

REPORT TO:	CORPORATE, RESOURCE MANAGEMENT & GOVERNANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE:	21 JANUARY 2025
REPORT OF:	CLLR JILLY JULIAN, CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND RESOURCES
REPORT TITLE:	COUNCIL PLAN 2024-27 – 2025/26 REFRESH

1. Introduction and Background

- 1.1. The Stockport Council Plan 2024-2027 is the council’s main strategic document. It describes the key role the council plays in supporting the borough through the provision and delivery of services that are essential to everyday life. The plan also outlines the council’s four big ambitions for the upcoming years, that will create opportunities for everyone within the borough.
- 1.2. The plan was adopted at Budget Council on 22 February 2024 and covers the three-year period from April 2024 to March 2027. This was the council’s first three-year Council Plan – up to and including 2023-24, Council Plans covered single municipal years and were substantially reviewed annually.
- 1.3. The next substantial Council Plan review will be undertaken in late 2026/early 2027 in preparation for the next three-year Council Plan (2027-2030). In the intervening years however, “light touch” reviews will be undertaken and the plan refreshed towards the end of each year to ensure it remains current and relevant and takes account of progress over the previous 12 months.
- 1.4. The first “light touch” review of the 2024-27 Council Plan was therefore undertaken in late 2024/early 2025 – this report outlines how the refreshed plan, which accompanies this report, has developed from the original version.

2. Council Plan 2024-27

- 2.1. The main elements of the refreshed Council Plan remain unchanged and its key focus remains the delivery of efficient and effective services through putting people at the heart of what we do, driving performance improvement and effectively allocating and prioritising our resources
- 2.2. The plan’s The “Big Ambitions” are also unchanged. These are
 - Ambition 1: Investment, regeneration and creating jobs
 - Ambition 2: Education, work and skills
 - Ambition 3: Wellbeing in neighbourhoods
 - Ambition 4: Delivering for those who need it most.
- 2.3. As before, two key “Cross-Cutting Themes” run throughout these four ambitions:
 - A Fair and Inclusive Stockport.
 - Climate Action Now.

2.4. And the refreshed plan outlines the same four key “Enablers” – programmes that support the delivery of the council’s core services to residents:

- Our workforce.
- Working with others.
- Radically Digital Stockport.
- Delivering change and spending wisely.

3. The 2025/26 Council Plan “refresh”

3.1. Though the main elements of the plan, those outlined in section 2, have been retained, some changes to it have been made, largely to ensure it is updated to reference and take account of progress made since the three-year plan was adopted in 2024. The most significant differences between the original and refreshed versions of the plan are outlined in the following paragraphs.

3.2. The Leader of the Council’s introduction (page 3 of the refreshed plan) has been updated.

3.3. A new chapter “*Delivering our Council Plan, progress so far*” has been added. This outlines some of the key things that have been delivered in the year since the plan was adopted relating to our “Big Ambitions”, “Cross-Cutting Themes” and “Enablers”.

3.4. The infographic on page 11 showing “*some of the things we have done over the past year*” has been amended to include updated figures.

3.5. Material relating to “Big Ambitions”, “Cross-Cutting Themes” and “Enablers” has been updated as appropriate to account for progress to date and any significant new initiatives.

3.6. The infographic on page 39, which illustrates the One Stockport, One Future “5 Big Things” replaces an infographic showing the “One Heart, One Home, One Future” priorities.

3.7. Additionally, a review of the Council Plan to ensure language is clear and easily understood has also been undertaken.

4. Next steps

4.1. Following consideration and comment by Scrutiny, the refreshed plan will be submitted to Cabinet on 4 February and for formal adoption at Budget Council Meeting on 27 February.

4.2. As in previous years, the information within Council Plan, alongside the Medium-Term Financial Plan, will provide the basis for detailed Portfolio Performance and Resources Agreements (PPRAs) and resource planning for 2025/26. Progress on delivery will continue to be reported in-year through the Portfolio Performance & Resources Reports (PPRRs), the Corporate Performance & Resources Report (CPRR) and accompanying online dashboards. The 2025/26 PPRAs will be developed with portfolio holders in spring 2024, being presented to scrutiny committees and finalised by Cabinet in the June 2025 committee cycle.

Contact officers for accessing background papers and discussing the report

- Holly Rae, Assistant Director (Strategy and Transformation)
Holly.rae@stockport.gov.uk