

Social Value in Construction

Benchmarking Report 2025

(Projects completed 2024)



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Executive summary

As the UK economy continues to experience slow growth and the Procurement Act 2023 comes into force, the construction industry faces ongoing challenges in the procurement of construction and infrastructure projects. Key concerns include capacity, technology, and the availability of skilled professionals to meet growing demand.

Despite these challenges, there are encouraging signs ahead. Increasing demand for housing and infrastructure, together with announcements of major public and private developments across the UK, signal renewed opportunities for growth.

While consultants and contractors overcome clients’ budgetary constraints through value engineering, social and environmental legacy represent an opportunity to enhance value. This in turn is setting the industry up to deliver the Most Advantageous Tenders for the benefit of public sector.

The recent shift from Most Economically Advantageous Tenders (MEAT) to Most Advantageous Tenders (MAT) means there is now a greater value placed on overall project outcomes, rather than just price.

In 2024, our data shows that £1.2bn of social value was created through 418 projects, equating to 27.3% social value added. Demonstrating continued growth in the sector, the data also shows an increased focus on social value on projects between £20m - £75m.

Built environment procurement offers the potential to close the skills gap by prioritising workforce development and training within projects, while influencing environmental outcomes through sustainable sourcing and low-carbon practices. This positions the industry’s approach as a key differentiator.

Now in its fifth iteration, this annual report highlights national and regional trends in social value delivery across the UK from 2020 to 2024. It provides critical insight into the evolution of social value policy priorities, delivery, performance measurement and reporting practices across the UK.

We continue to see year-on-year improvement, however a slower pace of growth in 2024 may reflect tighter project budgets and the ongoing shift to hybrid working in a post-Covid-19 environment.

Despite challenges and constraints, the data suggests that both private and public sectors are committed to delivering social value. The introduction of the Procurement Act 2023, along with strengthened planning conditions, supports a place-based approach to delivery, generating meaningful outcomes and lasting legacy. At SCAPE, we remain committed to enabling social value activity through our frameworks and performance management, ensuring that every project creates value for the communities in which we work.

418
projects

£1.2bn
social value

27.3%
social value
added



Morgan Sindall Volunteer It Yourself @ Carlton Youth Centre

Introduction

Social value delivery remains foundational to SCAPE’s procurement and framework management strategies. It continues to be the heart of our approach to embedding community, economic and environmental outcomes on all projects.

As a founding member of the Social Value Task Force and key contributor to the Social Value TOM System™, SCAPE remains a leader in best practice and innovation. We are proud of the outcomes achieved locally and nationally through our partnerships.

The data and insights presented in this report were collected via the TOM System and reflect both the challenging economic conditions for project delivery and the built environment industry’s commitment to delivering social value. Using the TOM System enables consistent measurement and comparison of social value delivery over time and across the construction sector.

The Social Value Act (2012) continues to be the bedrock upon which social value in procurement is built. In addition to this, recent guidance and legislation such as Public Procurement Notices (PPN) 001 to 003 and the Procurement Act (2023) have placed greater emphasis on value-add, beyond price.

Meanwhile, the impacts of PPN 06/21, and its mandated commitments for carbon reduction will be recognised in work procured in late 2024 and through 2025. The full impact of the Procurement Act (2023) will become increasingly visible through 2026 and beyond.

This report examines these developments in context and explores how national and local delivery strategies are evolving, and how social value themes are influencing outcomes across the UK construction and infrastructure sectors.

Scope

This report is informed by data from 418 construction and civil engineering projects completed in 2024 across England, Wales and Scotland. This data is sourced and analysed using the combined expertise and industry reach from Social Value Portal, SCAPE and its delivery partners to provide an indication of the industry’s progress with embedding social value.

The data includes projects procured through SCAPE frameworks, as well as through other frameworks and procurement routes. All projects in scope used the Social Value TOM System, a nationally recognised approach that categorises social value activity into the work, economy, community and planet themes. Projects using alternative social value measurement methodologies are outside the scope of this report.

The report examines the social impact generated from each project, identifying the type, frequency, and location of measures used, and aggregates this data to produce accurate national and regional analysis, comparison with previous years and our collective recommendations for improvement.

Projects that are marked as confidential or sensitive in nature, such as defence sector projects are excluded from the dataset. However, social value case studies from defence sector projects are included within this report to showcase their contribution to social value outcomes.

The benefits of benchmarking:

	Understand social value	Demonstrate return on investment	Identify trends	Identify areas for improvement	Set / understand expectations	See social value in action
For Clients	●	●	●	●	●	●
For Industry		●	●	●	●	●
For Communities	●					●

Please note

This report is based solely on SCAPE and Social Value Portal data, specifically recording projects that measure social value using Social Value Portal’s TOM System. Alternative methodologies for measuring and reporting social value are in use across the sector; however, projects employing such approaches are outside the scope of this report.

Key findings and insights



Key findings and insight

The construction sector continues to demonstrate strong growth and sustained recovery.

Year-on-year, the number of projects rose 23%, from 329 to 418, reflecting an 18% increase since 2020. Contract values and social impact have also seen significant growth, with total contract value increasing by £1.2 billion (+39%), social value by £0.33 billion (+39%), and local jobs and spend by £0.34 billion (+41%).

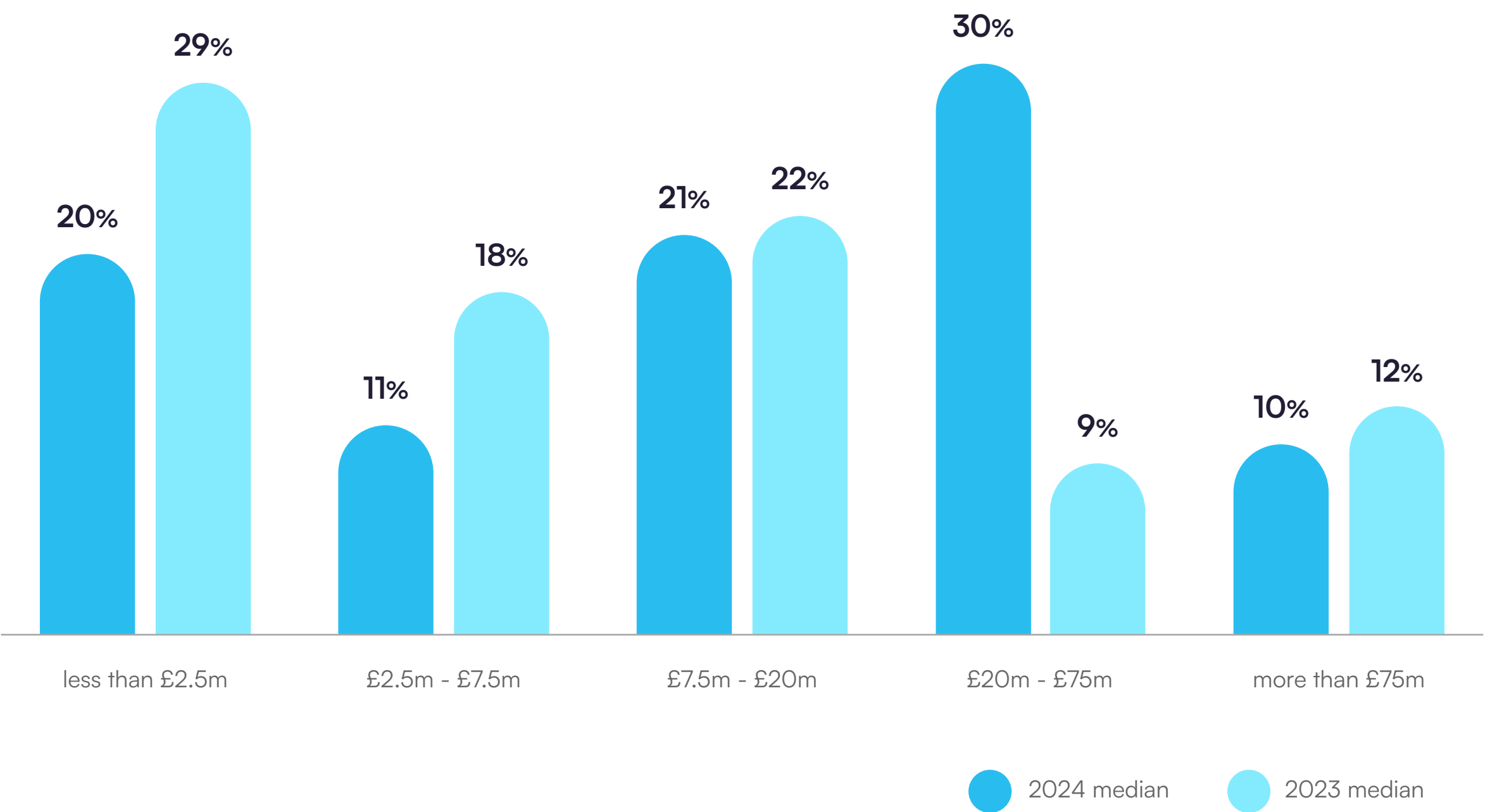
+39%
increase in social value
(+£0.33bn 2023-2024)

	2024	2023	2022
Total Number of Projects	418	329	499
Total Contract Value	£4,379,790,696	£3,159,325,604	£4,571,123,708
Total Social Value	£1,197,605,268	£860,349,036	£1,079,594,218
Total Local Jobs and Spend Value	£1,173,798,815	£831,931,892	£1,061,957,157
Total % Social Value Added	27.34%	27.23%	23.62%
Total % Local Jobs and Spend Value Added	26.80%	26.33%	23.23%
Total % Local Jobs and Spend to Total social value	98.01%	96.70%	98.37%

Table 1: Summary of key social value stats for SCAPE and Social Value Portal public sector construction projects

Key findings and insight

Median of % Total Social Value Add



There has been an increase in project count for value bands <£2.5m (+39%) and £20—£75m (+104%). However, a decrease in the median social value add for lower value projects has been reported with <£2.5m projects falling from 29% to 20% and £2.5—£7.5m projects dropping from 18% to 11%, suggesting lower relative impact. High value bands show a stronger median social value with the exception of £75m+.

The average project size grew to £10.5 million in 2024, up 9% from £9.6 million in 2023. Social value spend reached a record high of £1.17 billion, with local jobs and spend continuing to represent around 27% of contract value. Notably, nearly all social value—approximately 98p of every £1—directly supports local jobs and local spend, maintaining consistency with previous years.

98p of every £1
directly supports local
jobs and local spend

Key findings and insight

Social value measured in construction continues to increase.

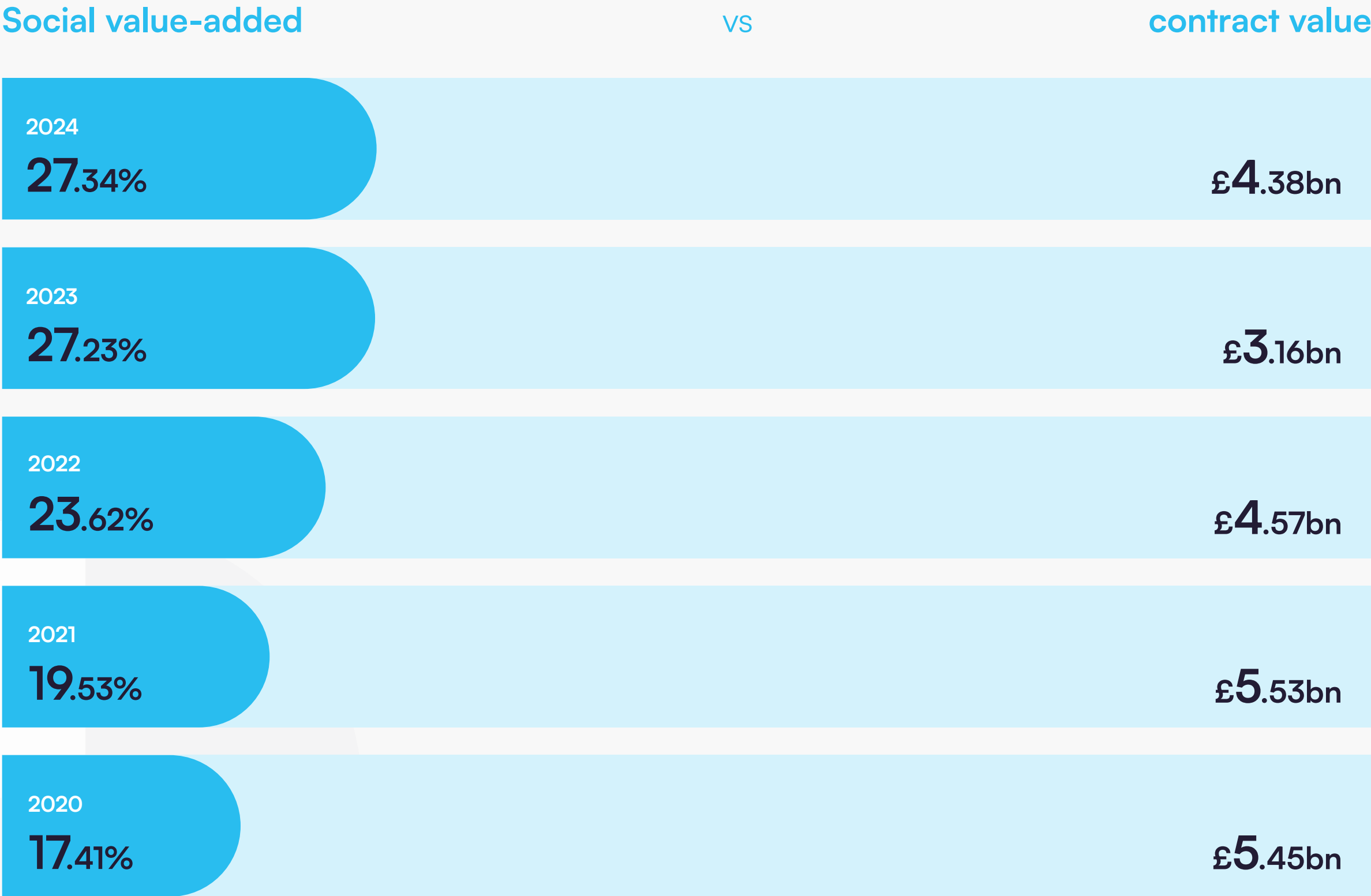
Although there is a minimal increase in social value delivery year on year, our annual benchmarking reports demonstrate a continued improvement in social value return from 17% (2020) to 27% (2024), indicating that communities continue to benefit from construction projects within their locality.

Why is this?

- Improved understanding of social value and focus on outcome delivery from clients and industry.
- Increased inclusion of social value KPIs specifications in contracts down the value chain.
- Increased competition to win work, with social value being a significant differentiator.

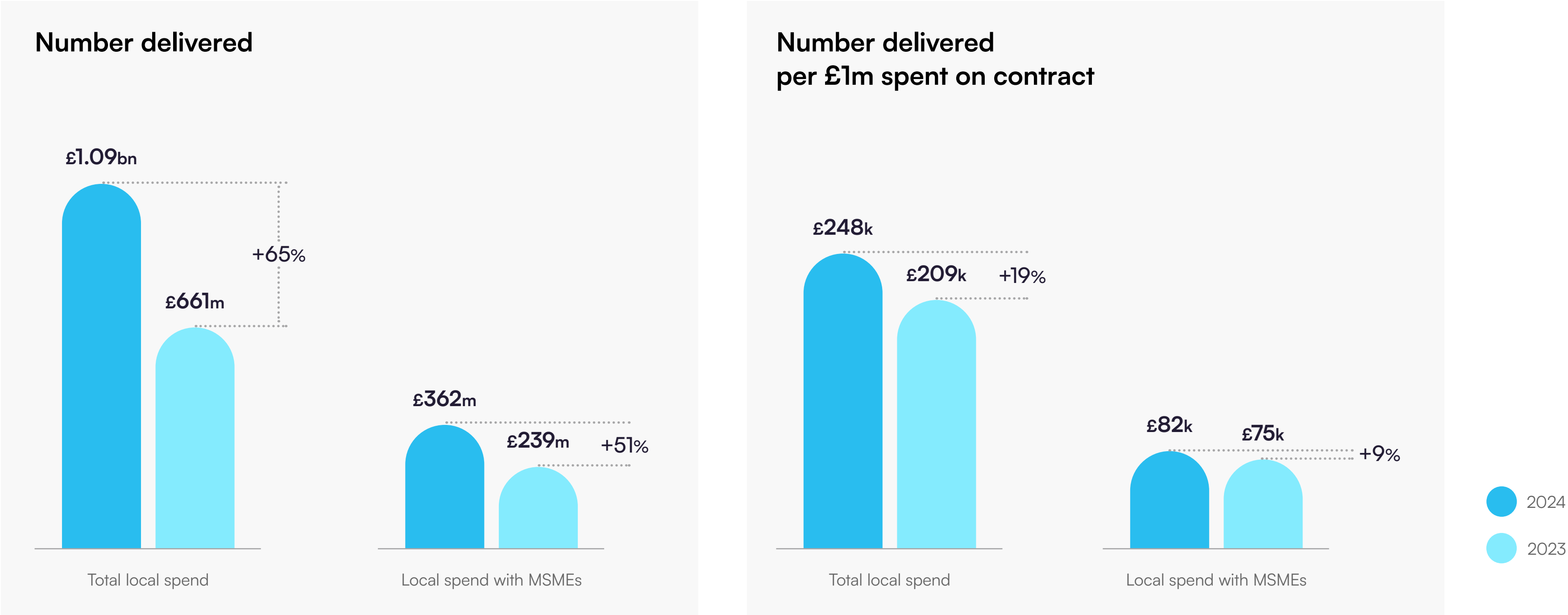
418
projects completed
in 2024

£1.2bn
social value created



Key findings and insight

2. Local and micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME) spend has increased with local spend, passing the £1bn mark.



Why is this?

- Growing relationships between contractors and local and MSME suppliers.
- Increasing importance from clients on identifying a local supply chain to support of the local economy.
- Better tools and processes to identify the right suppliers.

65% increase in local spend

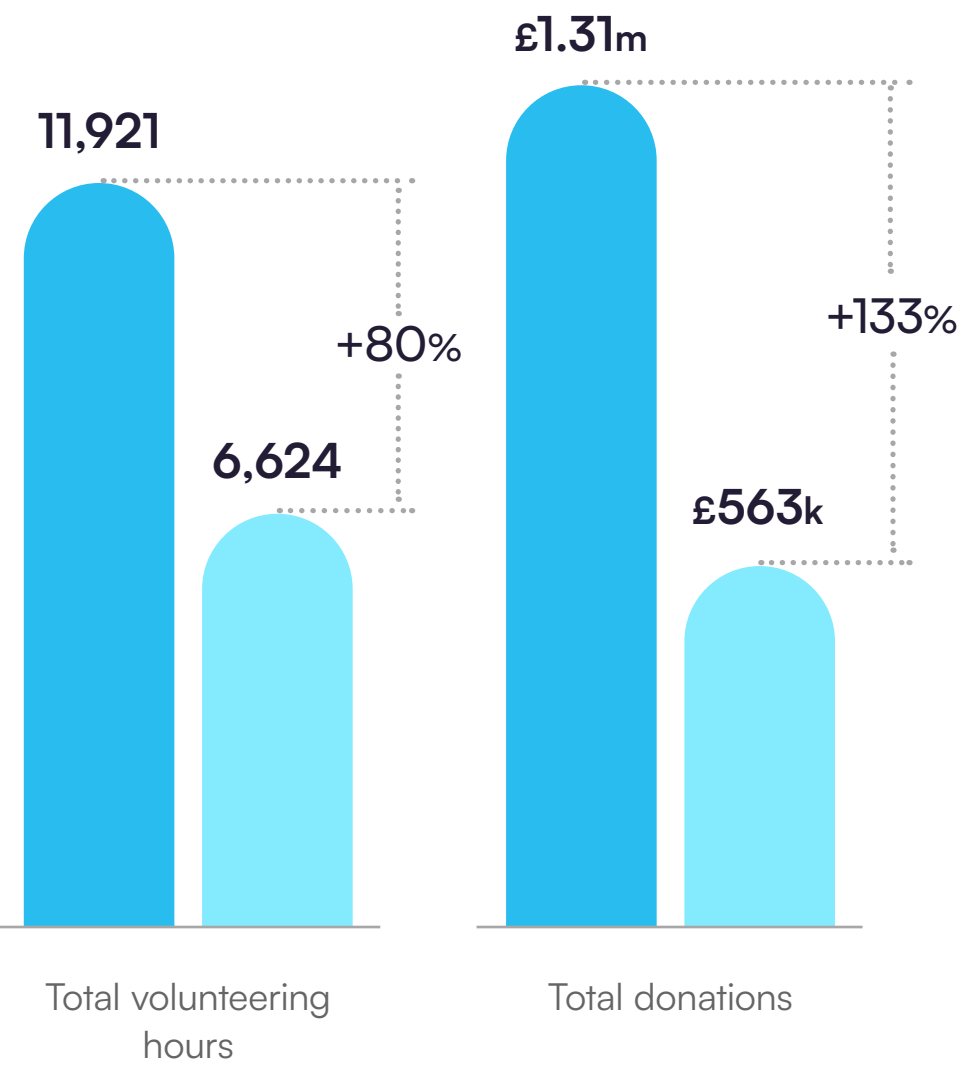
51% increase in local spend with MSMEs

	Number delivered			Number delivered per £mil spent on contract		
	2024	2023	% change	2024	2023	% change
Total local spend	£1,088,997,302.31	£661,516,752.09	65%	£248,641.40	£209,385.43	19%
Local spend with MSMEs	£362,458,431.92	£239,899,368.28	51%	£82,757.02	£75,933.73	9%

Key findings and insight

3. Volunteering and donations have leaped.

Number delivered



Number delivered per £mil spent on contract



2024 2023

Why is this?

- Communities improving their communication and ask.
- Industry focusing on providing legacy.
- Industry increasing the availability of volunteering hours to the staff through improved recruitment and retention policies.



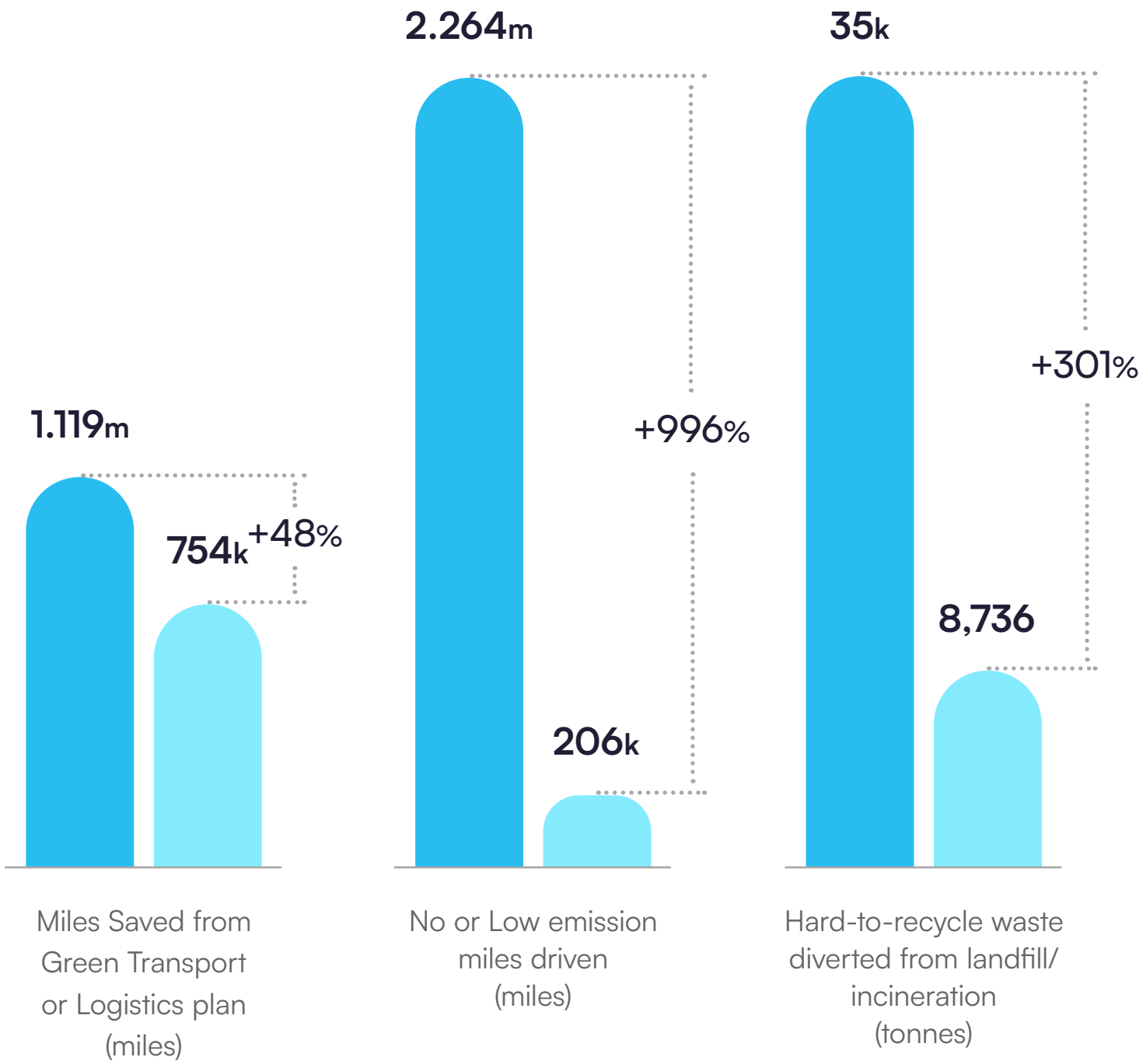
133%
uplift in donations

80%
increase in volunteering hours

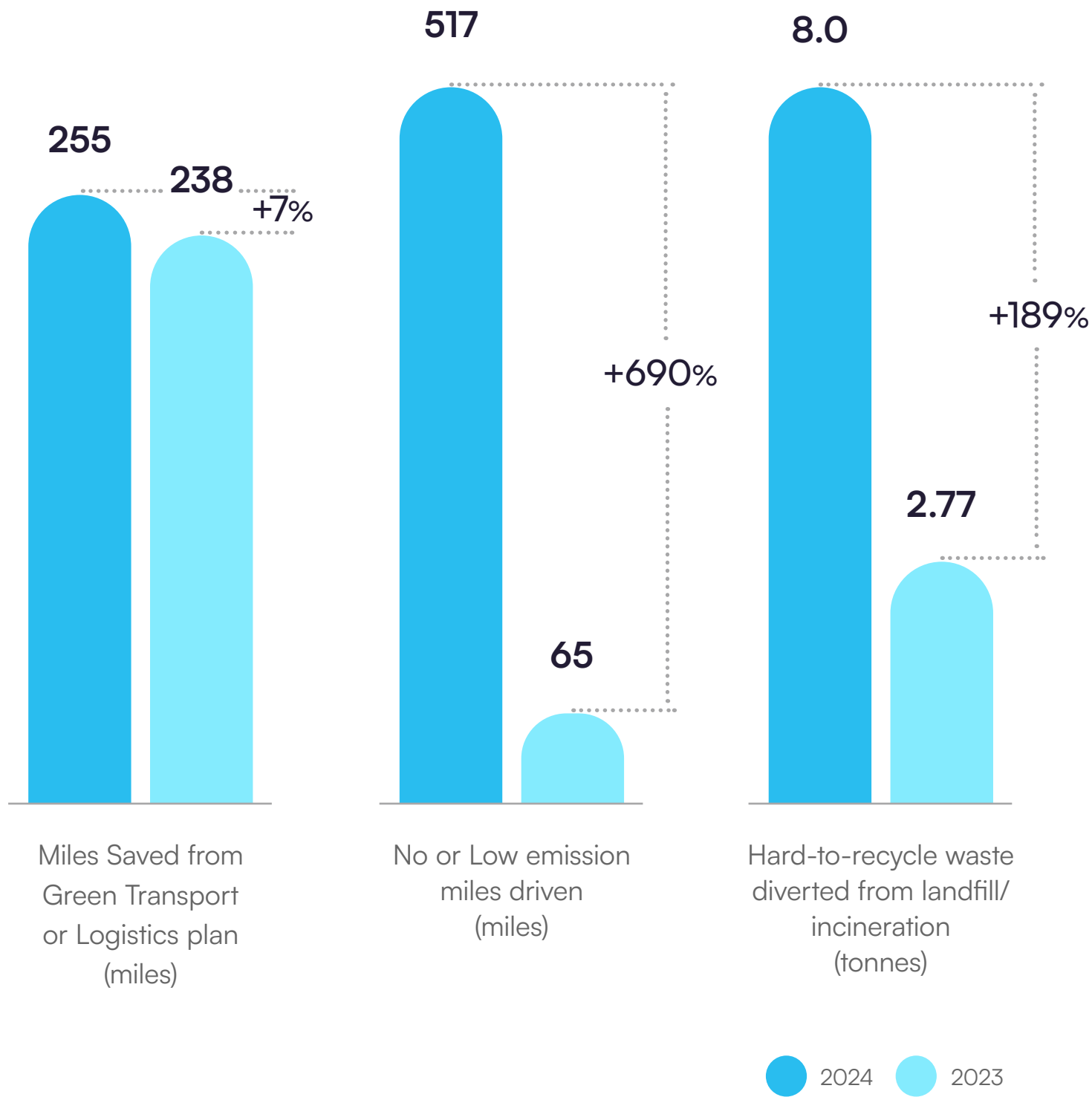
Key findings and insight

4. There is an increase in the use of green measures.

Number delivered



Number delivered per £mil spent on contract



2024 2023

Why is this?

- The outcomes of medium- and long-term sustainability strategies are being recognised.
- Improved use of technology and planning are having an effect.
- Improved reporting processes as companies look to reduce their carbon footprint and increase their social value add.

1.1m miles saved under green travel initiatives

48% increase in miles saved from green transport

2.26m No or Low emission miles driven — 996% increase

Key Findings Themes

The TOM System™ places social value into four areas of focus that define the scope of the activity - work, economy, community and planet:



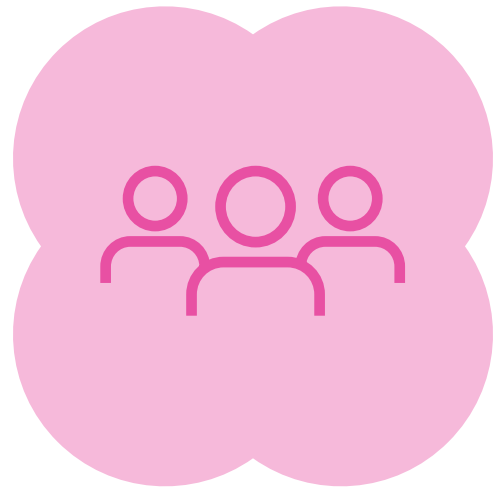
Work

Providing opportunities that support local employment, training and skill development.



Economy

Driving responsible local growth and economic development.



Community

Improving social and community wellbeing and resilience.



Planet

Promoting environmental sustainability and accountability.

Key Findings

Themes

% of Total Project

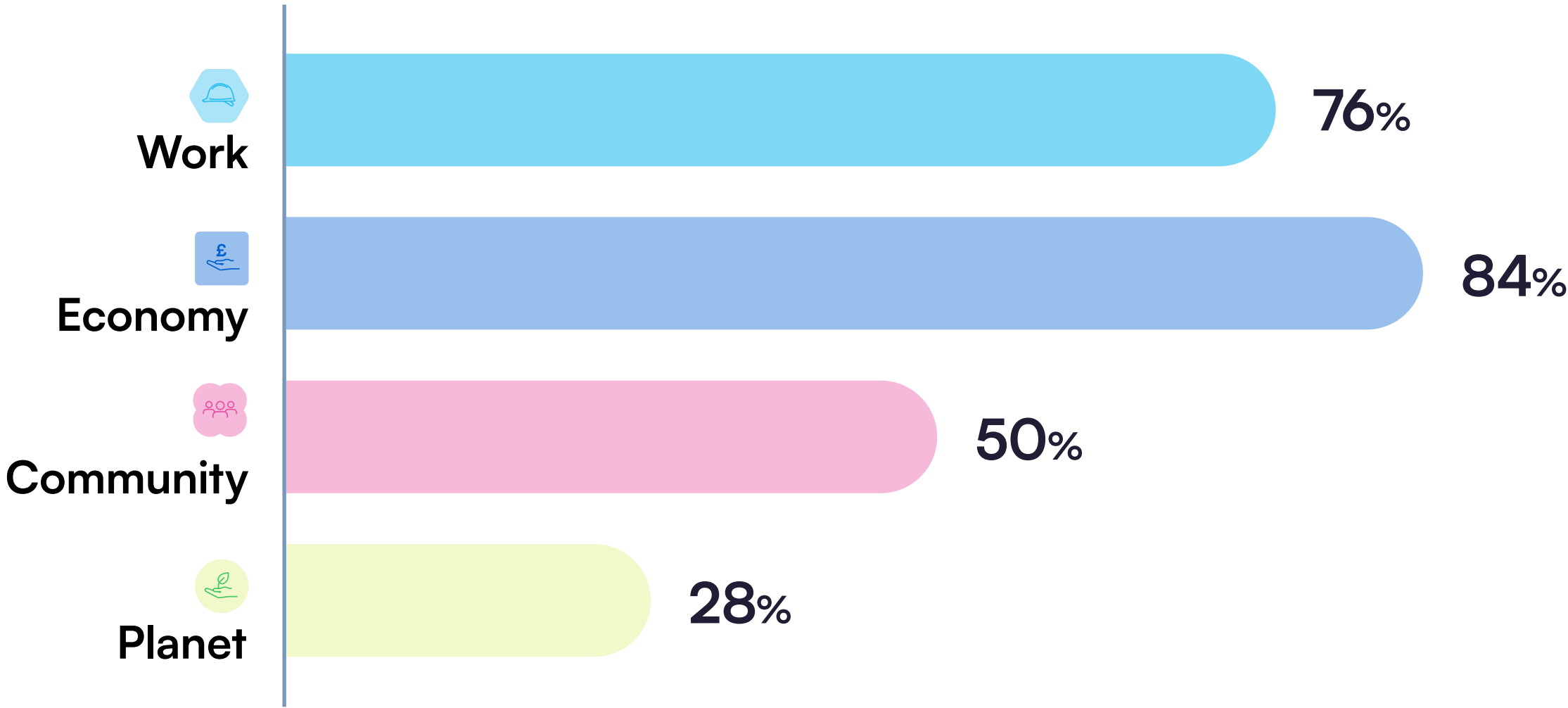
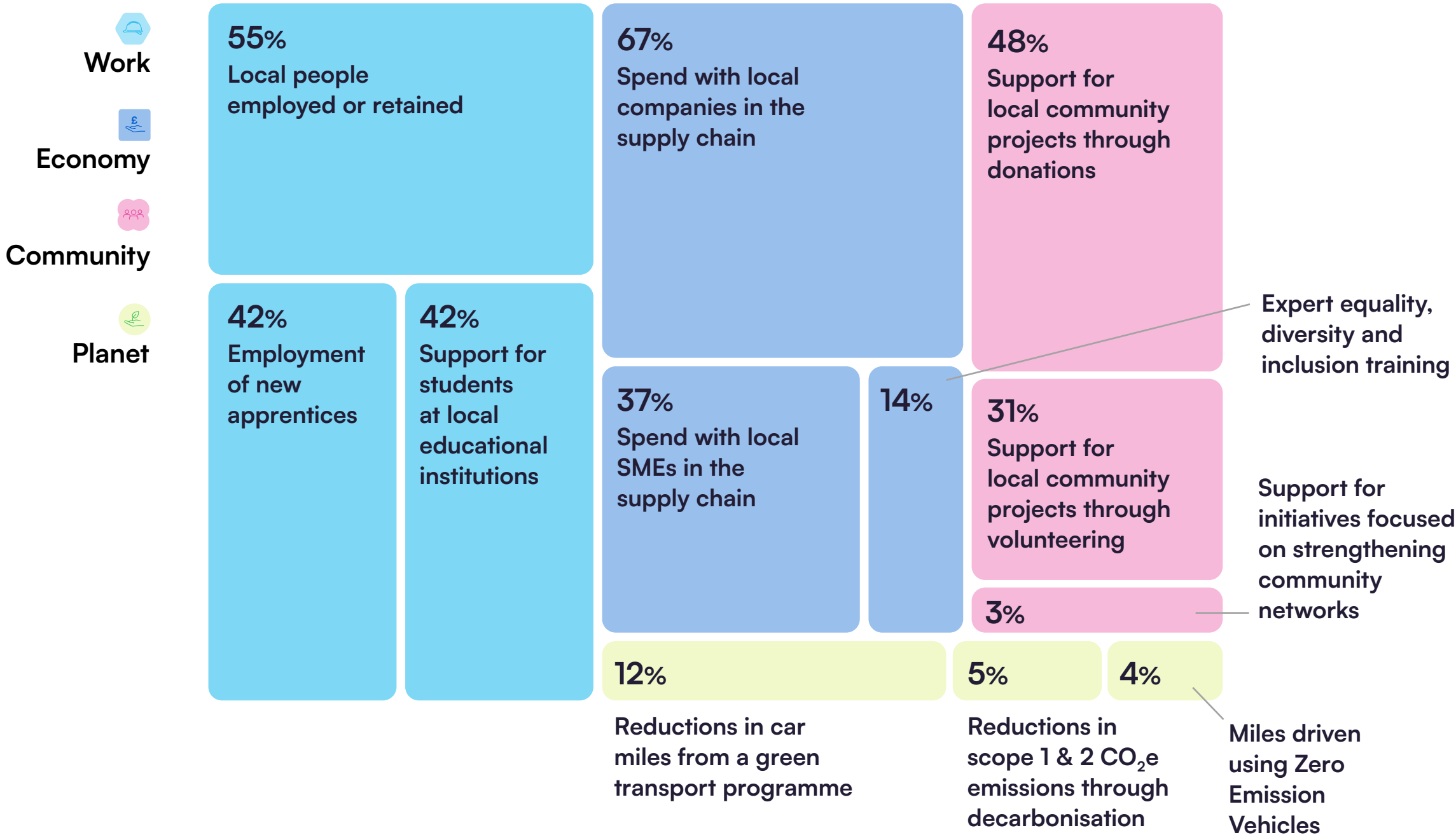


Chart 1: % of projects weighted by theme

Top 3 measures across Theme





The Work theme is widely adopted, with 28 measures used.

It recorded the second highest number of projects (after Economy) and the broadest range of measures used.

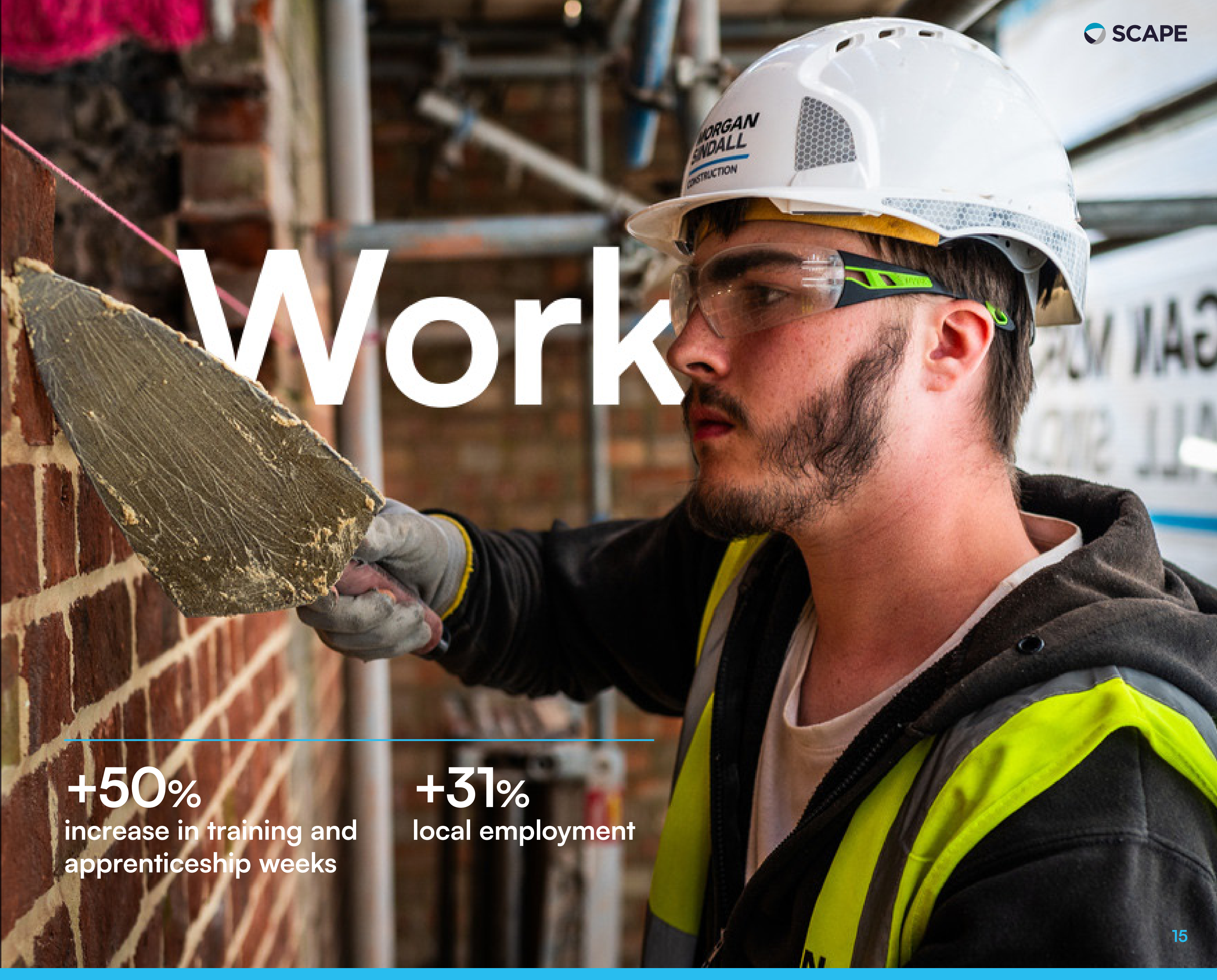
Nationally, when looking at specific measures under the Work theme, we can see that:

- Local employment grew from 3,402 to 4,457 FTE (+31%). Delivery per £1m contract value remained steady around 1 FTE, slipping slightly by -5%.
- Training and apprenticeships rose by +50% to 28,262 weeks, with an 8% uplift in £1m spent on contract value.

These results are encouraging and indicate a momentum in workforce development. Alongside the government's £600m investment and commitment to support training and apprenticeships to plug the skills gap, this trend demonstrates a shared effort between industry and government to sustainably build and train the workforce required to deliver. This was highlighted in our recent insight report, A Year of Change: Public Good, Public Building — What the Nation Needs Now.

+50%
increase in training and
apprenticeship weeks

+31%
local employment



Economy



The Economy theme dominated in 2024, generating £1.03bn in social value and nearly 6.8 times the Work theme.

This also has highest median, indicating consistent high-value delivery per project.

Performance under the Economy theme shows:

- Total local spend exceeded £1bn, increasing 65% year on year, and delivering 19% more value per £1m of contract value.
- MSME spend rose 51% to £362m, with a 9% gain per £1m of contract value.

The significant increase in local and MSME spend highlights the industry’s growing commitment to supporting and investing in smaller and local businesses. By driving more investment into local suppliers and MSMEs, the construction sector is aiding supply chain resilience and sustainable economic growth.

£1bn+
local spend

51%
increase in
MSME spend



The Community theme, along with the Planet theme underperformed in 2024.

Despite being included in 208 projects (49.7%), the Community theme recorded low total value and low median value per project.

Performance under Community theme shows:

- Volunteering hours increased significantly by 80%, with delivery rising by 30% per £1m of contract value, indicating stronger participation.
- Expert-support hours for VCSEs dropped by 29% and school/college outreach hours slipped 7%, suggesting uneven engagement focus.
- Total donations more than doubled to £1.31m (133%).

The significant increase in volunteering and donations shows a willingness to contribute time and resources to local communities. However, the decrease in support for VCSEs and reduced outreach to schools and colleges highlights a need for different engagement strategies. Ensuring consistent investment across all Community measures, from volunteering to educational career insights, will go to strengthen longer-term and more sustainable social impact.

£1.31m
donations

80%
increase in
volunteering hours

Community





The Planet theme was the least-used theme across projects in 2024, although a wide range of measures were still incorporated.

Performance under the Planet theme shows:

- Miles saved through green logistics increased by 48%, with an increase of 7% per £1m of contract value.
- Low/zero-emission miles driven drastically increased from 206,000 to 2.26m.
- Hard-to-recycle waste diverted quadrupled to 35,000 tonnes, yet reuse of products and materials fell sharply by 99% — signalling a shift from circularity to waste diversion.

Sustainable transport initiatives show a strong momentum and reflect the influence of PPN 06/21 and the introduction of mandatory carbon reduction plans as the UK drives to Net Zero. Additionally, the move to hybrid and electric vehicles, with many construction companies introducing new fleets, reinforces this positive trend. However, the steep decline in reuse suggests that a renewed focus on long-term sustainability goals is required.

2.26m
low/zero
emission miles
driven

48%
increase in miles
saved through
green logistics



Key Findings

Regional delivery

While nationally there is a strong momentum across the Work and Economy themes, and less emphasis on Community and Planet, delivery on the ground varies significantly by region. The regional data highlights where measures are being adopted most strongly, and where opportunities are available to balance investment and impact. By looking at regional trends, we can see not only which areas are leading in workforce development, local spending, and sustainability, but also how different communities are experiencing social value in practice.

All case studies included within this report were delivered in 2024 via SCAPE’s suite of frameworks.

North West

Number of Projects	Total Social Value Delivered
110	£235,405,522

West Midlands

Number of Projects	Total Social Value Delivered
25	£69,282,323

Wales

Number of Projects	Total Social Value Delivered
11	£11,913,188

South West

Number of Projects	Total Social Value Delivered
37	£61,179,157

Scotland

Number of Projects	Total Social Value Delivered
22	£96,409,318

North East

Number of Projects	Total Social Value Delivered
16	£40,893,706

Yorkshire & The Humber

Number of Projects	Total Social Value Delivered
27	£123,509,433

East Midlands

Number of Projects	Total Social Value Delivered
82	£122,455,617

East of England

Number of Projects	Total Social Value Delivered
40	£47,752,853

London

Number of Projects	Total Social Value Delivered
26	£196,902,756

South East

Number of Projects	Total Social Value Delivered
22	£191,901,395

North East

NORTH EAST

The North East delivered £41m in social value across 16 projects, the second-lowest project count after Wales. With a contract value of £166m, social value activity primarily focused on the Work theme, featuring in 88% of projects.

Community and Economy measures were respectable, reported in 56% of cases. However, measures under the Planet theme were recorded on just 6% of projects, highlighting a lack in focus on environmental outcomes when compared to other themes.

KEY STATISTICS

£166m
Contract value of projects in region

£41m
Social value delivered

16
Number of projects measured

7%
Median social value added

TOP MEASURE USED IN REGION:

88%  Work

56%  Community

56%  Economy

6%  Planet

2024 VS 2023

	2024	2023
Number of Projects	16	9
Total Number of Unique Measures Used	21	30
Total Social Value Delivered	£40,893,706	£20,151,546
Median Social Value Added	7%	24%

Change in value
+£20,742,160

Change in median SV%
-18%



Client name
Darlington Borough Council

Delivery partner



Framework
SCAPE
CONSTRUCTION

Project value
£35m

Main theme
Work

Ahead of the bi-centenary of the Stockton and Darlington Railway, Willmott Dixon delivered a £35m world-class visitor attraction, celebrating Darlington’s story of engineering, ideas and invention.

As well as extensive refurbishment of Grade II listed buildings, a new live engineering shed and an immersive experience, a café and shop, and a railway themed children’s play area were delivered, transforming the site into a tourist attraction set to welcome more than 300,000 visitors a year.

Throughout the project, Willmott Dixon engaged with 1,116 local school and college students, created more than 200 weeks of new employment opportunities and provided 265 weeks of apprenticeships at Hopetown, working in collaboration with organisations such as We are Social Enterprise Recruitment. These initiatives provided real, tangible skills development, supporting career pathways and boosting the local economy.

By combining heritage preservation with community engagement and workforce development, the Hopetown project demonstrates how major construction projects can deliver lasting social as well as cultural and economic value.

Key outcomes

265
apprenticeship weeks

1,116
school and college
students engaged

200
weeks of employment
opportunities

[Click to read the full case study on our website](#)

Wales

WALES

Wales delivered £12m in social value across 11 projects, with a contract value of £89m and median delivery of 2%. Both overall value (-33%) and median (down from 7% to 2%) fell year on year, though activity remained diverse with 35 measures used.

Despite having the lowest project count, Wales presented a distinctive theme profile, with Community (73%) and Planet (45%) measures reported more frequently than Economy (54%).

KEY STATISTICS

£89m
Contract value of projects in region

11
Number of projects measured

£12m
Social value delivered

2%
Median social value added

TOP MEASURE USED IN REGION:

82%
Work

73%
Community

64%
Economy

45%
Planet

2024 VS 2023

	2024	2023
Number of Projects	11	18
Total Number of Unique Measures Used	35	68
Total Social Value Delivered	£11,913,188	£18,143,638
Median Social Value Added	2%	7%

Change in value
-£6,230,450

Change in median SV%
-4%

SOUTH EAST

The South East delivered £192m in social value across 22 projects, with a contract value of £413m. Despite fewer projects, performance jumped with social value delivery increasing by 183% and the median improving by 3% year on year.

The region was particularly strong in Economy (91%) and Work (86%) measures, yet Community (59%) and Planet (14%) measures were less prominent.

Overall, the South East shows a similar profile to the West Midlands region, with emphasis on economic and employment outcomes driving delivery.

KEY STATISTICS

£413m
Contract value of projects in region

22
Number of projects measured

£192m
Social value delivered

35%
Median social value added

TOP MEASURE USED IN REGION:

91%  Economy

86%  Work

59%  Community

14%  Planet

2024 VS 2023

	2024	2023
Number of Projects	22	27
Total Number of Unique Measures Used	31	36
Total Social Value Delivered	£191,901,395	£67,713,502
Median Social Value Added	35%	33%

Change in value
£124,187,893

Change in median SV%
3%

South East

Scotland



SCOTLAND

Scotland delivered £96m in social value across 22 projects, a 69.7% increase year on year, with a contract value of £363m and a median delivery of 28%.

Coverage was consistently high across Work (86%), Economy (91%) and Community (73%), with Planet reported on 23% of projects. The region demonstrates a well-rounded profile, balancing employment, economic, and community outcomes, with steady growth indicating stronger impact per project and breadth across social value themes.

KEY STATISTICS

£363m
Contract value of projects in region

22
Number of projects measured

£96m
Social value delivered

28%
Median social value added

TOP MEASURE USED IN REGION:

91%  Economy

86%  Work

73%  Community

23%  Planet

2024 VS 2023

	2024	2023
Number of Projects	22	17
Total Number of Unique Measures Used	35	40
Total Social Value Delivered	£96,409,318	£56,810,942
Median Social Value Added	28%	16%

Change in value
+£39,598,376

Change in median SV%
12%



Prospecthill Court

Greenock

Client name
River Clyde Homes

Delivery partner



Framework
SCAPE SCOTLAND
CONSTRUCTION

Project value
£6m

Main theme
Community



Delivered through the SCAPE Scotland Construction framework for River Clyde Homes, this £6m retrofit transformed 90 homes within a 16-storey high-rise, achieving an AECB (Association for Environment Conscious Building) rating. The project cut energy demand per flat from 16,750 kWh/year to 2,680 kWh. This represents an 80% reduction in space heating and operational carbon emissions, earning the Net Zero in Housing award at the CIH Housing Awards.

Residents were actively engaged throughout the duration of the project via public consultations and open days to ensure the retrofit met community needs. Operatives received bespoke AECB Passport training day from Built Environment Smarter Transformation (BE-ST), upskilling the workforce on sustainable retrofit practices.

The project team also delivered several community initiatives; a clean-up day and landscaping day at the neighbouring Prospecthill Christian Fellowship Church, arts and craft sessions with children, refreshments and social interaction and furnishing a respite flat through a local second-hand shop, later raffled to tenants. Additionally, donations were made to Inverclyde Foodbank, directly addressing local needs.

Through these initiatives, the project not only reduced carbon emissions and significantly reduced heating costs for residents, but also strengthened community connections, upskilled local workers, and enhanced resident wellbeing, demonstrating a holistic approach to sustainable housing.

80%
reduction in space
heating and operational
carbon emissions

[Click to read the full case study on our website](#)

Client name
**West Dunbartonshire
Council**

Delivery partner
Balfour Beatty

Framework
**SCAPE SCOTLAND
CIVIL ENGINEERING**

Project value
£2.7m

% Social value added
17% (£463,279)

Main theme
Economy

Key outcomes

94%
SME engagement

75%
Local spend
within 40 miles

20 weeks
of training opportunities

36 hours
dedicated to support
young people into work

The **£2.7m Connecting Dumbarton** project has transformed the area around **Dumbarton Central Station**, creating a safer, more attractive, and accessible environment for residents and visitors while improving active travel routes and reinstating historic links along the former **College Street**.

Social value was integral to delivery. With 94% SME engagement and 75% local spend within 40 miles, the project directly supported the local economy. In partnership with West Dunbartonshire Council, Balfour Beatty established a Construction Academy for local young people looking to pursue a career in construction. The course provided 10 young people with hands-on experience, qualifications, and career pathways in construction.

Community support extended further through collaboration with the Wee Chatty Café, a service providing free food, companionship and safe space for anyone who needs it. Identified by the client as an organisation and project that could benefit from local social impact, Balfour Beatty and supply chain partners volunteered 32 hours and contributed £20,000 of in-kind support — including design, materials, plant and labour — to deliver a new raised platform and improve accessibility, ensuring the café can continue its vital community role.

By combining place improvement with workforce development, local economic investment, and targeted community support, Connecting Dumbarton demonstrates the wider social, economic, and environmental benefits.

[Click to read the full case study on our website](#)





Client name
The James Hutton Institute

Delivery partner
McLaughlin & Harvey

Framework
SCAPE SCOTLAND CONSTRUCTION

Project value
£43m

% Social value added
93% (£39m)

Delivered by McLaughlin & Harvey, the £43m Crop Innovation Centre (CIC) for the James Hutton Institute provides world-leading research facilities for sustainable land, crop and natural resource management. Home to the Advanced Plant Growth Centre (APGC) and the International Barley Hub (IBH), the CIC supports pioneering into genetics, breeding, and crop management technologies. With over 100 researchers across 44 laboratories, the centre will help safeguard Scotland’s barley industry — a cornerstone for the whisky sector which accounts for 75% of the country’s food and drinks exports.

The project generated an outstanding 93% social value return and sets a benchmark for sustainable and socially responsible research facilities.

Social impact was embedded throughout delivery: 97 placements, apprenticeships and trainee roles, engagement with 1,127 students through 35 curriculum events, and contributed 558 hours of volunteering via McLaughlin & Harvey’s Community Fund. Local economic benefit was maximised with 83% of spend within 20miles.

Sustainability performance was equally strong, with the use of 100% sustainable electricity, reduced-emission fuels, and electrical plant. The project also reused, recycled or recovered 12,783 tonnes of materials and saved 85,318t CO₂e.

Key outcomes
83%
local spend within 20 miles

12,783
tonnes of reused, recycled or recovered materials

97
placements, apprenticeships and trainee roles created

[Click to read the full case study on our website](#)



Client name

Scottish Fire & Rescue Service

Delivery partner

**MORGAN
SINDALL**
CONSTRUCTION

Framework

 **SCAPE SCOTLAND**
CONSTRUCTION

Project value

£8.1m

% Social value added

23% (£1.9m)

Main theme

Community

Key outcomes

37
charitable volunteering hours

£4,800
in charitable
donations

£28,609
spent with
Social Enterprises

Morgan Sindall Construction delivered extensive refurbishments across four Scottish Fire Stations — Inverness, Galashiels, Dingwall and Newcraighall — upgrading welfare facilities, modernising aging estates and ensuring compliance with contamination guidelines to safeguard firefighter health. These works are helping create a modern and resilient fire service ready to meet Scotland's future challenges.

Across the projects, £1.8m of social value was generated, equating to 23% social value added. Local economic impact included 51% of spend within 20 miles, 89% SME engagement, and 58% of the locally recruited workforce.

Community initiatives added real, tangible benefit:

- In Galashiels, donations supported Just Cycle CIC with 22 bikes, a sensory room for Burgh Primary School, and household starter kits for the Fresh Start Initiative.
- In Inverness, the project team spread festive cheer with children's Christmas gifts and an incredible donation of 20 pints of blood to the local donor centre.
- At Newcraighall, surplus furniture was gifted to Emmaus to support homelessness and international aid projects.
- While Dingwall benefited from a donated new kitchen for firefighters and the wider community.

**Working together for
a safer Scotland**

[Click to read the full case study on our website](#)



Duff House Plantroom Banff

Client name
**Historic Environment Scotland
(HES)**

Project value
£1.1m

Delivery partner
**MORGAN
SINDALL**
CONSTRUCTION

Framework
SCAPE SCOTLAND
CONSTRUCTION

Main theme
Community



As part of a £1.1m project at Duff House, a historic country house and museum in Banff, Aberdeenshire, Morgan Sindall installed a new prefabricated sprinkler plantroom to protect this important cultural asset.

Alongside project delivery, the Senior Site Manager developed close ties with the Banff and Macduff Men's Shed, a local charity providing a space for people from priority groups to make, repair, and repurpose items while offering vital social support to reduce loneliness and improve wellbeing. He regularly volunteered his time to help with town clean-ups, recycling

initiatives, constructing benches, repairing noticeboards, and importantly, sharing coffee and conversation with older and unwell members.

Further support included donating official signage for the charity's base and providing branded polo shirts for its members, strengthening its sense of identity.

In recognition of his contributions, he was awarded honorary membership of the Men's Shed. The group itself went on to be named Men's Shed of the Year for the second consecutive year — the first in Scotland to achieve this.

WEST MIDLANDS

The West Midlands delivered £69m in social value across 25 projects, with a combined contract value of £325m. A 36% median social value delivered, the highest across all 11 regions, indicates effective local implementation and consistency in the delivery of higher levels of social value relative to contract size.

Performance was driven by strong results in both Work (88%) and Economy (88%), while Community (36%) and Planet (24%) measures less widely reported.

The region closely mirrors that of the South East, with an emphasis on work and economy outcomes, though its lower community and planet engagement sets it apart as an outlier in terms of social and environmental balance.

KEY STATISTICS

£325m
Contract value of projects in region

25
Number of projects measured

£69m
Social value delivered

36%
Median social value added

TOP MEASURE USED IN REGION:

88%
Work

88%
Economy

36%
Community

24%
Planet

2024 VS 2023

	2024	2023
Number of Projects	25	24
Total Number of Unique Measures Used	35	34
Total Social Value Delivered	£69,282,323	£64,181,112
Median Social Value Added	36%	27%

Change in value
+£5,101,211

Change in median SV%
9%

West Midlands

London

LONDON

London delivered £197m in social value across 26 projects, with a contract value of £719m. Total delivery fell 30% year on year to £197m, while the median delivery fell 7% to just 2% - the lowest nationwide. This suggests delivery challenges, potentially linked to the region’s complex project structures, difficulty in engaging local communities or a stronger focus on commercial outcomes over social.

There is a high participation in Economy (77%), Work and Community (both 73%) measures, but limited activity in Planet (12%) - the second lowest across all regions — highlighting a comparatively weak environmental contribution and focus.

TOP MEASURE USED IN REGION:

- 77% Economy
- 73% Work
- 73% Community
- 12% Planet

KEY STATISTICS

£719m

Contract value of projects in region

26

Number of projects measured

£197m

Social value delivered

2%

Median social value added

2024 VS 2023

	2024	2023
Number of Projects	26	20
Total Number of Unique Measures Used	41	50
Total Social Value Delivered	£196,902,756	£282,595,022
Median Social Value Added	2%	9%

Change in value

-£85,692,265

Change in median SV%

-7%



Luton & Dunstable Emergency Department

Luton

Client name

Bedfordshire Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

Delivery partner



Framework



Project value

£35m

% Social value added

57.7% (£20.2m)

Main theme

Economy



The £35m expansion of the Emergency Department at Luton & Dunstable University Hospital has delivered a modern, high-capacity A&E department, new hospital entrance, improved drop-off zones, and upgraded CT scanning facilities. Built within a live hospital environment, the scheme required careful phasing to ensure critical services remained fully operational, supporting Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust’s commitment to high-quality, accessible care.

Alongside the construction, the project generated £20.2m social value.. Social value initiatives included refurbishing the hospital relatives’ room to create a peaceful space for bereaved families and transforming two gardens into therapeutic areas for mothers with babies in neonatal care.

Social value delivery also prioritised local benefit, with £16.3m spent locally, including £400k in Luton, 43% SME engagement, and 78% of the workforce recruited within 40 miles. Skills and employment were central, delivering 55 weeks of apprenticeships, extensive training, and pathways into construction for young people, care leavers and the long-term unemployed through partnerships with Inside Connections, Job Centre Plus and The Prince’s Trust.

£20.2m
social value
delivered

78%
local labour
within 40miles

43%
SME
engagement

[Click to read the full case study on our website](#)

Yorkshire & The Humber

YORKSHIRE & HUMBER

Yorkshire & Humber delivered £123.5m in social value across 27 projects, with a contract value of £461m and a median delivery of 10%. This marks a 292% year on year increase, achieved on the same project count, reflecting a significant uplift in value per project.

The Economy theme was dominant, included on 96% of projects, followed by Work (70%). Community theme was more modest (33%), while Planet measures were low, reported in only 15%.

The region stands out as an outlier for exceptional growth in social value delivery. Possible drivers could include the embedding of stronger social value requirements into project planning and procurement, and stronger supply chain engagement, with contribution at all levels.

KEY STATISTICS

£461m
Contract value of projects in region

27
Number of projects measured

£123.5m
Social value delivered

10%
Median social value added

TOP MEASURE USED IN REGION:

96%  Economy

70%  Work

33%  Community

15%  Planet

2024 VS 2023

	2024	2023
Number of Projects	27	27
Total Number of Unique Measures Used	32	47
Total Social Value Delivered	£123,509,433	£31,532,532
Median Social Value Added	10%	13%

Change in value
£91,976,901

Change in median SV%
-4%



Client name
West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue

Delivery partner
WILLMOTT DIXON
SINCE 1852

Framework
SCAPE
CONSTRUCTION

Project value
£26m

Main theme
Planet

% Social value added
29%

Key outcomes
58%
of spend within 20 miles

889 hours
of community-based volunteering

50,000 kWh p/a
renewable energy

217
apprenticeship weeks



West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Headquarters Bradford

Procured via the SCAPE Construction framework, Willmott Dixon delivered a new £26m headquarters, training centre and fire station for West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service (WYFRS) at Birkenshaw, near Bradford. Replacing ageing facilities, the development includes a state-of-the-art Urban Search and Rescue Training Centre, enabling firefighter learning fit for the 21st century. The project is a cornerstone of WYFRS’s modernisation plans to keep people and communities safe across West Yorkshire.

Sustainability was at the heart of the scheme, with the new site designed to be net zero in operation. Solar panels generate 50,000 kWh of renewable energy annually, while

heat pumps, hybrid ventilation and efficient building materials will reduce carbon emissions across the estate.

Alongside sustainability, a lot of social value was aimed towards the Work and Economy themes, with 58% of spend invested locally within 20 miles, creating jobs and training opportunities for local people. Delivery also included 217 weeks of apprenticeships, 213 weeks of training and 889 hours of community-based volunteering.

By combining modern facilities, carbon reduction and meaningful community investment, the project is a transformational development — delivered for local people, by local people.

[Click to read the full case study on our website](#)

East of England

EAST OF ENGLAND

The East of England delivered £47.8m in social value across 40 projects, with a contract value of £208m. Overall delivery fell by 62% year on year, yet the median social value-added surged from 5% to 35% - the second highest nationally — indicating a shift toward more consistent and higher-value outcomes per project.

All 40 projects (100%) report on Economy measures, but only one-third included Work (33%), with even fewer addressing Community (18%) and Planet (13%).

The East of England stands out as an outlier for efficiency, delivering strong per-project results despite reduced overall value.

KEY STATISTICS

£208m

Contract value of projects in region

40

Number of projects measured

£48m

Social value delivered

35%

Median social value added

TOP MEASURE USED IN REGION:

100%

 Economy

33%

 Work

18%

 Community

13%

 Planet

2024 VS 2023

	2024	2023
Number of Projects	40	31
Total Number of Unique Measures Used	33	28
Total Social Value Delivered	£47,752,853	£125,750,728
Median Social Value Added	35%	5%

Change in value
-£77,997,875

Change in median SV%
30%

Apprenticeships through defence projects

East Anglian RAF bases

Client name	Project value	Main theme
Defence Infrastructure Organisation	£9.7m	Work
Delivery partner	Framework	% Social value added
CARTER	SCAPE CONSTRUCTION	50.5% (£4.9m)

While details of defence projects remain confidential, R G Carter continues to deliver significant social value through works across the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) and United States Visiting Forces (USVF) estate, with £9.7m of projects undertaken in 2024 via the SCAPE Regional Construction framework.

In 2024 alone, defence projects generated £4.9m in social value, equating to 50.5% social value add. Apprenticeships and career progression have been a key focus, with five members of the defence team completing or working towards formal apprenticeships. Their progression—from administrator to project manager, and

from carpentry apprentices to site managers—highlights the effectiveness of the R G Carter Academy’s “earn as you learn” model, blending theory, practical skills, and live project delivery.

These individuals, all based within 25 miles of RAF Lakenheath and Mildenhall, have become integral to project delivery, demonstrating the long-term community benefit of investing in local people. Through its defence portfolio, R G Carter is building careers, supporting local economies, and delivering sustainable outcomes.

[Click to read the full case study on our website](#)



Spotlight:

Nicole’s Journey

Nicole joined R G Carter in 2021 as an Administrator supporting SCAPE defence projects at RAF Lakenheath. Keen to progress, she enrolled in a Level 4 Construction Site Supervisor degree through the R G Carter Academy and University College of Estate Management. Gaining hands-on experience, she helped manage projects including a taxiway joint sealing scheme, from feasibility through to completion. Nicole is now on track to progress into a project management role, showing how defence projects are creating pathways for local talent into long-term careers.



Spotlight:

From Apprentice to Site Manager

Chris began his career as a Craft Carpentry Apprentice with R G Carter. After completing his apprenticeship, he undertook an NVQ Level 4 in Site Management while delivering SCAPE projects at RAF Mildenhall. Chris went on to mentor apprentice Tom, who progressed through NVQ Levels 2—4 and now works as a Site Manager at RAF Lakenheath and Mildenhall. Their journeys reflect the strength of R G Carter’s “earn as you learn” model, building the next generation of skilled site managers directly from its apprenticeship pipeline.

Supporting local employment at The Place

Great Yarmouth

Client name

Great Yarmouth Borough Council

Delivery partner

MORGAN
SINDALL
CONSTRUCTION

Framework

SCAPE
CONSTRUCTION

Project value

£17m

% Social value added

40% (£6.8m)

Main theme

Work

Key outcomes

370 apprenticeship weeks

37 work placement weeks

70 pupils visit site

178 hours
supporting unemployed
people into work

The Place, a £17m regeneration project, has transformed the former Palmers department store into a new public library and university learning centre for Great Yarmouth. Alongside the physical transformation, the project has generated £6.8m in social value, creating opportunities that will leave a lasting legacy for the local community.

The central focus to the social value delivery was inspiring and upskilling local young people. More than 70 students from East Norfolk Sixth Form and East Coast College gained direct access to the live construction site, enabling them to gain first-hand industry experience and exposure to variety of roles available in construction, covering disciplines from surveying and business studies to interior design and brickwork.

These experiences led to structured opportunities, including two T-Level industry placements and three brickwork work placements, helping students build confidence, skills, and real-world insight into construction careers.

The project also highlighted successful pathways into employment, with the project team donating 178 hours to supporting unemployed people into work, providing 370 apprenticeship weeks and 37 work placement weeks. Local bricklaying students Dylan and Richard, both 18, transitioned from site visits to short placements before securing full-time roles with supply chain partner Quantrill Contractors. Their progression demonstrates the tangible impact of collaboration between education providers and the construction industry.

[Click to read the full case study on our website](#)

SOUTH WEST

The South West delivered £61m in social value across 37 projects with a contract value of £419m and a median delivery of 17%. This marks a year on year increase of 92%, though the total number of measures used across projects has decreased.

Economy dominated, recorded in 92% of projects, with lower inclusion of Work (70%), Community (38%) and Planet (38%). The region’s profile is skewed toward economic spend, indicating stronger financial contributions but comparatively limited impact on people and the environment.

KEY STATISTICS

£419m

Contract value of projects in region

37

Number of projects measured

£61m

Social value delivered

17%

Median social value added

TOP MEASURE USED IN REGION:

92%

 Economy

70%

 Work

38%

 Community

38%

 Planet

2024 VS 2023

	2024	2023
Number of Projects	37	21
Total Number of Unique Measures Used	48	58
Total Social Value Delivered	£61,179,157	£31,880,505
Median Social Value Added	17%	3%

Change in value

-£29,298,652

Change in median SV%

13%

South West

East Midlands

EAST MIDLANDS

The East Midlands delivered £122m in social value across 82 projects, with a contract value of £437m and a median delivery of 30%. Social value delivery tripled year on year (292%) with just six additional projects, supported by an expanded use of measures.

The region shows a highly diversified profile across all four themes. Economy remains strong, included in 88% of projects, followed closely by Work (84%), and the highest use of Planet measures nationally (56%). This indicates a notable environmental contribution, suggesting projects are not only delivering economic and employment benefits but are actively addressing sustainability and environmental impact. The East Midlands stands out nationally for balanced delivery with strong Planet engagement.

KEY STATISTICS

£437m
Contract value of projects in region

82
Number of projects measured

£122m
Social value delivered

30%
Median social value added

TOP MEASURE USED IN REGION:

- 88%  Economy
- 84%  Work
- 56%  Planet
- 30%  Community

2024 VS 2023

	2024	2023
Number of Projects	82	76
Total Number of Unique Measures Used	47	34
Total Social Value Delivered	£122,455,617	£35,850,435
Median Social Value Added	30%	43%

Change in value
£86,605,182

Change in median SV%
-13%

Priory Academy LSST

Art & Drama Block

Lincoln



Client name

The Priory Federation of Academies

Delivery partner



Framework



Project value

£4.9m

% Social value added

44%

Main theme

Economy

Key outcomes

44%
social value added

74%
labour within 20 miles

62%
spend within 20 miles

95
apprenticeship weeks

Lindum Group delivered a transformative refurbishment across The Priory Academy LSST estate in Lincoln, creating a new Arts and Drama Block and repurposing existing buildings to form a central hub for the Priory Federation of Academies Trust. The two-phased project enhanced facilities for both students and staff while centralising support services for the Trust's 13 schools, ensuring long-term functionality and improved educational delivery.

The project achieved 44% social value add, with 74% of labour and 62% of spend sourced locally within 20 miles. Apprenticeship and skills development were a key focus, with the project team providing 95 weeks of apprenticeship training, and work

experience placements for eight students. Three careers engagement days were also held for young people, and a "Careers in Construction" event where 16 students explored diverse roles from design and quantity surveying to project management.

The team also invested directly to the project, contributing £8,000 to landscaping works, ensuring 100% fair payment for the supply chain, and achieving a 10/10 client satisfaction score. Sustainability was prioritised through a car-sharing scheme saving 12,000 travel miles, and a 96-panel solar PV installation generating 36.13 MWh annually, saving approximately 6.99 tonnes of CO₂.



[Click to read the full case study on our website](#)

Working with Social Enterprises to Improve Communities and Upskill the Next Generation

Client name

Arc Partnership,
Nottinghamshire County Council,
and Derbyshire County Council

Delivery partner

**MORGAN
SINDALL**
CONSTRUCTION

Framework

SCAPE
CONSTRUCTION

Key outcomes

2
community renovation
projects delivered

77
young people
engaged on projects

£5.4m
combined social value



Morgan Sindall Construction delivered two major education projects in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire — Whipman Woods Flying High Academy and Bramley Vale Primary School — with a combined value of £16.5m. Together, these schemes have provided 411 new primary school places while generating lasting social value for local communities.

As part of the programme, the project teams partnered with social enterprise Volunteer It Yourself (VIY), which brings together industry mentors and young people to learn trade and employability skills through community renovation. Across the two projects, the teams provided funding, materials and hands-on support, enabling 77 young people to gain

practical experience while helping to improve vital local facilities.

In Worksop, the Whipman Woods team helped renovate Carlton Youth Centre, with 50 young volunteers, including North Notts College students, completing painting, flooring and fixture installations to revitalise the facility into a bright, welcoming space for families.

Meanwhile in Rainworth, the Bramley Vale team donated £1,000 to support creation of a new Forest School with The Social Action Hub, giving 27 young people the chance to develop trade skills while delivering an outdoor learning and play space that will benefit local families for years to come.

[Click to read the full case study on our website](#)

NORTH WEST

The North West delivered £235m in social value across 110 projects, with a contract value of £779m and a median delivery of 15%. Total delivery almost doubled year on year (87%), leading all regions in absolute value, though median delivery fell slightly to 15%.

The region recorded the largest absolute activity with a balanced uptake across Work (80%), Economy (73%) and Community (72%), while Planet measures were reported in only 25% of projects.

The North West demonstrates strong overall scale and breadth across social and economic themes, though environmental and sustainable contributions remain comparatively limited.

KEY STATISTICS

£779m
Contract value of projects in region

110
Number of projects measured

£235m
Social value delivered

15%
Median social value added

TOP MEASURE USED IN REGION:

80% Work

73% Economy

72% Community

50% Plant

2024 VS 2023

	2024	2023
Number of Projects	110	56
Total Number of Unique Measures Used	54	56
Total Social Value Delivered	£235,405,522	£125,664,231
Median Social Value Added	15%	20%

Change in value
£109,741,291

Change in median SV%
-6%

North West

Key Findings

Regional Delivery

Median of % Total Social Value Add

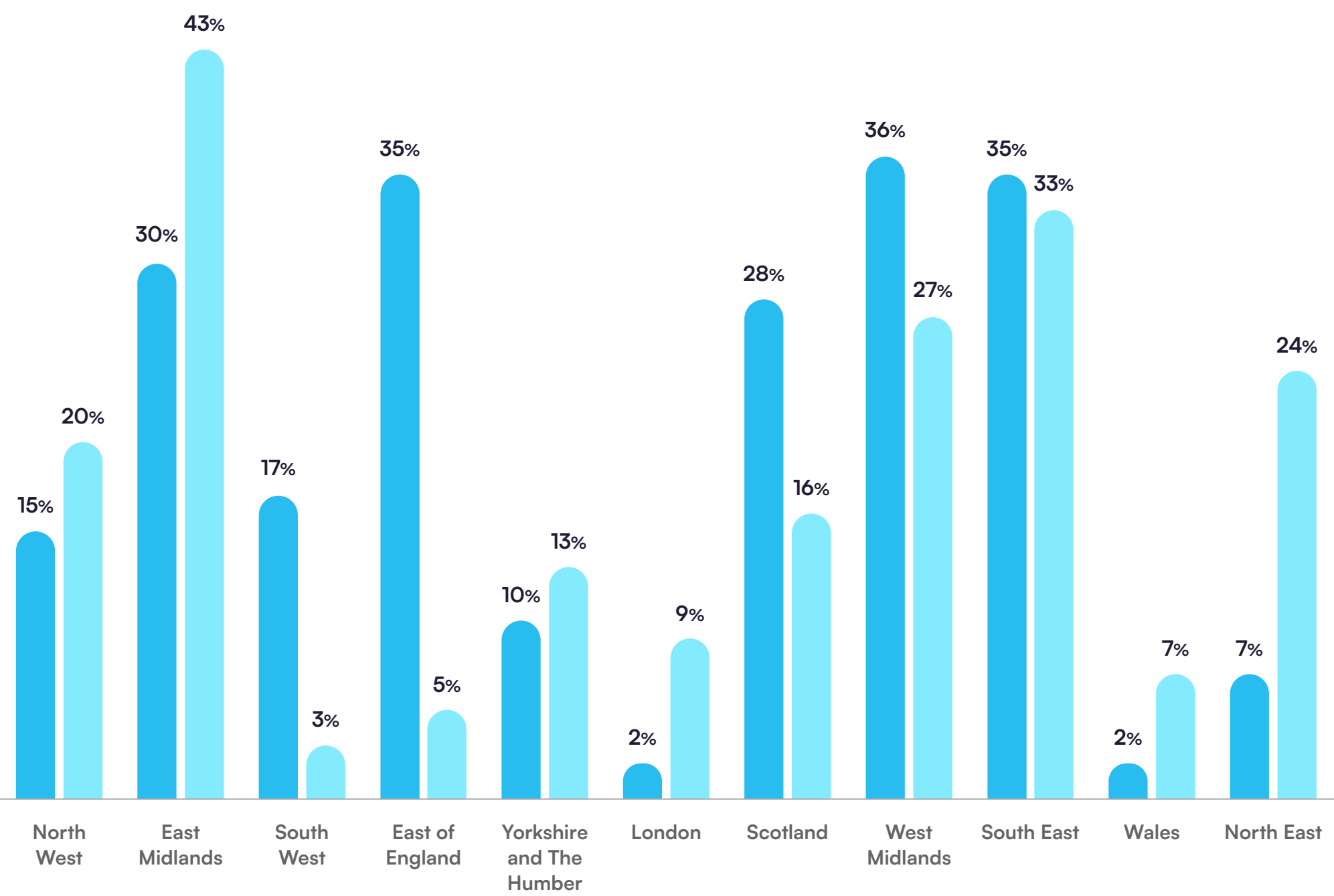


Chart 2: 2023 vs 2024 Median % of total social value add

2024 median 2023 median

Region	2024				2023				Change in value	Change in Median SV%
	Number of Projects	Total Number of Unique Measures Used	Total Social Value Delivered	Median Social Value Added	Number of Projects	Total Number of Unique Measures Used	Total Social Value Delivered	Median Social Value Added		
North West	110	54	£235,405,522	15%	56	56	£125,664,231	20%	£109,741,291	-6%
East Midlands	82	47	£122,455,617	30%	76	34	£35,850,435	43%	£86,605,182	-13%
South West	37	48	£61,179,157	17%	21	58	£31,880,505	3%	£29,298,652	13%
East of England	40	33	£47,752,853	35%	31	28	£125,750,728	5%	-£77,997,875	30%
Yorkshire and The Humber	27	32	£123,509,433	10%	27	47	£31,532,532	13%	£91,976,901	-4%
London	26	41	£196,902,756	2%	20	50	£282,595,022	9%	-£85,692,265	-7%
Scotland	22	35	£96,409,318	28%	17	40	£56,810,942	16%	£39,598,376	12%
West Midlands	25	35	£69,282,323	36%	24	34	£64,181,112	27%	£5,101,211	9%
South East	22	31	£191,901,395	35%	27	36	£67,713,502	33%	£124,187,893	3%
Wales	11	35	£11,913,188	2%	18	68	£18,143,638	7%	-£6,230,450	-4%
North East	16	21	£40,893,706	7%	9	30	£20,151,546	24%	£20,742,160	-18%

The Future of Social Value

1. New legislation will increase the importance of social value

Legislation changes have prompted renewed discussion on the importance of social value and the opportunities it provides. With greater focus in both legislation and procurement, continued growth is significantly likely. The Procurement Act 2023 stands to be a major influencer with the move away from price under Most Economically Advantageous Tender (MEAT) to emphasis on overall value through Most Advantageous Tender (MAT). This will give more scope to public procurement to prioritise the creation of meaningful and sustainable impact.

The opportunity to report against social value key performance indicators (KPIs) will also provide transparency and accountability for the priority of social value delivery. Additionally, the increased focus on SMEs and local needs analysis will support economic growth, increase local spend and employment opportunities.

Click to download Social Value Portal's latest report
**The Procurement Act 2023:
Using KPIs to measure Social Value Delivery**

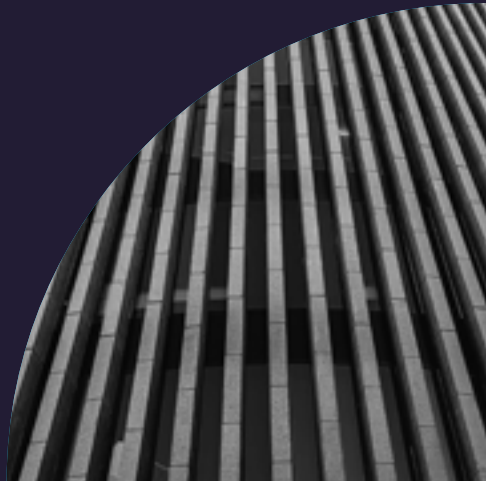
2. Bigger projects will provide larger returns on investment

Projects valued over £20m have become the largest contributors to social value add, delivering 9% more than lower-value projects and 20% more than projects over £75m - achieving 30% return on investment (ROI).

As social value by design continues to grow, and as long-term projects (two years or more) foster collaboration between contractors, clients and local communities, ROI will grow further. This growth will also help strengthen the outcomes of smaller projects.

3. Educational and recruitment measures will become more important

The construction skills gap - particularly the green skills gap - is becoming increasingly important to the future of the industry. Addressing this challenge will require actionable recruitment strategies to bring more young people, underrepresented groups and those out of work into the sector, while also encouraging those with diverse skill sets at every tier of the supply chain. The recent announcement of new specialist colleges that will train 40,000 construction learners by 2029, alongside the Government's commitment to investing £600m in upskilling and advances in technology, will not only provide better ROI but play a vital role in closing the skills gap.



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