

# The Original Pioneers

Here to Support You  
and Your Business.

[INVESTINROCHDALE.CO.UK](https://investinrochdale.co.uk)

Rochdale  
Development  
Agency | 

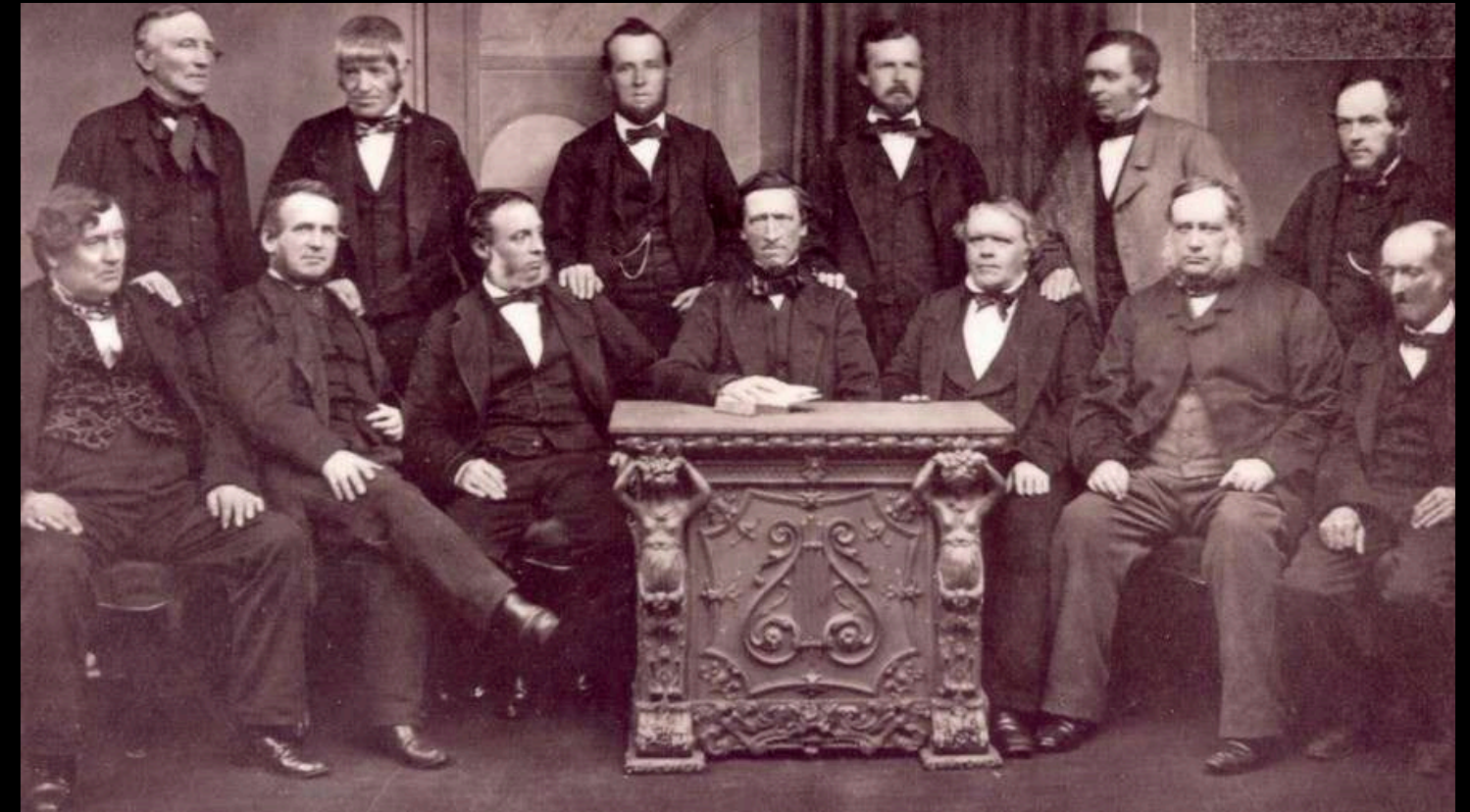
# The Original Pioneers

## Introduction

The first successful co-op was formed in 1844 in Rochdale. At that time, living conditions in northern industrial towns were tough. Flour, sugar, butter and oats were expensive. Often, milk was watered down and mill owners mixed their flour with sawdust to increase their profits.

A group of 28 working-class men decided to change this. They raised the funds to set up a co-operative shop that provided good quality products to the community, at a fair price.

**The Rochdale Pioneers** as they are now commonly known spurred on a movement that has spread throughout the world and continues to thrive today.



**Rochdale Pioneers 1844**

Photo credit: [www.uk.coop](http://www.uk.coop)

The Pioneers as their name suggests were true visionaries. They were fair, just and innovative. The principles on which they created a world wide movement hold true in Rochdale to this very day.

We are pioneering in our vision and we co-operate to get things done.

**Join us.**

# The Original Pioneers

## Rochdale Development Agency

Rochdale Development Agency is the local economic development agency for the borough of Rochdale established in 1993.

The RDA is unique. We're a private company that is wholly owned by Rochdale Borough Council, and works in partnership with a range of local agencies to deliver services to businesses in the borough.

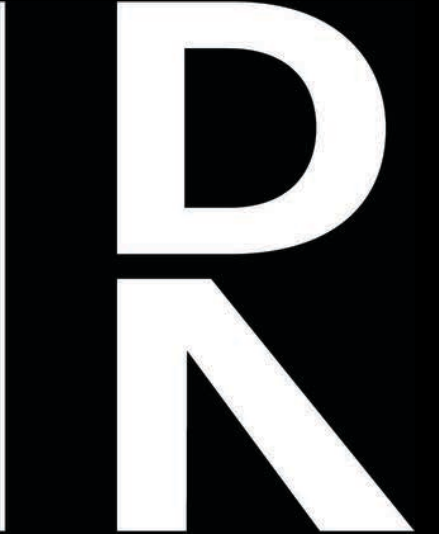
This gives us extra flexibility to work with businesses both local, regional and national to ensure that they are able to quickly become established and grow in Rochdale.

WE ARE RESPONSIVE

WE HAVE UNPARALLELED KNOWLEDGE OF  
THE LOCAL AREA

WE ARE EXPERTS IN OUR FIELD

Rochdale  
Development  
Agency





# The Original Pioneers

## Why Choose Rochdale

### Location

Rochdale is a gateway to regional and global markets as one of the best located and connected destinations in the North of England.

There are six trains an hour to Manchester which is just 15 minutes away. In the opposite direction, four trains an hour take passengers to Leeds in 70 minutes. There are five stations in the borough, used by 2.3 million passengers every year.

Rochdale itself benefits from five direct links to the motorway network.

Centrally located on the M62, this motorway of over 100 miles links the ports of Liverpool and Hull as well as three of the top five largest urban areas in England; Manchester, Liverpool and Leeds.





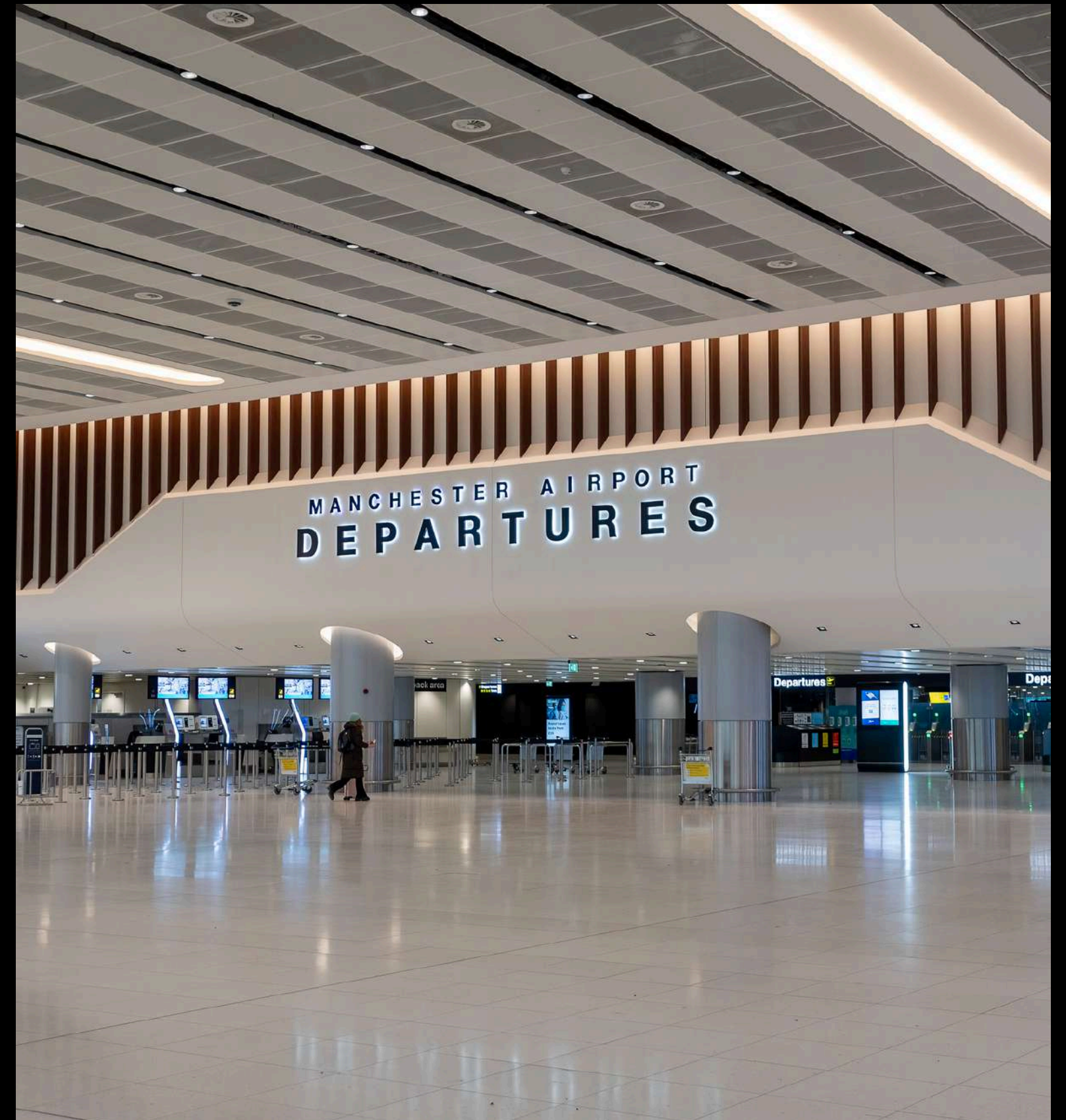
# The Original Pioneers

## Why Choose Rochdale

### Location

It takes just over half an hour to get to Manchester Airport from Rochdale, while Liverpool and Leeds/Bradford airports are both around an hour's drive away. Taken together, these three major airports connect your goods and people to **232 global destinations**.

Fast connections to the motorway network alongside frequent train, tram and bus services helping make Rochdale an ideal location for businesses.



# The Original Pioneers

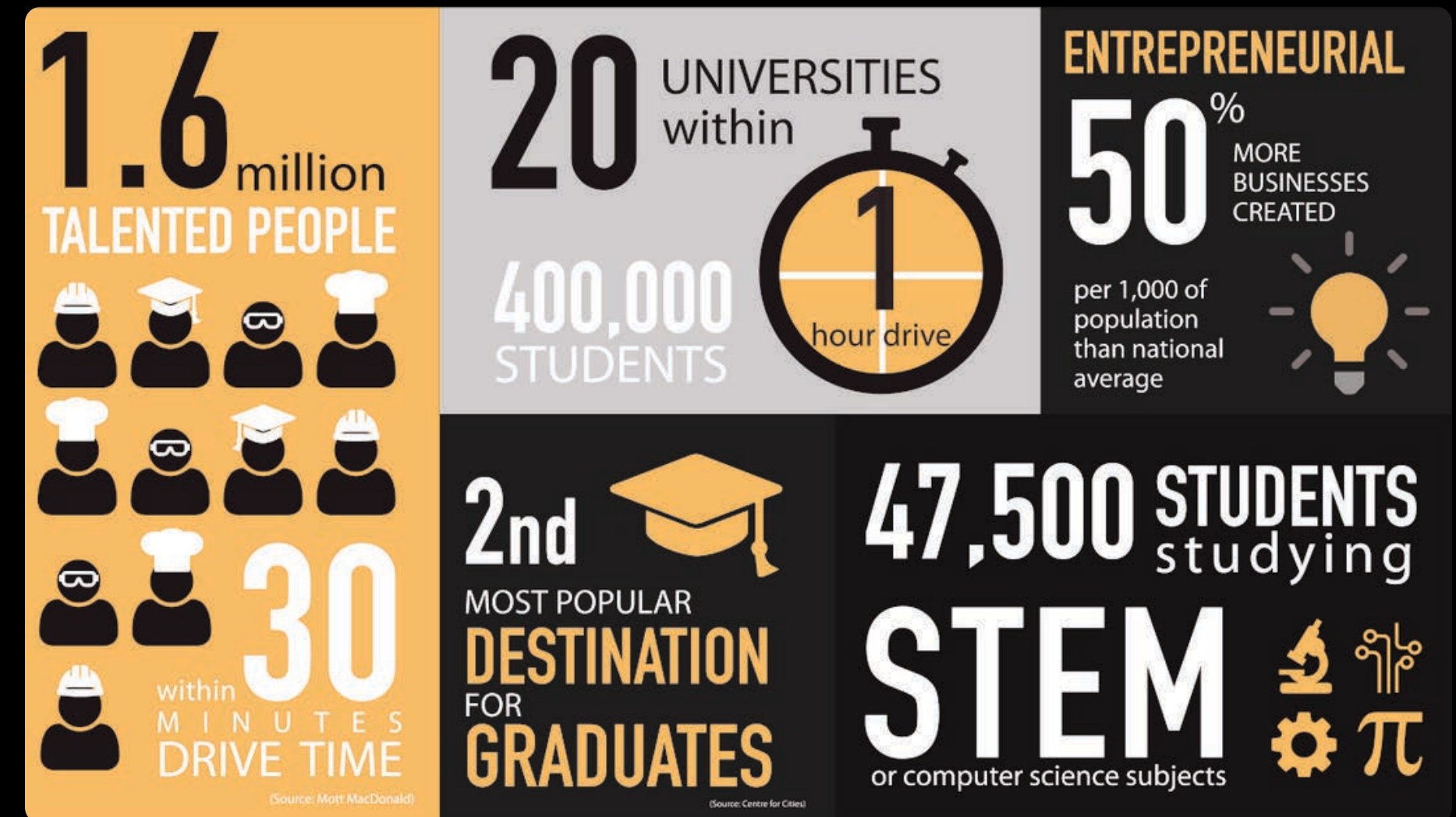
## Why Choose Rochdale

### Skills

To be successful, businesses don't just need excellent commercial property or first class business support, they also need a skilled and eager workforce. Rochdale has a workforce that is skilled and abundant.

The RDA works with local education and training providers to make sure businesses in the town have the skills they need to thrive.

There are **20 universities within an hour's drive of Rochdale**, with a combined student population of over 400,000. Universities in Greater Manchester offer graduate level courses in a wide range of relevant subjects, from advanced materials and engineering to business studies and supply chain management. For businesses in Rochdale it means the next generation of managerial and technology-focused talent is right on the doorstep.





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## Why Choose Rochdale

Rochdale is the only local authority in Greater Manchester to have a dedicated economic development agency whose **sole purpose is support and assist new and existing businesses in the borough to thrive and grow.**

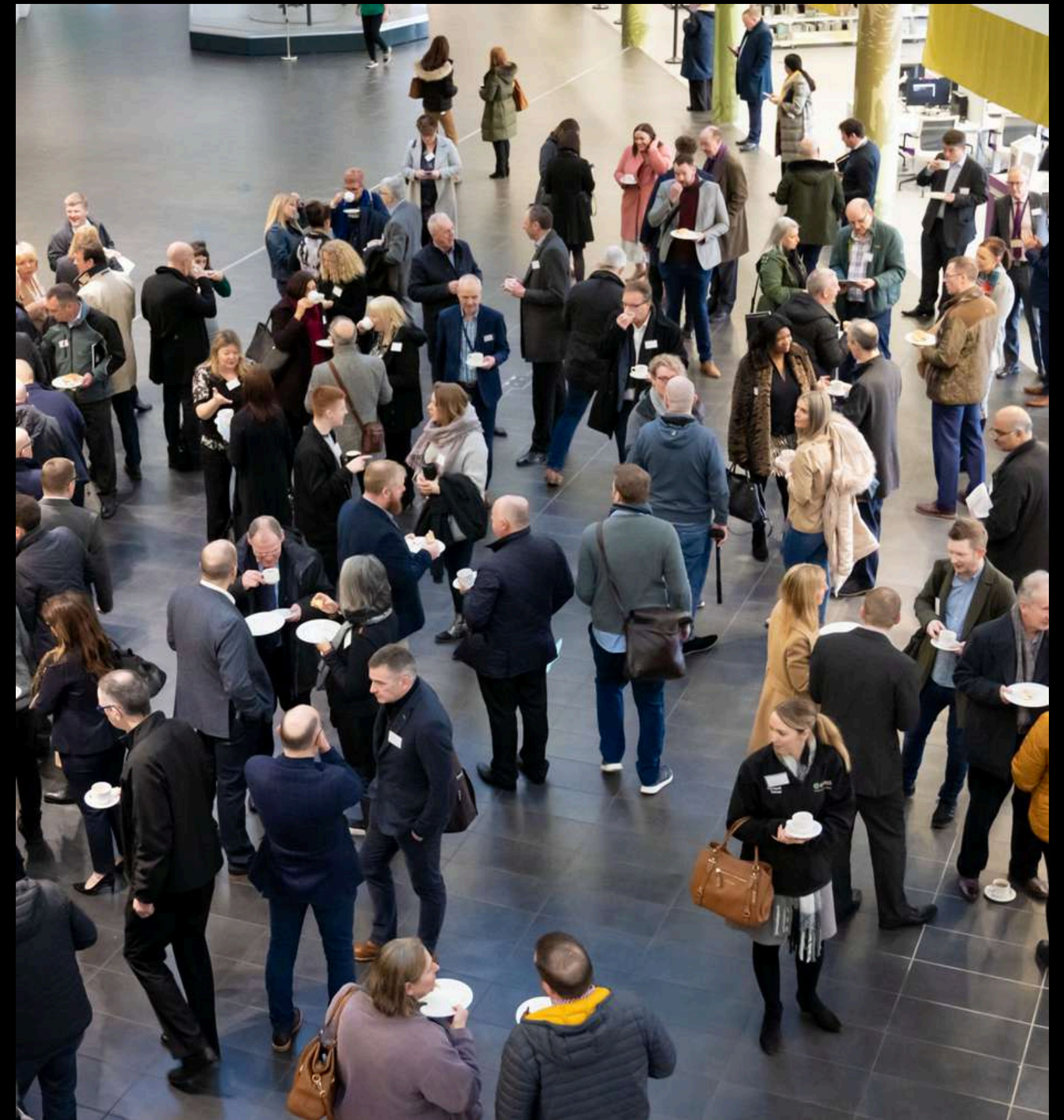
There are numerous ways the team does this:

### **Skills Recruitment and training**

We can support you in accessing the right training and development for your staff. This could include apprenticeships, industry placements, a sector-based work programme and bespoke programmes to suit your business.

Rochdale Borough Council's Employment Links service will manage the recruitment of new staff, in partnership with your HR team, free of charge. The services will include:

- Reviewing job roles, identifying skill requirements.
- Bespoke recruitment campaigns and all aspects of the application and interview process.
- Advertising job opportunities and handling enquiries.
- Managing communication with candidates, including post-interview correspondence;
- Organising and coordinating employee induction.





# The Original Pioneers

## Why Choose Rochdale

### Property search and design & build facilitation

Our team can work with private landlords, council and property agents to identify suitable property and new build opportunities that meet your specific business needs.

### Financial assistance

The council is keen to support inward investment and business growth and will consider business rate relief.

### Partner support

The Growth Company can provide fully funded support to SMEs around marketing, digital, access to finance, innovation, resource efficiency including any grant funding and business mentoring. We have a dedicated advisor within Rochdale.

### Business community

Rochdale has an active thriving business community who regularly come together at various networking events and roundtables which are run by the RDA, our partners and independently by the business community.

The RDA also have an e-newsletter 'Business Matters' which includes upcoming events, information from partners and general business updated which is free to sign up to.





# The Original Pioneers

## Our Achievements in 2024/2025

212,803 SQ  
FT

Space Developed

496

Jobs supported and  
created  
within the borough

10,000

Dedicated hours from the  
RDA in supporting business

669

Number of businesses  
receiving RDA  
assistance

25

Investment  
projects received  
RDA assistance

70

Individual  
visits to local  
businesses

# Contact the Team

For more information on the business support services available in Rochdale or any other queries please contact a member of the team.

You can also visit our website [investinrochdale.co.uk](https://investinrochdale.co.uk)



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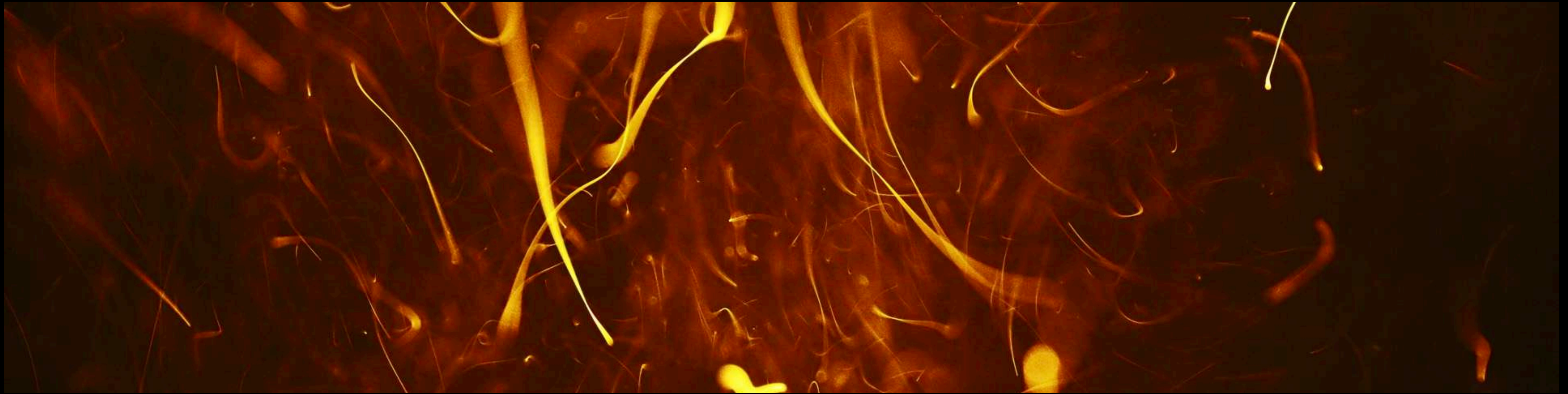
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