



STOCKPORT
METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

Stockport
team
ambition
respect

Economy and Regeneration

Portfolio Performance
and Resources
Annual Report 2020/21



www.stockport.gov.uk

ONESTOCKPORT

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ECONOMY AND REGENERATION - PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW



Portfolio Summary

This final PPRR of the 2020/2021 municipal year presents a very interesting picture and suggests that, on the whole, Stockport has been quite resilient through COVID: for example, our occupancy rates are stable and the number of independent businesses within the town centre has seen a very encouraging rise.

This is testament to the work the Economic Resilience Forum has done and with our intensive focus on thinking local through One Stockport – the ‘Stockport pound’ – I hope the number of independent businesses continues to rise within and beyond the Town Centre.



But, of course, this all needs to be caveated.

The economic consequences of COVID still have to be fully realised and we still don’t know what this pandemic has in store; while the vaccine rollout has been an encouraging success overall, we are still at the mercy of variants and their possible consequences, such as further restrictions. Let us hope this is not the case.

Nevertheless, as I have said previously, there is a lot to be optimistic about despite COVID. Initial work on Stockport Exchange Phase 4 is progressing, work on Underbanks continues, Stockport Interchange construction will begin shortly and our extensive engagement on our Future High Streets Fund proposal is about to begin.

Further announcements are being made on our ambition for active travel, with the Edgeley to Stockport Mayor’s Cycling and Walking Challenge Fund (MCF)/Bee Network proposals now out for consultation and other schemes are to be consulted on or begin construction shortly. Indeed, construction work is also progressing on multiple other MCF schemes within the borough.

The Cheadle Towns Fund work is progressing well, with optimism growing that Cheadle will finally get the public transport links it has needed for so long with a new railway station. This is something I have been vocal about since arriving on this council.

There is still a lot of work to do, though, and building the station is the easier part: the trickier part is ensuring regular trains can serve the station while not impacting on the wider network. Work is on-going on this point, but the initial signs are positive.

However, the Cheadle Towns Fund work is much bigger than just the railway station; through the fund, we want to create an Eco Business Park just off Bird Hall Lane. This will be a site for green industries and create hundreds of new jobs.

As some will know, I was initially sceptical about the Cheadle Towns Fund. However, I feel we are heading into a position where not only Cheadle will benefit, but Stockport as a whole will.

That was my aspiration from the outset, and we look to be heading towards that – but we shall see. I must say it has been rewarding working with colleagues across the political divide, particularly Cheadle’s MP, and community representatives in a such positive and constructive way.

I hope the spirit of the Cheadle Towns Fund work can permeate into the wider council and other work over this next municipal year.

Cllr David Meller, Cabinet Member for Economy and Regeneration

Revenue Budget (Outturn)

	£000
Cash Limit	2,065
Outturn	2,486
(Surplus)/Deficit	421

Reserves

Approved use of reserves balance is £12.564m.

Planned draw down at Quarter 4 was £0.213m (revenue) and £0.939m (capital) draw down.

Capital Programme

	£000
2020/21 Capital Budget	40,204
2021/22 Capital Budget	56,104
2022/23 Capital Budget	42,779

ECONOMY AND REGENERATION

1. DELIVERING OUR PRIORITIES



This report is based on the **2020/21 Portfolio Agreement**, considered by the Economy and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee on 10th September and approved by Cabinet on 6 October 2020. The link to the Agreement can be [found here](#).

Updates on **key programmes of work and other activities** are referenced within the Portfolio Priorities within this section of the report, alongside the latest available **performance data**. The Mid-Year Report included updates where available to the end of October 2020, and this report reflects the picture as at the end of March 2021 where this is available.

Performance measures are categorised to reflect the council's influence and responsibility as Council, Partnership or Contextual. These categories are used to determine the type of target used as numerical, comparator, direction of travel or if no target is set. Definitions for these categories and target types are included within the Agreement.

Highlight and exception commentary is provided for performance measures. Where performance or progress in delivering priorities is impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and resulting restrictions, this is reflected within the commentary. As highlighted in the Agreements, it has not been possible to set annual targets for some measures due to these impacts, but 'direction of travel' will continue to be shown for these.

The Portfolio Performance Dashboards have been updated to reflect 2020/21 data where available, and the Economy and Regeneration Dashboard can be [found here](#). This contains further historical trend data in addition to comparative data (where available) the latest of which relates to 2019/20.

In response to feedback from Scrutiny Committees, the criteria for RAG rating and direction of travel status has been clarified and is included below. The rationale for any variations to this will be clearly highlighted within the commentary.

Key to symbols used in tables

	Red; Indicator is performing significantly (>5%) below target		Getting worse; This indicator has worsened when compared to previous period
	Amber; Indicator is performing slightly (<5%) below target		Stable; Indicator value has changed by less than 1% when compared to previous period
	Green; Indicator is on track or performing above target		Getting better; This indicator has improved when compared to previous period

Bold measures are included in the Greater Manchester Strategy outcomes framework and/or suite of 'headline' measures included in Corporate Report
Data in italics is provisional / forecast

Priority 1: Delivering new regeneration, jobs, homes and infrastructure (*shared with Sustainable Stockport Portfolio*)

Focusing on public transport and sustainable transport

Following successful announcements, work continues at pace to progress work on the proposed new train station at Cheadle and to develop proposals for the redevelopment of Stockport Station.

Work has also been ongoing to support the work of an Economy and Regeneration Scrutiny Panel looking at bus and rail services. Information was provided on the impact of Covid-19 on public transport services and patronage, and on the ongoing Manchester Recovery Taskforce consultation on rail timetabling.

A consultation response was submitted on behalf of the council and support was given to the GM-wide submission drafted by TfGM. A consultation response has also been submitted to the recent consultation on Bus Reform. Since the submission, a decision has been taken by the GM Mayor to progress with the preferred bus franchising solution.

Work also continues via the council comms team to support wider TfGM messaging in relation to public transport use following the opening of non-essential retail on the 12th April.

Improving social infrastructure around the borough - libraries, schools, parks etc.

In preparing the Local Plan and working with communities on neighbourhood plans, the council is seeking to meet the social infrastructure needs of the borough. It is working across various services to identify those needs and the appropriate policies mechanisms to assist in meeting them.

The council continues to apply the relevant policies to planning applications to ensure delivery of social infrastructure as appropriate to meet the needs of communities.



Focusing on creating opportunities for job creation and growth

The successful stage 1 announcement on the Cheadle Town Fund has allocated potential funding for a proposed station at Cheadle but also funding to assist with the development of an Eco-Park scheme for around 100,000 square feet of light industrial/engineering/green technology at Birdhall Lane. This is subject to full business case approval but could potentially deliver an exemplar innovative employment hub for up to 200 people.

Following the successful completion of the c.62,000 square foot office building for Phase 3 of Stockport Exchange and letting interest, the council and Muse are embarking on Phase 4 which will comprise c.64,000 square foot alongside a 400 space multi storey car park. The council have secured £4.2m of Getting Building Fund grant from the Government and a planning application is being prepared for submission in June.


The council has been working closely with Glenbrook who are redeveloping the former M&S into office space in the town centre. Depending on configurations this could be up to 64,000 square feet of floorspace. This scheme was also successful in securing Getting Building Fund grant, in this case £3.5m to bring the redevelopment forward. First drawdown of the grant monies was in March 2021. Completion of the redevelopment is scheduled for early 2022. Depending on occupational densities, it could provide up to 500 jobs.

Measuring Performance and Reporting Progress

Council Measure								
PI Code	Short Name	Good Performance	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21			
			Actual	Actual	Actual	Target	Status	Trend
E&R1.1	Percentage of occupied managed workspace and incubator floor space actively managed for start-up/micro-businesses	High	94.0%	93.0%	86.0%	83.0%		


Stockport Business and Innovation Centre (SBIC) and Merchants House both remained open during 2020/21 in support of tenants that were operating in key sectors. This, and the range of government grants awarded to tenants, enabled centres to maintain a good level of occupancy – although lower than forecast prior to the pandemic. SBIC lost a small number of key tenants but is working to bring occupancy levels to above 90% in Quarter 1 of 2021/22 and will further promote its virtual office offer to small businesses based in residential premises. Merchants House remained at 100% occupancy throughout 2020/21.

SBIC also offers meeting and conference space which was severely impacted during the year with income for this service reduced by almost 75%. Recovery of this service is expected from September 2021.






PI Code	Short Name	Good Performance	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21			
			Actual	Actual	Actual	Target	Status	Trend
E&R1.2	Square feet of office, retail and industrial space let or sold to new occupiers - All	High	595,853	477,942	474,470	No target set	-	




Reported commercial, industrial and retail sales and lettings remained at a similar level in 2020/21 in comparison with the previous year. Sales and lettings throughout the year included 344,000 square feet of Industrial space, 82,000 square feet of office and 48,000 square feet of retail space.

Sales and lettings in Quarter 4 included 10,000 square feet let to DSG Financial services at Hercules Office Park, 7,000 square feet of industrial space in Bredbury let to Element Games Ltd and 6,500 square feet of offices in Cheadle let to the British School of Watchmakers.

PI Code	Short Name	Good Performance	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21			
			Actual	Actual	Actual	Target	Status	Trend
E&R1.3	Number of full-time equivalent jobs created in relation to floor space let or sold to new occupiers – year to date	High	1,155	1,160	1,343	No target set	-	

The estimated number of jobs created as a result of commercial sales and lettings in 2020/21 totalled 1,343, of which 258 were created in Quarter 4. In addition, an estimated 188 jobs were safeguarded as a result of employers relocating within the borough.

PI Code	Short Name	Good Performance	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21			
			Actual	Actual	Actual	Target	Status	Trend
E&R1.4	Square feet of office, retail and industrial space let or sold to new occupiers in Stockport Town Centre	High	126,916	99,271	59,092	No target set	-	
Despite a difficult year for the town centre, almost 20,000 square feet of space is reported to have been let or sold Stockport in Town Centre during Quarter 4 and almost 60,000 square feet over the year. This quarter's figures include the move of Aimteq/WEMS to Acorn Business Park (5,000 square feet), and 1,100 square feet retail unit in Merseyway let to clothing retailer Streetwear Direct. Also, a 2,000 square foot unit on St Petersgate was let to Stockport Gin following a successful change of use application.								
PI Code	Short Name	Good Performance	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21			
			Actual	Actual	Actual	Target	Status	Trend
E&R1.5	% of occupied retail, commercial & business premises within the Stockport Town Centre	High	73.3%	74.6%	73.9%	75.0%		
The latest survey carried out in April 2021 found that 73.9% of town centre premises were occupied, a slight decrease from November 2020 (Quarter 3). It is worth noting that during this period Sainsbury's closed their town centre branch, however, new openings in recent months include German Doner Kebab (opposite Peel Centre), Pepe's Piri Piri (Princes Street) and StreetWear Direct (Merseyway). There are a number of retail properties in the Market & Underbanks area that are in the processing of being let/sold with tenants commencing fit out ahead of opening in the summer.								
PI Code	Short Name	Good Performance	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21			
			Actual	Actual	Actual	Target	Status	Trend
E&R1.6	Number of independent businesses in Stockport Town Centre.	High	291	304	316	305		
The latest survey carried out in April 2021 found that the number of independents has declined slightly (from 318 in the November survey) but has exceeded our forecast target for the year. Despite the challenges for retail, a range of new independents have opened up during the last three months including Still Life Story in Merseyway and Underbank Studios.								

PI Code	Short Name	Good Performance	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21			
			Actual	Actual	Actual	Target	Status	Trend
E&R1.7	% of occupied retail, commercial & business premises within the borough's district centres.	High	93.3%	93.1%	92.8%	93.0%		
<p>The Local Data Company surveys the eight local district surveys annually and the 2020/21 surveys were undertaken at various points during the year. Across the district centres, occupancy appears to have remained relatively stable, with 92.8% of units occupied. The most recent figures for each district are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reddish 95%; Romiley 95.1%; Cheadle 91.2%; Cheadle Hulme 88.8% (collected November 2020). • Hazel Grove 88.3%; Marple 94.6%; Bramhall 93.3% (collected October 2020) • Edgeley 95.9% (collected June 2020). 								
PI Code	Short Name	Good Performance	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21			
			Actual	Actual	Actual	Target	Status	Trend
E&R1.8 (NEW)	Footfall in the Business Improvement District (BID) area.	High	Not Available	10,051,519	4,069,206	No target set	-	
<p>As expected, due to lockdown and only essential retailers allowed to open, footfall during Quarter 4 was low, a decline of 70% compared to the same period last year. Overall footfall in the town centre during 2020/21 was 60% less than it was during 2019/20. This is in-line with national trends.</p>								

Priority 2: Shaping the future (*shared with Sustainable Stockport Portfolio*)

2040 GM Transport Strategy and Delivery Plan and District Local Implementation Plan

The 2040 GM Transport Strategy and Delivery Plan, and Stockport Local Implementation Plan were completed and endorsed by Cabinet and then by the GMCA in December 2020.

Clean air plan measure by meeting air quality standards 2024

The consultation findings of the draft plan have been considered and the policy is in the process of being updated to reflect the findings. The council is in the process of augmenting the transport for Greater Manchester equality impact assessment with a Stockport based appendices. It is expected that the final plan and related documents will be submitted for approval in summer 2021.

GMSF and Local Plan

In December 2020 the council determined not to continue working to develop the GMSF. Consequently, the council is now pursuing a Local Plan for the borough which will seek to address development needs and other spatial issues through to 2038. The Local Plan will seek to put in place the necessary allocations, designations and policies to continue the prioritisation of regeneration and the focus on wider community benefits.

An updated Stockport Local Development Scheme was published in March 2021 setting out the timetable for this process. It is available at www.stockport.gov.uk/lds.

Support for businesses to respond to the immediate crisis and prepare for economic restructuring

Covid business support grants have been administered by the council and passed on to business with circa £92m of support so far, through roughly 16,500 payments.

The council's Economic Recovery Fund Additional Restrictions Grants are now live and further ongoing financial support for businesses to restart and rebuild their trading is in place.



MDC (Mayoral Development Corporation) infrastructure programme

Delivery of the first phase of new homes in Town Centre West progressed on schedule through Quarter 4 2020/21. The St Thomas' Gardens development received planning consent in March and work continues on the Weir Mill scheme prior to an anticipated planning decision in September. In February, the council approved developing a Phase 4 of the successful Stockport Exchange scheme to deliver a further 64,000 square feet of office space and a 400 space multi-story car park. A planning application is being prepared.



To support the next phase of delivery, the MDC prepared a detailed multi-partner investment framework during Quarter 4 which will be submitted to Scrutiny and Cabinet in June.

Measuring Performance and Reporting Progress

Partnership Measures

PI Code	Short Name	Good Performance	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21			
			Actual	Actual	Actual	Target	Status	Trend
E&R2.1	Number of breaches of planning control discovered as a percentage of complaints received.	Low	41.5%	49.5%	43.6%	45.0%		

Though number of complaints received (583) and number of breaches (254) both increased in Quarter 4, the annual target has been achieved.

PI Code	Short Name	Good Performance	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21			
			Actual	Actual	Actual	Target	Status	Trend
E&R2.2	Percentage of planning control breaches where formal action was taken.	Low	16.0%	6.0%	6.3%	8.0%		

Of these 254 breaches, 16 necessitated formal action. Due to greater flexibility given during lockdown there has been a further reduction this quarter in the number of cases where formal action has been taken. It is likely however that in 2021/22, when the more flexible approach applied during lockdown is now longer available, the incidence of formal action will increase.

Priority 3: Good Growth

Support businesses to grow and invest further with a focus on digital

Stockport has successfully delivered most of its part of the GM Local Full Fibre Broadband project with all of the funding contribution from DCMS being achieved. Final sites will be connected by August 2021.

Funding has been secured for the digital incubator space in Merseyway to be developed by March 2023.

Work is continuing on the Living Well Centre project with funding secured for training the new staff.

We will support employers to recruit local people and join up all our skills and employment provision (including through the work and skills board)

Officers are supporting the delivery of schemes in Stockport that provide employability support through partners such as Job Centre Plus and Ingeus.

A new piece of work is being commissioned to produce an economic plan for the borough following the development of the One Stockport approach through the pandemic. This plan will review the purpose and structure of the Work and Skills Board to refresh it and to give it a new focus and drive in relation to the issues and priorities that are emerging from the pandemic.

Stockport Jobs Match continues to thrive and grow as it increases the number of jobs, employers, job seekers and training providers that are registered on it and making use of it following the successful upgrade of the system using funding bid for from GMCA. March 2021 was the best month yet with:

- 50% increase in website traffic - 2,159 more people used the Jobs Match website in March than December.
- Daily advertisements reached a peak of 5,830 daily jobs by the end of the month (compared to 4,107 in February).

Jobseeker activity levels have also risen, with applications almost 20% higher than last month.

The number of vacancies advertised continued to rise in March (up from around 22,000 in February), reflecting increased employer confidence as we emerge from lockdown. Towards the end of the month, there was a notable increase in retail and hospitality jobs, with a peak of 5,800 daily jobs advertised.

In line with the increased job vacancy levels, jobseeker activity is also starting to rise. Total job views increased by 10% and job applications by almost 20%. Of the 991 applications submitted this month, 14% were direct applications compared to 10% last month - showing a preference to apply in fewer clicks.

We have made progress with Kickstart scheme in Stockport with the first 47 applications for jobs with employers being approved and recruitment starting for them. The employers have been pleased with the calibre of young people being put forward by partners in Job Centre Plus.

Additional funding has been provided by the Government for the Restart and Job Entry Targeted Support (JETS) employment programmes to support those who will find it even more challenging to gain employment under the conditions created by the pandemic. The local programme for Stockport has been awarded to Ingeus, a well-established partner for the Working Well Programme that we have good experience of working with. Officers have arranged to meet the delivery team at Ingeus to coordinate a successful launch and referral pathways for the Stockport programme.

Develop a broader framework for community wealth building and inclusive growth

Work on promoting Community Wealth Building and the GM Good Employment Charter has been limited by the impact of the pandemic.


Links to the Community Wealth Building principles have been included in email communications to businesses about their Covid grant applications to engage them in the work.

The planning application for Bredbury Gateway was refused by the Planning and Highways Committee so the additional employment land for light industrial and logistics has not been made available.


Stockport Jobs Match is organising and delivering virtual jobs fair activity with a targeted focus on particular sectors. The first event focused on health and social care and was well attended by employers in the sector and potential candidates with 24 people applying for vacancies. We are waiting for an update on how many of the 24 applicants were successful in securing posts and we will provide a further update on this work in the next quarter.

Measuring Performance and Reporting Progress


Partnership Measures

PI Code	Short Name	Good Performance	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21			
			Actual	Actual	Actual	Target	Status	Trend
E&R3.1 (NEW)	Number of young people employed via Stockport Steps to Work and/or Kickstart	High	Not collected	Not collected	38	27		-

The figure represents jobs approved by the DWP, some have now been recruited to, with others in the process of being recruited to.

PI Code	Short Name	Good Performance	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21			
			Actual	Actual	Actual	Target	Status	Trend
E&R 3.2 (NEW)	Number of people supported by Adult Education Budget Local Grant funding secured to support participation, ESOL and Digital skills.	High	Not collected	Not collected	238	130		-





The timescales for funding from GMCA meant no outcomes were possible until Quarter 4. The figure represents both referrals to providers via Stockport Jobs Match (to increase awareness of skills courses), and people supported through the Continuing Education funding for Digital support.


PI Code	Short Name	Good Performance	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21			
			Actual	Actual	Actual	Target	Status	Trend
E&R 3.3 (NEW)	Youth Employment Hub	High	Not collected	Not collected	15	250		-

The measure shows the number of clients supported through the Youth Employment and Career Pathway Hub located within the Apprenticeship Store. The impact of this initiative was severely curtailed by the lockdown that started in January, meaning only virtual provision could be offered, with take-up limited. Face-to-face provision has restarted in April, with numbers increasing as a result.



PI Code	Short Name	Good Performance	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21			
			Actual	Actual	Actual	Target	Status	Trend
E&R 3.4 (NEW)	Employment & Skills Agreements	High	Not collected	Not collected	-	90%	-	-

This new measure shows the % of positive outcomes achieved compared to that asked for through Employment and Skills Agreements. Though there are currently no live Employment & Skills Agreements, there are agreements being drawn up for upcoming developments such as Stockport Exchange Phase 4 and Merseyway.




PI Code	Short Name	Good Performance	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21			
			Actual	Actual	Actual	Target	Status	Trend
E&R3.5	Working Well (Work & Health Programme): Percentage of forecast work-related outcomes in Stockport achieved	High	99.0%	65.0%	46.0%	No target set	-	
The Quarter 3 data is a GM figure, as individual local authority figures currently unavailable (no Quarter 4 data is available yet). The levels of earnings outcomes on this programme are considerably down as a result of the impact on jobseekers of the pandemic – this is reflected nationally in the Work & Health Programme.								
PI Code	Short Name	Good Performance	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21			
			Actual	Actual	Actual	Target	Status	Trend
E&R3.6	Working Well Early Help – number of referrals to the programme (cumulative).	High	Not collected	235	868	No target set	-	
This measure has now been amended to include all referrals to the scheme, not just those from GPs. The figures are cumulative referrals since the start of the programme, and Stockport continues to have very high referral levels relative to other GM areas.								
PI Code	Short Name	Good Performance	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21			
			Actual	Actual	Actual	Target	Status	Trend
E&R3.7	Number of Stockport residents starting apprenticeships	High	2,170	1,700	-	No target set	-	
The 2020/21 academic year apprenticeships data is expected from Government in December 2021. The 2019/20 Academic Year (Aug 19-Jul 20) data has now been published and shows a continuing drop in the number of apprenticeships starts to a figure of 1,700. This is in line with national trends. The drop in 2019/20 (and also likely for 2020/21) has been exacerbated by the impact on recruitment of the pandemic. Wage incentive schemes are in place to incentivise apprenticeship recruitment by employers nationally.								
Provisional data to January 2021 (for August 2020-January 2021 starts) shows a figure of 920 starts of Stockport residents. This represents the first six months of the academic year.								
PI Code	Short Name	Good Performance	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21			
			Actual	Actual	Actual	Target	Status	Trend
E&R3.8	Percentage of unemployed 18-24 year-olds in the borough.	Low	3.5%	4.8%	10.9%	No target set	-	
The figure for March claimants has levelled at 10.9%, a total of 2,065 people aged 18-24. This reflects the particular impact of the pandemic on younger jobseekers.								

PI Code	Short Name	Good Performance	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21			
			Actual	Actual	Actual	Target	Status	Trend
E&R3.9	Percentage unemployed overall (16-64).	Low	2.2%	3.0%	6.0%	No target set	-	

The claimant rate in March was a total of 10,730 residents. Some further rise is expected later in the year as the furlough scheme ends.



PI Code	Short Name	Good Performance	March 2019	June 2020	Target	Status	Trend
GMS	Percentage of working age population employed	High	62.0%	60.3%	Aim to maximise		

Stockport's in-work population mirrors that of GM (also 60.3%), although the proportion has reduced since 2019, whereas GM has increased slightly. Both are 1.5% below the national average. The effects of the pandemic have yet to impact fully on this measure.



PI Code	Short Name	Good Performance	Jan 2019	June 2020	Trend
GMS	Working age employment rate for: (a) Residents from ethnic minorities; (b) Residents with a disability; (c) Residents aged 50-64.	High	a) 66.1% b) 59.1% c) 76.5%	a) 67.8% b) 57.6% c) 69.1%	a)  b)  c) 

Stockport continues to have higher employment rates than GM for both residents from black and minority ethnic groups and those with a disability. There was a slight reduction in the latter since 2019, but both remain above the national average.



The employment rate for older people in Stockport has fallen by 6,500 since 2019 and is now slightly below the GM average and 4% below the national average.

PI Code	Short Name	Good Performance	Dec 2018	Dec 2019	Target	Status	Trend
E&R3.1 GMS	Percentage of working age population with qualifications below Level 2	Low	19.1%	21.1%	Aim to minimise		

Slightly more of Stockport's working age population have qualifications below level 2, up from 19.1% in 2018. This remains significantly lower than the GM figure and target of 24.6%.


PI Code	Short Name	Good Perform-ance	Dec 2018	Dec 2019	Target	Status	Trend
GMS	Percentage of working age population with Level 3 as highest level of qualification	High	19.6%	17.0%	Aim to maximise		

The percentage of working age residents with Level 3 as the highest qualification has fallen from 19.6% in 2018. There has been a smaller fall in GM from 17.7% to 16.8%, and Stockport remains slightly above GM and national averages.

PI Code	Short Name	Good Perform-ance	Dec 2018	Dec 2019	Target	Status	Trend
E&R3.11	Percentage of working age population with Level 4+ qualifications	High	41.3%	45.3%	Aim to maximise		



There was an increase of 4% from the 2018 position of 41.3% and Stockport remains significantly ahead of both the GM (36.6%) and national averages.

Contextual Measures








PI Code	Short Name	Good Performance	2018	2019	Trend
E&R3.12 GMS	Percentage of jobs earning above the Real Living Wage (RLW)	High	73.2%	85.7%	

Having been significantly below the GM and national average on this measure, Stockport is now ahead of both with an increase from 73.2% in 2018. This may be due to more highly skilled jobs being brought into the borough with the opening of Stockport Exchange and other developments, alongside a focus on ensuring employers pay the RLW.

The Stockport Work and Skills Commission continues to promote payment of the living wage alongside identifying and addressing the issues for Stockport businesses which may deter them, alongside the GM Mayor's Good Employer Charter. Paying Real Living Wage rates is one way that suppliers to the council can demonstrate Social Value, and this is highlighted during the procurement process.

PI Code	Short Name	Good Perform-ance	2018	2019	Target	Status	Trend
E&R3.13 GMS	Median earnings.	High	£25,073	£25,829	Aim to maximise		

Median earnings in Stockport remain higher than those across GM (£23,487) and national average (£25,118) and have increased from £25,073 in 2017.

PI Code	Short Name	Good Perform-ance	2017	2018	Target	Status	Trend	
GMS	Gross Value Added (GVA) per job.	High	£48,136	£48,161	Aim to maximise			
GVA has risen very slightly in Stockport but was overtaken by the GM figure which increased from £45k to over £50k in 2018, driven largely by Manchester, Salford and Trafford. Stockport and GM both remain significantly below the national average of £57,290 per job.								
PI Code	Short Name	Good Perform-ance	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21			
			Actual	Actual	Actual	Target	Status	Trend
E&R3.14	Business start-up survival rates after 3 years (%).	High	61.5% (2017)	57.0% (2018)	49.2% (2019)	No target set	-	
Figures are collated annually from the IDBR national database, published on 17th Nov 2020. The data shows that of the 1,850 new businesses started in Stockport in 2016, 49.2% (910) were still operating in 2019, i.e. 49.2% had survived three years.								
Although the percentage survival rate has declined since 2017, the actual numbers of businesses surviving is similar. For example, in 2015, there were 1,675 new businesses created, of which 955 were still operating in 2018. In 2014 there were 1,495 new businesses, of which 920 were still operating in 2017.								
PI Code	Short Name	Good Perform-ance	2017	2018	Target	Status	Trend	
E&R3.15 GMS	Business start-ups pa per 10,000 working age population	High	81.0	84.8	Aim to maximise			
Business start-ups in Stockport continue to be significantly below the GM figure, although the gap is closing. More recent data on occupancy levels at the Stockport Business & Innovation Centre remain high, suggesting the number of business start-ups will continue to increase. It is, however, likely that these will have been impacted by Covid-19 restrictions during 2020/21.								
PI Code	Short Name	Good Perform-ance	2017	2018	Target	Status	Trend	
E&R3.16 GMS	Number of enterprises per 10,000 working age residents	High	748	738	Aim to maximise			
Local data suggests that, whilst the number of enterprises per 10,000 working age residents fell slightly in 2018, it remains above the GM figure at 738.								

2. ECONOMY AND REGENERATION FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND MONITORING



2.1 Revenue – Cash limit

Budget at Outturn

	Previously Reported (Q3) £000	Increase (Reduction) £000	Outturn Budget £000
Cash Limit	2,065	0	2,065

There have been no budget changes since Quarter 3.

Outturn Position

The Economy & Regeneration Portfolio has finished the year with a deficit of £0.421m, which is 20.402% of the portfolio budget. This deficit relates to Covid-19 associated costs and lost income, most significantly in the areas of Planning and Building Control.

2.2 Earmarked Reserves

Most earmarked reserves are held at a corporate level and services produce a business case to drawdown funds, which is approved through Corporate Leadership Team and Members. This strategic approach is designed to provide financial resilience for the council and to ensure that council reserves are used on an invest-to-save basis and to support council priorities. The exceptions to this are ringfenced reserves and the Directorate Flexibility Reserve.

The table below reflect the current balances in reserves. The planned use of these reserves will form part of the annual in year review of the council's reserves policy, aligned to 2021/22 financial planning and anticipated commitments.

Transfer from reserves:

Reserve Category	Reserve Narration	To be used for	Balance of Reserve / "Approved Use" £000	Planned use of Reserves / "Approved Use" 2020/21 £000	Balance of Reserve / "Approved Use" £000
Directorate Reserves					
Directorate Reserve	Directorate Flexibility Reserve - Place	Detailed Feasibility Study for ERDF funding	3	0	3

Corporate Reserves					
Strategic Priority Reserve	Capital Programme Investment Reserve	Interchange	5,479	8	5,471
Strategic Priority Reserve	Infrastructure Investment Reserve	To part fund GM Full Fibre Network Programme (capital scheme)	740	395	345
Strategic Priority Reserve	Capital Investment Reserve - Town Centre & District Schemes	SEMMMS Refresh - feasibility/design - New Study Station	15	15	0
Strategic Priority Reserve	Capital Investment Reserve - Town Centre & District Schemes	SEMMMS Refresh - feasibility/design - Change Here: Next Gen Metro	80	80	0
Strategic Priority Reserve	Capital Investment Reserve - Town Centre & District Schemes	SEMMMS Refresh - feasibility/design - Cycling and Walking	3	3	0
Strategic Priority Reserve	Capital Investment Reserve - Town Centre & District Schemes	SEMMMS Refresh - feasibility/design - A34 Strategic Corridor	16	16	0
Strategic Priority Reserve	Capital Investment Reserve - Town Centre & District Schemes	Weir Mill	293	153	140
Strategic Priority Reserve	Capital Investment Reserve - Town Centre & District Schemes	Residential Design Guide	8	1	7
Strategic Priority Reserve	Capital Investment Reserve - Town Centre & District Schemes	Town Centre West Greek Street Railway Bridge	50	33	17
Strategic Priority Reserve	Capital Investment Reserve - Town Centre & District Schemes	Legal Capacity	20	20	0
Strategic Priority Reserve	Capital Investment Reserve - Town Centre & District Schemes	District Centres	59	8	51

Strategic Priority Reserve	Capital Investment Reserve - Town Centre & District Schemes	HS2 Growth Review	37	0	37
Strategic Priority Reserve	Capital Investment Reserve - Merseyway	Addlington Walk Schemes	4,179	359	3,820
Strategic Priority Reserve	Capital Investment Reserve - Merseyway	Refronting	294	0	294
Strategic Priority Reserve	Capital Investment Reserve - Merseyway	Mersey Square	265	61	204
Strategic Priority Reserve	Capital Investment Reserve - Merseyway	Merseyway Public Realm match funding	1,023	0	1,023
		Total	12,564	1,152	11,412

2.3 Portfolio Savings Programme

Proposal	Risk Rating	Value £000	Value Achieved	Additional Information
Fees & Charges Savings	Green	40	40	This has been achieved
Total		40		

Risk rating

Green – good confidence (90% plus) the saving is/will be delivered or minor variances (<£0.050m) that will be contained within the portfolio.

Amber – progressing at a reasonable pace, action plan being pursued may be some slippage across years and/or the final position may also be a little unclear.

Red – Significant issues arising, or further detailed consultation required which may be complex/contentious.

2.4 Capital Finance Update and Outlook

Programme

Expenditure as at 31 Mar 2021 £000	Scheme	2020/21 Programme £000	2021/22 Programme £000	2022/23 Programme £000
	<u>Highways</u>			
	<u>Capital Asset Maintenance</u>			
497	Street Lighting	497	526	0
9,045	Highways Investment Programme	9,045	13,355	6,647
336	Highways Drainage	336	468	150
1,884	Pothole and Highway Maintenance Improvements Programme	1,884	488	0
474	Highways Structures	474	913	0
(73)	Town Centre Structures A6 Viaduct	(73)	0	0
1,618	Town Centre Structures Merseyway	1,618	340	1,882
258	Flood Risk Management	258	417	0
429	Flood Damage Infrastructure Programme	429	853	0
	<u>Asset Development & Improvement Schemes</u>			
1,147	SEMMMS Relief Road	1,147	2,995	2,430
3,560	Town Centre Access Plan	3,560	995	0
2,986	Poynton Relief Road	2,986	6,536	2,655
23	Interchange Bridge	23	157	0
609	Roscoe Roundabout	609	105	0
3,893	Mayoral Walking & Cycling Challenge Fund	3,893	10,855	98
100	Mayoral Walking & Cycling Challenge Fund - Interchange	100	3,300	5,991
500	Mayoral Walking & Cycling Challenge Fund - Safer Streets	500	0	0
179	Active Travel Measures	179	766	0
556	A34 MRN OBC Preparation	556	201	0
496	LTP and SEMMMS Integrated Transport	496	1,182	0
88	District Centres	88	750	0
248	Cheadle Town	248	327	0
86	Road Safety Near Schools	86	194	0
33	Road Safety	33	343	0
148	PROW	148	370	0
	<u>Planning-related Schemes</u>			
445	Section 278 and Section 106 schemes	445	800	800
	<u>Other Highway Programmes</u>			
111	Studies and Transport Minor Schemes	111	191	0
4	Air Quality Grant	4	92	0
0	Other	0	2	0
29,680	Highways sub-total	29,680	47,521	20,653

	Non-highways			
2,231	Stockport Exchange (Phase 3)	2,231	384	0
460	Redrock Development Scheme	460	513	0
0	Aurora Stockport (formerly Gorsey Bank)	0	23	0
278	Markets and Underbanks	278	839	1,851
1	Swann Lane (The Coach House)	1	150	0
469	Merseyway Development	469	846	8,313
301	One Stockport Hub	301	49	0
1,263	GM Local Full Fibre Network Programme	1,263	345	0
30	Solar PV Schemes	30	928	636
5,565	Weir Mill	5,565	949	0
146	Digital Advertising Screens	146	10	0
167	Care Academy	167	0	0
(394)	Stockport Exchange Acquisitions	(394)	0	0
7	Stockport Exchange (Phase 4)	7	3,547	11,326
10,524	Non-highways sub-total	10,524	8,583	22,126
40,204	TOTAL	40,204	56,104	42,779

Resources

Resources	2020/21 £000	2021/22 £000	2022/23 £000
Capital Grants	21,781	30,768	15,642
Directly Funded Borrowing	8,410	8,444	13,858
Unsupported Borrowing	8,061	14,143	7,177
Capital Receipts	1	150	0
External Contributions	488	258	0
Commutated Sums	0	800	800
Revenue Contributions (RCCO)	1,463	1,541	5,302
TOTAL	40,204	56,104	42,779

Programme Amendments – Rephasing

Scheme	2020/21 £000	2021/22 £000	2022/23 £000	Funding Source	Reason
Street Lighting	(16)	526	0	Capital Grant	Rephasing and new funding allocation
Highways Investment Programme	(529)	529	0	Capital Grant/USB	Rephasing
Highways Drainage	(18)	168	0	Capital Grant/USB	Rephasing and new funding allocation
Pothole and Highway Maintenance Improvements Programme	(526)	488	0	Capital Grant	Programme virement and rephasing

Highways Structures	(264)	913	0	Capital Grant	Rephasing and new funding allocation
Town Centre Structures A6 Viaduct	(73)	0	0	Capital Grant	Programme virement
Town Centre Structures Merseyway	(339)	(1,543)	1,882	Cap. Grant/ RCCO/ DFB	Rephasing
Flood Risk Management	6	417	0	Capital Grant	Programme virement and new funding allocation for the programme
Flood Damage Infrastructure Programme	(605)	853	0	Cap. Grant/ RCCO	Rephasing and new funding allocation
SEMMMS Relief Road	(624)	(392)	547	Capital Grant	Rephasing
Town Centre Access Plan	45	(40)	0	RCCO/ Ext. Cont.	Rephasing and new funding allocation
Poynton Relief Road	(1,834)	1,834	(3,812)	Capital Grant	Rephasing
Interchange Bridge	(160)	157	0	Capital Grant	Rephasing and funding adjustment
Roscoe Roundabout	45	(45)	0	USB	Rephasing
Mayoral Walking & Cycling Challenge Fund	(2,187)	2,009	98	Capital Grant/ Comm. Sum	Rephasing and programme virement
Mayoral Walking & Cycling Challenge Fund - Interchange	(741)	(7,270)	5,991	Capital Grant	Rephasing and programme virement
Active Travel Measures	(39)	766	0	Capital Grant	Funding reclassification and new funding allocation
A34 MRN OBC Preparation	61	201	0	Capital Grant/ RCCO	New funding allocations
LTP and SEMMMS Integrated Transport	(564)	942	0	Cap. Grant/ USB/ Comm. Sums/Ext. Cont./ RCCO	Rephasing, programme virement and new funding allocation
District Centres & Local Centres	18	518	0	Capital Grant	Rephasing and new funding allocation
Cheadle Town	(252)	327	0	Capital Grant/ USB	Rephasing, programme virement and new funding allocation
Road Safety Near Schools	37	63	0	Capital Grant	Rephasing and new funding allocation
Road Safety	(25)	343	0	Capital Grant	Rephasing and new funding allocation
PROW	17	370	0	Capital Grant/ USB	Rephasing, programme virement and new funding allocation
Section 278 and Section 106 schemes	(155)	(400)	(400)	Commuted Sums	Revised funding forecast
Studies and Transport Minor Schemes	8	191	0	Cap. Grant/ Ext. Cont.	New funding allocations
Air Quality Grant	(46)	46	0	Capital Grant	Rephasing
Car Parking	(2)	2	0	RCCO	Rephasing
Stockport Exchange (Phase 3)	209	(209)	0	DFB	Rephasing
Aurora Stockport (formerly Gorsey Bank)	(23)	23	0	DFB	Rephasing
Markets and Underbanks	56	(56)	0	DFB	Rephasing

Swann Lane (The Coach House)	1	(1)	0	Cap. Rec.	Rephasing
Merseyway Development	(266)	266	0	Various	Rephasing
One Stockport Hub	(49)	49	0	RCCO	Rephasing
GM Local Full Fibre Network Programme	(145)	145	0	RCCO	Rephasing
Solar PV Schemes	(57)	57	0	DFB/Grant	Rephasing
Weir Mill Development	(198)	198	0	DFB	Rephasing
Digital Advertising Screens	(10)	10	0	RCCO	Rephasing
Care Academy	167	0	0	Grant	Virement
Stockport Exchange Acquisitions	(394)	0	0	DFB/Ext Conts	Amend to Stockport Exchange scheme
Stockport Exchange Phase 4	7	3,547	11,326	DFB	New scheme
Total	(9,464)	6,002	15,632		

Progress against individual schemes

- **Street Lighting** - Programme completed as planned.
- **Highways Investment Programme** - There was a significant delay to the preventative programme due to the timing and impact of Covid-19 working restrictions. Those schemes will be pushed forward into future work programmes. Footways and carriageway schemes included in the reduced programme for 2020/21 have been completed as planned.
- **Highways Drainage** - Programme completed as planned.
- **Pothole and Highway Maintenance and Improvements Programme** - Highways Maintenance - All projects were completed or were substantially complete. Drainage Maintenance - four sites completed, two sites cancelled and one site still ongoing. Highways Structures – partially complete, with some schemes to be completed in next financial year. Drainage Flood Team – Two sites completed, one scheme to be completed next financial year. Neighbourhoods - Two sites complete / substantially complete and the third site will complete in mid-April. PROW - two sites are under construction, to complete April.
- **Highway Structures** - The programme includes the planned inspection and repair of the borough's bridges and retaining walls. At the end of Quarter 4:
 - 323 General Inspections were completed; and
 - 30 Principal Inspections were completed.

Storm Christophe has resulted in over 200 special inspections to check flood affected structures which has impacted on scheme delivery. COVID delayed works to scheme - design complete for repair schemes with works to be completed in Quarter 1 and 2 of the next financial year.
- **Town Centre Structures (Merseyway)** - Concrete repairs to the deck soffit and portal frames have continued. Improvement works to the mess facility and to provide safer access to the structure have continued. Detailed design work is progressing on the above ground and public realm aspects of the scheme. Design works are also progressing in collaboration with Regeneration to demolish 2 buildings on Deanery Way, to remove the central staircase on Merseyway and to introduce a new stairwell on Deanery Way South. Structural maintenance works were completed within the rear service yard.

- **Flood Risk Management & Flood Damage Infrastructure Programme** - Ongoing consultation and engagement regarding planning applications, residents' queries and minor investigation works. Programmed investigation works are to be progressed and will be funded as part of the Flood Risk Management Team Capital programme in 2021/22. Flood Event 2019 had a number of separate areas of spend with different spend profiles; some schemes are still outstanding at the end of March 2021.
- **SEMMMS Relief Road** - The road opened to traffic in October 2018. Post-construction activities are still progressing including: Woodford Rec surface water flood alleviation; Section 19 recommendations; utility accounts; road safety audit recommendations and accommodation work packages. The team is progressing the Part 1 Claims process and post-completion surveys, alongside monitoring and evaluation of the scheme.
- **Town Centre Access Plan** - The TCAP programme is now in its final phase. Construction works are progressing well. Further major highways improvements are ongoing, and these include:
 - Underbanks carriageway reconstruction substantially complete
 - Woodbank Park/Cow Lane footway surfacing complete
 - Heaton Lane works substantially complete; bus gate to be commissioned when the TRO has been advertised and approved.
- **Poynton Relief Road** - Poynton Relief Road (PRR) has been granted planning consent for a link from the A555 at Chester Road to the A523 at Adlington. It will start at a new arm on the Oil Terminal roundabout, will pass under Chester Road and have two farm accommodation / PROW bridges. It will cross the old Woodford runway and at the southern end have a new roundabout junction with links to the A523 and back into Poynton. Construction has recently started with site clearance works well underway. It is scheduled for completion in spring 2023.
- **Interchange Bridge and Highway Works** - The council is working in partnership with TfGM to deliver the new (bus) interchange, podium park, residential block and cycling & walking links including the bridgescape to Exchange and the Railway Station. Works are complete on Daw Bank to widen the southern footway for pedestrians. Design works for alterations to the highway required by the project are ongoing. Planning approvals for the new bridge to connect the podium park and Railway Station are ongoing.
- **Roscoe Roundabout** - All works are now complete, with the exception of the works to the M60 exit slip road. Highways England approval for works to the M60 slip road is currently being sought to allow the slip road works to be completed, expected in Quarter 1 of the 2021/22 financial year.
- **Mayoral Walking & Cycling Challenge Fund** - A number of schemes remain in development and business case preparation. Gillbent Road crossing has been substantially completed; A6 MARR links/Bramhall Park to A6 is under construction; and Heaton's Cycle link works is under construction. Some supply chain risks have been encountered due to Covid causing some delays.

A public engagement exercise for Active Neighbourhoods in Romiley and the Heaton's took place and analysis is underway prior to trials being installed in Summer 2021.

- **Mayoral Walking & Cycling Challenge Fund Safer Streets for All and DfT Emergency Active Transport Tranche 1** - Safer Streets programme completed as planned. Active Transport Tranche 1 has been completed. The Tranche 2 programme is due to commence in 2021/22.
- **A34 Major Route Network (Outline Business Case)** - Scheme development work including surveys, modelling and detailed design has been ongoing since the start of 2020/21. Preparation of the OBC is nearing completion, with submission to DfT planned for the early part of 2021/22 financial year.
- **LTP and SEMMMS Integrated Transport** - In 2020/21, this programme includes the continuation of the Highway Trees programme, upgrades to Bus Lanes along the A6 corridor, completion of complementary works relating to the A6MARR, and improvements to the highways and footways in Markets and Underbanks. The council is working with Cheshire East Council over the forthcoming Poynton Relief Road scheme. As part of the scheme, a package of mitigation measures is being implemented on Moss Lane, Bramhall to support the outcomes of the relief road. The council has received funding for these measures.
- **District Centres** - Consultation for improvements to local shopping centres on Gorton Road, North Reddish was completed earlier in the year. Development work has now been completed on the approved scheme, with construction to commence in 2021/22 financial year. Works at Hall Street, Offerton are complete.
- **Cheadle Town** – The programme of advanced works has been completed or substantially completed as planned.
- **Road Safety and Road Safety Around Schools** - Further development work has largely been put on hold due to the Covid-19 response and school closures. This has resulted in a delay to the Road Safety programme. These schools will be picked up in 2021/22 financial year alongside a further round of schools.
- **Public Rights of Way (PROW)** - Windy Bottom Farm scheme is now completed. Other scheme delivery was impacted by COVID and impact of January 2021 floods. Schemes will be progressed in 2021/22 financial year.
- **Section 278 and Section 106 schemes** - Several schemes are ongoing for highway improvement works as part of developments. Melford Road – detail design issued; St Thomas' - on hold; Porsche - waiting for developer contribution for the TROs; Richmond Road - works complete; Edward Street - waiting for the signed developer fee agreement; Pennine House - the developer has requested an amendment to the scheme.
- **Studies and Other Highway Programmes** - The council is working with TfGM on several studies and business cases, including those relating to the replacement of Greek Street Rail Bridge and the work of the GM Station Alliance.
- **Stockport Exchange Phase 3** - The office building constructed as part of Stockport Exchange Phase 3 (Number 2 Stockport Exchange) achieved practical completion in May 2020. Dressing of the reception area is now complete.

The BASF fit-out works are now complete, and they are in occupation of the 4th and 5th floors at No. 2 Stockport Exchange. Legals with O'Neill Patient are recommencing after being put on hold in 2020 and expected to complete shortly. Once complete only the first and ground floor will remain unlet. The council has recently received interest for two floors at Stockport Exchange. This interest will be directed towards the ground and first floors.

- **Redrock** - Redrock is the leisure scheme developed by the council that includes the successful Light Cinema as well as a gym and a range of food and beverage retailers. Expenditure represents final settlement of the Wates retention held by the council and the costs of repairs to the roof where water ingress had occurred around tenant services. With the remaining expenditure related to the letting on unit 3 to 'Afinyet Turkish Restaurant'. Costs programmed for 2021/22 represent capital contributions related to letting the remaining vacant units at the development.
- **Aurora** - The Aurora scheme (incorporating B1 light industrial space) is now complete, with the remaining allocation relating to retention payments/minor snagging works.
- **Markets & Underbanks** - The regeneration of this key area continues with several recent key successes.

Within the NLHF grant programme the extensive refurbishment of 13 Little Underbanks is now underway. Winters has been slightly delayed following the Covid-19 outbreak but is now underway and due to complete in July 2021.

These developments have been complemented by the extensive TCAP works that have recently completed and restored and enhanced the carriageway.

The exchange has now taken place with Hall & Co in respect to four sites. The Planning application for these sites has been submitted.

The council had a lease at 20th Century Stores, which terminated in December 2020. The licensee at 20th Century Stores has now signed the lease with the landlord and taken occupation of the property.

16a Market Place and 34-36 Bridge Street Brow are currently being marketed, with strong interest.

The White Lion has won 'Best Change of Use of an Existing Building' at the LABC awards and shortlisted for a Conservation & Regeneration Award at the North West Regional Construction Awards 2020. On the back of this success work is now underway with a prospective tenant who are developing their proposals.

Business interest also remains strong with several recent lettings and sales, further enhancing the vitality of this area.

- **Merseyway Development** - The council has an ongoing strategy to improve, manage and redevelop the centre in order to help diversify the uses and ensure Merseyway has a sustainable future, supporting the town's main high street and the wider town centre in a challenging retail environment.

Expenditure to date represents face-lifting works to Mersey Square, initial works to Adlington Walk and preparatory work for a number of regeneration projects focussed on delivering a more vibrant centre.

The Adlington Walk project was paused in March this year and the project was incorporated into the successful FHSF (Future Hight Streets Fund) bid to government.

It is likely that refurbishment works to the former BHS will take place in 2021/22.

- **One Stockport Hub** – The expenditure represents the creation of ‘One Stockport Hub’. The proposal is part of the response to the global public health emergency (Covid-19) that has required the council to reconsider how and where services to the public are provided. It involved provision of library services from a refurbished unit in the Merseyway Shopping Centre during the pandemic. Remaining costs for 2021/22 are for outstanding invoices and work to first floor staffing areas of the hub.
- **GM Local Full Fibre Network** - The council is working in partnership with the GMCA, TfGM and six GM local authorities to deliver the GM Local Full Fibre Programme which will provide state-of-the-art connections to over 1,300 public sector sites across GM through the provision of an optical ‘Dark’ full fibre network. It aims to have a transformational impact on digital infrastructure, which would lead to an increase of full fibre coverage from 2% now to around 25% within three years. Greater Manchester would then have the best high-speed digital infrastructure coverage of any city-region in the UK.

In Stockport the programme will connect 138 Corporate and Education sites to the full fibre network providing 1GB broadband to participating properties. It is part-funded by DCMS (Department for Culture, Media and Sport) (for costs incurred prior to end June 2021 up to £0.868m) and part funded by the council (£0.740m). Stockport Council has fully allocated the DCMS funding and is submitting a final funding claim in April 2021.

The programme has delivered the majority of sites (102) to completion and testing. The remainder of the programme is due to complete in Stockport by 30th June 2021, 6 months earlier than the original programme schedule.

The number of sites supported by the programme has reduced from 141 to 138 due to a selection of previously identified schools no longer requiring the service. In some cases, these have been replaced by new sites. Site changes have reduced the current expected overall cost of works by £0.007m.

- **Solar PV Schemes** - The Clean Energy Projects will see the installation of Solar PV and Solar Car Ports across several identified sites across the borough. All schemes are part ERDF funded with a match-funding element from the council. The schemes are currently scheduled, or in the planning stages and the first scheme is scheduled for completion for the end of 2021. All other schemes are to be complete by the end of 2022. Non-contestable costs for one project will be commissioned in the summer months of 2021 with most other costs being incurred in 2021/22, including contractors’ fees, the installation of roof mounted solar PV, EV car ports and associated infrastructure that will be procured.

- **Weir Mill** - Weir Mill is a key strategic site that has a prominent location in the MDC (Town Centre West) area, and it is adjacent to the new Interchange development. It is a large listed historic mill complex that had been mismanaged and was deteriorating with the current owner.

Homes England grant funding is secured against the building and a well-regarded North West developer has bought the site to redevelop. The council is providing a commercial loan facility to fund the scheme.

- **Digital Advertising Screens** - Following manufacturing delays created by the pandemic installation of the digital screens was delayed. The screen at Redrock was installed in July 2020 and the one in Merseyway in December 2020. Both screens have been used to show Covid-19 safety messaging and will continue to do so whilst considered necessary. Whilst it continues to be challenging for many businesses, enquiries and bookings for paid for advertising are continuing. Although we expect it will take a few months to secure income at the level forecast pre-Covid.

Along with generating additional revenue for the council, the screens will be used to stream live major events and films to help animate the public realm, increase dwell time and support the wider events programme for the town centre. These activities will be particularly important as part of Covid-19 Economic Recovery Plans.

Costs increased slightly due to changes in how the Merseyway screen was installed to ensure structural integrity is maintained and new electricity supplies were required at both Redrock and Merseyway.

Monies from future income streams that the screens will generate will fund the difference via the use of a Revenue Contribution to Capital Outlay (RCCO).

- **Care Academy** – Spend for Preliminary work for the Care Academy development of £0.167m was incurred in 2020/21. This was financed from the DFG grant (SS Portfolio). The overall scheme and phasing will be added to the capital programme in due course.
- **Stockport Exchange Phase 4** -The council and Muse have secured governance from their respective boards/Cabinet to progress with Phase 4, which will comprise a 400 space MSCP and 64,000sqft office. Unlike previous phases, Phase 4 will be funded from £3.500m equity from Muse/council, alongside £4.200m Getting Building Fund with the remainder funded by loan.

Design work is well underway, with the floorplates of the office and MSCP nearing completion and elevations being finalised in advance of planning submission targeted for June 2021. In addition to the £4.200m Getting Building Fund, the council has secured Evergreen and ERDF Clean Energy funding.

Improvements to the cycle network and junction improvements at Stockport Exchange are being further developed in advance of planning submission in June 2021.