough of Stockport, and the role of a successful Football Club can play in supporting this objective. They believe that the provision of linked community and educational activities, promoted and delivered by SCFC Charitable Trust arrangements, will bring substantial

benefits to the Borough and its residents. These outcomes will only be possible through an active partnership approach between the Parties and other key partners in the Borough.

3.0 Development Priorities

To underpin the Club's ambitions the ownership have identified the following long term development priorities for the Club to progress:

- A redeveloped Edgeley Park Stadium that can host between 15,000 and 16,500 spectators; and
- A purpose-built Elite Training, Community and Educational Campus in the south of the Borough.

This Memorandum sets out below the principles of the partnership between the Club and the Council to work towards the delivery of these priorities.

4.0 Working Together in Partnership

The principles of the partnership are set out below. Both Parties will:

- collaborate and co-operate. Establish a governance structure to ensure that activities are delivered and actions taken as required;
- be accountable. Take on, manage and account to each other for performance of the respective roles and responsibilities in the partnership;
- be open. Communicate openly about major concerns, issues or opportunities relating to all projects;
- learn, develop and seek to achieve full potential. Share information, experience, materials and skills to learn from each other and develop effective working practices, work collaboratively to identify solutions and eliminate duplication of effort;
- adopt a positive outlook. Behave in a positive, proactive manner;
- adhere to statutory requirements and best practice. Comply with applicable laws and standards including procurement rules, data protection and freedom of information legislation;
- act in a timely manner;
- act in good faith to support achievement of all projects and compliance with these principles; and
- respect commercial confidentiality of each other's proprietary and commercially sensitive information, and in relation to the management and dissemination of sensitive commercial information in relation to the Initiatives.

It is agreed that nothing set out in the principles above places any obligation on either party to provide any financial support to the partnership or other party. All financial matters will be dealt with in line with each party's own governance and decision-making process. Furthermore, nothing in this Memorandum will compel the Council in any of its statutory roles including but not limited to Local Planning Authority or Local Highways Authority.

5.0 Obligations of The Parties

The Council agree to:

- Facilitate with relevant services within the Council discussions in support of the Development Priorities;
- Work with the Club to explore any opportunities which may involve Council or other public land but any financial discussions will be separate to this in line with 4.0 above; and
- Work with the Club and other relevant parties (where appropriate) to maximise the social, economic and environmental benefits of the Development Priorities for the Borough

The Club agree to:

- Support the One Stockport Borough Plan and its Vision for 2030;
- Support the Council's One Future work;
- Develop the Development Priorities in line with all Council Policy including planning policy and engage in the pre-application process with the Local Planning Authority;
- Identify sites that will contribute to the Development Priorities which may be within public or private ownership and control; and
- Use reasonable endeavours to explore and identify financial and investment models in order to deliver the Development Priorities

6.0 Status

This Memorandum is not intended to be legally binding, and nothing express or implied in this Memorandum is intended to create legal relations between the Parties.

The Parties enter into the Memorandum in good faith.

Nothing in this Memorandum is intended to, or shall be deemed to, establish any legal partnership or joint venture between the Parties, constitute any of the Parties as the agent

of the other Parties nor authorise either of the Parties to make or enter into any commitments for or on behalf of the other Parties.

Signed for and on behalf of Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council:

Signed for and on behalf of Stockport County Football Club:

CONFIDENTIAL