



Climate Change and Environment

Portfolio Performance and Resources Annual Report 2023/24



Date	05 June 2024	Version	v1.0 (Scrutiny)	Approved by	MR
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CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO HOLDER'S INTRODUCTION

This report demonstrates the progress we have made, but also the challenge we have before us. Whilst I am very proud of the work and progress achieved, we must acknowledge there is more that must be done.

The innovation needed to tackle climate change and nature loss is clear and being delivered through this portfolio, an example being the game-changing opportunity being pursued by the council to progress our own district heat network, helping to tackle the challenge of decarbonising heat. I'd like to thank all those officers across the council whose work and efforts enable us to step forward ahead of other authorities, whilst also learning from those that innovate themselves. I'd also like to thank those people within our communities who have been constructively working with the council to deliver on projects of various scales. Community engagement is key.



I'm pleased to report that the CAN team have been shortlisted in two MJ Achievement Awards:

- Leadership in responding to the climate emergency.
- The "Rising Star", awarded to an officer early in their career

I passionately believe these nominations are well deserved and I know all councillors will join with me in wishing the team the best of luck.

Good data continues to be a challenge, as does improvements to data collection in building up trends and accurate information.

We currently have the best recycling rates in the Northwest thanks to the efforts of our residents and the council team we have behind our service, and we aim to maintain, and ultimately improve, our recycling rates in the face of national changes across the borough.

The annual CAN report is also being presented to scrutiny this cycle which has more detail throughout.

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

Revenue Budget		Capital Programme
	£000	There is no capital programme in this portfolio.
Cash Limit	10,410	
Forecast Outturn	10,410	
(Surplus)/Deficit	NIL	
<u>Reserves</u>		
Approved use of the reserves balance: £1.692m.		
Drawdown from these reserves: £0.395m.		

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT

1. DELIVERING OUR PRIORITIES



This report is based on the **2023/24 Portfolio Agreement**, considered by the Economy, Regeneration & Climate Change Scrutiny Committee on 15th 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 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: Mainstreaming CAN

Ensuring climate action is embedded within the council's culture and operations, building climate action into everything we do, underpinned by the 2030 operationally net zero target for the council.

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

CAN at the heart of decision-making

Climate Action Now is valued as a cross-cutting theme that affects everything the council does and has been highlighted as such in the 2024-27 Council Plan. CAN continues to be embedded into strategic and delivery planning, with an Environmental Impact Assessment completed to inform key decisions.

Monitoring environmental data

Due to changes in the data collection cycle made to improve processes and align with external data holders, data up to the end of Quarter 2 2023/24 has been provided. This includes a year of data leading up to the end of September 2023. Data for the full financial year 2023/24 will be provided in the autumn reporting cycle. Data in the latest figures compares percentage change between financial year 2022/23 with the reporting year up to the end of Quarter 2 of 2023/24.

The Climate Action Now team have been leading a piece of work with STAR Procurement to introduce a new approach that will reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the council's supply chain. This will require businesses bidding for contracts with the council to provide evidence that they have a credible plan in place to reduce their own GHG emissions by 2038. We will also require businesses we work with to provide data on the GHG emissions associated with their contract with Stockport Council.

Increasing understanding about climate change

Prior to the current reporting year, 189 colleagues had undertaken Carbon Literacy training, including senior management and members. A bespoke Stockport Council Carbon Literacy course has been in operation since September 2022. In this reporting year, 115 officers and members were trained. This brings the total trained to 303. In the reporting year, the Planning and Building Control and Technology services became the first teams to be fully Carbon Literate. A CAN induction was embedded into the members' induction programme in 2023/24 and this was followed with Carbon Literacy training days for members; these will continue into 2024/25.

Measuring Performance and Reporting Progress

Note that one of the measures below, as well as two relating to Priority 2, refer to Scope 1, Scope 2 and Scope 3 emissions. These are defined as follows:

Scope 1: Emissions that an organisation makes directly, e.g. while running its boilers and vehicles.

Scope 2: Emissions made indirectly, e.g. when the energy it buys for heating buildings, is being produced on its behalf.

Scope 3: All GHG emissions associated, not with the organisation itself, but that it is indirectly responsible for, up and down its supply chain, e.g. from buying products from its suppliers, and from its products when customers use them.

Indicator Name	Good Perf.	2yr Prev. (YE)	Prev. Year End	Values	Forecast	Target		
CCE 1.1: % decrease Scope 1 & 2 emissions (council)	Low (Council)	-33.6 %	-37.41 %	-38.3 % (30/09/2023)		Minimise		
CCE 1.2: No. of Council Officers & Members accredited Carbon Literate (cumulative)	High (Council)	0	49	115 (31/03/2024)		100		

Commentary on performance

CCE 1.1: Reducing emissions from scopes 1 and 2

A decrease in GHG emissions since the baseline year of 2018/19 is evident, however, significantly faster progress is needed to meet the carbon reduction pathway required to hit our Net Zero by 2030 target.

Priority 2: Renewable Energy and Efficiency

Improving energy efficiency and uptake of renewable energy sources across the council's estate and the borough more widely.

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

Leveraging funding to develop renewable energy and efficiency solutions

Stockport Council, the Mayoral Development Corporation (MDC) and anchor organisations are exploring opportunities created by the scale of investment in Town Centre West to accelerate the decarbonisation of the Stockport energy system. In 2023/24 we engaged in technical and economic project development of a district heating network powered by renewable energy and serving new homes as well as large parts of the local public estate. An application to the Green Heat Network Fund has been submitted.

During 2023, the European Regional Development Fund supported the installation of solar panels on four public buildings. The total capacity of 684 kWp¹ will generate about 524 MWh² of electricity per annum, saving 101 tonnes of carbon per year.

Solar photovoltaic (PV) and renewable energy in schools.

During 2023, the European Regional Development Fund supported the installation of solar panels on four schools: Bramhall High School, Ladybridge Primary School, Westmorland Primary School, Banks Land Junior and Infant Schools. The total capacity of 379 kWp will generate about 354 MWh of electricity per annum saving 68 tonnes per year of carbon.

An ongoing project with GMCA "Powering our Schools" continues to promote solar onto school roofs and we are working with a further nine schools in Stockport to facilitate installations.

As part of a programmed investment to replace the heating system at Dial Park Primary School, a Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme grant has supported insulation of roof and walls and replacement doors as well as enabling transfer from gas boilers to air source heat pumps. The work was completed during 2023 and 2024 with the main school becoming fully decarbonised for the start of the 2024/25 school year. This will save around 55 tonnes of carbon per year and be a case study for schools of a similar type.

Working towards decarbonising council fleet vehicles

Over the course of 2023/24, the Totally Local Company (TLC) have continued to work on reducing the GHG emissions of their operations with work taking place around the vehicle fleet as well as the operating site at Endeavour House.

At the strategic level a report, commissioned from Logistics UK, reviewing how the vehicle fleet could be decarbonised was delivered, with the recommendations set to form the basis of TLC's vehicle procurement strategy moving forward.

¹ Kilowatt peak - a standard unit used to rate the performance of solar photovoltaic (PV) panels. The term "peak" refers to the maximum amount of power that the solar panel can produce under ideal conditions.

² Megawatt hours - the usage of 1,000 kilowatts of electricity in one hour.

Innovative steps to reduce emissions have also continued, with the use of TRAILAR solar panels on six refuse trucks, directly leading to the saving of 1,546 litres of diesel over the year, equating to a reduction of four tonnes of CO₂. Going forward, all suitable vehicles procured will be fitted with the same system to ensure emissions are minimised. Furthermore, the procurement of a new electric road sweeping vehicle is the first step in bringing in alternative fuel vehicles as they become available across the vehicle types operated.

Decarbonising heating through District Heating Networks

The technical and economic project development of a district heating network powered by renewable energy is a government-funded, detailed piece of work that explores the possibility of a heat network based on extracting heat from Stockport sewers using heat pumps and distributing it to around 30 public buildings. This is pioneering decarbonisation, as just 2% of homes are currently served by district heat networks in the UK. This could save more than 7,000 tonnes of carbon annually and make a major contribution to Stockport’s climate ambitions.

Measuring Performance and Reporting Progress

The 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. Additional explanatory commentary is also provided for the “Green” measure.

Note, definitions of the scopes of emissions are set out in Priority 1.

Indicator Name	Good Perf.	2yr Prev. (YE)	Prev. Year End	Values	Forecast	Target		
CCE 2.1: Greenhouse gas emissions from civic estate buildings (scopes 1 & 2)	Low (Council)	4692 tCO2e	4767 tCO2e	4,722 tCO2e (30/09/2023)		TBC		
CCE 2.2: Greenhouse gas emissions from Scope 3 Council Buildings (Maintained and VA schools, SHG & TLC offices/depots)	Low (Council)	7268 tCO2e	5477 tCO2e	6,383 tCO2e (30/09/2023)		TBC		
GMS: Boroughwide GHG emissions per year	Low (Council)	1200 ktCO2e	1150 ktCO2e	1,164.1 ktCO2e (31/12/2021)		Aim to minimise		

Commentary on performance

CCE 2.1: Reducing emissions from civic estate buildings

A decrease in GHG emissions since the last reporting year is evident, however significantly faster progress is needed to meet the carbon reduction pathway required to hit our Net Zero by 2030 target.

CCE2.2 GHG emissions from Scope 3 Council Buildings

Caution is needed when assessing these figures due to changes in data collection by external stakeholders. Although currently portraying a decline in emissions, further work is required to audit the data which is happening alongside changes in the data collection cycle.

GMS: Boroughwide GHG emissions (GMS measure)

This measure is a nationally modelled estimate of the total amount (in megatonnes) of GHG emissions from sources in the borough. Sectors included are industry, agriculture, commercial, public sector, domestic, roads and railways. Data is published by the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) annually at the end of June with a delay of two years. Please note, that back-dated data can alter previous year's figures.

Whilst the time lag on the national data means this measure does not give an indication of the impact of council-specific actions over the coming year, it is included as it provides an indication of longer-term trends and of whole borough progress (both council and non-council actions).

The increase in boroughwide GHG emissions from 2020 to 2021 is a common trend across areas that can be attributed to the lifting of Covid lockdown restrictions. It is anticipated that subsequent years will have seen a further increase in boroughwide GHG emissions that is not in line with reductions needed to meet the carbon neutral by 2038 target.

The Tyndall Centre carbon budget identifies a 13.1% reduction in emissions is needed in Stockport every year. The total reduction in boroughwide GHG emissions from 2017 (Tyndall Centre baseline year) to 2021 was 10%.

Priority 3: Council CAN engagement activity

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.

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

Raising Awareness

The CAN Summit took place on 9th November 2023 with 161 people attending in person and online to hear talks from speakers and take part in workshops relating to Council CAN, Energy, Young People & Communities and Nature and Biodiversity.

This reporting year, 72 people from 54 businesses engaged with the Climate Action Business Forum through events and training; representing 162 total engagements across the year. The forum has been hosted this year by Stockport County, Robinsons Brewery and Williams BMW. Speakers included the Energy Saving Trust, Bee Net Zero, BASF, Datesand, Kelsall Architects and more. Workshops have included setting sustainability goals and speed networking.

A bespoke Carbon Literacy course, designed exclusively by and for Stockport organisations, was developed and piloted in 2023/24 via collaboration with musicMagpie, MMU, One+All, Litmus Sustainability and with support from BASF, Smith Goodfellow and the Carbon Literacy Project. Establishing the course's delivery model took longer than anticipated, however, and the target of 40 business representatives completing the course was missed. The course will be delivered in 2024/25.

Young people

In 2023/24, a large increase in engagement saw over 1,800 young people from 46 schools and colleges take part in lessons, workshops, school assemblies, youth summits, video lessons and Town Hall debates. This included new schools that hadn't taken part in previous years.

Over 100 climate action ideas, all thought up by young people were submitted to the council as part of the project. The Town Hall debates took place in March where 80 young people representing 30 schools and colleges took part. The young people voted on which climate action idea they thought was most important, supporting an action around setting up swap shops, recycling bins and compost areas

In response to the 'community gardens' winning idea from 2022/23, in 2023/24 the council gave grants to participating schools and colleges so they could set up growing spaces, offered a tree site assessment to schools and set up Book Worms gardening clubs through which Bredbury Library is transforming its outside space into a vibrant community garden.

Inspiring positive action

Two new Climate Action Now (CAN) Funds were launched on 25th March 2024 that will run through to March 2025. The CAN Seed Fund is supporting local climate and nature projects up to £1,000 and the CAN Catalyst Fund offers support up to £5,000 for ambitious projects that lead climate and nature actions in the wider community.

During this reporting year, 53 people from across 37 groups acted as part of the Stockport Green Network. The network has three key themes: climate action, nature & biodiversity and awareness raising & engagement. In 2023/24 the network planned and delivered the Greenstock community fun day through which 49 people volunteered and 314 visitors attended the event. Visitors took part in fun activities and learned about community groups and climate action taking place in Stockport, with the aim of reaching not-yet-climate active residents in an engaging and accessible way.

Measuring Performance and Reporting Progress

The 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 Per ^o	2yr Prev. (YE)	Prev. Year End	Values	Forecast	Target		
CCE 3.1: Number of people attending the Climate Action Business Forum	High (Council)		118	162 (31/03/2024)		150		
CCE 3.2: Number of people undertaking Carbon Literacy training for businesses	High (Council)			10 (31/03/2024)		40		
CCE 3.3(a): Number of schools/colleges taking part in the Schools Climate Assembly	High (Council)	35	49	46 (31/03/2024)		60		
CCE 3.3(b): Number of young people taking part in the Schools Climate Assembly	High (Council)	1050	1570	1,828 (31/03/2024)		1800		
CCE 3.4(a): Number of people involved in Stockport Green Network.	High (Council)		60	551 (31/03/2024)		80		
CCE 3.4(b): Number of community groups involved in Stockport Green Network.	High (Council)		43	73 (31/03/2024)		60		

Commentary on performance

CCE 3.2: Number of people undertaking Carbon Literacy Training for Businesses

In 2023/24, a custom Stockport-rooted Carbon Literacy course aimed at SME and micro businesses was created by working in partnership with musicMagpie, One + All, Manchester Metropolitan University, Litmus Sustainability and with support from BASF. This is innovative work that is developing a local model that will convert fantastic engagement at the Climate Action Business Forum into practical action and Carbon Literacy certification for businesses. Development and accreditation of the course took longer than anticipated and the course was piloted in November 2023 with 10 learners successfully completing the course and provided valuable feedback which was utilised to strengthen the course. Following the successful course pilot, some businesses who participated are now exploring Carbon Literacy training for the rest of their employees, showing the potential impact of this training in cascading climate change learning. A regular delivery model will be trialled in early 2024/25.

CCE 3.3a and b: Schools/colleges people taking part in the Schools Climate Assembly

The number of young people who attended the Schools Climate Assembly was 16% up on 2022/23. The number of schools who were represented however reduced slightly (from 49 to 46) and the ambitious target of 60 was not achieved this time. The 46 schools and colleges that took part this year included new schools that hadn't participated in previous years. In 2023/24, a number of schools reported that they would like to take part but were unable due to staffing and capacity issues. This has been a running theme across this year's project and as such the project will look at ways to further support teaching staff to take part.

Priority 4: Waste Management

We will promote effective waste management and recycling behaviour through tailored services.

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

Delivering an effective and good-quality waste management service

Good progress has been made in implementing the findings of Project Evergreen. The new in-cab system is due to go live in April.

The recycling rate in Stockport remains the best in the North West and is one of the top performing councils nationally.

Promoting recycling behaviour

Work has continued for the regular calendar to be published in 2024. Working with GMCA, we will focus the forthcoming campaign on the types of plastic we can recycle in Stockport (bottles only), the dangers associated with incorrect battery disposal and the benefits of recycling all textiles (old clothes can be recycled into industrial cleaning material etc.). Textiles can be recycled via the banks at the Household Waste and Recycling Centre or via the charitable kerbside collections.

Measuring Performance and Reporting Progress

The latest available performance on all measures relating to this priority is summarised in the table below.

Indicator Name	Good Perf.	2yr Prev. (YE)	Prev. Year End	Values	Forecast	Target		
CCE 4.1: Residual Household Waste	Low (Council)	349 kg	322.86 kg	323.12 kg (31/03/2024)		320kg	A	➔
CCE 4.2: Recycling Rate	High (Council)	58.5 %	57.4 %	57.43 % (31/03/2024) 57558 / 100219		58%	A	➔
CCE 4.3: Bin collection service failures per 100,000	Low (Council)	65.4	66.4	55.7 (31/03/2024)		60	G	⬆

Priority 5: Clean Air

The council works with colleagues in GM authorities and TfGM to improve air quality. As part of this nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) levels are monitored as the particulate levels are a major contributor to poor air quality and can adversely affect health outcomes.

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

Clean Air Plan (CAP)

We continue to work with TfGM on the GM CAP including the submission of the requested information to the government. The work being done by TfGM was affected by the April 2023 government announcement of a review of its national bus retrofit programme. Their early research has revealed that retrofitting buses with emission-reducing technology has not delivered the previously expected results.

TfGM and the boroughs continue to work with the government to develop the Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan. TfGM are awaiting feedback on the latest Clean Air Plan submission.

Beyond the Clean Air Plan work related to clean air has included: the continued use of the “turn it off” campaign; supporting School Streets active in the borough; working to increase the number of EV charging locations in the borough with the recent opening of three sites for Taxi and Private Hire Vehicles to charge in New Bridge Lane, Torkington Park and Lomas Street Edgeley and continued work with partners Be.EV to deliver a number of sites for the public across the borough. Three Be.EV sites having gone live and a fourth being expected early in the new financial year.

Measuring Performance and Reporting Progress

Indicator Name	Good Perf.	2yr Prev. (YE)	Prev. Year End	Values	Forecast	Target		
CCE 5.1: Maximum NO2 concentration (µg/m3)	Low (contextual)	45	36	34 (31/12/2023)		Maintain	N/A	
CCE 5.2: Number of NO2 concentration exceedences	Low (contextual)	3	0	0 (31/12/2023)		Maintain	N/A	

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT

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
10,410	NIL	10,410

Budget Changes since previously reported at Quarter 3:

Description	Movement(s) £000
	NIL

Quarter 4 Outturn:

Net Cash Limit Budget	Net Expenditure	Net Appropriations (from) / to Reserves	Outturn	(Surplus) / Deficit	Forecast (Surplus) / Deficit Q3
£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
10,410	10,386	24	10,410	0	(90)

The outturn position is a balanced budget.

Surpluses forecast at quarter three have been utilised to fund project expenditure thus protecting reserves. All Climate Action Now expenditure has been offset by reserves funding (£0.395m).

2.2 Earmarked Reserves

Most earmarked reserves are held at a corporate level and services produce a business case to draw down funds, which is approved through the 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 Quarter 4 and is after the review of the council's reserve policy which was presented to Cabinet on the 19th 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	Evergreen Software - Waste Route Optimisation	90	0	90
Corporate Reserves					
Strategic Priority Reserve	Cabinet Positive Investments	Tackling Climate Change	250	250	0
Strategic Priority Reserve	Contain Outbreak Management Reserve	Climate Action Now Reserve	352	145	207
Reserve Linked to Budget	Workforce Investment/Change Reserve	TLC Review	1,000	0	1,000
	Total		1,692	395	1,297

Approved use of the reserves: £1.692m.

Drawdown from these reserves: £0.395m.

Contribution to reserves held outside of this portfolio: £0.419m.

2.3 Portfolio Savings Programme

MTFP Transformational Lens	Savings Programme	Value £000s	RAG
Robust Corporate Governance	Charging for Replacement Bins	40	GREEN
	Total Savings	40	

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

There is no capital programme in this portfolio.

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:

Tackling Climate Change (£0.600m) (£0.250m for 2023/24)

In March 2019, Stockport Council declared a Climate Emergency and expressed an ambition to become carbon neutral by 2038. The council developed a strategy that set specific targets and the remaining balance of £0.250m has been fully utilised in 2023/24.