



Climate Change and Environment

Portfolio Performance and Resources

Annual Report 2022/23



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CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO HOLDER'S INTRODUCTION



The last year has shown what can be done when you set tackling climate change as a priority. That being said, there is much more we need to be doing as a society and, having stepped up our climate efforts as the local custodian of place, we must prepare to step them up even further while also tackling the related issue of nature depletion.

I particularly want to take this opportunity to thank the officers I have been working with. Their passion for the work and devotion to serving the public is truly commendable.

Over the last year we have come a long way in our understanding of the true impact the council as an organisation has regarding our contribution to climate change. The considerable work undertaken to understand our greenhouse gas emissions has been at the heart of this.



The challenges thrown up by our changing climate over the last year will feed into wider resilience work as the effects of 'baked in' climate change become more pronounced in the coming years. Examples of this can be seen in the waste service, like when we needed to bring forward collection times to mitigate against the challenging conditions created by last year's heat wave.

Some of the progress made over the last year has been really positive. £15 Million private investment into publicly accessible EV charging infrastructure that will deliver for the whole borough is something I am particularly proud of. I am also really keen to highlight the work that has gone into the development and exploration of an ambitious district heat network for Stockport that could be a game changer in our decarbonisation efforts and delivering energy security in one of the most challenging areas for decarbonisation – heating. Our efforts to decarbonise schools and council estates has been happening at a pace with projects due to get the switch on soon.

I have also been very happy to see the rapid roll-out of a policy to help make sustainable and biodegradable period products available in our schools. This came in response to the actions demanded by young people in Stockport at the first Schools Climate Assembly and has been used as an example of best practice nationally. We continue to push the Greater Manchester Mayor to adopt our scheme for the wider GM conurbation and bring the benefits to many more young people.

So much of this work relies on co-operation and working together. I'd like to thank those members who served on the CAN steering group for backing the approaches we have taken and I look forward to working with the new members of the group in the coming year.

The annual CAN report falls within this scrutiny cycle and it has considerably more information on some of the achievements over the last year, so I will leave my introduction there.

In summary, I am pleased with the outcomes of the work in general, but there is so much more to be done. Ensuring members have the knowledge they need on climate change is going to be key to tackling the issue which is why we have developed some extensive Stockport specific training. I'd encourage all members to take up the training that is on offer.

My thanks again to the officers who I have worked closely with and supported me in this role over the last year.

Councillor Mark Roberts, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Climate Change & Environment

Revenue Budget (Outturn)		Capital Programme	
	£000		
Cash Limit	8,330		
Forecast Outturn	8,958		
Forecast (Surplus)/Deficit	628		
Reserves Approved use of reserves balance aligned to the Portfolio is £0.811m; the outturn position above includes a drawdown from them of £0.561m plus £0.465m from reserve allocations reported in other Portfolios.			
			£000
		2022/23 Capital Budget	0
		2023/24 Capital Budget	0
		2024/25 Capital Budget	0

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT

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 [here](#).







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 Climate Change and Environment Portfolio Dashboard can be [found here](#). This contains the latest data across the full set of portfolio measures, including historical trends 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

	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.
	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.
	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: Taking action on climate change

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

Council CAN

Council CAN describes what we 'do' as a council. This means ensuring the operations and culture at SMBC align with delivery of our CAN 2030 and 2038 targets. This year a key undertaking by the council has been to implement a new regime to measure and monitor the council's GHG emissions accurately and effectively. This will help set reliable key performance indicators (KPIs) needed to fulfil our CAN targets and help shape the decarbonisation of our civic estate and operations.

Decarbonisation of the Civic Estate via the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) which secured £5.6M funding was implemented with one of the largest whole building retrofit works taking place on Stopford House. The council has begun work to review how to decarbonise the council's fleet and reduce GHG emissions from the council's supply chain.

Carbon Literacy training for officers is in place and delivered regularly. In Q4, training sessions with Planning Policy took place which will lead to all the Planning service undertaking Carbon Literacy training by Q1 2023-24.

Training for elected Members has been developed with an induction training programme being offered to all Members. This induction training will form the first part of the Carbon Literacy course for Members and has been piloted during Quarter 4 ready for roll out following the elections.

Sharing and learning about best practice is key to improving our performance. Stockport Council is a member of UK100, a network of ambitious local government authorities with stretching climate targets. In 2022/23, the portfolio holder for Climate & Environment, took part in the UK100 Leadership training programme and Stockport Council shared a case study about the Schools Climate Assembly

Climate-Friendly Stockport

The 2022-23 Schools Climate Assembly concluded with two youth debates on the 14th and 21st of March 2023, at which 86 pupils debated their climate action ideas. Over the course of the project 49 schools and colleges were engaged, resulting in over 850 students participating in democracy in action lessons and climate debates. Students voted to support the creation of community gardens and a response to this action is being developed.

In response to the 2022 Schools Climate Assembly youth vote, about the provision of eco-friendly period products. It was concluded that eco-friendly period product training has been accessed 160 times and 20 schools accessing the grant, totalling £11,540 of support.

On 15th March the Two+Two marketing hackathon came to Stockport; an event where over 200 university students worked with over 60 industry mentors to respond to a Climate Action Now marketing brief themed on how to get more people taking climate action. The winning idea is being developed into a campaign by the winning students and The APS Group (a local marketing company).

Stockport's Climate Action Business Forum continues to develop at pace, and the recent gathering that took place on the 1st March 2023 had 50 people representing businesses across the borough attending. The latest Stockport Green Network which met on the 30th March 2023 was attended by over 30 people from the VCFSE sector; the Green Network is collectively planning a Green Communities festival to take place in summer 2023. Carbon Literacy training for SMEs is being developed through the Stockport Climate Action Business Forum and a programme of community engagement is being developed by the Stockport Green Network.

Renewable Energy

We have made a significant stride towards providing sustainable heating in the MDC (Mayoral Development Corporation) area. The application to BEIS (Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy) for funding a Detailed Project Development (DPD) for the District Heat Network was successful and just over £300K together with match-funding of a further £60K from GMCA means the DPD will now be carried out. Work on procuring a consultant to assist with this work is underway with a view to starting the DPD in June and expected completion by March 2024. Collaborating with GMCA and other GM Local Authorities, work continues on the City Decarbonisation Delivery Plan Heat Networks pilot exploring the creation of DHN 'zones' which would mandate new developments, existing large consumers of heating energy and producers of significant excess heat energy, to join district heating networks. A further £35K was awarded to the council from BEIS to take part in a potential pilot scheme.

Work to install solar PV on Grand Central and Endeavour House sites as part of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) funded schemes has begun and is due to finish in June 2023.

Further applications for ERDF funds for solar PV on schools were also successful. Just over £244K of funding has been secured for installing solar PV on Bramhall High School, Ladybridge Primary School, Westmorland Primary School, Banks Lane Junior & Infant Schools with a total project spend of £531K.

Low Carbon Buildings

Additional funding of £480K from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) 3B has been secured for a ground source heating system for Dial Park Primary School meaning on top of other funding measures to decarbonise the school (such as solar PV and retrofit/insulation), it is hoped this school will become the first 'net zero' school in the borough.

The Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund 'SHDF Wave 1' programme has progressed to site, with installations of new energy efficient storage heaters and photovoltaic panels being fitted to properties. The project is due to complete in June 2023, which will improve the Energy Performance Certificates of 75 properties to a C rating or above.

During this period, Stockport Homes Group (as part of the wider GM Consortium) have successfully been awarded 'SHDF Wave 2', which is the 4th largest award nationally and the 2nd largest award to a local authority-led consortium. This will improve the homes of thousands of GM residents.

Cheadle Eco Business Park will see the council owned 7-acre industrial estate redeveloped into a sustainable eco-business park with a focus on sustainability in construction, operation and with clean energy generation. Supported by £4.44m of Cheadle Towns Fund Grant. Consultants were appointed early in 2022 to undertake feasibility studies into methods of energy generation that could be considered on the site. This work concluded that solar energy generation and air source heat pumps could provide cost effective and efficient way of producing clean energy for the site and various construction methods will be considered to allow for maximisation of solar PV as well as reducing embodied carbon in construction. This includes considering innovative construction methods such as the use of a glulam timber frame for parts of the structures.

Sustainable Transport

The need for improving publicly-accessible electric vehicle charging infrastructure (EVCI) is apparent across the borough which is why Cabinet approved a way forward to increase EVCI by working with Iduna, the providers of the Be.EV network, see Priority 3 below for more detail.

Successful bids for active travel funds (ATF) means we will be able to deliver 4 walking and cycling schemes in the borough in 2023-24 to encourage more people to travel actively.

Work also continues at pace to progress the Cheadle Station and the electrification of Stockport's bus fleet. The introduction of low energy LED street lighting has reduced energy costs and future carbon emissions, along with reducing the associated costs of street lighting maintenance and operations. Projects such as "School Streets" and "Turn It Off" campaigns have also been implemented this year to reduce GHG emissions and improve air quality around schools.

Natural Environment

1,825 trees and 600 fruit trees were planted between December 2022 and March 2023 which has helped the council exceed proposed targets on tree planting for orchards. Since April 2021, three new wildflower meadows have also been created (including two in 2022/23). In addition, six new orchards have been created since April 2020 (including three in 2022/23).

Funding from central government to support preparation for Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) legislation has been secured, enabling planning and ecologist support for biodiversity enhancement. Collaboration between Stockport Council, GMCA and the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit is also happening to ensure a GM wide joined up approach for the most effective way to deploy the BNG legislation at scale.

Following a motion passed at Full Council it has been agreed to set up a 'Members' Local Nature Recovery Group'. The group will consist of Members from the CAN Cross-party Members Group plus one more Member from each political party represented on the council.

Implementing effective flood management

Work has continued with developing the emergency flood plans for the reservoirs in Compstall and Reddish Vale. Officers are also working with United Utilities, the Environment Agency and Mersey Rivers Trust on several studies and flood mitigation schemes including the creation of leaky dams.

The council has been successful in several funding bids seeking additional Northwest Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC) money under their 'Local Levy' programme. This includes money for watercourse works at Lower Fold Marple Bridge a contribution to improvements near Poise Brook, Offerton, and Lavington Avenue, Cheadle.

Measuring Performance and Reporting Progress

Latest available performance on all measures relating to this priority is summarised in the table below. 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	Good Perf.	2yr Prev. (YE)	Prev. Year End	Values	Forecast	Target		
CCE1.1: Greenhouse gas emissions from council buildings	Low (Council)			0		Null	N/A	
CCE1.2: Scope 1 & 2 emissions (council)	Low (Council)			0		Null	N/A	
CCE1.3: Tree Planting	High (Council)	85	1175	1,854 (31/03/2023)		1246	G	
CCE1.4: Woodlands	High (Council)	7	3	2 (31/03/2023)		3	N/A	
CCE1.5: Grassland meadows	High (Council)	0	1	2 (31/03/2023)		2	G	
CCE1.6: Orchards	High (Council)	1	2	3 (31/03/2023)	3	3	G	
CCE1.7: CO2 Emissions	Low (Partnership)	3.8 t	3.7 t	3.3 t (31/12/2020)		Minimise	G	

Commentary on performance

CCE1.4: The additional sites above and beyond the original target were not met due to a United Utilities (UU) infrastructure leak on site. The site will not be planted in the future due to the risk of tree planting proximity to their wayleave and infrastructure following the repairs and clear up by UU. Alternative locations will be identified as the council seeks to achieve its aim for more woodlands across the borough.

Priority 2: Minimising household and business waste

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

Waste management

The Council's waste collection contractor provides collection of household waste and recycling from all 127,000 domestic dwellings across Stockport. Assisting the residents of Stockport to recycle over half their household waste and in turn minimising the volumes of non-recyclable (black bin) waste sent to produce green energy. The waste separation carried out by residents is vital to ensuring a good quality recycle is sent to merchants to be remanufactured into new products. Green waste is composted and used as a soil condition by local farmers.

Promoting behaviour change

The council continues to work with GMCA to encourage residents to reduce their waste arisings and maximise recycling, this is done via social media, poster campaigns, school visits and tours arranged around materials reprocessing facilities. This activity will increase as the changes from the forthcoming national waste strategy are integrated.

Measuring Performance and Reporting Progress

Latest available performance on all measures relating to this priority is summarised in the table below. 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	Good Perf.	2yr Prev. (YE)	Prev. Year End	Values	Forecast	Target		
CCE2.1: Residual Household Waste	Low (Council)	367.93 kg	349 kg	322.86 kg (31/03/2023)		330kg	G	↑
CCE2.2 (GMS): Recycling Rate	High (Council)	57.08 %	58.5 %	57.4 % (31/03/2023)		60%	A	↓
CCE2.3: Bin collection service failures per 100,000	Low (Council)	68.4	65.4	66.4 (31/03/2023)		60	R	↓

Commentary on performance

CCE 2.2: Our recycling rate fell slightly this year. This can be attributed to the very hot summer we had in 2022 which significantly depressed the volumes of green waste collected for composting which fell by 10% from 2021/22 levels. This equates to around 3,000 fewer tonnes collected. Brown bin recycling tonnage was marginally less as residents' behavior returned to the pre-covid normality.

CCE 2.3: The council and TLC introduced a number of measures to improve the resilience and reliability of the waste collection services, whilst these changes took a few months to become effective it is most encouraging that the performance in the latter half of 2022/23 was excellent. Unfortunately, the below average performance in the first half of the year depressed the full year's performance. The improved performance has continued into 2023/24. TLC are undergoing changes that will see an increased focus on core SMBC public realm activities, including waste collection, and a reduced focus on external trading. This will provide greater organizational resilience. In addition, there is an ongoing review of the waste service which is expected to bring improvements to the service as it will introduce an improved digital system for the operations, improving information available for residents and introducing greater control over the service.

Priority 3: Improving the quality of our air

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

GM Clean Air Plan.

Stockport has continued to assist GM in delivering the Clean Air Plan with related work on the progress of the proposal to government about the scheme which removes the need for a charging zone. Discussion with government is continuing.

Air quality.

Discussions with government are continuing on the proposed GM Clean Air Plan. The current expectation is that Stockport will be compliant with the government's legal minimum standards once the zero emission buses are introduced in the borough in the next twelve months. Currently work is underway to facilitate the delivery of a new bus depot to facilitate these electric vehicles.

Low emissions vehicles.

Cabinet approved a way forward to increase EV charging infrastructure in the borough by working with Iduna, the providers of the Be.EV network. The need for improving publicly accessible electric vehicle charging infrastructure is apparent across the borough, which is why the council has sought an investment and partnership agreement with Iduna to significantly enhance what is currently available. Contracts have been exchanged with Be.EV / Iduna who will finance the investment required to significantly increase publicly available charge points.

Wave 1 locations for charging infrastructure have been agreed. These have been discussed and approved at Area Committees. Wave 1 is expected to deliver up to 50 EV charging spaces, across 19 car parks within the next 12 months. The charging units will feature a range of rapid and ultra-rapid chargers. Wave 1 locations are all within council-owned car parks.

Three sites for charging EV Taxis are being delivered via Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM). The sites are at the council-owned car parks in Lomas Street, Edgeley (due in May 23), Torkington Park (due in May 23) and Newbridge Lane (in progress).

Through the Department for Transport's Zero Emission Buses Regional Area (ZEBRA) scheme, £35.73million in funding has been secured to introduce 170 green buses to the region. Greater Manchester secured the funding after a joint bid to the Department for Transport (DfT) submitted by Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA), Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM), Stockport Council and Stagecoach Group PLC. The funding will be topped up with £12.5million from GMCA and will support the introduction of 170 zero emission buses running from Stockport by 2024. This equates to 10 per cent of the whole bus fleet in Greater Manchester. In March 2023, Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) and bus operator Stagecoach have confirmed that an order has been placed for 170 new electric buses to serve routes in and around Stockport from 2024.

Measuring Performance and Reporting Progress

Latest available performance on all measures relating to this priority is summarised in the table below. 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	Good Perf.	2yr Prev. (YE)	Prev. Year End	Values	Forecast	Target		
CCE3.1: Days per year with pollution alert(s)	Low (contextual)			19 (31/12/2022)		Minimise	N/A	
CCE3.2: Maximum NO2 concentration (µg/m3)	Low (contextual)			36 (31/12/2022)		Maintain	N/A	
CCE3.3: Number of NO2 concentration exceedences	Low (contextual)			0 (31/12/2022)		Maintain	N/A	
CCE3.4: Number of publicly-accessible Be.EV charging points	High (Partnership)			0 (31/03/2023)		20	R	

Commentary on performance

CCE 3.4: The EV charging points for taxis and private hire vehicles, to be put in place by TfGM in the 2022-23 financial year, while physically installed by the end of Quarter 4 had not been connected to the power network by the District Network Operator and so were not in public use. Sadly, this was not under the control of Stockport Council or TfGM. The council also finalised its agreement to have Be.EV implement 19 locations of chargers in the borough which should result in 50 charging points being in place by the end of Q4 2023-24. Currently the council has charging locations at:

- Massie street Car Park, Cheadle (2 off-street bays)
- St. Petersgate, Town Centre (2 on street bays)
- Churchgate Car Park, Town Centre (2 off-street bays)
- Heaton Lane Car Park, Town Centre (4 charge points)
- Meadway West Car Park, Bramhall (2 off-street bays)
- Newbridge Lane Car Park, Town centre (2 off-street bays) +2 Taxi bays (still to be energised)
- Torkington (2 taxi bays still to be energised)
- Edgeley (2 Taxi bays still to be energised)

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT

2. FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND MONITORING



2.1 Revenue – Cash limit

Budget at Outturn:

Previously Reported Q3 £000	Increase / (Reduction) £000	Current Budget Q4 £000
8,330	NIL	8,330

Budget Changes since previously reported at Quarter 3:

Description	Movement(s) £000
Covid Scarring Allocation	NIL

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
8,330	9,984	(1,026)	628	793

The Quarter 4 position for the Climate Change & Environment portfolio is a deficit of £0.628m which represents 7.5% of the cash limit budget.

The deficit is mainly due to pressures in the waste service provided by Totally Local Company. These pressures include additional staffing costs and diesel inflation, the unfunded 2022/23 pay award and increased spend on food waste containers, bulky refuse bins and recycling containers.

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 report taken to Cabinet on the 28 September 2022.

Transfer from reserves:

Reserve Category	Reserve Narration	To be used for	Reserve / Approved Use Balance £000	Planned / Approved use of Reserves £000	Balance of Reserve £000
Corporate Reserves					
Reserve Linked to Budget	Transformation - Invest to Save Reserve	Climate Change	94	94	0
Strategic Priority Reserve	Cabinet Positive Investments	Tackling Climate Change	502	252	250
Reserve Linked to Budget	Workforce Investment/Change Reserve	TLC Review	215	215	0
		Total	811	561	250

Approved use of the reserves balance is £0.811m. Drawdown from these reserves is £0.561m.

Reserves held outside this portfolio are also being used (£0.465m) and this includes the Contain Outbreak Management reserve in Adult Care & Health Portfolio and other reserves.

2.3 Portfolio Savings Programme

There are no savings aligned to this portfolio, but the Public Realm savings in Highways, Parks and Leisure Services Portfolio are partially linked to the waste contract with TLC.

2.4 Capital Programme

There is no capital programme in this portfolio.