

Public Document Pack

Date of meeting Thursday, 27th June, 2024

Time 7.00 pm

Venue Astley Room - Castle

Contact Geoff Durham 742222



**NEWCASTLE
UNDER LYME**
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Castle House
Barracks Road
Newcastle-under-Lyme
Staffordshire
ST5 1BL

Finance, Assets & Performance Scrutiny Committee

AGENDA

OPEN AGENDA

- 1 APOLOGIES**
- 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
- 3 MINUTES OF A PREVIOUS MEETING** (Pages 3 - 8)
To consider the Minutes of a previous meeting.
- 4 FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE REPORT - QUARTER FOUR 2023/24** (Pages 9 - 44)
- 5 TOWN DEAL AND FUTURE HIGH STREET FUND UPDATE** (Pages 45 - 52)
- 6 WORK PROGRAMME** (Pages 53 - 56)
- 7 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**
Any member of the public wishing to submit a question must serve two clear days' notice, in writing, of any such question to the Borough Council
- 8 URGENT BUSINESS**
To consider any business which is urgent within the meaning of Section 100B (4) of the Local Government Act 1972
- 9 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**
Wednesday 18th September 2024 (7:00pm)

Members: Councillors Holland (Chair), Bryan (Vice-Chair), Parker, J Tagg, P Waring, Bettley-Smith, Stubbs, Brockie, Allport, Lewis and Lawley

Members of the Council: If you identify any personal training/development requirements from any of the items included in this agenda or through issues raised during the meeting, please bring them to the attention of the Democratic Services Officer at the close of the meeting.

Meeting Quorum: The meeting quorum for Scrutiny Committees is 4 of the 11 members.

SUBSTITUTE MEMBER SCHEME (Section B5 – Rule 2 of Constitution)

The Constitution provides for the appointment of Substitute members to attend Committees. The named Substitutes for this meeting are listed below:-

Substitute Members:	Grocott	D Jones
	Whieldon	Fox-Hewitt
	Panter	Wright
	Wilkes	Gorton
	Crisp	J Waring
	Adcock	

If you are unable to attend this meeting and wish to appoint a Substitute to attend on your place you need to identify a Substitute member from the list above who is able to attend on your behalf

Officers will be in attendance prior to the meeting for informal discussions on agenda items.

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Agenda Item 3

Finance, Assets & Performance Scrutiny Committee - 14/03/24

FINANCE, ASSETS & PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday, 14th March, 2024
Time of Commencement: 7.00 pm

[View the agenda here](#)

[Watch the meeting here](#)

Present:	Councillor Mark Holland (Chair)		
Councillors:	Parker J Tagg	Stubbs Brockie	Allport Lewis
Apologies:	Councillor(s) Bryan, P Waring, Bettley-Smith and Lawley		
Substitutes:	Councillor David Grocott (In place of Councillor Annabel Lawley) Councillor Nicholas Crisp Councillor Rupert Adcock		
Officers:	Sarah Wilkes Simon McEneny Georgina Evans- Stadward	Service Director - Finance / S151 Officer Deputy Chief Executive Service Director - Strategy, People and Performance	
Also in attendance:	Councillor Stephen Sweeney	Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder - Finance, Town Centres and Growth	

1. **APOLOGIES**

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest stated.

3. **MINUTES OF A PREVIOUS MEETING**

Resolved: That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 18th January 2024 be agreed as accurate record.

4. **COMMERCIAL STRATEGY UPDATE**

The Deputy Leader introduced the updated Commercial Strategy.

It was requested that the item be brought back to the Committee six months later.

Resolved: That the updated Commercial Strategy and progress to date be noted.

[Watch the debate here](#)

5. FINANCIAL AND PERFORMANCE REVIEW REPORT

The Deputy Leader introduced the Financial and Performance Review Report for the Third Quarter 2023-24.

The Chair then went through the Performance Indicators starting by the ones highlighted in red and the Deputy Leader commented as follows.

About sickness absences – the trend was actually going in the right direction with a reduction of sickness absences in January and February.

About staff turnover – the staff survey showed that people were generally happy and there was no negative feelings.

Cllr Lewis asked if feedback was received from people who were leaving. – People mainly referred to personal circumstances except for some of those who had been dismissed who felt understandingly less satisfied.

Cllr Stubbs challenged the impression that everybody was happy given the high level of turnover and suggested the situation be re-assessed six months later. The Chair endorsed the suggestion.

The Service Director for Strategy, People and Performance added that the aging workforce was to be taken into account along with long term sickness absences as people were often simply retiring.

Cllr Adcock asked what had been the rate of participation to the staff survey. – It was higher than the last one and officers would confirm the exact rate.

About waste and recycling – packaging producers were moving towards light weighting packaging and while there had been a lot of cardboard filling the bins during the Christmas period people were now getting less deliveries.

Cllr Stubbs wondered if the target might not be too high. – This was a good target to aim towards although this could be indeed re-evaluated later on. The borough's figures were relatively good in comparison with other authorities in the County.

The Director for Finance (section 151 Officer) added that the targets were reviewed on a yearly basis.

Cllr Parker commented that it was the first time those figures were in the red since the new graph template was used for the performance indicators.

Cllr Crisp asked what the percentage was in reference to. – The Director for Finance (section 151 Officer) clarified this was about the total amount of waste collected and took the opportunity to add that with the rise of the cost of living people were naturally spending less and therefore there was less to recycle.

Cllr Lewis asked if it included the recycling centre. – Indeed it did.

Cllr Brockie commented that the pandemic had changed households' habits with much more waste coming out and the targets may have to be adjusted accordingly.

The Chair suggested that the Service Director for Sustainable Environment joined at the next meeting to answer members' questions.

About food waste – there had been a drop in participation however the 3,000 flats apartments would soon be taking part which would make a difference. Less food waste also didn't necessarily mean a bad thing as people were perhaps throwing less food away.

About detritus – new equipment had been purchased which should help improve street sweeping and litter picking.

About the Jubilee 2 Customer satisfaction net promoter score – a new online booking system was now in place which should boost customer's satisfaction. The Chair commented that the Council's target was more ambitious than the national one and the current score was well above the latter.

Cllr Parker asked if the score was about the online platform or if it included what was happening inside the building. – The teaching staff were also more qualified than people realised and not being aware of it had impacted the score.

Cllr Stubbs challenged the relevance of the staff qualifications. – This was required by national standards.

Cllr Brockie asked about the contracts people would sign up for and the competition from other gym memberships. – The preceding performance indicator was showing that membership growth was good. The model offered was different, more community focussed and including services such as GP referral sessions.

Cllr Parker commented that different types of gyms were suitable for different people, with facilities to train different parts of the body. The J2 Jubilee would attract more of the older generation being perhaps less intimidating and offering both pay as you go and monthly membership.

Resolved: That the contents of the report and appendices be noted, and that members continue to monitor and challenge the Council's service and financial performance for this period.

[Watch the debate here](#)

6. **TOWN DEAL AND FUTURE HIGH STREET FUNDS UPDATE**

The Deputy Leader introduced the report on the delivery of the Town Deal and Future High Street Funds projects.

Cllr Lewis asked about the new stalls in relation to market improvements, paragraph 2.1.1, and if these could potentially be replaced again in a near future as they were already showing signs of wear. – Indeed this would be looked into.

Cllr Lewis also wondered if the nipper parking would be monitored to ensure people do not park longer than 20 minutes. – Indeed it would.

About paragraph 2.1.2 York Place, Cllr Lewis asked if there was any measure in place to address rough sleeping at the properties / retail units. – The team would have a chat with the individuals to see if how they could support them.

Finance, Assets & Performance Scrutiny Committee - 14/03/24

Cllr Lewis wished to know if the regeneration plans would be presented to this committee once available. – Indeed it would as a standing item and then go through the Planning Committee.

The Chair asked what sort of information members would like to hear about. – Cllr Lewis was interested in milestones and where the money would be allocated within the project.

Cllr Brockie said that things did not always go according to plans and this project in particular felt not entirely predictable. Additional costs were likely to come up which the Council should keep an eye on. – The Deputy leader shared his enthusiasm and confidence about the project.

The Deputy Chief Executive added that Capital and Centric had now been officially appointed and were carrying out feasibility studies towards coming forward with a plan. The costs would be covered by them when they buy the building and it was in their interest to keep them as low as possible for they would be owning and operating the building. Would the costs rise those would therefore not be bared by the Council but by the developers.

Cllr Parker commented that similar projects had been successfully carried out in the past in the borough. Cllr Stubbs recalled times where contracts were broken in the past. – There were indeed always risks.

Cllr Allport asked about the Kidsgrove train station works and shared service hub referred to in paragraph 2.4.2 and 2.4.4 and whether the Council was aware of the difficulty related to the bridge when these were undertaken. – Indeed officers were aware although told back then that this would be dealt with and not interfere with the projects.

Cllr Grocott enquired about Knutton village hall. – The design hadn't been started yet, the focus being currently on finding who would run it. The allocation from the Town Deal would be a capital one and there would need to be a discussion about whether or not the group would have some support going in.

Cllr Grocott also asked about the new hotel. – The feasibility works had been started and would go on until September / October in readiness for the planning application. Capital and Centric would be operating the hotel.

Cllr Stubbs wondered if the bridge situation had been resolved. – Officers would check out the details and get back to members. Post minute note: the bridge repairs have been completed.

Resolved: That the report on the delivery of the Town Deal and Future High Street Funds projects be noted.

[Watch the debate here](#)

7. WORK PROGRAMME

The request for the Service Director for Sustainable Development to come and answer questions about waste and recycling was reiterated and it was suggested this could be scheduled for the June meeting.

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The Town Deal and Future High Street Funds Update would also come back then as a standing item.

Resolved: That the work programme be noted and suggestions be made by members.

[Watch the debate here](#)

8. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from members of the public.

9. URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved: That the next meeting be scheduled on 27th June 2024.

**Councillor Mark Holland
Chair**

Meeting concluded at 8.07 pm

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NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

CORPORATE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S REPORT TO FINANCE, ASSETS AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

27 June 2024

Report Title: Financial and Performance Review Report – Fourth Quarter 2023-24

Submitted by: Corporate Leadership Team

Portfolios: One Council, People & Partnerships, Finance, Town Centres & Growth

Ward(s) affected: All

Purpose of the Report

To provide this Committee with the Financial and Performance Review report for 2023-24 (Quarter Four).

Recommendation

That Members note

1. The contents of the report and appendices, and continue to monitor and challenge the Council's service and financial performance for this period.

Reasons

The Financial and Performance Management monitoring reports provide information on a quarterly basis regarding the performance of individual council services and progress with delivery against our priorities, alongside related financial information on the organisation.

1. **Background**

- 1.1 This quarterly report provides Members with a detailed update on how the Council has performed during the quarter by presenting performance data and progress summaries set within a financial context. The report provides broad financial information (Appendix A) and also details service performance (Appendix B) for the period to the end of quarter four in 2023/24.

2024-25 Revenue and Capital Budget Position

- 1.2 The Council approved a General Fund Revenue Budget of £17,046,150 on 14 February 2024. Further financial information is provided in Appendix A.

Performance

- 1.3 The Q4 report (April 2023 to March 2024) has been produced using new business intelligence tools in order automate and improve the monitoring, analysis and reporting of Council performance. The indicators included are those agreed as part of the new Council Plan and reflect the priorities for the Borough. In addition to reporting on key performance indicators, the report also includes progress summaries for each priority action, detailing the progress with the delivery of planned activities.
- 1.4 Contextual performance information is provided (indicators without a target), not only to ensure the monitoring of the corporate activities of the Council, but also to inform Members,

businesses and residents of performance in their local area that the Council cannot directly control.

- 1.5 Any indicators failing to meet the set targets include a comment explaining why the indicator has not performed well, and what steps are being taken to ensure improvement in the future.
- 1.6 For this report a total of 46 indicators were monitored, 17 of these indicators were contextual and had no set target. Of the remaining 29 indicators the proportion of indicators which have met their target during this period stands at 72%, with the remaining 28% falling short of target. A greater proportion of off target measures this quarter show a positive trend when comparing the same time period of the previous financial year. It must also be noted that a small number of these 'off target' measures have more stretching targets this year, in line with benchmarking findings and council ambition. In terms of trend data overall, the proportion of indicators showing an improvement or maintenance of the previous year's performance stands at 52%.
- 1.7 Three project/actions have been classified as completed by their respective owners this quarter.

2. **Issues**

- 2.1 There are 8 indicators off target this quarter, and officers consider that the performance against these indicators does not give rise to serious cause for concern at present (see commentaries provided in Appendix B). The management of each of the service areas concerned continue to monitor and take steps to deal with under achievement of targets where possible and/or appropriate.
- 2.2 Progress on delivery of planned activities is summarised for each priority with there being two amber rated projects/actions identified in Quarter 4.

The first action flagged was the successful resolution to the Walleys Quarry odour problem. It was noted that there was significant escalation in complaints in January 2024 to 736, when compared to the previous month (December 2023) of 248 demonstrates an increase of 297%. In response the Service Director wrote to Walleys Quarry Limited highlighting an increase in complaints over the January period. Complaints remained high in February 2024 with a high of 1232. This level of complaint has not been seen since July 2021. This escalation of complaint numbers in January and February was subject to an Officer review that concluded that breaches of the Abatement Notice had occurred. Walleys Quarry Ltd were notified in writing of the breaches on 08 April 2024 with a 14 days response time. At the Council meeting on 10 April 2024 it was agreed that legal action would be prepared.

The second and last amber rated project/action related to the delivery of the £16m Kidsgrove Town Deal. The same issues as seen in Quarter 3 have remained around the delivery of the railway station project, the project team continues to seek a solution to ground conditions caused by historic mine works. All other projects part of the Kidsgrove Town Deal are progressing as planned.

3. **Proposal**

- 3.1 That Members note the contents of the attached report and Appendices A and B and continue to monitor and challenge the Council's performance alongside its financial performance for the same period.

4. **Reasons for Proposed Solution**

4.1 To enable financial and performance information to be presented for continued scrutiny and encourage improvement within council delivery.

5. **Options Considered**

5.1 At this time it is felt there is no other option necessary for consideration, however the presentation of information is continually reviewed.

6. **Legal and Statutory Implications**

6.1 The Council has a duty to set targets for performance of a range of functions and needs to monitor these closely.

7. **Equality Impact Assessment**

7.1 Local authorities have a responsibility to meet the Public Sector Duty of the Equality Act 2010. The Act gives people the right not to be treated less favourably due to protected characteristics. There are no differential equality issues arising directly from this report.

8. **Financial and Resource Implications**

8.1 Any positive variance for the full year on the General Fund Revenue Account will enable that amount to be transferred to the Budget Support Fund and will be available in future years for use as the Council considers appropriate. Conversely, if there is an adverse variance, the amount required to cover this will have to be met from the Budget Support Fund.

9. **Major Risks**

9.1 The ongoing changing market conditions represents the greatest risk to the revenue budget, particularly with regard to the impact it may have upon income receivable in relation to services where customers may choose whether or not to use Council facilities or in the case of the waste/recycling service where the volume of recycled materials is liable to fluctuate. The impact of Covid 19 is still apparent in the reporting of this quarter, despite seeing improvements, impacting on many areas and the situation will continue to be monitored through the normal budget monitoring procedure.

9.2 The capital programme will require regular monitoring to identify any projects which are falling behind their planned completion dates. This will be carried out by the Capital Programme Review Group, which meets on a bi-monthly basis together with quarterly reports to Cabinet.

10. **UN Sustainable Development Goals and Climate Change Implications**



11. **Key Decision Information**

11.1 Included on the Forward Plan

12. **Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions**

12.1 N/A

13. **List of Appendices**

13.1 Financial information (Appendix A) and Performance Outturn (Appendix B)

14. **Background Papers**

14.1 Working papers held by officers responsible for calculating indicators.



2023/24

**Quarter Four
Financial
Performance**

1. Background and Introduction

1.1 In accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules and recommended good practice, a quarterly financial report is presented to Members. This is the fourth and final report for 2023/24.

1.2 The report summarises overall financial performance for 2023/24 with particular emphasis on the key sources of financial risk to the Council. Specific considerations are as follows:

- **General Fund Revenue Account (Section 2)** – considers budgetary performance on the General Fund Account by looking at variations in income and expenditure and the funding received by the Council.
- **Efficiency and Savings Plan (Section 3)** – considers progress in achieving the efficiency and savings forecast for 2023/24.
- **Capital Programme (Section 4)** – provides an update to Members on progress against the Council's Capital Programme and major project funded through the Town Deal Funds and Future High Street Fund.
- **Treasury Management (Section 5)** – sets out the key statistics in terms of investments and borrowings;
- **Collection Fund (Section 6)** – considers progress to date in collecting the Council Tax, Business Rates and Sundry Debts.

2. General Fund Revenue Budget

2.1 This section of the report considers the financial performance of the General Fund Revenue Account against budget by setting out variations in income and expenditure and funding received by the Council.

Area	2023/24 General Fund	
	Estimate £	Band D Council Tax £
Central Services	2,157,470	56.63
Cultural Services	3,769,940	98.95
Environmental Services	8,868,690	232.78
Planning	1,838,180	48.25
Transport	(294,420)	(7.73)
Housing	1,493,410	39.20
Net Cost of Services	17,833,270	468.08
Pensions Liabilities Account	415,000	10.89
Investment Properties	74,940	1.97
Interest and Investment Income	227,000	5.96
Net Operating Expenditure	18,550,210	486.89
Contribution to/(from) Revenue Reserves	904,430	23.74
Contribution to/(from) Capital Reserves	(2,597,910)	(68.19)
Amount to be met from Government Grant and Local Taxpayers	16,856,730	442.45

2.2 The Council approved a General Fund Revenue Budget of £16.857m on 15 February

2023 for 2023/24. The actual and forecast position compared to this budget is continuously monitored by Budget Holders, the Corporate Leadership Team and Portfolio Holders in order to detect any significant variances of expenditure or income from the approved amounts contained in the budget.

- 2.3 The table above shows how this budget has been allocated.
- 2.4 At the close of quarter four a positive variance of £0.007m has been achieved. The projected outturn on the General Fund Revenue Account for the year is £16.850m. This represents a positive outturn of £0.007m for the year.
- 2.5 The adverse variances that have occurred at the close of the fourth quarter of 2023/24 include:
- a. Income shortfalls from sales, fees and charges which amount to £0.611m for the financial year.
 - b. A shortfall of £0.505m in Housing Benefits subsidy grant regarding accommodation and payments for which full subsidy is not claimable.
 - c. Additional audit fees of £0.100m for the audit of the 2023/24 Statement of Accounts will be incurred during the current financial year following the re-tender completed by the Public Sector Audit Appointments board.
 - d. A pay award of £1,925 per employee has been that is in excess of the amount provided for in the budget (4%). Including national insurance and pension the additional amount totals £0.400m at the close of the year.
 - e. Backdated rent payable on a commercial property rented by the Council amounting to £0.082m and business rates payable on empty properties owned by the Council which amounted to £0.031m.
 - f. Additional overtime and temporary staff costs within the Waste and Recycling service have amounted to £0.240m.
- 2.6 These adverse variances have been offset in full by the following favourable variances:
- a. Utilisation of the Cost of Living Reserve that was established during the budget setting for 2023/24 in order to respond to any above inflationary increases in costs. The £0.400m paid into this reserve has been fully used to offset the pay award.
 - b. Interest receivable on cash that the Council holds in terms of Town Deal and Future High Street funding, together with Section 31 grant and remaining Coronavirus grant funding (that are repayable to Central Government) totals £1.400m. This has also eliminated the need for any in year borrowing to be undertaken saving £0.255m in interest payments.

3. Efficiency and Savings Plan

- 3.1 This section of the report considers the financial performance of the Council's Efficiency and Savings Plan in 2023/24.

- 3.2 The Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (approved in February 2023) included the five year (2023/24 – 2027/28) Efficiency and Savings Plan targeting savings of £5.874m.
- 3.3 The Efficiency and Savings Plan is set on the need to both reduce expenditure and increase income. The need to grow income is now more of a priority as the Council moves more towards being self-financing. The plan has been developed with the underlying principles of protecting frontline service delivery. It is also intended that the plan is a tool to enable the Council to ensure that its service spending is determined by the established priorities set out in the Corporate Plan.
- 3.4 The 2023/24 budget was set in February 2023 with the assumption of £2.103m of savings in the year. These savings are detailed in the table below:

Category	Amount £'000	Comments
Income	270	Additional sources of income generation and an increased demand for services that the Council charges for
One Council	376	Efficiencies to be generated from the introduction of a new Council operating model and the continued prioritisation of digital delivery
Staffing Related Efficiencies	18	No redundancies are anticipated to arise from these proposals
Good Housekeeping/More Efficient Processes	215	Various savings arising from more efficient use of budgets
Tax Base Increase	337	Increased in Council Tax and Business Rates tax base
Council Tax Increase	159	An assumed 1.99% per Band D equivalent increase in Council Tax
Government Reimbursement	728	Grant in respect of New Homes Bonus and Minimum Funding Guarantee
Total	2,103	

- 3.5 At the end of quarter four, all savings have been achieved.

4. Capital Programme and Major Projects

- 4.1 This section of the report provides an update to Members on the Council's Capital Programme and major projects funded by the Town Deal Funds and Future High Street Fund.
- 4.3 A Capital Programme totalling £30.360m was approved for 2023/24. Of this total £17.863m relates to the total cost of new schemes for 2023/24 together with £12.497m for schemes funded by external sources (Town Deals Fund, Future High Streets Fund and Disabled Facilities Grants) and £1.000m contingency. In addition £24.013m was brought forward from the 2022/23 Capital Programme (including £22.771m from the Town Deals Fund and the Future High Streets Fund), resulting in a total Capital Programme of £54.373m for 2023/24.
- 4.4 A mid-year review of the capital programme for 2023/24 has been undertaken as part of the Efficiency Board and budget setting process. The revised capital programme (Annex

A) for 2023/24 totalling £55.433m (including a £1m contingency and agreed carry forwards from 2022/23) was approved by Cabinet on 5 December 2023.

4.5 In addition to the revised 2023/24 Capital Programme additional capital expenditure of £0.124m regarding the Flexible Use of Capital Receipts was incurred as well as expenditure that was fully funded by the Shared Prosperity Fund (£0.344m).

4.6 Planned expenditure financed via capital for 2023/24 therefore totalled £55.901m. Actual expenditure has totalled £11.630m, £44.271m below that planned. This relates to expenditure that has been rolled forward into 2024/25 (£42.174m) including projects planned under the Town Deals and Future High Streets funds that will be progressed during 2024/25 (£25.641m), the Council's contribution towards the construction of a new multi storey car park (£8.100m) and fleet replacement (£4.751m). There is an unused amount of capital contingency (£0.922m) and a number of projects whereby costs have been value engineered or whereby a decision has been made not to progress with the project until a future period (£1.173m).

4.7 The expenditure of £11.630m was financed as shown below:

Financed by:	£ (000)
Capital Receipts	2.293
Government Grants and Other Contributions	9.337
Total	11.630

Major Projects Funding

4.6 The Council was awarded Future High Streets Fund funding in June 2021 of £11.0m to progress projects to help future economic growth. The full £11.0m has now been received of which £8.6m has been spent at 31 March 2024, as shown below:

Project	Award (£000's)	Spend/Ordered (£000's)	Remaining (£000's)
Ryecroft / Site Preparation	3,756	3,009	747
Multi Story Car Park	3,500	2,874	626
York Place	3,015	2,421	594
Stones Public Realm	321	-	321
Market Stalls	76	4	72
Project Management	380	379	1
Total	11,048	8,687	2,361

4.7 £23.6m was awarded to the Council via the Town Deals Fund for Newcastle to enable a vision to improve communications, infrastructure, and connectivity in Newcastle-under-Lyme to become a reality. £15.0m has been received to date of which £1.9m has been spent as shown below:

Project	Award (£000's)	Spend/Ordered (£000's)	Remaining (£000's)
Digital Infrastructure	2,285	12	2,273
Sustainable Public Transport	3,421	-	3,421
Electric Vehicle Charging	400	-	400
Pedestrian Cycle Permeability	950	-	950
Transform Key Gateway Sites	3,810	2	3,808
Astley Centre for Circus	1,810	632	1,178

Digital Society	3,510	515	2,995
Heart into Knutton Village	3,534	194	3,340
Cross Street, Chesterton	2,955	-	2,955
Project Management	925	563	362
Total	23,600	1,918	21,682

4.8 £16.9m has also been awarded via the Town Deals fund for Kidsgrove to enable real and lasting economic benefits to be realised in Kidsgrove and the surrounding area. To date £9.6m has been received of which £6.7m has been spent as shown below:

Project	Award (£000's)	Spend/Ordered (£000's)	Remaining (£000's)
Kidsgrove Sports Centre	2,328	2,328	-
Chatterley Valley West	3,661	3,661	-
Kidsgrove Station	3,638	196	3,442
Shared Services Hub	6,183	72	6,111
Canal Enhancement	420	-	420
Project Management	670	483	187
Total	16,900	6,740	10,160

4.9 The Council has been awarded £4.8m, over a 3 year period, of UK Shared Prosperity Funding as part of the governments mission to level up opportunity and prosperity and to overcome geographical inequalities. It also aims to level up people's pride in the places they love and seeing that reflected in empowered local leaders and communities, a stronger social fabric and better life chances. 33 projects have been identified for which spend has commenced. The 2022/23 and 2023/24 allocations totalling £1.8m have been received, total spend at 31 December 2023 amounted to £1.6m as shown below:

Project	Award (£000's)	Spend/Ordered (£000's)	Remaining (£000's)
CML Community Hubs	6	6	-
Newcastle 850 Anniversary	20	16	4
Nature and Wellbeing	22	17	5
Canal Connectivity	102	5	97
Clough Hall Park	234	-	234
Cold Night Shelter	160	-	160
Mental Health Worker	86	43	43
Nature Recovery	265	108	157
Epicentre for Circus	100	50	50
Homelessness Hub	955	23	932
Beat The Street	20	20	-
New Vic Theatre - 850 Event	10	10	-
Kidsgrove Workshop	156	96	60
Community Connector	67	34	33
Promotional Videos/Photos	15	14	1
Honeybox	55	-	55
Volunteering for all	71	36	35
Discharge Officer	86	43	43
BES Enterprise Coaching	89	49	40
Kidsgrove Town Hall	250	246	4
Security Marshalls	32	32	-
Flourishing Keele (KU)	466	233	233
Moving Ahead (KU)	276	137	139
Advanced Digital Technologies	408	205	203

Chamber Growth Hub	59	9	50
Brampton Wedding Venue	44	44	-
Markets For All	21	-	21
Community Connects	55	-	55
Feasted	45	37	8
Business Connects	6	3	3
Brampton Business Development	10	-	10
Technical Innovation Upskilling	159	-	159
Disadvantaged Upskill Project	28	8	20
Green Projects	163	1	162
To Be Confirmed	101	-	101
Project Management	194	115	79
Total	4,836	1,640	3,196

4.10 Several projects within the Town Deals and Future High Streets Fund (e.g., Multi Storey Car Park, Ryecroft Development, York Place and Chatterley Valley) will require further funding from the Council in addition to the government grants, this will include the Council borrowing to fund these projects.

4.11 The Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) borrowing rate is subject to change daily and could have a significant impact on the financial viability if increases in interest rates are forthcoming or may result in considerably less costs in the instances of lower rates being obtained when borrowing is required. Additionally, the level of inflationary demands is also considered on a project-by-project basis.

4.12 Rigorous financial challenge and monitoring of each project's expenditure will be required in both the interim and during subsequent construction phases. Financial monitoring will continue to be reported as part of the scrutiny process and will also form part of the quarterly financial report to Cabinet.

5. Treasury Management

5.1 This section of the report sets out the key treasury management statistics in relation to the Council's investments and borrowings. This report comprises a high level treasury management summary. The Audit and Standards Committee receives detailed operational updates on treasury management.

Investments

5.2 Cash Investments held on the 31 March 2024 amounted to £18.045m. Interest earned on these investments at the end of the year amounted to £1.4m. The average level of funds available for investment between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024 was £28.431m.

5.3 The Council has not budgeted to receive investment income in 2023/24. A surplus of £1.400m has been received for the financial year which is due to rising interest rates, the most recent being an increase to the Bank of England base rate of 0.25%, to 5.25% in March 2024.

Borrowing

5.4 Borrowing was not required during the latter part of 2023/24 to fund the capital programme, primarily due to the cash flow generated from advanced monies being received in terms of Town Deals and Future High Streets funding.

- 5.5 Although not utilised in recent years, the Council has previously considered the option of long-term borrowing from the PWLB. After the utilisation of capital receipts and internal borrowing, the Council will look to borrow short term from other local authorities in the first instance and will then review any other sources of funding if required.
- 5.6 Advice from the Council's Treasury Management Advisors, Arlingclose, is to continue to utilise internal funding whilst it is available as opposed to borrowing whilst the interest rates are high. This approach also reduces the need to place funding in long term deposits, whilst minimising any potential investment risks.

6. Collection Fund

- 6.1. This section of the report details progress to date in collecting the Council Tax, Business Rates and Sundry Debt.
- 6.2 Local tax income is collected by billing authorities and paid into local 'collection funds' (the Council is a billing authority). Where there is a shortfall in tax receipts (compared to expected levels), this leads to a deficit on the collection fund. Billing and major precepting authorities are usually required to meet their share of any deficit during the following financial year.
- 6.3 The final quarter collection rate was as follows:
- Council Tax – 97.4% of Council Tax was collected by 31 March 2024, compared to a target of 97.5%.
 - Business Rates – 97.8% of Business Rates was collected by 31 March 2024, compared to a target of 97.3%.
- 6.4 The cumulative variances in tax receipts (i.e. including the impact of balances held in respect of previous years) and the impact of Section 31 grant received as at 31 March 2024 are:

Tax	Forecast (Surplus)/Deficit at 30.6.23	Forecast (Surplus)/Deficit at 30.9.23	Forecast (Surplus)/Deficit at 31.12.23	Forecast (Surplus)/Deficit at 31.03.24	Council's Share
Council Tax	(£0.290m)	(£0.234m)	(£0.058m)	£0.056m	£0.006m (11%)
Business Rates	(£0.143m)	£0.455m	£0.747m	£1.207m	£0.483m (40%)
Business Rates Section 31 Grant	(£0.147m)	(£0.412m)	(£0.365m)	(£0.288m)	(£0.115m) (40%)
Total	(£0.580m)	(£0.191m)	(£0.324m)	£0.975m	£0.374m

- 6.5 The deficit shown is repayable by the Council in future years and will subsequently be transferred from the Business Rates reserve, which is used to provide for any collection fund shortfalls. The deficit incurred on the Business Rates collection fund is a result of decreased rateable values and unoccupied property.

ANNEX A**Capital Programme 2023/24 Mid Year Estimate**

CAPITAL PROGRAMME	2023/24 MID YEAR
	£
PRIORITY – One Council Delivering for Local People	
Service Area - Council Modernisation	2,172,370
Total	2,172,370
PRIORITY – A Successful and Sustainable Growing Borough	
Service Area - Housing Improvements	1,670,000
Service Area - Managing Property & Assets	9,636,154
Total	11,306,154
PRIORITY – Healthy, Active and Safe Communities	
Service Area - Streetscene and Bereavement Services	1,001,569
Service Area - Recycling and Fleet	5,828,408
Service Area – Leisure and Cultural	605,862
Service Area - Engineering	117,300
Total	7,553,139
PRIORITY – Town Centres for All	
Future High Streets Fund	5,855,826
Town Deals – Newcastle	18,937,732
Town Deals - Kidsgrove	8,607,615
Total	33,401,173
CONTINGENCY	1,000,000
TOTAL	55,432,836

Capital Receipts	3,325,000
External Contributions	35,398,990
Borrowing	16,708,846
TOTAL	55,432,836

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Quarter 4 - April 2023 to March 2024

All Performance Indicators Current Status



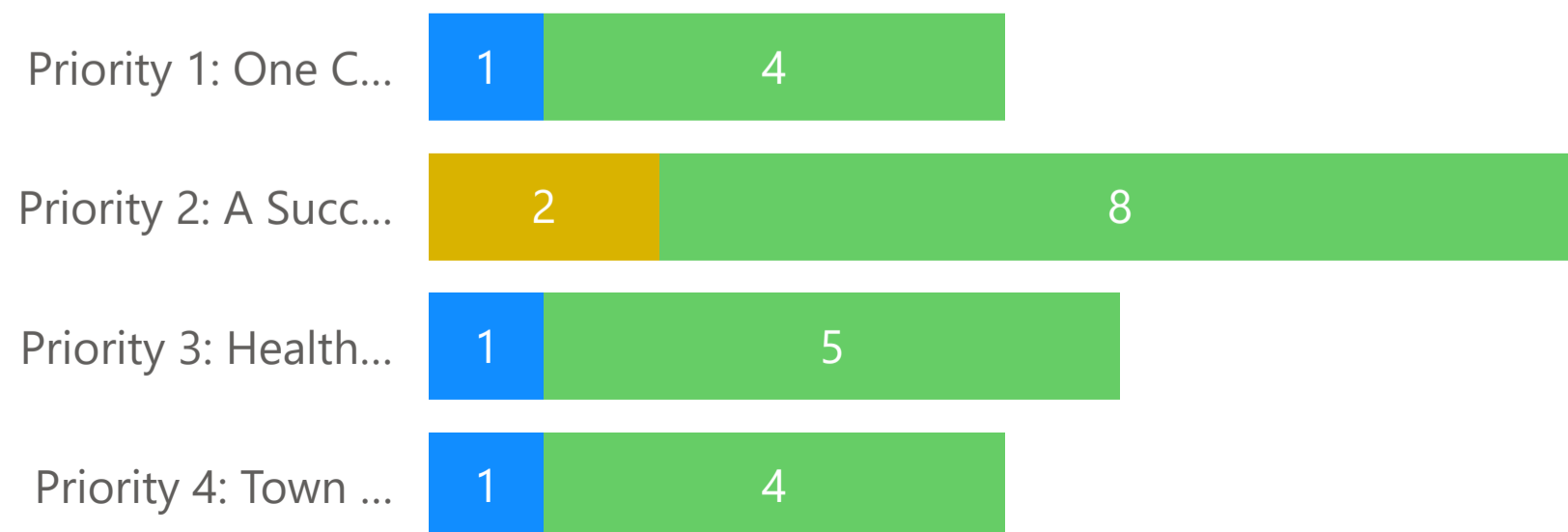
Corporate Aim (Priority)	Count of ID
Priority 1: One Council delivering for Local People	22
Priority 2: A Successful and Sustainable Growing Borough	6
Priority 3: Healthy, Active and Safe Communities	15
Priority 4: Town Centres for All	3
	46

Smart Narrative

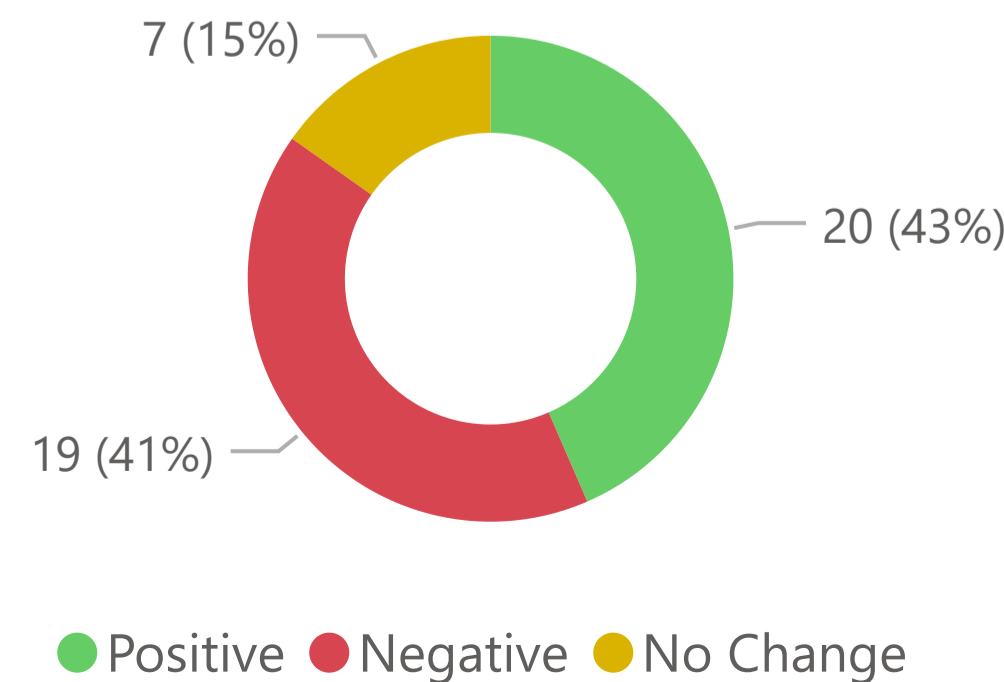
- There are 29 Indicators which have set targets this quarter.
- 72% met their targets within Quarter Four. 9 Indicators which met their target also showed improvement when compared to the same time period last year. 8 Indicators which met their target showed a negative trend when being compared to last year. 4 Indicators showed no change.
- 28% of Indicators were off target this quarter. 2 of these indicators showed an improvement when compared to last year. 5 indicators showed a negative trend and 1 showed no change.
- There are 17 Indicators which are contextual this quarter and do not have a target to meet. When compared to last year, 9 of the contextual measures showed a negative trend, 5 measures showed an improved trend and 3 measure show no change.
- There are 3 Projects/Actions that have been classified as completed being split equally between Priority 1, 3 and 4. Priority 2 has 2 Project/Actions that have been identified as not progressing as expected - detail of these is provided in this report.

Summary Project Status Split

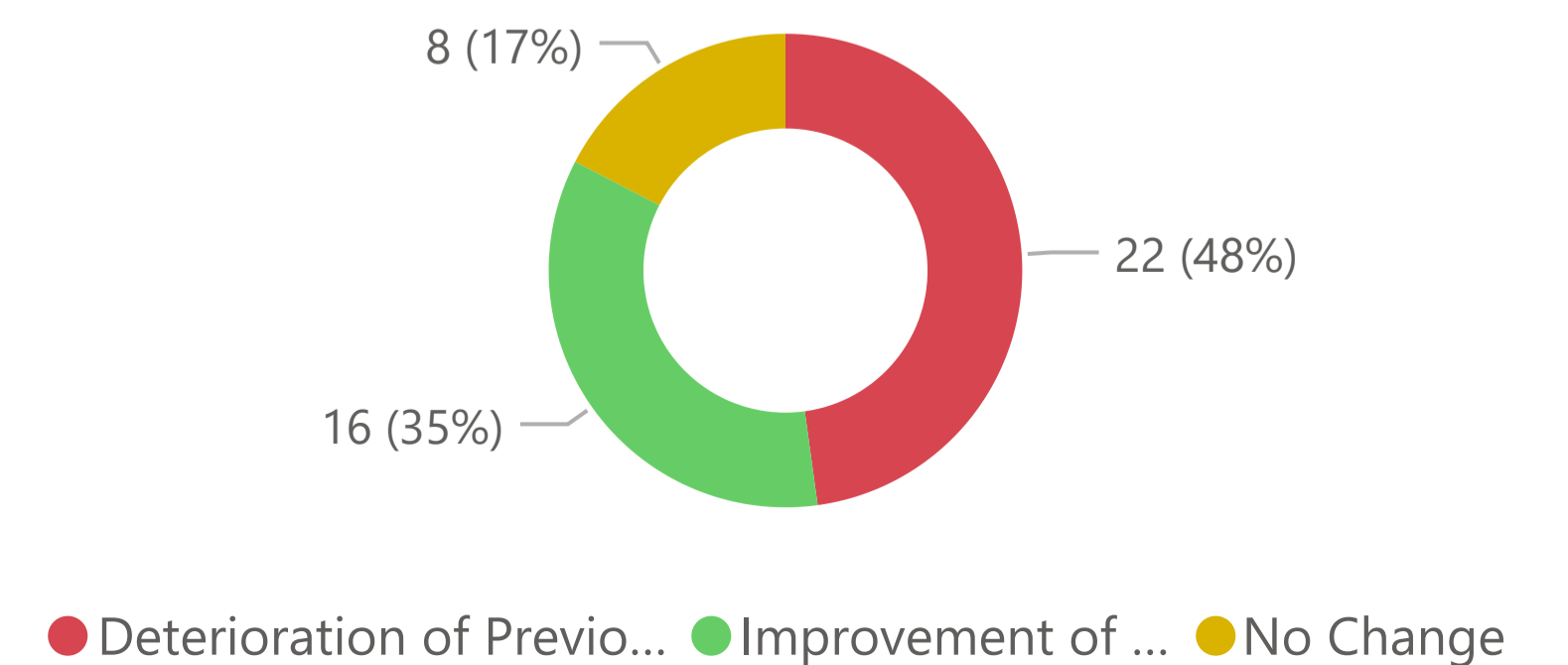
● Project/Action is Completed ● Project/Action is Not Progr... ● Project/Action is Progr...



All Qtr.4 Trend Direction of PI's Compared to Previous Quarter



All Qtr.4 Trend Status of PI's Compared On Same Qtr in the Previous Financial Year



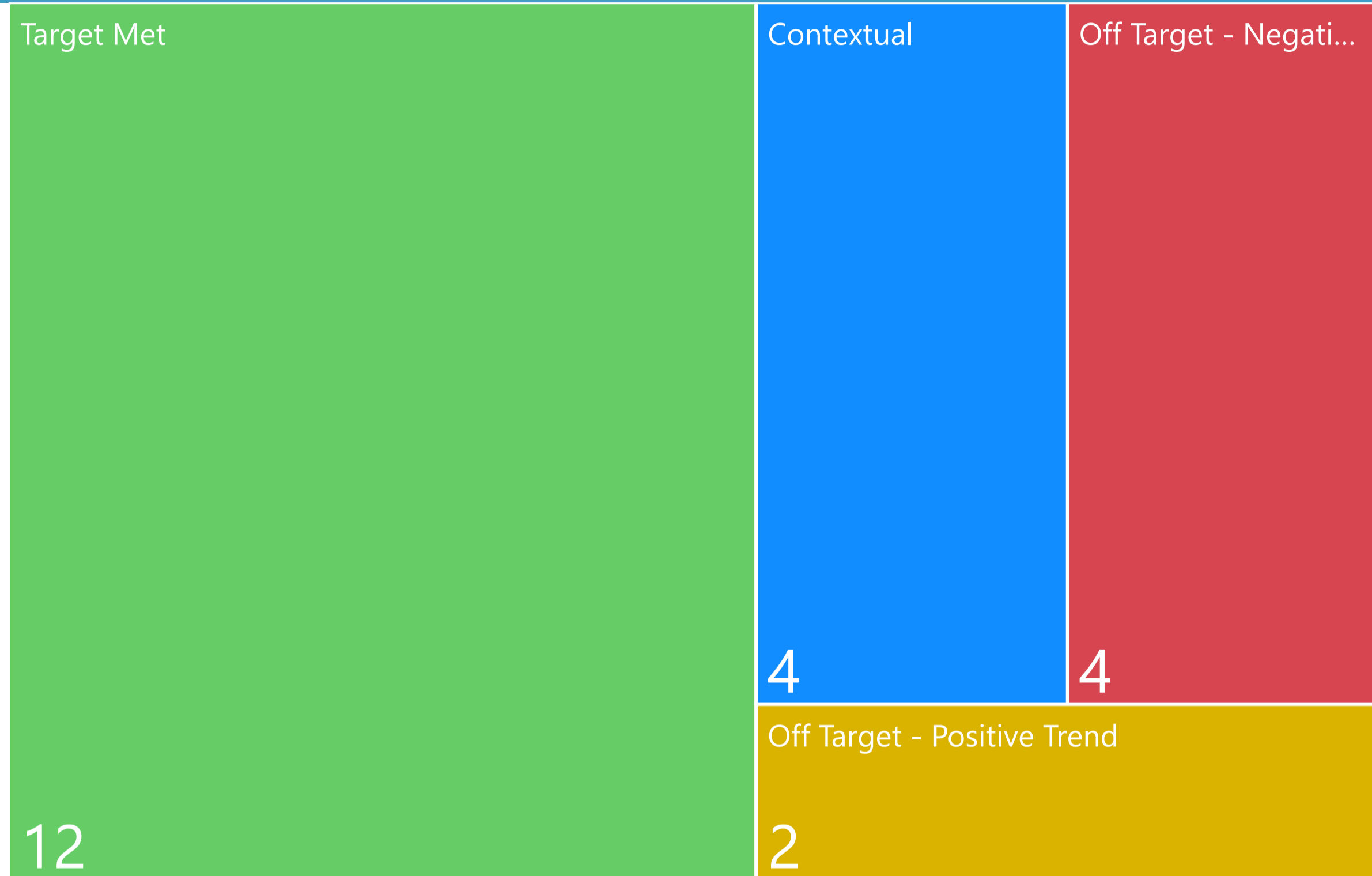


Priority 1: One Council delivering for Local People



NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Priority 1: Performance Indicators Current Status



Corporate Aim (Priority)	Number of Indicators
Priority 1: One Council delivering for Local People	22

Smart Narrative

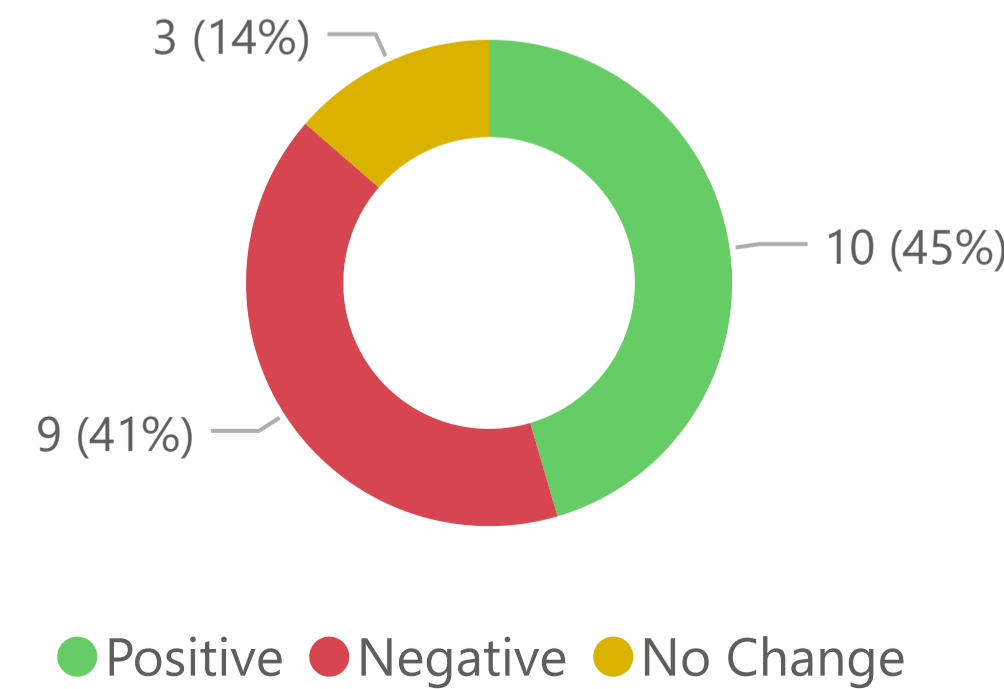
- There are 18 Indicators which have set targets this quarter within Priority 1.
- 67% met their targets within Quarter Four. 4 Indicators which met their target also showed improvement when compared to the same time period last year. 4 Indicators which met their target showed a negative trend when being compared to last year and 4 indicators did not show any change.
- 33% of Indicators were classed as off target this quarter. 4 of these indicators showed a negative trend when compared to last year. 1 showed an improved performance on the year previous and 1 demonstrated no change.
- There are 4 Indicators which are contextual this quarter and do not have a target to meet. When compared to last year, 2 of these measures showed a positive trend and 2 showed a negative trend.
- There has been one Project/Action that has been classed as completed in Priority 1, this being the Delivery of the One Council Programme. All other Projects/Actions within Priority 1 are classed to be progressing as expected.

Priority 1: Summary Project Status Split

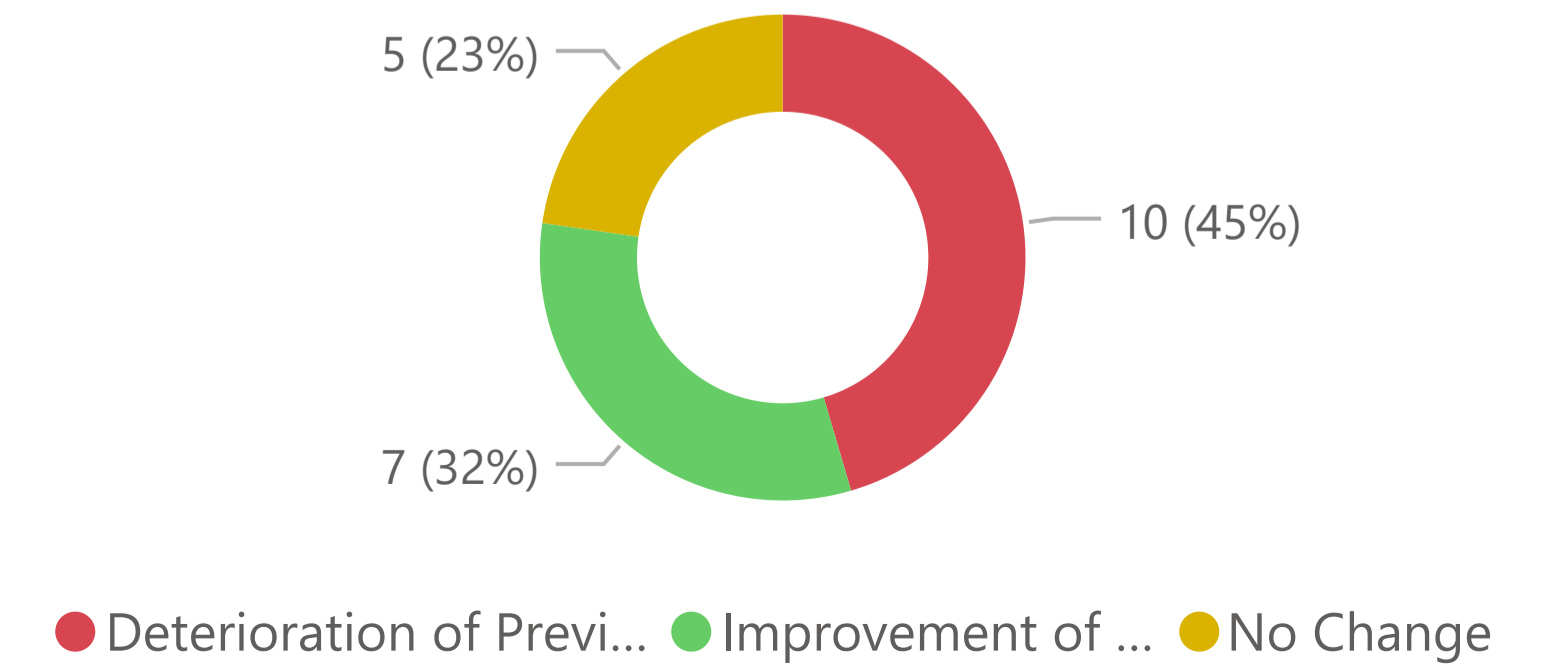
● Project/Action is Completed ● Project/Action is Progressing as Expected

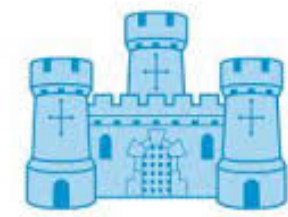


Priority 1: Qtr.4 Trend Direction of PI's Compared to Previous Quarter

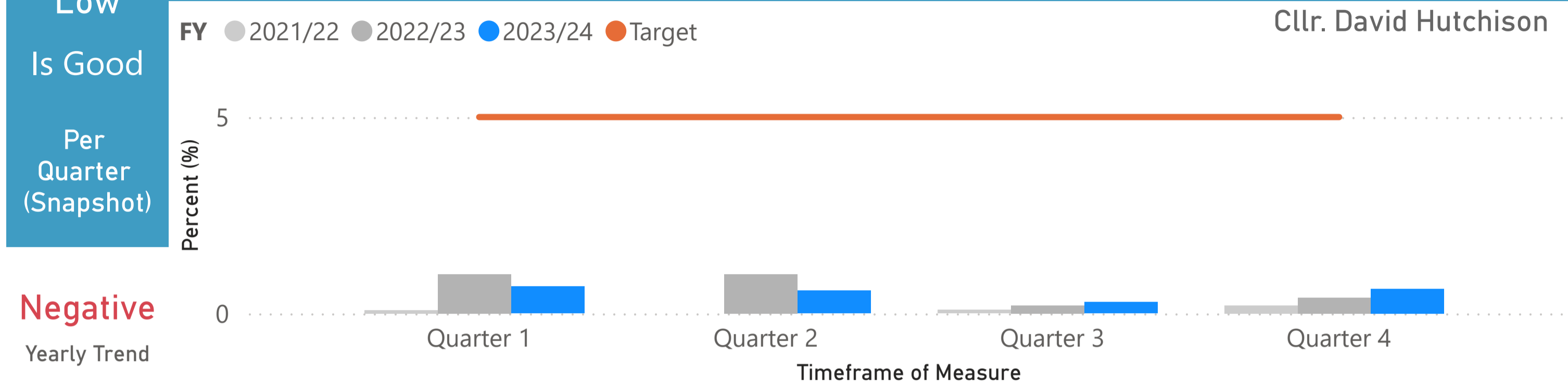


Priority 1: Qtr.4 Trend Status of PI's Compared On Same Qtr in the Previous Financial Year





Low Is Good Per Quarter (Snapshot) ID1.1 - Percentage of food premises that have a zero or one national food hygiene rating Current Status SMART Actions if Off Target

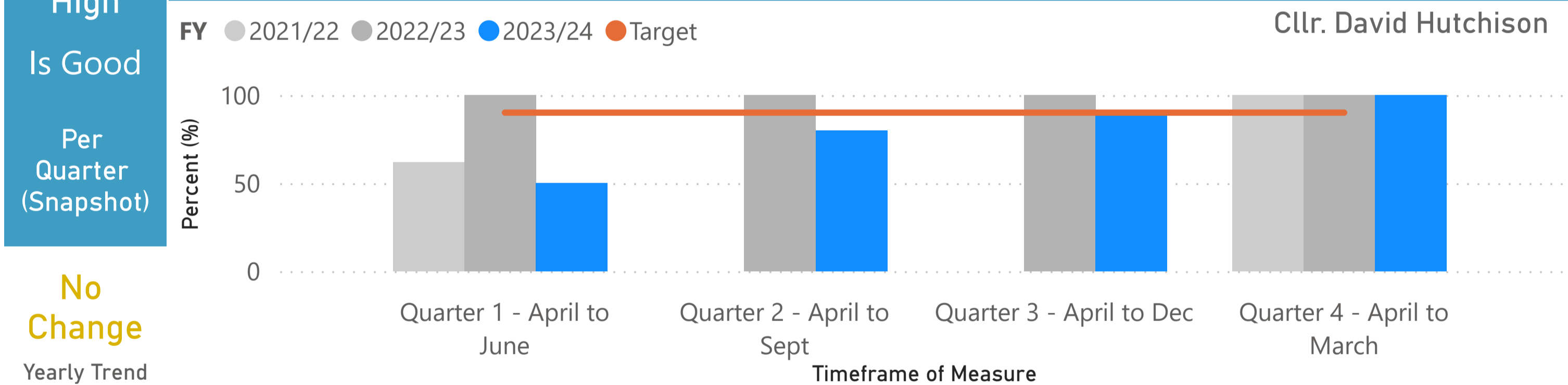


Current Status: 0.63 ✓

Target: 5.00

SMART Actions if Off Target: Not Required as Target Met

High Is Good Per Quarter (Snapshot) ID1.2 - Percentage of category A and B food business inspections completed on time Current Status SMART Actions if Off Target

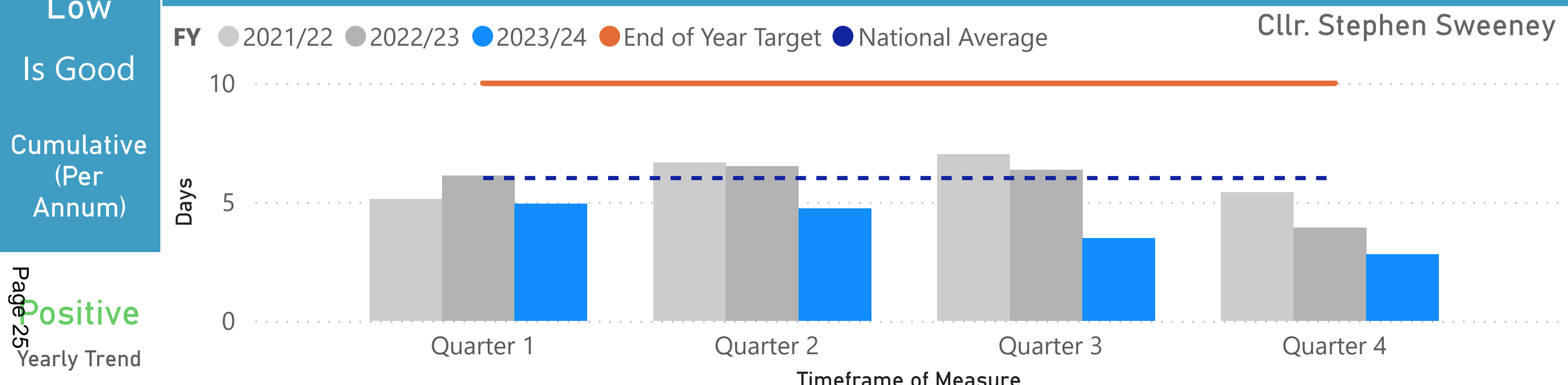


Current Status: 100.00 ✓

Target: 90.00

SMART Actions if Off Target: Not required as Target Met - Previous Quarter figures have been amended with any "closed premises" removed from the reporting of 'due inspections' which will have impacted the overall performance scores incorrectly.

Low Is Good Cumulative (Per Annum) ID1.10 - Time taken to process Housing Benefit new claims/change events (Days) Current Status SMART Actions if Off Target



Current Status: 2.80 ✓

End of Year Target: 10.00

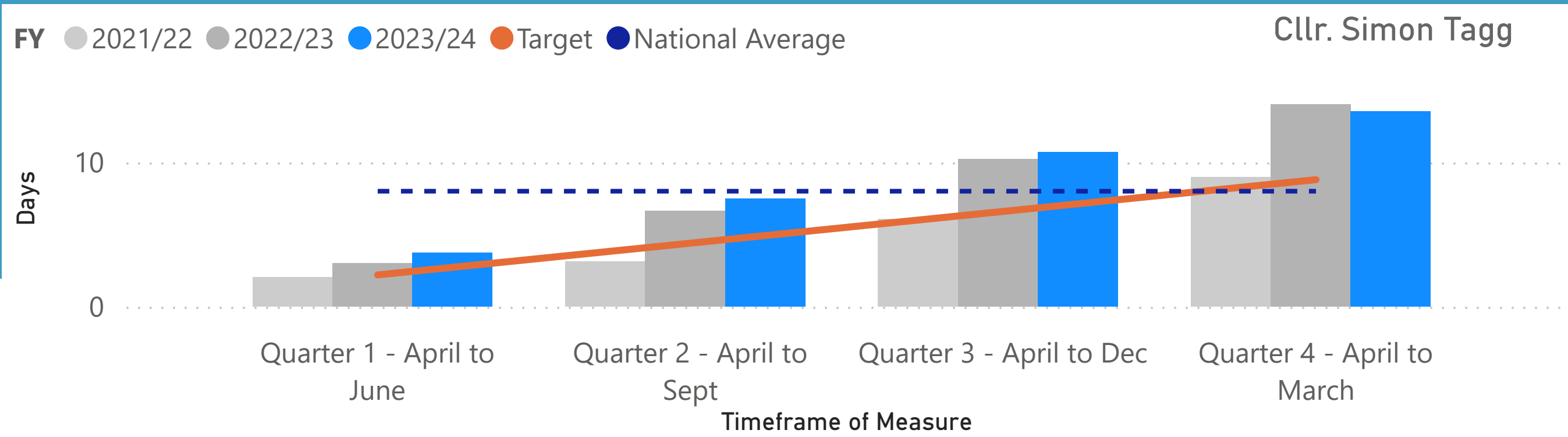
SMART Actions if Off Target: Not Required as Target Met



ID1.13 - Average number of days per employee lost to sickness - Per Employee Current Status SMART Actions if Off Target

Low
Is Good
Cumulative (Per Annum)

Positive
Yearly Trend



National Average
8.00

13.54

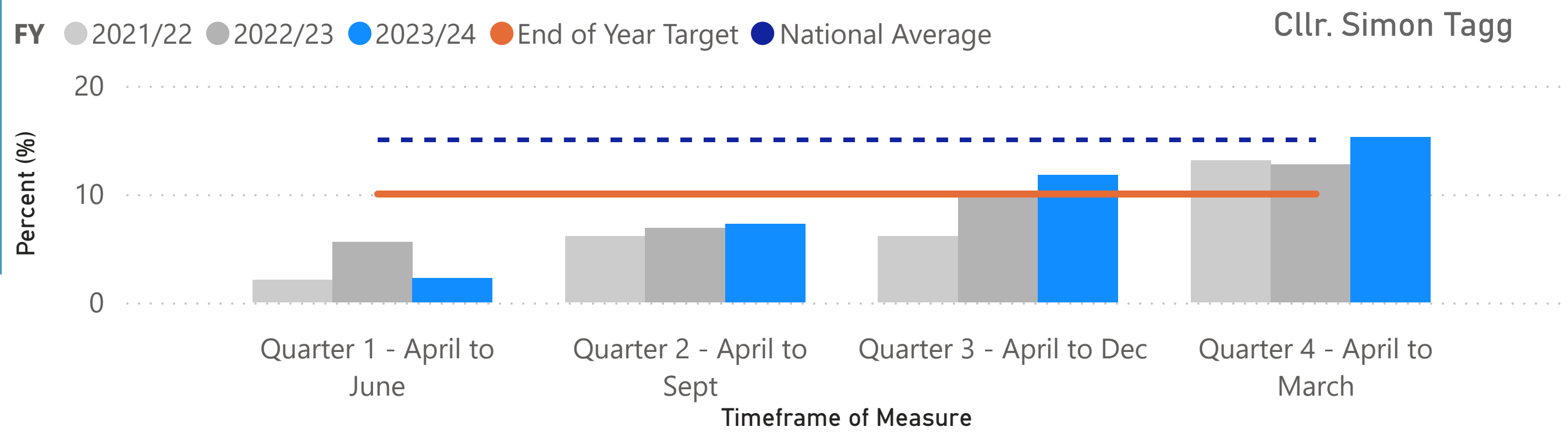
Target:
8.80

Whilst sickness remains slightly above target it continues on a downward trend which has been the case since a slight upturn in October. Absence is lower than at any other time in the previous 12 months despite a slight increase in short term sickness. Overall there has been a year on year reduction in absence which is positive.

ID1.14 - Staff Turnover Current Status SMART Actions if Off Target

Low
Is Good
Cumulative (Per Annum)

Negative
Yearly Trend



National Average
15.00

15.22

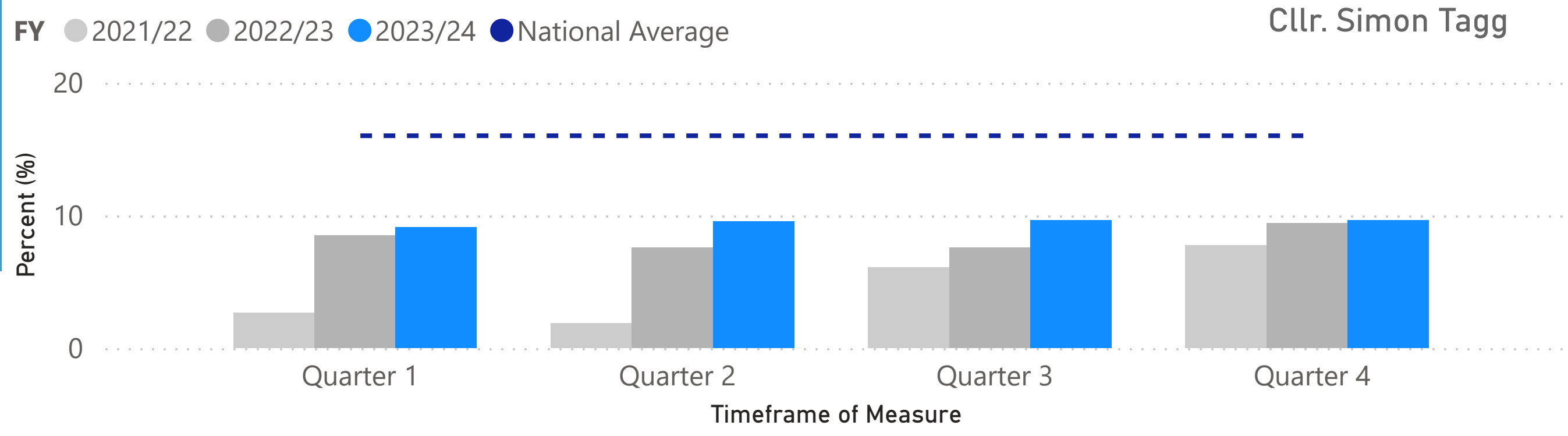
End of Year Target:
10.00

Staff turnover remains stable despite being slightly above target cumulatively, we have had a number of people leave who have experienced long term sickness absence within this quarter.

ID1.15 - Staff Vacancy Rate Current Status SMART Actions if Off Target

Low
Is Good
Per Quarter (Snapshot)

Negative
Yearly Trend



National Average
16.00

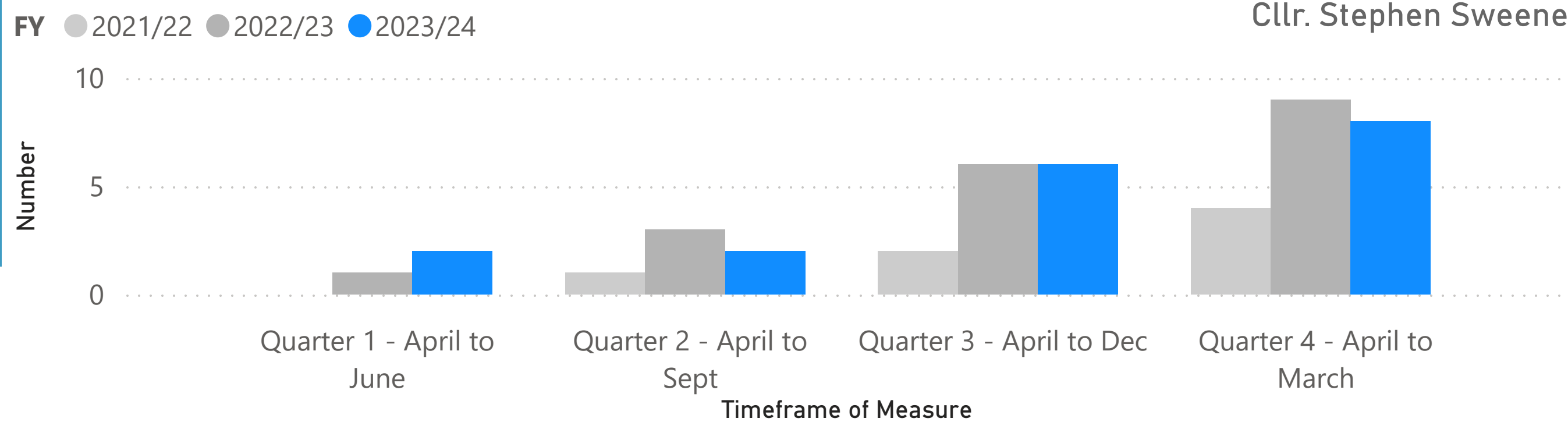
9.62

Vacancy rates remain consistent, with regular reviews of vacant posts to ensure efficiency. Very few posts remain hard to fill

ID1.3 - No. Accidents/Incidents reported (RIDDOR) Current Status SMART Actions if Off Target

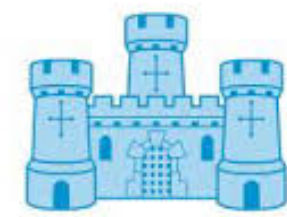
Low
Is Good
Cumulative (Per Annum)

Positive
Yearly Trend

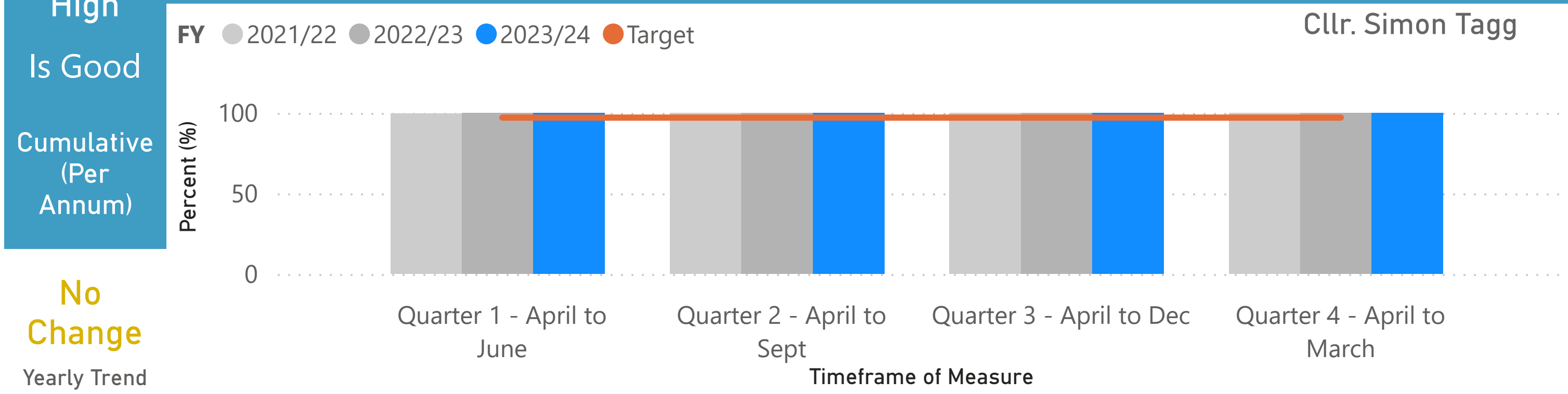


8.00

RIDDOR reportable accident levels are comparable with last year's levels, two included here were also identified as non-fault with no further actions required or indeed possible



High Is Good Cumulative (Per Annum) ID1.6 - Percentage of Customer Hub requests resolved at first point of contact Current Status SMART Actions if Off Target

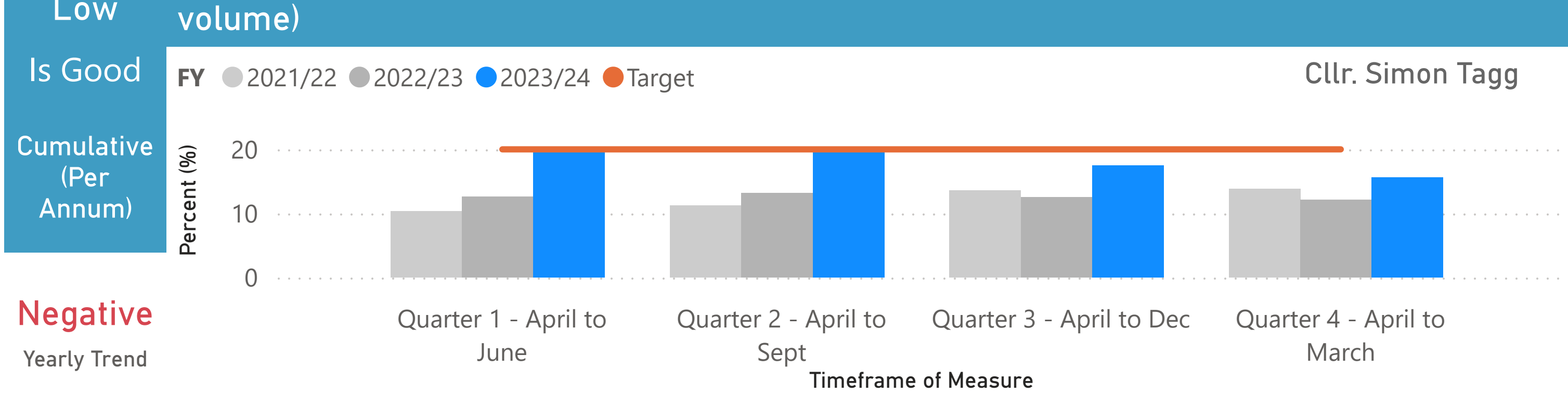


99.99 ✓

Target: 97.00

Not Required as Target Met

Low Is Good Cumulative (Per Annum) ID1.7 - % Unmet demand (number of calls not answered as a % of total call handling volume) Current Status SMART Actions if Off Target

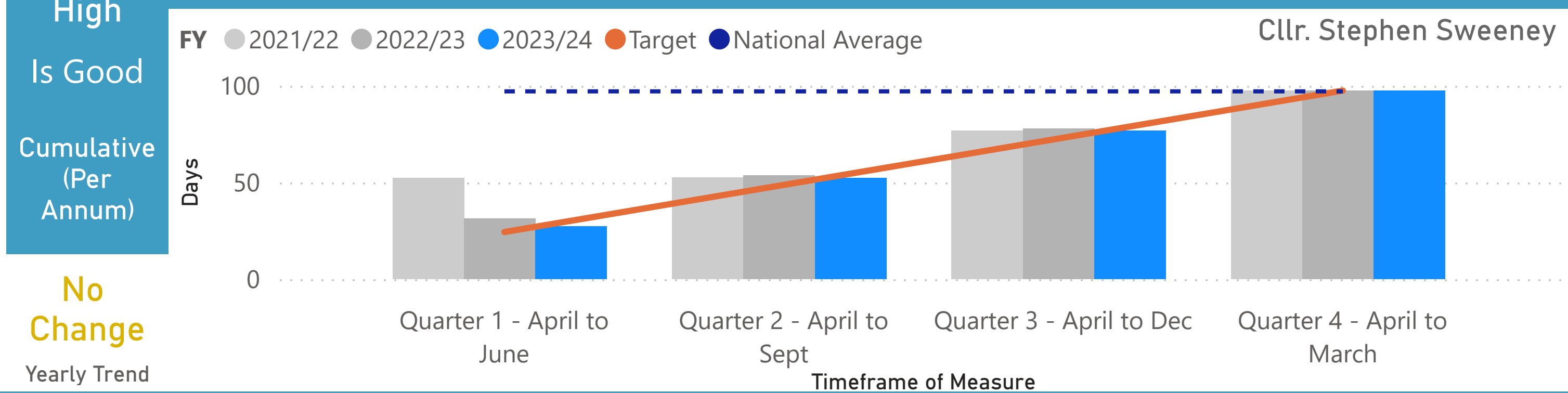


15.60 ✓

Target: 20.00

Not Required as Target Met

High Is Good Cumulative (Per Annum) ID1.11 - Percentage of Council Tax collected Current Status SMART Actions if Off Target



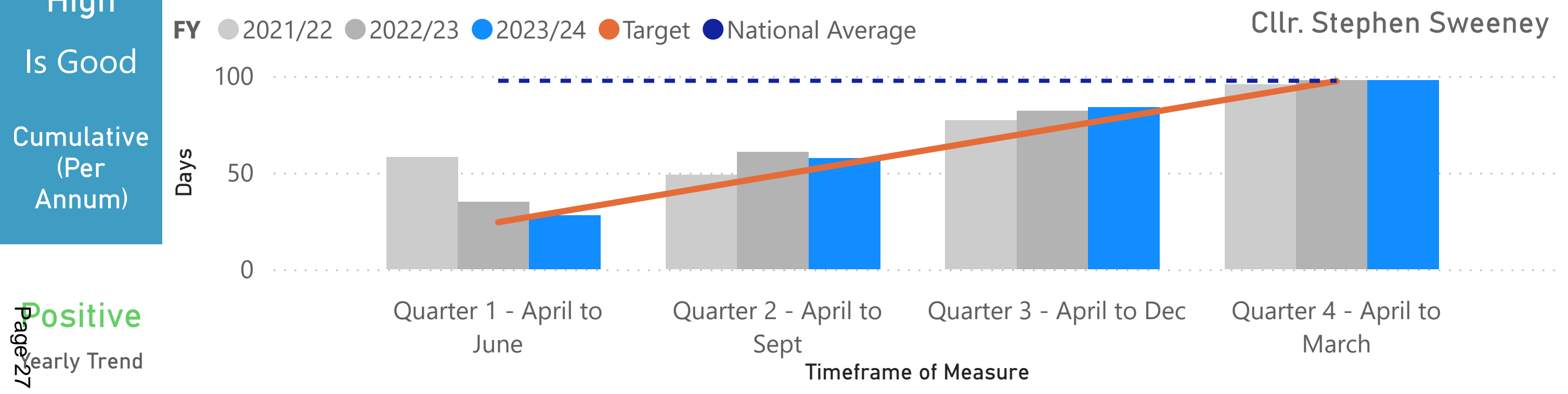
97.40 !

Target: 97.50

National Average 97.11

Just marginal missed the target of 0.1%, despite an additional reminder run added to our recovery schedule. A hint of the economic climate impacting collection rates.

High Is Good Cumulative (Per Annum) ID1.12 - Percentage of National non-domestic rates collected Current Status SMART Actions if Off Target

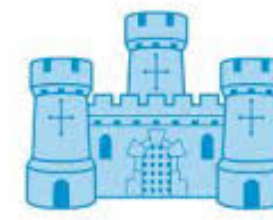


97.80 ✓

Target: 97.30

National Average 97.47

Not Required as Target Met



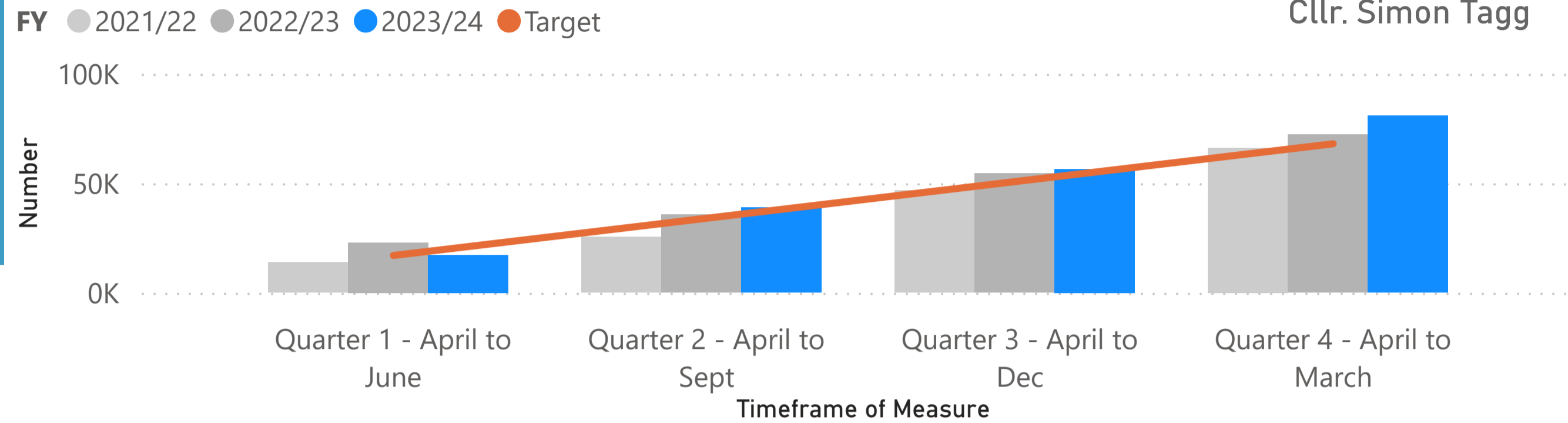
ID1.8a - Total number of digital online transactions

Current Status

SMART Actions if Off Target

High
Is Good
Cumulative
(Per Annum)

Positive
Yearly Trend



80.87K ✓
Target: 68.00K

Target Met. For information Jadu Forms accounted for 67209 and Citizens Access Transactions accounted for 13664 of the total at the end of March 2024

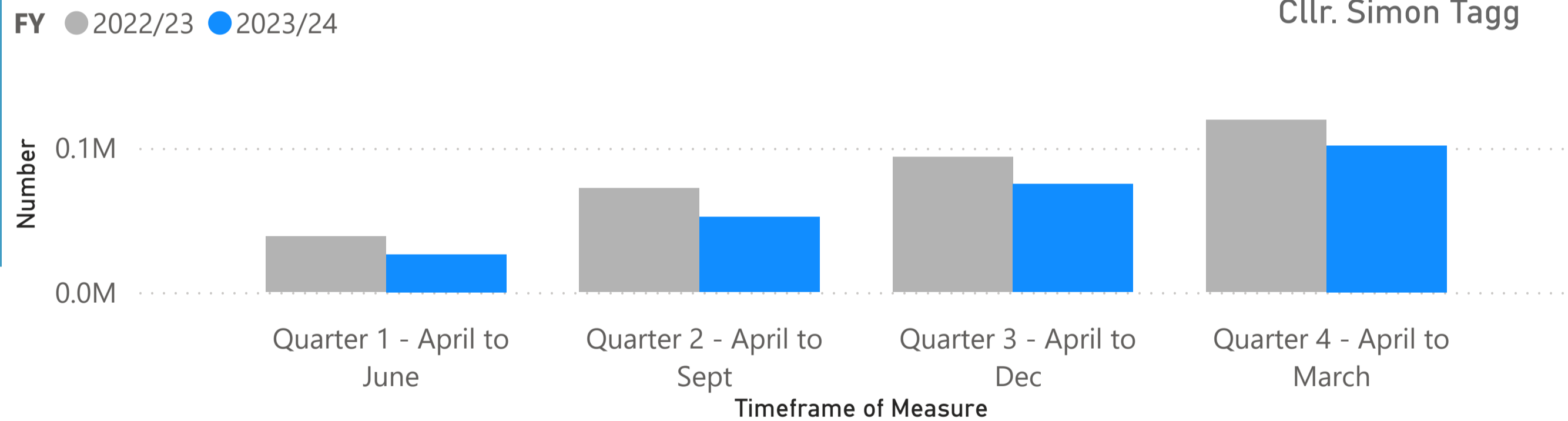
ID1.8b- Total number of calls offered into the Customer Hub

Current Status

SMART Actions if Off Target

Low
Is Good
Cumulative
(Per Annum)

Positive
Yearly Trend



101.57K

The number of calls has dropped due to the success of the drive for digital delivery

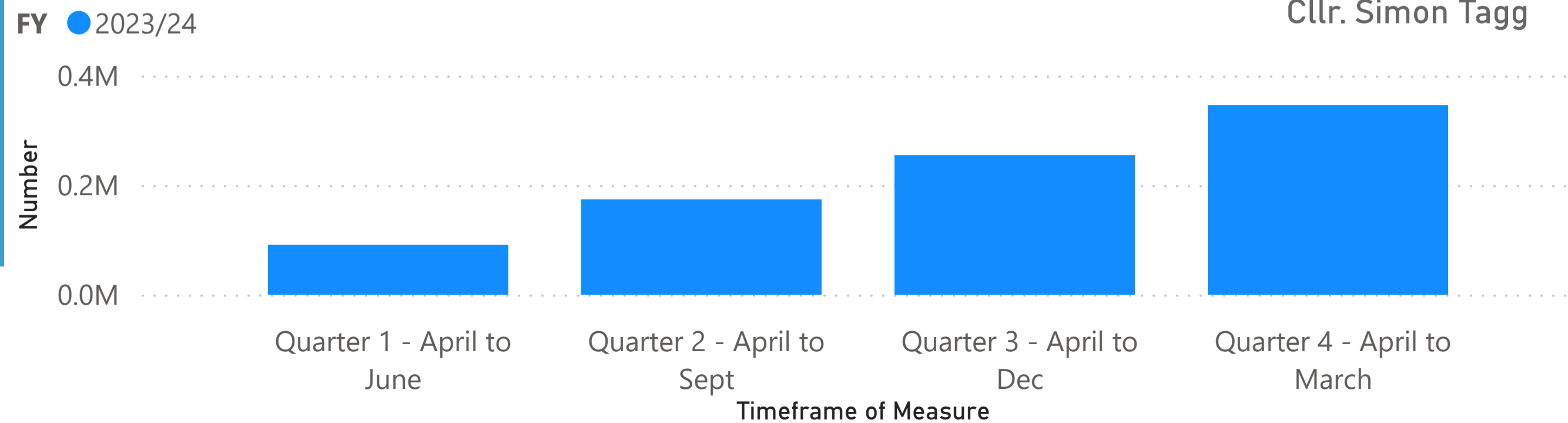
ID1.9 - Total number of unique users to the website

Current Status

SMART Actions if Off Target

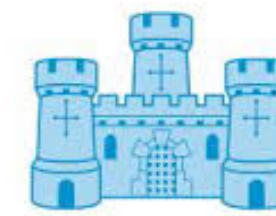
High
Is Good
Cumulative
(Per Annum)

N/A



345.28K

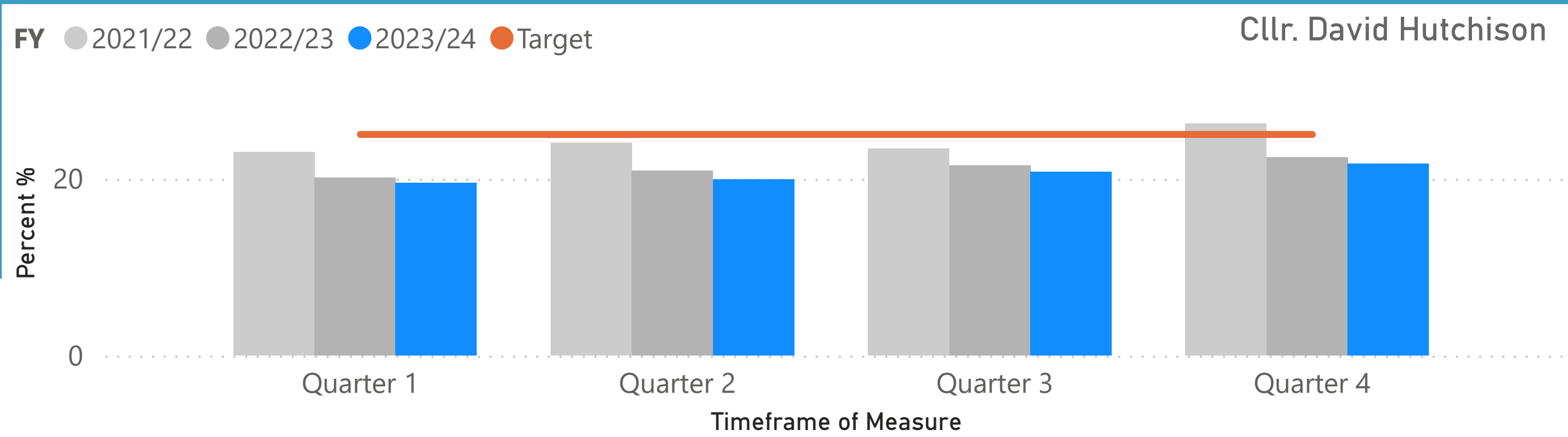
Changes to Google Analytics in July 23 have had an impact on how the unique users are calculated.



ID1.4a - Dry Recycling:- Household collections from the kerbside (%) Current Status SMART Actions if Off Target

High
Is Good
Cumulative
(Per Annum)

Negative
Yearly Trend



21.70!

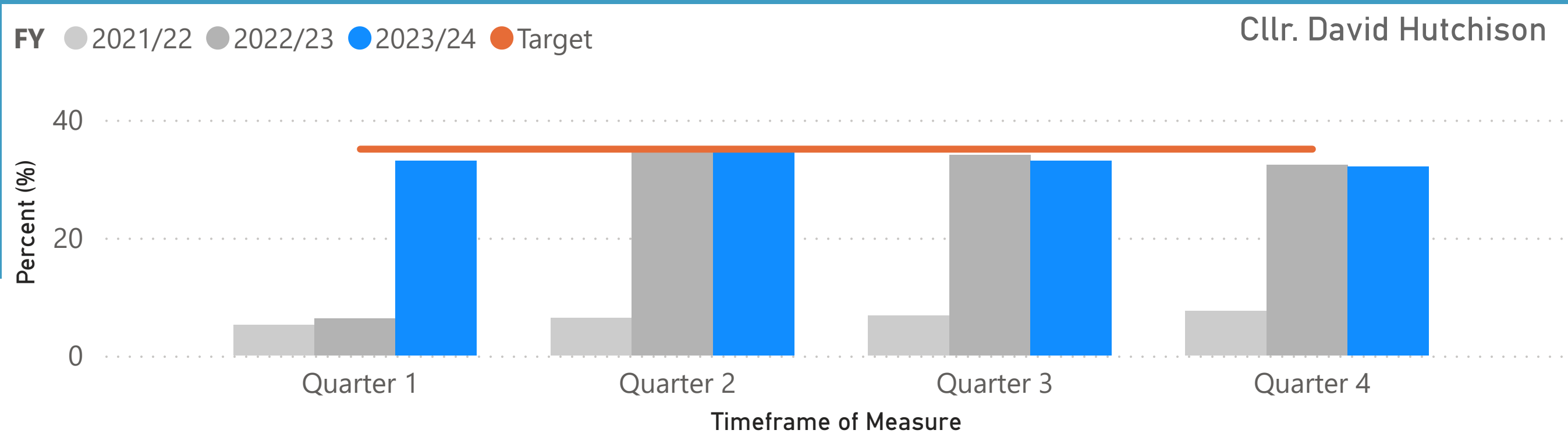
Target: 25.00

As per the previous quarter, recycling rates across the country are falling which is potentially linked to cost of living crisis. The year on year trend also suggests this drop is ongoing from 2021/22. Residual waste volumes have not increased and the waste per household show a decrease, this points to a change in residents shopping behaviour.

ID1.4b - Food:- Household collections from the kerbside (%) Current Status SMART Actions if Off Target

High
Is Good
Per Quarter
(Snapshot)

Negative
Yearly Trend



32.00!

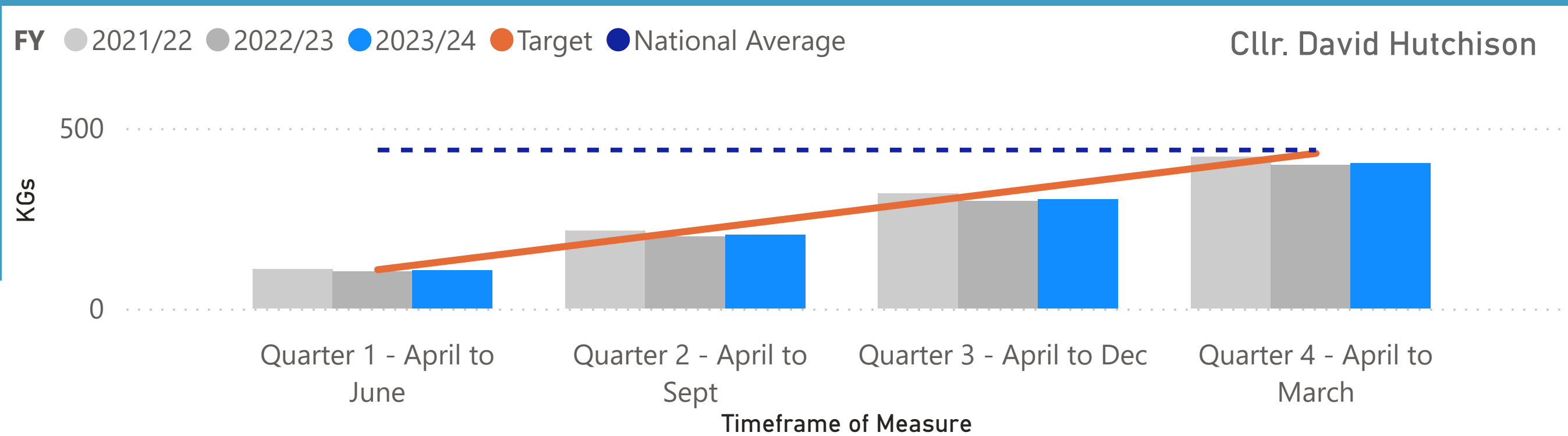
Target: 35.00

The last participation survey showed another slight drop in participation to 32%. There is no obvious reason for this, and tonnage collected remains consistent. Surveys undertaken are a 'snap in time' and not continual, as they are resource intensive, and therefore could be that they were undertaken in a low participation point in time.

ID1.4c - Residual Waste per household:- Household collections from the kerbside (Kgs) Current Status SMART Actions if Off Target

Low
Is Good
Cumulative
(Per Annum)

Negative
Yearly Trend



National Average
439.16

403.03✓

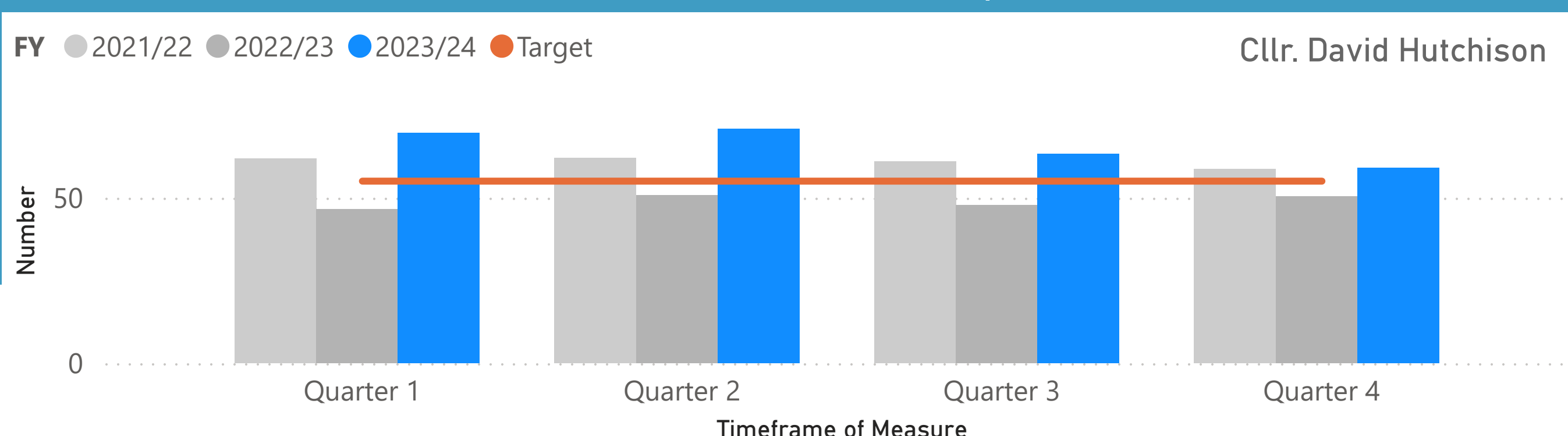
Target: 430.00

Not Required as Target Met

ID1.4d - Number of missed kerbside collections:- Total (per 100,000 collections) Current Status SMART Actions if Off Target

Low
Is Good
Cumulative
(Per Annum)

Negative
Yearly Trend



58.91!

Target: 55.00

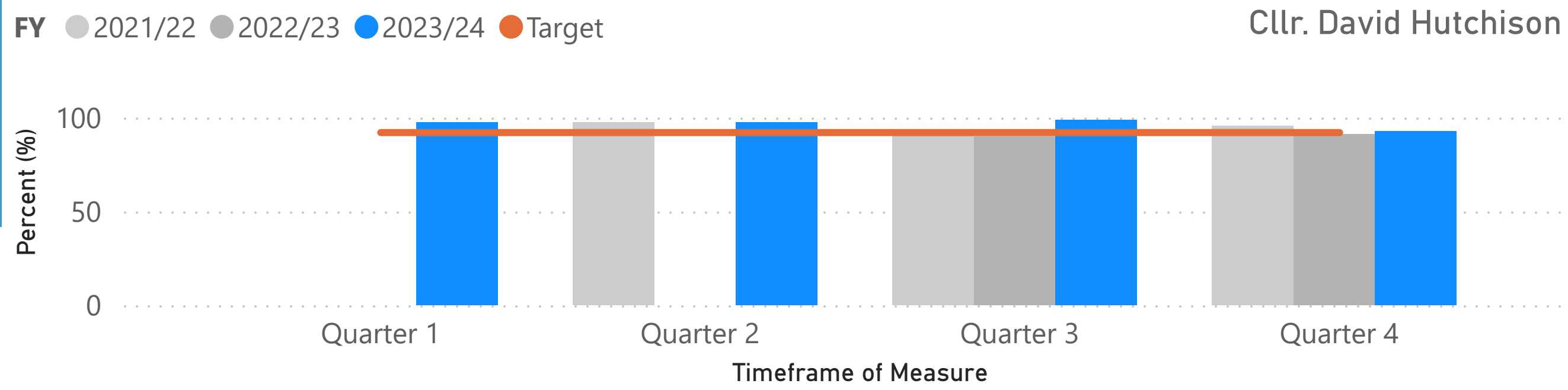
Measure has fallen again from Q3 but does remain over target in this quarter. Downward trend can be seen and hopeful that this will continue into the new financial year. Dropping trend has also seen month on month, where there has been a continued drop in the number of missed bins per 100,000. The Disrupted collections earlier in the year have impacted performance for this year but the improvements that have been made are showing positive differences to the missed bins and the successful collection rate remains very high with a measure of 99.99%.



High ID1.5a - Litter: Levels of street and environment cleanliness (LAMS survey) free / predominantly free of litter

Is Good
Per Quarter (Snapshot)

Positive
Yearly Trend



Current Status SMART Actions if Off Target

92.78 ✓

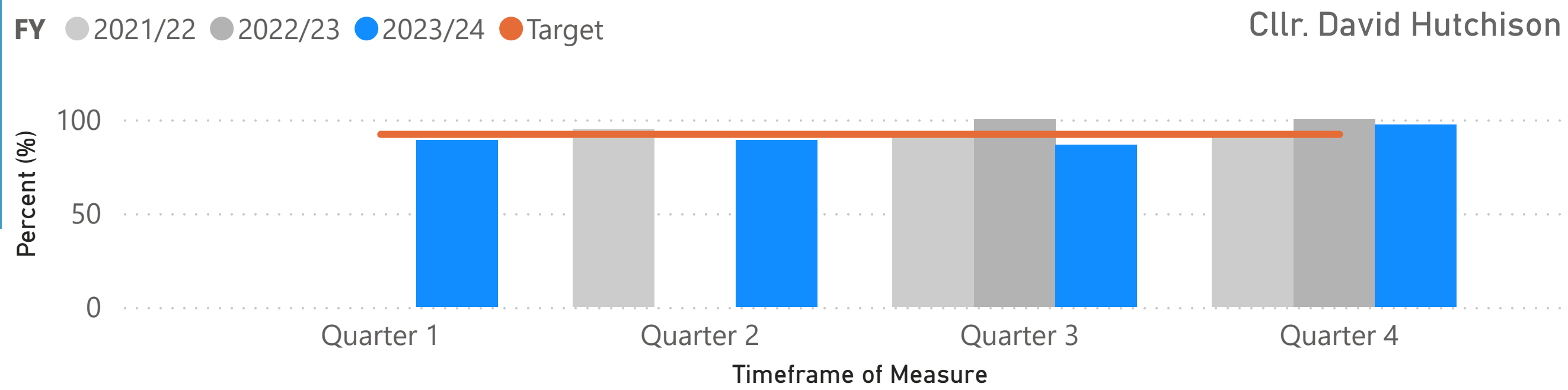
Target: 92.00

Not Required as Target Met

High ID1.5b - Detritus: Levels of street and environment cleanliness (LAMS survey) free / predominantly free of detritus

Is Good
Per Quarter (Snapshot)

Negative
Yearly Trend



Current Status SMART Actions if Off Target

97.22 ✓

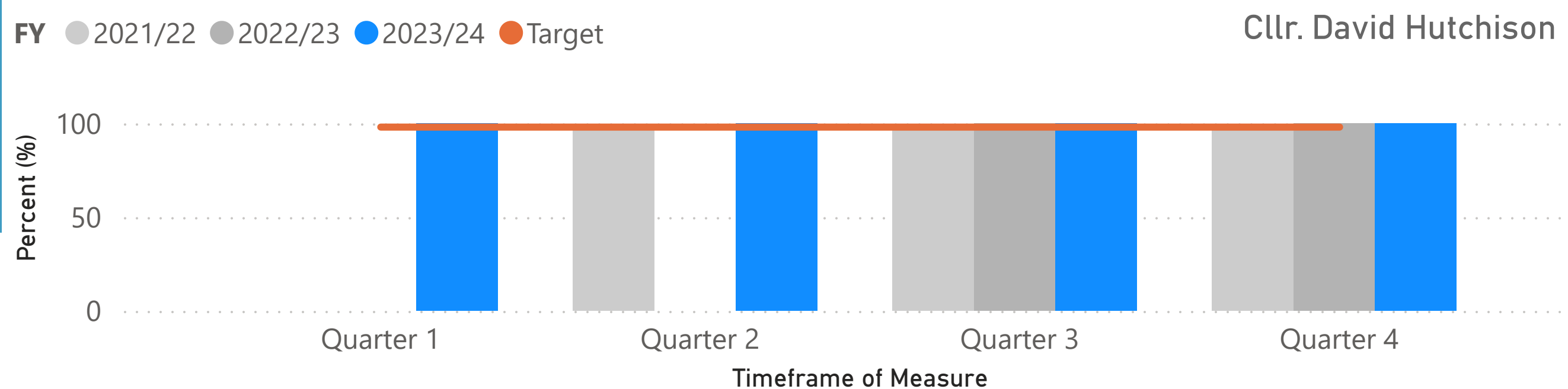
Target: 92.00

Not Required as Target Met

High ID1.5c -d environment cleanlin_Levels of street aness (LAMS survey) free / predominantly free of graffiti

Is Good
Per Quarter (Snapshot)

No Change
Yearly Trend



Current Status SMART Actions if Off Target

100.00 ✓

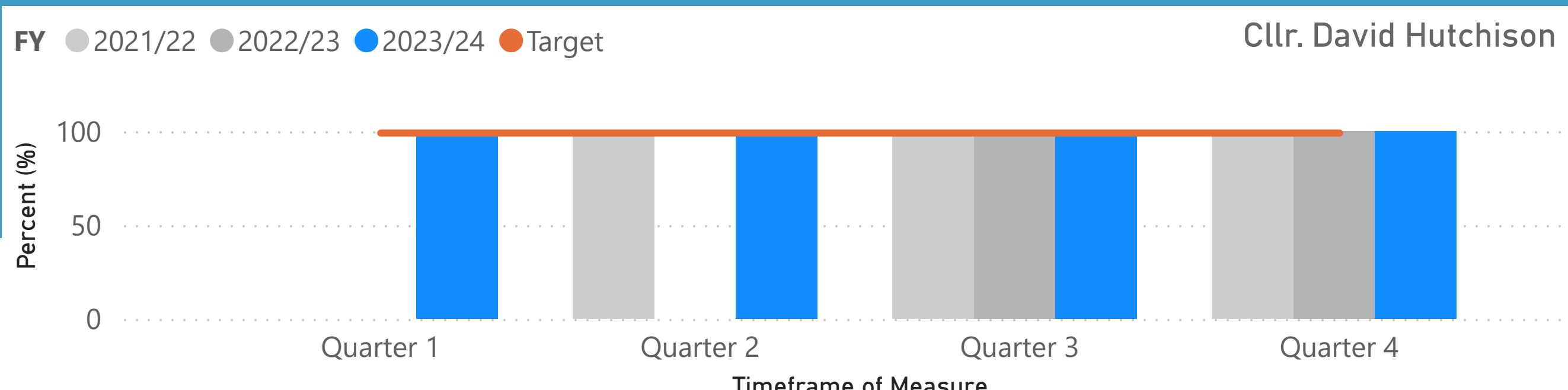
Target: 98.00

Not Required as Target Met

High ID1.5d - Fly-Posting: Levels of street and environment cleanliness (LAMS survey) free / predominantly free of fly-posting

Is Good
Per Quarter (Snapshot)

No Change
Yearly Trend

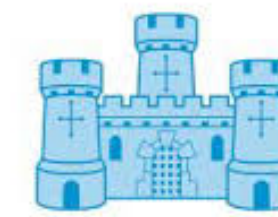


Current Status SMART Actions if Off Target

100.00 ✓

Target: 99.00

Not Required as Target Met



Project Status Split for Priority 1.

Project/Action is Progressing as Expected

4

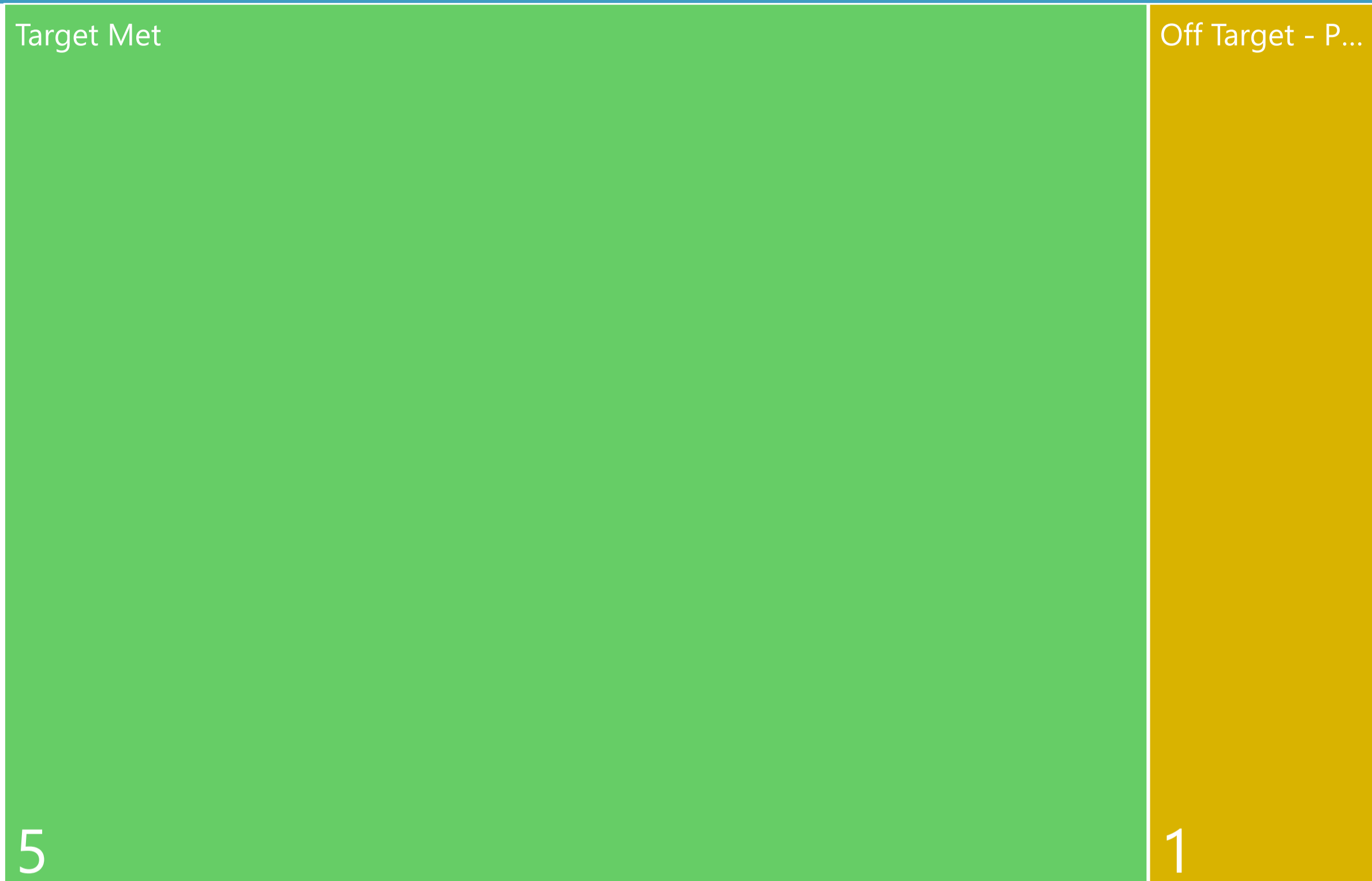
Project/Action is Completed

1

Portfolio Holder	Service Area	Action	Corporate Objective	Status report	Commentary on progress
Cllr. Simon Tagg	1. Strategy, People and Performance 2. All services	Deliver a Workforce Strategy	Develop professional talent across the Council and provide opportunities for staff to grow their careers	✔ Project/Action is Progressing as Expected	The workfoces strategy has been agreed and work is underway to develop plans towards achieving key aims
Cllr. Simon Tagg	1. Strategy, People and Performance 2. IT and Digital 3. Neighbourhoods 4. All (digital enablement)	Deliver the One Council Programme	Ensure our services are efficient and accessible	★ Project/Action is Completed	The One Council Programme has been completed. Work continues across the Council areas to ensure that continuous improvement and performance monitoring remain strong and focused.
Cllr. Stephen Sweeney	1. Commercial Delivery 2. Finance 3. Legal & Governance	Identify and deliver opportunities to generate income from commercial development	Ensure strong financial discipline across the Council	✔ Project/Action is Progressing as Expected	1. The Museum continues to offer a wide range of events, this quarter has seen the launch of the Through The Frame exhibition curated by students from Madeley High School and feature art from David Hockney, Damien Hirst, Tracey Emin and David Shrigley. Bereavement Services continue to expand the range of memorial options, new columbaria vases are now available at Bradwell. 3. Site investigation studies continue at Keele for a potential solar project.
Cllr. Simon Tagg	1. Strategy, People and Performance 2. All services	Work with our communities to ensure services reflect local need	Work with our communities to ensure services reflect local need	✔ Project/Action is Progressing as Expected	Work continues in developing our Priority Delivery Plans in line with our understanding of our communities and the overall Council Priorities and Plan. We continue to work with partners and also with data to understand the context in which we operate, invite feedback and consultation e.g. budget consultation, local plan consultation.
Cllr. Simon Tagg	1. Strategy, People and Performance 2. neighbourhoods 3. Regulatory	Work with partners to deliver the best for our communities	Work with partners to deliver the best for our communities	✔ Project/Action is Progressing as Expected	Partnership working continues to be a strength for the organisation with positive outcomes in regard to Community Safety , Town Centre experience and ease of access to council services.



Priority 2: Performance Indicators Current Status



Corporate Aim (Priority)	Number of Indicators
Priority 2: A Successful and Sustainable Growing Borough	6

Smart Narrative

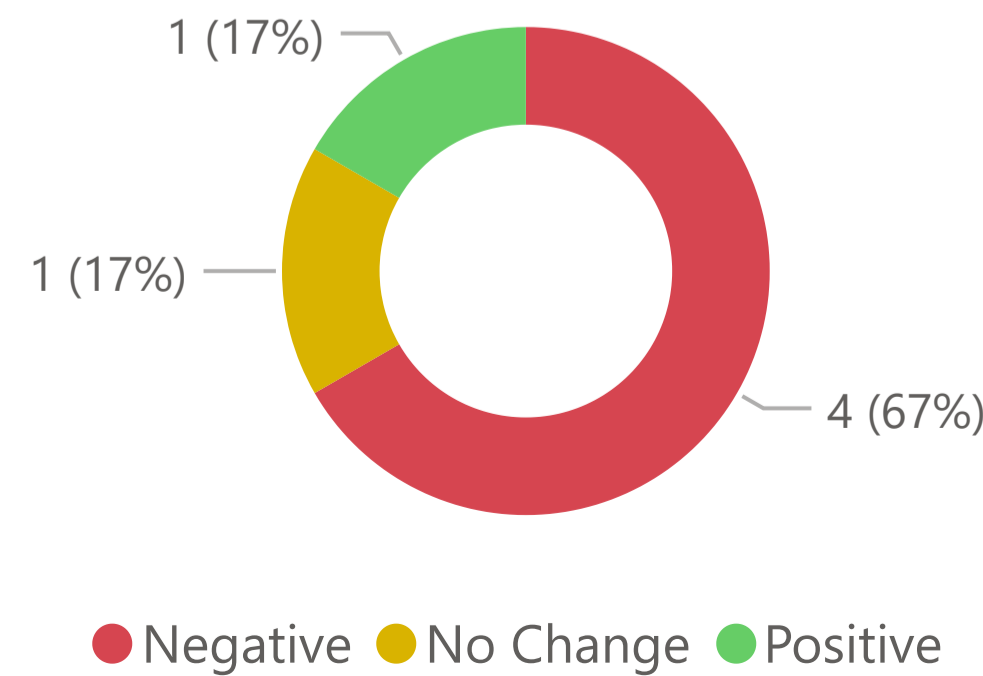
- There are 6 Indicators which have set targets this quarter within Priority 2.
- 83% met their targets within Quarter Four. 2 Indicators which met their target showed improvement when compared to the same time period last year. 3 Indicators which met their target showed a negative trend when being compared to last year.
- 1 measure was off target but this measure showed improved performance when comparing against the previous year for the same time period.
- Within Priority 2, there are 2 Projects/Actions that have been raised to not be progressing as expected and related to the following; "Delivering the £16m Kidsgrove Town Deal" and "Secure a Successful Resolution to Walleys Quarry"

Priority 2: Summary Project Status Split

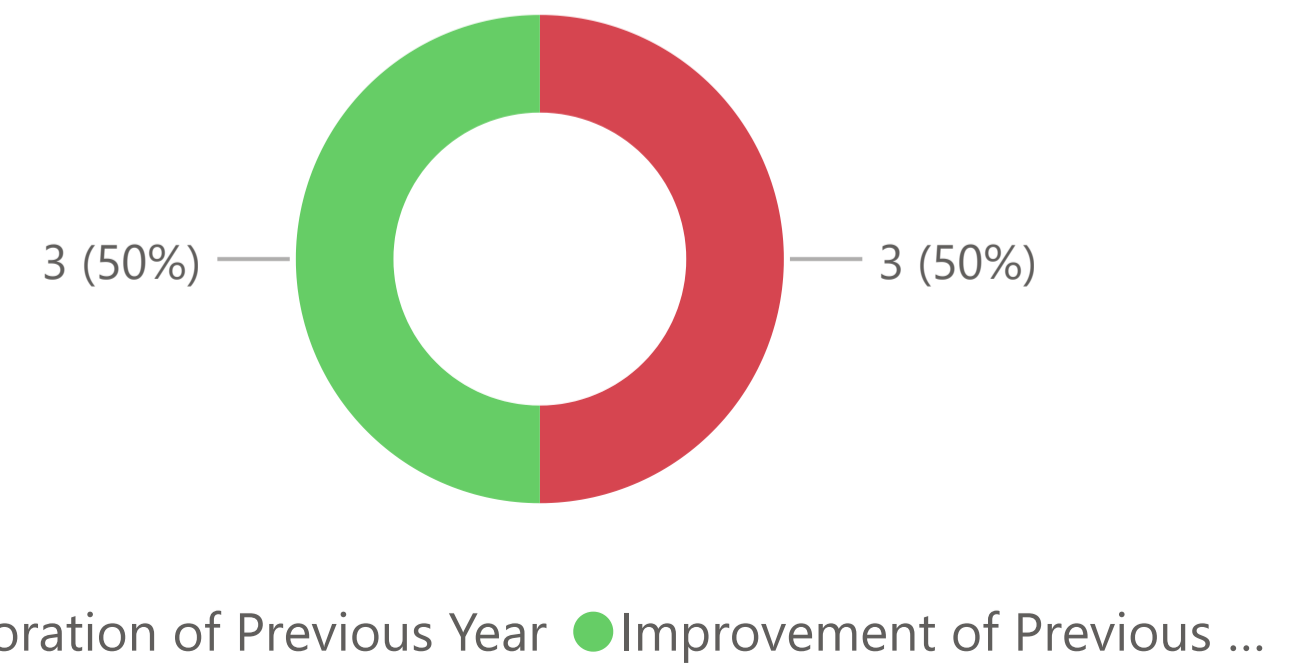
● Project/Action is Not Progressing as Expected ● Project/Action is Progressing as Expe...



Priority 2: Qtr.4 Trend Direction of PI's Compared to Previous Quarter



Priority 2: Qtr.4 Trend Status of PI's Compared On Same Qtr in the Previous Financial Year



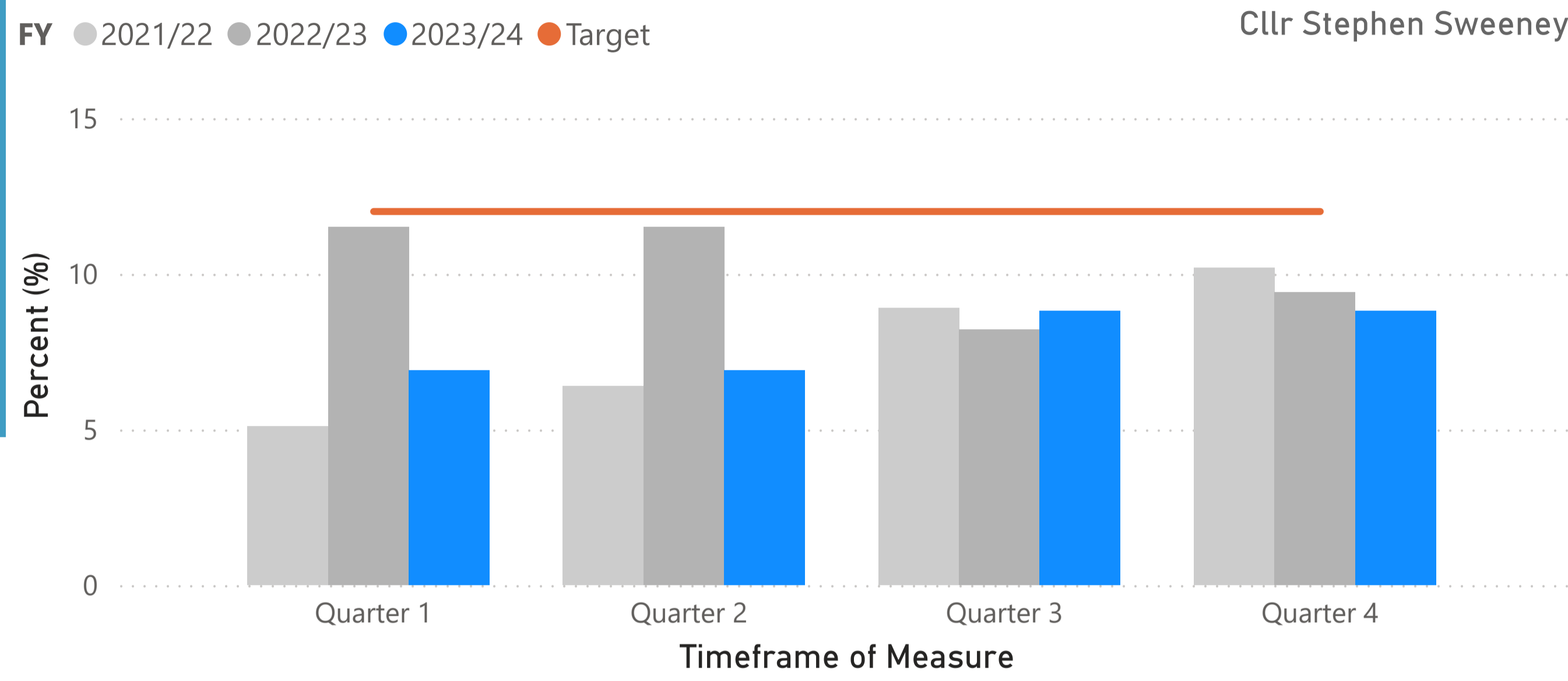


ID2.1 - Percentage of investment portfolio vacant (NBC owned)

Current Status

SMART Actions if Off Target

Low
Is Good
Per Quarter (Snapshot)
Positive
Yearly Trend



8.80 ✓

Target: 12.00

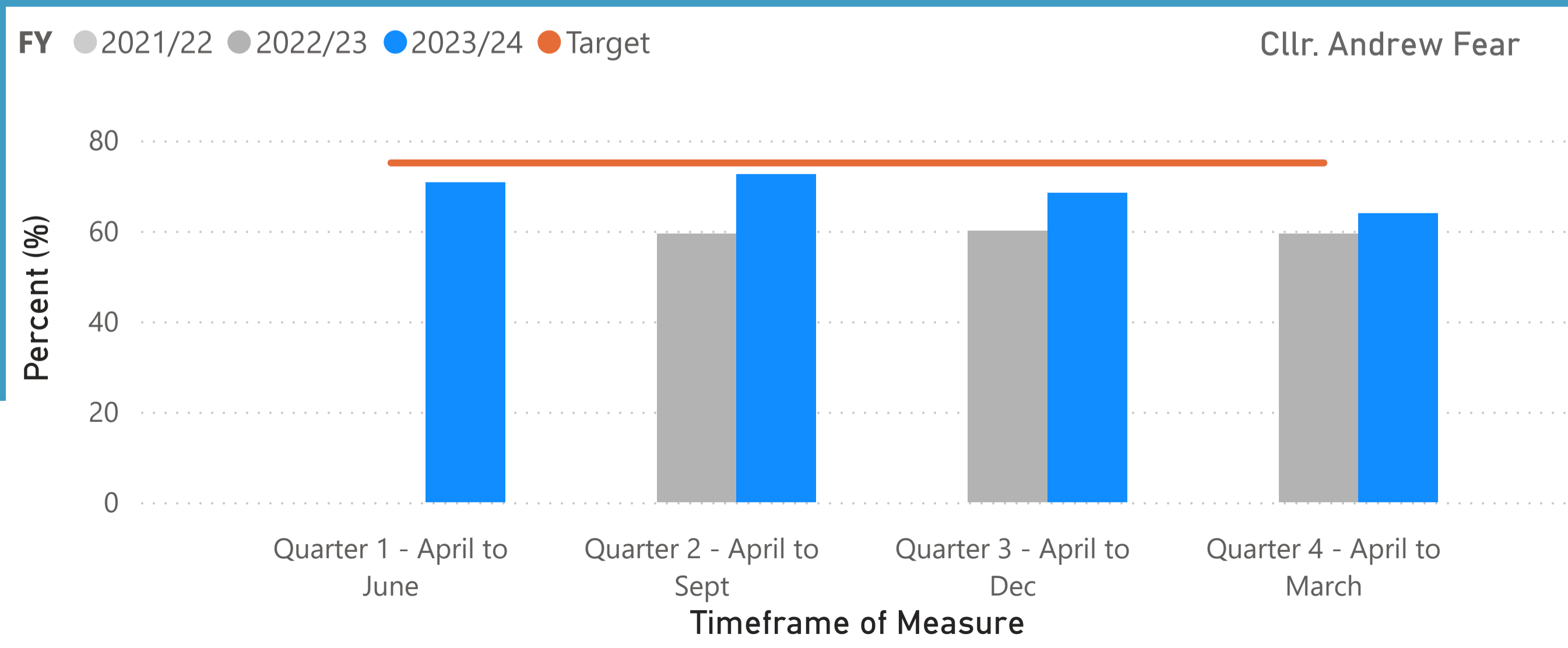
The number of properties % vacant is below target

ID2.6 - Percentage of complainants informed within the required timescales of any action to be taken about alleged breaches of planning control

Current Status

SMART Actions if Off Target

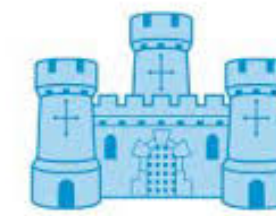
High
Is Good
Cumulative (Per Annum)
Positive
Yearly Trend



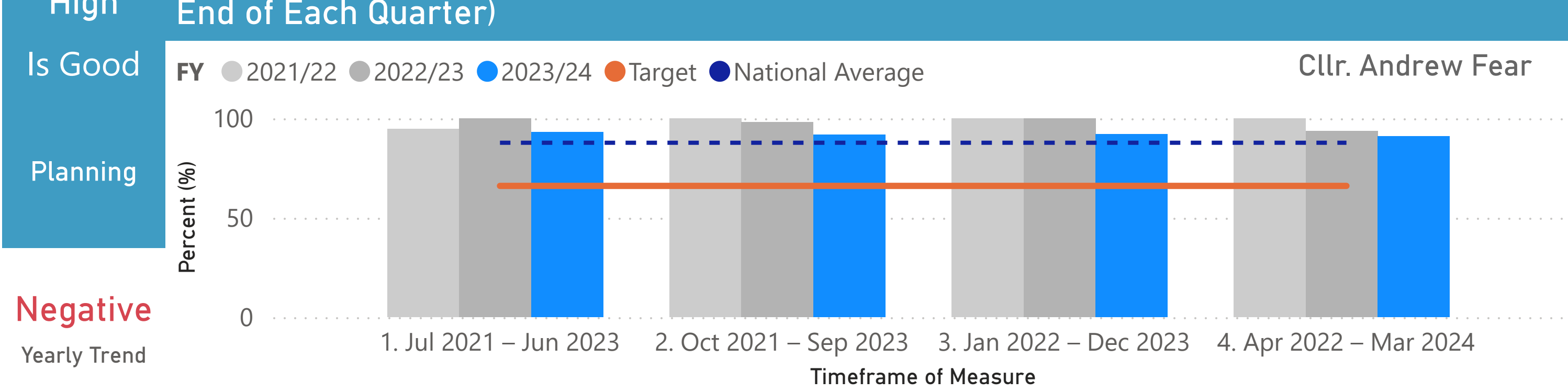
63.90

Target: 75.00

Performance in this quarter is lower than was reported previously, however there has been a significant increase in the number of cases since the previous quarter and several particularly complex cases have taken up a substantial amount of Officer time. A number of changes in process and procedures are also being introduced and it is anticipated that there will be improvement in the next quarter and financial year.



High ID2.2 - Speed of major development applications (P151a - 24 Month Rolling Period up to End of Each Quarter) **Current Status** **SMART Actions if Off Target**



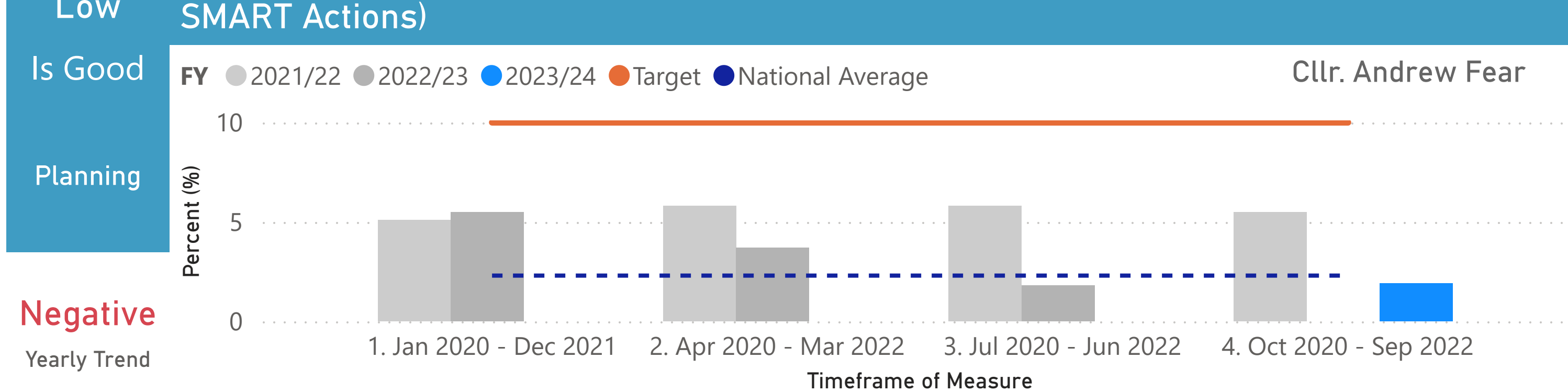
National Average
87.70

90.90 ✓

Target:
66.00

Measure shown is the % within 13 weeks or within agreed time - Central Gov metric which measures a rolling time period of 24 months - Newest metric shows the following time period April 2022 - March 2024

Low ID2.3 - Quality of major development applications (P152a - 24 Month Rolling Period - See SMART Actions) **Current Status** **SMART Actions if Off Target**



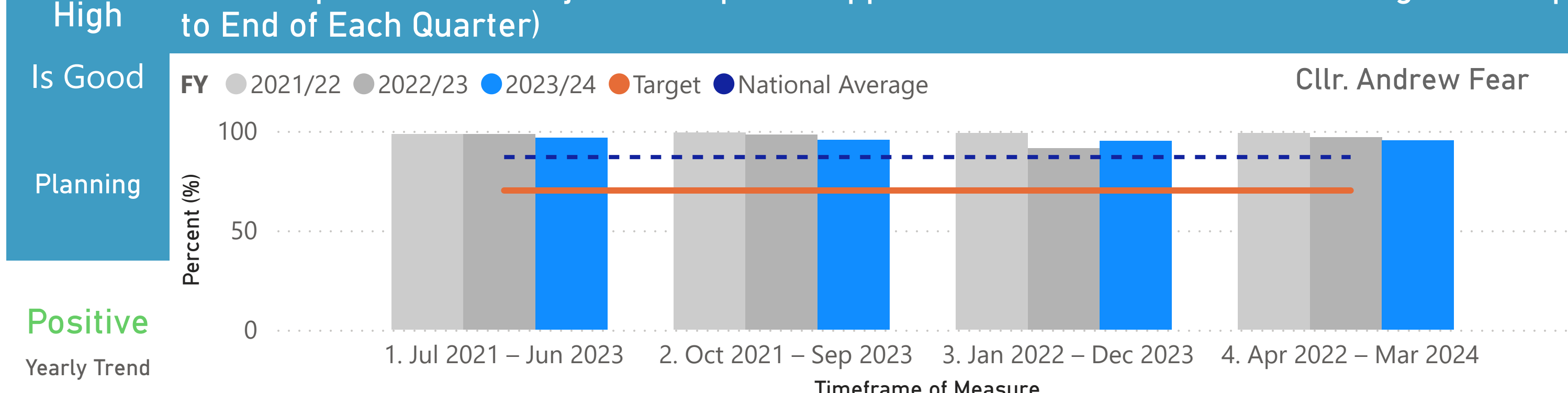
National Average
2.30

1.90 ✓

Target:
10.00

Measure shown is the Quality of decisions (% overturned at appeal) - Central Gov metric which measures a rolling time period of 24 months - They have currently advised they are behind schedule. Newest metric shows the following time period October 2020 - September 2022

High ID2.4 - Speed of non-major development applications (P153 - 24 Month Rolling Period up to End of Each Quarter) **Current Status** **SMART Actions if Off Target**



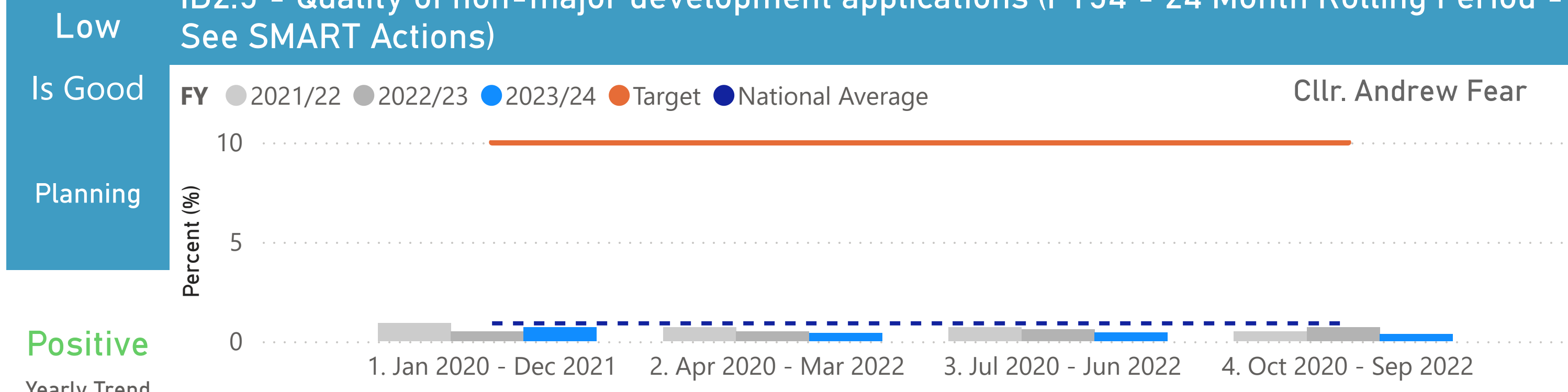
National Average
86.80

95.10 ✓

Target:
70.00

Measure shown is the % within 8 weeks or within agreed time - Central Gov metric which measures a rolling time period of 24 months - Newest metric shows the following time period April 2022 - March 2024

Low ID2.5 - Quality of non-major development applications (P154 - 24 Month Rolling Period - See SMART Actions) **Current Status** **SMART Actions if Off Target**

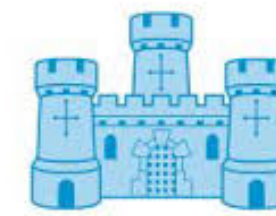


National Average
0.90

0.35 ✓

Target:
10.00

Measure shown is the Quality of decisions (% overturned at appeal) - Central Gov metric which measures a rolling time period of 24 months - They have currently advised they are behind schedule. Newest metric shows the following time period July October 2020 - September 2022



Project Status Split for Priority 2.

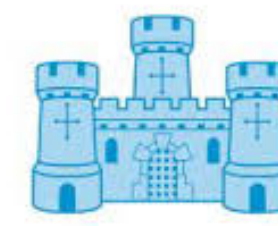
Project/Action is Progressing as Expected

8

Project/Action is Not Progressing as E...

2

Portfolio Holder	Service Area	Action	Corporate Objective	Status report	Commentary on progress
Cllr. David Hutchison	1. Regulatory 2. Neighbourhoods	Secure a successful resolution to the Walley's Quarry odour problem.	Protecting our communities by improving how we use our enforcement powers.	⚠️ Project/Action is Not Progressing as Expected	<p>At the start of Quarter 4 there was significant escalation in complaints to 736 [January 2024] compared to the previous month of 248 an increase of 297%. In response the Service Director wrote to Walleys Quarry Limited highlighting an increase in complaints over the January period.</p> <p>In February 2024 the complaints reached a high of 1232. This level of complaint has not been seen since July 2021. To give some perspective, the Abatement Notice was served in that year [13 August 2021].</p> <p>This escalation of complaint numbers in January and February was subject to an Officer review that concluded that breaches of the Abatement Notice had occurred.</p> <p>Walleys Quarry Ltd were notified in writing of the breaches on 08 April 2024 with a 14 days response time.</p> <p>At the Council meeting on 10 April 2024 it was agreed that legal action would be prepared.</p>
Cllr. David Hutchison	1. Sustainable Environment 2. All	Deliver the Sustainable Environment Strategy	Ensuring that the Council's operations are carbon neutral by 2030	✅ Project/Action is Progressing as Expected	<p>Cabinet approved the RoadMap to net zero in October 2023, and positive work is ongoing in progressing the action plan associated with the RoadMap. this includes the setting up and operation of focused officer working groups looking at specific actions which will help deliver the SES. A number of subsequent strategies and policies which fit into the SES have been produced and approved by Cabinet, in particular, the tree and biodiversity management plan, and the grassland strategy and management plan. additionally the council has recently procured six additional electric vehicles to replace diesel powered vehicles within its streetscene and MMF operational areas.</p>
Cllr. David Hutchison	1. Neighbourhoods	Protect our parks and green spaces for future generations	Ensuring that the Council's operations are carbon neutral by 2030	✅ Project/Action is Progressing as Expected	<p>Phase 5 of the Urban Tree Planting Strategy has been completed, with 6 further sites planted in March 2024. Some minor mulching work is to be completed when ground conditions dry up. Planning has commenced for phase 6 which will take place in winter 2024/25.</p>
Cllr. Stephen Sweeney	1. Commercial Delivery 2. Strategy, People and Performance 3. Finance	Continue to bid for government funding to support the borough's ambitions, including the further development of Keele Science and Innovation Park and the University Growth Corridor.	A strong and sustainable economy where everyone benefits	✅ Project/Action is Progressing as Expected	<p>The Council continues to deliver the two Town Deals and the Shared Prosperity Fund.</p>



Portfolio Holder	Service Area	Action	Corporate Objective	Status report	Commentary on progress
Cllr. Stephen Sweeney	1. Commercial Delivery 2. Neighbourhoods	Delivering the £4.8m Uk Shared Prosperity Fund programme, including: Improving the town centre; Supporting culture and heritage; Skills development for local people; Supporting the most vulnerable people.	A strong and sustainable economy where everyone benefits	✔ Project/Action is Progressing as Expected	The UKSPF 32 projects are ongoing with 5 awaiting grant agreements to be signed. The projects have spent £1,054,921 against the available funds of £2,333,200. Key successes include the Business Enterprise coaching and business APP development, plus the 35 850 events creating a 15% increase in visitors to the museum.
Cllr. Stephen Sweeney	Commercial Delivery	Delivering the £16m Kidsgrove Town Deal, including: Facilitating the Chatterley Valley Enterprise Zone development to deliver 1700 quality jobs for local people; Enhancing Kidsgrove Railway Station and access to the local canal network; Developing a Shared Service Hub with key partners.	A strong and sustainable economy where everyone benefits	⚠ Project/Action is Not Progressing as Expected	Issues remain with delivery of the railway station project where the project team continues to seek a solution to ground conditions caused by historic mine works. All other projects are progressing as planned.
Cllr. Stephen Sweeney	Commercial Delivery	Delivering the £23m Newcastle Town Deal, including: Development of key gateway sites including the 'Zanzibar' and Midway; Connecting residents and businesses to skills training for the digital world; Improving bus, cycling and walking infrastructure; Delivering a circus-themed performing arts Centre; Building more than 400 homes in Knutton and Chesterton.	A strong and sustainable economy where everyone benefits	✔ Project/Action is Progressing as Expected	All projects within the Newcastle Town Deal are progressing as expected.
Cllr. Gill Heesom	1. Regulatory 2. Legal & Governance	Ensure that there are good homes for everyone and that every citizen has a safe and secure place to live	Ensure that there are good homes for everyone and that every citizen has a safe and secure place to live	✔ Project/Action is Progressing as Expected	2023/24 has been a busy year for housing and vulnerability, as shown in the performance figures, with services seeing new demands including Homes for Ukraine and refugee accommodation schemes. Cost of living pressures has continued to impact on homelessness and the demand for social housing. The DFG service has become established as in house service delivering adaptations to residents houses. Projects are also underway to focus on providing a homelessness hub, supporting residents affected by damp and mould in their homes and those needing help with hoarding.
Cllr. David Hutchison	1. Sustainable Environment 2. All	Play an active role in the Staffordshire Sustainability Board	Secure a carbon neutral Borough by 2050	✔ Project/Action is Progressing as Expected	The Council continues to play a leading role in the SSB, with good progress being made on all ten base pledges. moving forward over the next few months the Council will be presenting its tree and biodiversity management plan and grassland strategy and management plan to members of the SSB, as the Council is the first authority in Staffordshire to produce these types of plans for best practice management.
Cllr. Andrew Fear	1. Planning 2. Legal & Governance	Delivering the Newcastle Local Plan	Support the sustainable development of our towns and villages	✔ Project/Action is Progressing as Expected	The Final Draft Local Plan (at Regulation 19 stage) is anticipated to be considered at Economy and Place Scrutiny Committee on the 11th July and then at Full Council on the 24th July 2024 with a recommendation to consult on the Local Plan for a minimum of six weeks. This is with the intention of submitting the Local Plan for examination by the end of 2024. The Plan will be supported by a suite of evidence based documents and will consider the comments received to the First Draft Local Plan consultation held over the summer of 2023.



Priority 3: Performance Indicators Current Status



Corporate Aim (Priority)	Number of Indicators
Priority 3: Healthy, Active and Safe Communities	15

Smart Narrative

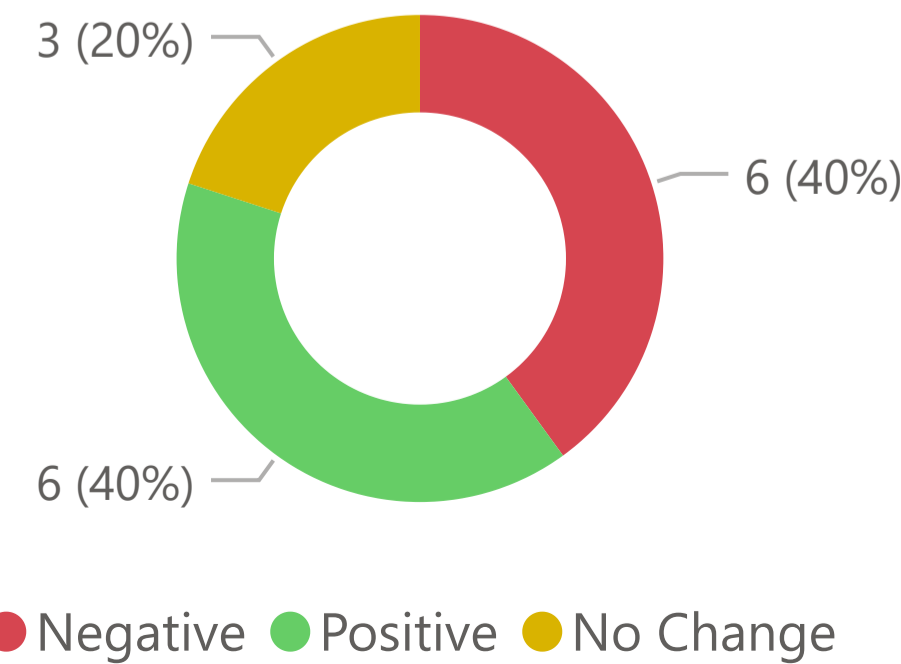
- There are 3 Indicators which have set targets this quarter within Priority 3.
- 67% met their targets within Quarter Four. All 2 Indicators which met their target also showed improvement or no change when compared to the same time period last year.
- 33% of Indicators were classed as off target this quarter, this indicator also showed a negative trend when comparing against the previous years data.
- There are 12 Indicators which are contextual this quarter and do not have a target to meet. When compared to last year, 7 measures had showed a negative trend, 2 measures demonstrated an improvement when comparing to 22/23; 3 contextual measures did not change.
- Within Priority 3, there was 1 Projects/Actions which was been classed as completed, this being "Expansion of the street warden scheme and the creation of neighbourhood delivery teams.". All other Projects remain are shown to be progressing as expected.

Priority 3: Summary Project Status Split

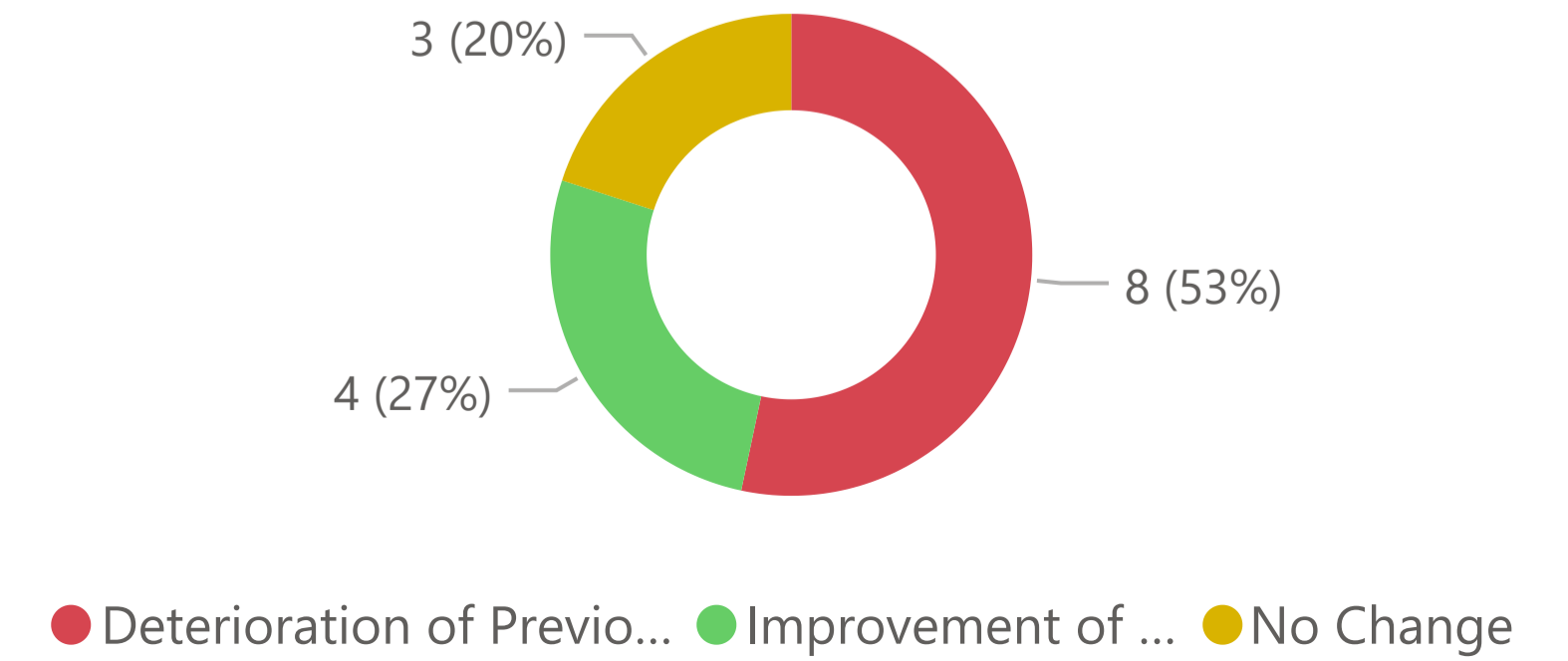
● Project/Action is Completed ● Project/Action is Progressing as Expected

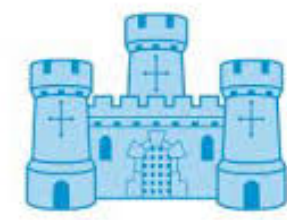


Priority 3: Qtr.4 Trend Direction of PI's Compared to Previous Quarter

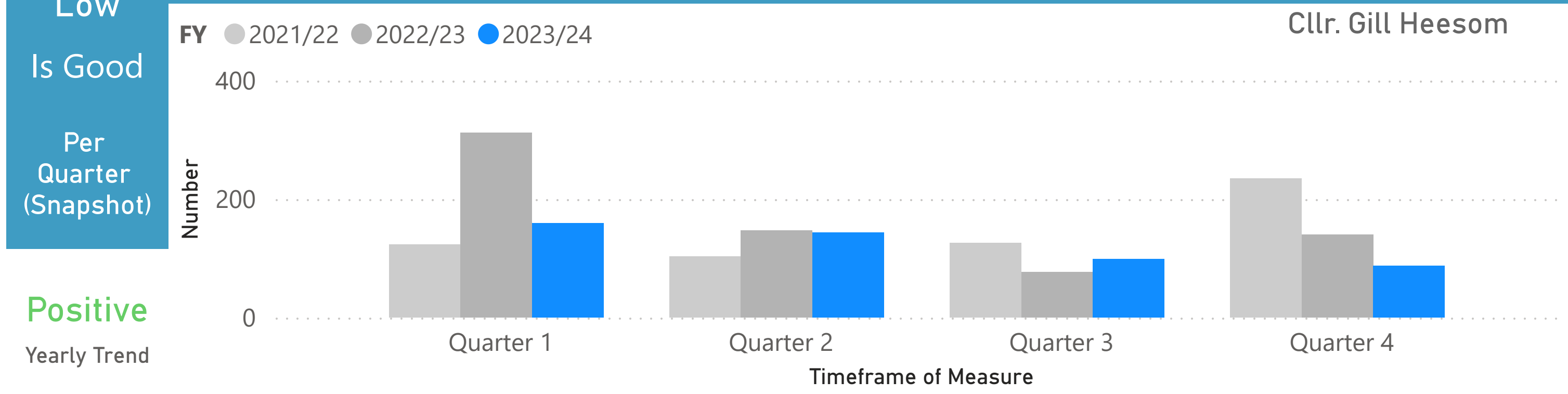


Priority 3: Qtr.4 Trend Status of PI's Compared On Same Qtr in the Previous Financial Year





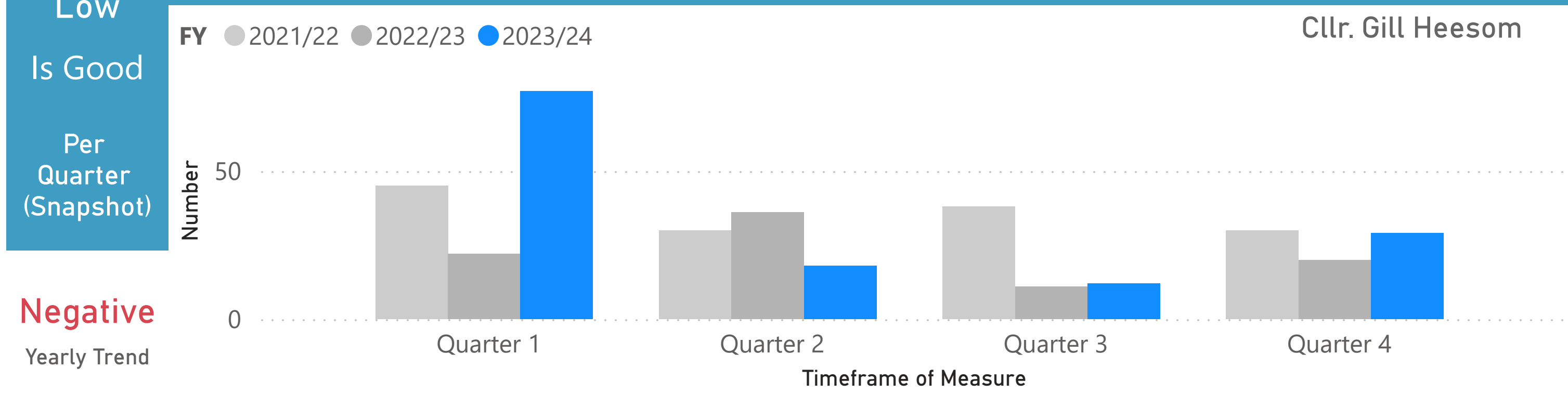
ID3.1a - Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) cases - New cases received during the quarter Current Status SMART Actions if Off Target



87.00

Work is continuing with a range of partner agencies to address ASB efficiently and effectively and ensure that reporting is accurate.

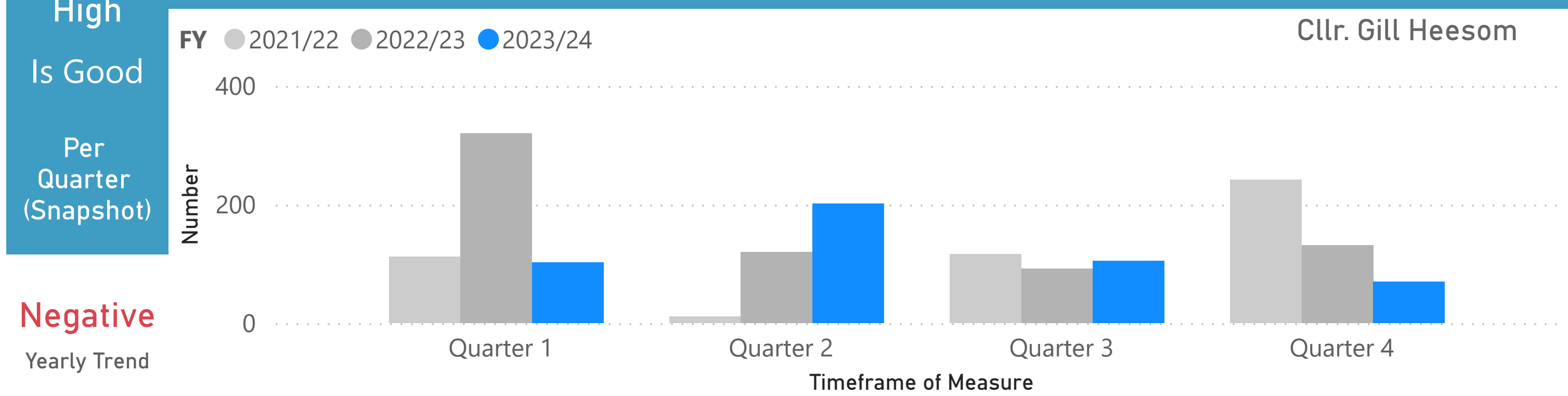
ID3.1b - (ASB) cases - Current open cases at the end of the quarter Current Status SMART Actions if Off Target



29.00

We continue partnership working to reduce ASB and ensure any complaints are dealt with efficiently and effectively in a timely manner, including accurate reporting.

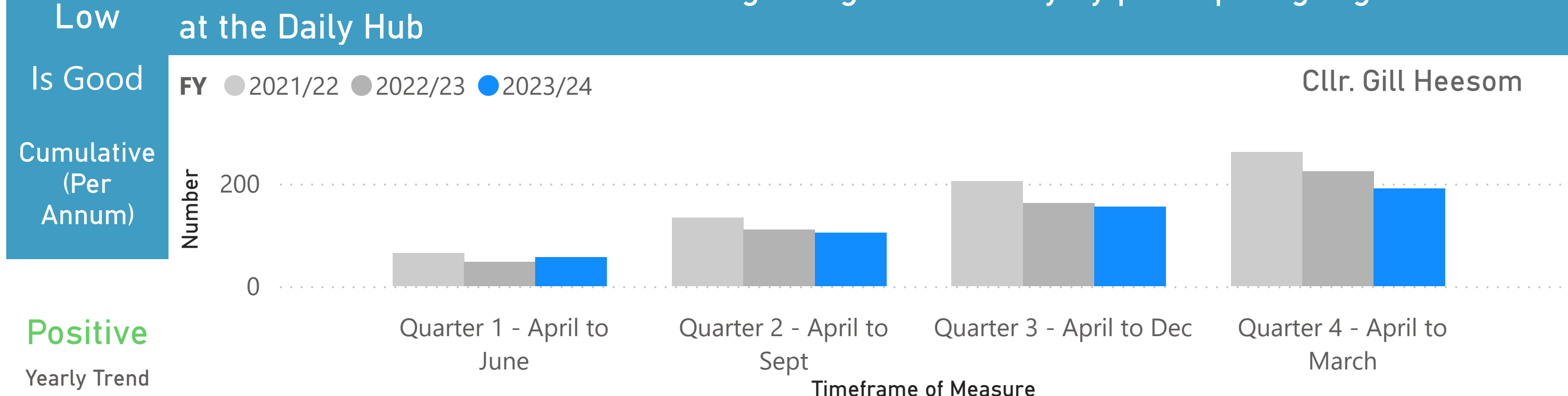
ID3.1c - (ASB) cases - Cases closed in the quarter Current Status SMART Actions if Off Target



70.00

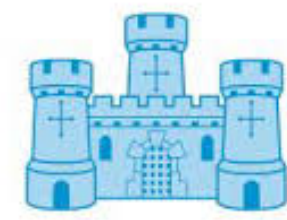
Value is also relative to the measure of new cases received. We continue partnership working to reduce ASB and ensure any complaints are dealt with efficiently and effectively in a timely manner.

ID3.2 - Number of referrals made regarding vulnerability by participating organisations at the Daily Hub Current Status SMART Actions if Off Target



190.00

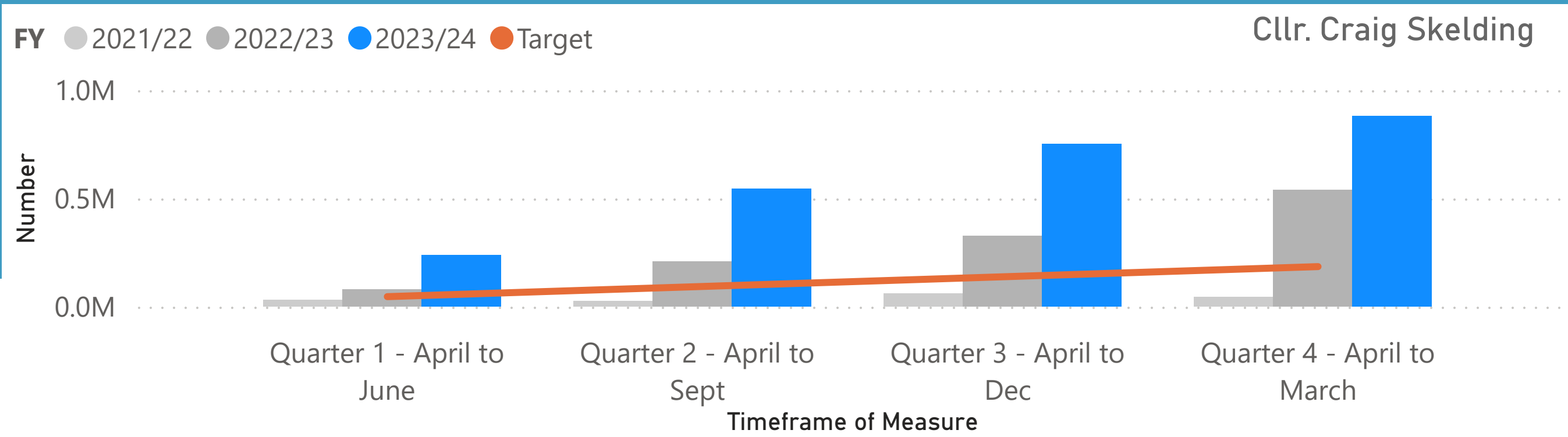
Service has seen a reduced number when comparing to previous financial year by 33 referrals.



ID3.3 - Number of People Accessing the Museum's collections online and in person Current Status SMART Actions if Off Target

High
Is Good
Cumulative (Per Annum)

Positive
Yearly Trend



881.25K ✓

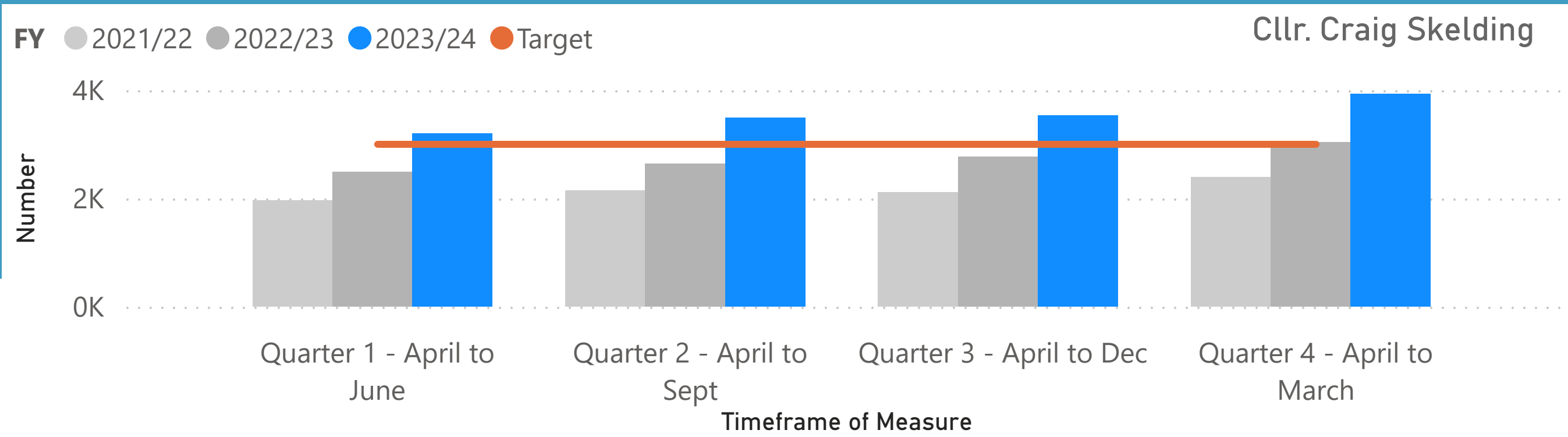
Target: 185.00K

Not Required as Target Met

ID3.4 - J2 Membership growth Current Status SMART Actions if Off Target

High
Is Good
Cumulative (Per Annum)

Positive
Yearly Trend



3.93K ✓

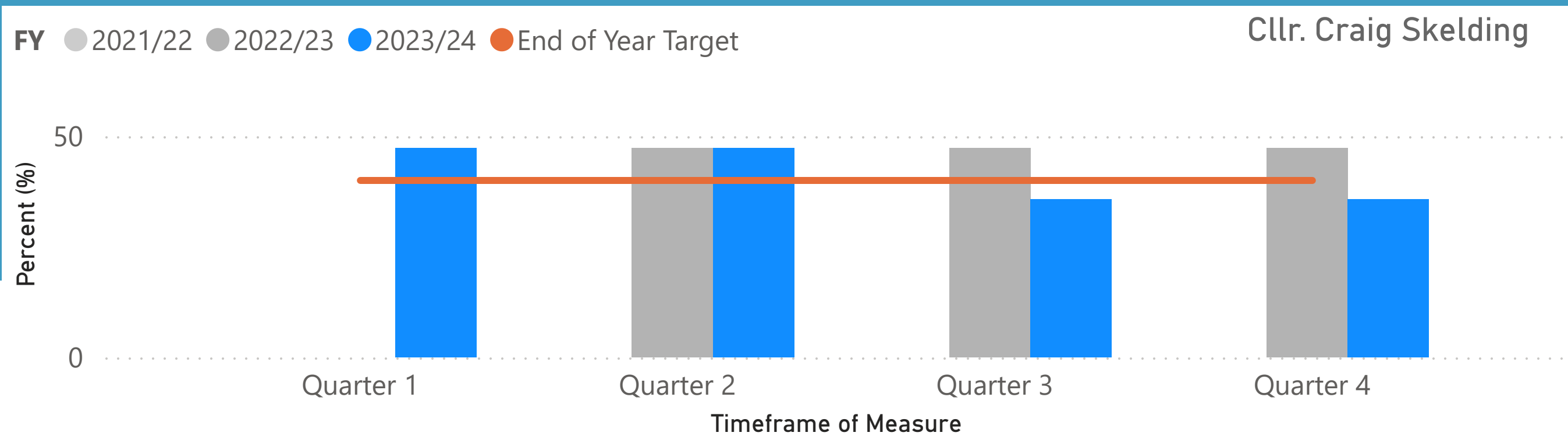
Target: 3.00K

Not Required as Target Met

ID3.5 - Jubilee 2 Customer Satisfaction – Net Promotor Score Current Status SMART Actions if Off Target

High
Is Good
Per Quarter (Snapshot)

Negative
Yearly Trend



35.68 !

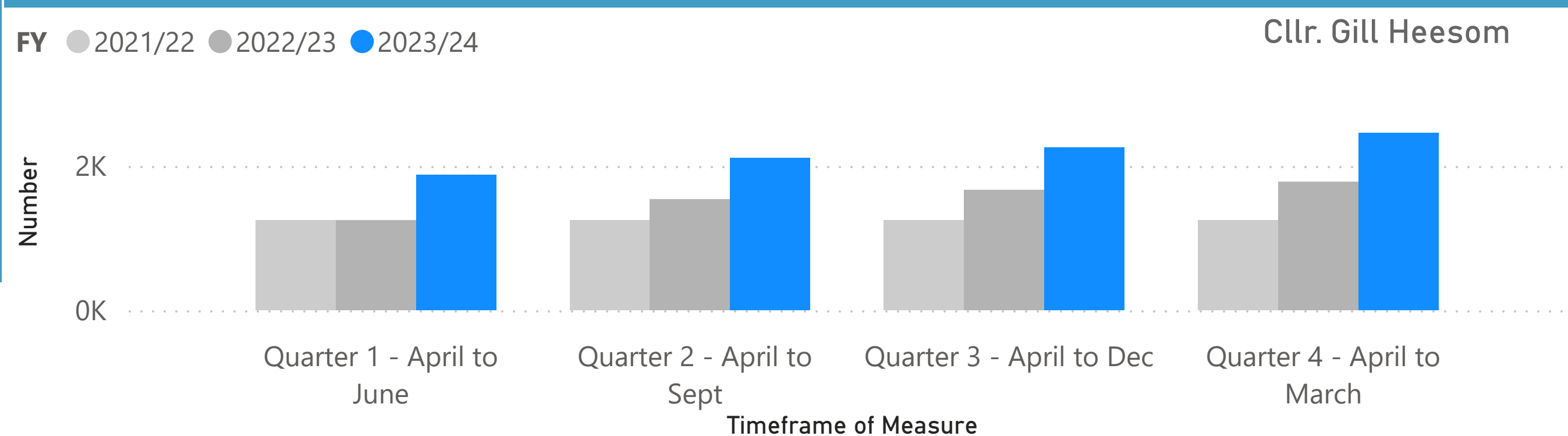
End of Year Target: 40.00

The NPS is collected through the Moving Communities questionnaire administered by Sport England. Whilst the NPS score falling below the target of 40 J2 is still well above the National NPS score of 22. To improve customer satisfaction in the areas which are currently below the national comparator work is taking place to improve the ease of on-line booking and awareness with customers that our sta...

ID3.6 - Live application on the housing register Current Status SMART Actions if Off Target

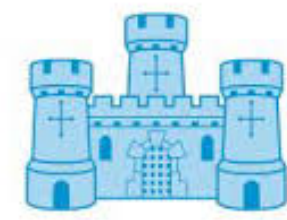
Low
Is Good
Per Quarter (Snapshot)

Negative
Yearly Trend



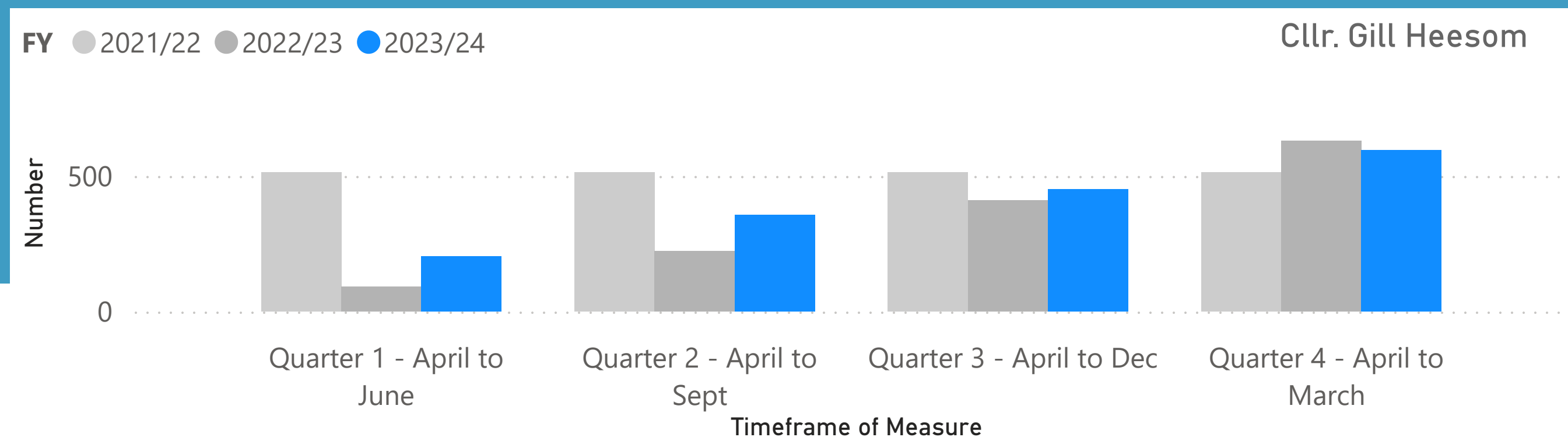
2.45K

Live application numbers reflects the increasing demand for social housing at a time of increasing housing costs



ID3.7 - Number of lets to registered providers from the housing waiting list Current Status SMART Actions if Off Target

High
Is Good
Per Quarter (Snapshot)



Cllr. Gill Heesom

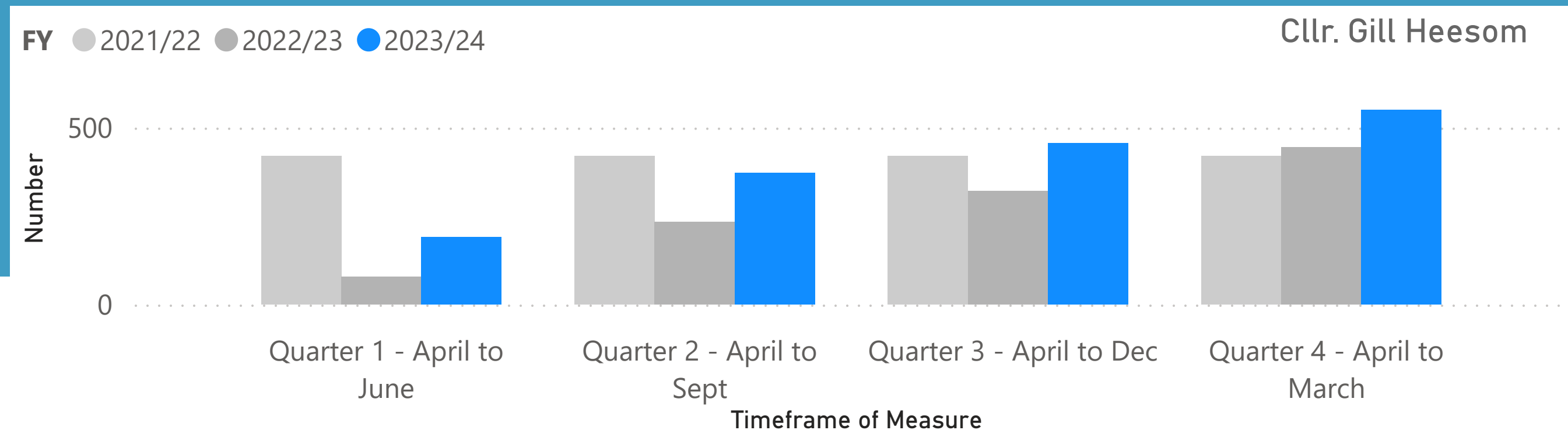
594.00

Depends on partnership working with registered providers in the borough

Negative
Yearly Trend

ID3.8 - Emergency homeless presentations Current Status SMART Actions if Off Target

Low
Is Good
Cumulative (Per Annum)



Cllr. Gill Heesom

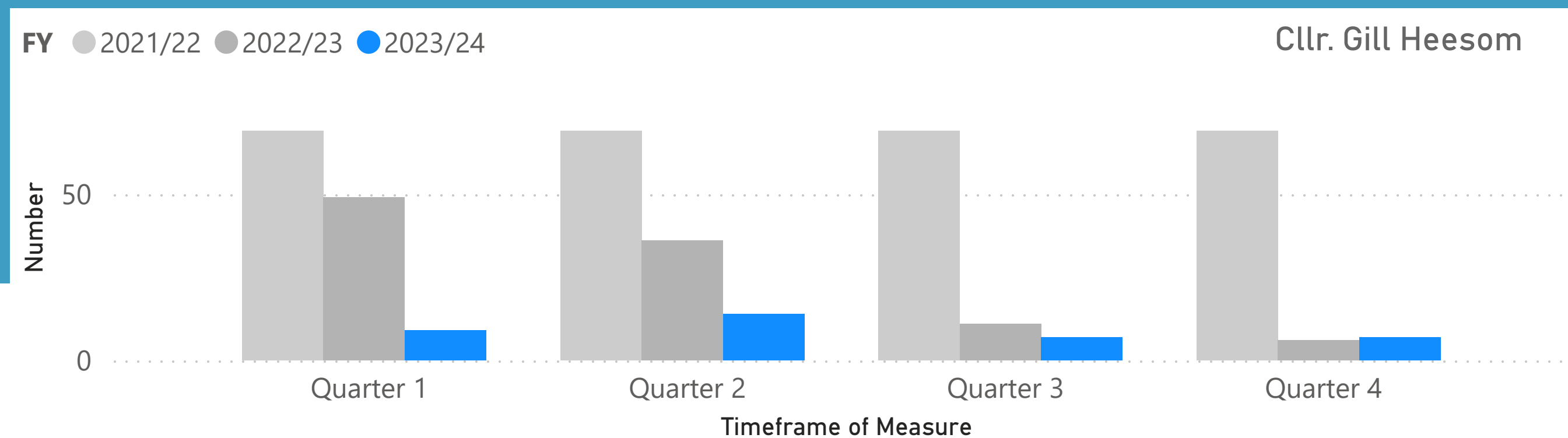
550.00

Number of emergency homeless presentations when looking Quarter 4 in isolation falls at 95. This is a significant drop in the number of presentations when compared to earlier in the year. Quarter 1 showed 191, Quarter 2 showed 180 and Quarter 3 showed 84.

Negative
Yearly Trend

ID4.4 - Total Rough Sleepers Verified in Quarter Current Status SMART Actions if Off Target

Low
Is Good
Per Quarter (Snapshot)



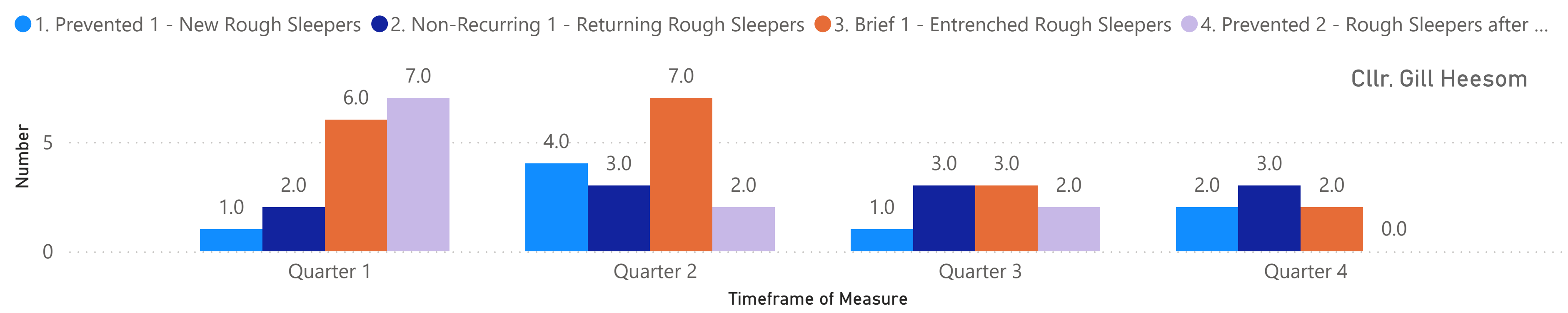
Cllr. Gill Heesom

7.00

The last rough sleeper count took place on the 15th March 2024 and 7 individuals were verified. Four were Stoke connection, one Stafford and two Newcastle. We seem to be having an influx of rough sleepers from out of area. Having the Multi Agency Hub is enabling us to link in with other providers to ensure those individuals are receiving the right support to get them to access provision in their area.

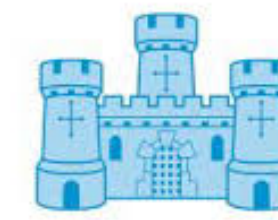
Negative
Yearly Trend

ID4.4a, 4.4b, 4.4c and 4.4d - Breakdown of Rough Sleepers Verified in Quarter



Cllr. Gill Heesom

The last rough sleeper count took place on the 15th March 2024 and 7 individuals were verified. Four were Stoke connection, one Stafford and two Newcastle. We seem to be having an influx of rough sleepers from out of area. Having the Multi Agency Hub is enabling us to link in with other providers to ensure those individuals are receiving the right support to get them to access provision in their area.



Project Status Split for Priority 3.

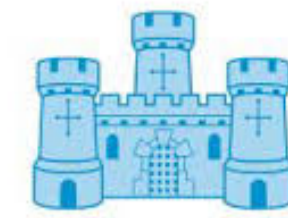
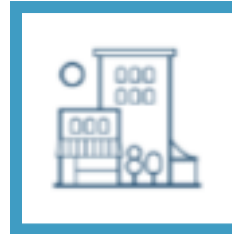
Project/Action is Progressing as Expected

5

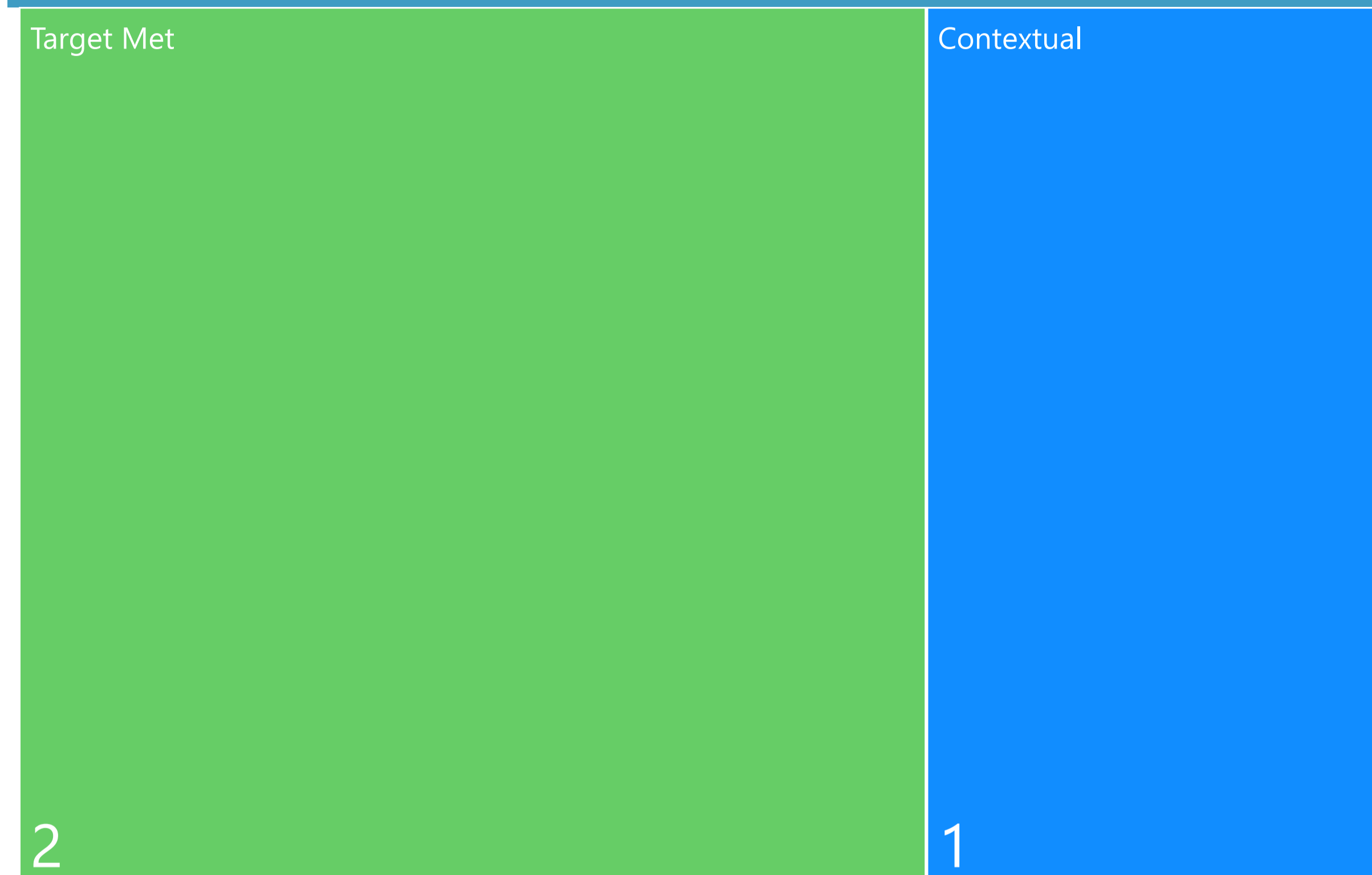
Project/Action is Completed

1

Portfolio Holder	Service Area	Action	Corporate Objective	Status report	Commentary on progress
Cllr. Gill Heesom	Neighbourhoods	Build on our work with Staffordshire Police	Reduce anti-social behaviour and crime in our communities	✔ Project/Action is Progressing as Expected	A range of initiatives are in progress and ongoing in partnership with the police including delivery of the Community Safety Partnership action plan, enforcement of PSPOs in Newcastle town centre and parks and open spaces, CCTV monitoring and installation of additional cameras, Safer Nights including the Safe Space for women and girls and the street medics, youth diversionary projects and a new warden scheme to assist with town centre enforcement
Cllr. Craig Skelding	1. Commercial Delivery 2. Neighbourhoods	Delivering an economic and cultural legacy from the celebration of the borough's 850th anniversary in 2023.	Delivering an economic and cultural legacy from the celebration of the borough's 850th anniversary in 2023.	✔ Project/Action is Progressing as Expected	The museum continued to deliver a monthly programme of talks and events celebrating the 850 throughout 2023. The annual Chris Malking lecture took place in January 2024. Plans are in place for the burial of the time capsule.
Cllr. David Hutchison	1. Neighbourhoods 2. Sustainable Environment	Expansion of the street warden scheme and the creation of neighbourhood delivery teams.	Secure a step change in street cleanliness and the quality of the public domain	★ Project/Action is Completed	The MMF team is now fully staffed and operational, and the Neighbourhood Rangers are deployed in Newcastle town centre, Kildsgrove and the remaining neighbourhoods of the Borough on a rolling basis. A members guide on the scope and purpose of the team has been drafted.
Cllr. David Hutchison	Sustainable Environment	Further increasing recycling rates across the borough with a particular focus on food waste	Further increasing recycling rates across the borough with a particular focus on food waste	✔ Project/Action is Progressing as Expected	Positive progress is being made, and recycling rates are slowly improving. However this is against a national picture of stagnating and falling levels of recycling, caused by a number of factors, including cost of living crisis, and producers changing and lightweighting packaging products.
Cllr. Simon Tagg	1. Strategy, People and Performance 2. Neighbourhoods	Work collaboratively with the Newcastle Partnership	Ensure that our most vulnerable residents are supported through the impact of the rising cost of living.	✔ Project/Action is Progressing as Expected	Through the partnership board, we are progressing working groups around vulnerability, cost of living and mental health. We also are the designated chair for Better Health Staffordshire in Newcastle and are in receipt of grant funding to impact on health inequalities.
Cllr. Craig Skelding	Neighbourhoods	Work with partners to develop effective community bodies	Support the development of community solutions to local problems	✔ Project/Action is Progressing as Expected	Responses have been provided to the Staffordshire County Council consultation on the emerging Community Empowerment Strategy, and work has commenced on drafting a Community Empowerment Strategy and Action Plan for the Borough. Community groups are being assisted with local projects and initiatives, including the Great British Spring Clean which took place in March 2024.



Priority 4: Performance Indicators Current Status



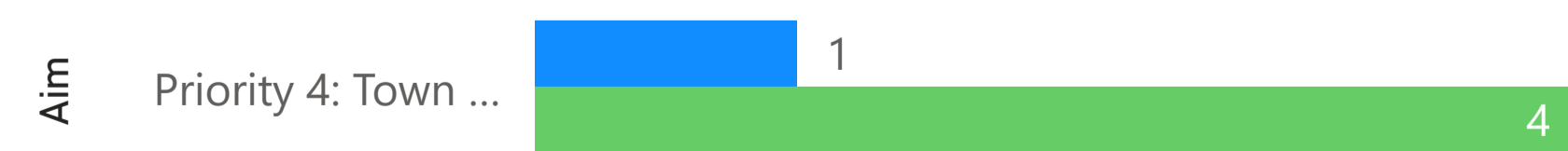
Corporate Aim (Priority)	Number of Indicators
Priority 4: Town Centres for All	3

Smart Narrative

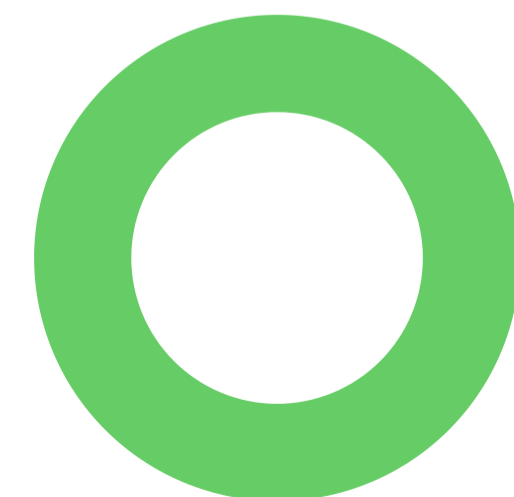
- There are 2 Indicators which have set targets this quarter within Priority 4.
- 100% of measures with set targets met them within Quarter Four. One indicator which met their target also showed improvement when compared to the same time period last year; the remaining 1 indicator showed a negative trend.
- Within Priority 4, One project/action has been classed as completed; this being "Developing a Town Centre Strategy for Kidsgrove". All other Projects/Actions were identified to be progressing as expected.

Priority 4: Summary Project Status Split

● Project/Action is Completed ● Project/Action is Progressing as Expected

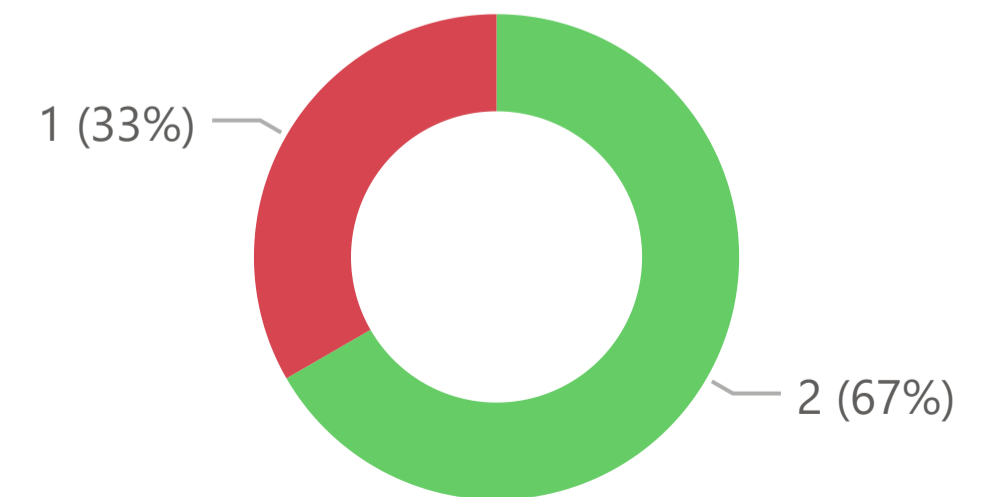


Priority 4: Qtr.4 Trend Direction of PI's Compared to Previous Quarter

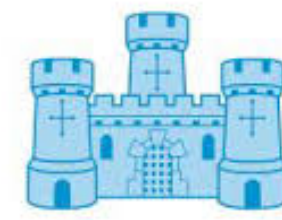


3 (100%)
● Positive

Priority 4: Qtr.4 Trend Status of PI's Compared On Same Qtr in the Previous Financial Year



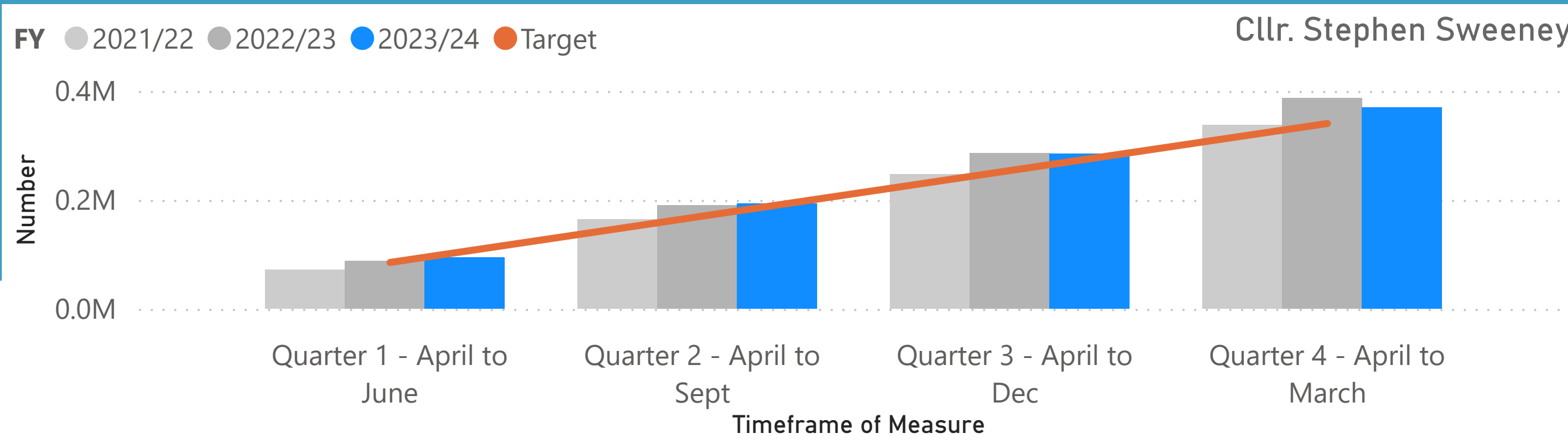
2 (67%)
1 (33%)
● Improvement of Previous Year ● Deterioration of Previous Y...



ID4.1 - Car parking usage:-Number of tickets purchased Current Status SMART Actions if Off Target

High
Is Good
Cumulative (Per Annum)

Negative
Yearly Trend



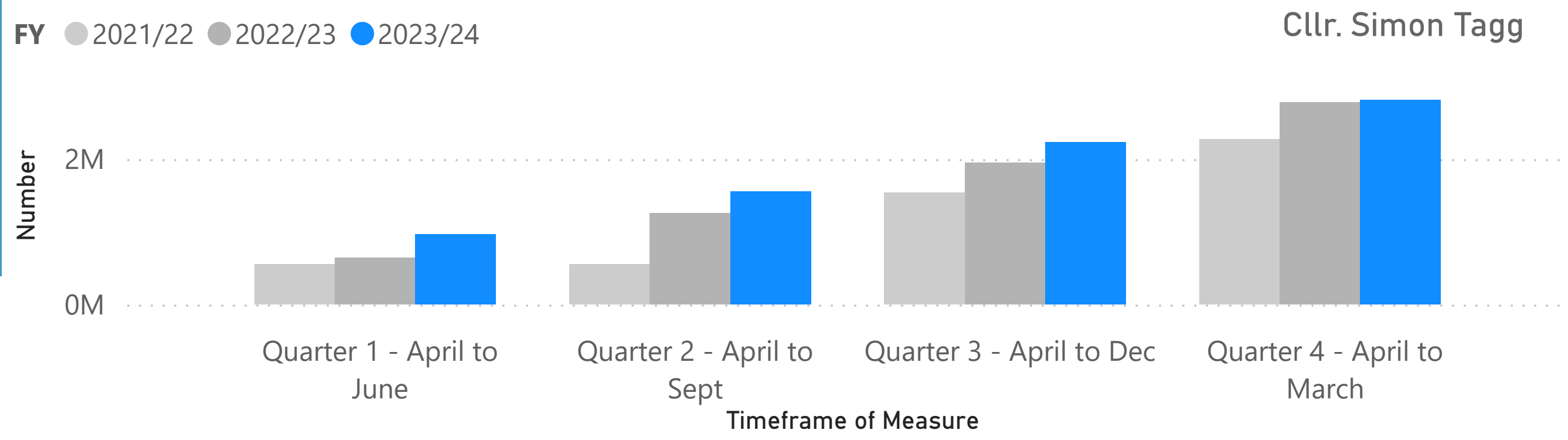
368.99K ✓
Target: 340.00K

Not Required as Target Met

ID4.2 - Town Centre Footfall - Newcastle Current Status SMART Actions if Off Target

High
Is Good
Cumulative (Per Annum)

Positive
Yearly Trend



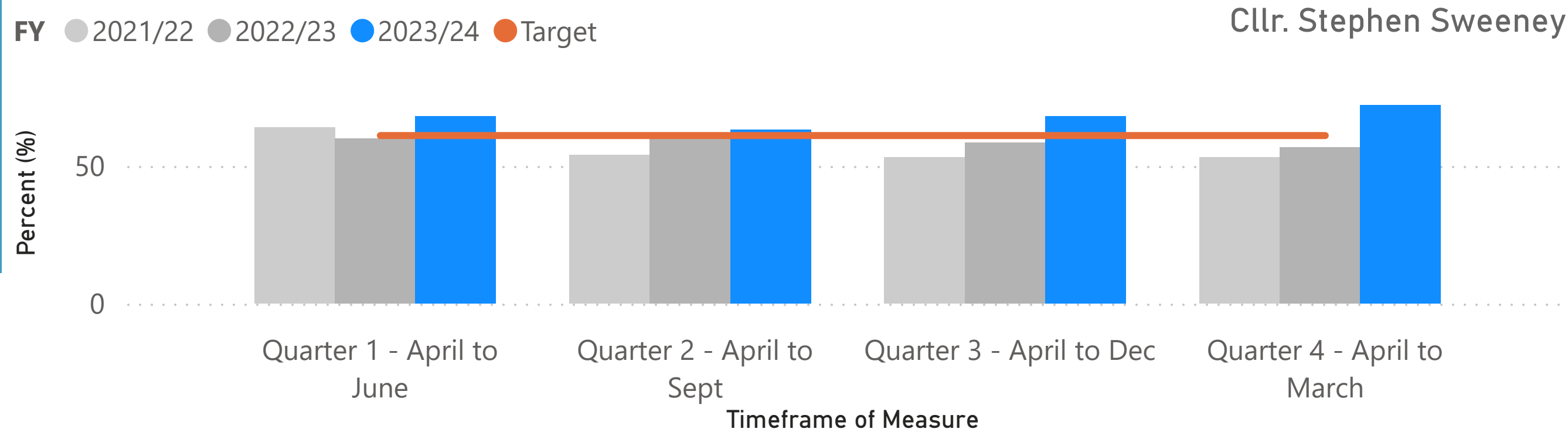
2.81M

Data for this measure is provided by the BID. Estimates have been provided in order to backdate reporting of this measure with solution now found by the BID meaning data moving forward can continue to be regularly supplied.

ID4.3 - Average stall occupancy rate for markets - Overall Current Status SMART Actions if Off Target

High
Is Good
Cumulative (Per Annum)

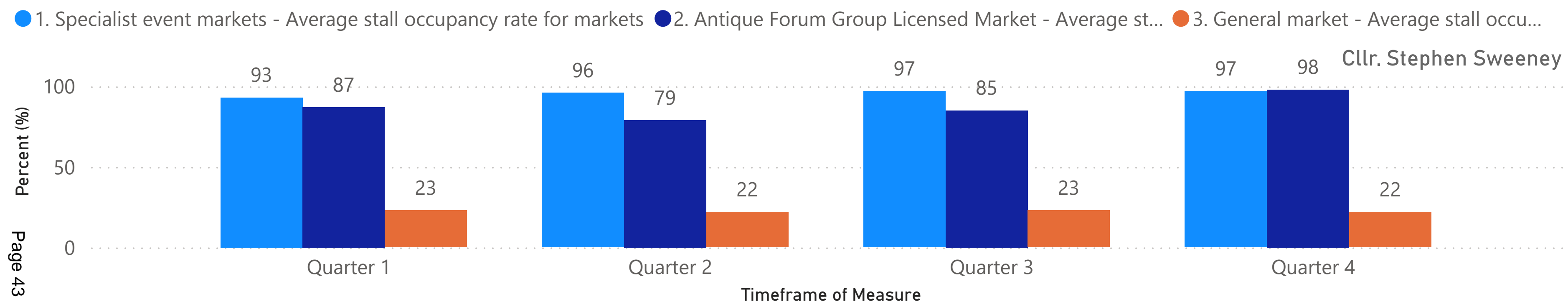
Positive
Yearly Trend



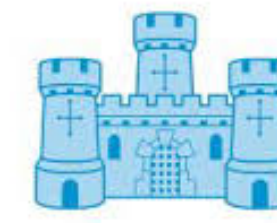
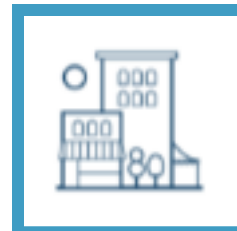
72.00 ✓
Target: 61.00

Stall occupancy for Sunday specialist markets and AFG markets on Tuesdays and Thursdays is high and above target. Occupancy rates for the general market are lower. Since 1 March 2024, Monday is a rent free day, run mostly by traders. With no Markets Officer on duty PIs are not compiled. A spot check of traders shows occupancy has increased to between 40% and 50% on the Monday General market.

ID4.3a, 4.3b and 4.3c- Average stall occupancy rate for Specific Markets



Specialist Markets - Remains high occupancy with Castle Artisan, Vegan and Charity markets held this quarter. Antique Forum - Remains high occupancy with almost all 40 stalls being occupied. General Market - Market stall remodelling is scheduled for Summer 2024 by removing some fixed stalls in preference of on-the-day temporary stalls. The objective is to create an attractive event space.



Project Status Split for Priority 4.

Project/Action is Progressing as Expected

4

Project/Action is Completed

1

Portfolio Holder	Service Area	Action	Corporate Objective	Status report	Commentary on progress
Cllr. Stephen Sweeney	1. Commercial Delivery 2. Planning	Redeveloping Midway car park to provide aspirational town centre residential accommodation	Increasing the number of people living, working and using Newcastle town centre	✔ Project/Action is Progressing as Expected	Capital and Centric have been chosen as the developers for the site and initial surveys are underway to enable to development of the early designs for a mix of accommodation and shared facilities including a gym, private dining and residents lounge.
Cllr. Stephen Sweeney	1. Neighbourhoods 2. Commercial Delivery	Developing a Town Centre Strategy for Kidsgrove	Encourage visitors and support local businesses in Kidsgrove	★ Project/Action is Completed	The Experience Kidsgrove brochure has been developed in conjunction with Kidsgrove Town Council and Go Kidsgrove and is now published on the Council's website. Funding bids are being prepared for rial events in Kidsgrove.
Cllr. Stephen Sweeney	Commercial Delivery	Redevelopment of Ryecroft Site	Continuing to work with key partners to deliver the redevelopment of opportunities across the borough	✔ Project/Action is Progressing as Expected	The Council continues to work with several key partners to bring a variety of plans for different uses on the Ryecroft site, Cabinet have approved for Capital and Centric to commissioned Pre- Development Agreements . The development of the new multistorey car park is now commencing. Accor have been appointed for the new hotel Ibis Styles and are working with Capital and Centric to bring forward the site plans. Negotiations have commenced with McCarthy Stone for the purchase of the land for their element of the redevelopment
Cllr. Stephen Sweeney	Commercial Delivery	Redevelopment of York Place	Continuing to work with key partners to deliver the redevelopment of opportunities across the borough	✔ Project/Action is Progressing as Expected	All businesses were vacated out of York Place in February to enable the redevelopment of the site. Capital and Centric have been appointed as the lead developer and asbestos removal has been completed (except for the CoOp unit), submitted updated demolition proposals for planning and commenced procurement process to select a demolition contractor.
Cllr. Stephen Sweeney	Neighbourhoods	Further enhance the historic market and public realm and boost our signature specialist market programme	Further enhance the historic market and public realm and boost our signature specialist market programme	✔ Project/Action is Progressing as Expected	New canopies have been installed on the fixed market stalls in Newcastle and tenders have been invited for public realm works. Discussions are in progress with specialist market providers to deliver a programme of market events for 2024/25.

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

**CORPORATE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S
REPORT TO
FINANCE, ASSETS AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

27 June 2024

Report Title: Town Deal and Future High Street Funds Update

Submitted by: Interim Chief Executive

Portfolios: Portfolio Holders - Finance, Town Centres and Growth

Ward(s) affected: All

<u>Purpose of the Report</u>	<u>Key Decision</u> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
To update Scrutiny Committee on the Town Deal and Future High Street Funds projects.	
<u>Recommendation</u>	
That	
1. Scrutiny Committee notes this report on the delivery of the Town Deal and Future High Street Funds projects.	
<u>Reasons</u>	
To update the Scrutiny Committee on the progress with the various projects that are being funded or part funded through the two Town Deals – Newcastle and Kidsgrove, and the Future High Street Funds for Newcastle Town Centre.	

1. Background

1.1 As reported to previous Scrutiny meetings, the Council has secured Future High Street Funding and Town Deal Funds for the redevelopment of several key regeneration sites across the Town Centre and the wider Borough.

2. Updates

2.1 Future High Street Fund

Work has been continuing in the development of the schemes for the past couple of years, and the current position regarding each is as follows:

2.1.1 Market improvements

A contract has been let for public realm works to lower High Street and work commenced on site on 28 May, with completion anticipated in July. 18 fixed stalls

have been removed, leaving 27 fixed stalls which have had new canopies fitted – some have been relocated into more appropriate areas. New, temporary stalls have been ordered and are due to arrive in June. They will be used for markets which require more than the remaining 27 fixed stalls.

The public realm works include resurfacing and the creation of a central landscaped area, as well as a small number of “nipper parking” spaces.

A feasibility study is also in progress for a digital screen, and a planning application will be lodged shortly.

2.1.2 York Place

Capital&Centric have now appointed a demolition / strip out contract for the removal of the building fabric, exposing the framework for future development. This work will commence in late June 2024, in readiness for the build out stages once planning permission is agreed and construction costs are finalised.



Ryecroft

2.1.3 Castle Car Park

Construction has now commenced on this project with completion due in late November 2024. (Funding £12m (£3.50m from FSHF)).



2.1.4 McCarthy and Stone Residential Development

McCarthy and Stone are due to sign a land acquisition agreement with the Council imminently and will begin preparing the planning application for the new development.

2.1.5 New Hotel

Capital&Centric are continuing their design feasibility works for the whole Ryecroft site which will include the new Hotel build, which is now anticipated to be developed on the corner of Merrial St and Corporation St.

2.1.6 Aspire Housing

Aspire have agreed with Capital&Centric a site boundary and the works that will be undertaken to develop out residential units.



2.2 Newcastle Town Deal

2.2.1 Midway Car Park

Since their appointment in November 2023 Capital&Centric have been developing plans for the re-development of the Midway structure, based around the principle of retaining the concrete frame and floors and re-engineering the structure for residential purposes.

2.2.2 Astley Performing Arts Centre

The Philip Astley CIC opened their doors in March. Work is now looking into Phase 2 within the remodelled York Place

2.2.3 Knutton and Chesterton

Knutton

In September 2023 Aspire Housing submitted a planning application for residential development at the High Street site, this was approved subject to agreement of a S106 agreement at the May 2024 planning committee. <http://publicaccess.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/online-applications/PLAN/23/00771/FUL>



An application for the former community centre site was submitted in January 2024. This is due to be considered in Summer 2024 <http://publicaccess.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/online-applications/PLAN/24/00023/FUL>

Work on the extension to the Enterprise Centre started at the end of April 2024 and is due for completion in October 2024.

In September 2023, the Borough Council authorised officers to develop plans for a village hall at High Street in Knutton to planning application stage. It is vital however that interest is attracted in forming a committee to run the village hall if this development is to progress. A planning application has been submitted for this development.

The Council was successful in securing Football Foundation funding toward development of football changing rooms at the Wammy. The Council has re-tendered for a contractor to build the changing rooms and has appointed Dawn Building & Groundworks Ltd for this development. Work started on site in April 2024 and is expected to be complete in late 2024.

Cross Street Chesterton



Aspire Housing are continuing to deliver the earlier housing phases of this development. Town Deal funding was requested for the later phases of delivery however it has been necessary to review outputs attributable to each funding provider to ensure the correct outputs are being attributed to each funding source. The Council has worked with Aspire to finalise a Project Adjustment Request in respect of the project outputs which has been approved by DLUHC. A grant funding agreement with Aspire is currently in the final stages of development.

2.2.4 Zanzibar Enterprise Units

These are to be Council owned small enterprise units to rent to small and developing businesses on North Street. Aspire and Morgan Sindall have been working on a design for the residential units and the enterprise units which have been shared with the Council but require additional work, which we are awaiting.

2.2.5 Walking and Cycling Provision

Works for these schemes has begun through Staffordshire County Council with cycling improvements implemented along George Street, at Gallowstree Roundabout and works will commence along Barracks Road in 2024.

2.2.6 Sustainable Travel

Work continues with the travel information totems as reported last meeting, whilst the team at Keele University are progressing plans for the new bus entrance with the aim of it being opened for the start of the 2024/25 academic year. As a result of plans for the new bus entrance, First Potteries Ltd are working with the University to put on a new X25 service between Newcastle town centre and the University. This is planned to be introduced in September 2024 for the start of the new academic year. Further development work is to be done on proposals for the new circular bus route before it can be commissioned for operation.

2.2.7 Digital Society – 53 Iron Market (Keele in Town)

Works have now commenced on the main structure of the building prior to the internal fit out works. Keele in Town is due to launch in October 2024.

2.2.8 EV Charging Points

Construction of the new Castle Car Park commenced in earnest in January 2024 with the car park and new EV charging points opening in autumn 2024. The procurement of a partner for operation of the EV charging points has concluded and the supplier, installer and maintenance partner is working with Morgan Sindall around construction details so that they are in place ready for opening of the car park.

2.2.9 Digital infrastructure

A procurement exercise for the works is underway with plans to have the works to be installed by the end of 2024.

2.3 Kidsgrove Town Deal

2.3.1 Chatterley Valley

Work is continuing with the land owner and the end user for the Plot D unit and a further update will be provided at the next meeting.

Works to the highway / entrance works to the new site continue and are due to be complete in the summer of 2024.

2.3.2 Kidsgrove Train Station works

As reported previously there is currently an issue with the costs of car park underpinning due to mine works underground, which are being worked through. Network Rail are looking into costs and scope of works required and there is a suggestion that the HS2 cancellation will result in funds being transferred to this issue. We are awaiting feedback on several fronts before the scheme can progress.

2.3.3 Canal Pathways

Works are being developed by the Canal and Rover Trust with implementation during 2024.

2.3.4 Shared Service Hub

A site for the development has now been selected alongside the station in Kidsgrove – the Dales Garage and adjacent Car Park sites. Plans are being drawn to provide a new facility for Dales Garage and create the space for the Shared Hub. As with the Station car park the works / scope / costs are being affected by the underpinning due to mine works below the site – these are currently being surveyed.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1 Scrutiny Committee notes the progress made to date and continues to receive further reports at subsequent meetings.

4. Reasons

- 4.1 Generating efficiencies and additional income by adopting a more commercial approach is a key in the Council's plans for maintaining financial sustainability in the medium to long term. The Commercial Strategy provides a framework for managing and coordinating commercial activities, it is appropriate that the Council reviews key major projects when they are at an appropriate stage of business planning and contract award.

5. Options Considered

- 5.1 The Council continues to progress a number of strategies and approaches to ensure that it can maintain a financially sustainable future and deliver the key priorities set out in the Council plan.

6. Legal and Statutory Implications

- 6.1 The Local Government Act 2000 - powers to promote the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the Borough.
- 6.2 The Council will need to make sure that its commercial activities are legally and state aid compliant, including having regard to the Public Sector Duty within the Equality Act 2010, statutory guidance on local authority investments and The Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities.
- 6.3 All commercial projects and investment opportunities will be examined to ensure that they are within the Council's powers and legal implications will be identified on a case-by-case basis.

7. Equality Impact Assessment

- 7.1 The development of these projects does not create any specific equality impacts.

8. Financial and Resource Implications

8.1 The Council was awarded Future High Streets Fund funding in June 2021 of £11.0m to progress projects to help future economic growth. The full £11.0m has now been received of which £9.54m has been spent at 31 May 2024, as shown below:

Project	Award (£000's)	Spend/Ordered (£000's)	Remaining (£000's)
Ryecroft / Site Preparation	3,756	3,088	668
Multi Story Car Park	3,500	3,500	0
York Place	3,015	2,511	504
Stones Public Realm	321	1	320
Market Stalls	76	57	19
Project Management	380	379	1
Total	11,048	9,536	1,512

8.2 £23.6m was awarded to the Council via the Town Deals Fund for Newcastle to enable a vision to improve communications, infrastructure, and connectivity in Newcastle-under-Lyme to become a reality. £14.2m has been received to date of which £2.35m has been spent as shown below:

Project	Award (£000's)	Spend/Ordered (£000's)	Remaining (£000's)
Digital Infrastructure	2,285	29	2,256
Sustainable Public Transport	3,421	65	3,356
Electric Vehicle Charging	400	-	400
Pedestrian Cycle Permeability	950	-	950
Transform Key Gateway Sites	3,810	82	3,728
Astley Centre for Circus	1,810	630	1,180
Digital Society	3,510	662	2,848
Heart into Knutton Village	3,534	298	3,236
Cross Street, Chesterton	2,955	-	2,955
Project Management	925	582	343
Total	23,600	2,348	21,252

8.3 £16.9m has also been awarded via the Town Deals fund for Kidsgrove to enable real and lasting economic benefits to be realised in Kidsgrove and the surrounding area. To date £13.3m has been received of which £6.85m has been spent as shown below:

Project	Award (£000's)	Spend/Ordered (£000's)	Remaining (£000's)
Kidsgrove Sports Centre	2,328	2,328	-
Chatterley Valley West	3,661	3,661	-
Kidsgrove Station	3,638	202	3,436
Shared Services Hub	6,183	156	6,027
Canal Enhancement	420	-	420
Project Management	670	504	166
Total	16,900	6,851	10,049

9. **Major Risks & Mitigation**

9.1 Management of risk is central to the Council's commercial approach and all potential activities will be assessed with due regard to the risks being taken. This will be in line with the Council's corporate approach to risk management.

10. **UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG)**

10.1 These projects support the realisation of the following UNSDG objectives:-



11. **Key Decision Information**

11.1 The plans affect more than 2 wards and any future investments have the potential to have significant financial implications. These will be subject to further reports which may be key decisions.

12. **Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions**

12.1 None.

13. **List of Appendices**

13.1 None.

14. **Background Papers**

14.1 None.

FINANCE, ASSETS AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE



Work Programme 2024/25

Chair	Cllr M. Holland
Vice-Chair	Cllr A. Bryan
Members	Cllrs D. Allport, R. Bettley-Smith, W. Brockie, R. Lewis, A. Lawley, A. Parker, M. Stubbs, J. Tagg and P. Waring
Scrutiny Champion	Sarah Wilkes
Portfolio Holders within the Committee's remit	Cllr S. Tagg, Leader – One Council, People and Partnerships Cllr S. Sweeney - Deputy Leader – Finance, Town Centres and Growth

This committee scrutinises how the council, as a whole, performs. It scrutinises how the council develops and implements its various plans and strategies. It scrutinises how the council plans for and uses its finances (including income generation) and other assets including plant and machinery, equipment, vehicles, land and buildings and staff. In scrutinising the council's performance, it will also consider how the council performs alongside the organisations it works in partnership with.

This Work Programme is set and reviewed at quarterly meetings of the Scrutiny Management Group. The Chair and Vice Chair also meet regularly with the Portfolio Holders to discuss this Work Programme. There is an opportunity for committee Members to discuss the Work Programme at each committee meeting. Part D of the Council's [Constitution](#) governs the scrutiny process.

For more information on the Committee or its work Programme please contact the Democratic Services:

- ✚ Geoff Durham at geoff.durham@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk or on (01782) 742222
- ✚ Alexandra Bond at alexandra.bond@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk or on (01782) 742211

Planned Items

DATE OF MEETING	ITEM	NOTES
27 June 2024	- Q4 Finance and Performance Report 2023/24 - Town Deal and Future High Street Funds Update	Simon McEneny
18 September 2024	- Medium Term Financial Strategy 2025/26 - Q1 Finance and Performance Report 2024/25 - Commercial Strategy Update	
5 December 2024	- Q2 Finance and Performance Report 2024/25 - Draft Savings Proposals 2025/26	

Previous Items

DATE OF MEETING	ITEM	NOTES
30 June 2022	- Q4 Finance and Performance Review - Asset Management Strategy	
8 September 2022 CANCELLED	- MTFS - Q1 Finance and Performance Review - Procurement Strategy - Commercial Strategy	
8 December 2022	- Q1 Finance & Performance Report 2022/23 - Q2 Finance & Performance Report 2022/23 - Commercial Strategy Update - 2023/24 Draft Savings Proposals	

DATE OF MEETING	ITEM	NOTES
19 January 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Revenue and Capital Budget and Strategies 2023/24 - Schedule of Fees and Charges 2023/24 	
30 March 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Q3 Finance & Performance Report 2022/23 - One Council update 	
26 June 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Q4 Finance & Performance Report 2022/23 - Commercial Strategy Update 	
25 September 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Asset Management Strategy - Medium Term Financial Strategy 24/25 - Q1 Finance and Performance Report - Commercial Strategy Update - Sickness Absence Reporting 	
9 November 2023	-Ryecroft Call-in Report	
13 December 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Q2 Finance and Performance Report - Draft Savings Proposals 24/25 - Town Deal and Future High Streets Fund Update - Technology Strategy 2023-2028 	
18 January 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Revenue and Capital Budgets and Strategies 24/25 - Draft Schedule of Fees and Charges 24/25 	
14 March 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Q3 Finance and Performance Report 2023/24 - Commercial Strategy Update - Town Deal and Future High Street Funds Update 	

Last updated on 19th June 2024

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