

# Stockport Business Review

## Summer 2009

**Welcome** to the Summer 2009 edition of Stockport Business Review, the Council's newsletter which updates readers on the latest business news and activity in Stockport. We hope that you find it of interest. If you would like one of your colleagues to receive a copy of the newsletter please forward their details to [econdev@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:econdev@stockport.gov.uk) and we will gladly send them a copy.

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### Figures Show Stockport is Attractive for Investment

Despite tough economic conditions over the past year **Stockport Council's** end of year investment figures show that businesses are continuing to recognise Stockport as a leading place to do business. As a result of investment into the Borough during 2008/09 over 700 new jobs will be created with a further 1,390 jobs safeguarded. In addition 400,000 sq ft of commercial and industrial space was also completed or occupied. A number of prominent, high quality developments are due for completion in 2009/10 which will assist in encouraging further inward investment.



Norman Hudson, Service Director for Regeneration and Leisure, at **Stockport Council** said: "Despite what was a difficult year for businesses we are delighted with these end of year figures that show that Stockport continues to offer excellent advantages as a business location. These figures show that **Stockport Council** and its partners have managed to create and safeguard jobs in the borough as well as attracting new significant investment during challenging circumstances. We will continue to work with potential investors during 2009/10 and hope, once again, to attract a wide range of new jobs to the borough."



Successes include:

- ❑ **MAN Diesel** secured planning permission to construct 20,000 sq ft UK office headquarters as well as a 90,000 sq ft warehouse unit, which will also be the home to **MAN Diesel's** first UK Academy, safeguarding over 150 jobs
- ❑ Global brand, **Umbro**, announced the expansion of its office in **Cheadle Royal Business Park**. Umbro currently employ 199 and further growth is anticipated in the future.
- ❑ Swedish commercial lender **Handelsbanken** established a base at **Acorn Business Park**
- ❑ **Day & Zimmerman** relocated to the 12,000 sq ft Signal Point in Bredbury safeguarding around 30 full time jobs and approximately 70 contracted positions
- ❑ Planning permission was secured for a 165 room **Hilton Garden Inn** at **Kings Reach Business Park** including a restaurant, bar, gym, plus meeting and conference rooms creating up to 80 jobs
- ❑ **BMI Healthcare** took a 10-year lease on an entire 14,790 sq ft building at 10 Eden Place in Cheadle
- ❑ Workspace in **Houldsworth & Broadstone Mills** continues to be a popular destination for new or growing small businesses



### Property & Developments

A number of deals have helped to boost Stockport's property market. **Orbit Developments** has completed a string of deals at Sovereign House in Cheadle. Orbit has recently secured five new lettings of refurbished suites totalling 1,766 sq ft signed with **Matheson & Horan Associates, Images Photo Studio, ALG Finance, My Pay** and **J.E.K. Utilities**.

In addition **Esquires Coffee Houses** has taken space at Orbit Development's Regent House.

This new venture for Esquires sees them operating from the ground floor at Regent House providing seating for up to 15 people at the rear of Regent House and is easily accessed from the main reception.

In addition **Simon Dunn Chocolatiers** and **Bag a Bargain** have opened for business in **Merseyway Shopping Centre**.

Following the news that **Churchwood Financial** paid £2.35m for new headquarters at National House it has also announced plans to create 150 jobs at its new Stockport headquarters. The company currently employs 350 staff and is due to move into National House by October 2009.

Premium German domestic appliance manufacturer, **Miele** has been granted planning permission for a new commercial development at Cheadle Royal Business Park. The 20,000 sq ft building will create approximately 40 new jobs at the North West's premier business park, as well as generating significant inward investment.

### Skills & Training Grants Now Available in Stockport

Residents and businesses in Stockport could be eligible for skills and training grants to help support staff development needs of businesses that are downsizing, restructuring, growing or relocating. The grant contributes 60% of the total cost of the training required, up to a maximum of £40,000 per company, and a wide range of businesses are eligible covering both SME's and large companies. **Don't miss out on this exciting opportunity!**



Leading learning and skills



EUROPEAN COMMUNITY  
European Social Fund

The grants are available for a wide range of eligible businesses including:

- o Inward Investors
- o Indigenous business that are growing and have a skills requirement as a result of this growth or part of its supply chain
- o Indigenous businesses that are re-structuring and/or making redundancies and have skills needs for the staff that will remain in the business or those that may ultimately be redundant as well as the supply chain that will be impacted on

Individual applications are also welcome from people who are resident in or employed in Stockport

To find out more and to get an application form please contact Peter Southworth on [peter.southworth@economic-solutions.co.uk](mailto:peter.southworth@economic-solutions.co.uk) or 07841 080 902

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### Capital for Enterprise Funding & Small Business Loans Available

Businesses in Stockport could be eligible for '**Capital for Enterprise**' funding. The fund aims to provide equity or mezzanine funding of between £200,000 and £2 million into qualifying SMEs. The capital aims to help businesses raise new long-term finance and the Government will also offer to invest in viable companies which have high levels of existing debt through the fund. The fund, to be managed externally by **Aberdeen Asset Management** will provide long term capital to businesses which have exhausted traditional forms of finance. Companies can then use this capital to invest in and grow their business.



To find out if you are eligible or for further information about the Capital for Enterprise Fund please contact Jonty Hall at **Aberdeen Asset Management** on 0161 233 3507 or [jonty.hall@aberdeen-asset.com](mailto:jonty.hall@aberdeen-asset.com)

In addition The **Northwest Regional Development Agency's** (NWDA) **Small Loans for Business** programme has reached the end of its second year and the outputs are exceeding expectations and helping more businesses in the region to start-up and expand, despite the current difficult economic conditions.

The scheme is designed to help business owners, entrepreneurs, charities and social enterprises to start up and expand their businesses. Small loans of between £3,000 and £50,000 for new and growing businesses and social enterprises are available. It was set up to encourage and make it easier for more people to access finance, start up and grow their own enterprises. To find out more or to make an application please contact **Business Finance Solutions** on 0161 245 4977

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### Struggling with Business Debt?

If you are a small or medium business and are struggling, a **free debt advisory service** is now available for businesses in Stockport. The service, provided by **Business Support Solutions** is available to all businesses with less than 250 employees and is aimed at businesses that are beginning to experience financial issues as a result of market conditions.

The service aims to prevent business closure and secure jobs with the emphasis very much on early involvement to maximize the number of options on the table. A confidential review and action plan will be agreed with businesses to ensure they can go forward.

For more information or to find out more about this service please call 0845 608 3388



### New Leadership Development Programme for the Northwest

If your business employs up to 20 people you could be eligible to take part in an exciting new leadership development programme. The LEAD programme is a learning and development programme designed for businesses with up to 20 employees. The programme was developed and piloted by Lancaster University Management School (LUMS) over the past five years and over 150 business owners have been through the programme with proven results.



Previous delegates have credit the programme with an increase in annual sales figures, improved staff productivity and business processes. The programme also aims to allow the owner manager to step back and focus on the strategy and growth of the business rather than the day to day running.

The programme requires a maximum cost to the business of £2,000, although funding may be available through the Train to Gain programme to reduce this cost further. To find out more please visit [www.businesslinknw.co.uk/lead](http://www.businesslinknw.co.uk/lead)

### Move towards a Low Carbon Economy

Businesses that are looking to reduce their carbon emissions could be eligible for a variety of funding from the NWDA.

Funding has been approved for 'Grant for Improving your Resource Efficiency'. This programme is designed to help SME's fund investments in the most environmentally friendly capital equipment. In addition funding has been approved for additional projects under 'Grant for Research and Development' to encourage the development and demonstration of carbon emission reducing technologies. For further information please visit [www.nwdabusinessfinance.co.uk](http://www.nwdabusinessfinance.co.uk)



The **Carbon Challenge Fund**, delivered by **Envirolink Northwest**, will minimise the risk of investment in new and innovative technologies, processes and approaches by demonstrating and monitoring their effectiveness, providing an incentive for adoption and demonstrating leadership. For further information visit [www.envirolinknorthwest.co.uk/CarbonChallengeFund](http://www.envirolinknorthwest.co.uk/CarbonChallengeFund)

## Events & Networking Opportunities



### Sell to Some of Stockport's Biggest Businesses

During the current turbulent economic climate the way in which large businesses procure goods and services locally can have a major impact on small businesses. Using the 'buy local' mantra a group of large businesses have come together to offer you the chance to learn more about how they procure their goods and services, what is required to compete for these contracts and most important of all what opportunities could be available for your company.

The 'Supply Stockport; Buy Stockport' event will take place on **July 30th at Edgeley Park** to enable buyers from local companies to find local businesses that meet their procurement requirements. A follow on Meet the Buyer event will then take place in October where selected local companies will be able to pitch for business. So if you would like to learn more about how you could supply companies such as adidas, MAN Diesel, Hurst, SAS Daniels or Multiconstruction then come along to find out more.

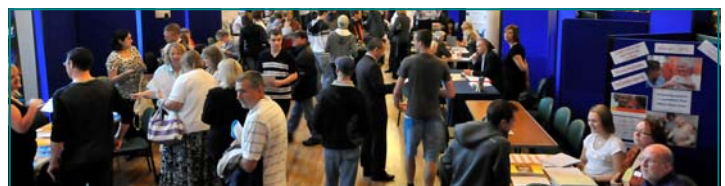
To attend the event or to find out more please email [econdev@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:econdev@stockport.gov.uk) or call 0161 474 2618 / 3737

### Stockport Jobsfair 2009

Do you know anyone looking for a new employer during these challenging times? Perhaps you're a business owner looking to take on new staff? If so **Stockport Jobsfair** could be the solution for you. **Stockport Jobsfair** takes place on 17<sup>th</sup> September at Stockport Town Hall from 10am to 4pm

Organised by **Jobcentre Plus** and **Stockport Council**, the Jobsfair will offer a unique opportunity, for one day only, for jobseekers to meet Personnel Managers from over 30 National and local employers under one roof.

If you are a local employer looking to take up a presence for the day you can obtain more information by contacting Stephen Stanton at Stockport Jobcentre Plus on 0161 429 2154 or [Stephen.Stanton@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Stephen.Stanton@dwp.gsi.gov.uk)



### FREE Support for Unemployed Managers



The Institute of Leadership & Management is offering six months **free membership** to any recently redundant manager in the UK. So if you know of any colleagues or friends who might benefit from this additional support then please let them know. The offer is designed to provide managers with practical support while out of work and assist them in finding a new job.

For more information please visit [www.i-l-m.com/freesupport](http://www.i-l-m.com/freesupport)

### Big Chip Success for Stockport

Stockport's digital and creative industries had their own five minutes of fame in the spotlight at the North West's **Big Chip Awards**, which celebrate digital excellence. Cheadle based **Lightbox Education**, a developer and retailer of educational software won two awards. **Lightbox Education** is one of the largest educational software businesses in the UK, picked up the Best Public Sector Project and Best E-Learning awards.

Houldsworth Village tenants **Mickey & Mallory** and **STAN** were also nominated in the Best Public Sector Project and Best Newcomer categories respectively.



### Looking to Target New Businesses?

As businesses face up to the challenges presented by the economic downturn, it is now more important than ever that they know how to access accurate information.



Stockport's business library in the town centre has access to FAME, a business database which can be searched by geographic location (down to postcode level), nature of business, number of employees, turnover and many other criteria allowing business to build targeted marketing lists. Results can be tailored to specific information requirements and used as mailing lists, which are competitively priced.

To find out more about FAME and how Stockport library can help with all business information, please contact [information.library@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:information.library@stockport.gov.uk) or call 0161 217 6009

### What you Really Think about Business in Stockport



Stockport's annual business survey is a crucial tool which enables Stockport Economic Alliance and Stockport Council to better understand the needs and concerns of the local business community and monitor change on business perceptions and opinions. We would like to thank all those who took part in the survey. Please look out for the next one in the winter months.

Results from the latest survey reveals some positive findings with the lowest level of businesses identifying crime as an issue since the survey began in 2005/06. Businesses also highlight transport infrastructure, a good quality of life and the availability of necessary skills as significant factors to them. In addition significant progress is being made in the areas that businesses consider important in making Stockport a good business location.

A full summary of the results is available on Stockport Council's website and can be found at <http://www.stockport.gov.uk/businesssurvey>

Stockport Council's Economic Development Team produces the Business Review on a quarterly basis. It is available along with previous editions at [www.stockport.gov.uk/economy](http://www.stockport.gov.uk/economy) For further information on any of the topics covered, assistance with any economic research or if you have any comments contact us at;

Economic Development Team  
Regeneration, Economic Development & Tourism  
Stockport Council  
Lower Ground Floor, Stopford House  
Piccadilly  
Stockport  
SK1 3XE  
(0161) 474 3737



A free interpreting service is available if you need help with this information. Please telephone Stockport Interpreting Unit on 0161 477 9000. Email: [eds.admin@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:eds.admin@stockport.gov.uk)

如果你需要他人為你解釋這份資料的內容，我們可以提供免費的傳譯服務，請致電 0161 477 9000 史托波特傳譯部。

W przypadku gdybyś potrzebował pomocy odnośnie tej informacji, dostępne są usługi tłumaczeniowe. Prosimy dzwonić do Interpreting Unit pod numer 0161 477 9000.

যদি এই খবরগুলি সম্পর্কে আপনার কোন সাহায্য দরকার হয় তবে বিনা খরচে আপনার জন্য দোভাষীর ব্যবস্থা করা হতে পারে। মেহেরবানী করে স্টকপোর্ট ইন্টারপ্রিটিং ইউনিটে ফোন করুন টেলিফোন নম্বর, 0161 477 9000.

اگر آپ کو ان معلومات کے بارے میں مدد کی ضرورت ہے تو مندرجہ ذیل نمبر پر رابطہ کریں۔ براہ مہربانی انٹر پرائزنگ یونٹ کو 0161 477 9000 پر فون کریں۔

خدمات ترجمہ رایگان این اطلاعات در صورت نیاز موجود میباشد. لطفاً با شماره تلفن 0161 477 9000 با واحد ترجمه (اینترپرائزینگ یونیت) ما تماس بگیرید.

تنوفر خدمة ترجمة شفوية اذا تطلبت مساعدة في فهم هذا المعلومات. نرجو الاتصال اربن رينيو على رقم الهاتف: 0161 477 9000