

Appendix 1.

Stockport Economic Plan Delivery Plan Progress Update Report - October 2024

Following the launch of the Stockport Economic Plan in December 2022, this is a report on progress with the delivery plan.

Governance of the plan is shared by the Stockport Economic Alliance and Stockport Council's Economy, Regeneration & Climate Change Scrutiny Committee.

The structure of this report mirrors the delivery plan and, along with the content, can be revised and or added to so that it evolves to provide an effective and efficient tool for supporting good governance of the Plan.

The vision and mission of the Plan

Grow Stockport's local economy to...

create and support successful businesses that are stronger, resilient, and productive which...

generate quality jobs which are better paid, sustainable and accessible for the benefit of all our residents.



ENTERPRISING AND PRODUCTIVE

Ambition 1. 1,500 additional businesses in Stockport by 2030*

December 2022 Baseline	December 2023 Figure	Change to Baseline	RAG Status
12,850	13,520	+670	

Data Source - IDBR

NB: In addition as previously advised, the 5-year survival rate of enterprises increased from 35.3% in 2021 to 45.3% in 2022.

Ambition 2. 3,600 additional 16 to 64-year-olds gain qualifications to at least level 2 *

December 2022 Baseline	December 2023 Figure	Change to Baseline	RAG Status
62,300	64,200	+1,900	

* Data Source – NOMIS has changed metric methodology to RQF from NVQ so baseline has been amended to allow like for like comparison.

Big Ticket Actions.

Innovation Project	Progress	RAG Status
St Thomas' Academy of Living Well	Contractor being procured.	
Merseyway Innovation Centre	Merseyway Innovation Centre continues to provide a thriving business hub for the town centre. The centre's offices were 77% occupied in August 2024 and its expected to reach 89% occupancy in September, with only two small units remaining vacant. The centre's business lounge and meeting rooms are well used by co-workers and occupiers and the onsite business support service continues to add value to clients.	

Additional Actions

Action	Progress	RAG Status
New Stockport Work & Skills Partnership	The development of the Stockport Skills Plan and implementing new frontline employment support, including WorkWell (supporting people with health conditions to remain in employment) and In-Work Progression (supporting individuals to progress their careers) remain key priorities. A Work & Skills 'Triage' offer will be put in place, including a dedicated individual, to support residents and employers to access work and skills services.	
Identify new sites for employment land and link Employment and Skills Agreements to new developments as part of new Local Plan	Employment & Skills Agreements continuing to be progressed for Weir Mill, Stock Room and the former BHS. Updated Agreement developed for Royal George Village (new developer). Outline agreement outcomes developed for Marple Leisure Centre and Stockport Exchange Phase 5. Also Employment & Skills outcomes recommended for planning applications including KAO Data centre (demolition starts on site in October) and Stanley Green.	
Grow Stockport's independent hospitality sector	Café, bar and mobile coffee service businesses have signed up to ongoing Food & Drink Hospitality programme with the Business growth Hub.	

- As well as attending 'The Work Shop', GM Business Growth Hub continue to undertake a series of Business Support Drop-In Sessions at different venues across the borough. Stockport's Enterprise Specialist is hosting bi-monthly drop-ins at Stockport Central Library and Brinnington Library.
- A success story to come via 'The Work Shop' was how an aspiring business owner spoke to Business Growth Hub back in February, and then after successfully embarking upon EnterprisingYou opened a premises in a prime location in Bramhall.
- Stockport Stakeholder Account Manager has undertaken drop-in sessions at Mustard CoWork and Profolk with another planned at Profolk for October. Across the two co-working spaces, those drop-in sessions have resulted in 11 referrals being sent to BGH advisors. Two of those referrals were Stockport residents who plan to set up their own business in the borough and have been successfully enrolled onto our EnterprisingYou programme.

- Off the back of meeting Aya Graham at the last Stockport Economic Alliance meeting, Stockport Stakeholder Account Manager arranged for a Senior Enterprise Advisor to conduct a bespoke 'Introduction to being a business owner' workshop for S-REP Enterprise Network. 15 people attended workshop and took away advisor's contact details, as well as knowledge of support available via EnterprisingYou.
- GM Skills Map attended Stockport Council Jobs Fair on 17th September. Four Stockport-based employers have submitted applications to undertake training courses via GM Skills Map.
- Stockport's BGH Workforce Development Specialist to become involved with Stockport's Work & Skills Board and show GM Skills Map.
- Stockport Stakeholder Account Manager set up meeting between Stockport Council District Centre Managers and Business Growth Hub advisors who specialise in hospitality and retail sectors. District Centre Managers now sending direct referrals to advisors and undertaking joint visits.

FAIR AND INCLUSIVE

Ambition 3. 6,500 more Stockport residents in work

December 2022 Baseline	March 2024 Figure	Change to Baseline	RAG Status
152,200 (updated figure to reflect 2022 data release)	136,700	-15,500	

Data Source - Office for National Statistics – NOMIS

Ambition 4. A whole new approach to work and skills linked to our neighbourhoods and integrated care system work, and which will join up schools, colleges and universities

Ambition 5. Reduce the number of households not in work by 3,700

December 2022 Baseline	December 2023 Figure	Change to Baseline	RAG Status
13,200	Not yet available	N/A	

Data Source - Office for National Statistics – NOMIS

Big Ticket Actions.

Project	Progress	RAG Status
Create a new, integrated Business, Enterprise and Productivity Centre (The Work Shop) within Merseyway in the Town Centre	The Work Shop is continuing to meet on the 4th Friday of every month at Merseyway Innovation Centre, linking in with 'Freelancer Fridays' at MIC. This brings together all key business support partners. Seeing between 3 and 8 businesses attend each session. Format for delivery beyond 2024 being reviewed.	

Additional Actions

Action	Progress	RAG Status
More young people that are NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training), care	New UKSPF funded NEET manager in post. The Stockport Steps to Work programme continues to support employers to recruit young people from Stockport that have SEND. The remaining Employer Wage	

experienced, SEND (Special Educational Needs) or who have a disability, having increased access to employment or skills courses	incentives will be delivered in 2024/25 bringing the total to 22. Stockport Work and Skills plan currently in in development and will contribute to improving opportunities for NEET young people. There are 6 employer incentives remaining for recruiting a young person with SEND needs.																									
500 more businesses signed up to the GM Good Employment Charter	Data: <table border="1"> <tr> <td></td> <td>Dec 23</td> <td>Feb 24</td> <td>Apr 24</td> <td>Jun 24</td> <td>Sep 24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Businesses in Stockport engaged</td> <td>69</td> <td>70</td> <td>73</td> <td>78</td> <td>82</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Members</td> <td>10</td> <td>10</td> <td>10</td> <td>10</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Supporters</td> <td>59</td> <td>60</td> <td>63</td> <td>68</td> <td>72</td> </tr> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 		Dec 23	Feb 24	Apr 24	Jun 24	Sep 24	Businesses in Stockport engaged	69	70	73	78	82	Members	10	10	10	10	10	Supporters	59	60	63	68	72	
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Supporters	59	60	63	68	72																					
Adopt a new Care Leavers Covenant that prioritises access to work and skills opportunities for young people in care	Completed.																									

Latest Data - August 24

Claimants (UC + JSA)				
	Unemployment (%)	Claimants (Numbers)	Month on Month Change (%)	Year on Year Change (%)
Stockport	3.5	6,375	1.1%	12.0%
Greater Manchester	5.7	104,930	-0.7%	16.3%
North West	4.8	221,295	-0.6%	14.8%
England	4.4	1,565,940	-0.6%	16.9%
United Kingdom	4.3	1,794,405	-0.4%	15.9%

Youth Claimant Count				
	16-64 rate	18-24 rate	Month on Month Change (%)	Year on Year Change (%)
Stockport	3.5	6.0	5.2%	5.7%
Greater Manchester	5.7	6.8	1.5%	6.3%
North West	4.8	6.1	1.5%	5.3%
United Kingdom	4.3	5.3	1.3%	7.2%

	Priority Area Claimant Count			
	Numbers	As % of Working Age Population	Month on Month Change (%)	Year on Year Change (%)
Offerton	135	8.1%	3.8%	12.5%
Adswold & Bridgehall	245	7.0%	2.1%	16.7%
Brinnington	445	9.6%	4.7%	8.5%
Central Area	630	11.0%	3.3%	13.5%

CLIMATE FRIENDLY AND RESILIENT

Ambition 6. **A local business community that is recognised nationally for best practice in sustainable growth**

Ambition 7. **A supportive business community which shares best practice around sustainability**

Big Ticket Actions.

Project	Progress	RAG Status
Create a new Cheadle Eco Park offering low carbon commercial space for businesses on Bird Hall Lane	The Eco Park project was flagged as good practice for sustainable development of commercial space at the September meeting of the GM Chamber Construction network.	
Trafford College Group will drive an improved skills agenda for businesses	Stockport College are running a free 12 week innovation support package for businesses covering: adoption of new technologies; business diagnostics; creating an action plan; and getting support from innovation partners. See table at end of document for further information on skills activity.	

Additional Actions

Action	Progress	RAG Status
Secure more businesses into the Climate Action Business Forum	Climate Action Business Forum event held on 13 th June at Stockport College, showcasing the Green Skills Hub.	
Increased take up of Growth Company support for environmentally sustainable	Growth Hub running programme to support electrical installation contractors to take up installing solar PV systems.	

business growth		
New District Heat Network	Working with KAO data to see if waste heat from data centre operations can be transferred to a district heat network.	

ACCESSIBLE AND CONNECTED

Ambition 8. To have a Public Transport system which is fully integrated as part of the Greater Manchester city region, and which underpins and accelerates economic growth

Big Ticket Actions.

Project	Progress	RAG Status
Create a new rail station in Cheadle	Towns Funding secured for the project. Expected to open in 2025. Planning permission has been granted for the scheme and the first environmental mitigation measures are being implemented. Development of the detailed design are ongoing including work around the delivery of sustainable travel to the site.	
Bring additional mass transit public transport, such as the Metrolink, to Stockport.	Transport for Greater Manchester and Council officers are continuing to meet to progress the high-level outline business case for Metrolink to Stockport as part of the ongoing work around Next Stop Stockport. Discussions between Network Rail, TfGM and Council officers are progressing around the design of the replacement road over rail bridges for Greek Street and Stockholm Road to ensure they will accommodate any future tram-train proposals. Council is continuing to engaging with high-level representatives from across the transport and development industries to press the case for infrastructure investment in Stockport following the decision to cancel HS2.	

Additional Actions

Action	Progress	RAG Status
Increase the provision of EV charging points at all Local and District Centres by 2025.	<p>Stockport is working with Be.EV (Iduna) to roll out increased charging opportunities in the Borough.</p> <p>A first wave at council car park sites across Stockport are being progressed for a mix of rapid and ultra-rapid chargers to be installed. Some of these sites have proved more complex than others.</p> <p>A Framework Agreement has been signed and leases have been agreed for the first four sites to have EV charging infrastructure. The first four sites being delivered are council car parks situated in Church Road, Gatley, Commercial Road East, Romiley Precinct, and Ashbrook Lane, Reddish. Of these Romiley Precinct is live, Church Road, Gatley and Ashbrook Lane, Reddish are currently being built, and Commercial Road East Hazel Grove is to be on site soon. Draft leases are in development for further sites where substations are needed to support delivery.</p> <p>TfGM have implemented three off-street e-Taxi charging stations the sites on Lomas Street and Torkington Park car parks are live. The Newbridge Lane car park site is expected to be in operation soon. TfGM are also in the process of implementing a charging provision for the public in Chadwick street car park in Marple. They expect to be on site in early 2024.</p>	
Secure longer operating hours for buses from Stockport to Manchester Airport by mid-2023 to help people working shift patterns to get to and from their jobs at the Airport	<p>Stockport in third phase of bus franchising under TfGM – will be actioned in 2025.</p> <p>TfGM creating a new business advisory panel to get feedback on strategic transport issues – nominations for Stockport businesses to attend are welcome.</p>	
Support the appropriate rollout and ongoing development of digital networks across the borough, improving access and leading	<p>Council is looking at opportunities for digital capital projects with DCMS using Get Digital Faster gainshare funding.</p>	

to an increase in take up of digital services		
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Trafford College Group and Stockport Economic Plan (September 2024)

What?	Why?	How?	Who and what roles?	By when?	How will we know we have been successful?	Progress (September 2024)
<p>EPA. Raise the profile and uptake of technical education in Stockport and ensuring our offer meets the skills needs of employers across the borough.</p>	<p>There are labour market shortages across many sectors within the borough – reflected regionally and nationally.</p> <p>Not enough young people are taking high quality technical routes leading to a pipeline of skilled talent and employment in our borough’s key sector areas.</p>	<p>Review and align the offer of T Levels, Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs), Apprenticeships and Adult Skills to the employment and skills needs within the Stockport Economic Plan.</p> <p>Work closely with employers across Stockport and their representative bodies to ensure that we can scale up the necessary activity to support skills needs including uptake of Apprenticeships and T Level placements.</p> <p>Work with employers, the local authority, parents and schools to raise the profile of technical education pathways, including the new T Levels and HTQs.</p> <p>Work closely with the local authority and</p>	<p>TCG (<i>deliverer</i>) Council (<i>enabler/supporter</i>)</p> <p>TCG (<i>deliverer</i>) Council (<i>enabler/supporter</i>) Stockport Economic Alliance (<i>supporter / influencer</i>) Stockport Businesses (<i>deliverer</i>)</p> <p>TCG (<i>deliverer</i>) Council (<i>enabler/supporter</i>) Local Secondary Schools (<i>supporter / influencer</i>)</p> <p>TCG (<i>deliverer</i>)</p>	<p>Sept 2023</p> <p>July 2024</p> <p>Sept 2024</p> <p>Sept 2023</p>	<p>The education and skills offer will reflect identified sector priority areas within the borough plan and regular reviews with the Stockport Economic Alliance Group.</p> <p>Train 200 Apprentices placed in Stockport businesses.</p> <p>T Level placement delivery delivered to agreed targets with DfE</p> <p>T Level and HTQ starts in line with agreed targets</p> <p>There is a Stockport-based Local Skills Improvement Plan</p>	<p>Raising the Profile and Uptake of Technical Education in Stockport</p> <p>T-Level Enrolment: For the 24/25 academic year, 256 students are enrolled in T Levels across all sites:</p> <p>38 in Construction 55 in Engineering 22 in Health and Care 72 in Business, Legal, and Finance</p> <p>T-Level Promotion and Awareness: Ongoing efforts include raising awareness of T Levels through employer and learner case studies. This helps both current and prospective students understand the value and real-world applicability of T Levels.</p> <p>TSCG T-Level Celebration Event: In</p>

What?	Why?	How?	Who and what roles?	By when?	How will we know we have been successful?	Progress (September 2024)
		<p>combined authority to ensure our offer aligns to the new Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP) and the Mayoral ambition around an integrated technical education system</p>	<p>GMCA (<i>policy maker / funder</i>) Council (<i>enabler/supporter</i>)</p>		<p>reflecting the borough needs and aligned to the city-region approach.</p>	<p>August 2024, TSCG hosted a T-Level celebration event, which saw 20 employers attend. These employers were recognised with awards for hosting T-Level placements, further strengthening ties between education and industry.</p> <p>Technical Master Classes for 2024/25: Development is underway to deliver Technical Master Classes aimed at engaging Year 10 students, providing an early introduction to T-Level pathways and careers in technical fields.</p> <p>Cheadle New Campus Development: The Cheadle New Campus build is in progress, marking a significant investment in</p>

What?	Why?	How?	Who and what roles?	By when?	How will we know we have been successful?	Progress (September 2024)
						<p>technical education. This development will promote Cheadle's offerings and bolster the region's technical education infrastructure.</p> <p>These initiatives collectively support our goal of meeting the skills needs of employers across Stockport while enhancing the visibility and attractiveness of T Levels to both students and employers.</p> <p>Apprenticeship recruitment is ongoing. TSCG currently partners with 91 employers across Stockport to deliver apprenticeship programs for their employees. Across these 91 organisations, 129</p>

What?	Why?	How?	Who and what roles?	By when?	How will we know we have been successful?	Progress (September 2024)
						<p>apprentices have been placed. TSCG supports 76 apprentices who work and live in Stockport and 138 apprentices who reside in the Stockport area. Sectors with the highest apprenticeships include Construction, Engineering and Early Years.</p> <p>Higher Education and Higher Skills recruitment is underway.</p> <p>New electrical technical training rigs were installed and are ready for the EV electrical car / hybrid offer in September.</p> <p>The new Cyber Lab has now been opened for digital and cyber HTQs.</p>

What?	Why?	How?	Who and what roles?	By when?	How will we know we have been successful?	Progress (September 2024)
	<p>There are labour market shortages across many sectors within the borough – reflected regionally and nationally.</p> <p>Many employers cannot get the skills they need to fill immediate vacancy requirements.</p>	<p>Work with the health sector including the partnership with Stockport NHS Trust and the Stockport One Health and Care Academy to support current and future workforce challenges.</p> <p>Work with the construction sector to support pre-employment training and development of skills talent pipelines through our Construction Academy, Construction Advisory Board and our partnership working around the heritage construction Underbanks Project.</p> <p>Develop a clear offer in support of the low carbon agenda through the provision of Green Skills and partnership working with the new Cheadle Eco Park.</p>	<p>TCG (<i>deliverer</i>) NHS Trust (<i>enabler / supporter</i>) Council (<i>supporter / influencer</i>)</p> <p>TCG (<i>deliverer</i>) Council (<i>enabler / supporter</i>) Construction Employers (<i>deliverer</i>) Stockport Economic Alliance (<i>supporter / influencer</i>) JCP (<i>enabler</i>)</p> <p>TCG (<i>deliverer</i>) Council (<i>enabler / supporter</i>) Stockport Economic Alliance (<i>supporter / influencer</i>)</p>	<p>Dec 2023</p> <p>Sept 2023</p> <p>June 2024</p>	<p>There is a clear partnership framework in place between the College and the Trust to support skills pipeline.</p> <p>There is a clear partnership framework in place between the College and Construction Contractors in Stockport to support skills pipeline.</p> <p>Green Skills Academy established at Stockport College</p>	<p>The Digital Skills Academy, in partnership with Code Nation, has successfully upskilled disadvantaged adults in Greater Manchester in technical digital skills such as cyber systems and digital forensics, with 325 participants in 23/24.</p> <p>The Construction Skills Academy is addressing the skills gap and labour shortages in Greater Manchester, helping to build a pipeline of qualified construction workers. Of the 96 residents who attended the program, 66% have progressed into employment.</p> <p>A bespoke SWAP program has been developed in collaboration with Stockport Health & Social Care Academy</p>

What?	Why?	How?	Who and what roles?	By when?	How will we know we have been successful?	Progress (September 2024)
		<p>Develop a responsive digital offer – addressing the community and business needs. Reducing digital exclusion and ensuring local businesses have access to technical and essential digital courses to drive growth in productivity.</p>	<p>TCG (<i>deliverer</i>) Council (<i>enabler / supporter</i>) Stockport Economic Alliance (<i>supporter / influencer</i>)</p>	<p>June 2024</p>	<p>Digital – Employer advisory board established. Functional digital skills will be offered and available for the community.</p>	<p>to support recruitment for non-clinical roles at Christie's. Courses will be held monthly to assist with staffing needs.</p> <p>The Low Carbon Heating Technician Apprenticeship is live, with the first cohort starting in January 2025.</p> <p>A working group is being established with KOA Data to explore digital future concepts and enhance student engagement.</p> <p>A Project Management boot camp is currently in development, aiming to upskill employed participants. A meeting with GMCA is scheduled, and the boot camp could launch in November 2024.</p>
		<p>Respond to local skills and employment needs through the development of new Sector Work Academy Programmes (SWAPs) as required.</p>	<p>TCG (<i>deliverer</i>) JCP (<i>enabler</i>) Council (<i>enabler / supporter</i>) Stockport Economic Alliance (<i>supporter / influencer</i>)</p>	<p>Sept 2023</p>	<p>SWAPs established timely and effectively in agreed sector areas enabling reduction in vacancy requirements</p>	

What?	Why?	How?	Who and what roles?	By when?	How will we know we have been successful?	Progress (September 2024)
EPB. Improve the scope of the college offer and reach to employers including business support through co-location activity.	<p>There are labour market shortages across many sectors within the borough – reflected regionally and nationally.</p> <p>Many employers cannot get the skills they need to fill immediate vacancy requirements.</p>	<p>Support the development of the new “Skills Hub” concept in the Merseyway district to provide co-located advice, guidance and training to Stockport’s employers.</p> <p>Explore opportunities to further support the hospitality and retail sector through potential co-location within the vicinity of the Produce Hall.</p>	<p>TCG (<i>deliverer / supporter</i>) Council (<i>enabler / supporter</i>)</p> <p>TCG (<i>deliverer / supporter</i>) Council (<i>enabler / supporter</i>)</p>	<p>June 2024</p> <p>June 2024</p>	<p>College presence established in central area providing skills support</p> <p>Sector work academy programme in retail and hospitality established through co-location</p>	TSCG provides monthly support at the work and skills hub at Merseyway, supporting SMEs with Ne
EPB. Develop a clearer offer for employers around core business skills, including leadership and management training.	Many employers face skills and productivity issues with their existing workforce.	Create a Stockport “Business and Professional ” with school informed by employers based on skills needs including training and support in leadership and management.	TCG (<i>deliverer</i>) Council (<i>enabler / supporter</i>) Stockport Economic Alliance (<i>supporter / influencer</i>)	June 2024	Business and Professional School established with Stockport College – leadership and management academy targeting SMEs leading with confidence programmes.	The full leadership and management offer is now live for Stockport Businesses. TSCG Business Training - Leading with Confidence by Trafford & Stockport College Group - Issue

What?	Why?	How?	Who and what roles?	By when?	How will we know we have been successful?	Progress (September 2024)
		Develop the Business and Professional School concept so that it also meets the needs of the financial and professional services sector – including the introduction of the new T Levels and HTQs in these areas.	TCG (<i>deliverer</i>) Council (<i>enabler / supporter</i>) Stockport Economic Alliance (<i>supporter / influencer</i>)	June 2024	T Level and Higher Technical starts in Financial and Professional Services based pathways in line with agreed targets	