

STOCKPORT COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET- SUMMARY SHEET

Subject: Interchange Park Update

Report to Cabinet

Date: 19/9/23

Report of: (a) Joint report of the Cabinet Members for Parks, Highways & Transport Services and Economy & Regeneration

Key Decision: (b) No

Forward Plan General Exception Special Urgency (Mark with a Y if applicable)

Summary:

This report updates the Cabinet as to progress made in the design, construction and plans to animate the park on top of the new Interchange to gauge the views of members and to facilitate contribution to the final development stage prior to the grand opening in Spring 2024

Comments/Views of the Cabinet Members: (c)

We are pleased to note that the interchange park is due to be delivered within the agreed timeframe. The finished design will enable Stockport residents to make best use of the site, and they can appreciate using the park throughout the year. To maximise the awareness of the offer at the park, activation events will be held on various themes.

The park is part of the transformational change for the town centre created by the Interchange and is one of only a handful of new parks being built in the UK. It is a huge asset for the whole Borough and the aim is to make it well-loved and accessible to all residents.

The report sets out the rationale behind the design of the park and the exciting programme leading up to the opening of the park in Spring 2024 and the animation of it in its first 12 months.

The issue of security was raised at Scrutiny and this has been a key design consideration through the Interchange design. The best way to ensure it feels like a safe place is to ensure it is well used by the people of Stockport and the programme of activities seeks to do this.

In addition there is security in the design, lighting and that it will be a well-used walking route into the town centre from the rail station and is overlooked by 300 residents and the businesses on the ground floor of the Interchange.

In addition there is CCTV planned around the park and despite some slight confusion at Communities and Transport Scrutiny, this was clarified at Economy, Regeneration and Housing. The design team and TfGM have always believed this is an appropriate response to the security and safety questions, however if this proves not the case then we will look to revisit this once the park is in use.

Recommendation(s) of Cabinet Member: (d)

Both cabinet members recommend that the report be accepted and supported.

Relevant Scrutiny Committee (if decision called in): **(e)** Communities and Transport and Economy, Regeneration & Climate Change Scrutiny Committees

Background Papers (if report for publication): **(f)**

Contact person for accessing
background papers and discussing the report

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'Urgent Business': No
