



STOCKPORT
METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

Councillor Mark Roberts

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The Rt Hon Andy Burnham MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
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Dear Prime Minister,

Andy, may I offer my warmest congratulations on your appointment as Prime Minister.

For Stockport and Greater Manchester, this is a significant moment. It has been a pleasure to work with you on our shared ambitions. As Mayor, you saw that towns and communities outside Whitehall need real power, proper investment and a government that listens. I hope your premiership will put that principle at the heart of national decision-making.

As you begin this new role, I wanted to take the opportunity to set out the three immediate priorities for Stockport which I hope your Government will work with us to champion.

First, Stockport needs fair funding and not just in name only. Like councils across the country, we face severe financial pressures while demand for vital local services continues to grow. Stockport is ambitious, well-run and delivering for residents, but we cannot be held back by a funding system that fails to reflect Stockport's need, areas of deprivation, local population pressures or the cost of essential services. A fairer settlement would allow us to protect frontline services, invest in prevention and give our communities the support they deserve. We set out to the last set of Ministers the case for the 'Recovery Grant' to include all metropolitan councils outside London, a simple step that would also have helped our neighbours in Trafford as well as Solihull Council. From our work together I know you understand the pressures the previous government placed on Stockport and the optics of leaving out the borough with the most deprived area in Greater Manchester from accessing funds to tackle deprivation.

Cllr Mark Roberts
Leader of the Council
Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group



I know several Cabinet colleagues will have more specific asks of government – we are desperately short of funding, whether for fixing roads, keeping schools, libraries and community buildings standing, or delivering social care for all age groups. I believe a fair share of funding for Stockport including an extended Recovery Grant would help immensely as we continue to tackle those priorities.

Second, we need to see Metrolink delivered to Stockport town centre as a next step to increasing connectivity across the borough. Stockport is one of the fastest-growing towns in the country and has already done the hard work to prepare for that investment, including our award-winning, Metrolink-ready Stockport Interchange and the major town centre regeneration we've worked together to deliver over many years. Bringing Metrolink to Stockport would unlock growth, improve connectivity, support cleaner travel and ensure our borough is properly integrated into Greater Manchester's transport network.

Third, Stockport needs urgent and substantial investment in Stepping Hill Hospital. Residents and staff should not have to rely on services delivered from ageing, deteriorating buildings that are literally falling down around them. The hospital is central to health care in our borough, but it is under extreme pressure and has a significant repair backlog. We need immediate funding to make the existing site safe and fit for purpose, alongside a serious long-term plan for modern health facilities that meet Stockport's future needs.

Prime Minister, you know Greater Manchester and you know Stockport. You understand the difference that long-term investment, fair devolution and practical delivery can make. I hope that, under your leadership in Westminster, Stockport will finally receive the fair deal it needs to grow, protect vital services and deliver the infrastructure our residents have waited too long to see. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss these priorities with you and your Ministers, and would be pleased to invite you to visit Stockport at your earliest convenience.

Best of luck in the role. I believe we've shown what partnership working can deliver when it is done well and I hope we can build on that positive ambition for our communities together.

Yours sincerely,



Mark Roberts

Cllr Mark Roberts

Leader of Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council

Leader of Stockport Liberal Democrats

Councillor for Bredbury, Bredbury Green and Romiley

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Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group