

# Professionals in bid to boost town centre

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**A** GROUP of business professionals are hoping to re-invigorate Stockport town centre.

Vision Stockport, a trading name of Stockport Community Interest Company (CIC), will be working in partnership with town centre businesses, residents, organisations and visitors to encourage ideas and projects that will enhance the appeal of



● Jean Walker, chair of Vision Stockport

the town centre and attract visitors.

The board is made up of Alison Bowcott-McGrath (Bo-Concepts), Malcolm Hurst (Hursts

Accountants), Mark Haberfield (Stagecoach Services), Tony Jones (Orbit Developments), Jean Walker (SAS Daniels), Tony Millar (Millar Landscapes) and Helen White (Marketing Stockport).

Tony Millar said: "Despite a number of regeneration projects now under way, there is a risk that the town centre will continue on a downward spiral of economic viability resulting in poorer retail and visitor appeal, fewer occupied shops and offices, property dereliction,



shrinking business rate revenues, less policing, poor street behaviour, and increased perceived personal danger.

"This will drive away businesses and their employees located in the town centre and drive away visitors and citizens who otherwise might live in or visit and

spend their income and leisure time here."

Vision Stockport will be co-ordinating the project, but wants to encourage groups to work together to deliver results and funding.

Jean Walker, chair of Vision Stockport, said: "It is not the intention of Vision Stockport to dic-

tate or commission projects but to be a catalyst.

"We want to create belief that Stockport is a good place to work, visit and enjoy."

Vision Stockport is the company behind the Stockport BID (Business Improvement District), which will focus on improving the visitor experience in the town centre, including for shoppers, business users and tourists.

Visit [visionstockport.org](http://visionstockport.org) for more information.