

# News

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## Demolition makes way for Grand Central development

Demolition has started at Stockport's Grand Central, as part of the first phase of development of a high-specification office quarter and key gateway into the town centre.

Stockport Council bought the site last year to bring forward the office-led development, including attractive new public space, hotel and improved car parking. The national development and regeneration specialist, Muse Developments, has been appointed by the Council as development partner to deliver the project.

Phase One includes a new multi-storey car park (MSCP), highway and pedestrian access improvements and dedicated cycle centre, to be completed by 2014. The new car park will meet demand for more parking next to the railway station and encourage more people to take the train. Planning consent has been granted for the MSCP and £5 million funding has been secured from Network Rail. Temporary car parking for commuters and users of existing leisure facilities will be provided during its construction.

Phase Two will deliver the first commercial office block, new public space, a new hotel and more highway and public transport improvements by 2015. Phase Three will include a further three office buildings, extension of the open space and further improved accessibility for pedestrians by 2020.

Councillor Dave Goddard, leader of Stockport Council, said: "It's just over a year since the Council bought Grand Central and already we've appointed a development partner, secured planning consent and funding for a new car park and started demolition on site. We're not willing to just stand back and wait - we saw an opportunity for real investment and we took it. We are making things happen in Stockport.

"This development will bring jobs and investment, but also crucially, people - people who will use local shops and services. It's one of the ways we are driving footfall back to the town centre and making sure it thrives into the future.

"We've worked hard to make sure that the numbers stack up, so it's self-financing and at no extra cost to the Council-tax payer."

Matt Crompton, joint managing director of Muse, commented: "Our plans for Grand Central will transform this important gateway to the town. Our track record and experience combined with the strong civic leadership and Stockport's undoubted commercial appeal will unlock the potential of this stunning new office quarter."

For more information about regeneration in Stockport visit [www.stockport.gov.uk/vision](http://www.stockport.gov.uk/vision)

Celebrating the start of demolition on site at Grand Central are: leader of Stockport Council, Cllr Dave Goddard, with William Quinn (front left) from demolition contractors Wm. Quinn Group and Matt Crompton (front right), joint managing director of Muse.