



# Parks, Highways and Transport Services

Portfolio Performance and Resources  
Mid-Year Report 2024/5



Ambitious Stockport, creating opportunities *for everyone*

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# PARKS, HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT SERVICES PORTFOLIO HOLDER'S INTRODUCTION



I am pleased to be able to present this report at a time when so many positive developments are happening across our borough.

The new Interchange and Viaduct Park have been a great success. Seeing the park change through the seasons with so many plants and flowers on show has received positive feedback from many Stockport residents and visitors. The associated helix and walk/cycle bridge has connected areas of the town and enhanced people's experience of changing between buses and trains in Stockport. It is a testament to the innovative design that Stockport Interchange won the Design, Engineering and Construction Project of the Year category at the National Transport Awards on Thursday 3rd October.



This is just the start of our ambitions for this area. I continue to push for the Metrolink to come to Stockport, and eventually the tram-train, and an upgrade to Stockport Train Station and the rail capacity through there. Improving capacity on the West Coast Mainline at Stockport would not just benefit Stockport, but all the surrounding areas.

I also look forward to the planned opening of Cheadle Railway Station in 2026. Cheadle Railway Station will enhance the experience of residents and visitors to Cheadle and will link in well with the recent walk/cycle improvements in that area.

Improvements to the walk and cycle infrastructure across the borough continue at a pace. Significant improvements are nearing completion in Romiley. Plans are nearing completion in Bredbury and Woodley. There are improvements in progress in the Heatons which will link wider cycle infrastructure in Stockport to the Fallowfield Loop. Work is in progress on the Ladybrook Valley, which will link into existing walk/cycle schemes, including the A6 to Bramhall Park scheme. Improvements are being made around the new Marple Hub which will make the new facility there as accessible to residents as possible. The A34 scheme will benefit a range of transport modes, and progress continues apace on that scheme.

In January, Stockport will become part of the Bee Network bus franchising system. We look forward to welcoming improvements to the buses around Stockport, and I will continue to advocate for network improvements, as I know many areas in Stockport that are currently underserved by bus services.

In preparation for bus franchising, there are several bus infrastructure schemes planned or in progress, including a strategic bus corridor, and enhancements to junctions, crossings, and bus stops. It is within all our interests that the bus service operates as reliably as possible.

We continue the process of enhancing our offer in parks and there are several examples listed within the report. It would be a challenge to list them all here, but one particular scheme I would like to mention is the improvements to the BMX facilities at Bruntwood Park, which will allow the club to host competitions attracting riders from all over the country. I have asked for a particular focus on getting accessible play equipment into our parks across the borough when the opportunity arises. Our parks are further enhanced by the amount of work done by the continued efforts of volunteers and friends of parks groups, who not only carry out tidying and planting, but also run events

**Councillor Grace Baynham, Cabinet Member for Parks, Highways and Transport Services**

Revenue Budget		Capital Programme	
	<b>£000</b>		<b>£000</b>
Cash Limit	13,507	2024/25 Capital Budget	38,883
Forecast Outturn	13,807	2025/26 Capital Budget	34,049
(Surplus)/Deficit	300	2026/27 Capital Budget	18,745
<u>Reserves</u>		2027/28 Capital Budget	2,146
Approved use of the Reserves balance is £0.734m. Planned drawdown from these reserves is £0.198m plus £0.217m net from reserve allocations reported in other portfolios and corporately.		2028/29 Capital Budget	2,305

# PARKS, HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT SERVICES

## 1. DELIVERING OUR PRIORITIES



This report is based on the **2024/25 Portfolio Agreement**, considered by Communities and Transport Scrutiny Committee on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2024 and approved by Cabinet on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2024. The link to the Agreement can be found by clicking [here](#).







This Quarter 2 (Mid-Year) report includes updates on all **delivery projects, programmes and other initiatives** set out in the portfolio agreement, up to the end of September 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 these can be [found here](#). They contain 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.
<b>GMS</b> – measure is included in the Greater Manchester Strategy outcomes framework.			



## Priority 1: Managing transportation infrastructure

We will maintain and improve our highways and footways to manage traffic and encourage the use of more sustainable modes of transport. Progress with each of the delivery projects aligned to this priority in the 2024/25 Portfolio Agreement is summarised below.

### Maintaining infrastructure

Work to deliver the Street Lighting LED project has continued and will be finalised in 2025-26. Work has begun on the delivery of the Capital Programme including the additional maintenance funding received as part of the Network North programme.

### Improving infrastructure

Council officers are working closely with colleagues from Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) to continue to develop the strategic business case for Metrolink to Stockport.

The third phase of bus franchising in GM, which includes the Stockport area, is due to start on 5 January 2025.

Work is continuing on developing proposals for the redevelopment of Stockport rail station and the associated business case.

### Road Safety


Officers have continued to monitor the delivery of the borough's four School Streets and assist where possible. We are also awaiting guidance from TfGM on its preferred approach to delivering future School Streets initiatives and how to access the funding opportunities to support this. Work has continued to expand the 20mph zones and limits in the borough, as has work to review road safety around schools as identified in the Capital Programme.

### Flood management

Officers have continued to provide advice on planning applications and local issues, as well as working with the Environment Agency and United Utilities on several projects.

## Measuring Performance and Reporting Progress

Performance data on the one measure relating to this priority that has been updated since publication of the 2023/24 Annual Reports is summarised in the table below. Explanatory commentary is set out beneath the table

Indicator Name	Good Perf.	2yr Prev. (YE)	Prev. Year End	Values	Forecast	Target	
PHT 1.3: Miles of 20mph residential speed limits	High (Council)	4.75 miles	5.95 miles	0.25 miles (30/09/2024)	7 miles	N/A	N/A 

## Commentary on performance

### PHT 1.3 (Miles of 20 mph speed limits)

The mid-year forecast for completed 20mph schemes is low as the council is waiting for a number of schemes to progress through the various governance processes. There are several 20mph schemes forecast to be completed this year, including developer-led, Department of Transport-funded, local area-funded and TfGM-related schemes. The mid-year forecast is that approximately seven miles of 20mph schemes will either be approved or on-site by the end of the year.

## **Priority 2: Strategic Transport Projects**

There are a number of key, transformational projects that need to be delivered to support the One Stockport Transport Plan and the Council Plan. The latest progress on these is set out below.

### **Securing investment in Stockport Rail Station**

Work is continuing to develop the detailed proposals for the redevelopment of Stockport station with key stakeholders involved in the design development process.

### **Improving accessibility to Stockport's local rail stations**

Officers continue to work with TfGM as necessary to bring forward improvements to station access. Work to implement schemes at Reddish North and Bredbury is continuing.

### **New Cheadle Rail Station**

Work continues on developing the detailed design for the railway station. Discussions have progressed on the possible stopping and train patterns to Cheadle Station and engagement with the relevant national and sub-regional bodies will soon conclude. Physical site works are due to begin on site in January 2025, with initial site clearance, arboricultural work and preparatory construction works progressing first.

### **Bringing Metrolink to Stockport**

The council continues to work with TfGM on promoting Metrolink coming to Stockport as part of its Next Stop Stockport campaign.

Council officers are currently supporting TfGM with the bidding and commissioning process to appoint consultants to progress the Strategic Outline Business Case. Once consultants are appointed, TfGM will be progressing to May 2025 to produce the initial business case for a new Metrolink line from South Manchester to Stockport/Hazel Grove.

TfGM's officers are working with Network Rail and council officers and have agreed a funding package and approach on the replacement of Greek Street road over rail bridge to safeguard future potential Metrolink/tram train routes. Work on replacing the bridge will begin in the spring of 2025.

### **GM2040 and Stockport Transport Strategy**

Work is continuing on developing elements of the Local Transport Plan for Stockport and officers are also supporting the work being undertaken by TfGM to refresh the Greater Manchester Local Transport Plan and the Greater Manchester 2040 Transport Strategy.

### **Measuring Performance and Reporting Progress**

There are currently no performance measures associated with this priority.

### Priority 3: Sustainable transport

Encouraging and facilitating the use of more sustainable modes of transport including bus, rail, walking and cycling and improving their accessibility. Progress on each of the delivery projects aligned to this priority in the 2024/25 Portfolio Agreement is summarised below.

#### Moving to low-carbon and active transport options like walking, cycling public transport

The necessary preparation works on Romiley to Stockport scheme elements, Heaton's Cycle link elements and the upgrade of Bridleway on the Ladybrook Valley have been undertaken. The first phase of the Romiley scheme is nearly complete with work due to start on site in the near future at Heaton Mersey Common and Ladybrook Valley. Other recent work includes:

- The Mayor's Challenge Fund Urban Traffic Control Schemes at Dale Street is complete.
- Activation work for the Interchange and the Heaton Moor road and Dale Street crossings are underway.
- The council also participated in the Stockport Moves event and engaged with schools and businesses as part of World Car Free Day on 22<sup>nd</sup> September.

#### Bus Franchise Performance



Officers are working with TfGM to coordinate the launch of the new franchise, which is scheduled to be operational on January 5, 2025. This includes agreeing methodologies to share information about network management activities on bus routes.

#### Electric vehicle (EV) charging

Work to deliver EV charging sites in partnership with Be.EV is progressing, with four sites now complete and the fourth site being energised in July. The council's legal team is currently working on agreements for the next five and they are expected to be finalised in Quarter 3, following licenses being agreed with Electricity North West for the related substations needed for the sites. The final EV site being provided by TfGM funding in Chadwick Street, Marple is in place and due to be energised shortly – this is later than expected due to technical issues.

### Measuring Performance and Reporting Progress

Performance data on the measure relating to this priority that has been updated since publication of the 2023/24 Annual Reports is summarised in the table below.

Indicator Name	Good Perf.	2yr Prev. (YE)	Prev. Year End	Values	Forecast	Target	
PHT 3.1: Number of publicly-accessible Be.EV charging bays	High (Partnership)	14 bays	26 bays	32 bays (30/09/2024)	64bays	62bays	 

## Priority 4: Well-maintained, clean and accessible public spaces in neighbourhoods

We will work in partnership with communities and partners to ensure that our shared public spaces are welcoming, clean, and safe. We will ensure that they are easy to access, utilise and enjoy with minimal litter in our town and district centres.

We will continue to develop our public realm as a place that promotes wellbeing with cared for, accessible greenspace available within a short distance for all our residents.

Progress on each of the delivery projects aligned to this priority in the 2024/25 Portfolio Agreement is summarised below.

### Work with community groups

The team continues to provide training to local volunteer groups to ensure they are equipped with the skills to safely help maintain our greenspaces and parks.

The council's flagship Viaduct Park has benefitted from a focused approach to community coordination and has seen a successful and popular programme of community events since opening.

New 'Friends of' groups are forming, or have formed, including in Bruntwood Park – that group is establishing well.

### Improving diversity and accessibility of our spaces

The greenspace team has now been organised on a neighbourhood basis and has been tasked with scoping the areas they are responsible for and starting work relating to greenspace standards. This will assess the neighbourhood and local green amenity space so that areas for development can be prioritised and support drawn in from volunteers (such as 'Friends of' groups).

### Measuring Performance and Reporting Progress

Performance data on measures relating to this priority that have been updated since publication of the 2023/24 Annual Reports is summarised in the table below.

Indicator Name	Good Perf.	2yr Prev. (YE)	Prev. Year End	Values	Forecast	Target		
PHT 4.1: Street Cleanliness	High (Council)	99.98 %	99.26 %	100 % (30/09/2024)	100 %	99 %	G	→
PHT 4.2: % of greenspaces graded as good	High (Council)	97.62 %	100 %	97.62 % (30/09/2024)	100 %	100 %	G	→
PHT 4.3: Total number of formal interventions issued to address matters of environmental crime, nuisance and place related ASB.	- (Council)		264 interventions	124 interventions (30/09/2024)		N/A	N/A	○
PHT 4.4: Play spaces with one or more pieces of accessible play equipment	High (Council)		49	56 (30/09/2024)	59	54	G	↑



# PARKS, HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT SERVICES

## 2. FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND MONITORING



### 2.1 Revenue – Cash limit

Budget at Q2:

Previously Reported Q1 £000	Increase / (Reduction) £000	Current Budget Q2 £000
13,343	164	13,507

Budget Changes since previously reported at Quarter 1:

Description	Movement(s) £000
Street Lighting Energy	164

Quarter 2 Forecast:

Net Cash Limit Budget	Forecast Net Expenditure	Covid Scarring Allocations	Forecast Net Appropriations from Reserves	Forecast Net Expenditure after Scarring & Reserves	Forecast (Surplus) / Deficit Q2	Forecast (Surplus) / Deficit Q1
£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
13,507	14,222	0	(415)	13,807	300	300

The Quarter 2 forecast position for the Parks, Highways & Transport Services portfolio is a deficit of £0.300m which represents 2.2% of the cash limit budget of £13.507m.

The deficit is due to a £0.400m pressure on cremations income expected within Bereavement Services because the cremators have not been fully functional for part of the year. It is expected that this pressure will be partly offset by vacancy management in the Neighbourhoods service (£0.100m).

Potential overspends have been identified on Street Lighting and Highways reactive maintenance, however these deficits have not been included in the current forecast because it is envisaged that they will be contained by Totally Local Company.

## 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 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 2 and is after the review of the council's reserve policy which was presented to Cabinet on 18 September 2024 (Agenda item 11)

[Agenda for Cabinet on Wednesday, 18th September 2024, 6.00 pm - Stockport Council](#)

### Transfer from reserves:

Reserve Category	Reserve Narration	To be used for	Reserve / Approved Use Balance £000	Planned / Approved use of Reserves £000	Balance of Reserve £000
<b>Corporate Reserves</b>					
Corporate Reserves	Third Party Monies Reserve	Parks Bequest	44	0	44
Corporate Reserves	Area Committee Reserves	Delegated Budgets	482	0	482
Corporate Reserves	Third Party monies Reserve	Cemeteries Bond	10	0	10
Strategic Priority Reserve	Cabinet Positive Investments	22/23 Flooding Remediation and Environmental Infrastructure	198	198	0
	<b>Total</b>		<b>734</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>536</b>

- Approved use of the Reserves balance is £0.734m.
- Planned drawdown from these reserves is £0.198m.
- Reserves held outside this portfolio being used to fund expenditure within this portfolio is £0.415m.
- Reserves funding expenditure reported in other portfolios is £0.198m.

Please note that reserves have been reviewed in line with the policy and reduced where deemed appropriate.

## 2.3 Portfolio Savings Programme

The savings aligned to this portfolio for 2024/25 are shown in the table below:

MTFP Driver	Proposal	Value of Savings £000's	RAG
Robust Corporate Governance	Increase Fees & Charges across Place Management	248	AMBER
Robust Corporate Governance	Increase in fees for Bereavement Services	320	AMBER
Robust Corporate Governance	Review of free car parks and permitting schemes	275	AMBER
Robust Corporate Governance	Service Efficiencies in Strategic Infrastructure	110	GREEN
<b>Total: Parks, Highways &amp; Transport Services</b>		<b>953</b>	

### 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 Finance Update and Outlook

### Programme

Expenditure as at 30 Sep 2024 £000	Scheme	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000	2027/28 £000	2028/29 £000
	<b><u>Highways</u></b>					
	<b><u>Capital Asset Maintenance</u></b>					
168	Street Lighting	535	0	0	0	0
201	Highways Drainage	536	0	0	0	0
700	Pot Hole and Highway Maintenance Improvements Programme	2,410	0	0	0	0
69	Highways Structures	613	0	0	0	0
	<b><u>Major Schemes</u></b>					
513	SEMMMS Relief Road	6,438	13,594	4,749	0	0
16	Town Centre Access Plan	663	0	0	0	0
554	Merseyway Structure & Public Realm	909	0	0	0	0
720	Merseyway Car Park Waterproofing	1,214	829	0	0	0
1,312	Poynton Relief Road	2,623	1,096	1,146	1,435	2,265
1,201	A34 Major Road Network	7,616	9,763	12,810	671	0
268	Mayoral Walking & Cycling Challenge Fund	735	0	0	0	0
135	Mayoral Walking & Cycling Challenge Fund - Interchange	2,050	0	0	0	0
151	Stockport Station Outline Business Case (OBC) Preparation	1,350	0	0	0	0
	<b><u>Network Improvements</u></b>					
452	City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) incl. Highway Trees	702	0	0	0	0
14	District Centres & Local Centres	89	0	0	0	0
1,085	Active Travel Measures	1,286	0	0	0	0
169	Bus Stop and Passenger Travel Enhancements	1,795	0	0	0	0
129	Cheadle Town	1,587	6,215	0	0	0
40	Public Rights Of Way (PROW)	452	0	0	0	0
	<b><u>Road Safety Improvements</u></b>					
25	Road Safety Near Schools	187	0	0	0	0
17	Road Safety	411	0	0	0	0
	<b><u>Planning-related Schemes</u></b>					
645	Section 278 and Section 106 schemes	900	0	0	0	0
	<b><u>Other Highway Programmes</u></b>					
0	Air Quality	5	80	0	0	0

191	Flood Risk Management	605	0	0	0	0
141	Studies and Transport Minor Schemes	283	0	0	0	0
510	Street Lighting Investment Programme	1,930	2,216	0	0	0
<b>9,426</b>	<b>Highways sub-total</b>	<b>37,924</b>	<b>33,793</b>	<b>18,705</b>	<b>2,106</b>	<b>2,265</b>
	<b><u>Non-highways</u></b>					
264	Schemes in Parks	959	256	40	40	40
<b>264</b>	<b>Non-highways sub-total</b>	<b>959</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>9,690</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>38,883</b>	<b>34,049</b>	<b>18,745</b>	<b>2,146</b>	<b>2,305</b>

\* This relates to expenditure on SAP and accruals for goods received or work performed up to the period end.

## Resources

Resources	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000	2027/28 £000	2028/29 £000
Capital Grants	32,917	30,748	18,705	2,106	2,265
Directly Funded Borrowing	3,807	3,045	0	0	0
Unsupported Borrowing	42	100	40	40	40
External Contributions	73	0	0	0	0
Commuted Sums	1,479	0	0	0	0
Revenue Contributions (RCCO)	565	156	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>38,883</b>	<b>34,049</b>	<b>18,745</b>	<b>2,146</b>	<b>2,305</b>

## Programme Amendments – Rephasing

Scheme	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000	2027/28 £000	2028/29 £000	Funding Source	Reason
<b><u>Highways</u></b>							
Poynton Relief Road	1,574	658	265	1,254	2,265	Capital Grants	Increase of funding
CRSTS incl. Highway Trees	(84)	0	0	0	0	Capital Grants	Scheme Adjustment
Road Safety	84	0	0	0	0	Capital Grants	Scheme Adjustment
Section 278 and Section 106 schemes	230	0	0	0	0	Commuted Sums	Increase of funding
Air Quality	(80)	80	0	0	0	Capital Grants	Rephasing
<b><u>Non Highways</u></b>							
Schemes in Parks	155	0	0	0	0	Commuted Sums	Scheme increase
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,879</b>	<b>738</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>1,254</b>	<b>2,265</b>		



**Progress against individual schemes**

Scheme	Description
<b><u>HIGHWAY SCHEMES</u></b>	
<b><u>Capital Asset Maintenance</u></b>	
Street Lighting	<p>This programme delivers the structural replacement or repair of street lighting columns and signs that are reaching the end of their life. Assets are identified for replacement or repair following routine structural / visual assessments. The condition of lighting columns and signs are being used to develop whole-life modelling of assets across the network.</p> <p>The current year's programme is progressing as planned.</p>
Highways Drainage	<p>An ongoing programme of works to improve highway drainage across the borough. This includes drainage inspection and repair undertaken ahead of carriageway resurfacing works in the planned maintenance programme.</p> <p>The current year's programme is progressing as planned.</p>
Pot Hole and Highway Maintenance Improvements	<p>A programme of carriageway resurfacing, footway repair and large-scale patch repair of the highway.</p> <p>Preventative treatments have been completed and the main carriageway resurfacing work will take place in Quarters 3 and 4.</p>
Highways Structures	<p>A programme of condition surveys and inspections that identifies maintenance schemes and interventions including bridge deck waterproofing, bridge deck repairs, bridge bearing repairs, bridge parapet repairs, retaining wall repairs, steps refurbishment, and slope investigations.</p> <p>This year's programme also includes the development and preparation of a scheme to replace the bridge deck on Queens Road in Cheadle. The delivery of the scheme will take place in subsequent financial years.</p> <p>Of the 33 principal bridge inspections, all work packages have been issued during Quarter 1 and Quarter 2, and 2 have been completed to date.</p> <p>The 2024/25 programme has been amended to include the replacement of bridge joints on the A555 near Handforth Dean.</p> <p>Several schemes from the original programme will be developed this year but delivered next year to accommodate funding this change in programme, and design and preparation work is underway on those schemes.</p> <p>Work is progressing to deliver the interventions planned in the remainder of this year's programme with 1 project construction project completed, 2 projects currently on site and a further project due to go to site at the start of Quarter 3.</p>

<b><u>Major Schemes</u></b>	
SEMMMS Relief Road	<p>The A6 to Manchester Airport Relief Road Scheme provides 10 kilometers of new 2-lane dual carriageway on an east-west route from the A6 near Hazel Grove (south east Stockport), via the four kilometers of existing A555 to Manchester Airport and the link road to the M56. The planned and actual spend represents Stockport's element of the final stages of the scheme notably around finalising land purchases, drainage works, part 1 compensation and Year 5 monitoring and evaluation.</p> <p>Land acquisitions are progressing well, with the focus going forward relating to the more complicated land acquisitions, where for example, agreements have not been reached by negotiation and will be taken to tribunal for resolution.</p> <p>Validation of part 1 claims is nearing completion, with subsequent initial compensation payouts having been made.</p> <p>Investigation and design works for drainage improvement works have been undertaken with this being a key focus area in Quarter 3.</p>
Town Centre Access Plan	<p>A £73m package of measures that has transformed the accessibility and connectivity to and around Stockport Town Centre. The plan considered access by all methods of travel, specifically aiming to ease congestion for buses and general road traffic and encourage walking and cycling, as part of an ambitious vision and development framework for investment in the town centre.</p> <p>The planned and actual spend represent the final stages of the scheme delivery as well as project and programme closeout and post opening monitoring and evaluation.</p>
Merseyway Structure & Public Realm	<p>A mixture of grant funding and council funding is being used to undertake major repairs and improvements to the Merseyway bridge structure and associated public realm assets.</p> <p>Works have progressed in Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 with work taking place on the ramp outside the former BHS and the reopening of Deanery Way North. Remaining works to complete the paving and barriers at the Warren Street end will be undertaken after Christmas. Close-out of the completed elements of the scheme is now taking place and will continue during the rest of the year.</p>
Merseyway Carpark Maintenance & Refurbishment Project (Phase 1)	<p>A package of works across the Merseyway multi-storey car park to repair and waterproof the structure, to prevent further structural deterioration and extend its life. The package includes inspections and site surveys to develop a more complete understanding of the carpark structures and bridges. Works are to be delivered in a phased manner to maintain car park operations.</p> <p>Resurfacing and repair works to Level 2 of the Yellow and Green Zone (above Primark) are now substantially complete. Survey and repair of the Pickfords Brow Bridge northwest joint is ongoing.</p> <p>A Lifecare Plan update was compiled at the end of 2024/25 and, following that, a review of Phase 1 delivery against objectives is in preparation.</p> <p>Principal Bridge Inspections are due for completion in Quarter 3.</p>

Poynton Relief Road	<p>The council has been working with Cheshire East (CEC) on the Poynton Relief Road scheme which opened to traffic on 6th March 2023. Cheshire East Council is leading on the delivery of the scheme which includes infrastructure within the Stockport Borough.</p> <p>Remaining spend on the scheme represents work to be undertaken by CEC on the final stages of the scheme close out.</p>
A34 Major Road Network	<p>An improvement scheme to be delivered as part of the Major Road Network (MRN) fund along the A34 corridor between the A555 and A560 has been submitted to Government. It includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A cycle route from Stanley Green to Broadway and associated cycle improvements on Wilmslow Rd, Gatley Rd and Broadway;</li> <li>• A new subway at Kingsway School;</li> <li>• Improvements at Cheadle Royal roundabout for traffic, cyclists, pedestrians, and bus passengers;</li> <li>• Works at Eden Park, Stanley Green and the A555 roundabouts;</li> <li>• New cycle and pedestrian links between Cheadle Royal and Stanley Green Roundabout;</li> <li>• Access improvements for the Earl Road employment area.</li> </ul> <p>The Full Business case received DfT approval in November 2023, and the first phase of construction began in April 2024.</p> <p>Improvements to Gatley Road and upgrades to the connecting residential roads were completed in Quarter 2, along with the upgrade to Wilmslow Road/Broadway priority junction to signal-controlled junction.</p> <p>Scheme 3 (Improvements along Broadway including traffic calming) and Scheme 6 early works (Improvements to the Cheadle Royal Roundabout) is to start in Quarter 3 of 2024/25. Further pre-construction preparation is being undertaken for the other areas of the programme.</p>
Mayoral Walking & Cycling Challenge Fund including Bee Network Crossings Package	<p>Following a series of successful bids to the Mayoral Walking and Cycling Challenge Fund, several packages of schemes have been developed and implemented to extend and improve the borough's walking and cycling network. The final stages of work include the close-out of the programme along with ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the scheme outputs and outcomes.</p> <p>Alongside the main Challenge Fund programme, a series of crossings packages has been delivered to support the Stockport sections of the Bee Network. These include a crossing at Manchester Road, Heaton Chapel, and a signalised junction crossing on Broadstone Road in Heaton Chapel. Crossing upgrades at the junction of Dale Street and Edgeley Road were delivered in Quarters 1 and 2 this year.</p>

Mayoral Walking & Cycling Challenge Fund - Interchange	<p>The new Transport Interchange opened to the public on 18 March 2024. TfGM led the delivery of the scheme with some scheme oversight from Stockport Council.</p> <p>Some complementary elements of the scheme around Station Road, Mersey Square and the A6 will be delivered by SMBC. Design of these schemes is being progressed in 2024/25</p>
Stockport Station OBC Preparation	<p>Working in partnership with TfGM, the council is developing a series of major improvements to Stockport Railway Station.</p> <p>Following Strategic Outline Business Case (SOBC) approval in 2023/24, Stockport was awarded £1.3m to progress the station design and prepare an OBC for the scheme. Work to develop more detailed scheme proposals for the OBC has continued during 2024/25 and is expected to complete in Quarter 4.</p>
<b><u>Network Improvements</u></b>	
CRSTS incl. Highway Trees	<p>Various transport schemes including cycling, town centre and sustainable transport improvements.</p> <p>In 2024/25, this programme includes the continuation of the Highway Trees Programme, and progression of Streets for All schemes in Stockport Town Centre, Heaton Chapel, Woodley, Offerton, the A6 and Edgeley which will deliver various walking and cycling and public transport improvements.</p> <p>Detailed design for Hemphshaw Lane and Woodley to Bredbury Parkway has been largely completed during the first half of the year, with the schemes programmed to go to site in the first part of 2025.</p> <p>Detailed design and preparation of the final business cases for the schemes in Heaton Chapel, and at the junction of Railway Road and the A6 has been ongoing in the first half of the year. These are expected to be submitted in early 2025.</p> <p>Work on the full business case for a scheme to improve walking and cycling links around the at Greek Street roundabout in Edgeley is underway.</p>
District Centres & Local Centres	<p>An ongoing programme of improvements to highways infrastructure in and around the borough's district centres.</p> <p>This year's programme includes completion of the final elements of the crossing scheme in Romiley District Centre, along with the completion of the Marple Area Walking and Cycling Strategy and work on the development of future schemes between High Lane and Stepping Hill.</p>

Active Travel Measures	<p>The council has been successful in securing DfT funding through a series of Active Travel funding rounds.</p> <p>The funding from the early rounds has been used to deliver several packages or work, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pedestrian and cycle improvements in the Town Centre around the Markets;</li> <li>• Mauldeth Road Tiger Crossing; and</li> <li>• New Tiger Crossings on a route linking Edgeley and Stockport Town Centre which completed on site in Quarter 2.</li> </ul> <p>Stockport submitted successful initial bids to Active Travel England to the fourth funding round and the final business cases were approved by GMCA in Quarter 1 for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Footpath and cycle path improvements in Ladybrook Valley which are due to start on site in the second half of the year;</li> <li>• Footpath and cycle path improvements on Heaton Mersey Common which are due to start on site in October 2024;</li> <li>• Footpath and cycle path improvements alongside a package of crossing facilities in Romiley which commenced on site in Quarter 2.</li> </ul> <p>The final business case for a further scheme to deliver a signal-controlled crossing at the junction of Heaton Moor Road, Peel Moat Road and Broomfield Road will be submitted for approval at the start of Quarter 3.</p>
Bus Stop and Passenger Travel Enhancements	<p>The council has secured funding from the City Centre Bus and Streets for all Connectivity Programme to develop a package of measures along the A6 corridor between the border with Manchester and Stockport Town Centre. The measures aim to improve road safety, reduce bus journey times, improve access to bus stops, improve crossing points and to develop cycle routes parallel to the A6.</p> <p>Work with TfGM on developing an outline business case for the scheme has been taking place during the first half of the year.</p> <p>The council is also delivering a programme of works to improve bus journey times at key pinch points on the network, enhance bus stops, improve accessibility to bus stops and improve the condition of signing and lining of bus priority measures.</p> <p>Final business cases (FBCs) have been submitted for the delivery of four bus pinch point schemes, with construction anticipated early in the new year.</p> <p>Consultation and feasibility work continue for the remaining schemes as well as a suite of bus stop and bus lane enhancements.</p> <p>In Quarter 4 23/24, the council consulted over proposals to develop a Quality Bus Transit scheme on the A560 corridor between Woodley and Bredbury and the Town Centre. The proposals consider a series of new and upgraded crossings along the corridor designed to improve access to bus stops along with junction improvements to reduce delays for buses, in addition to a package of minor network improvements. Feasibility was recently completed on four schemes, which will progress to detailed design in Quarter 3, with construction anticipated later in 2025.</p>



Cheadle Town	<p>In 2020/21, funding was awarded to invest in walking and cycling facilities in Cheadle Town Centre and to provide a new railway station, as part of the government's Towns Fund Programme.</p> <p>Following funding approval in July 2022, construction of the walking and cycling improvements is now complete.</p> <p>Full Planning Permission for the railway station was granted in October 2023, and work is progressing this financial year to secure network change approval to accommodate the new station stop. Detailed design work for the railway station is being undertaken with clearance expected to start in Quarter 4.</p>
Public Rights of Way (PROW)	<p>An ongoing programme to maintain and improve the PROW network in the borough includes structural, surfacing and access control improvements. This year's programme includes improvements to footpath 41 HGB in the Happy Valley area, as well as work on a number of footpath bridges in Marple, Romiley and Bredbury.</p> <p>Preparation work on a series of measures to improve footpath 64BR in Bredbury took place in 2023/24. Site work is expected to be undertaken in Quarters 3 and 4.</p> <p>Work began on surfacing improvements and structural repairs to Greenspace paths during Quarter 2, and further improvements are planned to be delivered in the second half of the year. Structural repairs to surfaced rights of way (158M and 208M) are due to take place in Quarter 3.</p>
<b><u>Road Safety Improvements</u></b>	
Road Safety & Road Safety Near Schools	<p>A package of measures to improve road safety in Stockport, and around school sites.</p> <p>This year's programme includes the provision of speed indicator devices and other measures to maintain safety and improve movement of traffic on the network. It also includes a number of road safety studies, as well as the development and implementation of 20mph areas in the Heatons and Hazel Grove.</p> <p>Work is progressing on developing schemes identified in this year's Road Safety near Schools programme.</p>
<b><u>Planning-related Schemes</u></b>	
Section 278 and Section 106 schemes	<p>Various developer-funded schemes are being progressed to facilitate site access and deliver transport infrastructure improvements around a variety of development sites.</p> <p>The 2024/25 programme includes the delivery of schemes at Melford Road in Hazel Grove, a cycle track at Meadow Mill in Heaton Norris and completion of improvements at the site of the former Cow and Calf in Bredbury. It also includes various s106-funded footpath improvements including some around the Redrow Homes site at Woodford and Heaton Mersey Common</p>

<b><u>Other Highway Programmes</u></b>	
Air Quality	Potential future projects to improve air quality are being developed in discussion with colleagues in environmental health.
Flood Risk Management	<p>Lead Local Flood Authority review of developments continue in 2024/25 as part of the ongoing Flood Risk Management work. The programme also includes investigations and minor works to understand and mitigate known flooding hot spots across the borough. The council continues to work in Partnerships with involved communities, charities and bodies such as the Environment Agency and United Utilities. This has now expanded to include collaboration with Greater Manchester's Integrated Water Management Plan team.</p> <p>This year's programme focuses on the Micker and Poise Catchments. Schemes were undertaken in the first part of the year at Torkington Park and further phases of work have been taking place in Bruntwood Park. Studies are underway at Romiley and will continue in Quarter 3 and Quarter 4</p>
Studies and Transport Minor Schemes	<p>This programme includes various schemes such as highway studies and air quality improvement work. These include feasibility and business case development for future CRSTS schemes as we as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A major refresh of Stockport's Transport Strategy for 2025-2040 which is due to be complete in early 2025;</li> <li>• A major update to Stockport's Transport Asset Management Plan;</li> <li>• Town Centre West traffic modelling which is ongoing;</li> <li>• Development of walking and cycling links in the Town Centre West area; and;</li> <li>• A study into future improvements to the A6 Corridor which is continuing in 2024/25.</li> </ul>
Street Lighting Investment	<p>An upgrade of illuminated equipment using LED technology. Following on from the main retrofit work completed in prior years, the 2024/25 programme includes the upgrade of illuminated signs and decorative lighting in the town &amp; district centre areas.</p> <p>The current year's programme is progressing as planned.</p>

NON-HIGHWAY SCHEMES	
Schemes in Parks	<p>Schemes to support Greenspace initiatives including greenspace infrastructure.</p> <p>The total spend at the end of Quarter 2 is £0.264m of an anticipated £0.959m over the course of the financial year.</p> <p><u>Capital Schemes in Parks</u> £0.010m (of £0.020m) of the Capital Scheme in parks funds has been spent in Quarter 2.</p> <p>Works delivered includes professional fees, minor infrastructure improvements at Heaton Norris, Wittenbury Rd Open Space, Brabyns Park and Alexandra Park.</p> <p>Capital Schemes has a total budget of £0.040m, however £0.020m is to be used to support play improvement projects and is therefore included in the play investment figures below (at Q2 £0.016m was invested).</p> <p><u>Sport Improvement Projects</u> £0.101m has been invested in Quarter 2 and it is anticipated there will be a total annual investment of £0.314m.</p> <p>Quarter 1 investment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £0.047m – Thornfield Tennis Court;</li> <li>• £0.025m – Reddish High 3G Pitch (total investment will be £0.110m and complete in Quarter 3);</li> <li>• £0.018m – Torkington Tennis (final payment of the £0.285m refurbishment);</li> <li>• £0.010m – Bredbury Basketball Court;</li> <li>• £0.001m – Offerton Cricket Club.</li> </ul> <p>Ongoing projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £0.085m – Reddish High 3G Pitch;</li> <li>• £0.067m – Thorn Grove Sports Area and Basketball Court (increased works specification from the figure reported in Quarter 1 - works will complete in Quarter 3);</li> <li>• £0.028m – Bredbury Recreation Ground Basketball Court (onsite, expected completed Quarter 3);</li> <li>• £0.033m – Heaton Moor Bowling Green Fencing (subject to further approval).</li> </ul> <p>Sports projects are funded from S106 Commuted Sums.</p> <p><u>Play Improvement Projects</u> £0.130m has been invested in Quarter 2 it is anticipated there will be a total annual investment of £0.437m.</p>

Quarter 2 Investment:

- £0.033m – Houldsworth Park;
- £0.020m – Clarendon Road (part funded by Covid Memorial Fund);
- £0.015m – Torkington Park Cantilever Swing;
- £0.015m – Adswold Park (project brought forward);
- £0.014m – Brookside Park Swings (project brought forward);
- £0.014m – Grafton St Play;
- £0.006m – Cale Green Inclusive Roundabout;
- £0.006m – Romiley Play Area Inclusive Roundabout;
- £0.004m – Oak Meadow play equipment;
- £0.002m – Great Moor Park;
- £0.001m – Hollywood Park Play Area Fence.

Project anticipated for delivery in 2024/25:

- £0.130m – Woodbank Park;
- £0.067m – Goyt Valley Park (Quarter 3 completion);
- £0.040m – Marple Memorial Park Play Area (joint project);
- £0.039m – Hollywood Park (Quarter 3 completion);
- £0.012m – Oak Meadow Park (Quarter 3 completion);
- £0.009m – Romiley Park (Quarter 3 completion);
- £0.009m – Cale Green Park (Quarter 3 completion);

Play projects are funded with a combination of Capital Scheme in Parks funds, external funds, delegated budgets and S106 commuted sums.

Covid Memorials

£0.032m of funding was received in advance of funds to be invested this year.

£0.016m (of the £0.032m) has been invested in Quarter 2 at the following sites:

- £0.007m – Clarendon Road Play Area;
- £0.006m – Norris Bank Farm;
- £0.002m – St Agnes Church;
- £0.001m – Arundell Avenue / Bramhall Methodist.

The remaining £0.016m is committed to:

- Chadkirk Country Park;
- Brinnington First House.

Greenspace Infrastructure

£0.007m spend to date of a total £0.156m to be invested over the course of 2024/25; this excludes £0.074m carried over from outstanding liabilities (2023/24) for ongoing projects.

Current projects include:

- Vernon Wall Repair (part funded by third party insurance);
- Abney Hall;
- Trash screen clearance;
- Bramhall wall repair;
- Iron Bridge, Brabyns Park;
- Cale Green wall repair;
- Bruntwood Park Bridge;
- Brabyns Park wall / fence repair;
- Heaton Lane wall repair (funded by third party insurance).

## 2.5 Allocated One-Off Resources

As part of the 2024/25 Budget, positive investments were identified and approved. These investments are aligned to support the delivery of the council's ambitions and priorities for the borough. Investment aligned to this portfolio is set out below.

### 2024/25 Positive investments

#### **Maintenance of the borough's drainage infrastructure network, parking enforcement, and road safety (£0.200m)**

Cabinet previously recognised their priorities to invest in the maintenance of the borough's drainage infrastructure network, and parking enforcement, and road safety as key issues for additional focus in during 2024/25.