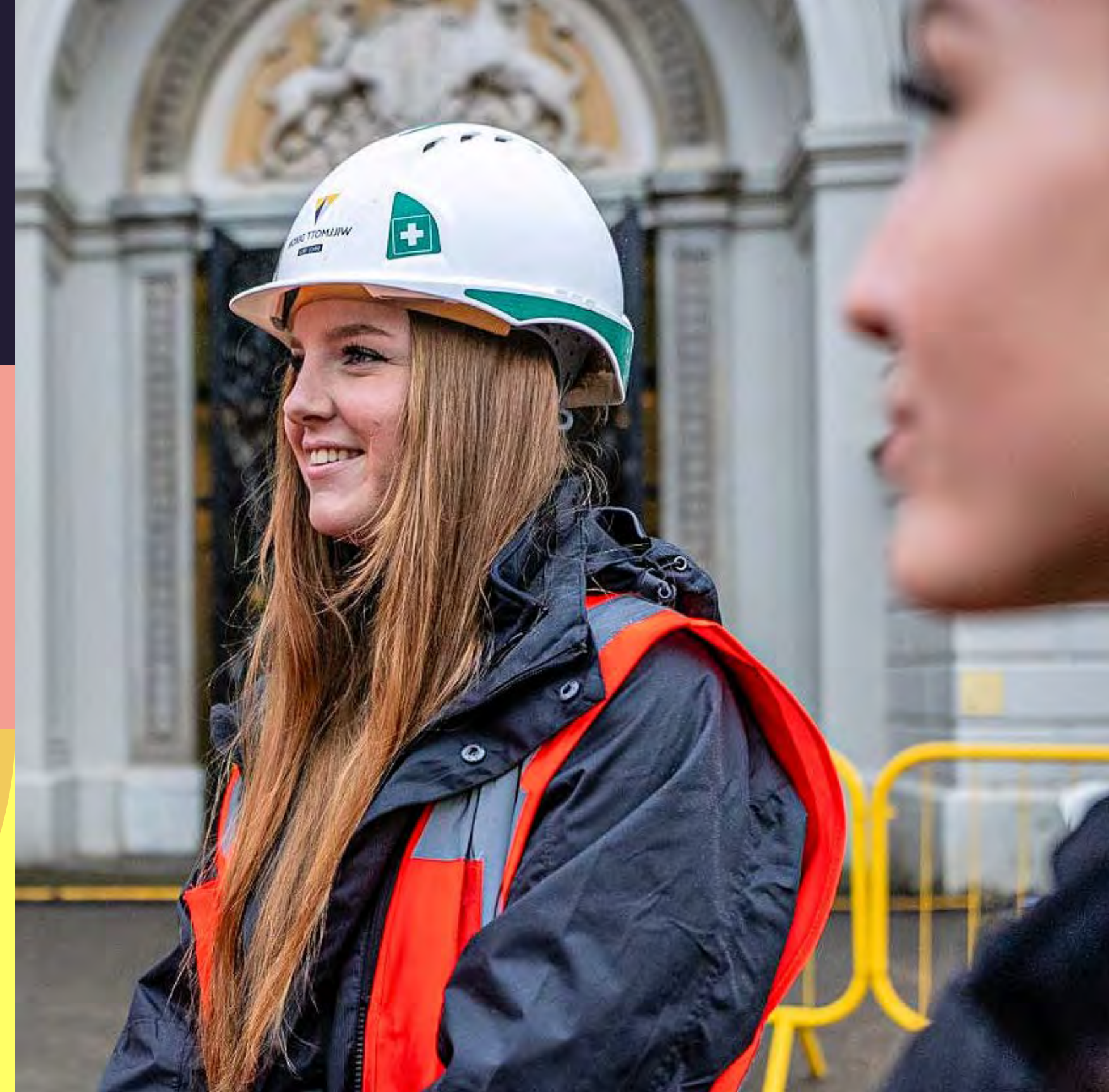
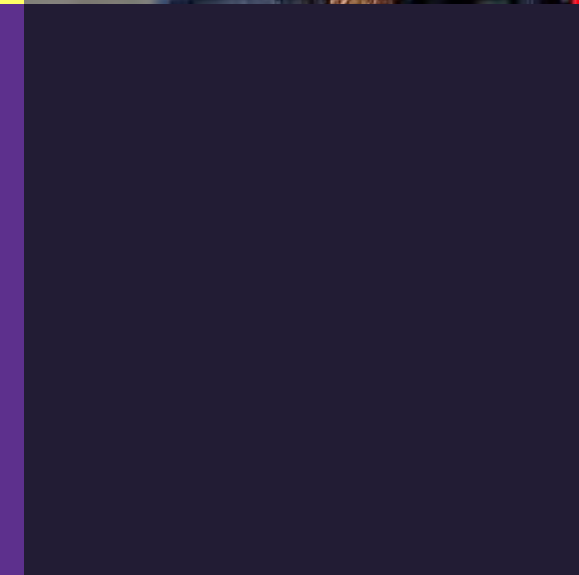
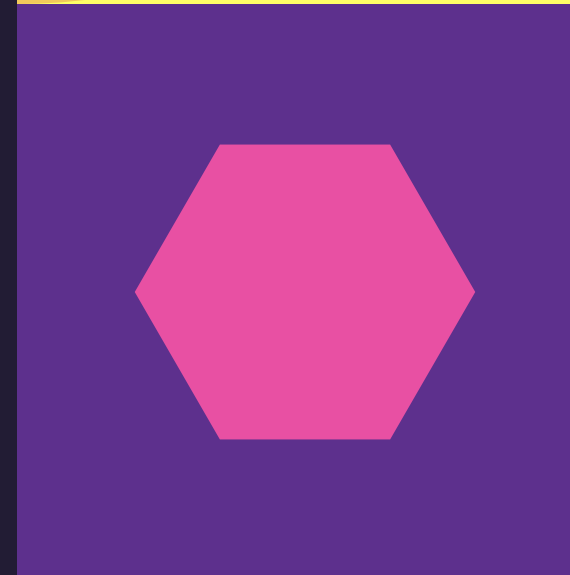
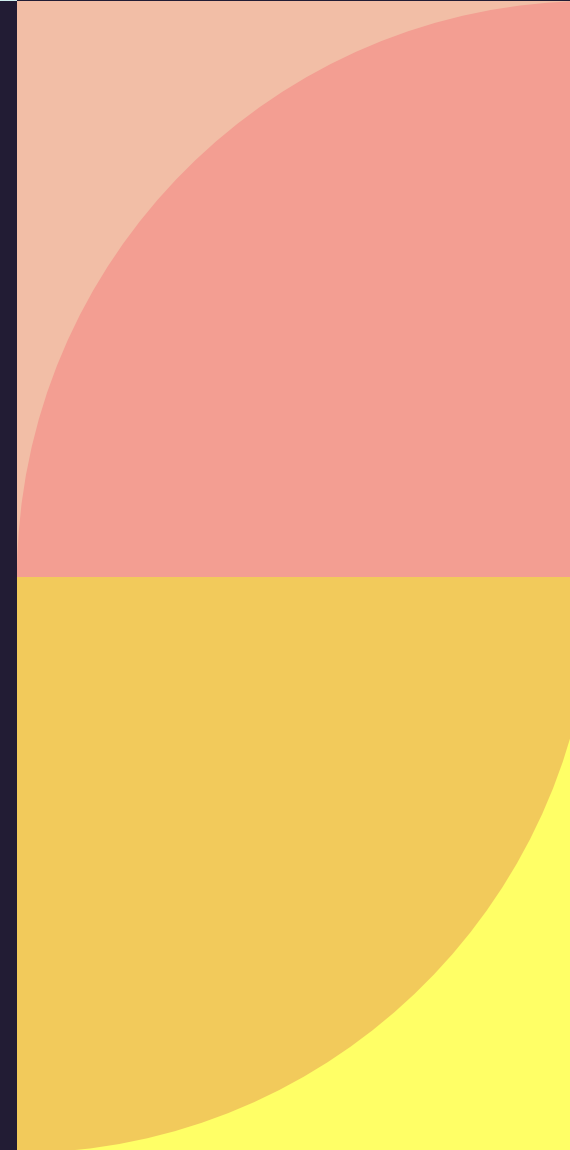
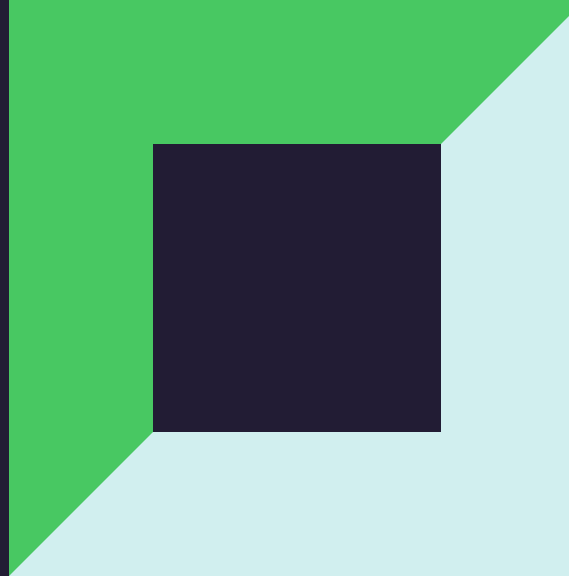
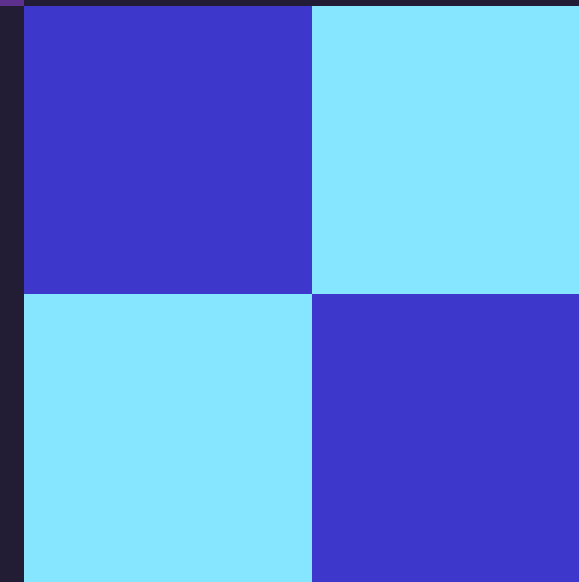




Social Value in Construction

Benchmarking Report 2026

(Projects completed 2025)



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Executive summary

The UK construction sector continues to operate in a challenging environment shaped by cost pressures, supply chain uncertainty, skills shortages, public-sector budget constraints and increasing expectations around sustainability and social impact. Volatile material and fuel costs continue to place pressure on project budgets, making early planning, clear scopes and effective risk management essential to avoiding delays and overruns. At the same time, clients are placing greater emphasis on ensuring projects deliver tangible social, economic and environmental benefits alongside value for money.

Procurement policy is also placing greater emphasis on social value and community wealth creation. The Procurement Act 2023, alongside policy developments in Scotland and Wales, reinforces the role of public bodies and delivery partners in creating wider social, economic and environmental benefits through the way projects are designed, procured and delivered. This is driving stronger planning, closer partnerships and a greater focus on keeping investment within local economies.

Alongside these changes, approaches to measuring social value continue to evolve. While monetised values remain an important and effective tool for benchmarking performance, comparing activities, assessing value against investment and tracking progress over time, there is increasing emphasis on understanding the outcomes projects achieve for people, places and communities. Clients and delivery partners are looking beyond the value delivered to better understand how projects respond to local needs and create lasting benefits.

Now in its sixth iteration, this annual benchmarking report brings together data from SCAPE and Social Value Portal on construction projects delivered from January to December 2025. It provides insight into national and regional trends, while examining how policy, procurement and measurement practices continue to shape the delivery of social value across the UK.

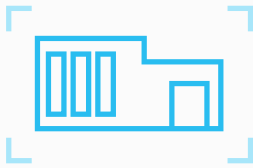
The underlying story remains one of continued delivery and growth, with the data showing that £1.10bn of social value was delivered across 445 projects with a contract value of £4.98bn. This equates to £0.22 of social value delivered for every £1 of contract value.

Although reported social value reduced by 8.1% year-on-year, contract value increased by 13.6%, reflecting continued investment and delivery across the sector.

Delivery on larger projects continued to strengthen, with the number of projects valued at more than £75m increasing from 10 to 16, representing growth of 60%. Social value generated through these projects more than doubled, rising from £173.3m to £411.1m.

The findings also show that Work and Economy remained the two most widely adopted themes nationally, reflecting a sustained focus on creating jobs, developing skills and strengthening local economies. This aligns closely with government ambitions to drive long-term growth across the built environment through initiatives including early technical pathways, education funding reforms and the overhaul of Procurement Policy Notice (PPN) 026. For central government departments, executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies, this increases the weighting of social value considerations to 20% for contracts over £5m.

As procurement policy, legislation and social value expectations continue to evolve, SCAPE remains committed to working collaboratively with clients and delivery partners to ensure every project delivers meaningful and measurable benefits for the communities it serves. By combining robust measurement with a focus on long-term outcomes, the sector can continue to demonstrate the value it creates while supporting sustainable economic growth and stronger communities across the UK.



445
projects



£1.1bn
social value



£0.22
social value added
for every £1



Introduction

Social value is an integral part of public sector procurement, ensuring that investment in the built environment delivers lasting economic, social and environmental benefits alongside the assets themselves. At SCAPE, creating social value remains central to our procurement and framework management approach, helping clients maximise positive outcomes for the communities they serve.

Since becoming a founding member of the National Social Value Taskforce in 2017, SCAPE has worked in partnership with Social Value Portal to establish a consistent, measurable approach to embedding the principles of The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 across the construction industry. Together, we have supported the development and adoption of the Social Value TOM System™, providing a nationally recognised framework for measuring social value outcomes across built environment projects.

The policy landscape continues to evolve, and across the UK, social value and community wealth creation are becoming increasingly central to public investment, procurement and project delivery. Legislation and policy are now recognising the role procurement can play in delivering wider social, economic and environmental benefits.

Alongside the implementation of the Procurement Act 2023 across England, Wales and Northern Ireland, governments are placing increasing emphasis on delivering measurable outcomes through procurement. In Wales, the Welsh Government has partnered with Social Value Portal

to pilot a national approach to social value through the TOM System for Wales, supporting the delivery of the Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Act alongside the Well-being of Future Generations Act. In Scotland, the Community Wealth Building (Scotland) Act 2026 further strengthens the focus on place-based economic development and community wealth creation. Collectively, these developments reinforce a growing expectation that procurement should deliver meaningful outcomes alongside value for money.

Together with policy developments, industry approaches to delivering and measuring social value are also advancing. Organisations are moving beyond monetisation, placing greater emphasis on the lasting outcomes that projects create for people, places and local economies. While consistent measurement remains essential, greater emphasis is placed on understanding the longer-term impact of social value activity.

Against this backdrop, this report examines how social value delivery continues to evolve across the built environment. Drawing on benchmarking data and project case studies, it explores national and regional trends, examines how delivery strategies are changing, and demonstrates how social value is delivering lasting outcomes for people, places and local economies across the UK. Benchmarking provides an opportunity not only to measure progress but also to identify emerging trends, share best practice and support continuous improvement across the sector.

Scope

This report is informed by the combined SCAPE and Social Value Portal data from 445 construction and civil engineering projects delivered from January to December 2025 across England, Wales and Scotland. Drawing on the combined expertise and industry reach of Social Value Portal, SCAPE and its delivery partners, the report provides insight into the progress in embedding and delivering social value across the construction sector.

The dataset includes projects procured through SCAPE and SCAPE Scotland frameworks, as well as projects delivered through other procurement routes that utilise the Social Value TOM System™. All projects included within the analysis use the TOM System, a nationally recognised framework that categorises social value activity across four themes: Work, Economy, Community and Planet. Projects using alternative social value measurement methodologies fall outside the scope of this report and have therefore not been included within the benchmarking analysis.

The report examines the social value generated through each project, identifying the type, frequency, and geographical distribution of social value measures and outcomes. This enables national and regional analysis, comparison with previous years and identification of emerging trends, strengths and opportunities for improvement.

Projects that are confidential or sensitive in nature, such as defence sector projects, are excluded from the dataset.

It is also recognised that not all SCAPE frameworks, and therefore not all delivery partners, are represented within the dataset. In particular, the SCAPE Consultancy Frameworks support a diverse range of professional services and advisory commissions, where social value is often delivered through strategic advice, design development, planning, and programme support rather than through construction activity. As a result, these commissions are not always directly comparable or readily measurable using the TOM System methodology.

Where appropriate, consultancy delivery partners have been represented through selected case studies to demonstrate the significant contribution they make to delivering meaningful social value outcomes. These examples illustrate the broader impact of consultancy services, even when individual commissions fall outside the scope of the benchmarking dataset.

All case studies featured within this report have been delivered through SCAPE frameworks. They have been selected to illustrate the diverse ways in which social value is created across different sectors, project types and disciplines, including examples from projects and commissions that fall outside the benchmarking dataset. Together, they provide qualitative evidence of the lasting outcomes being achieved across SCAPE’s framework portfolio while complementing the quantitative analysis presented throughout the report.

The benefits of benchmarking:

Benefit	Clients	Industry	Communities
Understand social value and the impact being created			
Evidence value and outcomes			
Track trends over time			
Identify opportunities for improvement			
Benchmark performance against peers			
Showcase successful projects and community outcomes			

Key findings and insights

Key findings and insight

The construction sector continues to demonstrate strong activity, with project numbers and contract values increasing year-on-year despite ongoing market pressure.

Year-on-year, the number of projects rose 6.5%, from 418 to 445, the highest since 2022 and reflecting an overall increase of 26% since 2020. Of these, 125 projects were delivered through SCAPE frameworks, representing 28% of the combined dataset.

Average project value has increased from £10.5m in 2024 to £11.2m in 2025, contributing to a 13.6% (£595m) increase in total contract value to £4.98bn. This is the highest recorded figure across the last four years.

Social value delivery has declined by £97m (8.1%) year-on-year to £1.1bn, with the social value per £1 of contract easing to £0.22 in 2025 from £0.27 in 2024. Despite this reduction, total social value delivered remains higher than in both 2022 and 2023, demonstrating that overall delivery continues to perform, despite the lower social value return relative to contract value.

Local jobs and spend continued to account for almost all social value generated, representing 97p of every £1 delivered. This reflects a consistent pattern over the last four years, reinforcing the sector’s continued focus on creating employment opportunities and supporting local economies.

+6%

increase in number of projects
(from 418 to 445)

	2025	2024	2023	2022
Total Number of Projects	445	418	329	499
Number of SVP Projects	320	288	179	161
Number of SCAPE Projects	125	130	150	338
Total Contract Value	£4,975,206,487	£4,379,790,696	£3,159,325,604	£4,571,123,708
Total Social Value	£1,100,229,430	£1,197,605,268	£860,349,036	£1,079,594,218
Total Local Jobs and Spend Social Value	£1,063,849,944	£1,173,798,815	£831,931,892	£1,061,957,157
Total % Social Value Added	22.11%	27.34%	27.23%	23.62%
Total % Local Jobs and Spend Social Value Added	21.38%	26.80%	26.33%	23.23%
Total % Local Jobs and Spend to Total Social Value	96.69%	98.01%	96.70%	98.37%

Table 1: Summary of key social value statistics for SCAPE and Social Value Portal public sector construction projects for the years 2022-2025.

Key findings and insight

Social Value Statistics

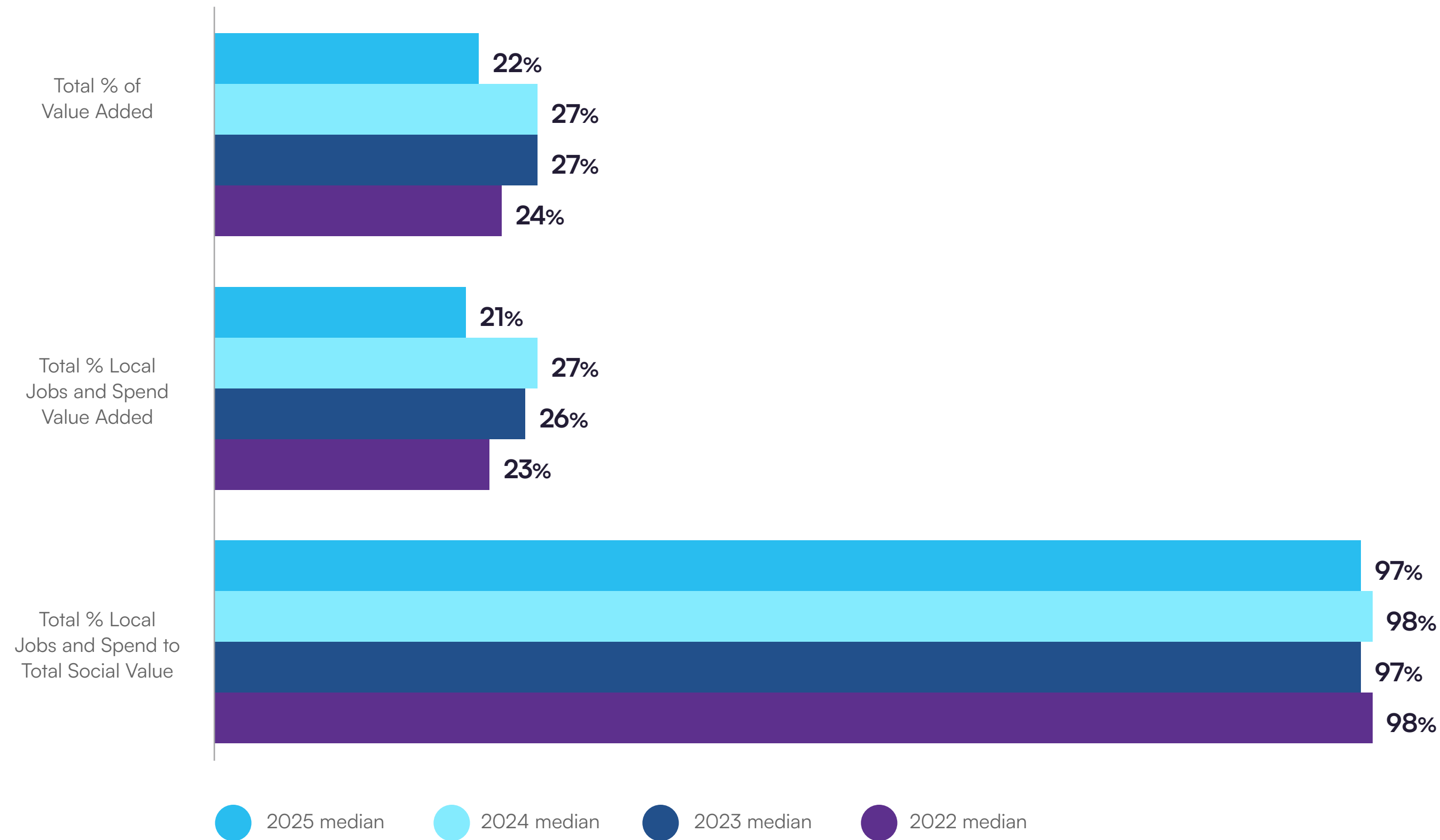


Table 2: Social value statistics from 2022-2025

There has been a project distribution shift towards larger contracts, with projects in the over £75m value band growing from 10 to 16 (+60%), with total social value delivered more than doubling from £173.3m to £411.1m. Projects within the £20-£75m value band increased from 47 to 53, though total social value dropped sharply from £703.1m to £417.3m.

Projects valued below £2.5m remained the largest cohort, increasing by 14% year-on-year to 267 projects. Their continued growth demonstrates the important contribution that smaller, local schemes make to overall social value delivery, despite individually generating lower levels of social value than larger projects.

Social value efficiency softened across most project value bands. Median social value added declined year-on-year in three of the five categories: £7.5-£20m (21% to 14%), £20-£75m (30% to 14%), and projects below £2.5m (20% to 18%). The £2.5-£7.5m value band was the only category to improve, with the median social value added increasing from 11% to 25%. Meanwhile, projects over £75m remained relatively steady, maintaining a median social value return of around 10-11% despite significant growth in both the number of projects and total contract value.

Key findings and insight

Median of % Total Social Value Add

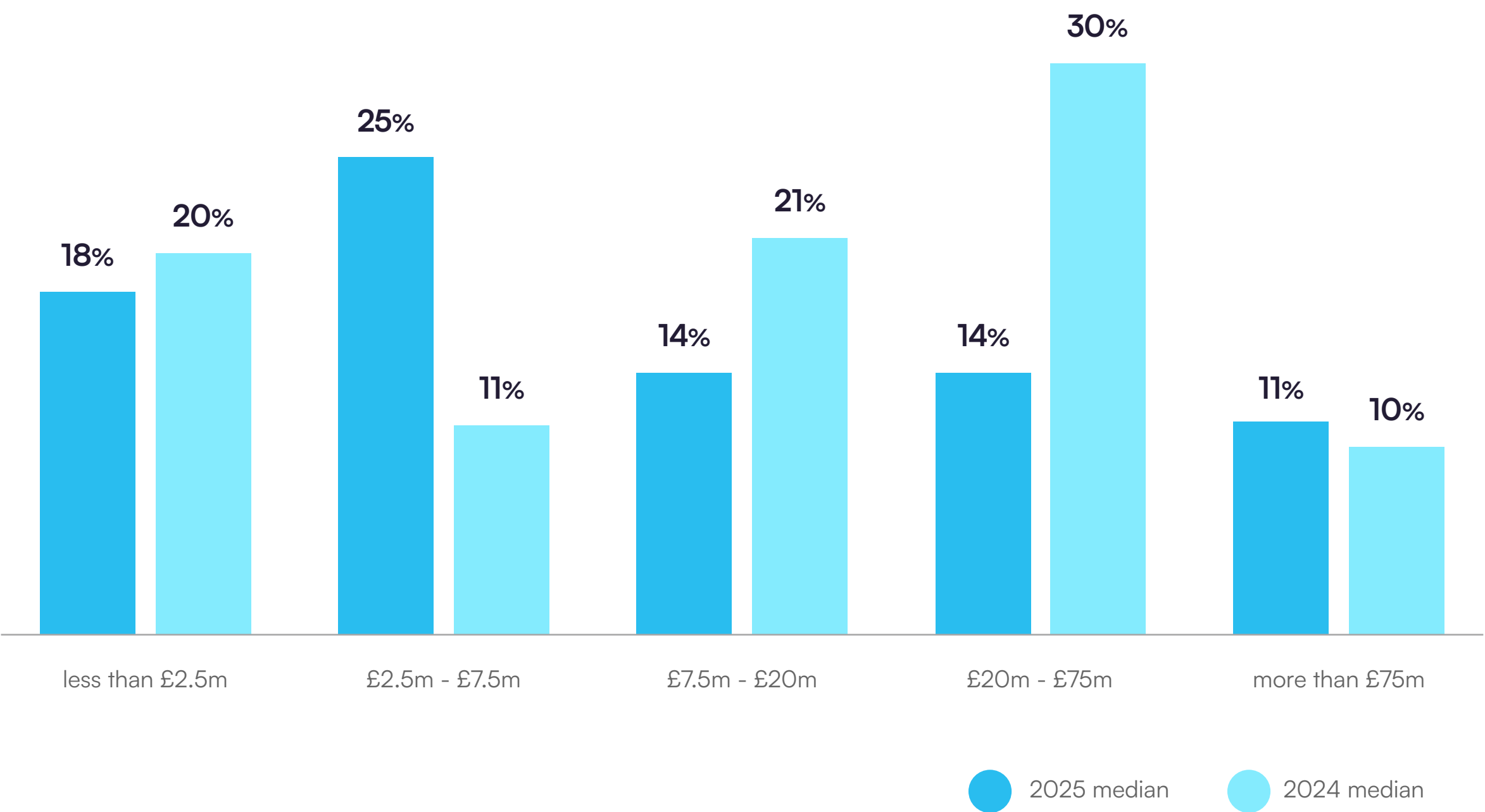


Table 3: Median of % social value added comparative to contract value for 2024 and 2025



Overall social value delivery

While monetised social value remains an important benchmark, this year’s findings also reflect the sector’s growing focus on understanding the lasting outcomes that projects create for people, places and local economies.

Despite changes in measurement approaches and larger projects, more than £1.1bn of social value continues to be delivered, with local jobs and spend remaining the dominant contributors.

Construction projects delivered £1.1bn of social value across a contract value of £4.98bn during 2025, equating to a social value return of £0.22 for every £1 invested. While total social value delivery reduced by 8.1% year-on-year, contract value increased by 13.6%, reflecting a changing project profile and the continued evolution of how social value is measured and reported.

Although reported social value has reduced compared with 2024, delivery remains significantly higher than in previous years, demonstrating the continued integration of social value into construction procurement and project delivery.

Local jobs and spend continued to account for the majority of social value generated, representing approximately 97%.

	2025	2024	2023	2022
Total Contract Value	£4,975,206,487	£4,379,790,696	£3,159,325,604	£4,571,123,708
Total Social Value	£1,100,229,430	£1,197,605,268	£860,349,036	£1,079,594,218
Total Local Jobs and Spend Social Value	£1,063,849,944	£1,173,798,815	£831,931,892	£1,061,957,157

Table 4: Social value delivery and contract value for the years 2022-2025

“



“In 2025, construction again showed itself to be one of the most productive industries for social value creation: £1.1bn across 445 projects, driven largely by local jobs and local spend. What stands out this year is a sector getting better both at reporting impact and at understanding the human impact behind the numbers. These are sometimes treated as separate goals; in fact, they enable one another. With new Government guidelines raising expectations, from a KPI regime to higher weightings in the largest contracts, construction businesses must now think beyond what they delivered, to the legacy they leave behind.”

Guy Battle
CEO and Founder, Social Value Portal

Willmott Dixon Zen Bus



Potential drivers:

- The continued shift towards measuring social value through outcomes rather than monetised values is influencing how social value is reported across the sector.
- Larger, higher-value projects have increased overall contract value, changing the relationship between project value and reported social value.
- Policy and procurement reforms, including the Procurement Act 2023 and evolving national social value approaches across the UK, continue to reinforce the importance of embedding social value throughout project delivery.
- Consistent adoption of local employment and local spend measures demonstrates the sector's continued commitment to creating lasting economic benefits for communities.

£1.1bn
social value delivered

22p
of social value created
for every £1 invested

97p of every £1
social value generated directly
supports local jobs and local spend

Jobs and skills

Investment in training and apprenticeships continued to grow, with delivery increasing by 43% year-on-year from 28,262 to 40,531 weeks. Delivery per £1m of contract value also increased by 26% from 6.45 to 8.15 weeks, indicating that training and apprenticeship opportunities grew at a faster rate than overall contract value.

Local employment remained broadly stable year-on-year, increasing slightly from 4,457 to 4,459 FTE. When adjusted to contract value, however, employment per £1m fell by 12%, reflecting a portfolio that includes larger-value projects without a directly proportional increase in onsite labour requirements.

	Number Delivered			Number delivered per £mil spent on contract		
	2025	2024	% change	2025	2024	% change
Total Local Employment	4,458.62	4,457.31	0%	0.90	1.02	-12%
Total Trainings and Apprenticeships	40,530.95	28,262.12	43%	8.15	6.45	26%

Table 5: Local employment, training and apprenticeship figures for 2024 and 2025

Potential drivers:

- Government emphasis on addressing construction skills shortages is encouraging greater investment in apprenticeships, training and workforce development through public procurement.
- Many public sector clients continue to prioritise employment and skills outcomes within procurement, recognising their role in creating long-term economic and social value for local communities.
- The increase in training and apprenticeship delivery per £1m of contract value suggests that skills development is becoming an increasingly important focus within project delivery, with investment growing alongside overall contract value.
- The decline in local employment per £1m of contract value may reflect the growth in larger, higher-value projects, which can have higher capital values without a directly proportional increase in onsite labour requirements.

43%
increase in training and
apprenticeship weeks



40,531
training and
apprenticeship weeks

4,459
FTE local employment
supported

Local spend

Total local spend decreased by 8% year-on-year from £1.09bn to £1.00bn. When adjusted against contract value, local spend per £1m of contract value reduced by 19% from £249k to £201k, reflecting growth in higher-value projects.

In contrast, spending with local micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) increased by 12% year-on-year, rising from £362m to £407m. When adjusted for contract value, MSME spend per £1m reduced by just 1%, from £83k to £82k. This suggests that MSME spend broadly kept pace with portfolio growth, strengthening the focus on supporting smaller businesses and retaining economic value within local communities.

Spend with voluntary, community and social enterprises (VCSEs) remained broadly stable at £0.9m, decreasing by 1% year-on-year. However, when measured against contract value, spend per £1m of contract value reduced by 13% from £208 to £181, indicating that VCSE spend has not increased at the same rate as the overall portfolio.

	Number Delivered			Number delivered per £mil spent on contract		
	2025	2024	% change	2025	2024	% change
Total Local Spend (Large and MSMEs)	£1,000,232,130.50	£1,088,997,302.31	-8%	201,043.34	248,641.40	-19%
Local Spend with MSMEs only	£406,959,120.50	£362,458,431.92	12%	81,797.43	82,757.02	-1%
Spend with VCSEs	£898,977.32	£909,273.06	-1%	180.69	207.61	-13%

Table 6: Local spend, MSME spend and VCSE spend

Potential drivers:

- Changes in project mix and contract value may have influenced overall local spend, with growth in higher-value projects affecting spend per £1m of contract value.
- The resilience of MSME spend aligns with the increasing policy and client focus on strengthening local supply chains and creating opportunities for smaller businesses through public procurement.
- Increasing client investment in local supply chains can help retain economic value within communities, support local employment and strengthen regional economic resilience.

£1bn
spent within local supply chains



£407m
spent with local MSMEs

12%
increase year-on-year

Community engagement

Volunteering hours increased by 34% year-on-year, rising from 11,922 to 15,974 hours. Delivery per £1m of contract value also increased by 18%, from 2.72 to 3.21 hours. Volunteering in schools and colleges increased by 37% to 10,436 hours. Schools and colleges volunteering accounted for around 65% of all volunteering hours delivered in 2025, reflecting the sector’s continued investment in supporting education, employability and future talent.

Expert volunteering hours reduced by 52% year-on-year from 2,314 to 1,105 hours. When measured against contract value, delivery per £1m reduced by 58%, from 0.53 to 0.22 hours, suggesting a reduction in recorded specialist community support activities.

Total donations decreased marginally by 4% year-on-year, from £1.31m to £1.26m. When measured against contract value, donations per £1m reduced by 16%, from £300 to £252. This may reflect a greater emphasis on delivering social value through sustained engagement and measurable community outcomes, alongside financial contributions.

	Number Delivered			Number delivered per £mil spent on contract		
	2025	2024	% change	2025	2024	% change
Total Expert Hours	1,104.90	2,314.25	-52%	0.22	0.53	-58%
Total Volunteering Hours	15,973.55	11,921.95	34%	3.21	2.72	18%
Total Volunteering Hours with Schools/Colleges	10,436.20	7,642.47	37%	2.10	1.74	20%
Total Donations	£1,255,560.52	£1,313,977.33	-4%	252.36	300.01	-16%

Table 7: Volunteering and donations

Potential drivers:

- Greater emphasis on long-term engagement with schools and colleges is encouraging more sustained careers education, mentoring and skills development activities, creating a legacy for local communities and building future talent pipelines.
- The increase in volunteering hours per £1m of contract value, particularly across schools and colleges, suggests that direct community engagement is being maintained and strengthened as project portfolios grow.
- Many organisations are embedding employer-supported volunteering within their people strategies, with paid volunteer days and community engagement becoming increasingly recognised as part of employee wellbeing, recruitment and retention initiatives.
- The reduction in donations may reflect changing approaches to community investment, with organisations increasingly combining financial contributions with direct engagement and activities designed to deliver longer-term outcomes.



15,974
volunteering hours

37%
increase in school and
college volunteering

Environment

Planet measures showed a substantial year-on-year growth, with significant increases in carbon savings, material reuse and waste diversion. The results highlight the importance of resource efficiency and circular economy principles alongside carbon reduction across the built environment.

Carbon savings increased by 560% year-on-year, from 4,380 to 28,891 tCO₂e (tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent). When adjusted for contract value, carbon savings per £1m increased by 481%, from 1.00 to 5.81 tCO₂e. This indicates that carbon reduction activity increased substantially relative to the value of the projects being delivered, suggesting that environmental measures are becoming increasingly embedded within project delivery.

Waste diverted from landfill increased by 161% year-on-year from 35,055 to 91,539 tonnes. When adjusted for contract value, delivery increased by 130%, from 8.00 to 18.40 tonnes per £1m. Reuse of products and materials also increased significantly from 15 tonnes in 2024 to 1,677 tonnes in 2025. When adjusted for contract value, reuse increased by 9,740% per £1m. Although the baseline is relatively low, this represents a significant increase in the adoption and reporting of circular economy practices across projects.

	Number delivered			Number delivered per £mil spent on contract		
	2025	2024	% change	2025	2024	% change
Savings in CO ₂ emissions	28,890.54	4,380.06	560%	5.81	1.00	481%
Reduce Waste through Reuse of Products and Materials	1,676.70	15.00	11078%	0.34	0.00	9740%
Total Waste Diverted	91,539.19	35,054.69	161%	18.40	8.00	130%

Table 8: The table summarises key figures for sustainable social value deliverables across 2025 and 2024

Potential drivers:

- Larger, higher-value projects provide greater opportunities to deliver environmental interventions at scale, particularly in relation to carbon reduction, material reuse and waste diversion.
- Increasing adoption of circular economy principles, including the reuse of products, recycled materials and secondary aggregates, is supporting improvements in resource efficiency while reducing construction waste.
- Greater maturity in environmental measurement and reporting is enabling delivery partners to better capture and evidence environmental outcomes across projects.
- Growing policy and procurement emphasis on carbon reduction, including the influence of PPN 006 and organisational net zero commitments, is encouraging environmental considerations to be embedded earlier within project planning and delivery.

560%
increase in CO₂ savings



91,539
tonnes of waste diverted

1,677
tonnes of materials reused

Key Findings Themes

The TOM System places social value into four categories that define the scope of the activity: work, economy, community and planet.



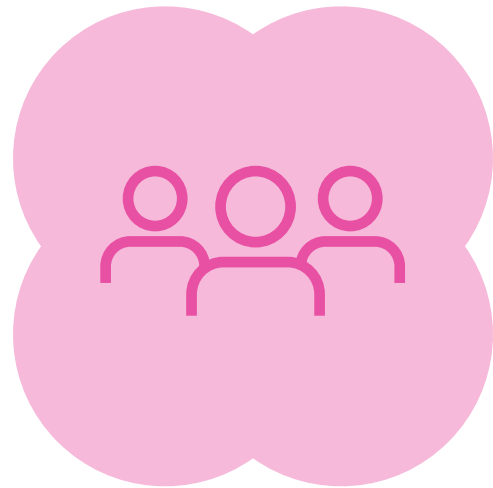
Work

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

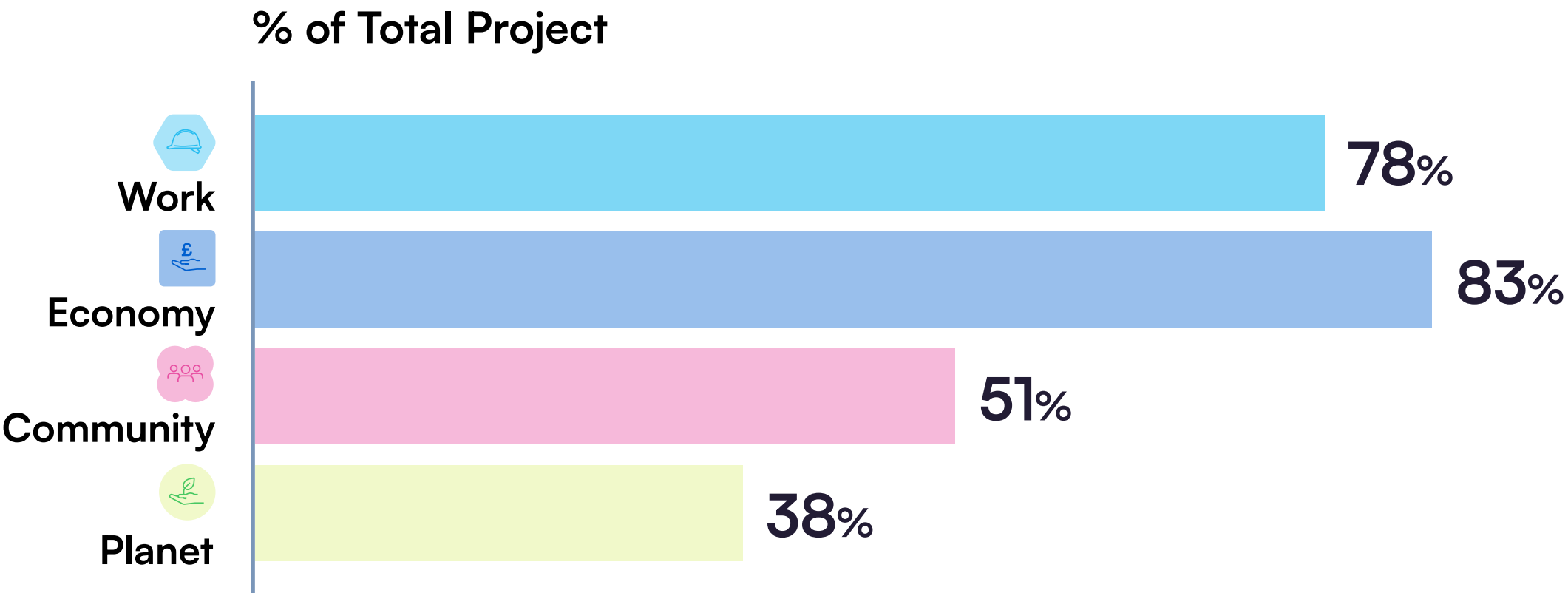


Table 9: Social value theme inclusion across all projects

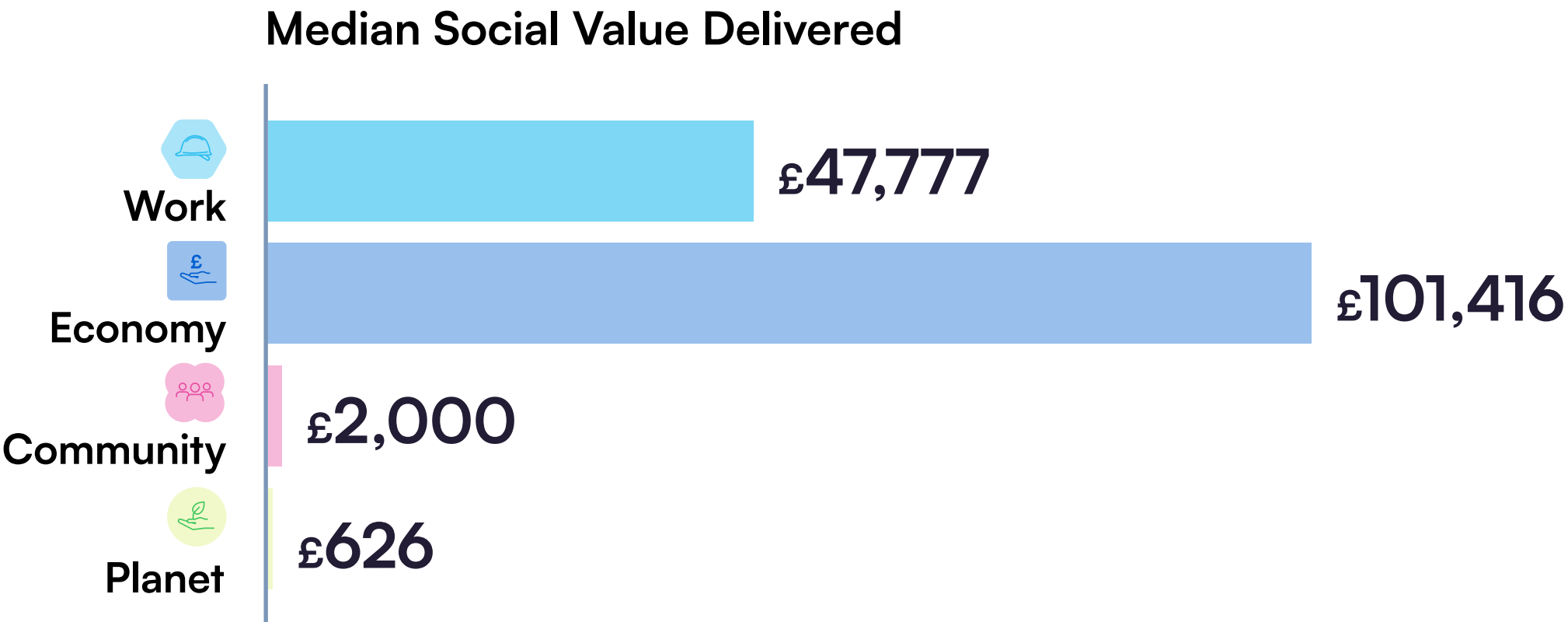
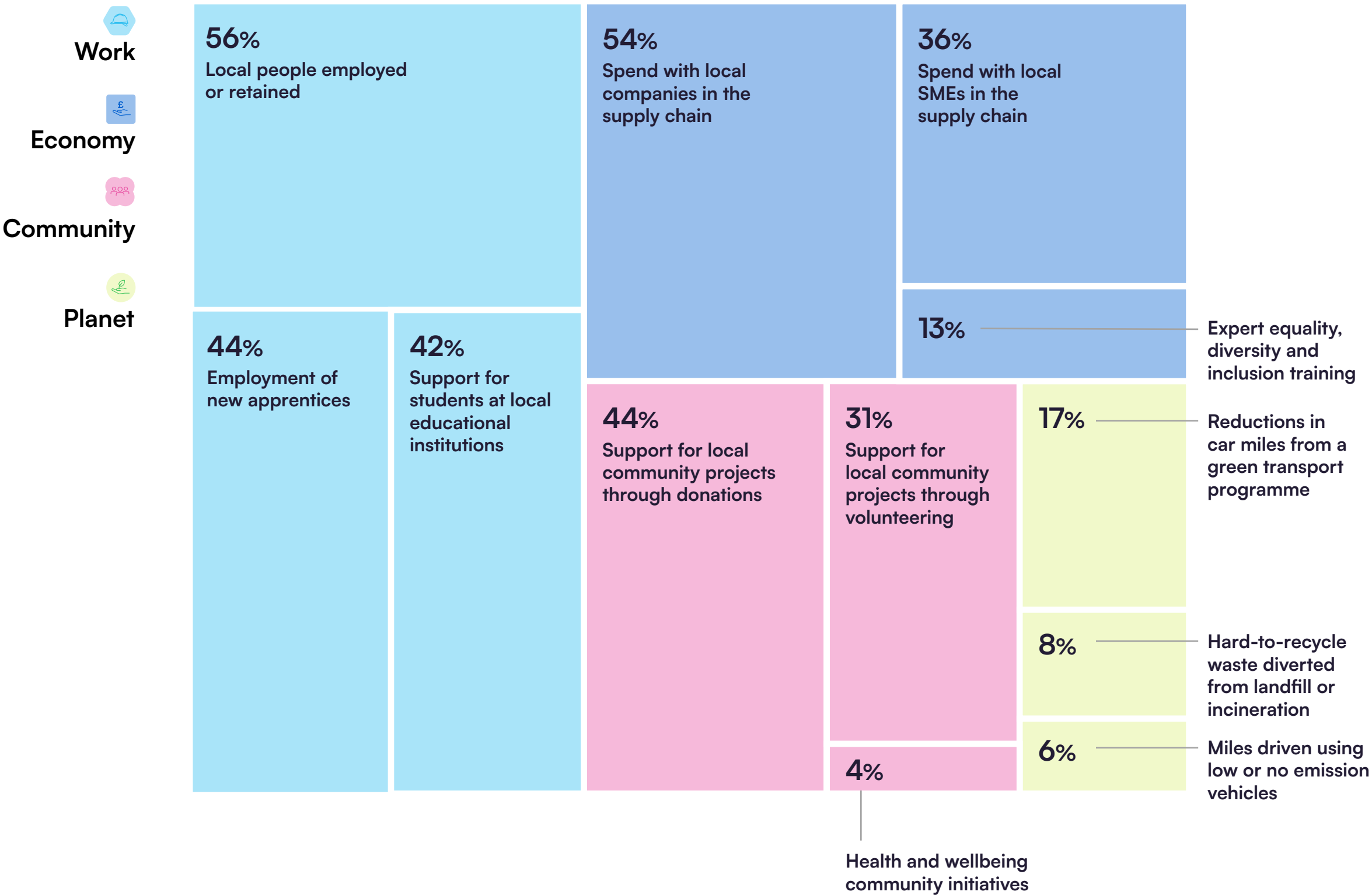


Table 10: Median social value delivered across all themes

Top 3 measures across Theme





Economy

Similar to 2024, the Economy theme dominated in 2025, generating £918.9m in social value, 5.7 times more than the Work theme (£162.3m).

The theme also recorded the highest median, at £101,416 per project, indicating consistently high-value delivery rather than just headline-driven.

Performance under the Economy theme shows:

- Spend with local companies and local MSMEs (micro, small and medium-sized enterprises) within the supply chain delivered £914.1m of social value, representing 90.6% of total social value delivered across the top 10 most used measures.
- Local spend was recorded in 239 projects, 54% of total projects, averaging £2.3m per project.
- Spend with local MSMEs was recorded in 162 projects (36%) at £2.2m per project.
- 98% of projects in the East of England recorded Economy-related measures, the highest proportion nationally.
- 23 different Economy measures were used.
- Although the overall social value delivered decreased year-on-year, local spend still provided more than £1bn investment through local supply chains. The continued dominance of the Economy theme reflects the industry’s commitment to investing in smaller, local businesses to strengthen supply chain resilience and sustainable economic growth.

£1bn+
spent through local
supply chains

£918.9m
Economy social value
delivered

Work

The Work theme has achieved a broad reach, with 38 measures recorded across 347 projects, reflecting a wide range of employment, skills and workforce development activity delivered across the sector.

It recorded the second-highest total delivery value after Economy, at £162.3m, with a median value of £47,777 per project. Five Work measures were among the top 10 most used measures nationally, collectively delivering £93,683,835 in social value.

Performance under the Work theme shows:

- Local employment was recorded across 251 projects (56% of all projects), making it the most widely used measure overall. It delivered £83.9m in social value, averaging £334k per project.
- Personalised support to help unemployed people into work recorded the highest average delivery value among the remaining Work measures (excluding local employment and apprentices), at £23,380 per project across 77 projects, totalling £1.8m in social value.
- Employment of apprentices featured in 197 projects, the joint third-highest adoption after local employment and local spend. It delivered an average of £38,071 per project, totalling £7.5m in social value.

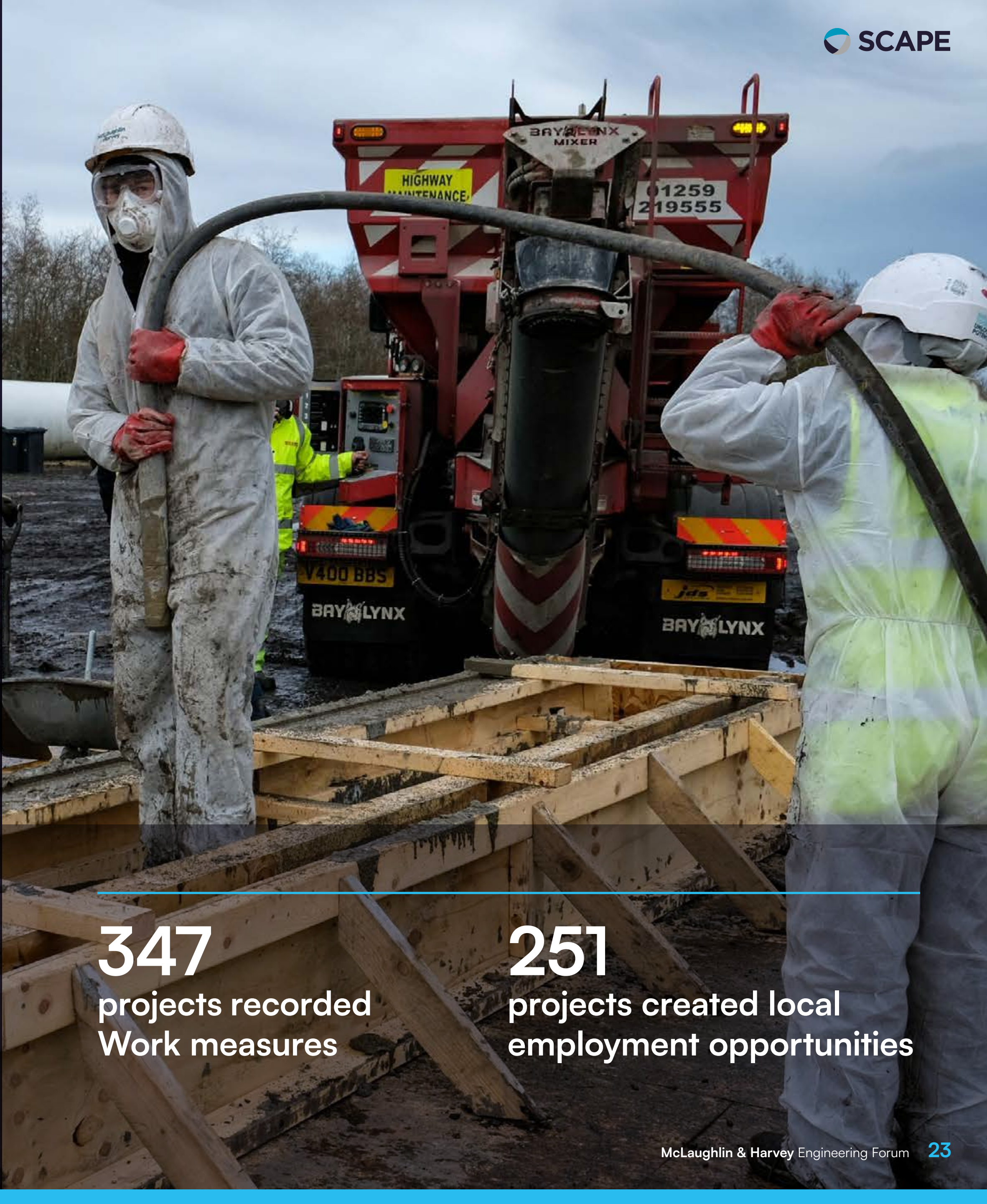
- Local school and college support was recorded across 187 projects, averaging £917 per project, the lowest among all measures.
- Unpaid work placements appeared in 110 projects, delivering a median of £2,532 per project, higher than school and college support.
- Scotland recorded the highest adoption of Work measure nationally, with Work-related activity reported on 96% of projects (22 projects).

The 35.7% year-on-year increase in the number of Work measures adopted indicates continued momentum in workforce development. It also reflects the shared focus across industry and government on addressing skills shortages and developing the workforce needed to support the future delivery of the public sector’s capital and infrastructure projects.

This was highlighted in SCAPE’s recent research, Delivering Through Change, which examines the pressures facing local authorities in England and the practical solutions required to safeguard delivery and build resilience.

Read Delivering Through Change

READ REPORT



347
projects recorded
Work measures

251
projects created local
employment opportunities



£1.2m+
raised for
local causes

51%
of projects included
Community measures

Community

The Community theme continued to demonstrate broad participation and engagement in 2025, with activity reaching more than half of all projects (51%).

While its reported total social value and median social value were low in comparison to the Economy and Work themes, the nature of community activity means that the impact through engagement and relationships yields longer-term outcomes rather than monetary value alone.

Across 229 projects, the theme incorporated 19 measures, the lowest across the four themes, suggesting that the activity has been concentrated around a consistent set of established community interventions.

Performance under the Community theme shows:

- Donations and volunteering were widely adopted, together covering 336 project appearances. However, they delivered a median social value of £5,517 and £1,579 per project respectively.
- Whilst the amount raised through donations decreased by 4% year-on-year, more than £1.2m was raised for local causes.
- 86% of London’s projects included the Community theme, which is the highest adoption nationally (36 projects).

- Following a decline in school and college outreach in 2024, the 37% year-on-year increase in volunteering hours suggests a renewed emphasis on education and community engagement, particularly where engagement moves beyond one-off activities towards sustained relationships with schools, colleges and community organisations to build a longer-term legacy.

The Community theme was included in 51% of projects, a slight increase from 49.7% in 2024. While the theme generates a lower reported monetary value than Economy and Work, its contribution extends beyond quantifiable outcomes, supporting stronger relationships between construction projects and the communities they serve. The continued growth in volunteering, particularly with schools and colleges, demonstrates the potential for the industry to create lasting connections, develop future opportunities and leave a meaningful local legacy.

Planet

The Planet theme remained the least widely adopted across all four themes in 2025, appearing in 168 projects (38%).

Despite this, it remains measure-rich, incorporating 29 measures, the second-highest measure count across the four themes. This suggests potential complexity in reporting, given the broad range of environmental interventions yet comparatively low adoption across projects. The theme also recorded a median of £626, which is 162 times less than the Economy theme’s median of £101,416.

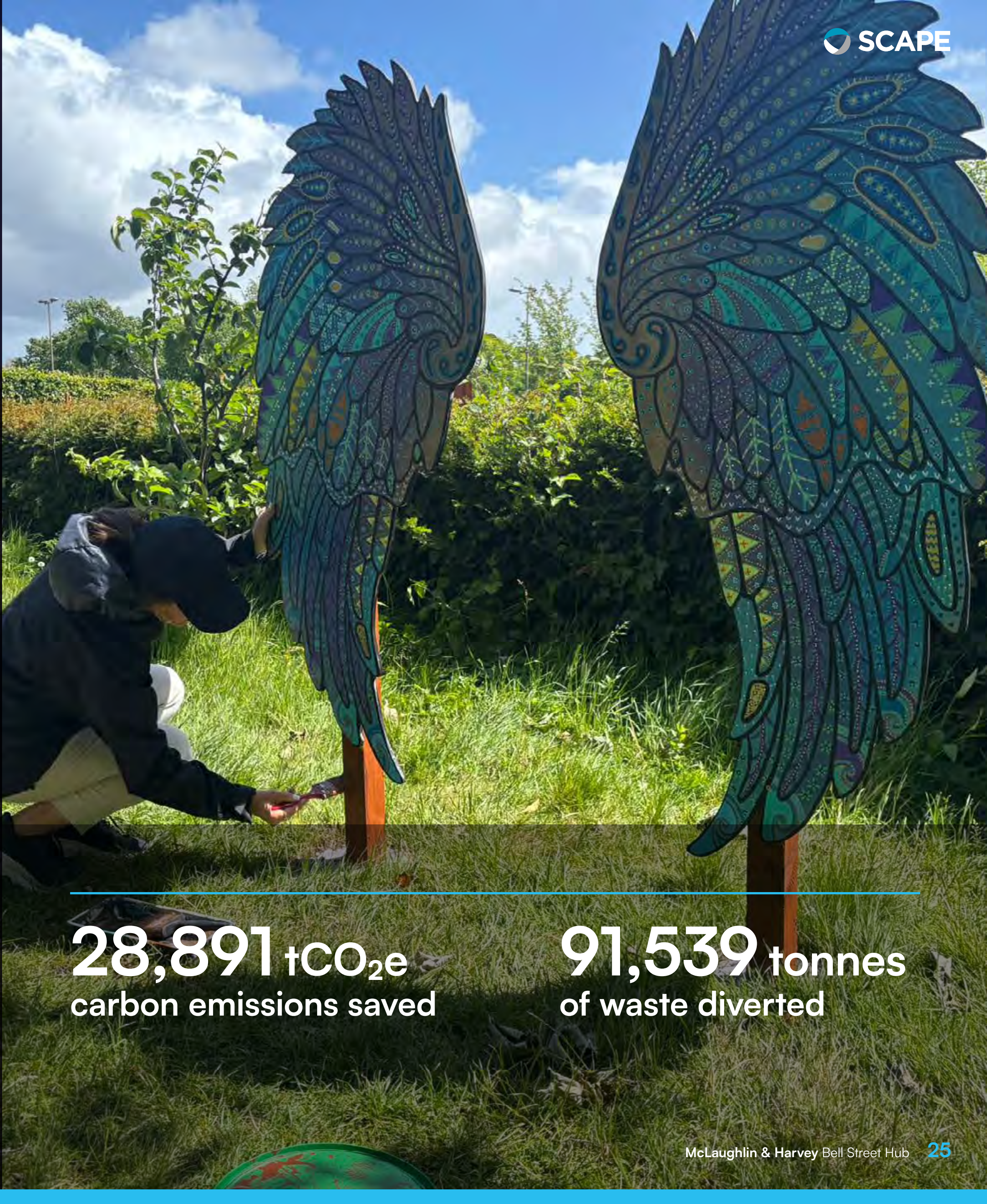
Performance under the Planet theme shows:

- Green transport measures were the only Planet measure to feature in the top 10 most-recorded measures (at number 10), recorded across 76 projects (17%), averaging £1,613 of social value per project. This places them between volunteering (Community) and work placements (Work) in per-project delivery.
- 67% of projects in the East Midlands included Planet themes (50 projects); this is the strongest adoption nationally.
- Carbon savings, material reuse and waste diversion recorded significant year-on-year increases in delivery per £1m of contract value, albeit from comparatively low levels in 2024. These uplifts highlight the growing scale of reported environmental outcomes in 2025, while providing an important context for understanding the progress being made across the Planet theme.

Planet measures remain less widely adopted than those under Work, Economy and Community; but environmental interventions are increasing in scale and becoming more systematically embedded where they are included.

Moving forward, the evolution of the TOM System is also likely to support greater adoption of Planet measures. In 2026, Social Value Portal introduced new and updated Planet measures covering areas including waste, clean energy, transport, water, and carbon reductions, to provide a more future-focused approach to environmental outcomes.

This development comes alongside growing policy and procurement emphasis on environmental performance, including the requirements in PPN 006 and the UK’s wider commitment to achieving net zero by 2050. As environmental performance becomes increasingly embedded within procurement requirements and project delivery, there is potential for the adoption and reporting of Planet measures to continue to grow.



28,891 tCO₂e
carbon emissions saved

91,539 tonnes
of waste diverted

Key Findings

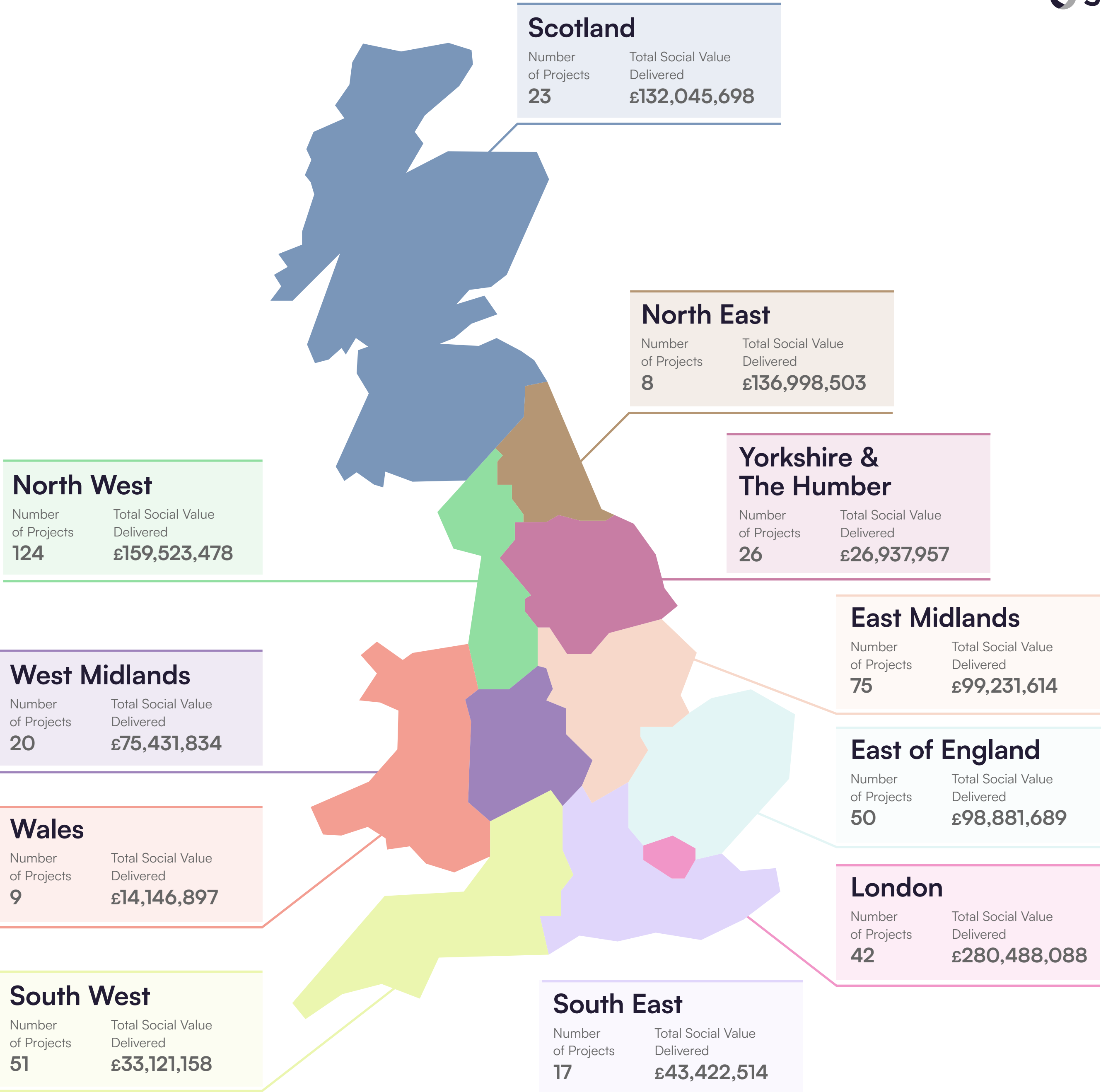
Regional delivery

While national benchmarking provides a holistic view of social value delivery, examining the dataset at a regional level allows us to see how priorities, performance and areas of focus can vary across England, Wales and Scotland — both in terms of delivery and in themes. Variations in project scale, local economic needs, procurement priorities and policy landscapes can all influence how social value is delivered, resulting in distinct regional profiles.

Across almost every region, investment in employment, skills and local economic growth remains the defining feature of social value delivery, reflecting both industry priorities and the growing importance of building a resilient workforce for the future. Delivery on the ground varies significantly, and the following pages explore the key characteristics of each region, highlighting notable trends, areas of strength and opportunities for further development, alongside examples of social value delivered through SCAPE frameworks on projects completed in 2025.

Together, they demonstrate that there is no single approach to delivering social value. The strongest outcomes are shaped by local priorities and contribute to wider economic, social, environmental and community objectives. The case studies bring this to life, showing how these priorities are being translated into tangible outcomes for communities across the UK.

This report is based solely on SCAPE and Social Value Portal data, specifically recording projects that measure social value using the 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.



	2025		2024		2023	
Region	Number of Projects	Total Social Value Delivered	Number of Projects	Total Social Value Delivered	Number of Projects	Total Social Value Delivered
North West	124	£159,523,478	110	£235,405,522	56	£125,664,231
East Midlands	75	£99,231,614	82	£122,455,617	76	£35,850,435
South West	51	£33,121,158	37	£61,179,157	21	£31,880,505
East of England	50	£98,881,689	40	£47,752,853	31	£125,750,728
Yorkshire and The Humber	26	£26,937,957	27	£123,509,433	27	£31,532,532
London	42	£280,488,088	26	£196,902,756	20	£282,595,022
Scotland	23	£132,045,698	22	£96,409,318	17	£56,810,942
West Midlands	20	£75,431,834	25	£69,282,323	24	£64,181,112
South East	17	£43,422,514	22	£191,901,395	27	£67,713,502
Wales	9	£14,146,897	11	£11,913,188	18	£18,143,638
North East	8	£136,998,503	16	£40,893,706	9	£20,151,546

Table 11: The table shows the regional split of the number of projects and social value delivery for the years 2023 to 2025.

Median of % Total Social Value Add

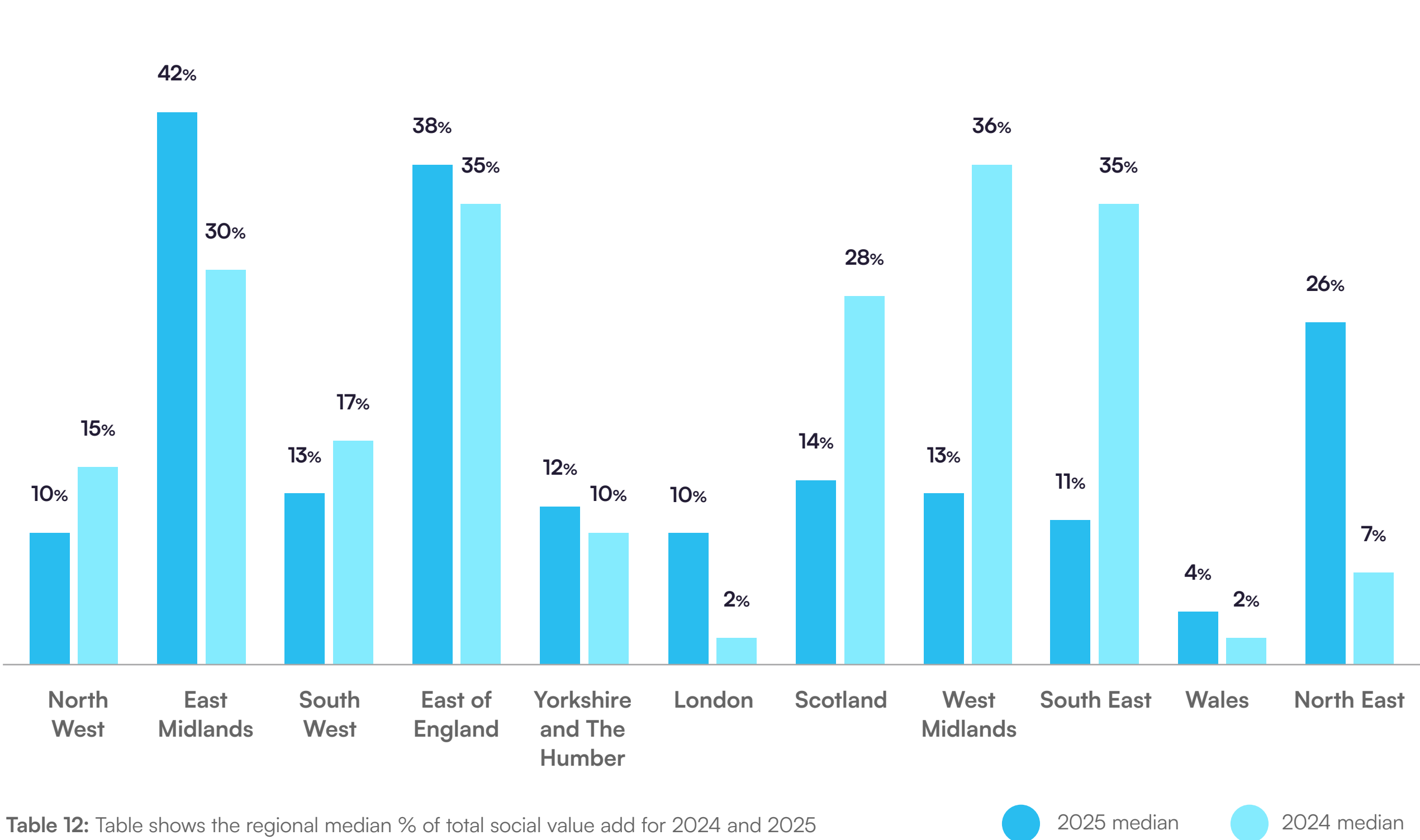


Table 12: Table shows the regional median % of total social value add for 2024 and 2025



East Midlands

Delivering the highest social value return through consistently high-performing projects.

[Back to map](#)

EAST MIDLANDS

The East Midlands continues to demonstrate strong social value performance, delivering £99.2m across 75 projects. While total social value decreased by £23.2m (-19% year-on-year), the region’s median social value added increased by 12 percentage points (30% to 42%), giving it the highest median performance nationally in 2025. This suggests projects are generating consistently higher levels of additional social value relative to contract value.

The use of 48 unique measures reflects a well-rounded approach to delivering benefits for local communities. The region also saw the highest adoption of Planet measures nationally at 67%, alongside strong performance across Economy (91%) and Work (84%) demonstrating a broad commitment to delivering environmental, economic and employment outcomes.

KEY STATISTICS

£377.3m
Contract value of projects in region

75
Number of projects measured

£99.2m
Social value delivered

42%
Median social value added

TOP THEME USED IN REGION:

91%  **Economy**

84%  **Work**

67%  **Planet**

23%  **Community**

2025 VS 2024

	2025	2024
Number of Projects	75	82
Total Number of Unique Measures Used	48	47
Total Social Value Delivered	£99,231,614	£122,455,617
Median Social Value Added	42%	30%

Change in value
-£23,224,003

Change in median SV%
+12 percentage points

Ravenshead Leisure Centre

Nottinghamshire



“We at the Leisure Centre and Parish Council have been very impressed with the level of professionalism, flexibility and the help and support that has been provided so far during this project, especially from Josh and his team. The help provided has had a big impact on the Leisure Centre and enabled us to stay open when we thought it wasn’t possible.”

Amanda Rowbottom,
Clerk to the Council, Ravenshead Parish Council

[Back to map](#)

Client name

Ravenshead Parish Council and
Nottinghamshire County Council

Delivery partner



Framework



Project value

£1.073m

% Social value added

65.7%

Key outcomes

£705k
social value generated

2,017 miles
driven in LEV

86%
labour within 20 miles

91%
spend within 20 miles

22.2 Tonnes
of waste diverted from landfill (94%)

Delivered for Ravenshead Parish Council in collaboration with Arc Partnership, this refurbishment revitalised a vital community hub and left a lasting social legacy. With refreshed changing rooms, a new dance studio and other modernisation works delivered, the upgraded leisure centre now accommodates local football clubs, dance classes and baby sensory groups. The project also transformed two rooms into specialist learning environments for alternative provision students, supporting targeted small-group sessions and youth development.

During the project, G F Tomlinson provided carpet and decoration works free of charge, with the donated carpet valued at approximately £1,000, and cleared the leisure centre’s gutters and replaced an existing manhole as gestures of goodwill. To minimise disruption for the local community during the works, the project team also installed a key lockbox to provide safe access for leisure centre users, adjusted working schedules so a baby sensory class could take place without noise or distractions, and opened the site out of hours so local sports teams could use the facilities.

With Nottinghamshire’s unemployment rate higher than the national average, G F Tomlinson chose to support the local Department for Work and Pensions throughout the project, delivering five mentoring circles to boost employability skills and connect employers with local job seekers.

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

CASE STUDY

Oak House Council Offices

Nottinghamshire



Client name

Nottinghamshire County Council
and Arc Partnership

Delivery partner

**MORGAN
SINDALL**
CONSTRUCTION

Framework

SCAPE
CONSTRUCTION

Project value

£17.8m

% Social value added

54%

Key outcomes

£9.6m

social value

58

school engagement hours

260

apprenticeship/T-Level weeks

£2,090

charitable donations

53

volunteering hours

£85k

social enterprise spend

Bringing Nottinghamshire County Council’s key services together under one roof, this development provides a modern civic hub for democratic, leadership and front-line functions.

Building on a longstanding partnership with Nottingham Trent University (NTU), Morgan Sindall engaged with students during the project through guest lectures, careers events, apprenticeship open days and site visits, with more than 80 students gaining first-hand insight into careers in construction. These activities formed part of a wider programme that generated 260 apprenticeship weeks and 58 hours of school engagement. The impact of this partnership can be seen through Luke Melville, an NTU alumnus and Graduate Site Manager who played a role in delivering Oak House, demonstrating how collaboration between education and industry can create pathways into construction.

Working alongside supply chain partner Morecrofts, the team supported local communities through charitable donations to Hucknall Food Bank and volunteering activities with SCAPE delivery partners as part of the Trussell Trust Tesco Winter Food Campaign.

Sustainability was also a key focus throughout delivery. Supporting Morgan Sindall’s 10 Tonne Carbon Challenge, the project team worked with MJ Robinson to source 116 tonnes of Electric Arc Furnace (EAF) steel, saving 214 tonnes of CO₂e. The team also protected a colony of bees discovered within the site steelwork, working with local beekeepers to safely relocate the colony.

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

CASE STUDY

Knapp House

Grantham, Lincolnshire

“

The opening of Knapp House is not just about 20 new homes — it’s about opportunity, stability, and belonging. For many people, this development represents a fresh start — a place to build a future, to put down roots and contribute to the life of our growing community.”

Virginia Moran,
Cabinet Member for Housing, South Kesteven District Council

Client name

South Kesteven District Council

Delivery partner



Framework



Project value

£3.8m

% Social value added

41%

Key outcomes

£1.6m
social value generated

19
direct local employees
retained on the contract

32
hours careers engagement

51
apprenticeship weeks

45,560
miles saved through car sharing,
equalling 20,000kg of CO₂ saved

Delivered for South Kesteven District Council, this development created 20 high-quality affordable apartments in the heart of Grantham town centre. As well as helping to meet local housing need with new, accessible, sustainable and energy-efficient homes, the project was delivered with a strong focus on creating lasting economic and social value for the wider community.

Throughout the project, Lindum prioritised local investment, sourcing 79% of labour and 83% of subcontractor spend within 40 miles of the site. Overall, Lindum’s approach generated a £1.6 million boost to the local economy, while 24 apprentices also completed 51 weeks of onsite training, helping to develop future construction talent. Alongside this, the project achieved 100% SME engagement and 100% fair payment across the supply chain.

Lindum also delivered a range of community initiatives, contributing £5,000 in donations and support. This included providing woodworking equipment to Men in Sheds, donating and installing a publicly accessible defibrillator, delivering 32 hours of careers engagement for students at The King’s School, and procuring a community noticeboard through the Pelican Trust, a Lincolnshire-based social enterprise.

The project’s quality, delivery and wider community impact have since been recognised across the housing sector, winning the 2025 Inside Housing Award for Best Development Under £5 Million.

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

CASE STUDY



London

Generating the greatest overall social value from the UK’s largest construction investment.

LONDON

London accounts for the highest contract value within the report’s dataset, with 42 projects worth more than £1.4bn. The region generated £280.5m in social value, an increase of £83.6m (+42% year-on-year), representing the largest overall volume of social value delivered across all regions.

Alongside this growth, the region’s median social value added increased from 2% to 10% (+8 percentage points), supported by 16 additional projects. While the median remains below some other regions, the improvement demonstrates that social value

is being embedded more consistently across London’s expanding project portfolio.

London also recorded the highest adoption of Community measures nationally, with 86% of projects delivering community outcomes. This was complemented by strong Work (90%) and Economy (81%) performance, while Planet (29%) remained comparatively less prevalent. The use of 59 unique social value measures, the second highest of any region, reflects the scale, diversity and complexity of project delivery across the capital.

KEY STATISTICS

42

Number of projects measured

10%

Median social value added

£1.4bn

Contract value of projects in region

£280.5m

Social value delivered

TOP THEME USED IN REGION:

90%

Work

86%

Community

81%

Economy

29%

Planet

2025 VS 2024

	2025	2024
Number of Projects	42	26
Total Number of Unique Measures Used	59	41
Total Social Value Delivered	£280,488,088	£196,902,756
Median Social Value Added	10%	2%

Change in value
+£83,585,332

Change in median SV%
+8 percentage points

National Maritime Museum

London



Client name

Royal Museums Greenwich

Delivery partner



Framework



Project value

£8.5m

% Social value added

11.7%

Key outcomes

200
students supported
through career workshops,
site visits and placements

£1m+
social value add

£715
in Christmas gift donations
to local hospice

5
work experience
placements hosted

Delivered for the Royal Museums Greenwich, this project breathed new life into the Ocean Court building at the world-famous National Maritime Museum and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Works included a major glazed roof replacement, new weather protection systems and electrical upgrades, resolving long-standing building issues while enhancing the visitor experience.

Alongside the project, Willmott Dixon Interiors invested time and resources into the local community through several initiatives. This included delivering careers workshops at Carshalton College, hosting four BTEC Engineering students on work experience placements, engaging and hosting site visits for Civil Engineering and Quantity Surveying students from the University of Greenwich, and taking part in a panel discussion for the University’s Green Careers Week.

The project team also joined forces with their valued supply chain partners to support Greenwich & Bexley Community Hospice with Christmas gift donations totalling £715, including toys, books, chocolates, personal care items, games, puzzles, and more.

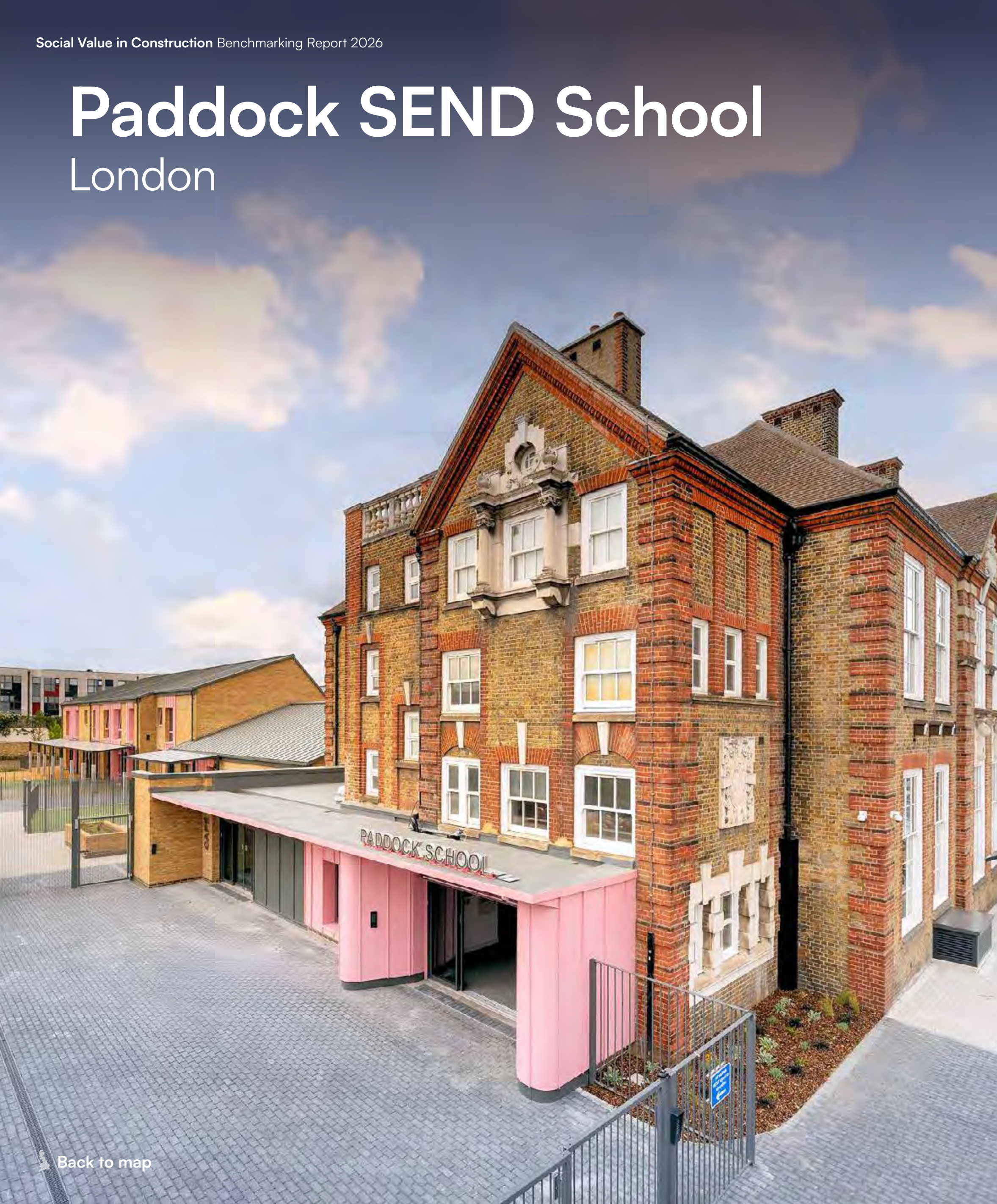
Overall, the project directly engaged 200 students and generated a social value add of more than £1m, creating lasting value alongside the restoration of one of the UK’s significant cultural assets.

Click to read the full case study on our website

CASE STUDY

Paddock SEND School

London



[Back to map](#)

Client name

Wandsworth Borough Council

Delivery partner



Framework



Project value

£28m

% Social value added

18.2%

Key outcomes

£5.1m
social value generated

34
new jobs created

95
local labour within 5 miles
of the site

4
work experience weeks delivered

7
jobs through
Work Match Scheme

82%
SME spend

Delivered for Wandsworth Borough Council, the expansion of Paddock SEND (Special Education Needs and Disabilities) School provided more children with specialised school spaces closer to home.

Completed for the 2025/26 academic year, it saw Paddock’s secondary-aged pupils move from premises they had outgrown to a new purpose-built, BREEAM Outstanding, net zero school in Tooting, with an additional 64 spaces for older pupils. The new site also boasts larger classrooms and outdoor spaces, offering improved resources for the children and housing an onsite café run by the pupils to help them learn new skills.

In partnership with the Council and other key stakeholders, Willmott Dixon identified targeted opportunities to maximise the project’s environmental, social, and economic outcomes. These included reducing carbon emissions, improving resource efficiency, enhancing biodiversity, and delivering lasting social value through local job creation, skills development, and community involvement.

The project achieved a 82% SME spend and included collaboration with local social enterprises and targeted employment and skills initiatives. Working closely with the Council, Willmott Dixon delivered seven T-Level placements, four weeks of work experience and accredited training to help local people access sustainable careers in construction.

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

CASE STUDY

Expanding specialist education and creating wider community impact

North West London



[Back to map](#)

Client name

London Borough of Brent

Delivery partner

**MORGAN
SINDALL**
CONSTRUCTION

Framework

SCAPE
CONSTRUCTION

Project value

£9.6m

% Social value added

35%

Key outcomes

£3.6m
social value

44
volunteering hours

£74k
social enterprise spend

“

I grew up in Brent and went to a primary school just like St Margaret’s, so I know exactly how much these schools do for local families. Being able to come back as a local resident and help create better spaces and improved SEN provision for the next generation genuinely feels like giving back to the community that shaped me.”

Piar Kahai,
Quantity Surveyor, Morgan Sindall Construction

Creating an additional 48 specialist education places for Brent children, this £9.6m programme delivered concurrent expansions at Preston Park Primary School, Newman Catholic College and St Margaret Clitherow RC Primary School, providing new classrooms, therapy spaces and sensory facilities.

Partnering with Tarem Services, a social enterprise dedicated to tackling in-work poverty and food insecurity, the project team supported the organisation’s Mobile Foodbank initiative, providing essential food support to 168 residents through a community event at St Raphael’s Family Wellbeing Centre. Employment opportunities were also created for local people, including recruiting Dawit, a long-term unemployed Brent resident, as a Site Labourer and supporting him to gain a CLOCS Traffic Marshall qualification.

The team inspired young people through a Waste Wise Kids assembly, teaching pupils about recycling and sustainability through interactive learning. A local pupil was also hosted on a work experience placement, providing hands-on insight into careers in construction and helping them take their first steps towards a future trade career. Supporting the next generation of industry professionals, the programme also provided 34 apprenticeship weeks across the three projects. The programme further championed inclusion and employability through sponsorship of a Black History Month careers event, helping local residents explore skills, training and employment opportunities.

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

CASE STUDY

North East

Small in project numbers, significant in social value impact.

NORTH EAST

Despite recording the fewest projects in this year’s benchmarking report, the North East delivered one of the strongest regional performances. Total social value increased from £41m to £137m (+235% year-on-year) on half the number of projects (8), while median social value added rose from 7% to 26%, the largest year-on-year improvement nationally.

With a total contract value of £425m, the North East demonstrates that a smaller portfolio of strategically significant projects can generate substantial social value outcomes. The region also delivered consistently across all four themes, with strong adoption of Work (88%), Economy (88%) and Community (75%), while Planet measures featured in 63% of projects, the second highest rate nationally. This balanced profile highlights the region’s ability to deliver broad social value outcomes despite its relatively small project base.

KEY STATISTICS

£137m
Social value delivered

£425m
Contract value of projects in region

8
Number of projects measured

26%
Median social value added

TOP THEME USED IN REGION:

- 88% Work
- 88% Economy
- 75% Community
- 63% Planet

2025 VS 2024

	2025	2024
Number of Projects	8	16
Total Number of Unique Measures Used	26	21
Total Social Value Delivered	£136,998,503	£40,893,706
Median Social Value Added	26%	7%

Change in value
+£96,104,796

Change in median SV%
+19 percentage points

Thorp Academy Extension

Ryton, Gateshead



Client name
North Education Trust and Gateshead Council

Delivery partner
MORGAN SINDALL
CONSTRUCTION

Framework
SCAPE
CONSTRUCTION

Project value
£5.6m

% Social value added
62.5%

Key outcomes

£3.53m
social value

£9,100
charitable donations

154
volunteering hours

“
Morgan Sindall set the benchmark for what meaningful social value delivery should look like in our communities. Their commitment is never tokenistic or transactional; it is deeply rooted in genuine partnership, shared outcomes, and a clear understanding of the needs of our children, schools, communities and neighbourhoods.”

Sam Laing,
Gateshead Council

Responding to growing demand for student places, the £5.6m Thorp Academy Extension provides 10 new classrooms, a new dining hall, expanded office and storage facilities, toilet provision and a plant room, creating a modern learning environment to support the academy’s future growth.

Generating £3.53m of social value, equivalent to 62.5% of project value, the project delivered a range of initiatives supporting Gateshead Council’s priorities around education, employability and environmental sustainability.

Morgan Sindall delivered regular “Constructing the Curriculum” sessions with students studying construction at Thorp Academy, providing insight into industry pathways and practical learning opportunities. The team also worked with local stakeholders to improve community facilities, removing a raised planter, tidying playing fields and nature areas at nearby Crookhill Primary School, and delivering targeted improvements at Ryton Rugby Club, including the construction of a concrete slab to support grounds maintenance activities.

Working alongside the school’s eco-group, council officers and Brighten Ryton, the project developed proposals for improvements to Dovers Pond and the nearby orchard, creating opportunities for ecosystem learning whilst enhancing local green spaces and a heritage asset adjacent to the school. To further reduce environmental impact, structural steel containing 65% Electric Arc Furnace (EAF) content was specified, reducing embodied carbon by 37 tonnes CO₂e.

Click to read the full case study on our website

CASE STUDY

NORTH WEST

The North West remains one of the strongest contributors to this year’s benchmarking report, delivering £159.5m in social value across 124 projects, the largest project portfolio of any region. With a combined contract value of £510.9m and a median social value added of 10%, the region generated the second-highest overall volume of social value despite year-on-year reductions in both total delivery (-32%) and median social value added (15% to 10%).

The region also recorded the widest range of social value delivery, with a total of 60 measures used across its projects. Strong adoption of Work (75%), Economy (73%) and Community (61%) measures suggests social value is being embedded consistently across a diverse project portfolio, while Planet measures (27%) remain less prevalent. Together, these findings indicate a mature regional market where organisations are routinely delivering social value across a broad range of projects, with opportunities to further strengthen environmental outcomes.

KEY STATISTICS

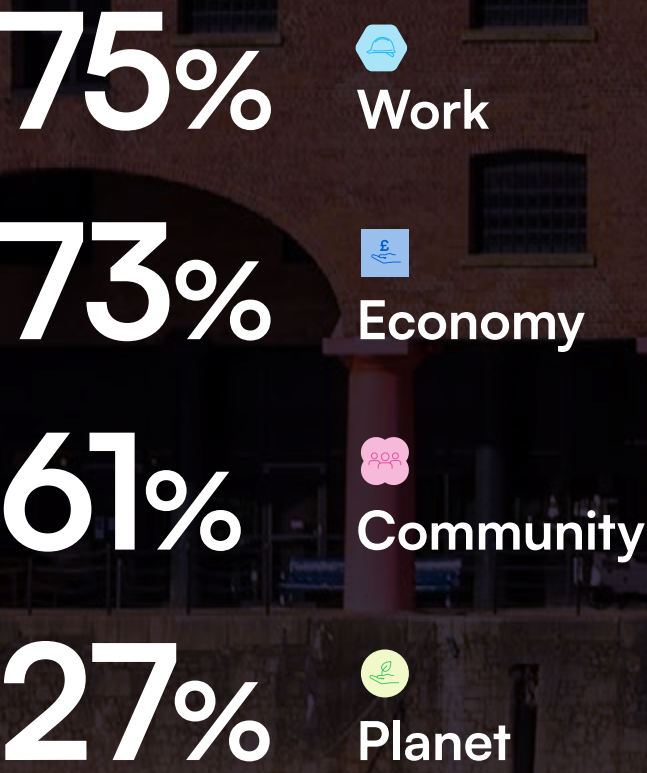
£510.97m
Contract value of projects in region

124
Number of projects measured

£159m
Social value delivered

10%
Median social value added

TOP THEME USED IN REGION:



2025 VS 2024

	2025	2024
Number of Projects	124	110
Total Number of Unique Measures Used	60	54
Total Social Value Delivered	£159,523,478	£235,405,522
Median Social Value Added	10%	15%

Change in value
-£75,882,044

Change in median SV%
-5 percentage points

North West

Setting the benchmark through scale, diversity and consistent delivery.

Accrington Square Market

Accrington, Lancashire

Client name
Hyndburn Borough Council

Delivery partner
MORGAN SINDALL
CONSTRUCTION

Framework
SCAPE
CONSTRUCTION

Project value
£7.4m

% Social value added
31%

Key outcomes

£2.3m
social value

22
school engagement hours

119
apprenticeship/T-level weeks

£5,870
charitable donations

328
volunteering hours

£30k
social enterprise spend

Marking the completion of the first phase of Accrington Town Square’s wider regeneration, this project transformed three prominent town centre buildings, including the Grade-II listed Market Hall, Burton’s Chambers and Market Chambers.

Designed to ensure the benefits of regeneration were felt beyond the site boundary, the project created opportunities for local people, businesses and job seekers.

In partnership with Hyndburn Borough Council, Morgan Sindall hosted a “Getting Connected” event at Accrington Town Hall, bringing together local subcontractors, suppliers, social enterprises and job seekers. Attended by c.200 local stakeholders, the event strengthened local supply chains, promoted upcoming opportunities and helped maximise the economic benefits of the wider regeneration programme within the community.

To support sustainable employment, the project team worked closely with Job Centre Plus, delivering workshops for work coaches to improve understanding of construction careers, entry requirements and pathways into the industry.

In partnership with the Job Centre and social enterprise We Are Footprint, the project team also helped local resident, Martyn Robson, secure employment. Having previously experienced barriers to employment, Martyn joined the team as a Gateman and Traffic Marshall, providing a steady route back into work while developing new skills and confidence. The opportunity is now supporting him to work towards longer-term employment and career progression.

“

I live five minutes from the site, so this job is perfect for me. I’ve worked in various roles in construction but never as a gateman before. I am enjoying it as I’m from the local area and know a lot of people in the town, so I’ve been useful in engaging with the local community.”



Martyn Robson,
We Are Footprint

Scotland

Putting people, skills and local economies
at the heart of social value.

SCOTLAND

Scotland generated £132m in social value across 23 projects, an increase of £35.6m (+37% year-on-year) from a broadly similar project portfolio. The number of social value measures used also increased from 35 to 39, reflecting an increasingly diverse approach to delivering community impact.

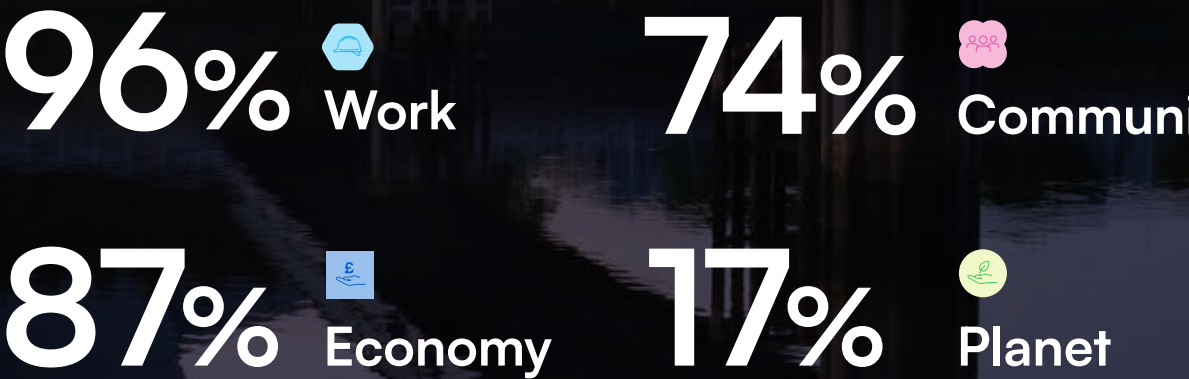
The region recorded the highest adoption of Work measures nationally, with 96% of projects delivering employment and skills outcomes. This was complemented by strong Economy (87%) and Community (74%) performance, creating one of the most rounded regional profiles. Planet measures (17%) remained comparatively less prevalent, highlighting an opportunity to broaden environmental outcomes alongside the region’s existing strengths.

The emphasis on work, local economic growth and community outcomes aligns closely with Scotland’s Community Wealth Building agenda. Introduced through the Community Wealth Building (Scotland) Act 2026, the legislation seeks to ensure public investment delivers lasting economic, social and environmental benefits by promoting fair work, strengthening local supply chains and supporting inclusive economic growth.

KEY STATISTICS



TOP THEME USED IN REGION:



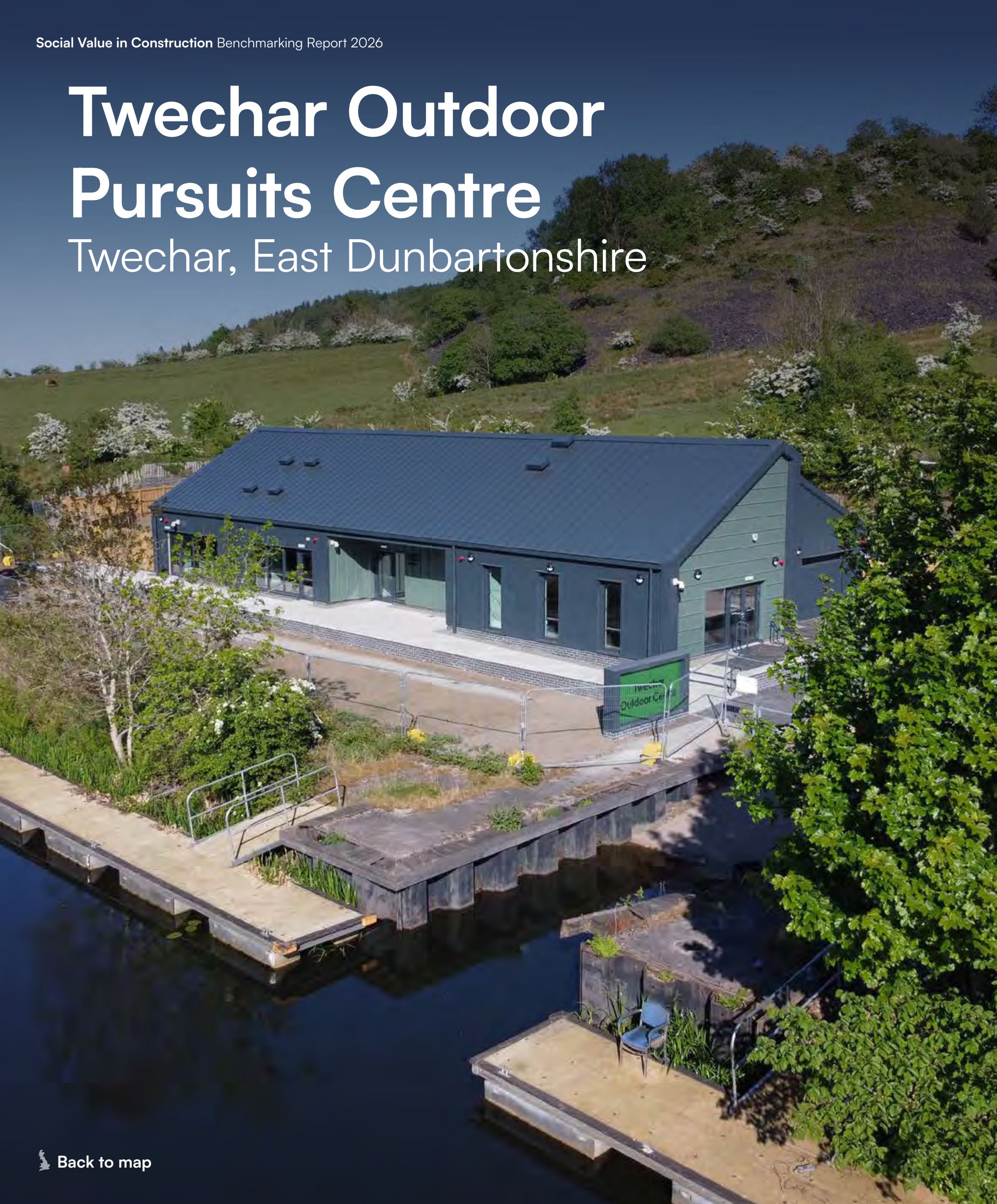
2025 VS 2024

	2025	2024
Number of Projects	23	22
Total Number of Unique Measures Used	39	35
Total Social Value Delivered	£132,045,698	£96,409,318
Median Social Value Added	14%	28%

Change in value +£35,636,380	Change in median SV% -14 percentage points
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Twechar Outdoor Pursuits Centre

Twechar, East Dunbartonshire



Client name
East Dunbartonshire Council

Delivery partners
 

Framework



Combined outcomes
£2.8m+
social value generation

89.5
volunteering hours

105
apprenticeship/T-level weeks

8
work placement weeks

£17,000
social enterprise spend

Two frameworks, one approach to social value delivery.

Located on the banks of the Forth and Clyde Canal, the Twechar Outdoor Pursuits Centre provides access to outdoor learning and water activities within East Dunbartonshire. The facility offers flexible learning spaces and activity facilities designed to support education, training and tourism, while creating a lasting community asset for the village of Twechar.

The project utilised two of SCAPE Scotland’s framework routes: Consultancy for design, project and cost management, and Construction for the delivery of the centre. Together, these procurement routes and the activity of both delivery partners demonstrate how social value can be embedded from the earliest stage of a project and carried through to delivery and beyond.

While consultancy-led social value can be less visible and straightforward to quantify, the partnership between SCAPE Scotland, AtkinsRéalis and Morgan Sindall Construction unlocked enhanced benefits through early engagement, collaboration and targeted activity alongside physical delivery.

Twechar Outdoor Pursuit Centre
Twechar, East Dunbartonshire



As part of the successful delivery, AtkinsRéalis provided Project Management, Cost Management, Principal Designer Services and Whole Life Costs Services to the Twechar Outdoor Pursuits Centre and associated housing development project.

The project had to balance regeneration, accessibility, sustainability and affordability within a community setting. A key challenge was ensuring the facility responded to the needs of a diverse range of users, including young people, older residents and people with disabilities. AtkinsRéalis acted as a key liaison between the client, community groups and delivery team, supporting inclusive design reviews and feedback sessions.

The outcome has been a flexible, future-proof community asset that supports outdoor education, youth engagement, volunteering and active lifestyles. Community benefits delivered have included local employment opportunities and workforce development, with 2.7 FTE local employees retained on the contract, 80 apprenticeship weeks completed, and a meaningful work experience placement provided for a young person. Additional social value initiatives included a foodbank collection that raised £200 and the equivalent of 116kg of food for local families, alongside 52.5 hours of environmental volunteering along the canal.

AtkinsRéalis’ social value contributions to this project showcase the impact that consultancy frameworks can deliver to clients alongside the completed build.

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

CASE STUDY



Key outcomes

£123,398.35
social value add

2.7
FTE local people retained
on the contract

80
apprenticeship
weeks delivered

1
work experience placement

£200
of foodbank donations
equivalent to 116kg of food

52.5
hours of volunteering

Twechar Outdoor Pursuit Centre
Twechar, East Dunbartonshire



[Back to map](#)

Key outcomes

£2.7m
social value generated

25
apprenticeship/t-level weeks

7
work placements

37
hours school engagement

£8,050
charitable donations

“
Morgan Sindall has gone above and beyond to give our students practical exposure, expert guidance, and an insight into real-world construction projects. The experiences have been incredibly beneficial, equipping our students with skills and confidence as they explore potential career pathways.”

Kirstin McDonald,
Teacher, Lenzie Academy

**MORGAN
SINDALL**
CONSTRUCTION

Project value
£4.8m

Building on a relationship that began through SCAPE’s World of Work Tasters programme in 2023, Morgan Sindall supported pupils from Lenzie Academy who participated in a tailored “Introduction to Construction” programme, combining site visits, practical workshops and careers guidance with support from supply chain partners. Sessions covering timber kits, roofing and cladding, mechanical and electrical services, brickwork and joinery gave students first-hand experience of different trades while introducing career pathways and apprenticeship opportunities.

Delivered in partnership with East Dunbartonshire Council, the initiative formed part of a wider programme that generated 25 apprenticeship weeks, seven work placement weeks and 37 hours of school engagement. The programme’s real-world impact was demonstrated when one pupil secured a place on an electrical pre-apprenticeship following participation in the mechanical and electrical workshop.

The series concluded with CV development sessions and career guidance, helping students build confidence, develop valuable skills and gain a greater understanding of opportunities available within the construction industry.

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

CASE STUDY

COPFS Edinburgh Office

Edinburgh



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Client name

Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service

Delivery partners

**MORGAN
SINDALL**
CONSTRUCTION

Framework

SCAPE SCOTLAND
CONSTRUCTION

Project value

£9.8m

% Social value added

11.7%

Key outcomes

£1.16m
social value generation

55
school engagement hours

12
apprenticeship/T-level weeks

£1,359
charitable donations

£31k
social enterprise spend

Following the successful delivery of the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) office in Elgin, the £9.8m refurbishment of its historic Edinburgh office transformed the building into a low-carbon workplace that supports COPFS’ 2040 net zero ambitions. Through measures including vacuum glazing, high-performance insulation, LED lighting and efficient building services, the project improved thermal performance and reduced energy demand, while preserving the building’s historic character.

Supporting Scotland’s transition to net zero, the project generated £1.16m of social value by combining low-carbon innovation with investment in local manufacturing, skills development and regional supply chains.

A standout feature of the project was the use of hemp-based insulation supplied by IndiNature, a Scottish manufacturer producing natural insulation from locally grown hemp. By sourcing the material from a business supported by both Scottish and UK Government initiatives, the project helped create demand for local manufacturing, supported regional employment and demonstrated how decarbonisation projects can strengthen domestic supply chains while reducing environmental impact.

The project also showcased innovative retrofit solutions to key stakeholders, including the Scottish Government’s Head of Public Sector Heat Decarbonisation, highlighting the role historic buildings can play in Scotland’s net zero journey. Following the success of the project, lessons learned are being shared to help support the next generation of SMEs and suppliers delivering low-carbon building transformation across Scotland.

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

CASE STUDY

Bell Street Hub

Dundee



Client name
Dundee City Council

Delivery partners
McLaughlin & Harvey

Framework
SCAPE SCOTLAND
CONSTRUCTION

Project value
£16.3m

% Social value added
65.6%

Key outcomes

£10.7m
social value generation

151
training weeks

804
apprenticeship weeks

91%
of project spend with SMEs

486
young people engaged
through STEM activities

57
hours of community volunteering

Delivered for Dundee City Council, the Bell Street multi-storey car park transformation has provided the people of Dundee with 350 EV charging bays, accessible parking and facilities that improve connectivity and make the city centre a greener, safer place to live, work and visit.

The project made a substantial contribution to developing the future construction workforce. McLaughlin & Harvey considerably exceeded the project’s apprenticeship targets, delivering more than 800 weeks of training. The project team also helped inspire 486 young people through STEM activities and school workshops and promoted environmental awareness from an early age by delivering nature-based learning activities and donating environmental education resources to a local nursery.

McLaughlin & Harvey supported several local organisations through the Client Community Wishes initiative, including delivering forklift training for a local charity and donations to Dundee Bairns, who support young children living in areas of deprivation. The team also delivered 57 hours of community volunteering, supporting young carers through the Dundee Carers group, a local nature trail launch, and sessions for adults with additional support needs.

With 91% of project spend directed to SMEs, the scheme generated lasting economic and social benefits, supporting local businesses, skills development and community resilience well beyond construction.

Click to read the full case study on our website

CASE STUDY

The Engineering Forum Edinburgh



Client name
University of Edinburgh

Delivery partners
McLaughlin & Harvey

Framework
SCAPE SCOTLAND
CONSTRUCTION

Project value
£35.6m

% Social value added
50.6%

Key outcomes

£18m
social value generation

1,204
apprenticeship weeks

£10,585.60
donated via McLaughlin & Harvey’s
YouMatter Communities Fund

£47,868.94
spent with Social Enterprises
during the project

Delivered for the University of Edinburgh, the new Engineering Forum building modernised and expanded the University’s engineering facilities, bringing teaching, research, innovation and student support together in a single purpose-built hub.

As part of the project’s commitment to inspiring the next generation of construction professionals, 93 apprentices worked on the project, completing 1,204 weeks onsite, and three trainees also completed 208 weeks onsite. A project highlight was the team’s collaboration with 25 engineering students during a five-day ConStructED programme delivered with ExpLearn Limited to help bridge the gap between academic learning and construction practice. 14 McLaughlin & Harvey employees supported students as they developed plans, risk assessments and method statements before working in teams to construct the Kiloh Viewing Platform and The Jacob’s Footbridge, developing practical skills in teamwork, problem-solving and project delivery.

Supporting the local economy was a key focus of the project. 41.9% of the labour force lived within 20 miles of the site, while 61.04% of total spend remained within the same area. The project also strengthened the local supply chain, with £47,868.94 spent with social enterprises and 12 new social enterprises created through a Dragon’s Den event supported by McLaughlin & Harvey. This was complemented by £10,585.60 in donations to four organisations through McLaughlin & Harvey’s YouMatter Communities Fund, extending the project’s economic impact into the wider community.

Click to read the full case study on our website

CASE STUDY

Leith Connections Active Travel: Foot of the Walk to Dock Street

Leith, Edinburgh



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Client name

City of Edinburgh Council

Delivery partners
Balfour Beatty

Framework
SCAPE SCOTLAND
CIVIL ENGINEERING

Project value
£4.9m

% Social value added
15.2%

Key outcomes

£746,351
social value generation

51
hours of school
and college
engagement

27
hours supporting
young people
into work

40
community
volunteering
hours

160
hours supporting
green infrastructure,
biodiversity and
clean green spaces

“

Working with Eliza [Balfour Beatty] has been nothing short of transformative for the Edinburgh Wheels Project at Coalie Park... Her support went far beyond the expected. She didn’t just cheer from the sidelines, she opened doors. Whether it was connecting us with essential suppliers, introducing us to key partners, or simply offering encouragement at exactly the right moments, Eliza was instrumental in helping us bring this project to life.”

Colin Gilchrist, Edinburgh Wheels

Delivered for City of Edinburgh Council, this project transformed the route from Foot of the Walk to Dock Street, creating safer and more comfortable active travel infrastructure and public spaces for walking, wheeling and cycling.

As principal contractors, Balfour Beatty’s role extended beyond core delivery to creating lasting benefits for the local community. This included developing and delivering a place-based Social Impact Action Plan focused on education engagement, youth employability, community projects, volunteering, biodiversity and local economic benefit.

One key deliverable was The Dock @ Coalie Park, where Balfour Beatty supported the transformation of a neglected space along the Water of Leith into a community skate spot and hub. Support included professional advice, training space, toolbox talks, industry introductions and supply chain engagement. This resulted in £14,880.81 of plant and material support recorded through benefit-in-kind donations, while SCAPE Reinvest donated a further £9,000 towards the project cost.

The project also created direct employment outcomes, with all participants in the training-for-work programme securing employment by the halfway point. It supported local businesses and community organisations, including Leith Jazz & Blues Festival, PrintSponge and Graeme Brodie.

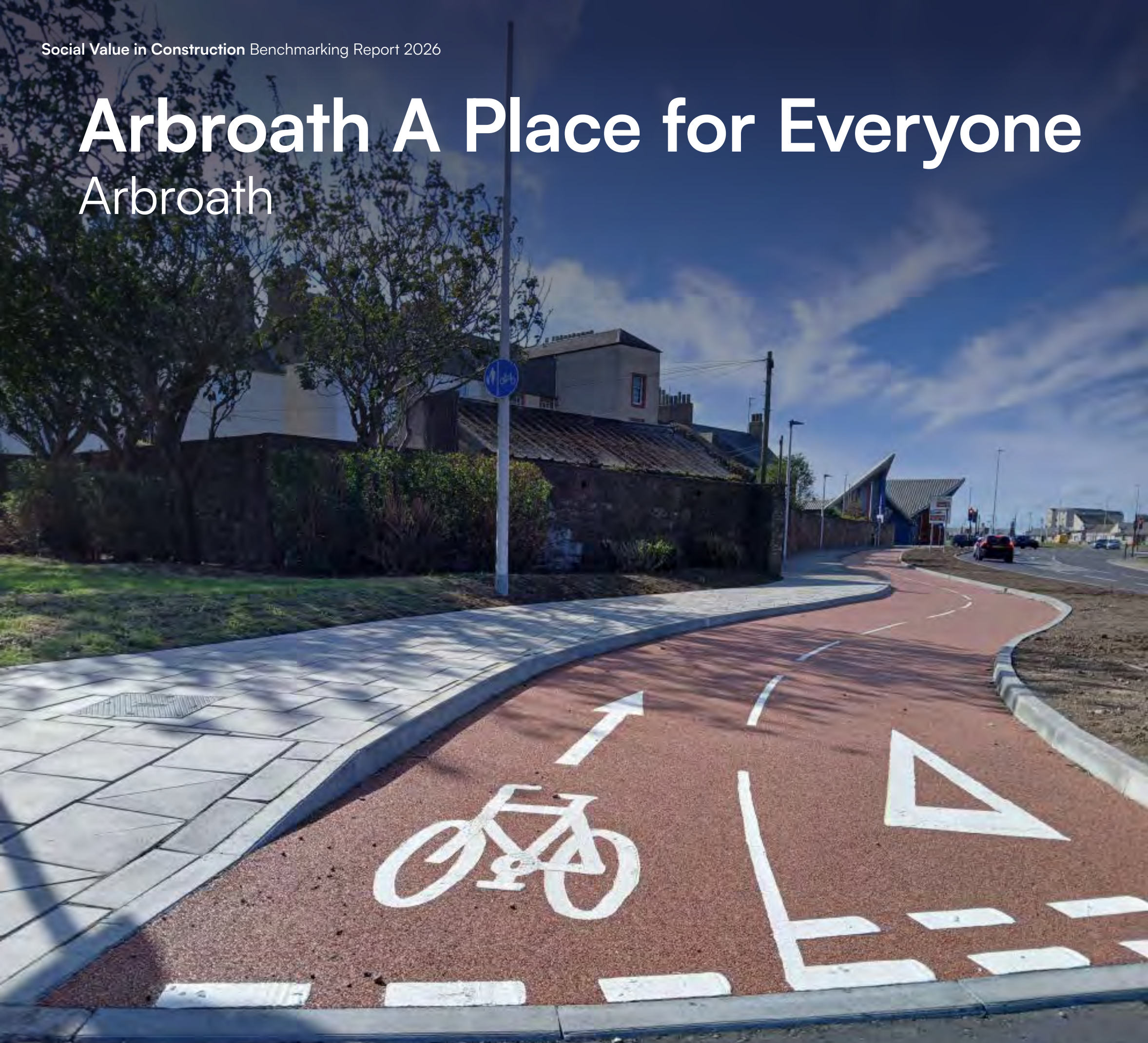
Environmental outcomes were strengthened through Water of Leith volunteering, with 40 volunteers supporting river clearance, path maintenance, wildflower meadow improvements and blockage reduction.

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

CASE STUDY

Arbroath A Place for Everyone

Arbroath



[Back to map](#)

Client name

Angus Council

Delivery partners

Balfour Beatty

Framework

 **SCAPE** SCOTLAND
CIVIL ENGINEERING

Project value

£13.2m

Key outcomes

136.5 hours
of school and college engagement

40 hours
of support-into-work assistance

6 weeks
of meaningful work placements

£5,152.60
of donations and in-kind contributions

65
volunteering hours

Delivered for Angus Council, Arbroath A Place for Everyone was a transformational active travel and public realm project, along the A92. The scheme was designed to reconnect Arbroath town centre, transport links, tourism destinations and the coastline through improved walking, wheeling and cycling infrastructure.

Alongside the physical works, Balfour Beatty delivered an impactful programme of community benefits, education, employability, volunteering and local legacy activity. The project exceeded its agreed impact targets across education, employability, work placement, donations and volunteering. Completion data also recorded local spend of £2.25m, SME spend of £4.5m and 45% local labour.

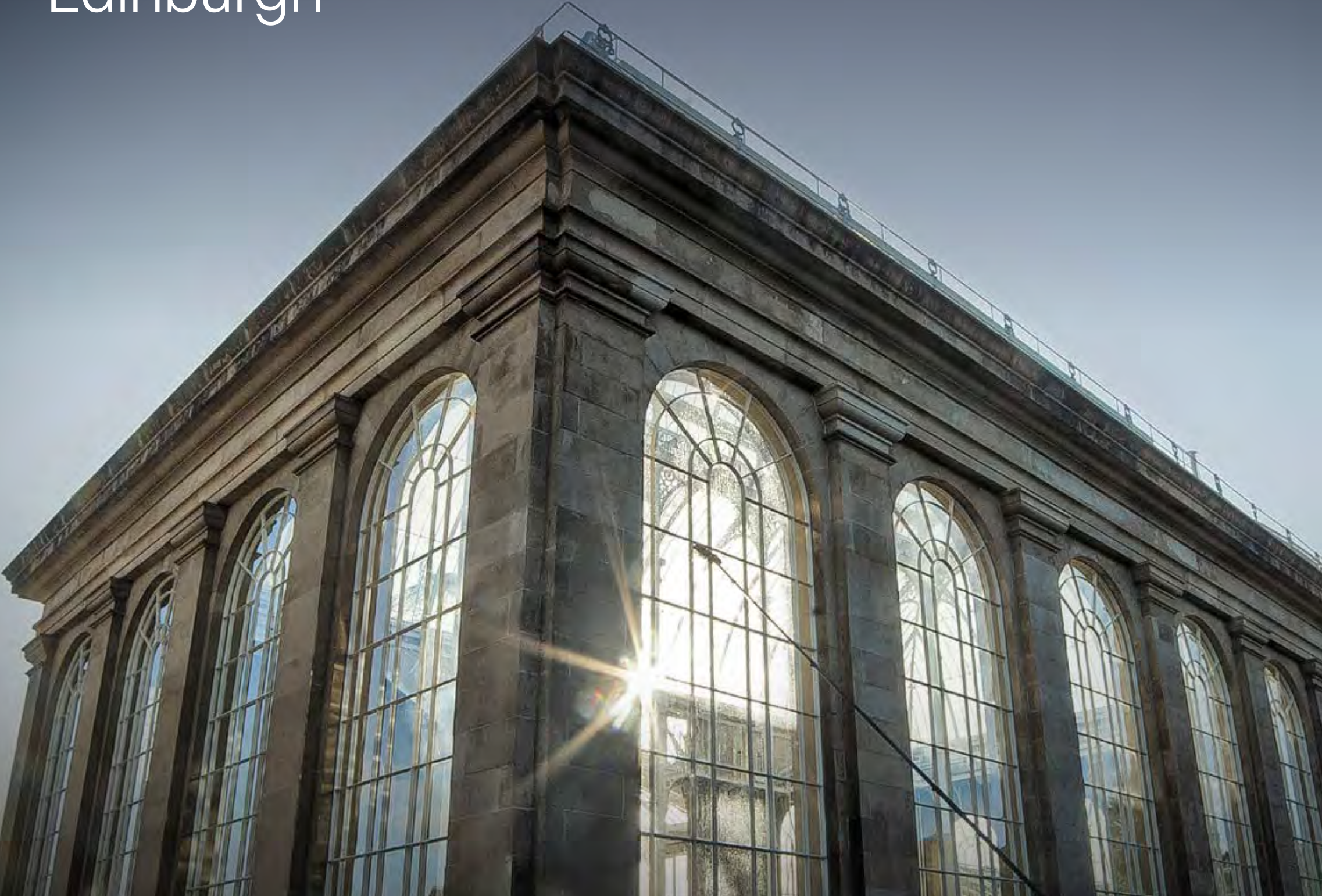
Delivery highlights included upgrades to Douglaswood Scout Centre and volunteering at Arbroath Courthouse Community Trust. The project also included donations of children’s PPE to Little Leapers Nursery; supporting STEM festivals across Angus primary schools and delivering an interactive insight into stonemasonry and the historically significant ‘Arbroath Stone’, delivered with Dundee and Angus College and Denfind Stone. In addition, Balfour Beatty provided work placements for Arbroath High School pupils and supported an Afghan Resettlement Growing Project with Arbroath Rotary Club.

The project’s social sustainability legacy was reinforced through education and community engagement. More than 20 STEM career events were supported across Angus primary schools, including sustainability workshops, engineering challenges and demonstrations using surveying equipment and construction tools.

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

CASE STUDY

Victorian Palm Houses Restoration Edinburgh



Client name
Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh

Delivery partners
Balfour Beatty

Framework
SCAPE SCOTLAND
CIVIL ENGINEERING

Project value
£12.5m

Key outcomes

40.5%
SME spend

22%
supply-chain spend within 20 miles

58%
local labour within 20 miles

100%
fair payment performance

469
apprenticeship weeks

Delivered for Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE), this restoration project safeguarded two Grade A-listed Palm Houses and almost 800 rare and internationally significant plant specimens, while creating wider social and economic value.

The project’s social value brief sought employment pathways for underrepresented groups, greater awareness of construction and conservation careers, meaningful community participation, local economic benefit, and a reduced environmental footprint.

Partnerships with RBGE, Action for Children, Capital City Partnership, education teams and the supply chain enabled placements and engagement to proceed without compromising safety, quality or programme delivery. Through these partnerships, the project supported young people and displaced Ukrainians into training, work experience and employment. This included a YouthBuild participant progressing from placement to full-time employment with Balfour Beatty and two Ukrainian Construction Academy placements taking place on site. In addition, seven Academy participants secured roles with Balfour Beatty, while a further two gained employment elsewhere in the construction industry. In total, 469 apprenticeship weeks were delivered.

To support the project’s reduced environmental footprint, a standout circular-economy innovation repurposed approximately four tonnes of waste glass into geopolymers concrete for bespoke benches and paving materials. This transformed a difficult waste stream into a visible and lasting legacy, while helping ensure that 99% of project waste was diverted from landfill.

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

CASE STUDY

East of England

Economic outcomes leading the way in social value delivery.

EAST OF ENGLAND

The East of England delivered £98.9m in social value across 50 projects, an increase of £51.1m (+107% year-on-year) alongside 10 additional projects, making it one of the strongest-performing regions in this year’s benchmarking report. With a total contract value of £352.1m and a median social value added of 38%, the region ranks among the highest performers, demonstrating that social value is being embedded effectively throughout project delivery.

The region recorded the highest adoption of Economy measures, with 98% of projects delivering economic outcomes. While Work (42%), Community (36%) and Planet (24%) measures were less prevalent, the use of 40 unique measures demonstrates a diverse approach to delivering benefits, with a clear emphasis on strengthening local economies.

KEY STATISTICS

£352m
Contract value of projects in region

£98.9m
Social value delivered

50
Number of projects measured

38%
Median social value added

TOP THEME USED IN REGION:

98%  Economy

42%  Work

36%  Community

24%  Planet

2025 VS 2024

	2025	2024
Number of Projects	50	40
Total Number of Unique Measures Used	40	33
Total Social Value Delivered	£98,881,689	£47,752,853
Median Social Value Added	38%	35%

Change in value
+£51,128,837

Change in median SV%
+3 percentage points

Bedford Academy Extension

Bedford



Client name
Bedford Borough Council

Delivery partners
ASHE
building
better

Framework
SCAPE
CONSTRUCTION

Project value
£12m

% Social value added
104%

Key outcomes

£12.5m
in total social value

16
hours school and college engagement

£13,070
donations in kind

500+
pupil site visits

“
We are so excited to be able to move into our new sustainable teaching block. As the school continues to grow in student numbers, we will increasingly benefit from the fantastic spaces, each designed with the children’s best interests at heart.

It’s been a wonderful experience seeing the new block take shape and seeing the whole school community being involved. It’s a building we can all be truly proud of.”

Chris Deller, Head Teacher, Bedford Academy

Delivered for Bedford Borough Council, Bedford Academy’s new NZCiO (net zero carbon in operation) classroom block is a state-of-the-art teaching facility designed to support the school’s growth while delivering long-term educational and community value. It features 16 classrooms, changing facilities, a dining area and community café, silent study zones, staff offices, and extensive external landscaping.

From the project’s outset, the Ashe team embraced a forward-thinking approach to sustainability, achieving net zero carbon in operation through a combination of design innovation and technical precision.

Over 500 pupils visited the site during construction, engaging with the build process and learning about careers in construction. Ashe also actively encouraged its supply chain to promote inclusive employment practices and create opportunities for women and people from ethnic minority backgrounds, helping to build a workforce that reflected the local community.

The building was designed to benefit both the school and wider community, with a community café and multi-use spaces available outside school hours. Infrastructure improvements, such as EV charging points and extensive cycle parking, were also delivered to help promote sustainable travel and reduce the site’s environmental footprint.

In total, the project generated £12.5m in total social value, achieving 104% social and local economic benefit.

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

CASE STUDY

Santon Downham Forestry Commission

Suffolk



Client name
Forestry England

Delivery partners
CARTER

Framework
SCAPE
CONSTRUCTION

Project value
£1.45m

% Social value added
90%

Key outcomes

£1.31m
social value generation

20kW
solar energy generation

20,000
litres rainwater storage capacity

92.39%
of waste diverted from landfill

9
apprenticeship weeks

At Santon Downham in Suffolk, R G Carter delivered a significant modernisation and redevelopment of the existing open service yard used by the local Forestry England team. The project created four green steel barns providing covered machinery storage, workshops, improved security and enhanced welfare facilities, while incorporating sustainable solutions designed to protect the local environment and improve the site’s long-term operational efficiency.

Sustainability was central to the project. Two barns incorporate 20,000 litres of rainwater storage, with underground tanks collecting and storing rainwater for use in spraying operations at the chemical-wash barn. A biofiltration system naturally treats contaminated water from these activities, using microorganisms to break down chemicals before clean water is returned to the ground.

A 20kW solar installation, comprising 40 panels and a 20kWh battery storage system, also provides renewable energy to the wider site, including the old walled garden. Construction waste recycling initiatives saw more than 92% diverted from landfill, further supporting the project’s environmental objectives.

Alongside these environmental benefits, the project generated more than £1.3m in social value, including nine weeks of apprenticeship training for three people studying bricklaying and carpentry. Through investing in skills and sustainable construction, the project demonstrates how improvements to operational facilities can deliver lasting environmental, economic and social benefits.

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

CASE STUDY

West Midlands

Strong employment outcomes supported by a well-rounded social value approach.

WEST MIDLANDS

The West Midlands generated £75.4m in social value across 20 projects, an increase of £6.1m (+9% year-on-year) from a combined contract value of £364.2m. While overall social value increased, the median social value added fell from 36% to 13%, suggesting that projects delivered lower levels of social value relative to contract value than in the previous year.

The region continued to prioritise Work (95%) and Economy (80%) outcomes, while also maintaining comparatively strong Community (60%) delivery. Planet measures (40%) were less widely adopted, indicating that environmental outcomes remain an opportunity for further growth. The use of 35 unique social value measures demonstrates a broad approach to delivering the benefits across employment, local economies, communities and the environment.

KEY STATISTICS

£364.2m

Contract value of projects in region

£75.4m

Social value delivered

20

Number of projects measured

13%

Median social value added

TOP THEME USED IN REGION:

95%  Work

80%  Economy

60%  Community

40%  Planet

2025 VS 2024

	2025	2024
Number of Projects	20	25
Total Number of Unique Measures Used	35	35
Total Social Value Delivered	£75,431,834	£69,282,323
Median Social Value Added	13%	36%

Change in value
+£6,149,511

Change in median SV%
-23 percentage points

Warton Nethersoles School

Warton, Tamworth



“

I just wanted to say a big thank you for helping at sports day - and helping in a way that was so easy for school to manage! It was really appreciated. The hamper is also incredibly generous and I was really pleased with the obvious effort and expense that has gone into it. I am sure it will really help our fundraising at our fair.”

Susan Friend,
Head Teacher, Warton Nethersole's CE Primary School

Client name
Warwickshire County Council

Delivery partners
STEPNELL
COMPLETE CONSTRUCTION PARTNER

Framework
SCAPE
CONSTRUCTION

Project value
£2.5m

% Social value added
66.4%

Key outcomes

£1.66m
social value generation

67%
local spend within 20 miles

100%
SME subcontractor spend
including one VCSE

43
volunteer hours

At Warton Nethersoles School in Warwickshire, Stepnell delivered a two-phase programme of works to remodel the school and provide a two-classroom extension within tight timescales.

The first phase enhanced existing learning spaces, expanded the dining hall, and created a new library and family support area, while the second delivered a modular two-classroom extension using an offsite manufactured timber frame on piled foundations. The rural surroundings required sensitive integration and minimal environmental disruption, while unexpected asbestos removal added further complexity during the remodelling phase.

Alongside the physical improvements, the project delivered significant social value for the school and wider community. The team provided 23 hours of mock interview support for individuals facing employment barriers through the Restart scheme, alongside careers engagement with pupils. A further 20 hours of volunteering supported local initiatives, including the school's sports day, where five volunteers helped run activities and provide refreshments. The team also donated a £250 hamper to the school raffle.

The project generated £1.66m in social value, with 67% of spend directed to businesses within 20 miles. 100% of subcontractor spend was with SMEs, including one VCSE, and the project achieved a 45/45 Considerate Constructors Scheme score. Together, these contributions demonstrate commitment to supporting communities at every level, from skills development and employment support to practical involvement in local events.

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

CASE STUDY

South West

A broad and balanced approach to social value delivery.

SOUTH WEST

The South West delivered £33.1m in social value across 51 projects, with a combined contract value of £255.2m. While total social value delivered decreased by 45.9% year-on-year, the region recorded 14 additional projects, demonstrating continued adoption of social value across a growing portfolio. A median social value added of 13%, down four percentage points from the previous year, indicates relatively consistent delivery relative to contract value.

The use of 43 unique social value measures demonstrates a broad approach to delivery. Economy remained the strongest theme, with 86% of projects delivering economic outcomes, closely followed by Work (80%). The region also recorded comparatively strong uptake of Planet (59%) and Community (49%) measures, reflecting a well-rounded approach to creating lasting benefits for local communities.

KEY STATISTICS

£255m
Contract value of projects in region

£33.1m
Social value delivered

51
Number of projects measured

13%
Median social value added

TOP THEME USED IN REGION:

- 86% Economy
- 80% Work
- 59% Planet
- 49% Community

2025 VS 2024

	2025	2024
Number of Projects	51	37
Total Number of Unique Measures Used	43	48
Total Social Value Delivered	£33,121,158	£61,179,157
Median Social Value Added	13%	17%

Change in value
-£28,057,999

Change in median SV%
-4 percentage points

Woolwell to The George Plymouth



“
I gained hands-on experience of real-world civil engineering, developed practical skills using industry tools, CAD and technical drawings while learning more about health, safety and how infrastructure projects are delivered. The experience helped build my confidence, teamwork and communication skills, brought classroom learning to life, and made me feel valued and supported within a positive, inclusive working environment.”

Micro-intern feedback



Client name
Plymouth City Council

Delivery partners
Balfour Beatty

Framework
SCAPE
CIVIL ENGINEERING

Project value
£8.4m

% Social value added
32.1%

Key outcomes

£2.7m
social value generation

92
training weeks

51
volunteer hours

97
hours of school and
college engagement

£1.8m+
SME spend

99%
of waste diverted from landfill

Delivered for Plymouth City Council, Woolwell to The George Phase 1 formed a key part of the city’s wider transport improvement programme. The project created a new signalised junction at Woolwell Crescent, improved walking and cycling provision, and supported safer, more reliable journeys along a busy corridor used by more than 30,000 vehicles each day.

Alongside the infrastructure improvements, Balfour Beatty delivered a range of social value initiatives focused on skills, education and engagement with the local community. This included 63 hours of engagement with schools and colleges, 34 hours of career mentoring, six weeks of student work experience, and 92 weeks of training for graduates, apprentices and NVQ learners.

During project delivery, the team also raised £2,000 through fundraising activities and completed 51 hours of volunteering. Overall, the scheme generated £2.7m in added social value and £4.2m of total value for money. It also achieved a Considerate Constructors Scheme score of 43, including excellent scores for Respect the Community, Care for the Environment and Value their Workforce.

Click to read the full case study on our website

CASE STUDY

Yorkshire & The Humber

A focused approach to supporting jobs and local economies.

YORKSHIRE & HUMBER

Yorkshire and The Humber delivered £26.9m in social value across 26 projects, with a combined contract value of £161.1m. While total social value decreased by £96.6m (-78% year-on-year), the number of projects remained largely unchanged (27 to 26). The region also recorded a median social value added of 12%, an improvement on the previous year, suggesting that projects continued to deliver consistent social value relative to contract value despite the reduction in overall value generated.

The region maintained a strong focus on Work and Economy, with both themes featuring in 77% of projects. Adoption of Community (15%) and Planet (23%) measures was comparatively lower, indicating a stronger emphasis on employment and economic outcomes. The use of 32 different social value measures demonstrates that organisations are still delivering a diverse range of interventions, tailored to local priorities.

KEY STATISTICS

£161m
Contract value of projects in region

26
Number of projects measured

£26.9m
Social value delivered

12%
Median social value added

TOP THEME USED IN REGION:

- 77% Work
- 77% Economy
- 23% Planet
- 15% Community

2025 VS 2024

	2025	2024
Number of Projects	26	27
Total Number of Unique Measures Used	32	32
Total Social Value Delivered	£26,937,957	£123,509,433
Median Social Value Added	12%	10%

Change in value
-£96,571,477

Change in median SV%
+2 percentage points

Armley Gyratory

Leeds



Client name
Leeds City Council & West Yorkshire
Combined Authority

Delivery partners
Balfour Beatty

Framework
SCAPE
CIVIL ENGINEERING

Project value
£42m

% Social value added
19.49%

Key outcomes

75%
SME spend

218
weeks of apprenticeships

130.5
volunteer hours

2,672
local pupils and students engaged

Armley Gyratory is a key junction with approximately 100,000 vehicles using the roundabout every day. This two-phase project improved the operation of the junction, delivered landscaping and replaced three footbridges, providing more appealing and accessible routes around the gyratory.

Alongside the works, Balfour Beatty delivered a bespoke social impact package to support the local community, businesses and workforce. Working with 25 Leeds-based schools and colleges, the team positively engaged approximately 2,672 pupils. Activities included attending career fairs and mock-interview sessions; hosting school assemblies, talks and workshops; and donating copies of their children’s book, Cones and Building Bridges, to around 725 local pupils. The team also worked alongside educational charities to provide career guidance for young people not in education, employment or training. Onsite, they ran a competition for children of staff members to design road signs, highlighting the impact of road-worker abuse.

In total, the project supported 9.6 weeks of work experience, with two-thirds of placements supporting female students. Seven of these weeks were provided for students from Leeds College of Building. The project team also visited the college to take part in a panel discussion on ‘Women in Construction’. The placements were a great success, with half of the students going on to apply for apprenticeships.

The team also volunteered for a total of 130.5 hours on projects focused on improving or maintaining green spaces across Leeds. In addition, they donated eight litres of anti-graffiti top-coat paint to help protect a new street-art mural.

Click to read the full case study on our website

CASE STUDY



SOUTH EAST

The South East generated £43.4m in social value across 17 projects with a combined contract value of £374.5m. While the region recorded the largest year-on-year reduction in social value delivery, decreasing by £148.5m (-77%), this was accompanied by five fewer projects and a reduction in median social value added from 35% to 11%, indicating lower social value generated relative to contract value than in the previous year.

The region continued to demonstrate strong Work (94%) and Economy (76%) adoption, while Community measures featured in 65% of projects, placing the South East among the stronger-performing regions for community outcomes. Planet measures (29%) were comparatively less prevalent, highlighting an opportunity to strengthen environmental outcomes. The use of 34 different measures reflects a broad commitment to delivering benefits beyond the built asset.

KEY STATISTICS

£374m
Contract value of projects in region

£43m
Social value delivered

17
Number of projects measured

11%
Median social value added

TOP THEME USED IN REGION:

94% Work

76% Economy

65% Community

29% Planet

2025 VS 2024

	2025	2024
Number of Projects	17	22
Total Number of Unique Measures Used	34	31
Total Social Value Delivered	£43,422,514	£191,901,395
Median Social Value Added	11%	35%

Change in value
-£148,478,880

Change in median SV%
-24 percentage points

South East

Strong foundations in work and community despite a changing delivery profile.



Portsmouth Sea Change

Portsmouth



Client name
**Portsmouth City Council and
Portsmouth International Port**

Delivery partners
Balfour Beatty

Framework
SCAPE
CIVIL ENGINEERING

Project value
£8m

% Social value added
7.5%

Key outcomes

98%
SME spend

£603k
social value
generated

230
pupils engaged

81
volunteer hours

“
The interactive activities captured the pupils’ imagination and encouraged them to think differently about science, technology and engineering. It was fantastic to see so many children excited about future STEM careers.”

Teacher at Ocean Race STEM Day

Portsmouth Sea Change is an £8m flagship project under the Zero Emissions Vessels and Infrastructure (ZEVl) funding programme, delivering clean and sustainable maritime solutions. The system is expected to save more than 20,000 tCO₂e annually from 2027, equivalent to the annual carbon footprint of around 2,500 UK households.

Alongside installing 600 metres of ducting, chambers and foundations for electrical equipment across the Port’s three busiest berths, Balfour Beatty delivered a targeted programme of social value activities focused on environmental awareness, inclusion, empowerment and future skills.

At Southsea Beach, the team partnered with Aggie’s, an Armed Forces charity, to bring families and residents together for a community beach clean. The event combined environmental volunteering with family-friendly, inclusive activities. The Empower Event at John Jenkins Stadium provided women across Portsmouth with opportunities to explore careers in construction and engineering, alongside information on wellbeing, confidence and domestic abuse support. At the Ocean Race STEM Day, approximately 230 primary school pupils participated in interactive STEM activities and demonstrations, showcasing the real-world relevance of STEM and innovation.

Together, these three activities generated £1,590.88 in social value and included 81 hours of volunteering and engagement. The programme also engaged 230 pupils, demonstrating how the Sea Change project is delivering meaningful benefits for communities across Portsmouth beyond the physical infrastructure.

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

CASE STUDY

Chichester College's STEM building

Chichester



Client name

Chichester College Group

Delivery partners



Framework



Project value

£19m

% Social value added

18.4%

Key outcomes

£3.5m
social value generated

233
training weeks completed,
including 4 T-Level placements

6,209
trees planted

114
hours of community volunteering

Delivered for Chichester College Group, this multi-million-pound investment brought together the college's science, technology, engineering, maths and higher education facilities in a purpose-built STEM building where modern technology is central to teaching and learning.

The state-of-the-art facility was designed to support evolving curriculum needs through flexible teaching spaces and specialist automotive workshops, helping students develop skills for future careers, including sustainable transport and electric vehicle maintenance.

Designed to principles equivalent to BREEAM Very Good, sustainability was embedded throughout the project. The building is designed to achieve significant whole-life carbon reductions and strong energy performance through fabric-first design principles and low-carbon systems.

Alongside the new learning environment, the project delivered a range of social value initiatives focused on skills development and community support. This included delivering 233 training weeks, including four T-Level placements, providing 114 hours of community support, planting 6,209 trees, and making donations of £500 to STARS and £100 to the Royal Sussex Regimental Association.

Overall, the project generated more than £3.5m in social value, creating lasting benefits for students, teachers, local communities and the environment.

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

CASE STUDY



Acute Medical Unit, Royal Sussex Hospital Brighton

Client name

University Hospitals Sussex
NHS Foundation Trust

Delivery partners



Framework



Project value

£10.9m

% Social value added

91.7%

Key outcomes

84
hours volunteered

£10m
social value generated

251
NHS staff supported through
wellbeing initiatives

£35,750+
donated through equipment,
awards and fundraising

25
students engaged in
sustainability education

4
people supported
towards employment

At Royal Sussex County Hospital in Brighton, Willmott Dixon delivered an expansion and refurbishment of the Acute Medical Unit (AMU) as part of the wider reconfiguration of the Emergency Department and Acute Floor. The works created new medical assessment and emergency care spaces, improved patient flow and circulation, and upgraded the hospital’s mechanical, electrical and public health infrastructure.

Alongside improved clinical environments for patients and NHS teams, the project generated more than £10 million in social value add, with activity focused on wellbeing, skills, employment and community support.

The Zen Bus delivered 36 mental health and mindfulness workshops across four hospital sites: Royal Sussex County Hospital, Princess Royal Hospital, St Richard’s Hospital and Worthing General Hospital. A total of 251 NHS staff were provided the opportunity to step away from high-pressure environments and practice techniques to manage stress and anxiety. The team also contributed more than £35,750 through equipment donations, award support and fundraising, alongside Gratitude Hampers to recognise and support NHS workers.

The project invested in future skills through a sustainability workshop for 25 Key Stage 3 students, covering biodiversity, waste management and recycling. In partnership with Safe Haven Charity, the team also supported vulnerable adults facing barriers to employment through interviews, work experience, CV development, networking and fully funded CSCS cards.

One participant received tailored CITB revision to support memory challenges and build confidence. He subsequently completed the test ahead of schedule and passed on his first attempt, demonstrating the impact targeted support can have in helping people overcome barriers and progress towards employment.

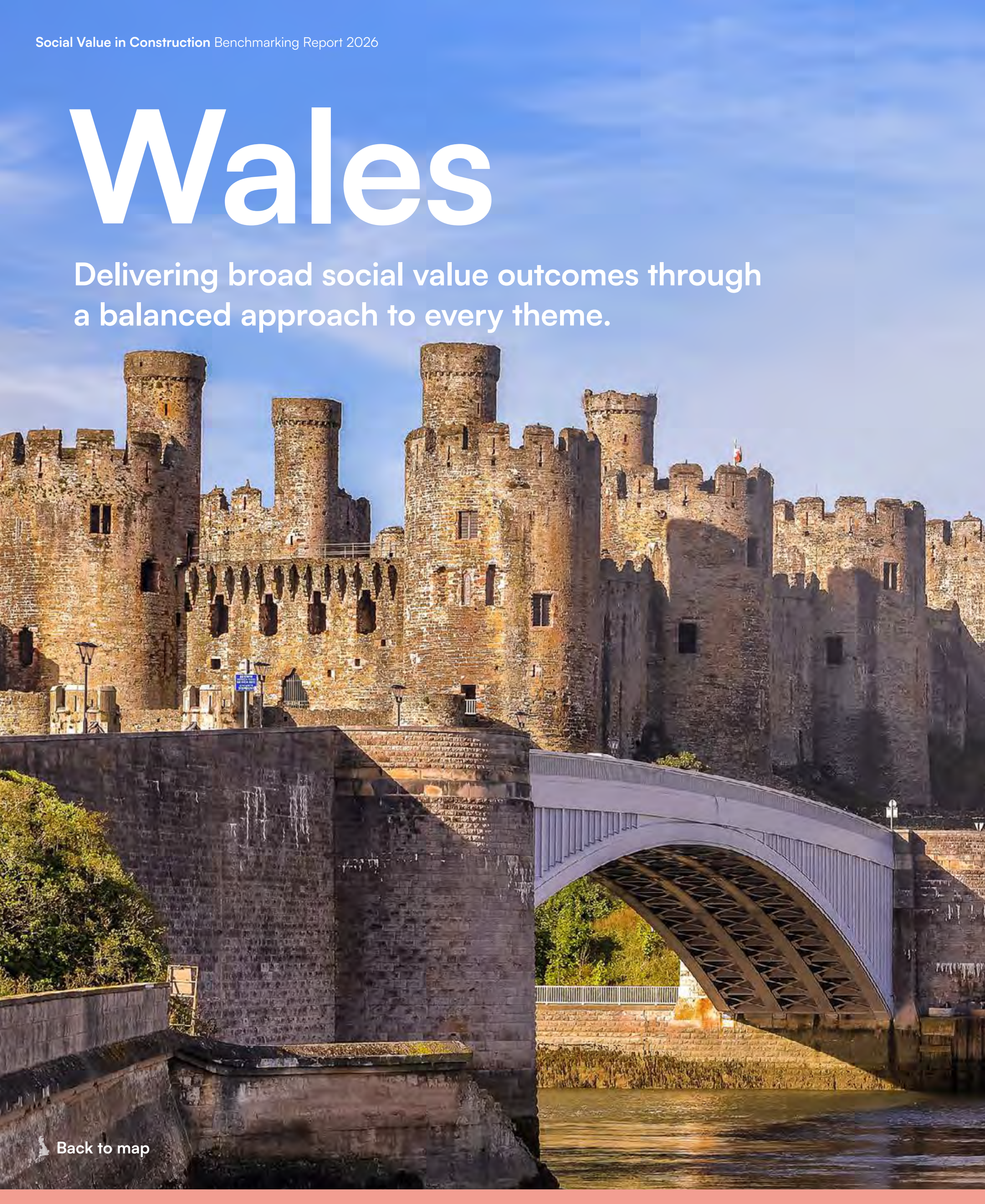
Together, these initiatives demonstrate how the AMU project delivered benefits well beyond the physical improvements to the hospital’s infrastructure, supporting the wellbeing, skills and resilience of the wider community.

Click to read the full case study on our website

CASE STUDY

Wales

Delivering broad social value outcomes through a balanced approach to every theme.



WALES

Across nine projects, Wales generated £14.1m in social value from a combined contract value of £121.2m, an increase of 34.6% in contract value compared with the previous year. While the region recorded the lowest median social value added (4%), it also demonstrated one of the broadest approaches to social value delivery. Despite having the second smallest project portfolio in this year’s benchmarking report, organisations in Wales used 50 unique social value measures, one of the highest levels of measure diversity across all regions. Adoption of Work, Economy and Community measures

were equally strong (78%), with Planet measures featuring in 33% of projects, outperforming several larger regions. Together, these findings suggest a balanced approach to delivering social value across multiple themes rather than concentrating activity in a single area. This profile aligns closely with Wales’ wider policy landscape, including the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the TOM System for Wales measurement framework, both of which encourage organisations to create balanced economic, social, environmental and cultural benefits for communities.

KEY STATISTICS

£121m
Contract value of projects in region

£14.1m
Social value delivered

9
Number of projects measured

4%
Median social value added

TOP THEME USED IN REGION:



2025 VS 2024

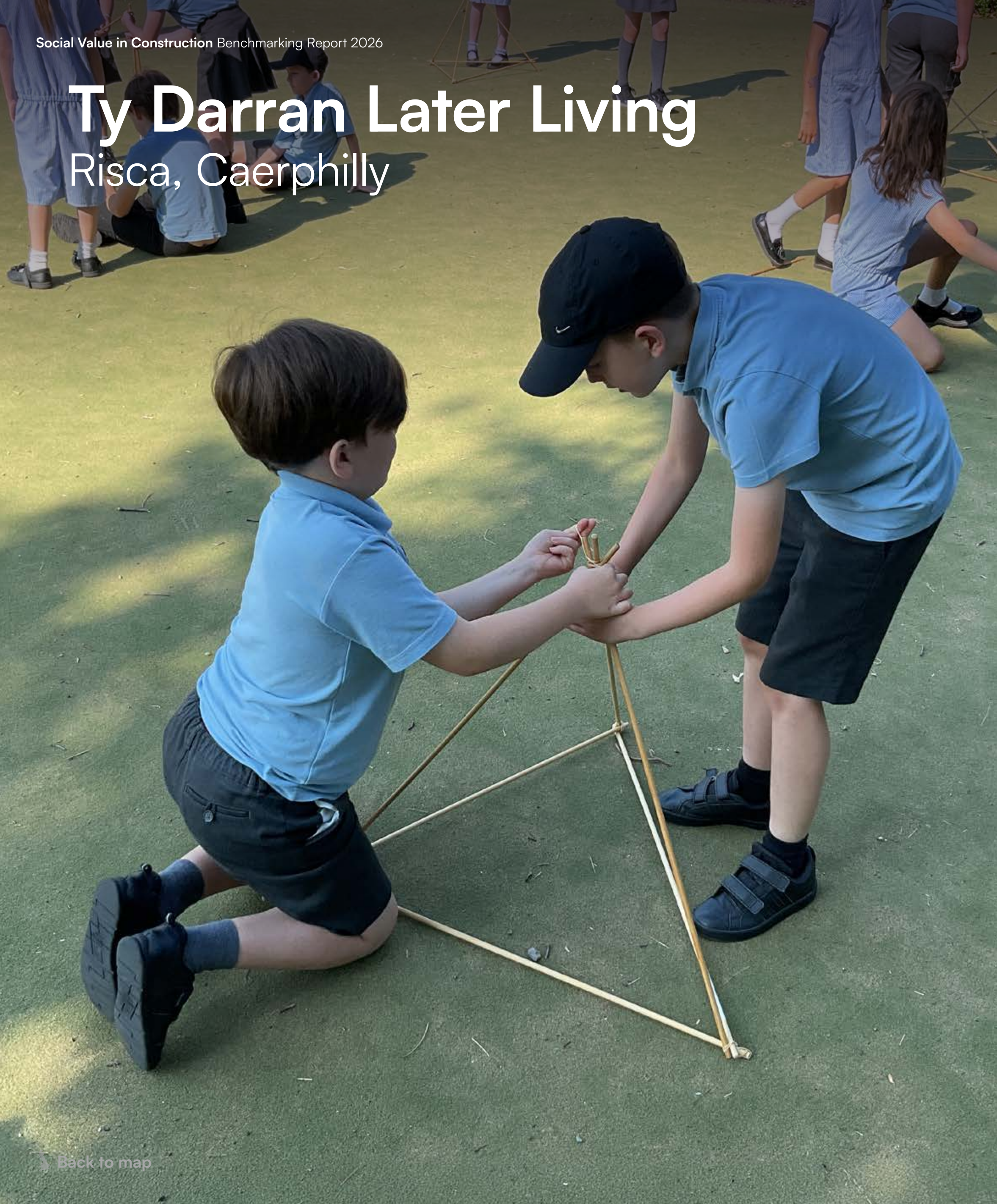
	2025	2024
Number of Projects	9	11
Total Number of Unique Measures Used	50	35
Total Social Value Delivered	£14,146,897	£11,913,188
Median Social Value Added	4%	2%

Change in value
+£2,233,709

Change in median SV%
+2 percentage points

Ty Darran Later Living

Risca, Caerphilly



[Back to map](#)

Client name
Caerphilly Homes
(Caerphilly County Borough Council)

Delivery partners
 **WILLMOTT DIXON**
SINCE 1852

Framework
 **SCAPE**
CONSTRUCTION

Project value
£17m

Key outcomes

120
pupils engaged

4
work placements

“

I enjoyed being the site manager, it was a lot of responsibility, but I think I would make a good leader and site manager when I’m older!”

Year 4 pupil

“

The session was amazing because it helped us achieve those harder to reach objectives. Having the students learning outside and being hands on and practical reminded me that we should do this more. They excelled in a different learning environment, and it has massively supported our learning for the year so thank you!”

Year 4 Teacher

Delivered for Caerphilly Homes (Caerphilly County Borough Council), this project delivered 45 high-quality apartments for residents aged 60 and over. The scheme combines private apartments with a mix of indoor and outdoor communal spaces. The building is designed to support accessibility, safety and ease of daily living, and achieve high levels of energy efficiency, reducing carbon emissions and helping to keep residents’ fuel bills as low as possible.

Located less than a mile from Risca Primary School, the site became a living classroom during construction. Aligning with Year 1 and 2’s spring-term topic of ‘Building’, the project welcomed 120 children aged between five and seven over the course of a week to learn about machinery, PPE, construction and demolition, and explore an active construction site.

Willmott Dixon also engaged pupils from Years 3 to 6 around their term topic of sustainability. Following discussions about the green features of Ty Darran, pupils took part in a STEM challenge, constructing four-metre-by-four-metre structures while developing teamwork and communication skills.

At a time when STEM education continues to face funding and skills challenges across the UK, the project provided meaningful learning opportunities at no cost to the school, helping to inspire the next generation of STEM talent in Wales.

As part of the Ty Darran project, 4 work experience placements were undertaken, including Uliana and Connie, whose stories showcase how construction projects can deliver meaningful outcomes beyond the built asset.

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

CASE STUDY

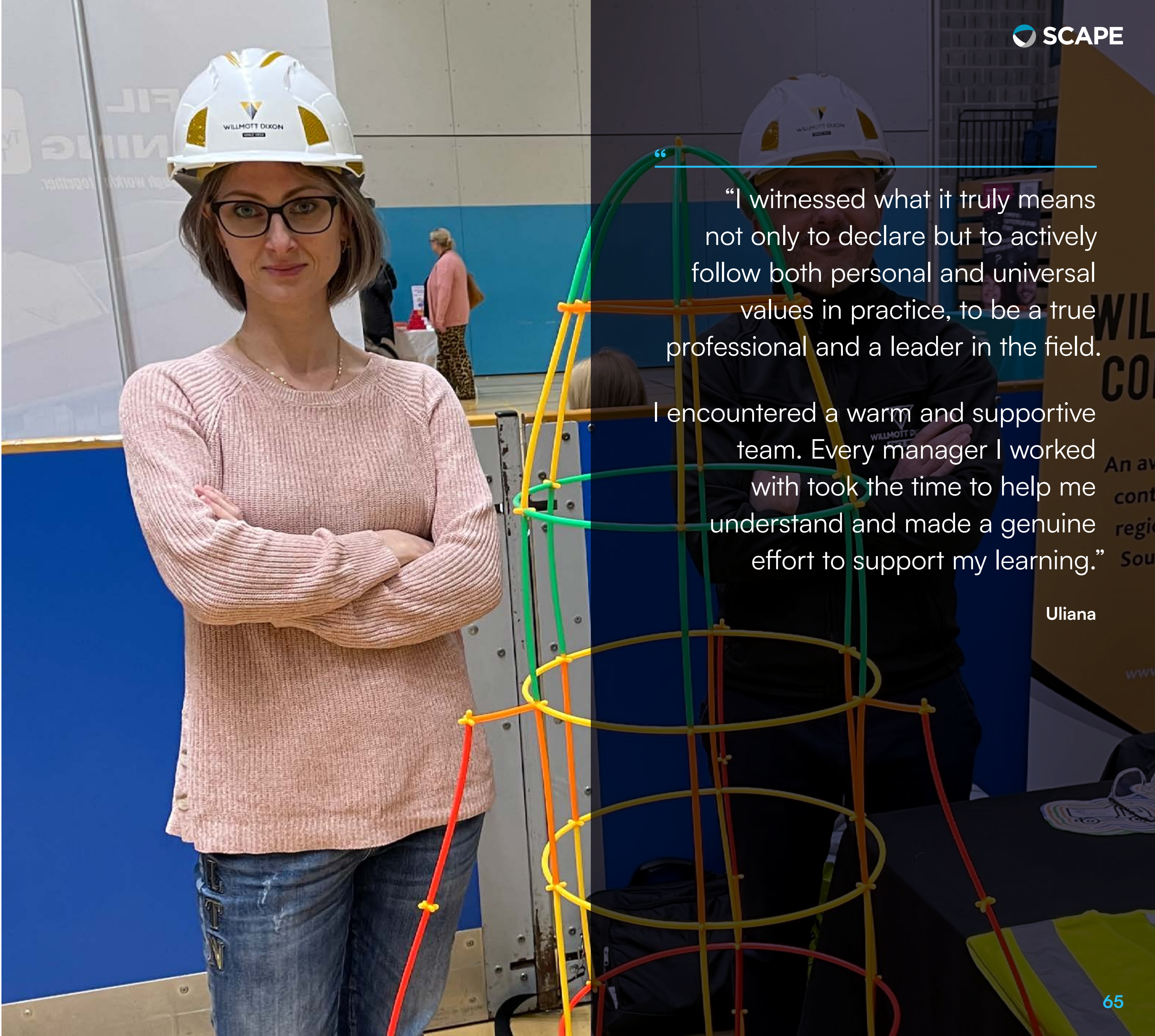
Ty Darran Later Living Scheme:
story spotlights

Spotlight:
Uliana's story

After arriving in Caerphilly from Ukraine, Uliana was looking for a new start, seeking a work experience placement that could open doors in the UK construction industry. Already studying for a HNC in Construction Management at Cardiff and Vale College, she began a nine-day placement with Willmott Dixon.

Across three areas of the business, Design Management, Social Value, and Operations, Uliana was immersed in the practical, people-driven and technical sides of construction. Her final five days were spent on the Ty Darran site, shadowing the site management team, taking part in health and safety checks, inductions, and experiencing the fast-paced coordination of daily operations on a live site.

Uliana's positive attitude, professionalism and clear potential led to a job interview for an Information/Document Controller role at Willmott Dixon, and she is now officially part of the team. Her story is a powerful reminder of the impact of opportunity and what the construction industry can achieve when focused on people, potential and purpose.



“I witnessed what it truly means not only to declare but to actively follow both personal and universal values in practice, to be a true professional and a leader in the field.

I encountered a warm and supportive team. Every manager I worked with took the time to help me understand and made a genuine effort to support my learning.”

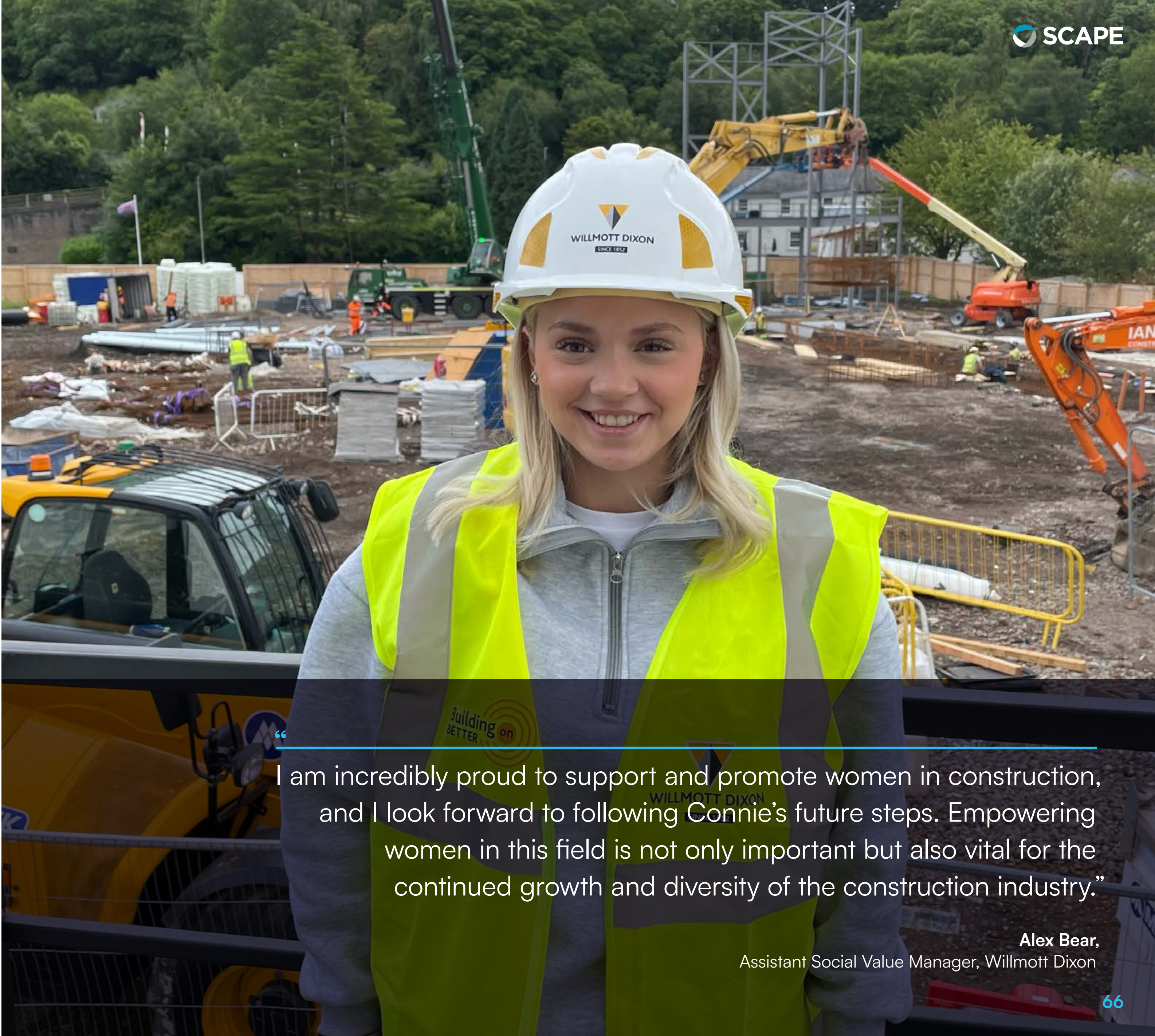
Uliana

Ty Darran Later Living Scheme:
story spotlights

Spotlight:
Connie’s story

After attending a ‘Careers in Construction’ workshop delivered by Willmott Dixon to Year 10 pupils at Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni (Rhymney Valley Comprehensive School), Connie reached out to Willmott Dixon expressing an interest in a design management role. This resulted in a one-week work placement at the Ty Darran site that included an induction with the Building Manager, a detailed orientation tour, shadowing the Design Manager and Assistant Design Manager, and attending customer and internal meetings.

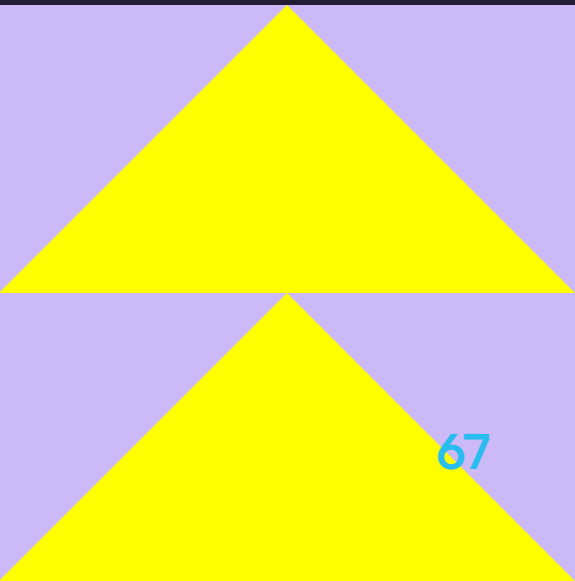
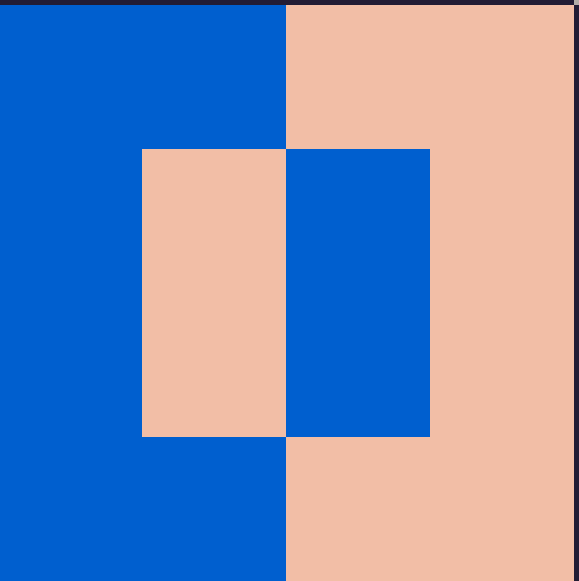
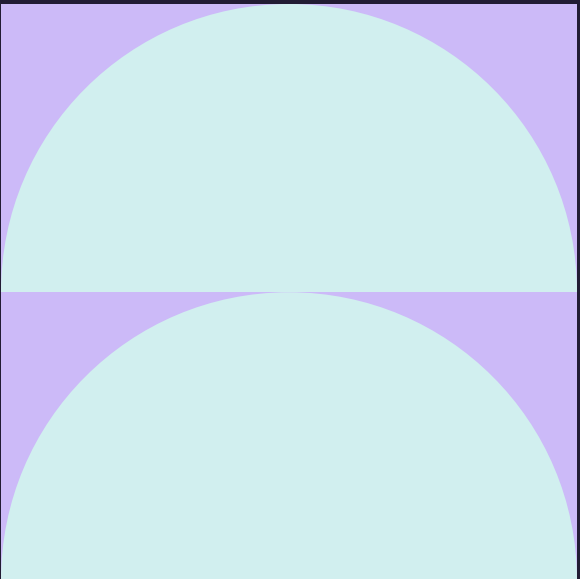
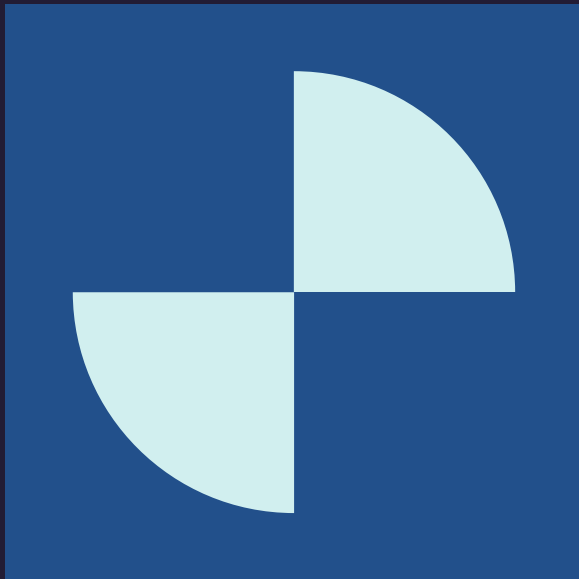
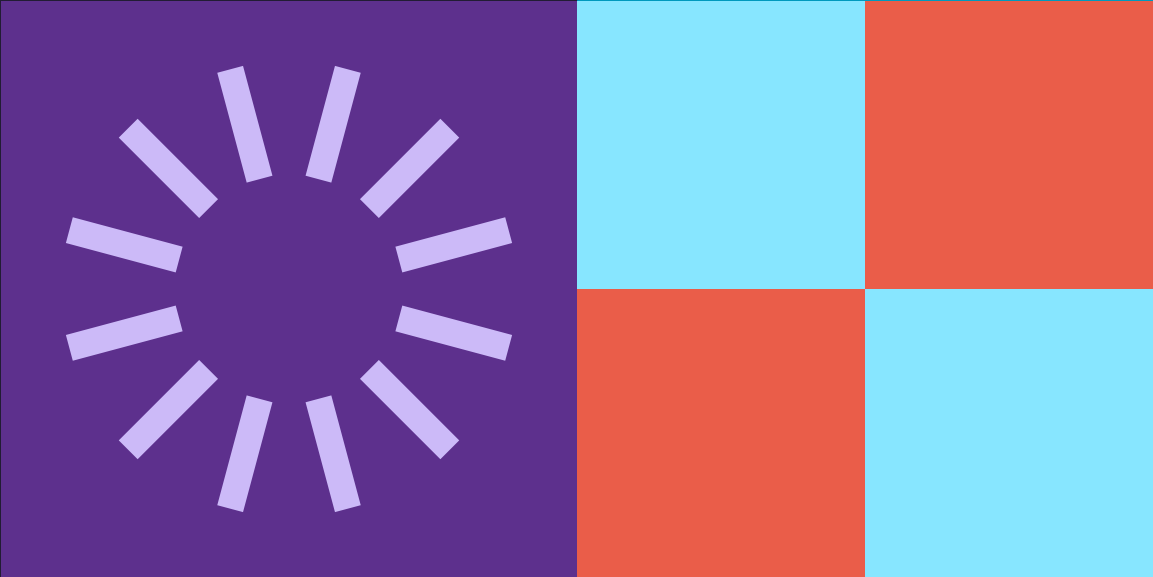
Connie enjoyed the experience so much that she hopes to join the Willmott Dixon Management Trainee programme after finishing her A-levels and remains in contact with the team to support her along the way. Her story illustrates the power of early engagement and practical exposure in inspiring the next generation of construction professionals.



I am incredibly proud to support and promote women in construction, and I look forward to following Connie’s future steps. Empowering women in this field is not only important but also vital for the continued growth and diversity of the construction industry.”

Alex Bear,
Assistant Social Value Manager, Willmott Dixon

The future of social value



The Future of Social Value

1. From monetisation to long-term outcomes

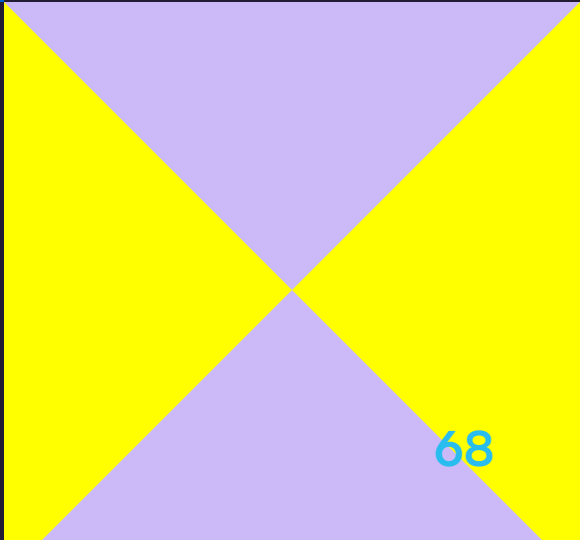
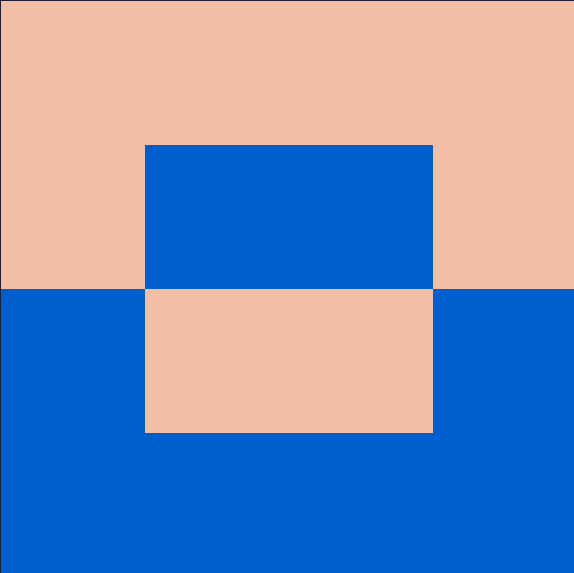
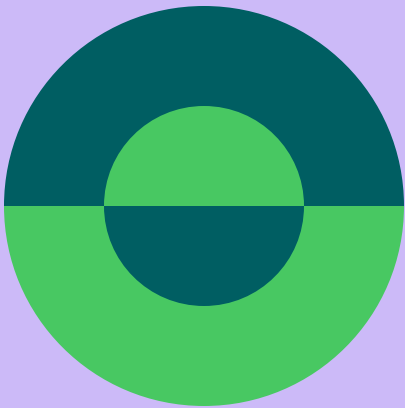
The industry’s shift towards measuring impact rather than relying solely on monetised social value is likely to change how contractors and clients approach social value in practice, from early project planning through to delivery, measurement and reporting. Increasingly, social value will need to be embedded in a way that is credible, measurable and aligned with public sector policy, client requirements and local priorities.

The questions being asked will move beyond “how much social value was generated?” to “what changed because of the project?”, “who benefited?”, and “what lasting difference was made?”. This places greater emphasis on evidencing the quality and longevity of interventions, with financial proxies helping to compare and communicate that value consistently.

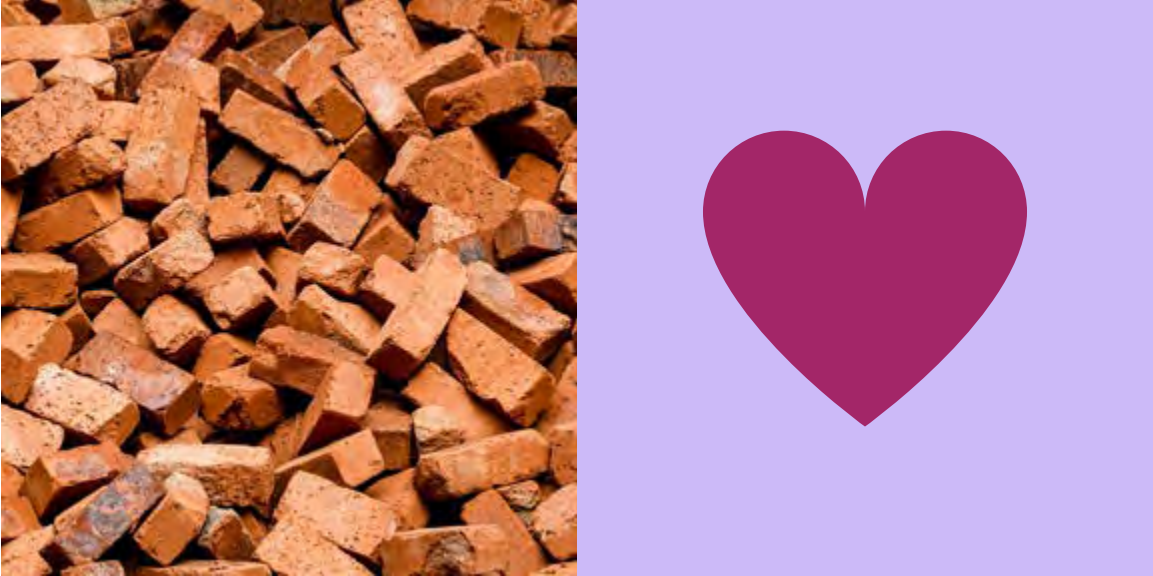
For contractors and delivery partner organisations, this means considering how their approach supports inclusive growth, fair work, local economic benefit and community and environmental wellbeing, and how these outcomes can be evidenced throughout the project lifecycle.

At SCAPE, stated social outcomes are embedded across all our frameworks, responding to local and national priorities and providing a consistent basis for demonstrating social impact. This represents a move beyond setting a fixed percentage of contract value as a social value expectation, towards more outcome-focused approaches that can be applied across projects and commissions.

This shift does not make measurement less important; rather, it changes what is measured and why. As new frameworks mature and outcomes are reported consistently over time, SCAPE will increasingly be able to demonstrate the collective impact of its framework portfolio. Developed to reflect the priorities of England, Scotland and Wales, these outcomes provide a common framework for understanding impact while allowing delivery to respond to the needs of individual places and projects.



The Future of Social Value



2. Building the workforce of the future

Skill development is becoming an increasingly strategic procurement outcome. The report found that, across almost every region, investment in employment, skills and local economic growth continues to be the defining feature of social value delivery. This reflects both industry priorities and the growing importance of building a resilient workforce capable of supporting the UK’s future infrastructure and economic needs.

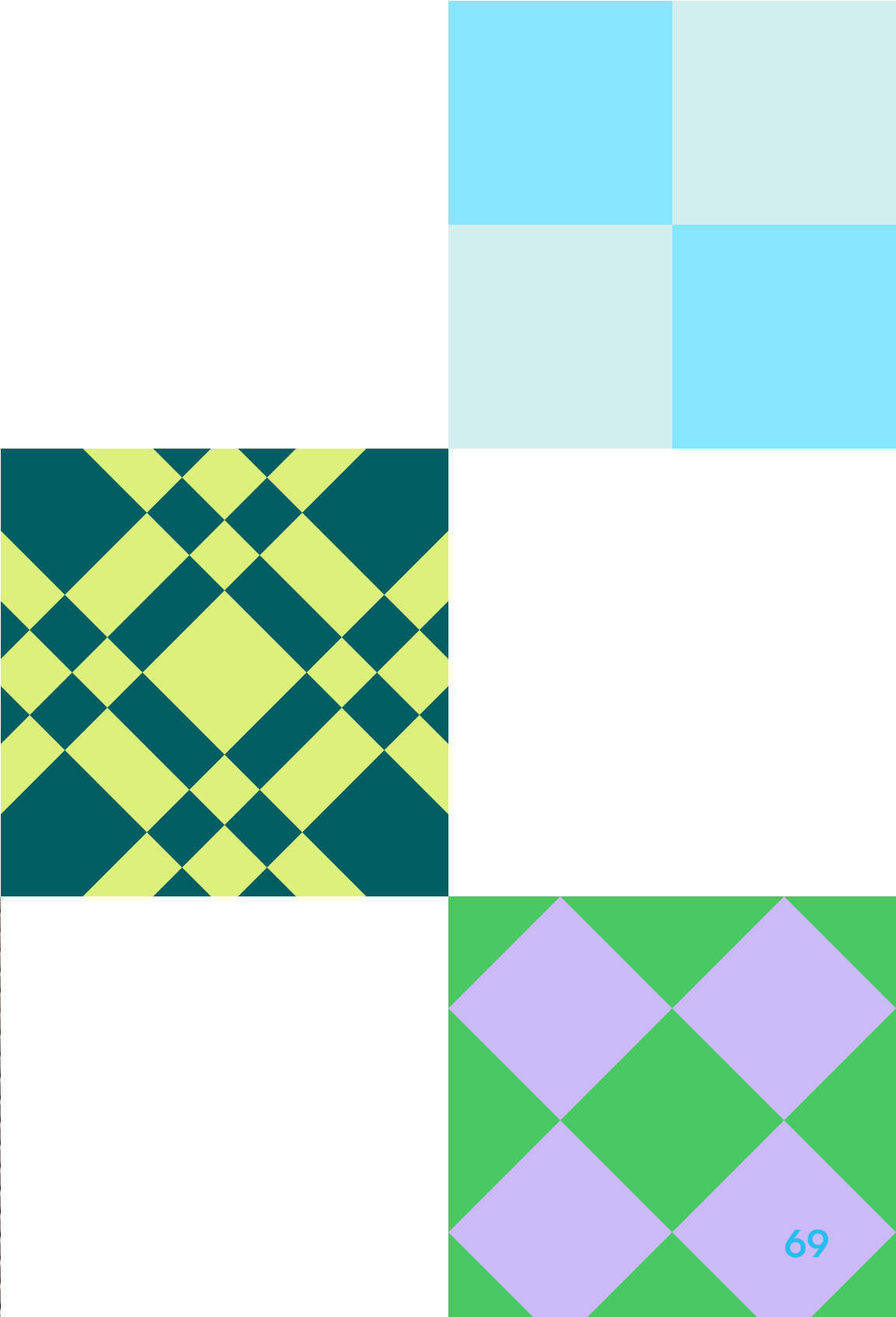
The skills gap isn’t just a challenge for the construction industry; it has wider implications for economic growth, the delivery of essential infrastructure, and the opportunities available to young people. Investment in training and apprenticeships therefore has the potential to deliver both immediate social value and longer-term resilience, helping to develop the capacity and skills the industry will need in the future.

This year’s data provides evidence of that investment. Training and activity increased by 43% year on year, reaching more than 40,500 weeks, while more than 10,400 volunteering hours were delivered with schools and colleges. This suggests that social value is increasingly being used not only to support people into employment, but to engage with future generations before they enter the workforce.

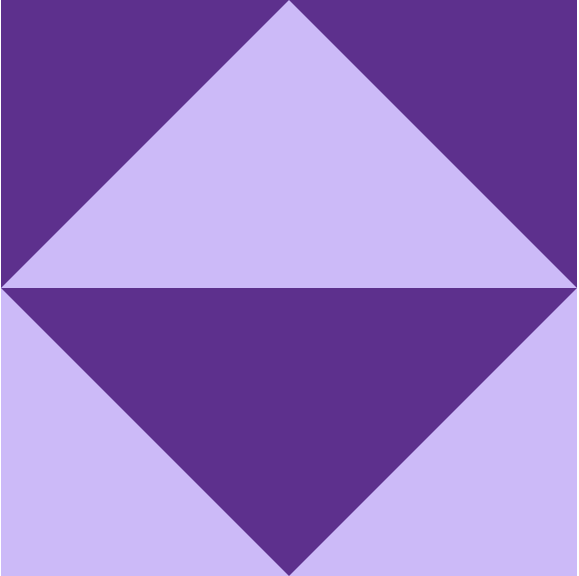
The policy landscape is also reinforcing this. Changes to apprenticeship funding from January 2026 are intended to increase access to lower-level training and expand apprenticeship opportunities. Alongside wider government investment in skills, including £625 million for construction workers and £182 million for engineering, it signals a continued focus on developing the workforce required to support future economic and infrastructure delivery.

This need is reflected by local government. SCAPE’s Delivering Through Change research found that 40% of senior local authority leaders identified shortages of skills as a constraint on the delivery of their council’s capital and infrastructure projects.

For social value, the opportunity is to move beyond creating individual employment outcomes towards building the workforce communities and the wider economy will need for the future. Procurement can play an important role in connecting young people to industry, creating pathways into employment, and strengthening the skills pipeline, thereby delivering value that extends beyond the life of a project.



The Future of Social Value



3. Local Government Reorganisation and place-based social value

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) will bring significant changes to the structure of local government in many areas of England, with the existing two-tier system transitioning towards unitary authorities. Alongside wider devolution and the development of combined authorities in some areas, this will change how public services, investment and local priorities are planned and delivered.

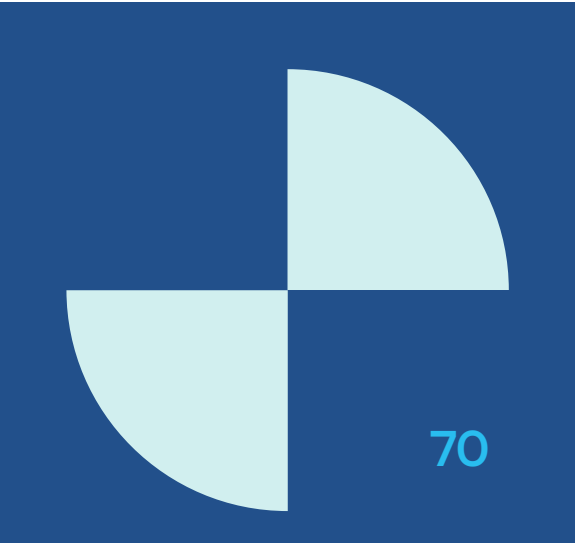
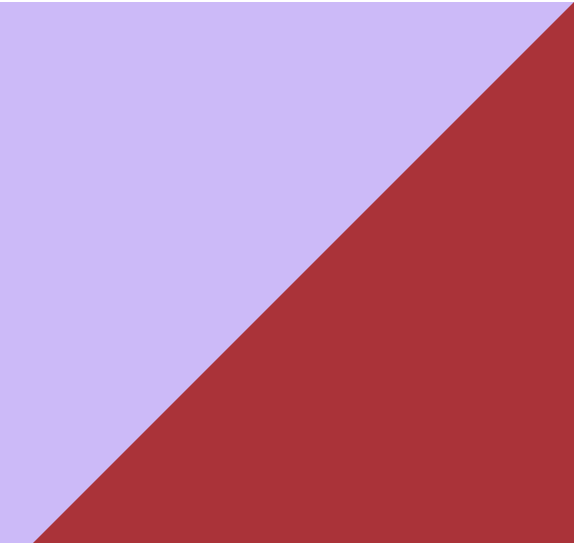
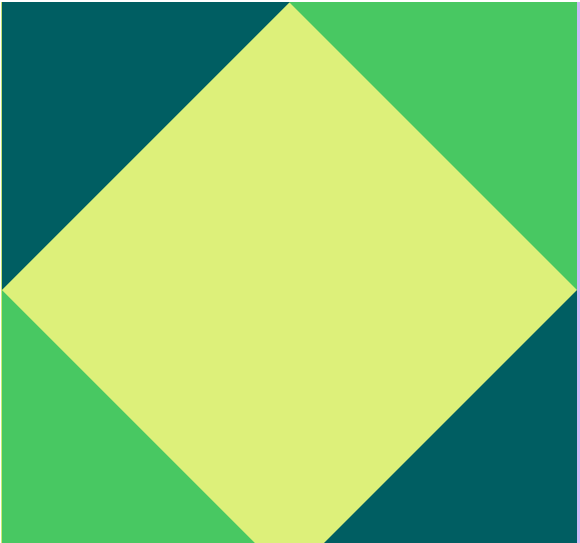
For social value delivery, this presents both opportunities and challenges. Larger authorities may have greater purchasing power and capacity to align procurement with wider economic, employment and community priorities. This could enable social value to be planned at a larger scale, aligned with regional growth priorities, while continuing to deliver benefits within individual communities.

However, the transition also presents short-term challenges as local authority teams merge, roles are reestablished, and local priorities are set. This could create disruption, delays and uncertainty around procurement and project delivery. Maintaining the local knowledge required to ensure communities continue to have a voice will be particularly important as new organisational boundaries and priorities evolve.

Additionally, SCAPE’s Delivering Through Change report found that 34% of councils expect that LGR will negatively impact their ability to deliver capital or infrastructure projects.

The success of social value under LGR will therefore depend not only on the scale of the new authorities, but also on how effectively they translate broader regional priorities into realistic, place-based outcomes. Shared ownership, clear priorities and achievable targets will be essential to ensuring that industry can continue to deliver meaningful benefits while supporting regional growth.

Ultimately, LGR offers an opportunity to move towards a strategic and coordinated approach to social value delivery. However, larger authorities and higher targets do not necessarily translate into greater impact. The challenge will be to ensure that larger authorities can use their increased scale and purchasing power to achieve greater collective impact, while keeping social value delivery centred on the specific needs of the local communities served and translating those needs into realistic and measurable outcomes.



The Future of Social Value

4. From environmental ambition to measurable outcomes

The benchmarking report’s data shows a 560% increase in CO₂ savings, a 161% increase in waste diverted, and an 11,078% increase in material reuse. Environmental measures also increased relative to contract value, suggesting that environmental outcomes are becoming more prominent in project delivery and are moving towards a strategic procurement priority.

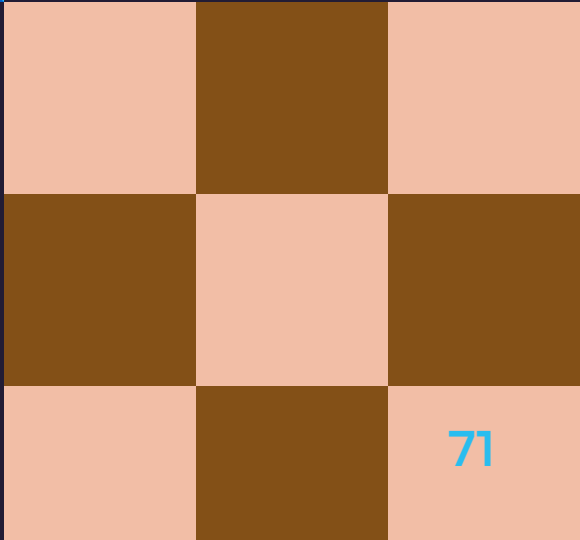
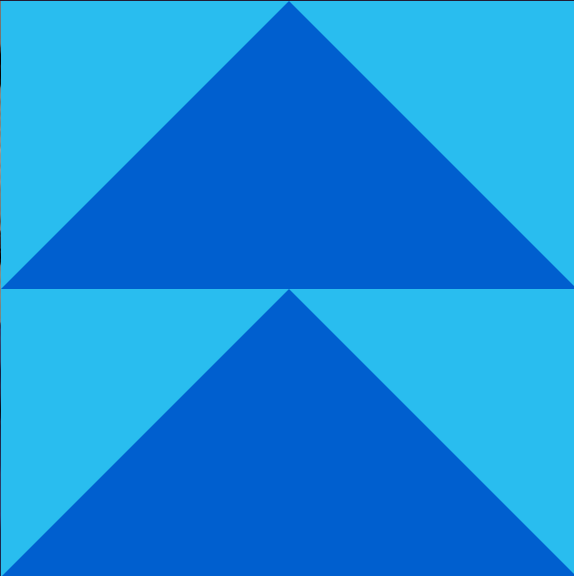
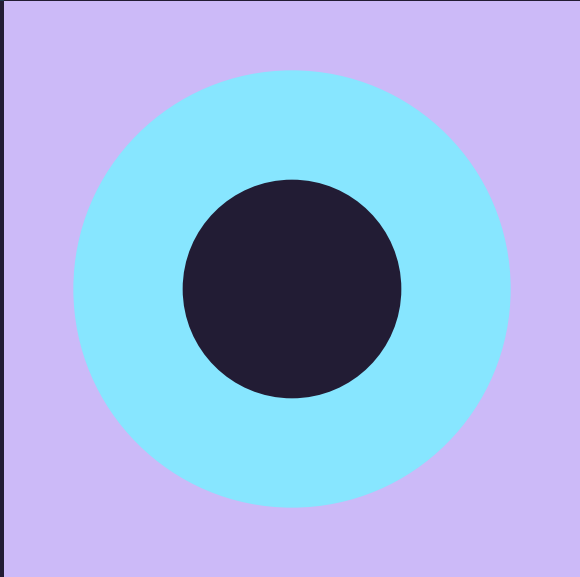
The key question now is how these outcomes can be consistently and meaningfully embedded into every project, rather than being delivered only where individual projects or clients have the capacity or ambition to prioritise them.

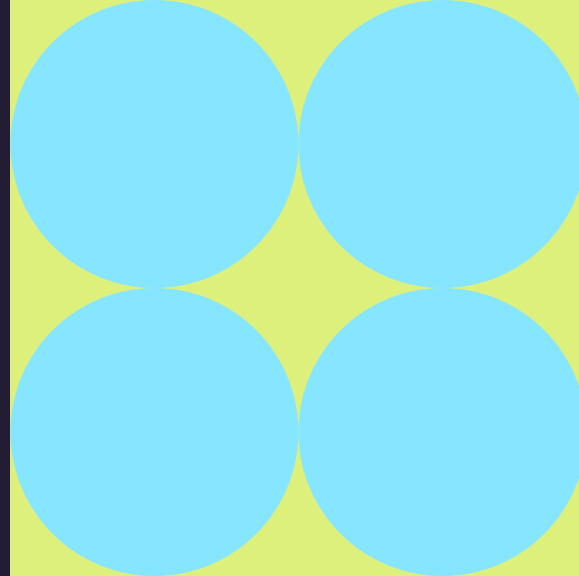
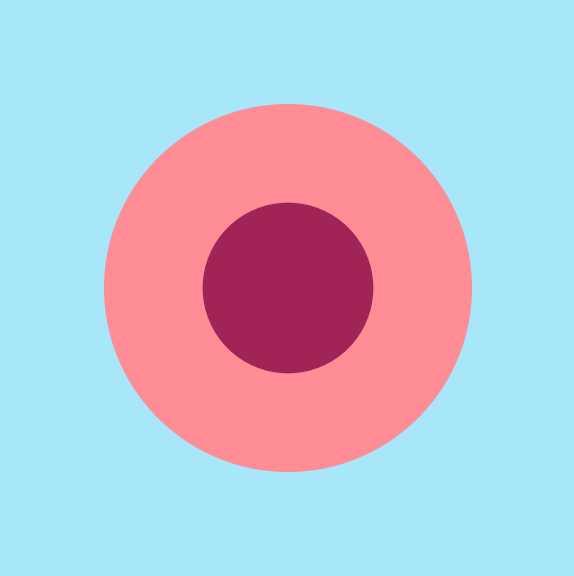
The measurement landscape is also evolving. In 2026, Social Value Portal introduced new and updated measures for the Planet theme within the TOM System, covering areas such as waste, clean energy, transport, water, and carbon reduction. This creates a broader, more future-focused framework for capturing environmental outcomes and reflects the growing importance of resource efficiency, circular economy principles, and carbon reduction in the built environment.

This is happening alongside wider policy and regulatory change. The UK’s commitment to net zero by 2050, the requirements of PPN 006 for relevant contracts, the transition towards Clean Power 2030 and tightening requirements around waste are all increasing the emphasis on environmental performance across the built environment.

Importantly, sustainability and environmental performance should not be viewed as a trend. The way environmental outcomes are measured and procured is changing, and social value has an important role in ensuring that environmental benefits are considered alongside economic and community outcomes from the outset of a project.

As with wider social value delivery, the focus is increasingly shifting from simply quantifying environmental activity to demonstrating the outcomes, from tonnes of waste diverted or carbon saved, to the longer-term environmental resilience of the places in which projects are delivered.

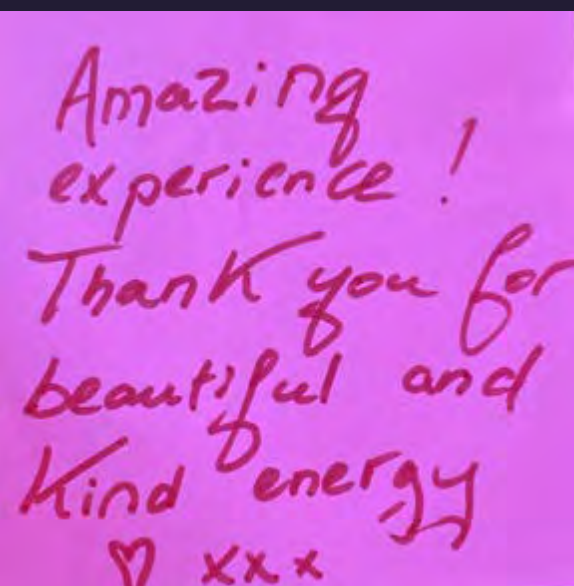




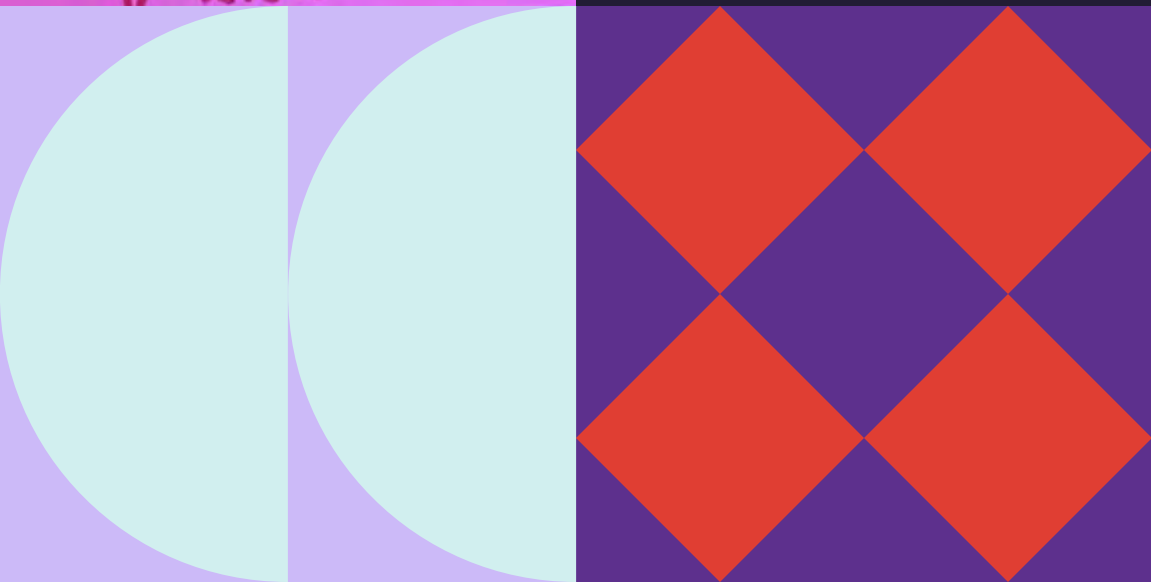
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