

Stockport

Data from the Greater Manchester
Local Skills Improvement Plan



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Greater Manchester
Chamber of Commerce

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Introduction

Understanding the ever-evolving employment landscape is critical for nurturing a workforce that is well-prepared for future opportunities and enabling local economies to thrive.

This report, produced as part of the Greater Manchester Local Skills Improvement Plan (GM LSIP), is one of a series of ten reports, each focusing on a different local authority area in Greater Manchester. The aim of this report is to provide a comprehensive breakdown of how employment patterns in Stockport may change over time. By providing this detailed breakdown, this report will help stakeholders including colleges, independent training providers, councils and businesses to foresee trends in the local labour market and align skills provision with future demand.

Central to this report is an assessment of the local economy, beginning with an overview of Gross Value Added (GVA) sourced from the Office for National Statistics (ONS). Employment statistics, drawn from the ONS' Business Register and Employment Survey, have been included to present a baseline for understanding workforce distribution across different industries. Understanding the qualifications held by residents offers valuable insight into the workforce's readiness for both current and emerging job opportunities. For this, the report includes information on qualification levels of the local population.

The above demographic information is followed by an in-depth analysis of job demand, using two distinct data sources: vacancy information from Adzuna and responses from the surveys conducted to gather labour market intelligence for the GM LSIP. The survey specifically asked business respondents to list job titles that they had attempted to recruit for, as well as "hard to fill" roles, which are jobs the respondents found difficult to recruit for.

It is important to note that there may be differences between these two data sets. While certain jobs may be in high demand, businesses may not always struggle to recruit for them if the supply of qualified candidates is sufficient. Conversely, some roles may be particularly hard to fill, reflecting a mismatch between employer needs and the available talent pool. This variation highlights key recruitment challenges in specific sectors and underscores the importance of targeted skills development.

Going beyond current job demand, this report includes an analysis of significant projects that are set to reshape the employment landscape in Stockport. These major initiatives, such as the Weir Mill redevelopment, represent substantial investments in Stockport. Such projects are often in addition to plans for new residential and commercial developments and, collectively, they are expected to generate considerable employment demand, both during the building phase and as businesses establish themselves in these new developments.



Subrah Krishnan-Harihara
Deputy Director of
Research, Greater
Manchester Chamber
of Commerce

Introduction

During the initial construction phase, there will be increased demand for construction workers such as those skilled in trades such as electrical work, plumbing, bricklaying and site management. Because of the volume of construction projects planned, this phase alone will create numerous opportunities for local employment in construction. Consequently, there is the need to maintain and expand provision for vocational training and apprenticeships in construction trades.

Notably, the impact of these projects extends well beyond construction. As developments are completed, they will give rise to new job opportunities across a diverse range of sectors. For example, the completion of a large-scale logistics hub will drive demand for warehouse operatives, supply chain managers, and transport coordinators. Similarly, investments in health or education facilities will necessitate a skilled workforce of nurses, medical technicians, teachers and tutors.

To provide clarity on these developments, this report includes a key table (on page 11) outlining major projects within the local authority, detailing their objectives and sectoral priorities. This is followed by a sector-specific evaluation, mapping out how these projects will translate into job creation. It categorises anticipated roles across industries such as construction, manufacturing, health and social care, etc. An extensive amount of research has gone into identifying job roles and the key skills that these job roles will require. Although the report does not claim to have an exhaustive list of job roles and skills, the structured approach enables all stakeholders to gain a clear picture of where employment opportunities are likely to arise and what skills will be in demand.

By highlighting the interplay between development initiatives, potential growth in sectoral employment and skills requirements, this report will help inform strategic workforce planning at the local authority level. The report thus underscores the importance of aligning training programmes with the needs of growth sectors and emerging requirements.

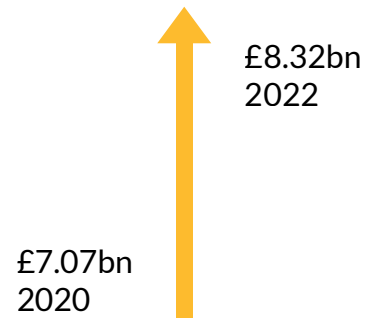
This report is a vital output from the research conducted for developing and implementing the GM LSIP and positioned as a resource for local stakeholders to inform their strategic planning. It provides an evidence-based overview of expected labour market shifts, highlighting where job demand is likely to grow and where potential skills gaps may arise.

For colleges and independent training providers, the report serves as a valuable reference point for curriculum planning. Nonetheless, the findings in this report should not be interpreted as a directive for immediate changes to course provision. Instead, the insights should be used to inform long-term curriculum planning and ensure that training programmes evolve in line with broader economic trends and emerging labour requirements.

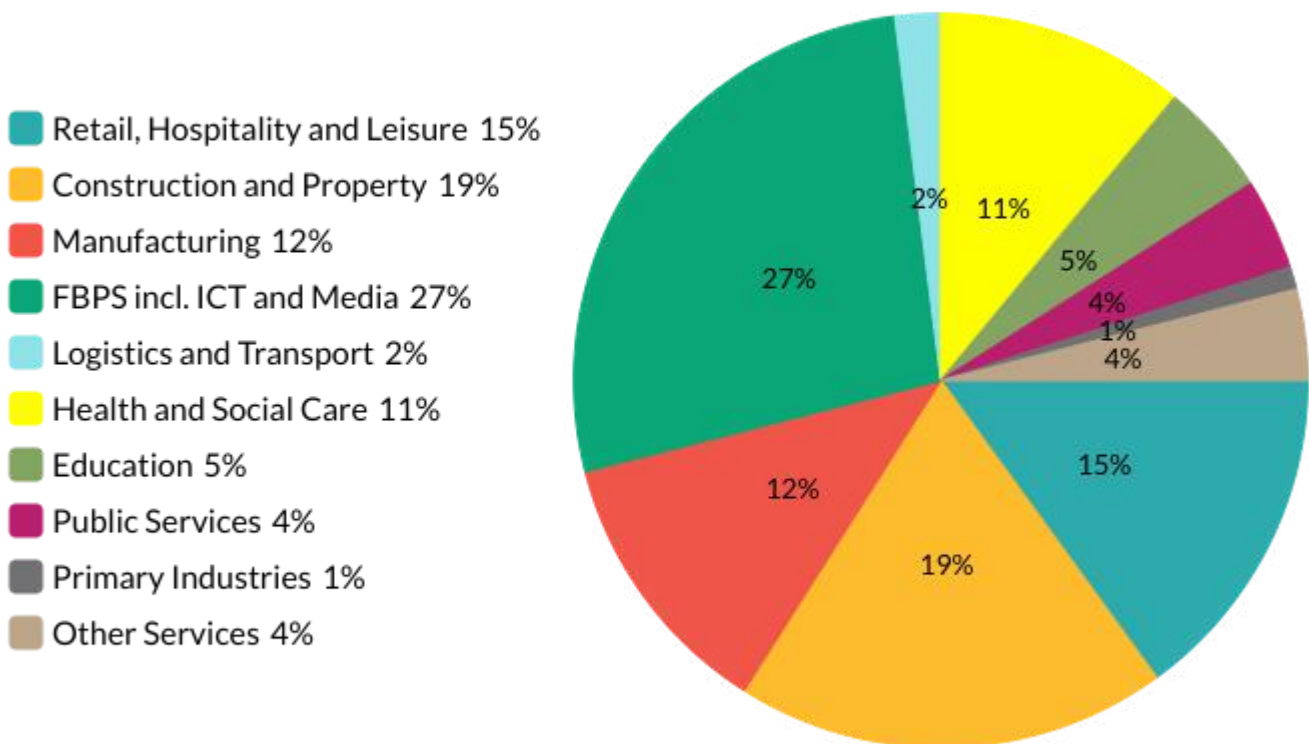
For local councils and business organisations, this report offers insights for workforce development. Using the insights contained in this report about job creation and skills demand, they can encourage stronger partnerships between employers, educators and business representative organisations to ensure that Greater Manchester's workforce remains competitive and resilient and, ultimately, contributes to a more dynamic and responsive local economy.

Gross Value Added (GVA) in Stockport

- The sectors that contributed the most towards Stockport's GVA in 2022 were: Financial, Business and Professional Services (FBPS), including ICT and media; construction and property; and retail, hospitality and leisure.
- The sectors with the greatest increase in GVA between 2021 and 2022 were FBPS including ICT and media (observing an increase of 23%), and manufacturing (increasing by 22.5%).
- All sectors experienced an increase in GVA between 2021 and 2022.



GVA by sector in 2022



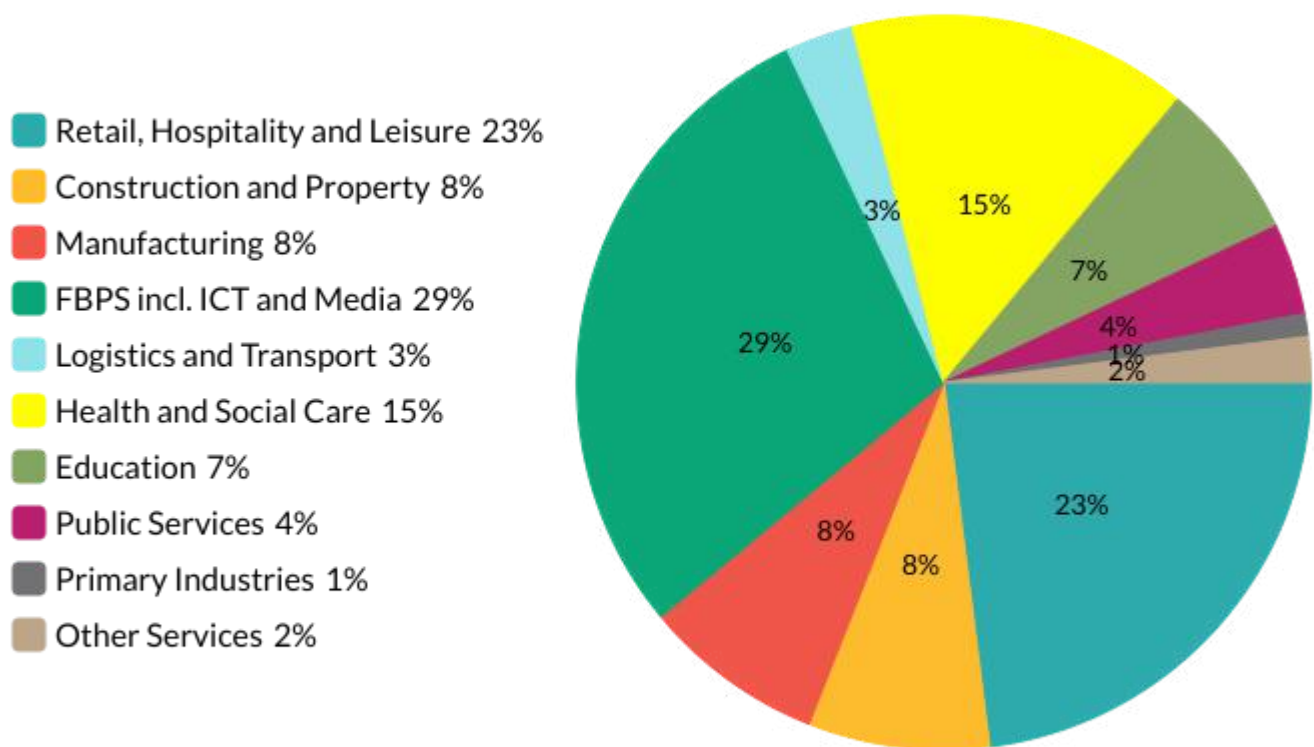
Source: ONS

Employment in Stockport

Total employment in 2023 - 140,600

- The sectors with the highest number of employees in 2023 were: FBPS including ICT and media; retail, hospitality and leisure; and health and social care.
- Primary industries, other services and logistics and transport were the sectors with the lowest number of employees in 2023.
- Between 2022 and 2023, the sectors that grew the most were manufacturing (with an increase of 20% in the number of people employed) and construction and property (increasing by 15.8%).

Employment by sector in 2023

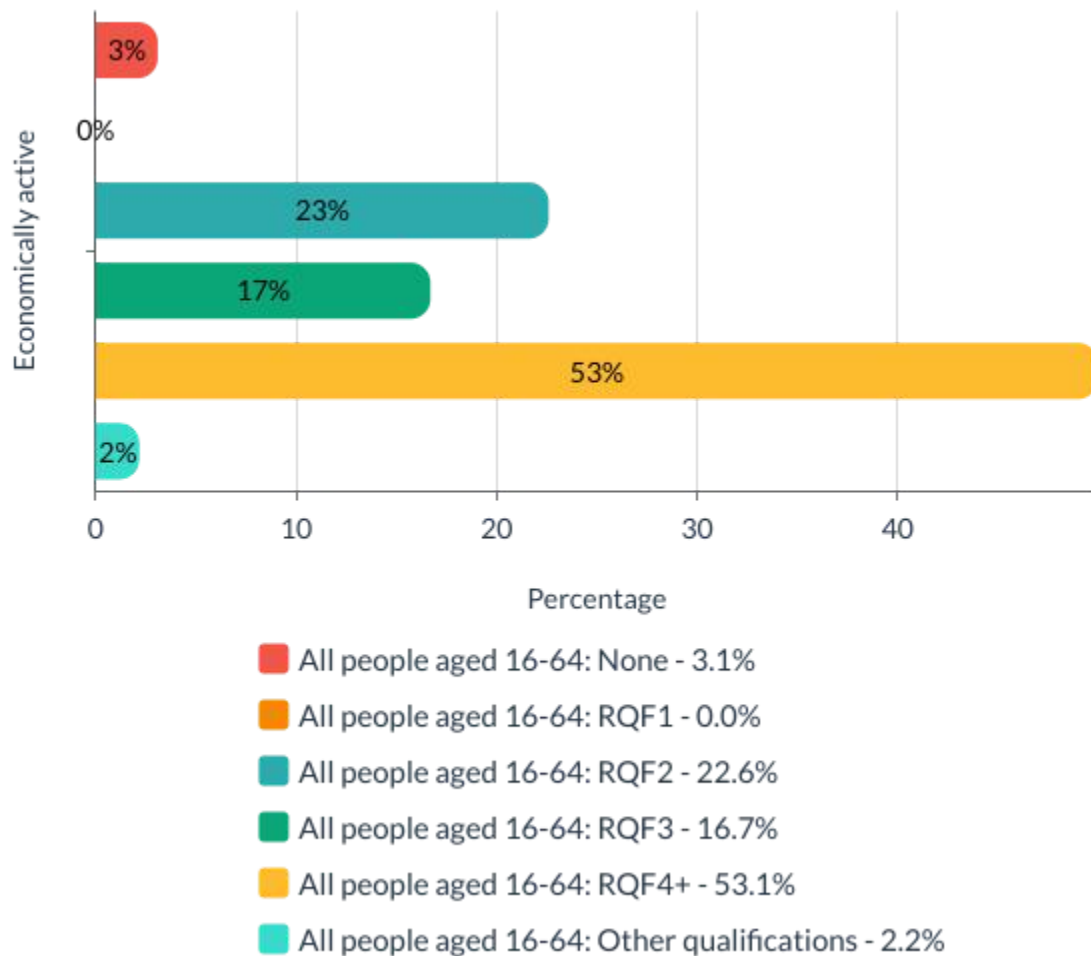


Source: ONS

Economic activity levels in Stockport

- The information for the total number of economically active people in the local authority and those with different levels of qualifications has been taken from the ONS Annual Population Survey. In light of recent concerns about some ONS statistics, there could be revisions to some data points.
- In Stockport, more than 53% of the economically active population aged 16-64 hold RQF (Regulated Qualifications Framework) Level 4 or above .
- Notably, there is 0% with RQF1 qualifications due to missing data points. The value is missing because the ONS has assessed that the data would either have a lower degree of reliability or is disclosive.

Percentage of economically active population with qualifications



Source: ONS 2023

Occupations in high demand

In general, Adzuna's data categorises job postings based on the sector of the employer advertising the position, rather than the sector typically associated with the job title itself. For example, if a college advertises a vacancy for a caterer, the job would be classified under the education sector rather than the hospitality sector, even though catering roles are traditionally linked to hospitality. This classification occurs because the job posting originates from an educational institution. However, for the purposes of this report, the data has been reclassified to align job postings with the sectors most commonly associated with their respective job titles. This adjustment ensures a more accurate representation of industry trends by reflecting the nature of the job rather than the employer's sector.

The table below presents the most in-demand job titles across key industry sectors based on vacancy postings in Stockport from May 2024 to October 2024. This data has been sourced from Adzuna, and provides insights into employment trends and the most sought-after roles within the borough during this period.

Sector	Job titles
Construction and property	Technician
	Manager
	Operator
	Site manager
	Electrician
Education	Room leader
	Early years teacher
	Assistant
	Educational psychologist
	Teacher
	Training officer

Occupations in high demand - continued

Sector	Job titles
FBPS including IT	Contact centre sales adviser
	Protection adviser
	Customer service adviser
	Service adviser
	Business sales executive
	Direct sales executive
	Underwriter
	Sales adviser
	Sales executive
	Credit risk analyst
	Advertising specialist
	Personal assistant
	IT support engineer
Health and social care	Support care worker
	Children's residential support worker
	Community support worker
	Residential care home worker
	Healthcare support worker
	General Nurse
	Manager
	Practitioner
Manufacturing	Engineer
	Product development engineer
	Reliability engineer
	Hardware design engineer
	Product design engineer
	Manager
	Director

Occupations in high demand - continued

Sector	Job titles
Retail, hospitality and leisure	Team leader
	Store assistant
	Merchandiser
	Management assistant
	Delivery driver
	Sous chef
	Shift manager
	Kitchen assistant
	Cook
	Chef
	Shop manager
	Barista

The high-demand occupations and the hard-to-fill occupations according to Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce's survey are shown in the table below. High-demand occupations refer to roles that many employers attempted to recruit for, while hard-to-fill occupations refer to roles that employers struggled to recruit. This data covers the period from April 2023 to December 2024. The discrepancy between the two data sources arises because, although certain jobs are in high demand, there is also an adequate supply of qualified individuals available to fill these positions. As a result, the overall labour market appears balanced in these cases. However, when it comes to hard-to-fill occupations, the situation is different. These roles remain unfilled primarily due to either a shortage of skilled professionals in the labour pool or a complete lack of available candidates with the necessary expertise. This imbalance suggests that while demand exists, the supply of suitable workers is insufficient, leading to ongoing hiring challenges in specific industries or job categories.

High-demand occupations	Hard-to-fill occupations
Project manager	Service and maintenance coordinator
Engineer	Engineer
Coach driver	Coach Driver
Driver	
Administrative assistant	
Account manager	

Ongoing/future investment projects

This section outlines the key investment projects currently underway or planned in Stockport over the next few years. While this is not an exhaustive list, it highlights initiatives with the potential to significantly influence the local labour market. These projects span various sectors, aiming to drive economic growth, create employment opportunities, and enhance the overall quality of life in the area in the medium to long term.

Project	Project description	Project priorities
Mayoral Development Corporation (MDC) Housing	Housing and Community: The creation of up to 4,000 new homes over 15 years, featuring a mix of affordable housing options, such as shared ownership and social rent, to cater to diverse community needs. The development will also include facilities for all age groups, including an 82-bed care home.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community and social infrastructure • Sustainability • Innovation and futureproofing • Economic growth and employment growth • Connectivity and infrastructure • Urban regeneration • Public and private investment
	Economic Growth: Over 1 million square feet of new employment space will be developed, including areas for local businesses, start-ups, and community services.	
	Improved Connectivity: The project will enhance local transport infrastructure, including major upgrades to the Stockport Interchange, which will improve accessibility to buses and trains. There will also be pedestrian-friendly routes to create a walkable community.	
	Sustainability and Green Spaces: The project prioritises sustainable, energy-efficient buildings and incorporates ample green spaces. The master plan emphasises environmental stewardship, with car-free zones and eco-friendly design.	
	This project is a key part of a £1 billion regeneration effort that aims to make Stockport one of the most sustainable, liveable town centres in Greater Manchester.	

Ongoing/future investment projects - continued

Project	Project description	Project priorities
Cheadle Eco Park	Sustainable Design: The park is targeting a BREEAM 'Outstanding' rating, focusing on low-carbon technologies like air-source heat pumps and solar panels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean growth and green technologies • Low-carbon and energy-efficient infrastructure • Sustainable construction practices • Biodiversity and green infrastructure • Innovation facilitator
	Job Creation: Expected to generate around 200 jobs, supporting sectors like clean growth, green technology, and hybrid workspaces.	
	Eco-Friendly Infrastructure: Features include outdoor green spaces, electric vehicle charging points, and cycling facilities.	
	Environmental Enhancements: The development will improve biodiversity with tree planting and landscaping, as well as creating environmental swales.	
	Active Travel Initiatives: Plans include enhancements to local cycle and footpath networks to encourage sustainable transport.	
	Size and Scale: The park will span 115,000 square feet across six units, with the largest unit covering nearly 44,000 square feet.	
	This project aligns with Stockport's broader goals for sustainable economic growth and urban development.	
Merseyway Shopping Centre Redevelopment	Retail and Commercial Revitalisation: Transformation of the Merseyway Shopping Centre to include modern retail spaces, attracting both high-street brands and independent businesses, driving foot traffic and boosting the local economy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residential and commercial development • Public realm and connectivity • Cultural and historical regeneration • Sustainability
	Community and Leisure: Incorporation of new leisure facilities, restaurants, and public spaces, fostering a vibrant community hub for shopping, dining, and entertainment.	

Ongoing/future investment projects - continued

Project	Project description	Project priorities
Merseyway Shopping Centre Redevelopment - continued	Urban regeneration: Refurbishment and redesign of existing structures to modernise the shopping area, creating an attractive, welcoming environment for both shoppers and residents.	
	Sustainability: Integration of green spaces, energy-efficient buildings, and sustainable design practices to enhance the centre's environmental performance and appeal to eco-conscious visitors.	
Integrated care centre at the St Thomas' site	Affordable housing: The site will include 68 affordable homes, including 35 apartments within three Grade II-listed buildings, 19 additional apartments in existing structures, and 13 new-build townhouses. The tenure mix will be 80% shared ownership and 20% social rent.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and Social Care Integration • Affordable Housing • Multi-Generational Living • Regeneration and Sustainability • Flexible Commercial Spaces
	Academy of Living Well: This is a 70-bed intermediate care and dementia facility, designed to help residents transition from hospital to home and maintain their independence. It is part of Stockport's integrated health and social care vision.	
	Historic preservation: The Grade II-listed buildings, including the original hospital workhouse and infirmary, will be preserved and repurposed, combining modern living spaces with historical architecture.	
	Multi-generational approach: The development aims to create a vibrant community for people of all ages, supporting healthy, connected living with a focus on community integration.	
	Sustainability goals: The project is part of Stockport's broader regeneration vision to create one of the most sustainable urban neighbourhoods in the UK, focusing on carbon reduction and eco-friendly development.	

Ongoing/future investment projects - continued

Project	Project description	Project priorities
Stockport Exchange	Office Space: The development will provide up to 375,000 sq ft of Grade A office space across multiple phases.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business and Commercial Development • Sustainability and Accessibility • Community and Residential Growth • Public and Green Spaces • Employment Generation • Residential Development
	Commercial Retail and Leisure Space: An additional 28,000 sq ft will be dedicated to retail and leisure facilities.	
	Sustainable Design: Buildings are designed with sustainability in mind, featuring energy-efficient ratings and eco-friendly amenities, including electric vehicle charging stations.	
	Location and Accessibility: Situated in Stockport's town centre, the development benefits from excellent transport links, enhancing its appeal to businesses and residents alike.	
	Business Community: Notable businesses like BASF, MUSE, and HURST have already leased space within the complex.	
	Residential and Amenities: In addition to office space, the larger regeneration plan will introduce over 4,000 new homes, green spaces, and public amenities.	
Weir Mill Redevelopment	Restoration of Historic Buildings: The Grade II-listed Weir Mill, with parts dating back to the 1700s, will be carefully restored to maintain its heritage while being adapted for modern use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heritage Restoration and Urban Renewal • Residential Development • Commercial and Leisure Spaces • Green Spaces and Public Areas • Economic and Cultural Impact • Employment Generation
	Residential Units: The project will provide 253 new homes, including one, two, and three-bedroom apartments.	

Ongoing/future investment projects - continued

Project	Project description	Project priorities
Weir Mill Redevelopment - continued	New Commercial Spaces: There will be 24,000 sq ft dedicated to shops, restaurants, cafés, and leisure facilities.	
	Public Spaces: The development will feature several new outdoor areas, including a public square, riverside terraces, courtyards, and a rooftop terrace. These spaces are designed for community events and activities.	
	Co-working Spaces: The West Shed will be transformed into a flexible co-working space, offering a dynamic environment for independent businesses.	
	Cultural and Leisure Destination: The riverside zone and public spaces will host cultural activities.	
	Sustainability and Green Spaces: The development integrates eco-friendly design features, including green courtyards and tranquil outdoor areas to promote a healthy living environment.	
	Catalytic Role in Stockport Regeneration: This project is a cornerstone in Stockport's £1 billion town centre transformation, contributing to long-term growth and community development.	
Marple Community Hub	Five-lane Swimming Pool: Modern pool for community use, replacing outdated facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revitalising Community Facilities • Promoting Health and Wellbeing • Boosting Local Economy • Sustainability and Environmental Impact • Community Engagement and Accessibility • Preservation of Heritage
	Library with Café: A ground-floor library offering a comfortable space for reading and learning, with an adjoining café.	
	60-Station Fitness Suite: A state-of-the-art gym with a variety of equipment for different fitness levels.	

Ongoing/future investment projects - continued

Project	Project description	Project priorities
Marple Community Hub - continued	Fitness Studios (2): Spaces for group exercise classes, including yoga and Pilates.	
	Shared Community Spaces: Flexible spaces for local groups and events.	
	Relocated Health Clinic: Consolidation of local health services, including early help, school nurses, and midwifery services.	
	Family Hub: Focused on providing resources and support for families in the area.	
	Office Spaces: For local businesses and service providers.	
	Pedestrian and Cyclist Infrastructure: Improvements to nearby pathways to encourage sustainable travel options.	
KNDS UK	<p>Tactical Military Bridges: KNDS UK provides rapidly deployable bridging systems, such as the Dry Support Bridge (DSB) and Medium Girder Bridge (MGB), used by over 40 armed forces globally. The DSB can be deployed by eight soldiers using a single launch vehicle to span a 46-metre gap in under 90 minutes, supporting loads up to 120 Military Load Classification (MLC).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic partnership • Product Innovation • Operational Excellence
	<p>Boxer Armoured Vehicles: In collaboration with ARTEC - a joint venture between KNDS and Rheinmetall - Boxer Mechanised Infantry Vehicles (MIVs) will be manufactured for the British Army. A new 5,700m² production facility in Stockport has been established to produce these vehicles, incorporating advanced technologies and supporting local employment.</p>	

Ongoing/future investment projects - continued

Project	Project description	Project priorities
KNDS UK - continued	<p>Project TYRO: KNDS is the sole bidder for the UK Ministry of Defence's Project TYRO, aiming to provide the British Army with new Close Support Bridge (CSB) and General Support Bridge (GSB) capabilities. The company offers the Dry Support Bridge for the GSB requirement and the Krauss-Maffei Wegmann (KMW) Leguan bridge for the CSB requirement.</p>	
	<p>Engineering Excellence: With over a century of engineering expertise, KNDS offers concept design, prototype manufacture, and full-scale production of military-grade engineering solutions. Their in-house research and development capabilities enable them to provide additional military-grade engineering solutions across the defence sector.</p>	
	<p>Global Support and Training: KNDS provides a comprehensive package of support services, including training, inspection, maintenance, repairs and spares, both in the field and at their UK-based engineering site. This ensures that end-users gain maximum return from all bridging investments and that required availability levels are sustained throughout the life of each bridging system.</p>	

Sector priorities

This section provides a comprehensive overview of Stockport Council's key priorities and strategic targets across the borough's major sectors. It outlines the specific goals set for each sector and highlights the necessary steps to drive economic growth, sustainability, and social development. Additionally, the analysis explores the essential jobs and skills required to achieve these ambitions, ensuring that the workforce is well-equipped to support Stockport's long-term vision.

Sector: Construction and Property

Initiatives/Priorities:

- Stockport's 'One Stockport' Corporate plan has outlined the Council's ambition to create more homes and fuel the growth of businesses and jobs.
- Stockport's £1 billion town centre regeneration programme is the largest in the country and has attracted national recognition.
- There are confirmed plans to create about 8,500 homes over 15 years across initiatives like Mayoral Development Corporation (MDC) Housing, the Integrated Care Centre at the St Thomas' site, Stockport Exchange and Weir Mill Redevelopment projects
- The Merseyway Shopping Centre Redevelopment and Marple Community Hub are also poised to create demand for construction jobs.

Sector priorities - continued

Job creation over the next 15 years	Anticipated skills requirements for the next five years
<p> Site engineer Design engineer Electrician Plumber Retrofit coordinator Planner Quantity surveyor Architect Heavy equipment operator Urban planner Landscape architect Environmental consultant Sustainability officer Real estate agent Facilities manager Mechanical engineer Civil engineer Electrical engineer Construction manager Smart meter installer Water resource operative Steel fixing technician Welder Roofer Tile fitter Scaffolder Plasterer Painter Bricklayer Ceiling fixer </p>	<p> Planning Project management Quantity surveying Diversity and Inclusion Construction and site planning Procurement Civil engineering and structural design Knowledge of building regulations and safety codes Operation of heavy machinery Technical drafting (for architects) Budgeting and cost control (for surveyors) Health and safety compliance Urban planning and zoning regulations Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Environmental impact assessment Negotiation and sales skills Knowledge of housing regulations and tenancy laws </p>

Sector priorities - continued

Sector: Retail, Hospitality and Leisure

Initiatives/Priorities:

- Projects like the Grade II-listed Weir Mill Redevelopment, with parts dating back to the 1700s, will be carefully restored to maintain its heritage while being adapted for modern use to attract more visitors into Stockport.
- Stockroom is at the heart of the town centre as part of Stockport's pioneering innovative plan to increase footfall and inspire a love of learning and creativity in children and adults.

Job creation over the next 15 years	Anticipated skills requirements for the next five years
<p>Sous chef Shift manager Waiter/Waitress Retail store manager Sales associate Delivery driver Bar staff Barista Visual merchandiser E-commerce specialist (Retail) Chef Kitchen manager Front of house staff (Receptionist/Concierge) Event coordinator Fitness instructor / Personal trainer Spa therapist Entertainment coordinator Facilities manager (Leisure) Shop assistant Kitchen assistant Food and beverage assistant</p>	<p>Retailing and merchandising Health and Safety Quality Standards Housekeeping Cooking Store Operations Nutrition Marketing Food preparation Leadership and team management Cash handling Sales and customer service expertise Inventory management Strong communication and conflict resolution Basic IT literacy for using POS systems Planning and organising events Budgeting and financial management for events Creative vision and marketing acumen Motivational and coaching abilities Client assessment and goal setting Leadership and team coordination Strong organisational skills Problem-solving and quick decision-making Multitasking and organisational skills Knowledge of local attractions and events Digital marketing and SEO expertise Data analysis and reporting skills Knowledge of allergens and dietary restrictions Beverage handling Hygiene and Sanitation</p>

Sector priorities - continued

Sector: Energy (Low Carbon)

Initiatives/Priorities:

- In supporting GM's target of achieving net-zero by 2038, Stockport Council plans to introduce the Zero Emission Electric Bus Network in 2025.
- The Cheadle Eco Park project envisions eco-friendly infrastructure, including outdoor green spaces, electric vehicle charging points and cycling facilities, to support the Council's low-carbon vision.
- The Merseyway Shopping Centre Redevelopment and Weir Mill Redevelopment projects aim to integrate green spaces, energy-efficient buildings, and sustainable design practices to enhance the centre's environmental performance and attract eco-conscious visitors.

Job creation over the next 15 years	Anticipated skills requirements for the next five years
<p>Electrician HVAC technician Solar PV technician Heat pump technician EV charge point technician Retrofit coordinator Carbon accountant Energy storage engineer Project manager (energy infrastructure) Hydrogen technology specialist Grid integration specialist Sustainability consultant Software developer (energy management systems) Financial analyst (renewable energy) Recycling operative Gas engineer Gas network operative</p>	<p>Installation of solar panels Expertise in battery systems Proficiency in simulation tools and grid integration Strong project management Knowledge of renewable energy projects Budget management Stakeholder communication Knowledge of electrolysis technologies Hydrogen storage and transport Power systems engineering Proficiency in carbon accounting Environmental impact assessments Maintenance technician (energy systems) Electrical and mechanical engineering expertise Software development Programming Strong analytical abilities Carbon footprint reduction strategies Carbon footprint assessment</p>

Sector priorities - continued

Sector: Education

Initiatives/Priorities:

- Between now and 2030, the Council plans to develop a new early years' workforce training and development hub to support careers in the sector.
- The development of a new town centre secondary school after 2030.
- Stockport Council also aspires to offer excellent schools right across the borough for everyone, with every child included in their success through its improved careers education, information and guidance, linked to clear work and training pathways.
- Population increase will surge demand for nurseries and schools.

Job creation over the next 15 years	Anticipated skills requirements for the next five years
Maths tutor English tutor Nursery manager Early years teacher Teaching assistant Learning and development specialist Curriculum designer Systems administrator STEM teacher/lecturer SEND teacher FE tutors	Mathematics Language Tutoring Diversity and inclusion Curriculum Communication Teaching Working with children Understanding learning difficulties Coaching Digital proficiency Robotics and automation knowledge Immersive technology expertise/lecturers

Sector priorities - continued

Sector: Transportation and Logistics

Initiatives/Priorities:

- As part of plans to provide more sustainable transport options for residents to create well-connected green, inclusive and safe neighbourhoods, Stockport Council plans to develop and commission Cheadle Railway Station.
- The Stockport Exchange project aims to provide an excellent bus network giving residents good, regular access to surrounding areas.
- The Council also aims to deliver an integrated transport network, linking buses, trams and trains, connecting all neighbourhoods by 2040.

Job creation over the next 15 years	Anticipated skills requirements for the next five years
Bus/coach driver, Highway maintenance operative, Driving instructor/trainer, Vehicle technician, Transport administrator, Transport planner, Transport coordinator, Shift manager, Civil engineer, Traffic engineer, Urban designer, Cycle infrastructure specialist, Public transport accessibility coordinator, Pedestrian safety officer, Environmental consultant, Project manager – infrastructure, Road safety auditor, Surveyor – highways and transport, Community liaison officer, Sustainability officer – transport, GIS specialist, Structural engineer (bridges and roads), Maintenance engineer (public infrastructure), EV repair and maintenance officer, Truck drivers, Delivery drivers, Shift manager, Logistics manager, Supply chain analyst, Warehouse manager, Inventory control specialist, Fleet manager, HGV technician	Onboarding Route planning Attention to detail Automotive Risk management Time management Loading and unloading EV (driving, maintenance and repairs) Control systems Safety standards Transport planning and analysis Civil and structural engineering skills Project management Public engagement and communication Regulatory and compliance knowledge Health, safety, and environmental (HSE) skills Design and technical drafting Data analysis and reporting Sustainability and environmental design Technical operation and maintenance

Sector priorities - continued

Sector: Digital Media and Technology

Initiatives/Priorities:

- From 2025, the Council aims to install high-speed digital connectivity full fibre across the borough.
- The Council also aims to make Stockport a home to digital start-ups and a 100% digital inclusive borough before 2035.

Job creation over the next 15 years	Anticipated skills requirements for the next five years
<p>Network engineer Devops engineer Java developer Data analyst Cybersecurity specialist Software developer IT support specialist IoT (Internet of Things) specialist Operations manager – advanced manufacturing Systems engineer UX/UI designer Cloud engineer Business analyst Social media manager Media content creator Editor and publisher</p>	<p>Customer relationship management Business intelligence SAAS model Digital transformation Scripting Cyber security Microsoft office AI implementation Networking Social media Amazon AWS SQL User interface Proficiency in AI/ML algorithms and tools Knowledge of automation systems and robotics Experience with cloud computing and IoT platforms Programming skills Agile and lean manufacturing principles UX/UI design principles Knowledge of digital transformation Proficiency in database management</p>

Sector priorities - continued

Sector: Manufacturing

Initiatives/Priorities:

- The KNDS UK project aims to support 300 jobs at its Heaton Chapel site.

Job creation over the next 15 years	Anticipated skills requirements for the next five years
Manufacturing supervisor Manufacturing engineer Project scheduler Electrical/electronics assembler CAD technician Engineering manufacturing technician Electrical engineering technician Mechanical engineering technician Electrical trades	Ability to use CAD software Knowledge of electrical systems specific to a manufacturing setup Welding skills Numeric and mathematical skills Understanding of engineering concepts and principles Knowledge of health and safety regulations Knowledge of their specific field of engineering

Sector priorities - continued

Sector: Financial, Business and Professional Services

Initiatives/Priorities:

- In delivering a thriving neighbourhood in Stockport, the Council aims to provide innovation and business workspace in every neighbourhood.
- Across projects like Mayoral Development Corporation (MDC) Housing, the Merseyway Shopping Centre Redevelopment, Stockport Exchange and the Weir Mill Redevelopment, there are plans to develop over 1.5 million square feet of new commercial/office space.

Job creation over the next 15 years	Anticipated skills requirements for the next five years
Account executive Administrator Credit officer Financial analyst Reporting officer Accountant (management accountant, chartered accountant) Auditor (internal and external) Investment analyst Tax advisor Legal counsel Business consultant Human resources manager Project manager (business projects) Marketing and communications manager Office manager Operations manager Facilities manager Paralegals	Management Analysis Time management Contract law and negotiation Regulatory compliance Talent management Collaboration Business strategy Risk management Business development and client relationship management Strategic planning and organisational management Process optimisation and project execution Branding and corporate communications Market research and competitive analysis Financial reporting Bookkeeping Accounting software proficiency Risk management Budgeting and forecasting Cashflow management Legal research Contract and company law

Sector priorities - continued

Sector: Health and Social Care

Initiatives/Priorities:

- The Council, through its One Stockport corporate plan, has outlined initiatives over the next two decades to help people live the best lives they can to be happy, healthy and independent.
- The Integrated Care Centre at the St Thomas' site in Stockport is part of the broader St Thomas' Gardens project. This initiative aims to transform the former St Thomas' Hospital into a multi-generational community, focusing on health and social care integration.
- In the Council's Corporate plan (One Stockport), the Council envisages bringing a brand-new hospital facility and primary care health hub to the town centre before the end of 2025.

Job creation over the next 15 years	Anticipated skills requirements for the next five years
Social care worker Relief support worker General nurse Health care assistant Care home support worker Night care manager Administrative assistant Mental health nurse Dementia care assistant Community nurse Social care worker supported living Public health coordinator Support worker Nursing associate Nurse General practitioner Recreational therapist Occupational therapist Dental nurse Dental hygienist Dental practitioner Medical and dental specialties Pharmacist	Personal care Mental health Counselling Communication Person centred care Empathy Hygiene Dementia Infection control Learning disabilities Reporting Primary care Health and safety Knowledge on patient safety Check and monitor vital signs Ability to use digital devices and applications to record patients' data Physical strength (for care workers, nurses and roles in between) Knowledge on the specific field of medicine/dentistry Customer service Respond to emergency situations Empathy Pharmacology

Conclusions

This local authority level report offers an in-depth analysis of the current and projected employment landscape within Stockport. By incorporating information on the local economy and the anticipated impact of significant development projects, the report provides a comprehensive overview of the local labour market's dynamics.

A noteworthy aspect of this analysis is the examination of discrepancies between high-demand roles and those identified as hard-to-fill by employers. Recognising the distinction between the two is necessary to address immediate recruitment needs. The exploration of major development initiatives, such as Cheadle Eco Park and the Merseyway Shopping Centre redevelopment, will enable stakeholders to develop long-term workforce development strategies. The projects included in the table starting on page 11 are poised to shape local labour requirements, initially driving demand for construction-related roles and subsequently generating opportunities across a range of sectors.

This report is a critical component of the Greater Manchester Local Skills Improvement Plan (GM LSIP), which aims to align technical and vocational education with the actual needs of the local economy. Integrating this report into the broader context of the GM LSIP offers updated insights that complement the existing analyses and reports. This positioning also ensures that training and skills development interventions are tailored to address both Stockport-specific and Greater Manchester-wide skills priorities.

To maintain its relevance and accuracy, this report will undergo a comprehensive refresh every 18 to 24 months. The updates will incorporate the latest data and developments, ensuring that all stakeholders have continued access to current information. It is anticipated that this report will serve as an invaluable resource for strategic skills planning in Stockport. For policy makers, it offers evidence-based insights into current and emerging labour market trends while aiding colleges and independent training providers in making informed decisions about curriculum development and training provision. While the report is not intended to prompt immediate curriculum changes, it should inform medium- to long-term planning to ensure that available training meets employers' needs and also evolves in tandem with the shifting economic landscape.

GM Local Skills Improvement Plan team
Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce
T. 0161 393 4321
E. gmlsip@gmchamber.co.uk