Ambitious Stockport, creating opportunities *for everyone*

Thinking Stockport

Achieving as a Team

Working with Ambition

Showing everyone Respect

Job Profile and Working for Stockport

Our Council

Join us at Stockport Council – Best for Inclusion winner at the Greater Manchester Good Employment Awards 2026

Our employees are our **greatest asset**. We're proud of the way we provide vital frontline services every day and work together, as **one team.**

Our 4 **core values** as shown above, run through everything that we do, and we aim to stay **true** to them regardless of the challenges that we may face.

To **support** our values, we have policies, guidance and procedures around health, safety and welfare, customer care, emergency planning and security that all our **colleagues** are adhering and working to.

We also **pride** ourselves on our commitment to wellbeing and inclusivity of our colleagues and residents.

You can find out more about working for Stockport Council and some of the benefits that we offer our employees at https://greater.jobs/locations/stockport/



STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

RACE EQUALITY MATTERS MEMBER 2025/26

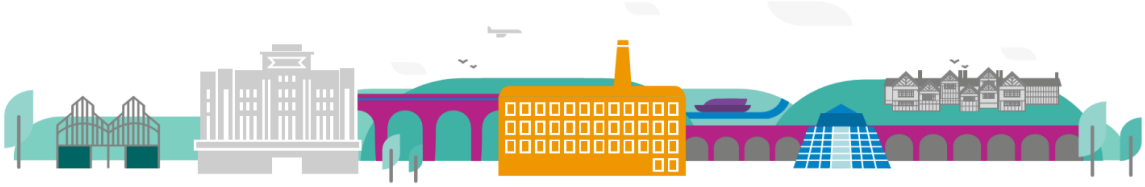
We are a Living Wage Employer

Greater Manchester Guaranteed Assessment Scheme

disability confident EMPLOYER

GREATER MANCHESTER GOOD EMPLOYMENT CHARTER

ARMED FORCES COVENANT



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About the Job

Role:	Head of Service, Strategy and Communities
Service Area:	Strategy and Communities
Directorate:	Corporate and Support Services
Salary Grade:	MB1

Main Purpose of the Job

- Provide strategic leadership for the Council's strategy and communities agenda, connecting long-term vision, corporate priorities, partnership working and community insight so that activity is focused on improving outcomes for Stockport residents.
- Lead the development, refresh and implementation of the Council's corporate strategy framework, including One Stockport, One Future and associated Council and business plans, ensuring a clear golden thread from borough ambitions through to delivery, performance and learning.
- Lead corporate performance management and work closely with the Business Intelligence teams to ensuring leaders and elected members have the insight and intelligence to support decisions, strategy development and improvement.
- Lead the Council's strategic relationship with the voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise (VCFSE) sector, building a mature partnership that enables co-production, shared priorities, effective investment and stronger community capacity.
- Provide strategic leadership for community development, neighbourhood working and resident participation, embedding strengths-based and asset-based approaches and ensuring lived experience shapes strategy, policy and service design.
- Lead Stockport's contribution to the Greater Manchester prevention demonstrator, working across the Council, public services, communities and Greater Manchester partners to develop, test and embed preventative approaches that improve outcomes and reduce demand.
- Act as a senior adviser to Corporate Leadership Team, elected members and senior leaders on corporate strategy, community policy, prevention, partnership development and emerging national and Greater Manchester policy.
- provide strategic leadership to significant programmes of work including Pride in Place and Community Cohesion.

Key Responsibilities

Strategy

- Own and continually develop the Council's corporate strategy framework, ensuring One Stockport, One Future, the Council Plan, directorate and service planning are coherent, evidence-led and translated into clear priorities, outcomes and delivery arrangements.

- Coordinate horizon scanning and policy development, interpreting national, regional and Greater Manchester developments and ensuring Stockport is well positioned to respond to change, influence emerging policy and secure opportunities.
- Lead and embed the Council's approach to business planning, aligning it to key transformation priorities, the Council Plan and One Stockport, One Future.
- Build strong relationships across Greater Manchester and represent Stockport in relevant regional strategy, prevention, communities and public service reform networks, influencing shared agendas and bringing learning and opportunities back into the borough.
- Work closely with elected members, providing clear, timely and politically aware professional advice, briefings and support on strategy, communities and partnership matters.

Partnership working – including strategic relationship with the VCFSE sector

- Lead strategic partnership arrangements that bring together the Council, VCFSE organisations, health, police, education, businesses and other public bodies around shared outcomes for people and place.
- Develop and sustain the Council's strategic relationship with the VCFSE sector, including appropriate partnership governance, engagement, co-design and strategic approaches to investment, grants and commissioning, working closely with relevant commissioning and finance leads.
- Lead the strategic approach to community engagement and development, strengthening local networks, social infrastructure, community leadership and the capacity of residents and organisations to take action on the issues that matter locally.
- Lead and embed the Council's approach to community cohesion across strategy, neighbourhood working, engagement and service planning, using evidence and community intelligence to strengthen belonging and positive relationships, anticipate and respond to tensions, and ensure effective escalation, coordinated partnership action and organisational learning.

Live Well and GM Prevention Demonstrator

- Work with the Head of Transformation to progress the Stockport Live Well programme and ambitions.
- Champion meaningful engagement and co-production with residents and communities, particularly people and places experiencing inequalities, ensuring community insight is visible in strategic decision-making and service design.
- Provide senior leadership to the GM prevention demonstrator in Stockport, aligning it with Live Well, neighbourhood working, public service reform and other preventative activity, translating learning into sustainable changes to policy, commissioning and delivery.
- Commission and use insight, evidence, evaluation and performance information to understand inequalities, demonstrate impact, test whether strategic ambitions are being achieved and inform future priorities.
- Work with the Deputy Chief Executive, Assistant Director for Development and Regeneration and the Brinnington Pride in Place Board to deliver and ensure the

- success of Brinnington Pride in Place, including overseeing governance, partnership working and delivery assurance, ensuring clear accountability, effective use of resources, active management of risk and demonstrable impact.

Insight and intelligence information strategy development and prioritisation

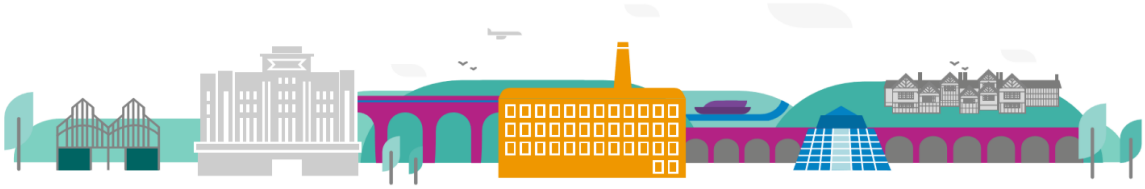
- Lead and develop, working with the Business Intelligence team, the Council's corporate performance management framework, aligning measures, milestones, risks and reporting to One Stockport, One Future, the Council Plan and directorate and service plans. Promote a culture in which insight and intelligence is used constructively to support accountability, challenge, continuous improvement, shape strategy, business plans and the achievement of better outcomes.

- Work with business intelligence colleagues to ensure analysis, benchmarking, forecasting, evaluation and population insight identify trends, inequalities, demand pressures, delivery risks and opportunities for which can shape corporate strategy development and delivery.

- Working with services and digital, data, communities and business intelligence colleagues to develop strong corporate intelligence that brings together quantitative data, qualitative insight, resident and community intelligence, policy evidence and horizon scanning to support strategic decision-making. This includes working with the Business Intelligence team as they transition to a new data environment so that the organisation is best able to make the most of future functionality and data opportunities.

Cross-cutting leadership responsibilities

- Lead complex cross-cutting programmes and projects where ownership spans organisational boundaries, establishing effective governance, managing risks and interdependencies, and convening expertise from across the Council and partners.
- Identify and pursue external funding, innovation and collaboration opportunities that advance corporate priorities, prevention and community outcomes.
- Provide visible, inclusive and collaborative leadership for the Strategy and Communities service, setting clear direction, developing capability, managing resources effectively and fostering a culture of learning, accountability and continuous improvement
- Contribute as a senior leader to wider directorate and corporate priorities, working across service and organisational boundaries and supporting collective leadership of change, performance and financial sustainability.
- As part of the whole leadership team, strengthen links between strategy, performance, intelligence, transformation, community insight engagement and financial planning so that priorities, resources, delivery and benefits are considered together.
- To work positively and inclusively with colleagues and customers so that the Council provides a workplace to deliver a service that does not discriminate against people on the grounds of their age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage, civil partnership, pregnancy, maternity, race, religion, belief, sex, or sexual orientation.



- To fulfil personal requirements, where appropriate, with regards to Council policies and procedures, standards of attendance, health, safety and welfare, customer care, emergency, evacuation, security and promotion of the Council's priorities.

Additional Information

The responsibilities set out in this document, in the advert and any additional information are intended to provide a flavour of the work you will carry out. It is not possible to include everything you will be asked to undertake, and we expect all colleagues to work flexibly according to business needs and to enhance your own development. Your skills, abilities and training needs will be taken into account and discussed with you when any significant changes to your role are needed. In line with our flexible approach you may be required to work from home for a proportion of your time or from any of the Council's sites across the borough.

The Council is an inclusive employer and holds the Disability Confident and Armed Forces Covenant accreditations. If you have a disability, we will support you by implementing reasonable adjustments to enable you to perform your role.

About You

Please use your application to tell us how well you meet the criteria listed below as these are the key skills, experience, technical expertise and qualifications needed to be successful in the role. We will then use all the information you provide in your application to help us decide whether you are shortlisted for interview. Any interview questions or additional assessments such as tests or presentations may also be broadly based on these criteria:

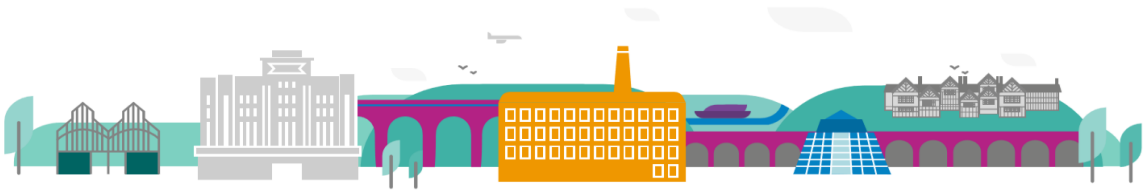
- Working to the Council's values and behaviours by:
  - Keeping the people of **Stockport** at the heart of what we do
  - Succeeding as a **team**, collaborating with colleagues and partners
  - Driving things forward with **ambition**, creativity and confidence
  - Showing value and **respect** to our colleagues, partners and customers.

- **Strategic leadership:** Significant senior leadership experience in a complex organisation, with a track record of shaping strategy, setting direction and translating ambitions into practical delivery and measurable outcomes.

- **Corporate strategy and policy:** Substantial experience of leading corporate strategy, policy development, business planning and/or performance frameworks, with the ability to create a clear golden thread across organisational priorities.

- **Communities and VCFSE:** Strong knowledge and experience of community development and of building effective, equitable strategic relationships with VCFSE organisations, community groups and residents.

- **Prevention and public service reform:** Demonstrable understanding of prevention, early intervention, strengths-based approaches and public service reform, with experience of leading complex cross-agency programmes or demonstrators.



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- **Partnership and systems leadership:** Proven ability to work across organisational and professional boundaries, convene partners with different interests, develop shared priorities and influence senior stakeholders without relying on formal authority.

- **Political and member environment:** Experience of working effectively in a political environment and providing trusted, evidence-based advice to elected members and senior leaders.

- **Engagement and co-production:** Evidence of designing and embedding meaningful resident and stakeholder engagement, co-production and inclusive approaches that influence decisions and improve outcomes.

- **Evidence, insight and evaluation:** Strong analytical and strategic thinking skills, including the ability to use evidence, insight, performance information and evaluation to shape policy, challenge assumptions and demonstrate impact.

- **Programme and resource leadership:** Experience of leading complex programmes, managing risk and interdependencies, and using people, budgets and other resources effectively to achieve strategic objectives and value for money.

- **Greater Manchester and external environment:** Strong awareness of the Greater Manchester, national and local government policy environment, with the credibility to represent Stockport externally and influence regional and national agendas.

- **Leadership and communication:** Highly developed communication, negotiation and influencing skills, with the ability to communicate a compelling strategic narrative and lead, motivate and develop high-performing teams.

- **Performance management and intelligence:** Substantial experience of leading corporate performance management and intelligence arrangements, including outcome frameworks, dashboards and senior-level reporting, and the ability to translate complex data and evidence into clear insight, challenge and action.

- **Qualifications:** Educated to degree level or able to demonstrate equivalent knowledge and capability gained through substantial relevant senior-level experience. A relevant professional or postgraduate qualification is desirable.