

Highways, Parks and Leisure Services

Portfolio Performance and Resources

Annual Report 2022/23





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HIGHWAYS, PARKS & LEISURE SERVICES PORTFOLIO HOLDER'S INTRODUCTION

I am pleased to be able to present this final Quarter 4 report for the Highways, Parks and Leisure Services portfolio. This year was a challenging year, as the council, while still recovering from the effects of the pandemic, was hit by increases to energy costs, and inflation not seen for a generation. With that said there is some good news to report. Museum visits have continued to rise, and are on their way back to pre-pandemic levels. The refurbishment of the Hat Works is nearing completion, and a full events calendar for libraries and museums was published, which has added to the upwards trend of visits. During this time work was carried out to bid for the GM Town of Culture and I am pleased to report that this has since been announced as successful.



There are many good news items in parks and green spaces to report. In particular sports and playground infrastructure has been created and refurbished, including tennis courts up to LTA standard, new skateparks and new play equipment. Along with the programme of activities offered by Life Leisure and one-off events like "Stocksport", potentially this has added to the increased levels of activity in the borough amongst young people.

Unfortunately, the reported incidents of fly-tipping increased more than anticipated in the last quarter, which means that, although incidents were down on previous years, the target was not met. This is a difficult measure to predict, as the number of incidents reported does not always reflect the actual number of incidents and often include multiple reports of the same case. However, with this in mind, we are due to review the process for dealing with such incidents.

In line with the council's aim to increase the amount of 20mph limits on residential roads, in 2022/23, 4.75 miles of additional residential highway was covered by 20mph speed limits. A review of how 20mph speed limits are implemented is currently in progress and when the review has been completed we will look at how we can increase the extent of such limits where appropriate and where funding can be identified.

The Green Space Awards, which are to recognise the hard work of volunteers across the borough, opened for nominations.

Considering the pressures the council has experienced in the municipal year, it is good to see that many of the measures have improved, but I am not complacent about this.

Cllr Grace Baynham, Cabinet Member for Highways, Parks and Leisure Services

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Revenue Budget (Forecast)

	£000
Cash Limit	16,374
Forecast Outturn	16,795
(Surplus)/Deficit	421

Reserves

Approved use of reserves balance aligned to the Portfolio is £4.185m; the outturn position above includes a drawdown from them of £1.309m plus £0.258m from reserve allocations reported in other Portfolios. Reserves held inside this portfolio are being used to fund Capital (£0.480m) and other portfolios (£0.172m).

Capital Programme

	£000
2022/23 Capital Budget	975
2023/24 Capital Budget	710
2024/25 Capital Budget	40

HIGHWAYS, PARKS & LEISURE SERVICES 1. DELIVERING OUR PRIORITIES

This report is based on the **2022/23 Portfolio Agreement**, considered by Communities and Housing Scrutiny Committee on 5th September and approved by Cabinet on 20th September 2022. The link to the Agreement can be found by clicking <u>here</u>.

This Quarter 4 (Year-End) report includes updates on all **delivery projects**, **programmes and other initiatives** set out in the portfolio agreement, up to the end of March 2023 where this is available.

Data is reported for all **performance measures** included in the agreement. This will reflect the latest available data, which in most cases will be the 2022/23 out-turn. 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.

The updated Portfolio Performance Dashboards are published alongside these reports, and the new Highways, Parks and Leisure Services Portfolio Dashboard can be <u>found here</u>. This contains latest data across the full set of portfolio measures, including historical trend and comparative data (where available).

The criteria for RAG ratings 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		
R	Red – indicator is performing significantly (>5%) below target.	₽	Getting worse – the year-end position (forecast or actual) for this indicator is less favourable than the previous year-end.
A	Amber – indicator is performing slightly (<5%) below target.		Stable – the year-end position (forecast or actual) for this indicator is within 1% either side of the previous year-end.
G	Green – indicator is on track or performing above target.		Getting better – the year-end position (forecast or actual) for this indicator is more favourable than the previous year-end.

GMS – measure is included in the Greater Manchester Strategy outcomes framework.

Priority 1: Promoting a vibrant, safe and clean borough

Progress with each of the delivery projects aligned to this priority in the 2022/23 Portfolio Agreement is summarised below.

Ensuring standards of cleanliness and maintenance of public realm

Our district cleansing services are committed to ensuring a high standard of cleanliness and maintenance. TLC's hardworking teams follow the established schedules and use both mechanical and manual cleansing methods to ensure all public spaces are cleaned and maintained to the required standard. The council monitors and regularly inspects the work to ensure that our services meet residents' expectations.

Improving diversity and accessibility of our spaces

The Neighbourhoods Service have continued to make infrastructure improvements to our parks and greenspaces, to make them more accessible to the wider community, whilst balancing site security considerations in some areas.

That service has continued its work to ensure that all residents of Stockport have access to good quality formal amenity greenspace. Information from the previous assessments of the 42 sites categorised as 'major' and 'neighbourhood' greenspaces is enabling the development of site-specific action plans which will assess what is deliverable within existing resources and whether there are any improvements that the voluntary sector can deliver. The plans will also provide the baseline for a strategic approach on future investment in our parks and greenspaces.

The service continues to look for opportunities to create new habitats and improve biodiversity across the borough. Increased areas of amenity grassland are being left to revert to natural grassland/wild flowers, and the input of partner agencies (including the Cheshire Wildlife Trust), and local voluntary groups is greatly assisting with these projects.

Maintaining highways and footways

The Highway Investment Programme continued to maintain and improve our highways and footways. This has had a positive impact on the council's defence against claims and claim costs. Reactive defects have reduced gradually throughout the programme. Routine inspection and repairs continue on the wider highway and surfaced public route network including car parks, parks, cemeteries and rights of way. Capital Programme work to repair bridges on rights of way is complete.

20mph limits on roads

The 20mph work in Reddish and around Elizabeth Mill is complete adding another 4.75 miles to the 20mph network. Traffic counts have been undertaken to enable before-and-after comparisons of speed to monitor the effectiveness of interventions. Work has continued to devise the most efficient way to implement 20mph limits across the borough.

Measuring Performance and Reporting Progress

Latest available performance on all measures relating to this priority is summarised in the table below. All measures within this priority are in the "Council" category (a number of measures which are the responsibility of the Totally Local Company (TLC) have also been included in the "Council" category). Commentary on any measures that have a "Red" RAG rating, as well as those rated "Amber" with a deteriorating trend, is set out beneath the table.

Indicator Name සිර	Good Perf.	2yr Prev. (YE)	Prev. Year End	Values	Forecast	Target		
HPL1.1: Quality of greenspace	High (Council)			97.42 (31/03/2023)		TBC	G	•
HPL1.2: Street Cleanliness	High (Council)			99.98 (31/03/2023)		TBC	G	•
HPL1.3: Reports of fly-tipping incidents	Low (Council)	4250	3337	3,300 (31/03/2023)		3000	R	•
HPL1.4: Footway Conditions	Low (Council)	10.5 %	10.6 %	10 % (31/03/2023)		1096	G	•
HPL1.5: Highway Conditions	Low (Council)	11.5 %	9.3 %	9 % (31/03/2023)		1096	G	•
HPL1.6: Miles of 20mph residential speed limits	High (Council)			4.75 (31/03/2023)		TBC	G	•
HPL1.7 (TLC): TLC - Apprenticeship Levy	High (Council)	21	18	19 (31/03/2023)		10	G	•
HPL1.8 (TLC): TLC - Available Staff Hours Actually Worked	High (Council)	90.4%	93 96	95 % (31/03/2023)		9596	G	•
HPL1.9 (TLC): TLC - Accidents	Low (Council)	0.62	1.02	0.09 (31/03/2023)		0.8	G	•
HPL1.10 (TLC): TLC - Savings and productivity	High (Council)	975000 (£)	100000 (£)	0 (£) (31/03/2023)		267000 (£)	R	•
HPL1.11 (TLC): TLC - Non-Council Income	High (Council)	9.8 %	19 %	22 % (31/03/2023)		20%	G	•
HPL1.12 (TLC): TLC - Fuel Usage	Low (Council)	71.7 ltr	90.4 ltr	83 ltr (31/03/2023)		90ltr	G	•
HPL1.13 (TLC): TLC - Employee Residence	High (Council)	68.1 %	67 %	65 % (31/03/2023)		6596	G	•

TLC Measures

Please note that from 2023/24, the TLC measures in the above table will no longer be reported to this Scrutiny Committee via the in-year Portfolio Performance and Resources Report – instead, they will be reported to Corporate Resources Management and Governance Scrutiny.

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Commentary on performance

HPL1.3: Reports of fly-tipping incidents:

Whilst the report shows we are not on target, we have in fact seen a reduction in fly-tipping reports since 2020/21, indicating a downward trend in reporting locally.

With regards to interventions, 23 criminal sanctions have been applied in Stockport since 2019 in relation to the full range of fly-tipping offences. Where significant fly-tips take place on private land, intervention is focused on ensuring landowners and occupiers are taking steps to clear public health waste and to prevent repeated incidents. The local enforcement intervention focus is on significant fly-tips (greater than a car boot load) where there is an evidence trail to follow.

In relation to education, we continue to work closely with GM colleagues and Recycle for Greater Manchester with our GM-wide campaign which aims to raise awareness of some of the key flytipping issues faced by each local authority. There will be a particular focus on what is fuelling this criminal industry: residents who look for an easy, cheap way to get rid of their waste. Instead of bringing it to a recycling centre, (local tip) they may turn to social media and look for a 'man-and-van' type service. Often the people who take the waste are unscrupulous, do not have a waste carrier's licence and dump (or fly-tip) the waste illegally. The campaign makes it clear that waste is still a resident's responsibility and they could be classed as fly-tippers themselves if they do not act responsibly. If the waste is traced back to them, they could experience legal consequences, including fines.

HPL1.10 (TLC): TLC savings and productivity

The programme plan to transform services, improve productivity and realise savings is in place with progress being made against a number of key areas of work. In narrowing TLC's focus to core activities for the benefit of the council, the need for board independence from the council is reduced. As such, TLC's financial position will be managed under proposed new governance arrangements aiming to provide strong oversight and accountability.

Priority 2: Living an active and healthy life

Progress with each of the delivery projects aligned to this priority in the 2022/23 Portfolio Agreement is summarised below.

Active Communities Strategy

As reported in Quarter 3, the Children and Young People's Active Lives Survey Data for 2021-2022 was published last December. Having dropped significantly during the pandemic, survey results showed that activity levels amongst young people in Stockport have now recovered and are now getting back to pre-pandemic levels.

Results from the Adults' Active Lives Survey are now also reported annually (it was previously undertaken twice a year) and results from the latest survey (covering the year from November 2021 to November 2022) were published during Quarter 4. Unlike activity levels for young people, the pandemic seemed to have had only a marginal impact on activity levels amongst adults in the borough and the latest survey showed that these activity levels are being maintained, with around 75% of adults self-reporting as either "fairly active" or "active".

The One Stockport Active Communities Strategy (publicly branded as Stockport Moving Together) Implementation Plan is now live with targeted actions being facilitated by partner organisations across the public, VCSFE and private sectors. The Stockport Moving Together Outcomes Framework is close to completion and will help focus the integrated actions within the plan to positively impact the priorities set out in the strategy. This includes the rebranding of the annual "Stocksport" event in the town centre as "Stockport Moves" with events and activities better focused on engaging with more inactive residents. Discussions are ongoing with health sector colleagues on the integration of the strategy's priorities into the new Stockport Integrated Care Board Neighbourhoods and Prevention workstream.

In addition, Life Leisure have refreshed their organisational strategy and business plan to reflect the priorities within the Active Communities Strategy.

Measuring Performance and Reporting Progress

Latest available performance on all measures relating to this priority is summarised in the table below. All measures within this priority are categorised as "Partnership".

Indicator Name 龄	Good Perf.	2yr Prev. (YE)	Prev. Year End	Values	Forecast	Target		
HPL2.1: Activity - Adults	High (Partnership)	75.1%	75 %	74.8 % (15/11/2022)		7396	G	•
HPL2.2: % of inactive adults	Low (Partnership)	25 %	25.1 %	25.2 % (15/11/2022)		2796	G	•
HPL2.3: Activity - Young People	High (Partnership)	45.9 %	37.9 %	47.9 % (31/12/2022)		4096	G	•
HPL2.4: Inactivity - Young People	Low (Partnership)	27.4%	38.8 %	30 % (31/12/2022)		3096	G	•

Priority 3: Embracing our heritage and culture and developing our library offer

Progress with each of the delivery projects aligned to this priority in the 2022/23 Portfolio Agreement is summarised below.

Promoting cultural engagement

The council worked with Culture Stockport to develop a bid to be Greater Manchester Town of Culture for 2023/24. The bid was successful and over the course of the year we will use our Town of Culture status to highlight and develop new opportunities for cultural engagement.

Cultural Strategy

The Cultural Strategy has been updated to reflect the significant progress that Culture Stockport is making in developing a real cultural identity and vision for Stockport. This has already influenced the development of a number of projects and supported the further development of the Creative Improvement District and Cultural Development Fund projects.

Museums and Collections Forward Plan.

Development continues apace at Hatworks in advance of a full reopening of this landmark site later in 2023. Feedback on the machinery floor tours has been extremely positive. The concepts behind the new Gallery of Hats have been finalised and installation will begin shortly.

Libraries

During this period, our libraries continued to provide our warm spaces support, including free hot drinks and activities for residents to participate in. To address issues relating to the cost-of-living crisis, libraries also temporarily suspended fines in all our libraries.

Our Build-a-Business project continues to support residents exploring starting their own business or running their own business, with eight events across this period.

World Book Day (1st March) enabled residents to pick up a free book and voucher and our Reception Reads project continues with over 600 reception aged children visiting our libraries for stories to ensure every reception aged child has a library card.

Partnership working continues to be key for the service, including regular sessions delivered by Stockport Read Easy; Vaccination clinics at One Stockport Hub; Age UK; English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) Advice Service drop-in; and tutors supporting excluded children.

Measuring Performance and Reporting Progress

Latest available performance on all measures relating to this priority is summarised in the table below. The one measure associated with this priority is categorised as a "Council" measure.

Indicator Name	Good Perf.	2yr Prev. (YE)	Prev. Year End	Values	Forecast	Target		
HPL3.1: Museum Visits	High (Council)	3484	64384	88,499 (31/03/2023)		85000	G	•

HIGHWAYS, PARKS & LEISURE SERVICES 2. FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND MONITORING

2.1 Revenue - Cash limit

Budget at Outturn:

Previously	Increase /	Current
Reported	(Reduction)	Budget
Q3		Q4
£000	£000	£000
15,340	1,034	16,374

Budget Changes since previously reported at Quarter 3:

Description	Movement(s) £000
Covid Scarring Allocation	1,034

Quarter 4 Outturn:

Net Cash Limit Budget	Net Expenditure	Net Appropriations from Reserves	Outturn (Surplus) / Deficit Q4	Forecast (Surplus) / Deficit Q3	
£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	
16,374	18,362	(1,567)	421	837	

The Quarter 4 position for the Highways, Parks & Leisure Services portfolio includes pressures relating to the Totally Local Company and Street Lighting Energy. There were also income pressures in the Leisure & Events services caused by changes in behaviour due to the lasting impacts of the pandemic which are offset by a temporary budget allocation of £1.034m from the Covid-19 Financial Scarring Impact contingency.

After this adjustment, the Quarter 4 position is a deficit of £0.421m and this represents 2.6% of the cash limit budget.

The deficit is caused by the increased cost of Street Lighting Energy (£0.459m) and the unfunded 2022/23 pay award (£0.277m) which relates to the highways and parks services provided by the Totally Local Company. These pressures are partly offset by surplus income in Cemeteries & Crematoria (£0.216m) and Registrars (£0.090m).

The Q4 deficit is lower than forecast in Q3 because of additional Q4 income in Cemeteries & Cremations, lower energy costs in Q4 in Street Lighting, higher Car Parking / Bus Gate income in Q4 than forecast in Q3 and because some additional fuel costs previously flagged up as a pressure by Totally Local Company did not materialise in Q4.

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 reflects any approved revised balances in reserves, aligned to the 2022/23 Reserves Policy approved by Cabinet on 28th September.

Reserve Category	Reserve Narration	To be used for	Reserve / Approved Use Balance £000	Planned / Approved use of Reserves £000	Balance of Reserve £000
Directorate R	eserves				
Directorate Reserve	Directorate Flexibility Reserve - Place	Museums Air Raid Shelter & Hatworks	130	23	107
Corporate Re					
Strategic Priority Reserve	Capital Investment Reserve - Town Centre & District Schemes	Pothole Repair Scheme Funding	484	401	83
Corporate Reserves	Third Party Monies Reserve	Parks Bequest (including Woodbank memorial interest)	44	0	44
Corporate Reserves	Area Committee Reserves	Delegated Budgets	416	(7)	423
Strategic Priority Reserve	Cabinet Positive Investments	Digital Inclusion and Financial Inclusion to Support Residents	371	172	199
Strategic Priority Reserve	Cabinet Positive Investments	Libraries Open Plus	61	58	3
Strategic Priority Reserve	Cabinet Positive Investments	Hopes Carr Memorial Park	233	233	0
Strategic Priority Reserve	Cabinet Positive Investments	Parks and Greenspace conditions investment	191	187	4
Corporate Reserves	Third Party Monies Reserve	Cemeteries Bond	10	0	10
Reserve Linked to Budget	Transformation - Double Running Reserve	To Support 2022/23 phased savings – Value for Money	100	100	0
Reserve Linked to Budget	MTFP Resilience and Smoothing Reserve	Leisure	1,832	708	1,124

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		Total	4,185	1,961	2,224
Reserve	Investments	Infrastructure			
Priority	Cabinet Positive	Environmental	86	86	0
Strategic		Remediation &			
		Flooding			
Budget	Reserve - CSS	Events Equipment	52	0	52
Linked to	Directorate Flexibility				
Reserve					
Budget	Reserve	Governance			
Linked to	Double Running	Corporate			
Reserve	Transformation –	savings – Robust	175	0	175
		To Support 2022/23 phased			

Approved use of the Reserves balance is £4.185m. Drawdown from these reserves is £1.309m.

Reserves held outside this portfolio are also being used (£0.258m) and this includes the Contain Outbreak Management reserve in Adult Care & Health Portfolio and other reserves.

Reserves held inside this portfolio are being used to fund Capital (£0.480m) and other portfolios (£0.172m).

2.3 Portfolio Savings Programme

Highways, Parks & Leisure Services	Savings Programme	Value £000	RAG Rating
Robust Corporate Governance	Parking Permit Review	350	AMBER
	Increased Income (from cemeteries and crematoria)	150	GREEN
	Vacancy Management/Change in Way we deliver	20	GREEN
	Review of all Spend	10	GREEN
Value for Money	Life Leisure	100	AMBER
	Totally Local Company / Public Realm	280	AMBER
Radically Digital	Automation and self Service	177	GREEN
	Total	1,087	

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 2023 £000	Scheme	2022/23 Programme £000	2023/24 Programme £000	2024/25 Programme £000
975	Schemes in Parks	975	710	40
975	TOTAL	975	710	40

Resources

Resources	2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000	2024/25 £000
Capital Grants	25	0	0
Unsupported Borrowing	40	40	40
External Contributions	300	0	0
Commuted Sums	458	510	0
Revenue Contributions (RCCO)	152	160	0
TOTAL	975	710	40

Programme Amendments – Rephasing

Scheme	2022/23 £000	2023/24 £000	2024/25 £000	Funding Source	Reason
Schemes in Parks	25	0	0	Capital Grants	Scheme Increase
Schemes in Parks	152	0	0	External Contributions	Funding Adjustment
Schemes in Parks	-662	510	0	Commuted Sums	Funding Adjustment / Rephasing
Schemes in Parks	-160	160	0	RCCO	Scheme Rephasing
TOTAL	(645)	670	0		

Progress against individual schemes

Scheme	Description
	Schemes to support Greenspace initiatives including greenspace infrastructure.
	The total spend at the end of 2022/23 was £0.975m.
	Health and Safety in Greenspace Sites
	The Capital Schemes in parks funds (£0.040m) was spend during on 2022/23.
Schemes in Parks	The funds are primarily used to address health and safety issues in
	greenspace sites and support projects with community partners.
	Completed projects include:
	£0.013m – Engineers Fees (step inspection and mapping);
	£0.010m – Lime Kilns;

£0.006m – contribution to play area improvements;

£0.003m – essential tree works and minor health safety schemes;

£0.003m – contribution to footpath improvements;

£0.003m – new heritage sign for Vernon Park;

£0.002m - Health and safety removal of ramps Erncroft Woods.

Sport Improvement Projects

£0.337m has been invested in improved sport provision during 2022/23.

Completed projects include:

- £0.045m Bruntwood BMX ducting works and track resurfacing;
- £0.076m Gatley Skate project;
- £0.059m Torkington Skate (part invoice / under construction);
- £0.049m Peel Moat Open Space;
- £0.044m North Reddish tennis court improvements;
- £0.017m LTA keypad gates for tennis courts;
- £0.017m Vernon Park bowling green fencing;
- £0.018m Cheadle Hulme Cricket Club;
- £0.009m Bramhall ATP;
- £0.003m St Thomas Speedway.

Children's Play Area Improvements

£0.430m has been invested in improved play spaces during 2022/23.

Completed projects:

- £0.076m Half Moon Lane Play Area;
- £0.030m Devonshire Road Play Area (total investment £0.085m);
- £0.049m Smithy Green Play Area;
- £0.048m Shaw Heath Play Area;
- £0.039m Heathbank Park Play Area;
- £0.036m Thorn Grove;
- £0.032m Eden Park Play Area;
- £0.009m Parkside Play Area (total investment £0.032m);
- £0.028m Cheadle Heath:
- £0.019m William Scholes Play Area;
- £0.018m Craig Road;
- £0.002m Bruntwood Play Area (total investment £0.017m);
- £0.001m Blair Close Play Area (total investment £0.016m);
- £0.011m Marbury Road Play Area;
- £0.009m High Lane;
- £0.007m Moat Walk;
- £0.006m Great Moor Park;
- £0.005m Peak Street Play Area;
- £0.004m East Avenue;

£0.001m – Boothby Street.

Works are funded by a combination of Section 106 funds, Investment Funds and external contributions (including Stockport Homes contributions).

Improved Parks Infrastructure

£0.016m of external investment has been made to improve parks infrastructure. This includes:

- New handrail on a sloping section of footpath along the safer route to school through Tangshutt Open Space;
- New heritage urns in Heaton Moor Park;
- Improved seating in South Reddish, Heaton Norris and Gatley Hill Open Spaces.

Greenspace Infrastructure

£0.152m has been invested during 2022/23, contributing to the costs of delivering works at:

- Iron Bridge, Brabyns Park.
- Reddish Vale Country Park Footbridge.
- Inspection of infrastructure.

2.5 Allocated One-Off Resources

As part of the 2022/23 Budget, several positive investments were identified and approved. These investments are aligned to support the delivery of the council's ambitions and priorities for the borough. The investment aligned to this portfolio is:

Flooding Remediation and Environmental Infrastructure £0.500m

Flooding Remediation and Environmental Infrastructure: Stockport has experienced serious flooding issues over the last few years. A great deal of work has been done to mitigate future excessive rainfall but more needs to be done to remediate the damage caused by flooding and ensure that our infrastructure is as robust as possible. As part of this drive to reduce flooding we have also committed, through our Climate Change Strategy (CAN), to plant as many trees as possible. Some of the funding (£0.086m) has been spent in 2022/23 and the remainder will be spent in 2023/24. With a focus on flood mitigation in greenspace.

Digital Inclusion - Enhancing Library Provision £0.100m

The last two years have shown just how vital it is to be digitally included in today's world. And yet many Stockport residents remain digitally excluded due to lacking digital skills, access to affordable devices or access to affordable data. This investment will enable a targeted digital inclusion approach for those communities who are at most risk of being digitally left behind. The use of this funding is being considered to help bridge the timing differences between keeping services provided out of the One Stockport Hub in Mersey Square, and the opening of Stockroom later in the year.