

Community and Transport Scrutiny

Portfolio: Communities, Culture & Sport

Strategic Intent

We will focus on developing our vibrant, creative, and active borough. We will invest in our leisure and library services and develop our neighbourhood model that will provide a front door to key council services such as resident advice, support with cost-of-living issues and digital help. This will enhance the quality of life and wellbeing of our residents, as well as their access to information, learning, and culture. We will deliver our ONE Stockport Active Communities Strategy 2020-2030 working closely with partner organisations and groups across the public, Voluntary Community Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) and private sectors to promote physical activity, mental wellbeing, social inclusion, and community cohesion.

Portfolio: Parks, Highways & Transport Services

Strategic Intent

We will improve the transport system in Stockport by improving highways and footways to manage traffic and focus on encouraging and facilitating the use of more sustainable modes of transport including bus, rail, walking and cycling and improving their accessibility. As funding is available we will develop new walking and cycling routes, and work with partners and regional bodies to improve public transport options to make sustainable transport options easier for everyone. We will continue to look for opportunities to create new habitats and improve biodiversity across the borough and focus on working with communities and partners to ensure that our shared public spaces are welcoming, clean and safe. We will continue to develop our public realm as a place that promotes wellbeing with cared for, accessible greenspace available within a short distance for all of our residents.

CP priority	MTFP driver	Directorate and Service area	Proposal summary	Saving 24/25 (£000)	Lead Portfolio
Effective and Efficient Service	Robust Corporate Governance	CSS – Residents Services	Libraries Maintain current library provision, but review the use of the Open Plus service.	320	Communities, Culture & Sport

CP priority	MTFP driver	Directorate and Service area	Proposal summary	Saving 24/25 (£000)	Lead Portfolio
Effective and Efficient Services	Robust Corporate Governance	CSS	Service efficiencies (CSS) Reduction in a post within the Communities Team; Registrars income yield.	50	Communities, Culture & Sport
Effective and Efficient Services	Robust Corporate Governance	Place Management	Increase fees & charges across Place Management Approximately half of this income would be from parking (all types of parking including residents permits). Other increases from other Place Management charged for services. Increases assumed at 6% or rounded up.	220	Parks, Highways & Transport Services
Delivering for those in Need	Robust Corporate Governance	Neighbourhoods	Bereavement Services Increase fees in line with other Greater Manchester (GM) authorities.	320	Parks, Highways & Transport Services
Effective and Efficient Services	Robust Corporate Governance	Neighbourhoods	Review of free car parks and parking permit schemes The proposal would be to review charging of these currently free parking offers.	350	Parks, Highways & Transport Services
Effective and Efficient Services	Robust Corporate Governance	Strategic Infrastructure	Service efficiencies/ Reduction in services Reviewing services to identify opportunities to reduce costs through small reduction in officer capacity.	110	Parks, Highways & Transport Services
			Total MTFP Savings	1,370	

Project	Libraries (£0.320m)
Lead portfolio	Communities, Culture & Sport
Council Plan Priority	Effective and Efficient Services
Senior responsible officer	Mark Glynn
MTFP Lens	Robust Corporate Governance
Service	Corporate and Support Services (CSS) - Resident Services
Proposal summary	Libraries Maintain current library provision, but review the use of the open plus service.
How will the saving be achieved 24/25	Whilst overall opening hours will remain unchanged, additional self-service (Open Plus) unstaffed days will mean number of posts required to manage and staff libraries can be reduced. Book fund spend and online resources will be reviewed.
Any benchmarking information available to compare Stockport with comparable authorities	Stockport has more books per capita than most other GM authorities.
Workforce impact. Outline any changes to the workforce as a result of this proposal	There may be an overall reduction in posts. Where there is an impact on colleagues, staff consultation will be undertaken with affected staff.

Project	Libraries (£0.320m)
Outline any internal / organisational impact of the proposal	Savings will be achieved by reducing the numbers of posts required to manage and staff libraries.
Outline any risks or changes to service delivery and impact this proposal may have on service users	Maintain current library provision but review the use of the Open Plus service. Standardised hours will mean recognisable opening times in all our libraries.
Delivering the change List key milestones and delivery dates (where known)	If approved, proposals will be implemented from April 2024. Public consultation and staff consultation and engagement will be undertaken where required. These timeframes are under development.
Will reserves/ double running be needed in order to deliver this proposal?	No.
Is public consultation needed?	Consultation will take place where any changes have a significant impact on the delivery of a statutory service.
Is a separate EqIA (Equalities impact assessment) needed?	Yes, an EqIA will be appropriate and undertaken to ensure we understand the impact on residents and communities.
Is a separate EIA (Environmental impact assessment) needed?	No EIA is required at this stage.

Project	Service Efficiencies (CSS £0.050m)
Lead portfolio	Communities, Culture & Sport
Council Plan Priority	Effective and Efficient Services
Senior responsible officer	Michael Cullen
MTFP Lens	Robust Corporate Governance
Service	Corporate and Support Services (CSS)
Proposal summary	<p>Service Efficiencies (CSS)</p> <p>Reviewing and exploring all CSS budget areas to identify opportunities to reduce costs and deliver services more efficiently.</p> <p>Detail around proposals identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deletion of a vacant post within Communities Team. • Registrars income yield – income projections are above planned for income receipts based on current pricing tariffs.
How will the saving be achieved	The saving will be delivered by deletion of a vacant role (Communities Team) and an income yield above budget plans for income receipts (Registrars).
24/25	
Any benchmarking information available to	No.

Project	Service Efficiencies (CSS £0.050m)
compare Stockport with comparable authorities	
Workforce impact. Outline any changes to the workforce as a result of this proposal	Communities Team - deletion of the vacant role will affect overall capacity of the team.
Outline any internal / organisational impact of the proposal	Registrars – the proposal assumes that current demand is maintained, however, the market can be volatile, and income is not guaranteed or fully within our control.
Outline any risks or changes to service delivery and impact this proposal may have on service users	As a result of deleting the vacant role, there will be reduced capacity in the Communities Team to deliver local initiatives such as cost of living, digital inclusion, neighbourhood working and support to the VCFSE sector.
Delivering the change List key milestones and delivery dates (where known)	If approved, proposals will be implemented from April 2024. Public consultation and staff consultation and engagement will be undertaken where required. These timeframes are under development.
Will reserves/ double running be needed in order to deliver this proposal?	No.
Is public consultation needed?	It is not anticipated that a public consultation will be required.

Project	Service Efficiencies (CSS £0.050m)
Is a separate EqIA (Equalities impact assessment) needed?	An EqIA will be appropriate and undertaken where proposals have an impact on service delivery.
Is a separate EIA (Environmental impact assessment) needed?	No EIA is required.

Project	Increased Fees and Charges (Place Management £0.220m)
Lead portfolio	Parks, Highways & Transport Services
Council Plan Priority	Effective and Efficient Services
Senior responsible officer	Mark Glynn
MTFP Lens	Robust Corporate Governance
Service	Place Management
Proposal summary	<p>Increase fees & charges - Place Management</p> <p>Approximately half of this saving would be made from parking (all types of parking including currently charged for residents permits). Other increases from other Place Management charged for services such as Vehicle Crossings, Street works, Rents/Fees in Parks, Container charges, Licensing, Pest Control.</p> <p>The value of the saving is modelled at a 6% increase and rounded up to the nearest 10p for car parking fees. The actual increases in each service may vary.</p>

Project	Increased Fees and Charges (Place Management £0.220m)
<p>How will the saving be achieved</p> <p>24/25</p>	<p>Increasing charges for services and therefore moving towards full cost recovery.</p>
<p>Any benchmarking information available to compare Stockport with comparable authorities</p>	<p>No.</p>
<p>Workforce impact. Outline any changes to the workforce as a result of this proposal</p>	<p>There will be no changes to staffing as a result of this proposal.</p>
<p>Outline any internal / organisational impact of the proposal</p>	<p>None.</p>
<p>Outline any risks or changes to service delivery and impact this proposal may have on service users</p>	<p>None.</p>
<p>Delivering the change</p> <p>List key milestones and delivery dates (where known)</p>	<p>Aligned with the new financial year.</p>

Project	Increased Fees and Charges (Place Management £0.220m)
Will reserves/ double running be needed in order to deliver this proposal?	No.
Is public consultation needed?	It is not anticipated that a public consultation will be required.
Is a separate EqIA (Equalities impact assessment) needed?	An EqIA will be appropriate and undertaken where proposals have an impact on service delivery.
Is a separate EIA (Environmental impact assessment) needed?	Where required an EIA will be undertaken as part of this review.

Project	Increase in Fees – Bereavement Service (£0.320m)
Lead portfolio	Parks, Highways & Transport Services
Council Plan Priority	Delivering for those who need it most
Senior responsible officer	Mark Glynn
MTFP Lens	Robust Corporate Governance
Service	Neighbourhoods
Proposal summary	Bereavement Services

Project	Increase in Fees – Bereavement Service (£0.320m)
	Increase fees in line with other GM authorities..
How will the saving be achieved 24/25	Increasing charges for services and therefore moving towards full cost recovery.
Any benchmarking information available to compare Stockport with comparable authorities	Example of bereavement services, in GM Full adult cremations range from £780 to £999 for 23/24, although it is anticipated that other authorities will be increasing their fees for 24/25. Stockport's fee is £825.
Workforce impact. Outline any changes to the workforce as a result of this proposal	There will be no changes to staffing as a result of this proposal.
Outline any internal / organisational impact of the proposal	No.
Outline any risks or changes to service delivery and impact this proposal may have on service users	There would be no changes to the current level/service provision the only change would be the increase in price to bring the authority in line with other Local Authorities.
Delivering the change	Following the approval of the increase local funeral directors would need to be advised of the increase and given the appropriate amount of time to increase the prices in time for the changes to be made on 1 st April.

Project	Increase in Fees – Bereavement Service (£0.320m)
List key milestones and delivery dates (where known)	
Will reserves/ double running be needed in order to deliver this proposal?	No.
Is public consultation needed?	It is not anticipated that a public consultation will be required.
Is a separate EqIA (Equalities impact assessment) needed?	An EqIA will be appropriate and undertaken where proposals have an impact on service delivery.
Is a separate EIA (Environmental impact assessment) needed?	Where required an EIA will be undertaken as part of this review.

Project	Parking Review (£0.350m)
Lead portfolio	Parks, Highways & Transport Services
Council Plan Priority	Effective and efficient services
Senior responsible officer	Mark Glynn
MTFP Lens	Robust Corporate Governance

Project	Parking Review (£0.350m)
Service	Neighbourhoods
Proposal summary	Parking - review of free car parks and permit schemes The proposal would be to review charging of these currently free parking offers.
How will the saving be achieved 24/25	Review charging for currently free parking offers
Any benchmarking information available to compare Stockport with comparable authorities	No.
Workforce impact. Outline any changes to the workforce as a result of this proposal	There will be no changes to staffing as a result of this proposal.
Outline any internal / organisational impact of the proposal	Increase in workload for teams currently involved in the process, e.g. enforcement officers.
Outline any risks or changes to service delivery and impact this proposal may have on service users	Residents who previous received a parking service for free could be charged.
Delivering the change	These will be developed through the project.

Project	Parking Review (£0.350m)
List key milestones and delivery dates (where known)	
Will reserves/ double running be needed in order to deliver this proposal?	There would be a longer lead in time to deliver this proposal due there being no infrastructure in place therefore possibly only a part year saving.
Is public consultation needed?	Consultation and engagement will take place where any changes have a significant impact on the delivery of a statutory service.
Is a separate EqIA (Equalities impact assessment) needed?	An EqIA will be appropriate and undertaken where proposals have an impact on service delivery.
Is a separate EIA (Environmental impact assessment) needed?	Where required an EIA will be undertaken as part of this review.

Project	Service Efficiencies / Reduction in Services (£0.110m)
Lead portfolio	Parks, Highways & Transport Services
Council Plan Priority	Effective and efficient services
Senior responsible officer	Mark Glynn
MTFP Lens	Robust Corporate Governance

Project	Service Efficiencies / Reduction in Services (£0.110m)
Service	Strategic Infrastructure
Proposal summary	Service efficiencies/ Reduction in services Reviewing services to identify opportunities to reduce costs and deliver more efficiently across the portfolio.
How will the saving be achieved 24/25	Needs to be fully scoped out and requires a joined-up approach to service delivery working closely across teams in order to achieve the saving, however this may lead to a reduction in posts and a reduced responsiveness.
Any benchmarking information available to compare Stockport with comparable authorities	N/A.
Workforce impact. Outline any changes to the workforce as a result of this proposal	There may be a reduction in staffing, but this will be scoped as part of this proposal.
Outline any internal / organisational impact of the proposal	Reduction in expertise in sustainable travel and active neighbourhoods means we will have thinner responses to funding bids and this might result in a loss of capital funding into the Council. It also impairs our ability to take an informed view on the allocated money for schemes through City Region Sustainable Transport Settlements (CRSTS) and TfGM. This also impairs our ability to respond to best practice through loss of in-house skills. Moving to a lighter touch approach with partners such as walk and cycle board. It will result in a significantly reduced response time for queries, consultations and briefing papers.

Project	Service Efficiencies / Reduction in Services (£0.110m)
Outline any risks or changes to service delivery and impact this proposal may have on service users	There will be fewer capital schemes delivered across the borough as our capacity to bid for external capital money will be reduced. Engagement events with the public will be reduced and support to members also reduced. There will be extensions to most timescales in responding to queries or producing technical work.
Delivering the change List key milestones and delivery dates (where known)	If approved, proposals will be implemented from April 2024. Staff consultation and engagement will be undertaken where required. These timeframes are under development.
Will reserves/ double running be needed in order to deliver this proposal?	No.
Is public consultation needed?	It is not anticipated that a public consultation will be required.
Is a separate EqIA (Equalities impact assessment) needed?	Yes, an EqIA will be appropriate and undertaken to ensure we understand the impact on residents and communities.
Is a separate EIA (Environmental impact assessment) needed?	No EIA is required at this stage.