

Portfolio: Economy, Regeneration and Housing

Strategic Intent

Our continued investment in regeneration is critical in providing confidence for partners and external investors, particularly in unlocking and bringing forward investment across public and private sectors. Key to this is the Mayoral Development Corporation (MDC) and the ongoing redevelopment of Stockport Town Centre. This will transform the town centre into a vibrant, attractive, and inclusive destination that offers a range of amenities, services, and experiences for our residents and visitors. Through our economic plan we will boost the local economy, reduce unemployment, and increase skills and opportunities for our residents. Our St Thomas' Academy of Living Well, will provide support for people transitioning between hospital and home, enhancing the quality of life, wellbeing, and choice of our residents. We will continue to work with partners to unlock sites for new homes, work with registered providers to provide a high quality housing offer, particularly for those in need, and continue to work with owners to bring long-term empty homes back into use.

Portfolio: Climate Change & Environment

Strategic Intent

Demonstrating our commitment, responsibility, and accountability for addressing the climate emergency, climate action is embedded within everything we do, underpinned by the 2030 operationally net zero target for the council. We will focus on improving energy efficiency and uptake of renewable energy sources across the council's estate and the borough more widely. This will reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, energy costs, and dependence on fossil fuels. We will utilise the council's civic leadership role to influence residents and businesses to act on climate change in order to help meet the 2038 carbon neutrality target for the borough. This will raise awareness, engagement, and action among our stakeholders and partners, as well as showcase best practices and innovations.

The first table describes savings for 2024/25. The second table describes savings to reduce our use of contingency funding being used to offset current pressures.

CP priority	MTFP driver	Directorate and Service area	Proposal summary	Saving 24/25 (£000)	Lead Portfolio
Efficient and Effective Services	Robust Corporate Governance	CSS/ Planning	Planning and Building Control – increased fees and charges	60	Economy, Regeneration & Housing
			Total MTFP Savings	60	

The following are recovery proposals against existing pressures and therefore not included in the 2024/25 savings.

CP priority	MTFP driver	Directorate and Service area	Proposal summary	Saving 24/25 (£000)	Lead Portfolio
Efficient and Effective Services	Robust Corporate Governance	Place	Service redesign and service alignment Maximising opportunities for sharing services with SMBC and TLC particularly in developing a core corporate and support service and reviewing neighbourhoods and strategic infrastructure.	100	Climate Change and Environment
			Project Evergreen Efficiencies made through optimisation of routes.	160	
			Waste Review Review waste service in line with other authorities across GM to maintain Stockport's pre-eminent recycling in the most efficient and cost effective way.	630	
			Total Savings	890	

Project	Planning and Building Control – Increased fees and charges (£0.060m)
Lead portfolio	Economy, Regeneration and Housing
Council Plan Priority	Efficient and Effective Services
Senior responsible officer	Michael Cullen
MTFP Lens	Robust Corporate Governance
Service	Planning and Building Control
Proposal summary	Planning and Building Control - increased fees and charges Implement an increase in nationally set Planning fees expected from April 24 as well as an increase in locally set pre-application charges.
How will the saving be achieved 24/25	Savings will be achieved as a result of an increase in nationally set Planning fees expected from April 24 as well as an increase in locally set pre-application charges.
Any benchmarking information available to compare Stockport with comparable authorities	Increased pre-application charges will be benchmarked across others in GM to ensure market comparison. Charges are low in comparison to some, particularly on larger scale proposals.
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 risks or changes to service delivery and impact this proposal may have on service users	The service is undergoing transformation and this will deliver improvement to the service offered to residents and customers of the service. The charges to residents using the Planning Service will increase, this will largely stem from national fee income increases.
Delivering the change	If approved, proposals will be implemented from April 2024.

Project	Planning and Building Control – Increased fees and charges (£0.060m)
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?	No, specific consultation on this proposal is not needed but we will seek views on all our proposals through our overall budget public consultation which runs from 15th November to the 13th December.
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	TLC (£0.100m) This is a recovery against current pressures. The proposal is therefore not included in overall figures for 24/25 MTFP savings.
Lead portfolio	Climate Change and Environment
Council Plan Priority	Effective and Efficient Services
Senior responsible officer	Mark Glynn
MTFP Lens	Robust Corporate Governance
Service	Place

Project	TLC (£0.100m) This is a recovery against current pressures. The proposal is therefore not included in overall figures for 24/25 MTFP savings.
Proposal summary	Service redesign and service alignment Maximising opportunities for sharing services with SMBC and TLC particularly in developing a core corporate and support service and reviewing neighbourhoods and strategic infrastructure.
How will the saving be achieved 24/25	There will be a reduction of 2 FTE, which are current vacancies in the team.
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	Reduction of 2 FTE through vacancy management
Outline any internal / organisational impact of the proposal	The work will be undertaken by the remaining officers with an increase of geographic responsibility for colleagues.
Outline any risks or changes to service delivery and impact this proposal may have on service users	A reduced neighbourhoods team will mean that increasingly targeted interventions will be appropriate with reduced capacity for more proactive work.
Delivering the change List key milestones and delivery dates (where known)	Not applicable as the posts are currently vacant.
Will reserves/ double running be needed in order	No.

Project	TLC (£0.100m) This is a recovery against current pressures. The proposal is therefore not included in overall figures for 24/25 MTFP savings.
to deliver this proposal?	
Is public consultation needed?	No, specific consultation on this proposal is not needed but we will seek views on all our proposals through our overall budget public consultation which runs from 15th November to the 13th December
Is a separate EqIA (Equalities impact assessment) needed?	It is not anticipated that an EqIA will be required.
Is a separate EIA (Environmental impact assessment) needed?	No EIA is required.

Project	Project Evergreen (£0.160m) This is a recovery against current pressures. The proposal is therefore not included in overall figures for 24/25 MTFP savings.
Lead portfolio	Climate Change and Environment
Council Plan Priority	Effective and Efficient Services
Senior responsible officer	Mark Glynn
MTFP Lens	Robust Corporate Governance
Service	Place
Proposal summary	Project Evergreen Efficiencies made through optimisation of waste routes.
How will the saving be achieved 24/25	Optimisation of waste collection regimes resulting in reduced cost. A new incab and routing software system is being installed across all waste collection vehicles. This will provide information to organise rounds in the most efficient manner. It is expected that the increased efficiency will deliver a saving.

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	None foreseen at this stage but will be fully scoped as part of this proposal.
Outline any internal / organisational impact of the proposal	To be scoped as part of the project development.
Outline any risks or changes to service delivery and impact this proposal may have on service users	To be scoped as part of the project development.
Delivering the change List key milestones and delivery dates (where known)	To be scoped as part of the project development.
Will reserves/ double running be needed in order to deliver this proposal?	No.
Is public consultation needed?	<p>Consultation and engagement will take place where any changes have a significant impact on the delivery of a statutory service.</p> <p>We will also seek views on all our proposals through our overall budget public consultation which runs from 15th November to the 13th December</p>
Is a separate EqIA (Equalities impact assessment) needed?	Yes, EqIA will be appropriate and undertaken where proposals have an impact on service delivery.

Is a separate EIA (Environmental impact assessment) needed?	EIA is required at this stage.
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Project	Waste Review (£0.630m) This is a recovery against current pressures. The proposal is therefore not included in overall figures for 24/25 MTFP savings.
Lead portfolio	Climate Change and Environment
Council Plan Priority	Effective and Efficient Services
Senior responsible officer	Mark Glynn
MTFP Lens	Robust Corporate Governance
Service	Place
Proposal summary	<p>Waste review</p> <p>The council has reviewed waste service in line with other authorities across GM to maintain Stockport's pre-eminent recycling in the most efficient and cost effective way. It is proposed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alter the green bin collection to fortnightly. This is not expected to impact the recycling levels as there was no significant impact when the collections were changed during covid. • Reviewing the provision of caddy liners to households. • Increase the charges of replacement bins from £20 to £25 and alter bulky collection charges to reflect costs incurred • We will also work through the recommendations from the English waste strategy and will be working with other GM authorities to review the consequences for disposal and collections of any new requirements and changes in habits of our residents
How will the saving be achieved	Altered collection regimes will reduce the number of vehicles and crew required to collect waste. It will also save diesel as fewer miles are travelled by our collection vehicles.
24/25	

<p>Any benchmarking information available to compare Stockport with comparable authorities</p>	<p>The government's emerging national Waste and Resource Strategy will result in local authorities altering their collection schedules. The government has set out what it expects local authorities to collect. We are aware that other local authorities are considering significant changes to their collection rounds in light of the strategy. The government has indicated that charging for green waste collections is something that local authorities should consider and it is expected that numerous authorities will look to introduce such a charge. However, these proposals do not include charging for waste.</p> <p>In December 2018, DEFRA published "Our Waste, Our Resources: A Strategy for England" this presented the government's long-term approach to preserve our stock of natural capital, minimise waste, promote resource efficiency and move towards a circular economy.</p> <p>This remains subject to consultation the outcome of which Defra will announce shortly. Legislation is expected to be in force by October 2025 in which the indications are that prescribed collection regimes will be imposed – there may be future financial implications if any changes would need to be made in April 2026.</p> <p>There are a range of collection regimes across GM – with some of the authorities collecting black waste on a three weekly basis, green waste fortnightly already and pulpable collections less frequently than Stockport.</p> <p>In addition, there are several other authorities within GM that already charge higher prices for replacement bins and bulky collections.</p>
<p>Workforce impact. Outline any changes to the workforce as a result of this proposal</p>	<p>Any changes to services will need to be developed with TLC.</p>
<p>Outline any internal / organisational impact of the proposal</p>	<p>To be scoped as part of the project development.</p>
<p>Outline any risks or changes to service delivery and impact this proposal may have on service users</p>	<p>To be fully scoped as part of the project development.</p> <p>National waste strategy is expected to prescribe specific collection requirements although there is some uncertainty following the Prime Minister's recent comments.</p> <p>The pricing of bulky collections will continue to be competitive to ensure that those people who do the right thing will continue to do so rather than use illegal waste disposal operators or fly-tipping. Residents will be also be sign-posted to charities to encourage more re-use of bulky items.</p>

<p>Delivering the change</p> <p>List key milestones and delivery dates (where known)</p>	<p>Charges to increase from 1st April and the next caddy liner delivery will be reduced. The alterations to waste collections are proposed to take place from autumn 2024.</p>
<p>Will reserves/ double running be needed in order to deliver this proposal?</p>	<p>No.</p>
<p>Is public consultation needed?</p>	<p>We will seek views on all of our waste proposals through our overall budget public consultation which runs from 15th November to the 13th December.</p>
<p>Is a separate EqIA (Equalities impact assessment) needed?</p>	<p>An EqIA will be appropriate and undertaken where proposals have an impact on service delivery.</p>
<p>Is a separate EIA (Environmental impact assessment) needed?</p>	<p>Where required an EIA will be undertaken as part of this review.</p>