

# **SME / VCSE Inclusion**

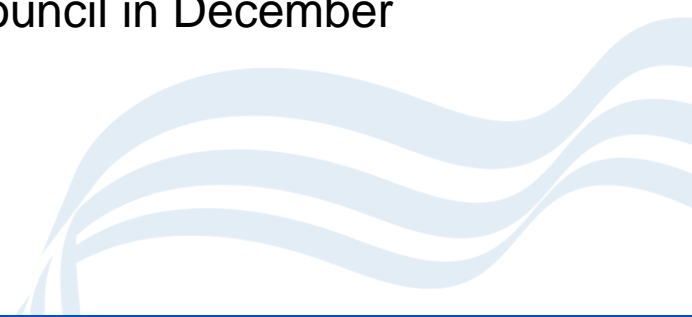
## **Contracting & Spend Report 2024/25**




Coventry City Council

[coventry.gov.uk](https://coventry.gov.uk)

# Introduction

- Following the inaugural Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Survey issued to businesses within the City of Coventry in 2023, Procurement Services sought to introduce inclusive procurement changes to the Contract Procedure Rules ("CPRs").
  - Changes made to the CPRs included uplifting the minimum number of quotes/tenders sought in an open exercise from 3 to 5, including an uplift - where possible - to the number of local suppliers approached from 2 to 3.
  - Additionally, the changes introduced minimum timescales for procurement exercises below the legislative thresholds, to support smaller organisations in tendering for Council opportunities.
  - The CPR changes came into force in February 2024 following approval at Council in December 2023.
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# Background and caveats

- With the introduction of the inclusive procurement changes in February 2024 and several e-tendering system changes during the 2023/24 financial year, it is not possible in this report to provide comparator information in the 2024/25 report.
  - It is intended therefore, that this report act as a baseline of SME/VCSE inclusion. Comparator information will be shown in subsequent annual reports to highlight successes and drive opportunities for further engagement with local businesses.
  - Until 01 May 2025, the Council's Contracts Register only captured contracts above £10,000 (having followed a procurement process). From 01 May 2025, all contracts valued at or above £5,000 are published on the register in accordance with the Local Government Transparency Code.
  - Until 01 April 2025, the Contracts Register did not capture Contract Award Date. As such, the new contracts awarded are based on the Contract Start Date for the purpose of this report.
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# Small & Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs)

**594**

Contracts held by SMEs as of 31 March 2025 (51.61% of all contracts held).

**155**

Contracts held by SMEs within CV1-6 postcodes as of 31 March 2025 (13.47% of all contracts held)

**269**

New contracts awarded to SMEs during the 2024/25 financial year (55.58% of all contracts awarded).

**66**

New contracts awarded to SMEs within CV1-6 postcodes during the 2024/25 financial year (13.64% of all contracts awarded).

**£322.2m**

Spent with SMEs during 2024/25 financial year (63.60% of all Council spend).

**£113.1m**

Spent with SMEs within CV1-6 postcodes during 2024/25 financial year (22.33% of all Council spend).

**168**

SMEs registered for FreePay with immediate payment terms.

**£29.8m**

Spent with SMEs registered for FreePay with immediate payment terms (5.87% of all Council spend).

'Contracts' means contracts above £10,000 held on the Contracts Register procured in accordance with the Contract Procedure Rules.  
Spend figures include spend under contracts not procured via quotation or tender process (i.e., below £10k orders, Purchase Card spend, Grants etc.)  
Spend figures shown are direct engagement figures only, and do not include SME/VCSE inclusion in third party supply chains.  
Spend figures rounded to nearest £100,000.  
'Immediate payment terms' means within 4 days.

# Voluntary, Community & Social Enterprises (VCSEs)

**65**

Contracts held by VCSEs as of 31 March 2025 (5.65% of all contracts held).

**26**

Contracts held by VCSEs within CV1-6 postcodes as of 31 March 2025 (2.26% of all contracts held).

**25**

New contracts awarded to VCSEs during the 2024/25 financial year (5.17% of all contracts awarded).

**16**

New contracts awarded to VCSEs within CV1-6 postcodes during the 2024/25 financial year (3.31% of all contracts awarded).

**£35.5m**

Spent with VCSEs during 2024/25 financial year (7.01% of all Council spend).

**£29.3m**

Spent with VCSEs within CV1-6 postcodes during 2024/25 financial year (5.80% of all Council spend).

**7**

VCSEs registered for FreePay with immediate payment terms.

**£1.5m**

Spent with VCSEs registered for FreePay with immediate payment terms (0.31% of all Council spend).

'Contracts' means contracts above £10,000 held on the Contracts Register procured in accordance with the Contract Procedure Rules.  
Spend figures include spend under contracts not procured via quotation or tender process (i.e., below £10k orders, Purchase Card spend, Grants etc.)  
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