



STOCKPORT
METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

Stockport
team
ambition
respect

Economy and Regeneration

Portfolio Performance and Resources Mid-Year Report 2021/22



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ONESTOCKPORT

Date:	November 2021	Version	1.0	Approved by	DM
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ECONOMY AND REGENERATION - PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW



Portfolio Summary

Since my last update, a lot has happened. Weir Mill has been approved and the Secretary of State is satisfied with the planning decision made, meaning development partners can now proceed. In addition, the old bus station is now a fond memory and work on Stockport Interchange is now pressing on in earnest, with the site cleared.



Meanwhile, a significant planning decision has been made that will further reinvigorate the Underbanks and contribute to all the work the council has done and is doing. Indeed, you may have seen that work on Winter's is progressing at pace and the famous clock has now been restored to its full glory. Bistro Marc at Winter's will open in the winter and it promises to be well worth a visit, acting as an anchor the rest of Underbanks will benefit hugely from.

You will be aware that our consultation on StockRoom and proposing to move library services from Central Library has now closed, with the reports accessible for elected members and residents to read and consider.

I am absolutely of the view that StockRoom is the right and necessary thing to do; it will create a brand-new cultural anchor in the heart of our town centre that will be more accessible, attract a new generation of library users, open-up culture to more people and bring a state-of-the-art facility that Stockport not only deserves, but needs.

StockRoom will ensure the town centre benefits more from the positives of culture-led regeneration, as outlined in the cabinet report, while also tackling the deep inequalities that are at the heart of our borough. StockRoom, coupled with the preferred option of using the Central Library building as the new home for the Adult Education Service (thereby aligning with Carnegie principles of using buildings to help give people the chance to improve their lives) represents a significant investment in the people of our borough. Bear in mind that within Stockport, we have at least 11,000 adults who struggle to read and write and therefore may struggle to access employment and other opportunities.

With the town centre set to welcome many more residents, coupled with our transition towards a town centre for communities and not just retail, it is also a much-needed piece of social infrastructure. Of course, there are the facilities linked to StockRoom, too, such as the Changing Places toilets and the Prayer Room: facilities that will help bring our town centre right up to date while supporting its accessibility.

Work on our Local Plan continues and officers, supported by comments from residents and elected members, are working hard to gather all the evidence necessary to create and put forward a plan that is right for Stockport: one that encourages development on our brownfield while mitigating the use of greenspace, such as the Greenbelt, as far as possible and within policies and expectations set out by government.

As we discussed at the last scrutiny meeting, work on our Economic Plan, which will be closely tied to the Borough and Local Plans, is continuing and the evidence base that will help shape it is now complete. Linking into this, our economic recovery campaign will be underway by the time of the next scrutiny meeting, which features Stockport's own Will Mellor and aims to rally residents in backing all the fantastic businesses we have in the borough: to shop, drink and think local.

Through the One Stockport campaign, which is going from strength-to-strength and becoming a recognised brand of its own, we will encourage residents to use and support their district centres and this also links into the work on the Economic Plan, coupled with the welcome work of the Economy and Regeneration Committee through its scrutiny review.

Cllr David Meller, Cabinet Member for Economy and Regeneration

Revenue Budget (Forecast)		Capital Programme	
	£000		
Cash Limit	2,209		
Forecast	2,209		
(Surplus)/Deficit	0		
Reserves			£000
Approved use of the Reserves balance is £8.771m.		2021/22 Capital Budget	67,906
Planned draw down at Quarter 2 is £0.354m (and		2022/23 Capital Budget	57,245
£0.496m capital).		2023/24 Capital Budget	24,178

ECONOMY AND REGENERATION

1. DELIVERING OUR PRIORITIES



This report is based on the **2021/22 Portfolio Agreement**, considered by the Economy and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee on 17th June and approved by Cabinet on 29th June 2021. 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**. This report reflects the picture as at the end of October where this is available.

Performance measures are reported where new data or forecasts are available since the Portfolio Agreement. Latest data across all measures is available via the Portfolio Dashboard and will be included in the Annual Report. These 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 has been 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. For those measures reported quarterly, a full-year forecast is included where possible, based on actual performance to date as well as any other factors that are expected to affect performance in future quarters.

The Portfolio Performance Dashboards are being launched alongside these reports, and the Economy and Regeneration Portfolio Dashboard can be [found here](#). This contains further historical trend data in addition to comparative data (where available) the latest of which relates to 2020/21.

The criteria for RAG rating and direction of travel status are shown 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; The forecast year-end position for this indicator is less favourable than the previous year-end.
	Amber; Indicator is performing slightly (<5%) below target		Stable; The forecast year-end position for this indicator is within 1% either side of the previous year-end.
	Green; Indicator is on track or performing above target		Getting better; The forecast year-end position for this indicator is more favourable than the previous year-end.

Bold measures are included in the Greater Manchester Strategy outcomes framework and/or suite of 'headline' measures included in Corporate Report.

Priority 1: Responding and recovering from the Covid-19 pandemic

Delivered by:

Working with the Economic Resilience Forum to help businesses recover from Covid-19

The Economic Resilience Forum continues to meet fortnightly to consider intelligence on Stockport businesses' recovery from the pandemic and what needs they have that the council can support or facilitate and enable others to meet.

The forum has assisted in the creation and promotion of the discretionary Covid business grant schemes administered by the council with £10.8 million of grant support being provided to over 2,000 businesses.

Stockport Jobs Match has been very successful in supporting local businesses to recruit and for residents to get into good work. Nearly 61,000 jobs per month are now being advertised through the site; 149 employers are registered with the site to promote their vacancies and 980 job seekers have registered their details.

The site has also been developed to showcase employers and their vacancies with streaming video information as well as careers advice and information on job roles for job seekers.

Supporting local business through One Stockport

The One Stockport campaign has promoted local businesses to residents and encouraged them to shop local and support independents. Campaigns have promoted the reopening of local district centres and encouraged people to adopt covid-safe behaviours as they return to public spaces.

Performance Measures and Targets

Though there are no measures associated specifically with this priority, virtually all of the measures set out in the subsequent four priorities will be useful indicators of the extent to which our local economy is recovering from the impact of the pandemic.

Priority 2: Delivering new regeneration, jobs, homes & infrastructure

Delivered by:

Progressing the Mayoral Development Corporation (MDC) through ambitious investment in our borough, in particular:

The **Weir Mill** scheme was approved by Planning and Highways Committee on 30th September and the developer (Capital & Centric) has appointed Sisk as construction contractor who will now work up the construction design during the remainder of this year. Construction works are now programmed to begin in February 2022.

The **Interchange** Park public engagement exercise on future use of the space ran during the summer and generated a positive response from the community. Demolition works have now begun on site and completion of the Interchange and Podium Park is anticipated in December 2023 with the residential block completing in July 2024.

Work to create a **new neighbourhood in Town Centre West** is continuing at pace. Investar, the developer of the 442-home Royal George Village scheme, continues to progress delivery of the scheme through summer and anticipates being on site with the first phase by late 2021 or early 2022. The St Thomas' Gardens scheme is moved forwards with council and Stockport Homes working closely with construction contractors. Finally, the assembly of an eight-acre development plot on King Street West with potential for approximately 1,100 new homes has now been completed and a prospectus showcasing the development opportunity has been produced and will be tested with the market over the coming months.

The economic assessment needed as a first part of the business case for **Metrolink** extension was put out to market during the summer and the work will begin in the new year. The assessment places Metrolink extension, along with the **redevelopment of Stockport Rail Station**, as part of the wider economic strategy for the city region. Design works for a first phase of redevelopment of Stockport Rail Station has been completed and overseen by a multi-agency rail industry working group and the chairs Network Rail. The first package of works relate to the concourse, underpass and platform works and the Thompson Street walking/cycling bridge replacement

Planning consent was granted for Phase 4 of **Stockport Exchange** in September and tendering for construction contractors is underway with start on site anticipated for January 2022. O'Neill Patient have now finalised their lease at No. 2 Stockport Exchange and have begun their fit out. Consultation on the new cycling and walking route from Edgeley through Stockport Exchange to the A6 took place during the summer, with planning for the scheme now being worked up.

The work to attract significant private sector and third-party public-sector **investment** into Stockport is progressing and is initially being linked to the eight-acre King Street West development opportunity in order to provide the market with confidence over initial deployment of capital and achievable returns.

Progressing major commercial development projects

Planning consent was granted in mid-September for the external façade changes to the **former BHS unit** and initial site set-up and elements of the enabling works are being progressed. Discussions with tenants continues to progress and have reached an encouraging position. Works are programmed to complete in time for an opening for Black Friday (late November) 2022.

Glenbrook are on site with their redevelopment of the **former M&S** building into Stok, an approximately 64,000 square foot office development in Stockport Town Centre. The construction contractor, City Build, have started work and completion is expected by March 2022. The scheme is supported by c.£3.5m from the Government's Getting Building Fund, with £3.4m having been drawn down by Glenbrook.

Feasibility and planning are underway for the Birdhall Lane Eco-Park as part of the £4.4m funding from Cheadle Towns Government Funding Board. This will help to create an exemplar low-carbon light-industrial eco-park employment hub to attract "green business" to Stockport.

Creating new innovation and business start-up space.



The Future High Street Fund scheme includes a new Merseyway Innovation Centre which is now progressing. This new space will provide accommodation for digital start-up businesses, as well as flexible space that will support cultural, community, heritage and education. This space is currently planned to be ready in 2023. Options for Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector partners to use vacant retail units are also being explored.

Proposed Cheadle Station

Following submission of a Town Investment Plan in 2020, the Cheadle Town Board was offered an allocation of the Government's Towns Fund in April 2021. This included funding towards a new station at Cheadle. This offer is subject to approval of a Full Business Case which is to be submitted in March 2022. A professional team has been appointed to take forward this business case, working in partnership with industry stakeholders.

Current work includes a further public consultation, which concluded on the 7th November. Interim findings show strong support for the station. Planning application drawings and documents are currently being drafted and rail timetable modelling is taking place to understand the likely frequency of service. Track and signalling requirements are also being assessed. A number of surveys have commenced including traffic, ecological assessments and tree surveys, and site conditions and constraints.

Measuring Performance and Reporting Progress

Council Measures								
PI Code	Short Name	Good Performance	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22			
			Actual	Actual	Forecast	Target	Status	Trend
E&R2.1	Percentage of occupied managed workspace and incubator floor space actively managed for start-up/micro-businesses	High	93.0%	86.0%	88%	90.0%		

Stockport Business and Innovation Centre (SBIC) and Merchants House continue to perform well following the pandemic, although conference income continues to be low. Occupancy at Merchants House remains at 100% and SBIC is currently at 86% (averaging 89% in the quarter). SBIC has 45 business tenants on-site and 13 virtual tenants of which 28% of SBIC tenants are creative/digital businesses. Merchants House is occupied by 10 businesses. Onsite Business innovation support has assisted 14 businesses to date in 2021/22.

Partnership Measures								
PI Code	Short Name	Good Performance	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22			
			Actual	Actual	Forecast	Target	Status	Trend
E&R2.2	Square feet of office, retail and industrial space let or sold to new occupiers.	High	477,942	474,470	-	No target set	N/A	-



The quarterly figures indicate that over 122,000 square feet of office, industrial and retail premises have been reported as let or sold in Stockport during the first six months of 2021/22. This figure is an underestimate, as not known all sales and lettings have been reported yet. No forecast has therefore been suggested this quarter – additional information in Quarter 3 should enable more informed forecasting.

PI Code	Short Name	Good Performance	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22			
			Actual	Actual	Forecast	Target	Status	Trend
E&R2.3	Number of full-time equivalent jobs created in relation to floor space let or sold to new occupiers.	High	1,160	1,343	-	No target set	N/A	-

An estimate of 237 jobs have been created due to business relocations from April to September. As with E&R2.2, this is likely to be an underestimate and no year-end forecast is provided this quarter.



PI Code	Short Name	Good Performance	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22			
			Actual	Actual	Forecast	Target	Status	Trend
E&R2.4	Square feet of office, retail and industrial space let or sold to new occupiers in Stockport Town Centre.	High	99,271	59,092	-	No target set	-	-

The quarterly figures indicate that almost 34,338 square feet of office, industrial and retail premises were reported let or sold during the first six months of 2021/22. This is likely to be an underestimate as not all sales and lettings have yet been reported and as with E&R2.2 and 2.3, no forecast is suggested this quarter.


PI Code	Short Name	Good Performance	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22			
			Actual	Actual	Forecast	Target	Status	Trend
E&R2.5	% of occupied retail, commercial & business premises within the Stockport Town Centre	High	74.6%	73.9%	75.0%	74.0%		

Covid has had a significant impact on the high street with many retailers experiencing huge challenges. Nationally several prominent retailers ceased trading ahead of reopening on 12th April. Pre-covid occupancy rates in Stockport Town Centre were increasing but given the difficulties many are experiencing, it is unlikely the rate of increase will be maintained; it is hoped however that as we continue our programme of investment in the town centre, occupancy rates can be maintained.

The recent survey carried out in early October 2021 found 74.9% of premises within the town centre were occupied, this is a welcome increase on April 2021 when 73.9% were occupied. The increase is encouraging and reflects several openings during the last six months on the Underbanks and lettings at Merseyway such as Still Life Story.

PI Code	Short Name	Good Performance	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22			
			Actual	Actual	Forecast	Target	Status	Trend
E&R2.6	Number of independent businesses in Stockport Town Centre.	High	304	316	320	320		

The number of independent businesses continues to increase (there were 318 in the October 2021 survey). and as a proportion of total businesses is higher than the national average. Openings during the last six months include Underbank Studios, Stockport Gin, Top of the Town Vintage and Ginkgo.

PI Code	Short Name	Good Performance	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22			
			Actual	Actual	Forecast	Target	Status	Trend
E&R2.8	Footfall in the Business Improvement District (BID) area.	High	10,051,519	4,069,206	5,500,000	No target set	N/A	

Following the reopening of retail in April 2021 footfall during Quarter 1 increased by 38.5% (1,134,275) compared to the same period in 2020, there was a further increase during Quarter 2 (1,369,891), a small increase of 2.7% on 2020. There were therefore 2,504,166 visitors in the first half of the year.

Whilst footfall overall is still less than 2019, events such as Mersey Bay in Merseyway, the Stockport Food & Drink Festival and Stockport Enduro & Cycling Festival attracted higher footfall into the town centre. The retail core is performing particularly well and is in line with the national average. A high proportion of employees are continuing to work from home however, and this is impacting on overall footfall figures for the town centre.

Priority 3: Shaping the future of Stockport

Delivered by:

Developing a Stockport Local Plan

A high-level plan setting out a series of principles to inform the development of a draft plan was endorsed by Full Council on 15th July 2021. A period of public engagement took place during the summer to test these high-level principles with the residents and stakeholders. The principles are now being used to draft the planning policies that will form the substantive part of the draft plan.

Working to become a radically digital borough

The GM Local Full Fibre Network programme is nearly completed in Stockport. This provides fast fibre to premises infrastructure and connectivity for public sector buildings and services as well as urban traffic management systems and fire and rescue services. This will support the development of a Smart City approach in Stockport as it allows rapid and effective communication and join up of services and facilities through digital interfaces, which supports improved traffic flows and information gathering/sharing for the benefit of residents and businesses.

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

A Local Implementation Plan for Stockport has been produced as a supporting document to the GM Transport Strategy 2040 Delivery Plan. The Implementation Plan sets out the key transport priorities for the next 5 years in terms of scheme delivery and development and will be used to inform funding decisions across GM. The plan supports much of the transport aspirations in the borough including:

- Strategic outline business plan for a new station at Cheadle supported by the Cheadle Towns Fund Investment Plan.
- Strategic outline business plan for a bus rapid transit scheme between Stockport and Manchester Airport.
- Delivery of Metrolink/tram train between East Didsbury and Stockport/Manchester and Marple/Stockport and Hazel Grove.
- Plans to redevelop Stockport Station.
- Stockport West Developments.

Contributing to development of a GM Clean Air Plan measure by meeting air quality standards

The Clean Air Plan is approved to be put in place in May 2022. The improvement of columns which will support the placement of ANPR cameras is in progress to enforce the Clean Air Zone area. Procurement by TfGM for other elements to support the delivery of the scheme is underway with the initial opportunity for businesses to apply for HGV retrofit funding starting in late October 2021.



Exploring potential for renewable energy schemes

Work is currently underway on a GMCA-sponsored Local Area Energy Plan for Stockport, working with consultants from Catapult Energy Systems. A Local Area Energy Plan will aid decision-making on what sustainability initiatives to adopt within specific areas of Stockport. The work uses public, government and local authority data including the specifics about types of building stock, heating technologies, existing energy networks, the level of electrification of cars, as well as local spatial constraints and opportunities to formulate a plan for “low regret” opportunities for renewable energy schemes and EV charge point installation. This work also intends to collaborate with a range of

stakeholders including distribution network operators, businesses and communities to help provide a Local Area Energy Plan for a data-driven and cost-effective transition to a low carbon way of life. The outputs will be available at the end of 2021 and an engagement exercise is planned for residents in December this year to promote action and provide advice on renewable energy systems.



Stockport Council has worked with GMCA to promote and roll out the “iChoosr” solar panel group buying scheme. Forty installations have been completed to date (372 panels) which have a generating capacity of 115kw with an estimated annual carbon saving of 24,236kg. The remaining properties will see their installations completed as soon as it is safe to do so within pandemic restrictions. The Town Centre Regeneration programme has been successful in bidding for £76,900 funding from Department of Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy’s Heat Networks Delivery Unit to carry out a feasibility study into creating a heat network in Stockport Town Centre. A heat network (also known as district heating) would generate and supply sustainable heating from a central source to consumers, via a network of underground pipes carrying hot water. There will be match funding of £24,100 contributed by Stockport Council.

Measuring Performance and Reporting Progress

Council Measures								
PI Code	Short Name	Good Performance	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22			
			Actual	Actual	Forecast	Target	Status	Trend
E&R3.1	Number of breaches of planning control discovered as a percentage of complaints received.	Low	49.5%	43.6%	47.4%	44.0%		

In Quarter 1, breaches were found in 48.1% (78 out of 162) of complaints, 46.8% in Quarter 2.

There has been an increase in overall numbers of complaints in 2021/22. The nature of the service however does not allow for accurate numbers of breaches to be ascertained as the council will always rely heavily on members of the public, elected members and MP to bring suspected breaches to our attention.

PI Code	Short Name	Good Performance	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22			
			Actual	Actual	Forecast	Target	Status	Trend
E&R3.2	Percentage of planning control breaches where formal action was taken.	Low	6.0%	6.3%	9.0%	7.0%		

In Quarter 1, formal action was taken in breaches were found in 7.7% (6 out of 78) of breaches, 10.2% in Quarter 2 (9 out of 88).

The type of breach being dealt with and whether formal action is taken is governed by the person responsible for the breach. All notices must be recorded separately. Quarter 1 is broadly in line with targets. In Quarter 2, one case involved four notices being served in relation to one site representing four different breaches.

Priority 4: Supporting the development of “good growth”

Delivered by:

Stockport Economic Plan

Work on developing a Stockport Economic Plan to 2030 is underway. It aims to achieve the shared ambition for a thriving economy, as set out in the One Stockport Borough Plan. Following a consultation period with local stakeholders to agree the brief for the Economic Plan, Hatch Consulting were appointed during Quarter 2, to lead a partnership of consultants to work on facilitating the development of the Economic Plan, which includes:

- Developing an evidence base.
- Local stakeholder engagement and collaboration to support co-design of the Economic Plan.
- Production of the co-designed Economic Plan

Following project inception, the focus during Quarter 2 was on the development, in collaboration with local stakeholder, of the detailed evidence base. Engagement has taken place with local partnerships such as the Stockport Economic Alliance, Cross-Sector Forum and the All-Ages Partnership. Engagement with schools and a range of stakeholders has also been planned, including workshops, as well as a report to Economy & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee. A Project Plan is in place, leading to publication of the Economic Plan in early 2022. This will also be an important strategic link in supporting the development of the Local Plan.

Supporting the Green Economy

Work is underway to create a new economic plan for Stockport. Part of this work includes consideration of what green economy businesses will need to be attracted to Stockport as a place to be based, including employment land suitability/availability, infrastructure needs and skills/workforce training and supply. The economic plan will be finalised and published in the first quarter of 2022.

During the Business section of the CAN Summit on 9th November, the Stockport Sustainable Business Network was relaunched with the first meeting being scheduled for early 2022.

Promoting social value and corporate social responsibility

Following the recent establishment of a Corporate Social Value Steering Group, work is ongoing between the council's directorates and STAR Procurement to set out how the council develops its work on the Social Value agenda, aligning the national Social Value indicators on the Social Value Portal (the Themes, Outcomes and Measures (TOMs)), with council priorities. This initial scoping brief sets out how this can include inclusive employment aims and outcomes, to ensure we move from a position of limited non-strategically focused social value commitments and monitoring in contracts, to one where inclusive employment within social value measures is a key element in all significant council procurement as contract conditions, and that the impact of the social value in council procurement is effectively monitored and reported, and reflects the value and type of contract.

Work is underway to put together employment and skills agreements for the latest approved developments at Stockport Exchange and Weir Mill. These will provide opportunities for apprentices and other skills and training outcomes related to the construction sector, such as curriculum support and development in colleges and schools as well as health and safety and site training for contractors.

Measuring Performance and Reporting Progress

All measures relating to this priority are reported annually and will be included in the 2021/22 Annual Portfolio Report.

Priority 5: Encouraging a successful and skilled Stockport

Delivered by:

Developing a new Skills and Employment Programme through One Stockport

The work on a new economic plan for Stockport is due to be completed in early 2022. This plan will inform the new Skills and Employment Programme regarding the needs of local businesses and where the employment growth opportunities will be to align skills training and qualifications for young people. Green Economy development will be a key part of this work.

Embedding ethical employment

Work is underway on an Equality in Employment initiative in the council. This covers a number of workstreams that will set a solid base line for the council's own practice which will provide the credibility for us to influence and shape the practice in local businesses. A total of 25 businesses in Stockport have now achieved the standard.

Growing Steps to Work

The Steps to Work scheme had progressed to the point of commissioning Stockport Homes to deliver the work. The pandemic then caused a pause in the scheme being launched, and it was further delayed when the Government's Kickstart scheme was launched as this was very similar and it was not sensible to have similar schemes in competition.

The Leaving Care Team received £25,000 from the scheme to fund Groundworks to provide an extension to valuable targeted pre-employment support for young people in care. This funding was also used as a match to allow Groundworks to be successful in bidding for additional funds from the Prince's Trust to further expand the employability support for young people in care.

Stockport Homes will resume delivery of the original plan for the Steps to Work scheme in 2022.

Promoting apprenticeships

The pandemic stalled this activity as the Apprenticeship Store was closed, businesses were in survival mode and not receptive to conversations about taking on apprentices, as well as the council's staffing resource for this being diverted to work on the administration of Covid business grants.

Work on this initiative resumed in August 2021, with planning for a virtual post-16 careers and information event being planned for delivery in October.

The business support team also resumed the promotion of apprenticeships to employers and the GM grant funding support of £3,000 to employers taking on new apprentices will be resumed.

Developing Stockport Jobs Match

The tender for a two-year contract for the long-term provision of Stockport Jobs Match has been finalised and will go out on the Chest procurement portal in October.

Further development of the offer has been completed so that job seekers who do not have a CV are able to use the system to request support with this, and the online platform has been changed to be clearer and more accessible using mobile phones as some residents only have access through this kind of device.

Aligning the Adult Education Budget (AEB)

The council's Continuing Education Service AEB provision is well aligned to supporting people to achieve improved maths, English and digital skills so that they are able to gain employment and contribute to meeting employers' needs.



Funding for delivering level 3 qualifications in social care is available and recruitment to courses will begin now that pandemic restrictions have eased.

Further work on this, through the council's representation on the GM Skills and Work Executive Board is ongoing, as well as through the local Stockport Provider Network.

Council Measures

PI Code	Short Name	Good Performance	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22			
			Actual	Actual	Forecast	Target	Status	Trend
E&R5.1	Number of young people employed via Stockport Steps to Work and Kickstart	High	N/A	38	50	90		





A total of 26 young people had been employed by the end of Quarter 2 (11 in Quarter 1 and 15 in Quarter 2). Numbers starting on Kickstart have been much lower than expected across the country, and hence a much lower end of year number is estimated. Further starts on Kickstart are now eligible to the end of Quarter 4, but this is limited by demand from young people. A further 22 live vacancies are currently with Stockport employers. Steps to Work is expected to start later in 2021/22 and will extend into 2022/23 as businesses move to a hybrid working model.

PI Code	Short Name	Good Performance	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22			
			Actual	Actual	Forecast	Target	Status	Trend
E&R5.2	Number of people supported by AEB Local Grant funding secured to support participation (e.g., in English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) and Digital skills).	High	N/A	238	1,000	240		

A total of 760 people had been supported via AEB Local Grant funding for Community Learning participation and Stockport Jobs Match by the end of Quarter 2 (449 in Quarter 1; 321 in Quarter 2). This includes data on numbers accessing digital skills courses, laptop loans and referrals to training providers via Jobs Match.

PI Code	Short Name	Good Performance	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22			
			Actual	Actual	Forecast	Target	Status	Trend
E&R5.3	Youth Employment Hub	High	N/A	15	450	600		

The Hub did not open as a physical location until July due to pandemic restrictions. Since then, it has supported 150 people, who were seen by the dedicated DWP Advisor based in the Cornerstone building. Due to its delayed opening, numbers forecast to be supported in 2021/22 has been cut from 600 to 450.

PI Code	Short Name	Good Performance	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22			
			Actual	Actual	Forecast	Target	Status	Trend
E&R5.4	Employment & Skills Agreements	High	N/A	N/A	90%	90%		N/A
There are currently no live Employment & Skills Agreements for developments. Several agreements are in the process of being developed however, relating to the Transport Interchange, Stockport Exchange, the former college site (Greek Street) and St Ann's Hospice. These are all expected to start in 2021/22 and there is no reason to anticipate that 90% of targets will not be achieved, although these are expected to be rolling targets into 2022/23 and beyond, due to length of construction build.								
PI Code	Short Name	Good Performance	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22			
			Actual	Actual	Forecast	Target	Status	Trend
E&R5.6	Working Well Early Help – number of referrals to the programme (cumulative).	High	235	868	1,110	No target set	N/A	
Up to the end of August 2021, 1,109 referrals had been made (September data has not yet been released). September is the final month when referrals are expected, due to the contract period timescales, and referrals in September are hence expected to be very low across all of GM. Stockport has consistently been high performing in terms of referrals for this programme – in GM, only Manchester has referred more people to the programme.								
PI Code	Short Name	Good Performance	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22			
			Actual	Actual	Forecast	Target	Status	Trend
E&R5.8	Percentage of unemployed 18-24 year-olds in the borough.	Low	4.8%	10.9%	8.2%	No target set	N/A	
At the end of Quarter 2, 8.2% of 18–24-year-olds were registered as unemployed, down from 9.3% at the end of Quarter 1.								
PI Code	Short Name	Good Performance	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22			
			Actual	Actual	Forecast	Target	Status	Trend
E&R5.9	Percentage unemployed overall (16-64).	Low	3.0%	6.0%	4.6%	No target set	N/A	
At the end of Quarter 2, 4.6% people in total were registered as unemployed, down from 5.2% at the end of Quarter 1.								

ECONOMY AND REGENERATION

2. FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND MONITORING



2.1 Revenue – Cash limit

	Previously Reported (Quarter 1.5 / PPRA) £000	Increase (Reduction) £000	Budget at Quarter 2 £000
Economy & Regeneration Cash Limit Budget	2,015	194	2,209

Budget changes since previously reported at Quarter 1.5

Description	Movement(s) £000
The Cash Limit Budget has increased reflecting a movement of CSS Business Support Staff into the Planning department.	194
Total	194

Outturn Forecast

Net Cash Limit £000	Forecast Net Expenditure £000	Forecast Appropriations £000	Forecast Outturn £000
2,209	2,563	(354)	2,209

The Portfolio is reporting a balanced position against a budget of £2.209m in 2021/22. A balanced budget is anticipated within this portfolio as it is expected that deficits in Building Control and in services located at the Stockport Business and Innovation Centre and Merchants House, which are both caused by Covid-19, will be offset by surpluses and expenditure savings elsewhere in the portfolio.

2.2 Earmarked Reserves

The majority of 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 reflects any approved revised balances in reserves, aligned to the 2021/22 Reserves Policy approved by Cabinet on 21st September.

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Reserve Category	Reserve Narration	To be used for	Balance of Reserve / "Approved Use" £000	Planned use of Reserves / "Approved Use" 2021/22 £000	Balance of Reserve / "Approved Use" £000
Directorate Reserves					
Directorate Reserve	Stockport Economic Plan	Directorate Flexibility Reserve - Place	100	63	37
Corporate Reserves					
Strategic Priority Reserve	Capital Programme Investment Reserve	Interchange	5,471	5	5,466
Strategic Priority Reserve	Infrastructure Investment Reserve	GM Full Fibre Network Capital Programme	346	346	0
Strategic Priority Reserve	Capital Investment Reserve - Town Centre & District	SEMMMS Refresh - feasibility - Next Gen Metro	80	0	80
Strategic Priority Reserve	Capital Investment Reserve - Town Centre & District	Weir Mill	140	0	140
Strategic Priority Reserve	Capital Investment Reserve - Town Centre & District	Residential Design Guide	8	0	8
Strategic Priority Reserve	Capital Investment Reserve - Town Centre & District	Town Centre West Greek Street Railway Bridge	17	17	0
Strategic Priority Reserve	Capital Investment Reserve - Town Centre & District	District Centres	51	0	51
Strategic Priority Reserve	Capital Investment Reserve - Town Centre & District	HS2 Growth Review	37	0	37
Strategic Priority Reserve	Capital Investment Reserve - Merseyway	Refronting	294	0	294
Strategic Priority Reserve	Capital Investment Reserve - Merseyway	Mersey Square	204	0	204
Strategic Priority Reserve	Capital Investment Reserve - Merseyway	Merseyway Public Realm match funding	1,023	0	1,023
Corporate Reserves	ONE Stockport Local Plan	Legislative and Statutory Requirements Reserve	750	286	464
Reserve Linked to Budget	Levelling up fund & Town funds for Cheadle	Transformation - Invest to Save Reserve	250	133	117
		Total	8,771	850	7,921

Approved use of the Reserves balance is £8.771m. Planned draw down at Quarter 2 includes £0.354m Revenue and £0.496m Capital.

2.3 Portfolio Savings Programme

Proposal	Risk Rating	Value £000	Value Achieved	Additional Information
Resource and vacancy management	Green	0.050	0.050	The forecast suggests this will be achieved.
Economy & Regeneration - subtotal		0.050	0.050	

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 30 Sep 2021 £000	Scheme	2021/22 Programme £000	2022/23 Programme £000	2023/24 Programme £000
	<u>Highways</u>			
	<u>Capital Asset Maintenance</u>			
250	Street Lighting	526	0	0
4,590	Highways Investment Programme	12,855	7,147	3,000
115	Highways Drainage	468	150	0
81	Pot Hole and Highway Maintenance Improvements Programme	488	0	0
209	Highways Structures	913	0	0
395	Flood Damage Infrastructure Programme	423	0	0
	<u>Major Schemes</u>			
552	SEMMMS Relief Road	2,096	3,795	11,606
22	Town Centre Access Plan	1,095	0	0
15	Merseyway Structure & Public Realm	340	1,882	0
1,746	Poynton Relief Road	5,998	3,348	142
67	Interchange Bridge	157	0	0
47	Roscoe Roundabout	105	0	0
149	A34 MRN OBC Preparation	208	0	0
3,876	Mayoral Walking & Cycling Challenge Fund	9,072	1,881	0
734	Mayoral Walking & Cycling Challenge Fund - Interchange	3,300	5,991	2,100
	<u>Network Improvements</u>			
663	LTP and SEMMMS Integrated Transport	1,322	0	0
87	District Centres & Local Centres	750	0	0
30	Active Travel Measures	886	0	0
0	Bus Stop and Passenger Travel Enhancements	500	1,593	0
67	Cheadle Town	832	0	0
6	PROW	370	0	0
	<u>Road Safety Improvements</u>			
38	Road Safety Near Schools	194	0	0
35	Road Safety	343	0	0
	<u>Planning-related Schemes</u>			
154	Section 278 and Section 106 schemes	800	800	800
	<u>Other Highway Programmes</u>			
0	Air Quality	206	0	0
140	Flood Risk Management	417	0	0
153	Studies and Transport Minor Schemes	783	0	0
0	Other	2	0	0
14,222	Highways sub-total	45,449	26,587	17,648

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	Non-highways			
0	Stockport Exchange (Phase 3)	384	0	0
0	Redrock Development Scheme	113	400	0
23	Aurora Stockport (formerly Gorsey Bank)	23	0	0
340	Markets and Underbanks	839	1,851	0
20	Swann Lane (The Coach House)	20	130	0
217	Merseyway Development	1,795	7,390	324
578	Future High Streets Fund	2,170	7,700	4,590
59	One Stockport Hub	59	0	0
128	GM Local Full Fibre Network Programme	345	0	0
0	Solar PV Schemes	100	1,110	354
637	Weir Mill Development	1,755	0	0
7	Digital Advertising Screens	7	0	0
1,417	Stockport Exchange Phase 4	4,200	10,738	1,262
10,647	Mayoral Development Corporation	10,647	1,339	0
14,073	Non-highways sub-total	22,457	30,658	6,530
28,295	TOTAL	67,906	57,245	24,178

* This relates to expenditure on SAP and accruals for goods received or work performed up to the period end.

Resources

Resources	2021/22 £000	2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000
Capital Grants	35,433	25,711	18,438
Directly Funded Borrowing	16,546	18,286	1,940
Unsupported Borrowing	13,643	6,844	3,000
Capital Receipts	20	130	0
External Contributions	906	0	0
Commuted Sums	297	800	800
Revenue Contributions (RCCO)	1,061	5,474	0
TOTAL	67,906	57,245	24,178

Programme Amendments – Rephasing

Scheme	2021/22 £000	2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000	Funding Source	Reason
Flood Damage Infrastructure Programme	(430)	0	0	Ext Cont/ RCCO	Scheme Additions
Highways Investment Programme	(500)	500	0	USB	Rephasing
SEMMMS Relief Road	(899)	1,365	(466)	Capital grant	Rephasing
Town Centre Access Plan	100	0	0	Capital grant	Scheme Additions
Poynton Relief Road	(538)	693	(3,670)	Capital grant	Rephasing and funding adjustment
A34 MRN OBC Preparation	7	0	0	RCCO	Scheme Additions

LTP and SEMMMS Integrated Transport	140	0	0	Ext Cont/ Capital grant	Additional funding applied and funding adjustment
Active Travel Measures	120	0	0	Capital grant	Scheme Additions
Bus Stop and Passenger Travel Enhancements	500	1,593	0	Capital grant	Scheme Additions
Cheadle Town	505	0	0	Capital grant	Scheme Additions
Section 278 and Section 106 schemes	0	0	800	Commuted sums	Scheme Additions
Air Quality	114	0	0	Ext Cont	Scheme Additions
Studies and Transport Minor Schemes	592	0	0	Capital grant/ RCCO/ Ext Cont	Scheme Additions
Swann Lane	(130)	130	0	Cap. Receipt	Rephasing
Merseyway Development	1,393	(1,400)	7	DFB/RCCO	Rephasing
Future High Streets Fund	5,410	8,250	800	Capital grant	Scheme Additions
Future High Streets Fund	(3,240)	(550)	3,790	Capital grant	Rephasing
One Stockport Hub	10	0	0	RCCO	Scheme Additions
Solar PV Schemes	(283)	283	0	Capital grant	Rephasing
Weir Mill Development	806	0	0	DFB	Scheme Additions
Stockport Exchange Phase 4	456	(456)	0	Capital grant	Rephasing
Stockport Exchange Phase 4	0	65	1,262	DFB	Scheme Additions
Mayoral Development Corporation	250	1,339	0	DFB	Scheme Additions
Total	4,383	11,812	2,523		

Progress against individual schemes

- Street Lighting** - This programme delivers the structural replacement or repair of street lighting columns and signs that are reaching the end of their life.

Assets are identified for replacement or repair following routine structural/visual assessments. The condition of lighting columns and signs are being used to develop whole-life modelling of assets across the network.

Condition surveys have been completed and column replacements proceeding as planned.

- Highways Investment programme (HIP)** - There is a commitment to invest £100m to improve roads and footpaths across the borough over a nine-year delivery period, with 2021/22 representing year 8 of the programme. The funding for this programme comes from the Greater Manchester Local Transport Plan 3 (GMLTP3) and prudential borrowing. The aim is to maintain and improve transport networks and facilities in accordance with the Greater Manchester Local Transport Plan and SEMMM Strategies.

This funding is being used to carry out a range of repairs from patching to resurfacing in targeted areas, which will provide a long-term solution to the deterioration on the highway network.

All sites were scoped in the previous financial year and then programmed for delivery in 2021/22. Works are phased as treatments suit different seasonal conditions, with the programme on target to commence the next phase of treatments during autumn.

- **Highways Drainage** - An ongoing programme of works to improve highway drainage. This includes drainage inspection and repair undertaken ahead of carriageway resurfacing works in the HIP programme. All HIP related drainage works are completed in advance of the surfacing works and they are currently on target along with all other sites.
- **Pothole and Highway Maintenance Improvements Programme** - The Pothole and Highway Maintenance Improvements Programme was developed using DfT Pothole Fund and Maintenance Challenge Fund allocations to attend to pothole sites that are beyond the scope of reactive repair.

In 2021/22 the programme also includes improvement works to the A34 safety barrier, the Market and Underbanks and the Public Rights of Way walking and cycling network.
- **Highways Structures** - A programme of condition surveys and inspections that identifies maintenance schemes and interventions including bridge deck waterproofing, bridge deck repairs, bridge bearing repairs, bridge parapet repairs, retaining wall repairs, steps refurbishment, slope investigations and other routine/reactive maintenance schemes.
- **Flood Risk Management & Flood Damage Infrastructure Programmes** - This programme consists of a continuing package of works to manage and improve flood resilience, and to repair damage to the network caused by the 2016 and 2019 flooding events. The renovation of the Bramhall Park terraces which were damaged by the flooding have been completed.

Lead Local Flood Authority review of major developments continues as part of the ongoing Flood Risk Management work.
- **SEMMMS Relief Road** - The A6 to Manchester Airport Relief Road Scheme provides 10 kilometres of new two-lane dual carriageway on an east-west route from the A6 near Hazel Grove (south east Stockport), via the four kilometres of existing A555 to Manchester Airport and the link road to the M56. The planned and actual spend represents Stockport's element of the final stages of the scheme.
- **Town Centre Access Plan (TCAP)** - A £73m package of measures that aims to transform the accessibility and connectivity to and around Stockport Town Centre. The plan considers access by all methods of travel and specifically aims to ease congestion for buses and general road traffic and encourage walking and cycling, as part of an ambitious vision and development framework for investment in the town centre.

The planned and actual spend represents the final stages of the scheme delivery and closeout.

Public realm works on the Underbanks is now complete. Variable message signs (VMS) and wayfinding fingerpost sign installations have commenced and will be completed in 2021/22 as programmed.
- **Merseyway Structure & Public Realm** - A mixture of grant funding and council funding is being used to undertake major repairs and improvements to the Merseyway bridge structure and associated public realm assets.
- **Poynton Relief Road** - The council is working with East Cheshire (ECC) on the Poynton Relief Road scheme which is currently under construction. As part of the scheme, it has been agreed that a package of measures will be implemented on Moss Lane, Bramhall to support the outcomes of the relief road (see LTP & SEMMMS IT below).

- **Interchange - Bridge and Highway Works** - Following completion and opening of the new bridge on Astley Street, the council is working in partnership with TfGM to deliver advanced packages of works which include facilitating the temporary bus station and highways works on Daw Bank.
- **Roscoe Roundabout** - Funded by the DfT's National Productivity Investment Fund (NPIF), this scheme implements improvements to the M60 Junction 2 (Roscoe's) roundabout, Manchester Road/High Street junction (Cheadle), and paths in Abney Park. Works are mostly complete with works on the M60 slip roads planned for Quarters 3 and 4 of 2021/22.
- **A34 Major Route Network (Outline Business Case)** - An Outline Business Case for an improvement scheme to be delivered as part of the Major Road Network (MRN) fund along the A34 corridor between the A555 and A560 has been submitted to Government. It includes:
 - A cycle route from Stanley Green to Broadway and associated cycle improvements on Wilmslow Rd, Gatley Rd and Broadway;
 - A new subway at Kingsway School;
 - Improvements at Cheadle Royal roundabout for traffic, cyclists, pedestrians and bus passengers;
 - Works at Eden Park, Stanley Green and the A555 roundabouts;
 - New cycle and pedestrian links between Cheadle Royal and Stanley Green Roundabout;
 - Access improvements for the Earl Road employment area.

A decision on funding for the scheme is expected in late autumn 2021.
- **Mayoral Walking & Cycling Challenge Fund** - Following a series of successful bids to the Mayoral Walking and Cycling Challenge Fund, several packages of schemes are being developed and implemented to extend and improve the borough's walking and cycling network. This supports the GM-wide aims of promoting more sustainable forms of transport, improving air quality, and reducing carbon emissions.

The package of schemes includes the following:

- Gillbent Road Crossing Upgrade - Complete
- Town Centre Severance Package (Welkin Road)
- Hazel Grove Upgrade Package
- Bramhall Park to A6
- Ladybrook Valley
- Heatons Cycle Link
- Crossing Package
- A6MARR Links
- Stockport Interchange
- Stockport to Offerton
- Heaton Norris Park Bridge
- Heatons Active Neighbourhood
- Romiley Neighbourhood and Links
- Thomson Street Bridge

Works are on-site between Bramhall and the A6 and will continue for the rest of the financial year.

- **LTP and SEMMMS Integrated Transport** - Various transport schemes including cycling, town centre, and sustainable transport.

In 2021/22, this programme includes a package of measures to support the outcomes of the Poynton Relief Road; the continuation of the Highway Trees programme; and improvements to the highways and footways in the Market and Underbanks.

- **District Centres** - An ongoing programme of improvements to highways infrastructure in and around the borough's district centres.

In 2021/22 this programme includes: a number of Accessibility Improvement schemes; Studies in Marple and Hazel Grove; and the North Reddish corridor improvement. Phase 1 of the North Reddish works will be complete by the end of October 2021 with further phases continuing through the rest of the financial year.

- **DfT Active Travel Tranche 2** - DfT funding will be used to deliver pedestrian and cycle improvements in the Town Centre around the Markets. Consultation on the proposals is underway and results will be reported at future committees.
- **Bus stops & Passenger Travel Enhancement** - A new programme of works to improve bus journey times at key pinch points on the network. The scheme is currently in feasibility design, but some packages will progress quickly to site with others to follow into 2022/23.
- **Cheadle Town** - In 2020/21, funding was awarded to invest in a range of improvements to the public realm, greenspace and walking and cycling facilities in Cheadle Town Centre, as part of the government's Towns Fund Programme. In 2021/22 further funding has been awarded to develop business cases for Active Travel schemes and a new railway station at Cheadle.
- **Public Rights of Way (PROW)** - An ongoing programme to maintain and improve the PROW network in the borough.
- **Road Safety & Road Safety Around Schools** - A package of measures to improve road safety in Stockport, and in particular around school sites.
- **Section 278 and s106 schemes** - Various developer-funded schemes.
- **Other Highways Schemes** - Various schemes, highway studies and air quality improvement work.

These include:

- feasibility and business case development for the Greek Street rail bridge replacement, for which GMCA has allocated £7m from the Transforming Cities Fund;
- feasibility and business case development for improvements at Stockport Railway Station, the Town Centre West area and Bredbury Economic Corridor and the A6 Corridor;
- additional funding relating to the enforcement cameras for the Clean Air Zone has been added to this area.

- **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 now complete and are on site fitting out. Only the first and ground floor will remain unlet, and terms have been issued on both.
- **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 capital contribution on a proposal to lease units 4, 5 and 6 to The Light Cinema.
- **Aurora** - The Aurora scheme (incorporating B1 light industrial space) is now complete, with the remaining allocation relating to retention payments/minor snagging work having been paid, with the Estates team working with the Highways team on final snagging.
- **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 complete;
 - Winters was slightly delayed following the Covid-19 outbreak; however, the landlord works are now complete with tenant fit-out expected to commence imminently. Winters is expected to open early 2022;
 - The exchange has now taken place with Hall & Co in respect to four sites. The Planning application for these sites has been submitted with planning to be determined in November 2021;
 - 16a Market Place and 34-36 Bridge Street Brow have been marketed and terms are now agreed with governance now being sought;
 - The White Lion has won 'Best Change of Use of an Existing Building' at the LABC awards and Conservation & Regeneration Award at the North West Regional Construction Awards 2020. Terms have now been agreed with a preferred party who is seeking to let the ground floor. Governance is now being sought;
 - Discussions are underway with MMU regarding their lease at 18-19 Market Place. It is expected that this unit will soon become available to let;
 - An expression of interest has been submitted and approved for Cultural Development Fund grant. The detailed bid is being prepared for submission in October 2021;
 - Business interest also remains strong with several recent lettings and sales, further enhancing the vitality of this area.
- **Swann Lane** – Redevelopment of the site following CPO and demolition of the former Coach House, which is being led by Corporate Estates team. Costs represent design fees to facilitate disposal of the site with planning consent in place.
- **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.

Sums represent redevelopment of former BHS store and former Next store.

- **Future High Streets Fund** – Revised spend profile to account for enabling work package starting in November 2021 with main works commencing early in 2022 with completion of the scheme and spend of remaining grant monies in 2023/24
- **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. The programme is part-funded by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) (for costs incurred prior to end June 2021 up to £0.868m) and part funded by the council (£0.740m). Stockport Council has now received 100% of its allocated DCMS funding.

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.

The programme has now delivered the majority of sites (134) to completion and testing. Virgin Media aims to complete on two more site by end of December 2021 and the remaining two by the end of March 2022. An additional payment of £0.153m will be made in December 2021 to cover, in full, the cost of annual maintenance of the dark fibre network across Stockport for a period of 30 years.

- **Solar PV Schemes** - The Clean Energy Projects will see the installation of Solar PV and Solar Car Ports across three 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 estimated for completion in Summer 2022. Non-contestable costs for one project will likely be commissioned in the beginning of 2022 with most other costs being incurred mid to late 2022 or in early 2023, 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 is adjacent to the planned Interchange development. It is a large listed historic mill complex that had been mismanaged and left to deteriorate by the previous 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.

The scheme recently received approval at Planning Highways Committee and will be taken forward as per the received consent.

In addition to the previously agreed expenditure, a £0.806m extension been agreed by ODR for costs incurred until December 2021.

- **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 399 space MSCP and 64,000 square feet of office space. 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 planning submitted in June 2021 and approved in September 2021. Tender documents are currently being prepared, with the tender expected to commence in October 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 later this year.

- **Mayoral Development Corporation (MDC)** - The project relates to the acquisition of five sites located in the MDC area. The capital expenditure covers the sale price and associated purchaser's costs and fees.

Two of the larger sites (Stagecoach depot and Lundy) have now completed and all related expenditure have been incurred this financial year. It should be noted that there is a £0.100m retention on the Stagecoach transaction which the council is holding subject to further site investigations. Any of this retention not required for site remediation after three years will be payable to Stagecoach.

A further site has exchanged contracts this year with a £0.050m deposit having been paid with the £0.450m balance due in 2022/23.

The remainder of the 2022/23 allocation relates to the acquisition of two further sites which are expected to complete in the next financial year.