



Communities, Culture and Sport

Portfolio Performance and Resources Annual Report 2023/24



Date	31 May 2024	Version	1.0 (Scrutiny)	Approved by	FS
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COMMUNITIES CULTURE AND SPORT PORTFOLIO HOLDER'S INTRODUCTION



I am pleased to be able to present this report which provides an overview of progress and key developments during Quarter 4.

In Stockport we are home to vibrant neighbourhoods and diverse communities from a range of identities, faiths, and racial backgrounds. The cost-of-living crisis means that it is even more vital than ever that as a council, we do whatever we can to work with our communities and neighbourhoods to ensure they remain connected and inclusive and feel empowered and safe.



Together with Sector3 we continue to build the capacity of the Voluntary, Community, Faith, and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) sector. In January 2024 we launched the Match My Project initiative. Match My Project is an online platform which will help us to maximise the impact of social value and corporate social responsibility, by matching VCFSE organisations with private sector businesses who are looking to give something back to our community. In May, we hosted Stockport Rocks which was our first ever volunteer awards to honour the dedication and selfless contributions of local volunteers, all of whom make a significant difference in the lives of many.

Stockport's time as Greater Manchester Town of Culture came to an end with the Town of Culture Weekender on March 23rd and 24th, which saw over 50 events delivered across 25 locations in Stockport Town Centre involving more than 100 partners. The weekend provided unprecedented opportunities to witness and take part in activities focusing on culture and creativity and physical activity.

Our Equality and Diversity (EDI) networks have continued to strengthen. The roundtable event in November was viewed positively by all, and we are continuing to host quarterly roundtable meetings with our Equity Network Leads to review progress and support them to influence council and partnership strategies, for example the EDI networks have played a key role in shaping One Stockport: One Future.

During Quarter 4 2023/24, Stockport completed its Home Office Prevent Duty Local Authority Assurance process, where Stockport was reviewed on their ability to deliver against the Prevent Duty benchmarks outlined in the Prevent duty toolkit for local authorities. The purpose of the assurance process is to illustrate what successful Prevent delivery looks like; identify good practice; proactively identify areas for improvement and improve the quality of feedback to a local authority.

We are continuing to coordinate support for migrant communities from across the One Health and Care Partnership, including people residing in Stockport through the Homes for Ukraine visa scheme, as well as a significant population of asylum seekers who reside across two contingency hotel sites. There are currently 106 Homes for Ukraine residents residing with 67 Stockport hosts, and we have supported more than 60 households to move on from the scheme into their own accommodation, either in Stockport or elsewhere in the UK.

Cllr Frankie Singleton, Cabinet Member for Communities, Culture and Sport.

Revenue Budget		Capital Programme	
	£000		£000
Cash Limit	8,014	2023/24 Capital Budget	846
Forecast Outturn	7,253	2024/25 Capital Budget	7,098
(Surplus)/Deficit	(761)	2025/26 Capital Budget	13,678
<p><u>Reserves</u> Approved use of the reserves balance: £2.611m. Drawdown from these reserves: £0.772m.</p>		2026/27 Capital Budget	375

COMMUNITIES, CULTURE AND SPORT

1. DELIVERING OUR PRIORITIES



This report is based on the **2023/24 Portfolio Agreement**, considered by Communities and Transport Scrutiny Committee on 12th June 2023 and approved by Cabinet on 27th September 2023. 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 2024 where this is available.

Data is reported for all **performance measures** included in the agreement that have been updated since publication of the 2022/23 Annual Reports. These are categorised to reflect the council's influence and responsibility as a 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 Communities, Culture and Sport 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: Supporting the Voluntary Community, Faith, and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) sector

Progress with each of the delivery projects aligned to this priority in the 2023/24 Portfolio Agreement is summarised below.

Building and consolidating our relationship with the VCFSE sector

One of the ways in which we have supported VCFSE strategic priorities is through investment in our VCFSE infrastructure organisation, Sector3, as follows:

- Investment of £100,000 to support core activities.
- Investment of £40,000 to support Stockport's Volunteer Hub.
- Investment of £25,000 through GM Standing Together grant to support the recruitment of a fundraising officer.
- £60,000 of UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSP) funding to enable Sector 3 to open a VCFSE Hub in central Stockport.
- £25,000 match funded investment to support a migrant communities network lead to co-ordinate our VCFSE offer to asylum seekers and refugees residing in Stockport

This investment has enabled Sector 3 to support many more VCFSE organisations to grow and develop and sustain the support they provide to our residents.

We have also continued to invest funding and to provide support to our equity networks, so that they in turn can ensure the voice of residents from communities of identity and those with protected characteristics, have a voice in the development of Council plans, services, and strategies.

We have also continued to invest in our Digiknow partners, Age UK, and Starting Point, both of whom have also secured external funding from UKSPF and the Big Lottery respectively.

Following feedback from the VCFSE sector, we rolled out several community grant rounds in 2023-24. These have been more targeted rounds of funding, focusing on anti-poverty priorities, mental health, community cohesion, supporting grassroots organisations in our neighbourhoods and helping all our residents to access cultural activities as part of Town of Culture celebrations.

Maximising investment in the VCFSE Sector

Total of investment through One Stockport Local Fund in the 2023-24 financial year is as follows:

- £180,000 was distributed to VCFSE organisations through One Stockport Local Fund, Spend Well Live Well grants, to enable the sector to support some of our most vulnerable households to maximise their income and manage the rising cost of living.
- £121,000 was distributed to the VCFSE Sector through Town of Culture commissions and small grants, which enabled residents across Stockport to enjoy cultural activities in every ward of the borough.

- £91,000 of Warm and Well grants were distributed to the sector to help them offer a warm and welcoming space, in many cases, alongside hot food and drinks and activities, to help people over the winter months.
- £140,000 of funding has been committed through the COVID Commemoration Fund. This has supported residents to develop COVID commemoration projects in every ward across Stockport, as a way of remembering those we lost and celebrating the way our communities came together to support one another during the COVID pandemic.
- £245,000 of funding was committed to the sector over a 3-year period through the GM Standing Together grant, to support the following priorities:
 - Keeping people safe.
 - Reducing harm.
 - Strengthening communities and places.

Building the capacity of the VCFSE Sector

Recent activity has included:

- Launching the Match My Project initiative with our VCFSE infrastructure partner, Sector3, in January 2024. Match My Project is an online platform which will help us to maximise the impact of social value and corporate social responsibility, by matching VCFSE organisations with private sector businesses who are looking to give something back to our community.
- Providing support to grass roots VCFSE organisations, to bid for funding through our Team Around the Place networks.
- Funding Sector 3 to deliver three “Meet, Greet and Grow” events for our local VCFSE organisations.
- Developing our digital inclusion support offer to residents to include access to devices, data and skills at food banks and community cafes, GP surgeries and all of our libraries.
- Sector 3 launched their new Volunteer Hub to support local VCFSE organisations to recruit and support volunteers and support the sector to develop their volunteering practices

Improving the voice and influence of the VCFSE Sector

Activity included:

- Continuing to support our Equity Networks through ongoing funding, support to improve their digital capacity and skills and in January 2024 we brought all of our Network Leads together to agree priorities for 2024-25 and to engage around Stockport’s ‘5 Big Things set out in One Stockport: One Future’.
- Supporting our Veterans Network to become a formal VCFSE organisation.
- Increasing VCFSE strategic representation to include all our strategic boards, so that the VCFSE sector have a leadership role in the development of our strategies, plans, and services.

- Growing membership of our Team Around the Place (TAP) networks to strengthen the voice of the VCFSE in our neighbourhoods and to support our emerging neighbourhoods and prevention programme.
- Supporting Sector3 to recruit members for the VCFSE Alliance which will launch in June 2024.
- Our TAP Networks are supporting a more co-ordinated approach to engagement and consultation and are strengthening links between the Council, health and VCFSE partners, through joint learning, better use of neighbourhood level intelligence and by developing joint projects.

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		
CCS 1.1: Number of volunteers registered with the Volunteer Hub	High (Partnership)	350	720	658 (30/09/2023)		1000	R	↓
CCS 1.2: Stockport Local Fund - successful applications	High (Partnership)	34.74 %	84.5 %	64 % (31/03/2024)		N/A	N/A	↓
CCS 1.3: Number of VCFCE Organisations Supported to build their capacity by Sector 3	High (Council)		120	836 (31/03/2024)		170	G	↑
CCS 1.4: VCFSE representation on strategic partnership boards	High (Council)		4	6 (31/03/2024)		6	G	↑

Commentary

CCS 1.1: Number of volunteers registered with the Volunteer Hub

We are proposing to rebase this measure. This follows discussion with Sector 3, who deliver the Volunteer Hub, based on the following rationale:

- Stockport Volunteer Hub is just one of the ways in which we support people to volunteer their time and is not a true reflection of the extent of volunteering in Stockport.
- The volunteer Hub is a way for local VCFSEs to register their volunteering opportunities and one of many routes for potential volunteers to seek opportunities. In this respect, Sector 3, who host the hub, do not ‘register’ volunteers on the hub.
- Sector 3 have recently upgraded their platform which will help them get a better idea of information about the number of opportunities registered on the hub, the number of people visiting the website and the number of support sessions and training opportunities provided to volunteers, alongside demographic information regarding those volunteers. Because of the change of system and approach we are proposing to rebase this measure in next year’s PPRA.

Priority 2: Building connected and inclusive communities

Progress with each of the delivery projects aligned to this priority in the 2023/24 Portfolio Agreement is summarised below.

Equality, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) networks

Our EDI networks have continued to strengthen. The roundtable event in November was viewed positively by all, and we are continuing to host quarterly roundtable meetings with our Equity Network Leads to review progress and support them to influence council and partnership strategies, including One Stockport One Future.

Network updates include:

- Stockport Women and Girls Network regularly sees between 50 and 60 attendees at meetings. The Network has put together significant events in Stockport such as Diwali 2023 and International Women's Day Event 2024 with approx. 150 attendees from across Stockport.
- Stockport Race Equality Network has been working with the council locally to support the development of the GM Race Equality Framework. The Network have organised the Stockport Race and Culture Awards which is an annual event, bringing together Stockport's businesses, residents, and local community groups.
- Stockport LGBTQ+ Network has been bringing local LGBTQ+ people together to coordinate meaningful events such as LGBTQ+ History Month, to celebrate and acknowledge significant LGBTQ+ people.
- Stockport Multi- Faith Network brought together faith leaders from across the Stockport to discuss how food poverty and financial hardship can be tackled against the backdrop of the on-going cost-of-living crisis.
- Stockport Disability Network has changed its name from Stockport Ability Rights Network. Engagement within the network has been growing to support local people with accessibility needs. The Network coordinated an event in Q3 at the Alma Lodge which saw disabled people and their families come together to experience disability-friendly activities and information on local support.

Team Around the Place (TAP)

Our TAP Networks have developed significantly in 2023-24 and are an integral part of our emerging model for Neighbourhoods and Prevention. Key developments have included:

- Many of our TAP Captains have developing strong links with ward members.
- Beginning to co-ordinate consultation and engagement activities in our neighbourhoods.
- Making better use of data such as neighbourhood profiles to inform joint action plans.
- Developing new social prescribing approaches to support health and wellbeing in communities.
- Promoting and distributing small grants to grass roots VCFSEs through TAP networks.
- Attracting external funding for joint projects.
- Delivering partnership training through TAP networks.
- Supporting income maximization through joint work with TAP partners around benefit uptake.
- Rolling out grant funding through TAP networks.
- Developing stronger connections and testing new ways of partnership working with primary care colleagues through Primary Care Leadership Networks.

Supporting our Refugee and Migrant Communities

We are continuing to coordinate support for migrant communities from across the One Health and Care Partnership, including people residing in Stockport through the Homes for Ukraine visa scheme, as well as a significant population of asylum seekers who reside across two contingency hotel sites.

There are currently 106 Homes for Ukraine residents residing with 67 Stockport hosts, and we have supported more than 60 households to move on from the scheme into their own accommodation, either in Stockport or elsewhere in the UK. The government has recently agreed to extend the scheme which means that we are supporting existing guests to extend their visas and we are also expecting a small number of new arrivals in Stockport.

The turnover of asylum seekers in our hotels is significant and has posed issues in terms of access to health and social care support. We have managed this to an extent by working with Serco and GM colleagues to develop better information sharing protocols and have also improved our joint working arrangements around safeguarding and health promotion/prevention.





Supporting and our armed services communities

The Stockport Armed Forces Covenant Steering Group has continued to meet quarterly to discuss issues affecting the armed forces community and raise awareness of the collaborative work taking place locally. Some key highlights since October 2023 include:

- Re-signing the Armed Forces Covenant to demonstrate our support for the armed forces and ex-forces community in Stockport. The signing took place in the lead up to Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday. The updated Covenant puts forward support for housing, education, employment and health and well-being.
- Submitted an application for the Gold Award Employer Recognition Scheme to demonstrate our support to the defence and armed forces community. This includes a communication campaign targeting covenant sign-ups from businesses and organisations, contacting all local businesses who have signed the covenant in Stockport to link them up with local armed forces initiatives such as cadet forces. We also looked at how we support armed forces community members internally.
- Integrated the signing of the covenant into procurement processes, urging suppliers/contractors to commit through social value initiatives. Impact and Life Leisure are now proceeding with armed forces discounts. Tender documents now include an engagement toolkit with KPI's. We are assisting community groups supporting armed forces to register on Match My Project, a social value, and Corporate Social Responsibility (CS) brokerage platform granting access to volunteers, financial aid, and resources from SMBC's suppliers and local businesses.
- Our Stockport Armed Forces Network (SAFCO) is supporting the development of the GM Armed Forces strategy including a proposal to develop a GM Armed Forces Equity Panel. They have also started planning for Armed Forces Day which will take place in June 2024 in the Town Centre.
- Funded local armed forces organisations/charities including The Veterans Food Company to host a breakfast club, resulting in increased attendance which is evidenced in case studies.
- Continuing to work with our local cadet units, including the Stockport Sea Cadets, to secure a site for training purposed as part of a long-term vision to expand the capability and accessibility of the Sea Cadets branch for its existing and future membership, as well as other cadet branches across GM (including Air and Army Cadets).

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 Performance	2yr Prev. (YE)	Prev. Year End	Values	Forecast	Target		
CCS 2.1: GM Community Safety Survey - % of respondents who feel their local area is a place where people with different backgrounds ..	High (Partnership)	78 %	75 %	77 % (31/12/2023) 1040 / 1352		Maximise		
CCS 2.2: GM Community Safety Survey - % of respondents who feel a strong sense of belonging to their local area	High (Partnership)	77 %	73 %	74 % (31/12/2023) 1005 / 1351		Maximise		

Note that the outturns for the two measures in the above table are based on a sample of 1,300 responses from Stockport obtained in four quarterly surveys (325 respondents per survey) undertaken between January and December 2023. The margin of error is +/- 1.4%.

On both measures Stockport performs better than the GM average (75% for CCS 2.1 and 71% for CCS 2.2).

Priority 3: Addressing priorities of the One Stockport Safety Partnership (OSSP)

Progress with each of the delivery projects aligned to this priority in the 2023/24 Portfolio Agreement is summarised below.

Protecting Vulnerable People

During Quarter 4 2023/24, Stockport completed their Home Office Prevent Duty Local Authority Assurance Process, where Stockport was reviewed on their ability to deliver against the Prevent Duty benchmarks outlined in the Prevent duty toolkit for local authorities. The purpose of the assurance process is to illustrate what successful Prevent delivery looks like; identify good practice; proactively identify areas for improvement; improve the quality of feedback to us as a local authority. Initial feedback was positive, and we are expecting formal feedback May 2024.

Public Safety and Protection

All elements of the Safer Streets programme have now been completed and allowed us to focus an enhanced programme of work on antisocial behaviour (ASB) in priority areas, which was supported by Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU) evaluation on aspects of the work, particularly youth disorder (Operation Barometer). The funding for Safer Streets has now finished and we are exploring other ways in which the RTime detached youth work teams which continue to be focused on targeted areas of ASB can be extended.

The local 'Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment' was completed under the jurisdiction of the Serious Violence Duty (SVD), informed by partners, and approved through appropriate channels. The implementation element of this assessment is detailed within the 'OSSP Serious Violence Plan' which was approved by the OSSP Board on 23rd April 2024.

Reducing adult offending and reoffending by tackling the underlying causes that increase the likelihood of offending and re-offending

Membership of Stockport Reducing Reoffending Board has been gathered and will be progressed via the new Head of Probation Delivery Unit during 2024.

Availability of suitable accommodation remains challenging, particularly for those people being released from prison. Stockport Probation have a statutory responsibility to refer individuals to the local authority who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Probation continue to work in partnership with Stockport accommodation partners and the GM Probation Homelessness Prevention Team to secure suitable and stable accommodation for those with who we work and perform well in probation service level measures for accommodation.

Stockport Probation's performance in employment service level measures exceeds the national target. We continue to work in partnership with Achieve to support people in all aspects of being job ready and job searches. IT access is available at the Probation office for those subject to unpaid work to allow them to complete online learning to improve their skills and enhance their employment opportunities.

Pennine Care continue to be co-located at Stockport Probation's Office to support those who have alcohol treatment and drug rehabilitation requirements and work with those managed jointly by the police and probation on the Integrated Offender Management cohort. Those subject to relevant orders and licenses are drug tested at the probation office to ensure they receive the necessary intervention, and so robust risk management can be put in place and enforcement taken where an escalation of risk is present, and an individual has disengaged from intervention or treatment.

Reducing youth offending and reoffending

The annual Youth Justice Plan was completed and approved in 2023 and the new 2024 draft version needs to be with the national Youth Justice Board (YJB) by end of June 2024. It will then go to the local Youth Justice Partnership Board (YJPB) and then through the council's democratic cycle for approval.

From April 2024, Youth Justice and Complex Safeguarding services have merged and now come under the same strategic management structure. This will allow the targeted adolescent delivery model to work to the principles of the GM model (and equivalent GM service models) and focus on the most complex and challenging adolescents in the borough. Implementation of the Adolescent Safeguarding Framework is also overseen by the new merged service and is in line with the GM principles.

The focus for prevention and reoffending remains a key strategic focus for the Youth Justice Partnership Board.







The Youth Justice Service provides interventions including:

- Detached Youth Work targeting ASB in priority areas.
- School-based services and crime awareness.
- Community sports activities coordinated across the borough.
- Serious Violence programmes and interventions for knife and weapon-related offences and prevention initiatives in line with the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) principles
- Prevention for children who have been arrested but not yet charged as a form of 'deferred prosecution'.
- Diversion for children 'arrested and charged' offering a pre-court 'Out of Court Disposal' to prevent further escalation through the Youth Justice system.
- Police custody services for children who have been arrested.
- Court services for children due to be sentenced.
- Community supervision for children on criminal orders.
- Supervision of children who are remanded or receive a custodial sentence through the youth secure estate.
- Resettlement services for children who are leaving custody to ensure effective transition back into community services, particularly in education.

This Youth Justice offer will now be enhanced and supported through the merger with Complex Safeguarding, which also includes children 'Missing from Home' to ensure our most complex adolescents at risk are coordinated across one management structure.

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		
CCS 3.1: All crime (per 1000 population)	Low (Partnership)	81.65	93	81.12 (31/03/2024) 24101 / 297107		Minimise		
CCS 3.2: Anti-social behaviour (ASB) incidents recorded by police per 1000 population	Low (Partnership)	20.9	21.96	24.9 (31/03/2024) 7397 / 297107		Minimise		
CCS 3.3: GM Community Safety Survey - % of respondents who report that they feel safe or very safe in their local area	High (Partnership)	91 %	93 %	93 % (31/12/2023) 1250 / 1352		Maximise		

Note that the outturn for the final measure in the above table is based on a sample of 1,300 responses from Stockport obtained in four quarterly surveys (325 respondents per survey) undertaken between January and December 2023. The margin of error is +/- 1.4%.

Commentary on performance

CCS 3.2 Antisocial behaviour incidents recorded by police per 1,000 population

There has been an approximate **11.85%** increase in the number of reported ASB incidents in Stockport, based on figures for 2022 (6373) and 2023 (7230). That said, reported incidents in 2023 were approximately **23%** lower than in 2020 (8883). A number of factors have influenced the rise from 2022 to 2023. There has been an approximate **28%** rise in the number of ‘Malicious or Nuisance Communications’ incidents in Stockport reported to Greater Manchester Police, 862 in 2022 and 1189 in 2023 (there were two reported in 2021, and none in 2020). The significant increase in reported ‘Malicious Communications’ incidents since 2020 is likely to be due to a combination of a greater willingness amongst the public to report online issues and improved recording techniques within Greater Manchester Police. Further, reported ‘Vehicle Nuisance or Inappropriate Use’ incidents in Stockport have increased by approximately **17%** (1087 in 2022, 1302 in 2023) and ‘Hoax Calls to Emergency Services’ have increased by approximately **21%** (341 in 2022 to 433 in 2023). Increases in these three incident types alone constitute approximately **74%** of the total increase in reported incidents, between 2022 and 2023.

The multi-agency Youth Disorder Panels, chaired by Youth Justice and GMP, continue to operate. They have recently been subject to external research and evaluation conducted by Manchester Metropolitan University (and funded through Safer Streets) which will inform how the panels can be remodelled to be even more effective in identifying and responding to young people involved in ASB.

Priority 4: Creating active communities

Progress with each of the delivery projects aligned to this priority in the 2023/24 Portfolio Agreement is summarised below.

Stockport Moving Together

Partnership and community engagement continues to evolve through the Active Communities Implementation Plan. Governance and oversight of the plan continues to be driven by both the Active Communities Strategic Network and the Active Communities Implementation Partnership.

There is a recognition that for Stockport's most inactive populations, the current offer and traditional ways of working are not meeting need for these groups. Therefore, testing new ways of working, that is led by communities using action research methodology, is informing much of the implementation in neighbourhoods.

Partner organisations and community groups are working with residents to meet individual need alongside growing an already extensive provision for already 'active' individuals and groups.

Examples of this implementation development include:

- Supporting a 'place' such as the test and learn community programme in Brinnington, working with the families of SEND children and young people to embed inclusivity across Stockport's provision and supporting older people.
- Re-imagining the traditional leisure offer to better engage and support access to activity and sport, utilising Stockport's facilities, and greenspace.
- Building a network of walking and cycling routes to encourage active transport in a safe and high-quality environment and working with primary care to embed physical activity into a developing social prescribing model.

The co-produced implementation plan now has over 180 specifically focused actions and workstreams agreed by the Active Communities Implementation Partnership. This is a 'live' document accessible by all Implementation Partnership groups and organisations and is therefore constantly evolving and developing to meet emerging identified need.

Active Communities Delivery Partnerships

As a council-owned Community Interest Company, Life Leisure are at the forefront of the Stockport Moving Together work. Not only in embedding action research into their community outreach programmes but also re-imagining their physical infrastructure and facilities to not only provide a traditional leisure offer for those residents that engage with that, but to become a more holistic community wellbeing provider by repurposing facility sites as community hubs in conjunction with wider services such as Family Hubs. At the heart of their strategy is a principle of connection and collaboration with others across the wider system and as a trusted contributor to the aspiration of a preventative health service. Their further planned work includes:

- Continued provision development and commitment to inclusion and accessibility, developing inclusive practice within all hub sites as part of staff training and development programmes. This includes the provision of new types of activity, including adapted bike sessions, inclusive fitness programmes and inclusive swimming.

- Management and coordination of “deepening” work across neighbourhoods as the next phase of the Place Partnerships work for Stockport. Employing improved and evidence-based methods of engagement to help increase physical and social activity, using the learning from similar approaches in Brinnington.
- Working with a range of partners, collaborating to provide and further develop support into accessing social and community activity through social prescribing. An enhanced model is being developed to improve the initial step that an individual may take into accessing activity, as well as increasing the number of accessible activities.
- Active travel partnership with the Highways, Transport & Place teams, to collaborate on ‘Activation Events’ for infrastructure developments across the borough, such as new pedestrian crossings, new pathways, new walking and cycling routes. By utilising centres in close proximity to the schemes, the collective approach will work towards effective engagement and a sustainable offer to support active travel across the borough.
- The increasing use of digital tools to enhance awareness of opportunity, alongside the principles of motivational interviewing to improve self-activation and adherence to physical activity interventions.

Measuring Performance and Reporting Progress

The measures associated with this priority are refreshed annually and have not been updated since the 2022/23 Quarter 4 report.

Indicator Name	Good Perf.	2yr Prev. (YE)	Prev. Year End	Values	Forecast	Target		
CCS 4.1: Activity - Adults	High (Partnership)	75 %	75 %	76 % (15/11/2023)		76%		
CCS 4.3: Activity - Young People	High (Partnership)	38 %	48 %	40 % (30/09/2023)		49%		
CCS 4.4: Inactivity - Young People	Low (Partnership)	39 %	30 %	36 % (30/09/2023)		28%		

Commentary on performance

CCS 4.3 and 4.4: Activity levels reported in Sport England’s Active Lives Children and Young People Survey

We know that pupils’ activity levels in Stockport were significantly impacted by school closures during the pandemic lockdown periods and this appears to have resulted in more of Stockport’s young people reporting they are “less active”. It is also important to note that data is gathered through schools that are selected on a random basis nationally. Schools are not required to complete the survey and it is done on a purely voluntary basis. This can result in a very variable annual sample size with 2022/23 being only 295 pupils (compared to 641 in 2021/22). Annual data can therefore be volatile and should be read with caution - from 2024/25 onwards it is proposed to report a three-year rolling average relating to this measure to help address the data volatility.

By any measure however, more than half of children and young people in Stockport are not active enough to maintain their health and wellbeing in the medium-to-long-term and targeted work continues in both schools and community settings, through the Active Communities Implementation Partnership, to support Stockport's least active children and young people to be more active throughout the day, with a particular focus on scaling up interventions that have previously demonstrated positive outcomes.

Our current activity levels for young people (40%) compare less favourably to GM, NW England, and England as a whole (all 46%).

Activity levels for adults in Stockport, on the other hand (76%), compare more favourably than elsewhere (71% in GM; 72% in NW England; 74% in England).

Priority 5: Embracing our heritage and culture and developing our library offer

Progress with each of the delivery projects aligned to this priority in the 2023/24 Portfolio Agreement is summarised below.

Culture Stockport

Stockport's status as GM Town of Culture has acted to galvanise Culture Stockport as a network by giving it a tangible programme to develop and deliver and resources to help ideas to be developed into active projects. During Town of Culture, over 150 new contacts have been developed across the cultural and creative sector and it is important for us to consider how these new contacts feed into Culture Stockport and the development of future cultural strategy for the borough and how we support the sector more generally through networking, advice, and guidance. As part of the evaluation, we will be working with the sector to explore what we have learnt through Town of Culture and jointly agreeing how we want to develop. This is likely to result in a revised cultural strategy and new networks being established to maintain the momentum established during Town of Culture.

Greater Manchester Town of Culture

Stockport's time as Greater Manchester Town of Culture has now come to an end with the Town of Culture Weekender on March 23rd and 24th. This weekend saw over 50 events delivered across 25 locations in Stockport Town Centre involving in excess of 100 partners. The weekend provided unprecedented opportunities to witness and take part in activities focusing on culture and creativity and physical activity. The weekend saw Stockport record its busiest weekend of 2024 so far with Saturday footfall in Merseyway up 14% on normal levels and Sunday footfall up 50% on normal levels. Stockport Museums and Central Library had their busiest weekends on record with 5,000 and 1,200 visitors respectively through the doors.

The weekend has been the culmination of a year-long programme with other highlights including the Stockport Spectacular in the run up to Christmas, Digifest in February, and a programme of sold-out gigs under the Stockport Sounds banner at venues across the town.

As well as activity programmed with partners, Town of Culture has funded 50 small community projects right throughout Stockport which have enabled people to be active and creative on their doorsteps.

A full evaluation is now taking place with partners to assess the full impact and help to develop a strong and sustainable legacy from the project.

Museums

Quarter 3 was particularly strong at Bramall Hall due to its successful October half term activities (witches trail), historic talk, a sold-out Christmas programme and elf trail. Retail sales at Bramall also saw a sharp increase in Q3. The Air Raid Shelters welcomed almost 5,500 visitors during Q3. The popular monthly Explorer Tour and private hires (including the regular Flecky Bennett Ghost Walks) continued to contribute to the site maintaining its above average visitor numbers.

Quarter 4 saw a significant rise in visitors at all venues due predominantly to the Town of Culture Weekender, when all town centre sites were free to access in celebration of our year as Greater Manchester's Town of Culture. Over this weekend alone, town centre museums welcomed 5,367 visitors in just 11 hours. Quarter 4 is usually one of our busiest quarters as it coincides with the February half term school holidays and this year was no exception.

Hat Works also fully reopened to the public in early March following four years of closure for extensive restoration, refurbishment, and reinterpretation and since then it has continued to attract hundreds of visitors every week.

Libraries

Libraries rolled out our resident access to Open+ across nine of our estate, enabling residents to call into the library during Open+ without requiring a complex registration process. With Open + residents receive an email and explanatory video explaining how to access the library, enabling access to borrow and return books, use Public PCs or Wi-Fi, relax in a warm, safe space to work or to meet friends.

Libraries and Adult Social Care are working in partnership to support residents with equipment adaptation assessment checks at Stockport Central Library.

The importance of reading for residents with provision of books to read and borrow for free is vital. During this period libraries launched Little Community Libraries (LCL) project where library book stock is placed in community locations for residents. These are currently located at Stockport Registration Service; local hotels offering support for asylum seekers; three children's homes and Pendlebury School.

Our support for Town of Culture integral to the success of the yearlong cultural celebration. During this period libraries delivered a wide variety of events and activities to our residents, including events in all 16 libraries. Highlights for our celebration included Talk about Money events in eight libraries, where residents visited the library to decorate a money box and colleague leading the session spoke to parents regarding managing money. This event was especially well received in Adswood and Bridgehall Library where families arrived bright and early at Bridgehall to paint a moneybox, a group of teens from Skylight's Holiday Club also joined in. Overall, it was great to see three different services acting together for the community.

Libraries showcased our Town of Culture Creative Weekender with Bluey Day. Over 1,300 people crammed into Central Library to enjoy the range of events and celebrate all things Bluey. The following Saturday libraries celebrated the final day of Town of Culture with LitFest. Twelve authors empowered our residents with book readings, "Question and Answer" sessions and makerspace tables. Over 70 residents attended over the course of the day.

Libraries played a key role in the launch of Viaduct Park where over 90 children enjoyed storytelling sessions from library colleagues.

Our libraries continue to support our communities with a wide variety of events. We celebrated LGBTQ+ history month with a teen silent disco, family craft session and open history discussion. International Women's Day celebrations saw libraries hosting events where over 100 residents attended. Libraries attended the Youth Summit at Stockport Town Hall; supported Life Leisure with Storytimes at their Holiday Activity Fund events and attended a variety of schools delivering multi-sensory Storytimes.

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		
CCS 5.1: Museum Visits	High (Council)	64384	88499	126,798 (31/03/2024)		100000	G	↑
CCS 5.2: Number of users accessing libraries in self-service mode (Open+)	High (Council)	7875	21867	31,350 (31/03/2024)		25000	G	↑
CCS 5.3: Number of attendees at community support and outreach events held	High (Council)	5492	11219	36,358 (31/03/2024)		13000	G	↑
CCS 5.4: Number of e-loans for books/audio/magazines/newspapers	High (Council)	117944	187607	324,488 (31/03/2024)		197000	G	↑

COMMUNITIES, CULTURE AND SPORT

2. FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND MONITORING



2.1 Revenue – Cash limit

Budget at Quarter 4:

Previously Reported Q3 £000	Increase / (Reduction) £000	Current Budget Q4 £000
7,826	188	8,014

Budget Changes since previously reported at Quarter 3:

Description	Movement(s) £000
Covid Scarring Allocation	188

Quarter 4 Outturn:

Net Cash Limit Budget £000	Net Expenditure £000	Net Appropriations from Reserves £000	Outturn £000	(Surplus) / Deficit £000	Forecast (Surplus) / Deficit at Q3 £000
8,014	8,390	(1,137)	7,253	(761)	(396)

The outturn position is a surplus of £0.761m which represents a favourable variance of £0.365m compared to quarter three. The surplus represents 9.5% of the cash limit budget.

The surplus is caused primarily by the delay in opening Stockroom and a reduction in requirement for the management fee for Leisure.

Within this position there are Income pressures relating to Taxi Licensing, Premises Licensing, Hygiene Action, and Pest Control, with these deficits being partially funded by a temporary budget allocation from the council's Covid-19 Financial Scarring contingency. The resulting pressures are partly offset by vacancy savings identified across the Portfolio.

The position includes the Management Fee for leisure provision which has experienced pressures in income, caused by changes in behaviour as one of the lasting impacts of the pandemic, and in increased energy costs. These pressures have been fully offset by a temporary budget allocation from the council's Covid-19 Financial Scarring contingency and other reserves. An improvement in the leisure position resulting in a decrease in the management fee is shown in the surplus.

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 planned use of reserves at Q4 and is after the review of the council's reserve policy which was presented to Cabinet on the 19th of September 2023 (Agenda item 9)

[Agenda for Cabinet on Tuesday, 19th September 2023, 6.00 pm - Stockport Council](#)

Transfer from reserves:

Reserve Category	Reserve Narration	To be used for	Reserve / Approved Use Balance £000	Approved use of Reserves £000	Balance of Reserve £000
Directorate Reserves					
Directorate Reserve	Directorate Flexibility Reserve - Place	Museums Air Raid Shelter & Hatworks	107	35	72
Corporate Reserves					
Strategic Priority Reserve	Community Investment Fund	Stockport Local Fund	623	0	623
Strategic Priority Reserve	Cabinet Positive Investments	Digital Inclusion and Financial Inclusion to Support Residents	199	75	124
Strategic Priority Reserve	Cabinet Positive Investments	Libraries Open Plus	3	3	0
Strategic Priority Reserve	Contain Outbreak Management Reserve	Investment Plan Post-Covid Reserve - Previously COMF reserve	942	558	384
Reserve Linked to Budget	MTFP Resilience and Smoothing Reserve	Leisure	568	0	568
Directorate Reserve	Directorate Flexibility Reserve - CSS	Events equipment	52	52	0
Reserve Linked to Budget	Transformation - Double Running Reserve	To Support 2023/24 phased savings - Value for Money	10	10	0
Strategic Priority Reserve	Cabinet Positive Investments	22/23 Digital inclusion – enhancing library provision (£0.100m)	100	39	61

Corporate Reserves	Revenue Grant Reserve (includes ringfenced reserves)	Trading Standards Grant	7	0	7
	Total		2,611	772	1,839

Approved use of reserves balance: £2.611m.

Drawdown from these reserves: £0.772m.

Contribution to reserves held outside of this portfolio: £0.031m.

Reserves held outside this portfolio are also being used: £0.431m.

Reserves funding expenditure reported elsewhere: £0.035m (capital).

2.3 Portfolio Savings Programme

MTFP Transformational Lens	Savings Programme	Value £000s	RAG
Robust Corporate Governance	Leisure Centers	100	GREEN
Robust Corporate Governance	Registrars, increasing income	25	GREEN
Robust Corporate Governance	Museums review	24	GREEN
Value for Money	Information & Advice Review	20	GREEN
	Total	169	

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 Programme

Programme

Scheme	2023/24 Outturn £000	2024/25 Programme £000	2025/26 Programme £000	2026/27 Programme £000
Security Capital Works	0	37	0	0
Marple Community Hub	846	7,061	13,678	375
TOTAL	846	7,098	13,678	375

Resources

Resources	2023/24 £000	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000
Capital Grants	846	7,098	11,489	375
Capital Receipts	0	0	2,189	0
TOTAL	846	7,098	13,678	375

Programme Amendments – Rephasing

Scheme	2023/24 £000	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000	Funding Source	Reason
Security Capital Works	(37)	37	0	0	Capital Grants	Rephased to 2024/25
Marple Community Hub	138	71	(584)	375	Capital Grants	Scheme rephasings
TOTAL	101	108	(584)	375		

Progress against individual schemes

Scheme	Description
Security Capital Works	There is £0.037m allocated to CCTV on transfer of the service from SMBC to SHG in 2023. A review of the CCTV public space network and cameras is due to take place in 2024/25. It is known that a number of cameras need replacing and this capital will contribute to that figure. It is part of a wider assessment of the type and location of cameras. The network of public space CCTV was installed some years ago and needs review.
Marple Community Hub	<p>Stockport Council was awarded with Capital Levelling up funding in April 2023 to deliver a new active communities' hub within Marple.</p> <p>The council has now appointed a main contractor to deliver the scheme and RIBA Stage 3 and Stage 4 design is being undertaken.</p> <p>A planning application for the scheme was submitted in March 2024 and the project remains on track to hit its key milestones. Works are due to start on site later in 2024, with the new building due to be completed in winter 2025/26.</p> <p>Minor rephasing has taken place during Quarter 3. This is due to payments to the main contractor occurring slightly later than forecast; however this will be recovered in Q1 of 2024/25.</p>

2.5 Allocated One-Off Resources

As part of the 2021/22 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:

Digital Inclusion and Financial Inclusion to Support Residents

The council has continued to provide funding to its partner Starting Point. Starting Point is a key partner in Stockport's award winning Digiknow Alliance, providing digital inclusion support, focussing on devices, data, and skills, from their internet café in Woodley and through partnership working with other local VCFSE organisations, across Stockport.

Skills sessions are facilitated by volunteers, known as Digital Champions and Starting Point have also supported the growth of this volunteering movement, which includes digital champions, digital ambassadors, and digital friends.

The current funding agreement lasts until September 2024, and a proposal to extend until March 2025 is at the time of writing going through the reserves governance process.

Armed Forces Engagement and Development

Support continued to be provided by the council to veterans groups and organisations including the Veterans Food company and Royal Naval Association, totalling £0.021m in 2023/24. Plans are in place to set up *Stockport Armed Forces Network* estimated to cost £0.028m over the next two to three years.