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Performance Report

Quarter 2

2024/25 financial year

Assets and Procurement Committee

Governance & Performance
Cambridgeshire County Council
governanceandperformance@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Key



Data Item	Explanation
Target / Pro Rata Target	The target that has been set for the indicator, relevant for the reporting period
Current Month / Current Period	The latest performance figure relevant to the reporting period
Previous Month / previous period	The previously reported performance figure
Direction for Improvement	Indicates whether 'good' performance is a higher or a lower figure
Change in Performance	Indicates whether performance is 'improving' or 'declining' by comparing the latest performance figure with that of the previous reporting period
Statistical Neighbours Mean	Provided as a point of comparison, based on the most recently available data from identified statistical neighbours.
England Mean	Provided as a point of comparison, based on the most recent nationally available data
RAG Rating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red – current performance is off target by more than 10% • Amber – current performance is off target by 10% or less • Green – current performance is on target • Baseline – indicates performance is currently being tracked in order to inform the target setting process • Contextual – these measures track key activity being undertaken, to present a rounded view of information relevant to the service area, without a performance target. • In Development - measure has been agreed, but data collection and target setting are in development
Indicator Description	Provides an overview of how a measure is calculated. Where possible, this is based on a nationally agreed definition to assist benchmarking with statistically comparable authorities
Commentary	Provides a narrative to explain the changes in performance within the reporting period
Actions	Actions undertaken to address under-performance. Populated for 'red' indicators only
Useful Links	Provides links to relevant documentation, such as nationally available data and definitions

Indicator 169: % of contract waivers submitted less than 5 days before their proposed start date

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January 2025

Target	Direction for Improvement	Current Quarter	Previous Quarter	Change in Performance
20.0%	↓	27.0%	58.0%	Improving

RAG Rating

Red

Indicator Description

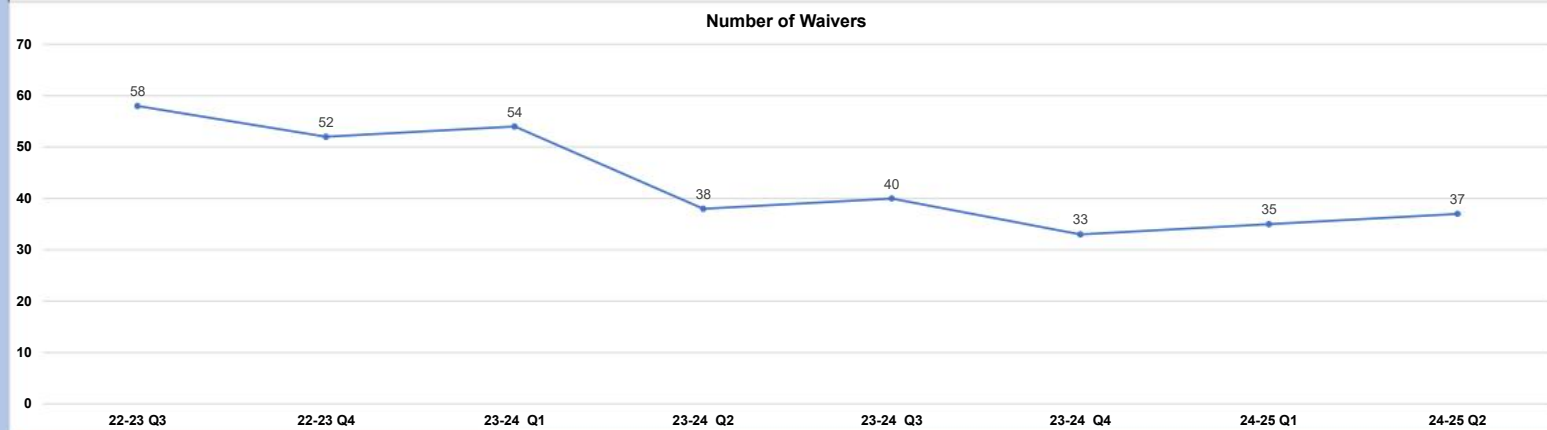
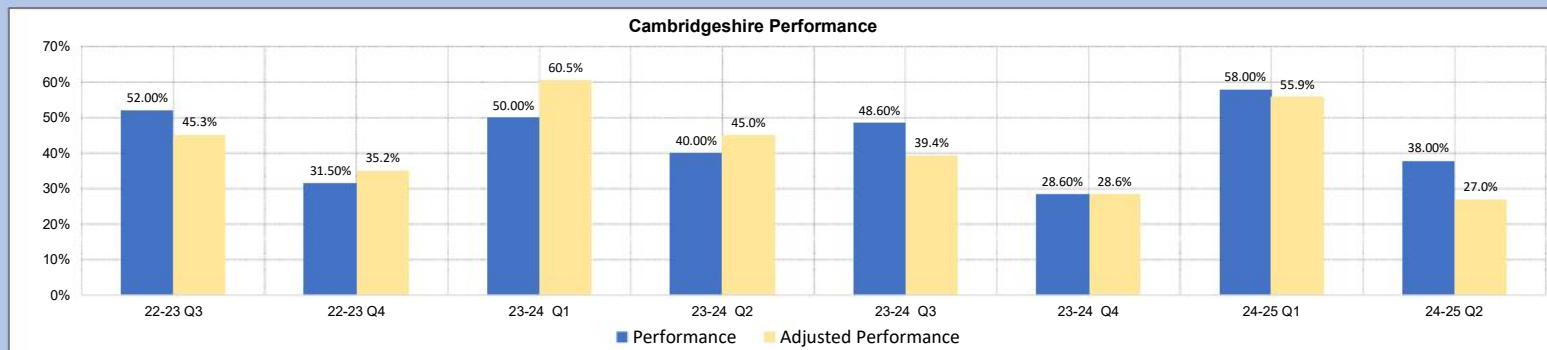
Public Contract Regulations (2015) require all contracts valued over £25,000 to be advertised and to follow a competitive process. External audit findings mean that there is a cross Council drive to promote and enable effective and compliant procurement practice.

The Council's Contract Procedure Rules allow for exceptions/waivers to be applied for in specific circumstances where the contract is valued either below the relevant UK Procurement Threshold or below the Key Decision Threshold of £500,000. Waiver requests are submitted via the Council's online system and approval needs to be obtained from various officers dependent on the value of the waiver. There are occasions where, by their very nature, waivers will be requested with short timescales to the contract start date – for examples in cases of emergency or extreme urgency. However, it is important that apart from these circumstances, waiver submission leaves enough time for a procurement should a waiver request be denied.

Tracking this indicator allows the Council to identify the number, type and value of waivers being submitted in such a way as to prevent non-compliant procurement practice and so develop communications, training and other initiatives to reduce this risk to the Council.

The KPI takes the date the waiver was submitted and the date the contract is due to start and calculates the time difference between the two dates. It is designed to provide an understanding of whether waivers are submitted in sufficient time to allow for alternative action should the waiver request be denied.

A recent Internal Audit of waivers suggested that the KPI should be adjusted to remove the waivers submitted within 5 days of the start date that are due to an emergency or urgency. These are the 2 sets of figures now available in the chart. Performance will now be monitored against the adjusted figure.



Commentary

Actions from the recent Internal Audit report into waivers are in the process of being delivered. The Chief Executive has also re-started his monthly review of late waivers thereby increasing the scrutiny.

Path to Green

The Internal Audit actions will continue to be delivered and the Chief Executive will continue his scrutiny of late waivers.

Useful Links

[National TOMs Framework 2019 Guidance](#)

[Social Value Portal](#)

Target	Current Year	Previous Year	Direction for Improvement	Change in Performance
£94	£155	£146	↑	Improving

RAG Rating

Green

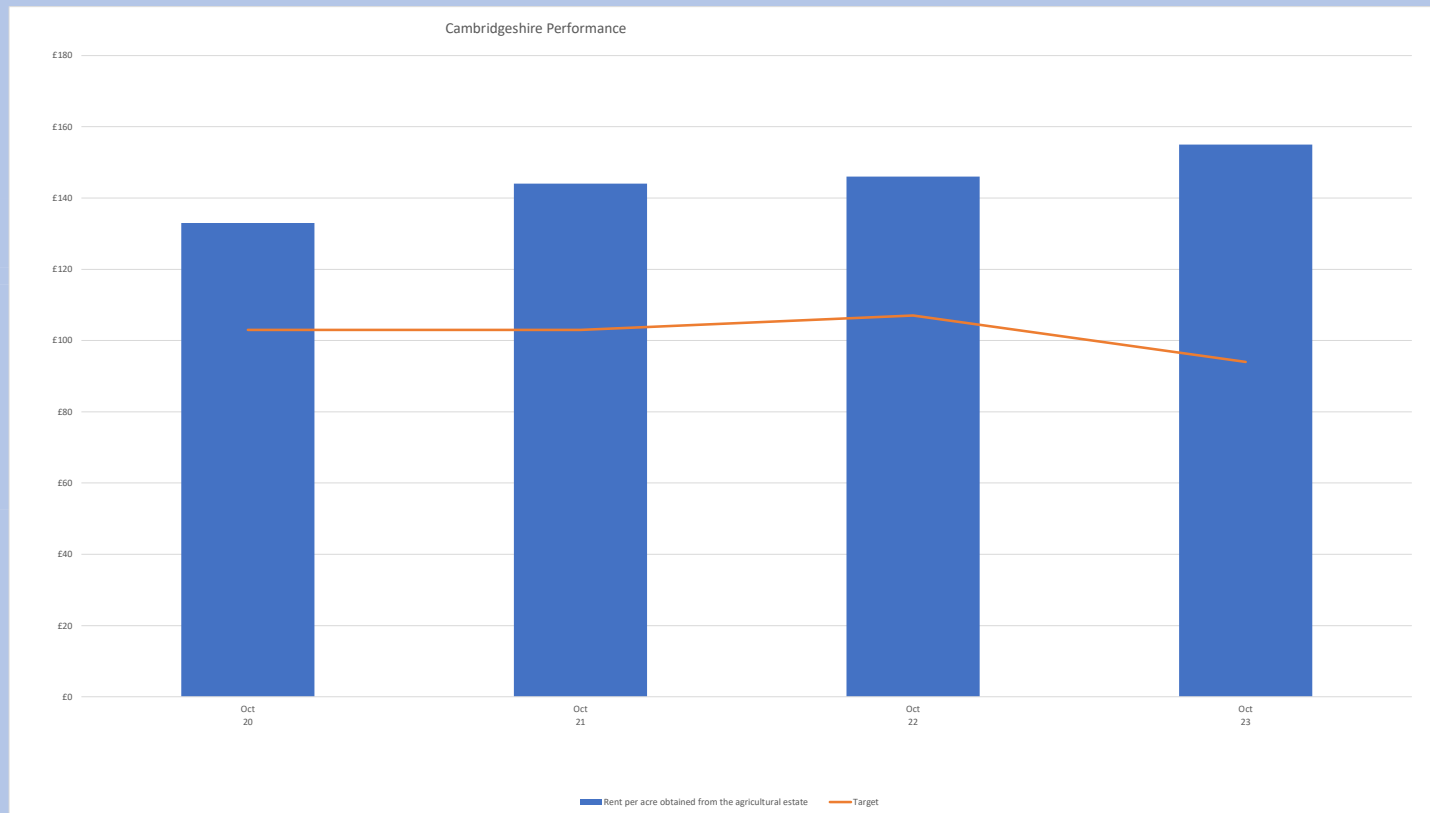
Indicator Description

Data source:
DEFRA data records market rent for East of England Region. Base data is tenancy agreements with new rents recorded by the parties (Landlord & Tenant) on a signed and dated rent memorandum attached to the agreement and recorded.

This KPI records annual change in rental income measured against the previous year's recorded rent. Reported as a % change on previous year for the total rural portfolio as rent (£) per acre for the agricultural tenancies. The rent per acre figure enables some comparison with regional market rents in the agricultural sector which are published annually by DEFRA and other commentators. For a new letting Market Rent is defined by The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) as 'The estimated amount for which an interest in real property should be leased on the valuation date between a willing lessor and a willing lessee on appropriate lease terms in an arm's length transaction, after proper marketing and where the parties had acted knowledgeably, prudently and without compulsion.' Rent Review (mid tenancy) of agricultural rent (per acre) is impacted by a number of complex factors - soil type, crop type, type of tenancy & external influences such as input costs and world commodity markets.

Comparator:
Market Rents (£ per hectare/acre) for the East of England reported annually by DEFRA in January for the previous year. Most up to date figures are for 2023.

Target:
Annual rent (£ per acre) achieved tracks defra rent per acre for East of England (variance +/- 10%).



Commentary

Agricultural legislation enables review of rents every 3 years with 12 months notice required. 14 rent reviews on holdings were carried out in 2023 and Cambridgeshire County Council has increased the passing rent by 6% in October 2023. There were fewer big increases this year as most rents are at market value. Re-lets to existing tenants and new lettings have helped increase the total rent figure however these tendered rents are similar to the outgoing tenants rent, which shows that the rental levels are at market value. The rents achieved are good in the current climate of decreased Basic Payment Subsidy (BPS) payments, uncertainty in the industry due to the slow release of the Sustainable Farming Incentive which was intended to balance the loss of BPS. The DEFRA benchmark is recognised as not being challenging but alternative comparable benchmarks are not readily available.

Useful Links

[National TOMs Framework 2019 Guidance](#)

[Social Value Portal](#)

Actions

Target	Direction for Improvement	Current Quarter	Previous Quarter	Change in Performance
6.0%	↑	4.98%	5.08%	Declining

RAG Rating



Indicator Description

This indicator projects Cambridgeshire's expected gross income from the commercial investments that provide an income yield or interest receivable against a 6% target.

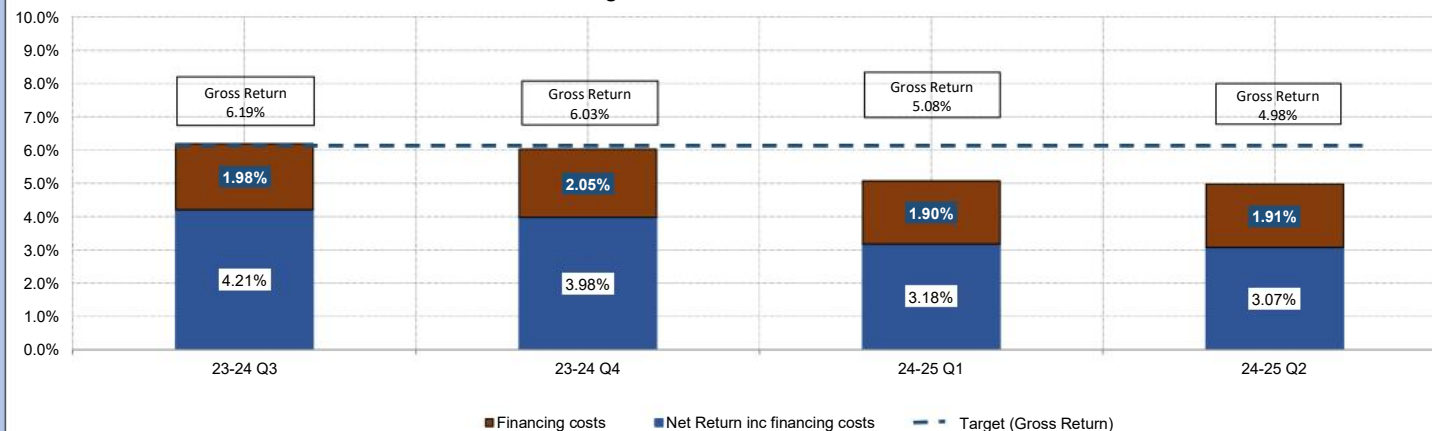
This indicator should be used to judge the performance of the council's commercial investment portfolio as a whole. It should not be used to predict any differences in actual income against budget. This is detailed within the Finance Monitoring Report.

The return figure includes investment that has already been made, as well as any additional investment expected within the financial year. The figures look at the full year effect, even where investments have not been held for the whole year.

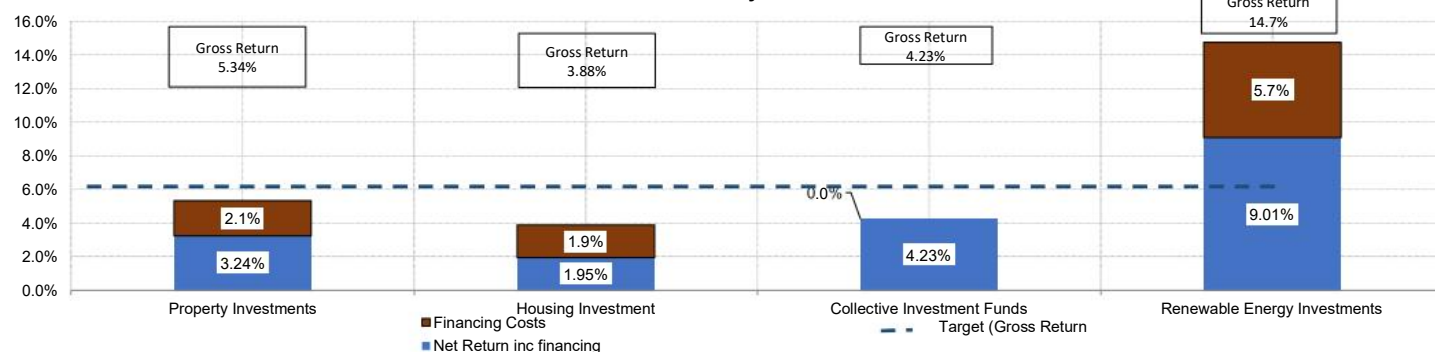
The return is shown both gross (the total of the blue and orange blocks) and net (the blue blocks) of financing costs; the orange blocks therefore equate to the level of financing costs. The lower graph shows the return per asset class; different classes of asset are expected to deliver different levels of return.

This indicator reflects the income return from these assets, rather than the asset growth or total return (reflecting local government accounting regulations).

Cambridgeshire Performance



Q2 Return on Investment by Asset Class



Commentary

The income received across all commercial investments in 2023-24 was £19.2m with a net income of £12.7m after financing costs. Within this indicator, the Collective Investment Funds are forecasting to perform well again this year, with additional income of £371k estimated. However, the This Land budget is forecasting a pressure. The Strategy, Resources and Performance Committee received a detailed monitoring update on This Land in July 2024 alongside an advisor's report. There are site specific short-term cashflow timing delays currently which have increased uncertainty to the Council about timing of interest payments and level of risk, leading to a more prudent forecast. This committee received the annual business report from This Land in November, which provided a detailed overview of the company's outlook and performance.

Triangle Solar Farm performed well in 2023-24 under the new contract and overachieved by £200k. The 2024-25 BP has been updated to reflect this additional income. After a positive start during April - July, we are now forecasting to overachieve.

Evolution Business park and Kingsbridge are currently full occupied. The student accommodation bookings for the academic year 2024-25 was a success with 100% occupancy. There is a need for continued investment in the property with updates to kitchens and other areas which took place over the summer. Two units remain unlet at Cromwell Leisure Park; a revised marketing approach is underway and has attracted some new interest (one of the units has been empty since the investment was made).

Please note: the return percentages for the prior year quarters have been restated to include the additional investment in relation to Evolution Business Park (the additional income had been included, but not the investment). This has reduced the overall return very slightly for those quarters compared to what had been reported previously.

Useful Links

[National TOMs Framework 2019 Guidance](#)

[Social Value Portal](#)

Path to Green

Consider relative allocation between different collective investment funds and in view of the updated CIPFA prudential code and inflation risks.

Consider outcome of new tenant negotiations at Cromwell Leisure Park. Increase marketing for 2 vacant units.

Additional support is being considered for This Land, as per the report that went to SRP committee in July 2024.

Indicator 205: Amount of social value achieved

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January 2025

Target	Direction for Improvement	Current Quarter	Previous quarter	Change in Performance
£6,250	↑	£ 98,661.0	£ 9,237.0	Improving

RAG Rating

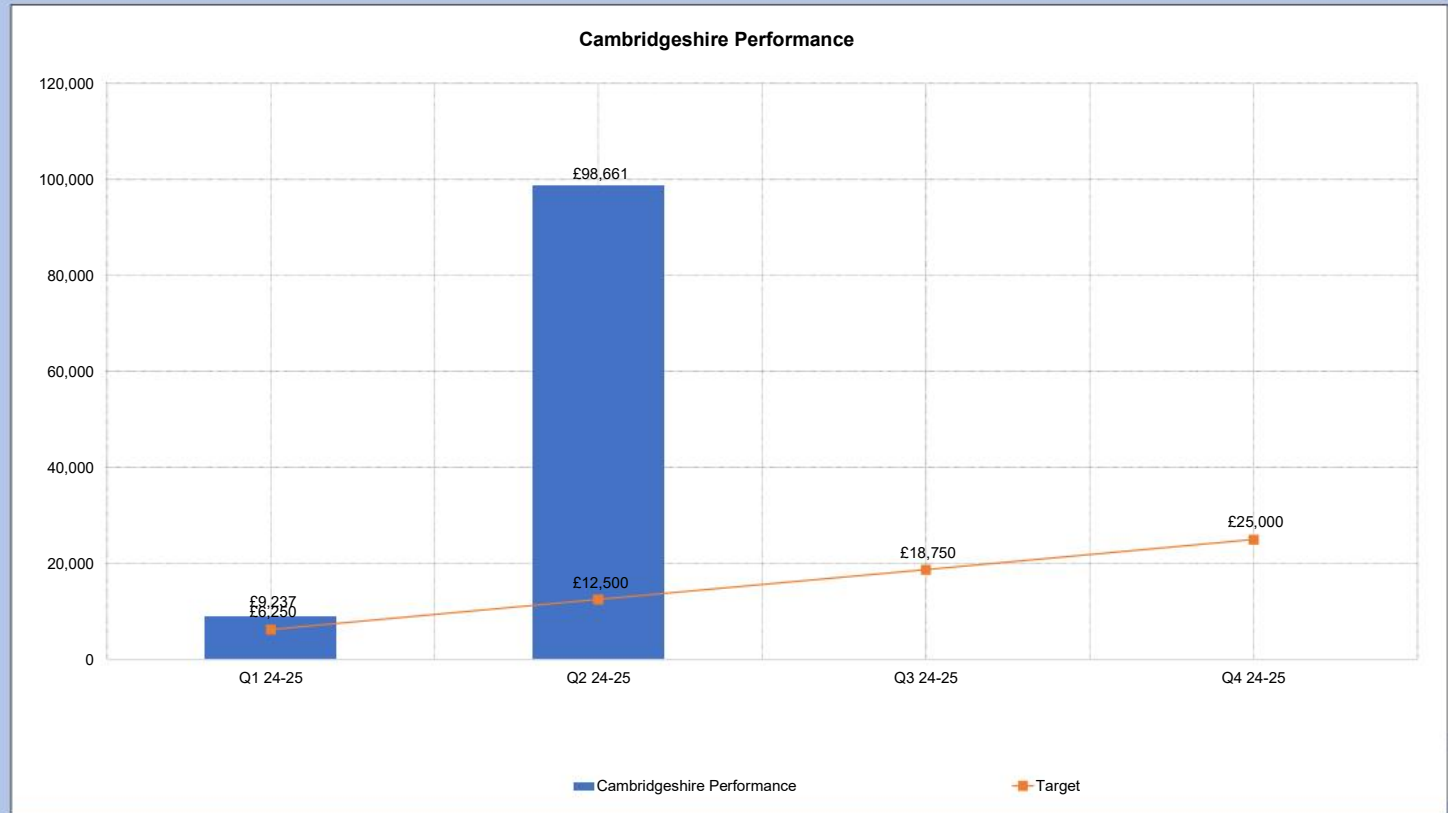
Green

Indicator Description

Social value achieved via purchasing and contractual arrangements.

Data will be collated via the Social Value Portal and internal mechanisms.

Target of £20,000 to be delivered during 2023/24, with that target rising by £5,000 in each of 2024/25 and 2025/26.



Commentary

There has been a large increase in social value achieved this quarter. This is for a number of reasons, a large number of areas of delivery have been validated by the Social Value Portal. A number of contracts have also now started to deliver their social value. Some headline delivery is 1 FTE hired on a contract who was previously long term unemployed and 2 disabled FTE hired. In addition, outside the use of the Social Value Portal, an example of delivery has been that 3 asylum seeker care leavers supported with training through the Climate Change consultancy project.

Useful Links

[National TOMs Framework 2019 Guidance](#)

[Social Value Portal](#)

Path to Green

N/A

Target	Direction for Improvement	Current Quarter	Previous Quarter	Change in Performance
Contextual	↑	58.00%	63.00%	Declining

RAG Rating

Contextual

Indicator Description

% of overall contract value awarded to businesses and third sector organisations in the following areas:

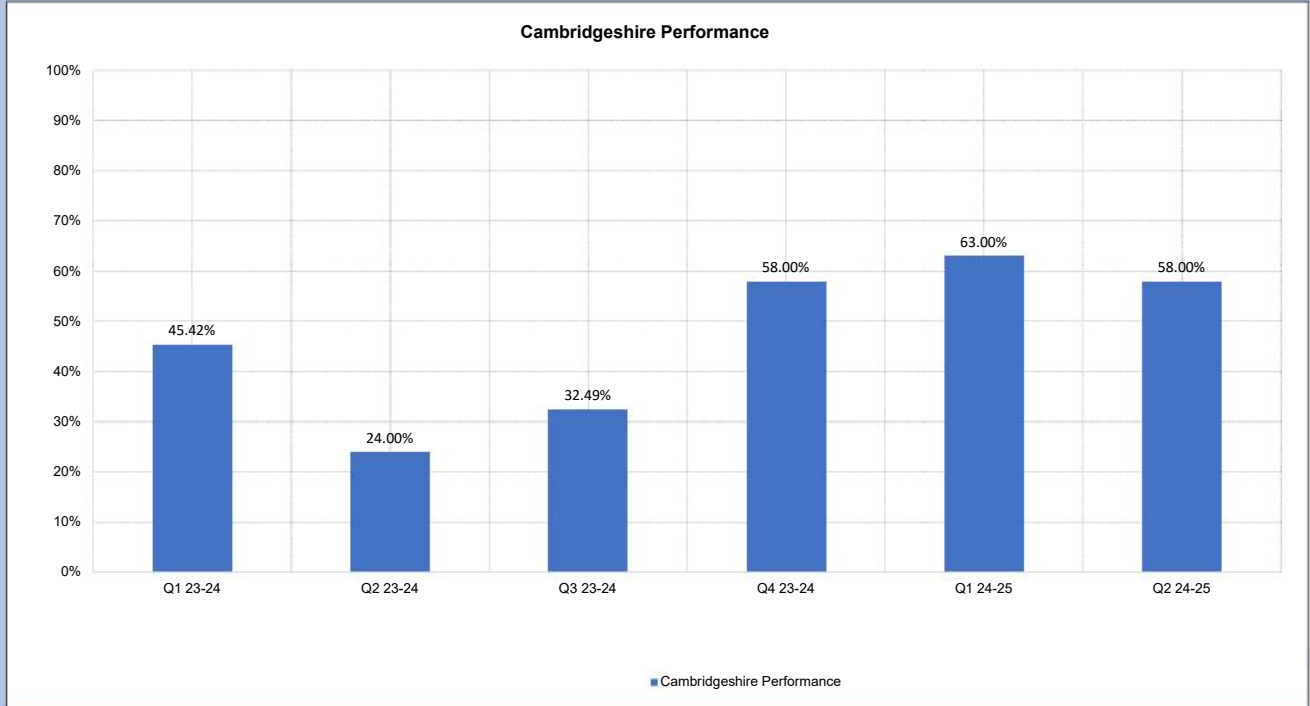
- CB Postcode Suppliers
- PE Postcode Suppliers
- Essex Postcodes (CM/CO)
- Hertfordshire Postcodes (AL/SG)
- Norfolk (NR)
- Suffolk(IP)
- Bedfordshire(LU/MK)

Please note: only contracts that are worth over £5,000 are tracked within this KPI.

The Council cannot directly influence local spending due to procurement rules but is active in market engagement. The Council has to judge each procurement fairly and equally, regardless of whether it is a local, regional or national organisation.

Given the restrictions of the above, this KPI is now a tracking measure to monitor how the Council is adhering to Ambition 6: Places and communities prosper because they have a resilient and inclusive economy, access to good quality public services and social justice is prioritised.

Data will be captured from the Contract Register using the supplier's registered address.



Commentary

The team continues to engage with SMEs, the latest webinar had 30 attendees. In addition, there are plans to attend 2 events in November supported by the Federation of Small Businesses and Chamber of Commerce to reach a wider audience of local businesses.

Useful Links

Path to Green

N/A