

A meeting of the **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (PERFORMANCE AND GROWTH)** will be held in **CIVIC SUITE, PATHFINDER HOUSE, ST MARY'S STREET, HUNTINGDON PE29 3TN** on **WEDNESDAY, 5 MARCH 2025** at **7:00 PM** and you are requested to attend for the transaction of the following business:-

AGENDA

APOLOGIES

1. MINUTES (Pages 5 - 8)

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Performance and Growth) meeting held on 5th February 2025.

Contact Officer: B Buddle
01480 388008

2. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

To receive from Members declarations as to disclosable pecuniary and other interests in relation to any Agenda item.

Contact Officer: B Buddle
01480 388008

3. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 9 - 22)

- a) The Panel are to receive the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme
- b) Members to discuss future planning of items for the Work Programme

Contact Officer: B Buddle
01480 388008

4. CORPORATE PERFORMANCE REPORT QUARTER 3 2024/25 (Pages 23 - 118)

The Panel is invited to comment on the Corporate Performance Report Quarter 3 2024/25.

Executive Councillors: S Ferguson and L Davenport-Ray

**Contact Officer: N Sloper
01480 388635**

5. MARKET TOWNS PROGRAMME - SPRING UPDATE (Pages 119 - 132)

The Panel is invited to comment on the Spring Update of the Market Towns Programme.

Executive Councillor: S Wakeford

**Contact Officer: P Scott
01480 388486**

6. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

To resolve:-

that the public be excluded from the meeting because the business to be transacted contains exempt information relating to the financial and business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

7. MARKET TOWNS UPDATE REPORT (Pages 133 - 142)

The Panel is invited to comment on the Market Towns Update Report.

Executive Councillor: S Wakeford

**Contact Officer: P Scott
01480 388486**

25 day of February 2025

Michelle Sacks

Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and other Registerable and Non-Registerable Interests.

Further information on [Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and other Registerable and Non-Registerable Interests is available in the Council's Constitution](#)

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The District Council also permits filming, recording and the taking of photographs at its meetings that are open to the public. Arrangements for these activities should operate in accordance with [guidelines](#) agreed by the Council.

Please contact Mrs Beccy Buddle, Democratic Services Officer (Scrutiny), Tel No. 01480 388008/e-mail Beccy.Buddle@huntingdonshire.gov.uk if you have a general query on any Agenda Item, wish to tender your apologies for absence from the meeting, or would like information on any decision taken by the Committee/Panel.

Specific enquiries with regard to items on the Agenda should be directed towards the Contact Officer.

Members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting as observers except during consideration of confidential or exempt items of business.

Agenda and enclosures can be viewed on the [District Council's website](#).

Emergency Procedure

In the event of the fire alarm being sounded and on the instruction of the Meeting Administrator, all attendees are requested to vacate the building via the closest emergency exit.

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HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (PERFORMANCE AND GROWTH) held in Civic Suite, Pathfinder House, St Mary's Street, Huntingdon PE29 3TN on Wednesday, 5 February 2025.

PRESENT: Councillor C M Gleadow – Chair.

Councillors A Blackwell, J R Catmur, I D Gardener, A R Jennings, R Martin, Dr M Pickering and N Wells.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors B S Chapman, S J Corney and D Terry.

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor B A Mickelburgh.

53. VICE-CHAIR

The Chair noted the recent appointment of Councillor S A Howell to the Cabinet and thanked her for her role and contribution to the Panel, particularly in her role as Vice-Chair.

It was proposed to appoint a new Vice-Chair at the March meeting of the Committee once the vacancy on the Panel had been filled. Following a discussion, it was agreed to appoint a new Vice-Chair with immediate effect.

A proposal to appoint Councillor I D Gardener to the Vice-Chair of the Committee was moved and seconded. On being put to the vote the proposal was declared to be LOST.

A proposal to appoint Councillor N Wells to the Vice-Chair of the Committee was then moved and seconded, whereupon it was

RESOLVED

that Councillor N Wells be appointed to the Vice-Chair of the Committee for the remainder of the Municipal Year.

54. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 4th December 2024 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

55. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No declarations were received.

56. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

With the aid of a report by the Democratic Services Officer (Scrutiny)

(a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme and Notice of Key Decisions for the period 1st February 2025 to 31st May 2025 were presented to the Panel.

Following a discussion, it was noted that the Panel wished to see the Quarter 4 Performance Reports in June 2025 and that further consideration would be given over whether Neighbourhood Plans should be considered for pre-decision scrutiny.

57. QUESTIONS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Panel received and noted the responses received in relation to questions arising at previous meetings of the Panel.

58. 2025/26 REVENUE BUDGET AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY (2026/27 TO 2029/30) INCLUDING THE CAPITAL PROGRAMME

By means of a report by the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources (a copy of which was appended in the Minute Book), the 2025/26 Revenue Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy (2026/27 to 2029/30) including the Capital Programme was presented to the Panel.

The Panel heard that the provisional Local Government Settlement had been released in December, and that no significant changes were anticipated with the release of the final Local Government Settlement this week. It was noted that some additional monies would be made available to Councils who were experiencing significant increases to the charges made to them by Internal Drainage Boards, however it was not felt that this would make a material difference to Huntingdonshire District Council. It was also advised to the Panel that HDC's response to the provisional Settlement had been made by the Section 151 Officer as part of the response from the Society of District Councils Treasurers.

Following an enquiry on how the approach to budget setting by the Executive Councillor had changed over the past three years and how the budget setting was managed, the Panel heard that the budget process had evolved in recent years with more onus on services to work with their Executive Councillors to manage the process throughout the year. The Executive Councillor confirmed that he took more of a governance role in budget setting and oversaw the robustness overall whilst leaving the detail to portfolio holders and officers.

In response to an enquiry relating to the Stonehill property within the Commercial Investment Strategy, the Panel heard that the property was undergoing repairs and would be placed back onto the rental market, it was confirmed that this was being actively managed by the estates team.

Concern was expressed over the proposed increase in parking fees being after the expected implementation of Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) within the district. The Panel heard that the introduction of CPE was expected to affect the current car park income but that the approach detailed within the budget was an inflationary increase to

support a prudent approach. It was suggested, that this would be an opportune time to review the existing parking strategy to ensure consistency across the district before CPE comes into force.

It was noted that wage growth for the proposed budget had been budgeted at 4%. The Panel also heard that this was a prudent budget based on what was known at the moment, it was noted that there were differing predictions from economic forecasters and therefore a medium of these had been used within the proposals. It was further noted that as capital spend was to be expected over the coming year, the budget looked to balance all factors to provide a sensible way forward.

It was clarified to the Panel, that following a recent restructure of Heads of Service, the proposed budget followed the new structure.

Following the discussion, it was

RESOLVED

that Cabinet be encouraged to consider the comments from Overview and Scrutiny when making a decision upon the recommendations within the report.

59. 2025/26 TREASURY MANAGEMENT, CAPITAL AND INVESTMENT STRATEGIES

By means of a report by the Corporate Director for Finance and Resources (a copy of which was appended in the Minute Book), the 2025/26 Treasury Management, Capital and Investment Strategies report was presented to the Panel.

Following a question, which related to both the 2025/26 Revenue Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy (2026/27 to 2029/30) Including the Capital Programme and the 2025/26 Treasury Management, Capital and Investment Strategies agenda items, the Panel heard that the rates forecast by the treasury advisors were the Bank of England (BOE) lending rates and that investing rates were unlikely to reach as high as this. It was also noted that there was a risk that investing rates may fall faster than the BOE lending rate, since it was some years since rates had fallen from the current level, there is uncertainty about the relationship between fall in BOE rate and the fall in investing rates, which may be steeper.

In response to a question relating to the development of the Commercial Investment Strategy, it was confirmed to the Panel that work by CIPFA was underway and that this would also include work to support Local Government Reform within this. The Panel heard that workshops would follow the completion of this work, with an update on progress being anticipated by quarter one of the coming financial year.

Following this, it was

RESOLVED

that the Panel had no further comments or discussion to add and that

this would be added to the Cabinet report in order for an informed decision to be made on the report recommendations.

Chair

Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2024-25

Performance and Growth Agenda Items			
Meeting Date	Pre-Scrutiny	Scrutiny Review	Task and Finish Groups Working Groups
2 nd April 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate Plan Update • <i>Community Infrastructure Levy Funding</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Planning Enforcement Review</i> 	
4 th June 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Growth Strategy • Corporate Performance 2024/25 Q4 • Finance Performance 2024/25 Q4 • Treasury Management Outturn Report 2024/25 		
8 th July 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 		
Unscheduled/Pending Further Details			

Pending agenda items

Meeting Date	Item	Recommendation	Outcome
2 nd April 2025	Huntingdonshire Futures 6 month update	Move to Member Briefing space	
4 th June 2025	Great Staughton Neighbourhood Plan Outcome and Progression to Referendum	Ward Councillors to be engaged in process, straight to Cabinet	
4 th June 2025	Market Towns Summer Update	Move to Member Briefing space	

Environment, Communities and Partnerships Agenda Items			
Meeting Date	Pre-Scrutiny	Scrutiny Review	Task and Finish Groups Working Groups
3 rd April 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Huntingdon Sport and Health Hub Feasibility Report (Part Two report) 		
5 th June 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Play Sufficiency One Leisure Independent Review Update <i>One Leisure Annual Review</i> 		
10 th July 2025			
Unscheduled/ Pending Further Details			

Pending agenda items

Meeting Date	Item	Recommendation	Outcome
6 th February 2025	Priority One Delivery Update Quarter 3	To be presented at the Member briefing instead of the meeting.	

Task and Finish Groups

Performance and Growth

Commercial Investment Strategy - Pending

Workshop to be arranged following completion of work being undertaken by CIPFA

Environment, Communities and Partnerships

Climate Working Group

Members: Cllrs T D Alban, J Kerr, C Lowe and D Shaw

Lead Officer: Neil Sloper

Progress:

November 2022: Initial Meetings held to establish Terms of Reference for the group.

April 2023: Regular meetings established. Evidence and information gathering to be progressed.
Group to be involved in the Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy Development.

January 2024: Meetings held to discuss proposed work plan for the group and to discuss HVO Fuels project

November 2024: Meeting to discuss future proposed projects

January 2025: Group met to review the HVO draft report prior to its consideration by the Panel

Next Steps: Review the membership of the group and increase the membership to 6 Councillors
Meetings to be scheduled to allow involvement in proposed works.

Disabled Facilities Grants Group

Members: I P Taylor, B Banks, C Tevlin and C Lowe

Lead Officer: Claudia Deeth

Progress:

February 2024: Councillors invited to express their interest in being involved with the project.

August 2024: initial meeting held and scope of project discussed

Next Steps: A review of the DFG process has been commissioned via the HDC Transformation Team, once the feedback and outcomes of this have been received further meetings will be scheduled to establish Terms of Reference and timeline for the group. This is expected during Spring 2025

NOTICE OF EXECUTIVE KEY DECISIONS INCLUDING THOSE TO BE CONSIDERED IN PRIVATE

Prepared by: Councillor Sarah Conboy, Executive Leader of the Council
Date of Publication: 17 February 2025
For Period: 1 March 2025 to 30 June 2025

Membership of the Cabinet is as follows:-

Councillor Details		Councillor Contact Details
Councillor S J Conboy	Executive Leader of the Council and Executive Councillor for Place	Cloudberry Cottage 9 Earning Street Godmanchester Huntingdon PE29 2JD Tel: 01480 414900 / 07831 807208 E-mail: Sarah.Conboy@huntingdonshire.gov.uk
Councillor L Davenport-Ray	Executive Councillor for Climate, Transformation and Workforce	73 Hogsden Leys St Neots Cambridgeshire PE19 6AD E-mail: Lara.Davenport-Ray@huntingdonshire.gov.uk
Councillor S Ferguson	Executive Councillor for Resident Services and Corporate Performance	9 Anderson Close St Neots Cambridgeshire PE19 6DN Tel: 07525 987460 E-mail: Stephen.Ferguson@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

Councillor J Harvey	Executive Governance Services Councillor for and Democratic	c/o Huntingdonshire District Council Pathfinder House St Mary's Street Huntingdon Cambridgeshire PE29 3TN Tel: 07941 080531 E-mail: Jo.Harvey@huntingdonshire.gov.uk
Councillor S Howell	Executive Councillor for Communities, Health and Leisure	c/o Huntingdonshire District Council Pathfinder House St Mary's Street Huntingdon Cambridgeshire PE29 3TN Tel: 01733 794510 E-mail: Sally.Howell@huntingdonshire.gov.uk
Councillor B Mickelburgh	Executive Councillor for Finance & Resources	2 Grainger Avenue Godmanchester Huntingdon Cambridgeshire PE29 2JT Tel: 07441 392492 E-mail: Brett.Mickelburgh@huntingdonshire.gov.uk
Councillor T Sanderson	Deputy Executive Leader and Executive Councillor for Planning	29 Burmoor Close Huntingdon Cambridgeshire PE29 6GE Tel: 01480 436822 E-mail: Tom.Sanderson@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

Councillor S Taylor	Executive Councillor for Parks and Countryside, Waste & Street Scene	66 Wren Walk Eynesbury St Neots Cambridgeshire PE19 2GE Tel: 07858 032076 E-mail: Simone.Taylor@huntingdonshire.gov.uk
Councillor S Wakeford	Executive Councillor for Economy, Regeneration and Housing	4 Croft Close Brampton Huntingdon Cambridgeshire PE28 4TJ Tel: 07762 109210 E-mail: Sam.Wakeford@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

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Notice is hereby given of:

- Key decisions that will be taken by the Cabinet (or other decision maker)
- Confidential or exempt executive decisions that will be taken in a meeting from which the public will be excluded (for whole or part).

Notice/agenda together with reports and supporting documents for each meeting will be published at least five working days before the date of the meeting. In order to enquire about the availability of documents and subject to any restrictions on their disclosure, copies may be requested by contacting the Democratic Services Team on 01480 388169 or E-mail Democratic.Services@huntingdonshire.gov.uk.

Agendas may be accessed electronically at the [District Council's website](#).

Formal notice is hereby given under The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 that, where indicated part of the meetings listed in this notice will be held in private because the agenda and reports for the meeting will contain confidential or exempt information under Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended) and that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it. See the relevant paragraphs below.

Any person who wishes to make representations to the decision maker about a decision which is to be made or wishes to object to an item being considered in private may do so by emailing Democratic.Services@huntingdonshire.gov.uk or by contacting the Democratic Services Team. If representations are received at least eight working days before the date of the meeting, they will be published with the agenda together with a statement of the District Council's response. Any representations received after this time will be verbally reported and considered at the meeting.

Paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended) (Reason for the report to be considered in private)

1. Information relating to any individual
2. Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual
3. Information relating to the Financial and Business Affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information)
4. Information relating to any consultations or negotiations or contemplated consultations or negotiations in connection with any labour relations that are arising between the Authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of or office holders under the Authority
5. Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings
6. Information which reveals that the Authority proposes:-
 - (a) To give under any announcement a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or
 - (b) To make an Order or Direction under any enactment
7. Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.

Huntingdonshire District Council
Pathfinder House
St Mary's Street
Huntingdon PE29 3TN.

- Notes:-
- (i) Additions changes from the previous Forward Plan are annotated ***
 - (ii) Part II confidential items which will be considered in private are annotated ## and shown in italic.

Subject/Matter for Decision	Decision/ recommendation to be made by	Date decision to be taken	Documents Available	How relevant Officer can be contacted	Reasons for the report to be considered in private (paragraph no.)	Relevant Executive Councillor	Relevant Overview & Scrutiny Panel
Community Chest Grant Aid Awards 2024/25	Grants Panel	7 & 19 Mar 2025		Claudia Deeth, Public Protection Manager Tel: (01480) 388233 or email: Claudia.Deeth@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		S Howell & L Davenport-Ray	Environment, Communities & Partnerships
Community Chest Grant Aid Awards 2025/26***	Grants Panel	16 Apr 2025 21 May 2025 18 Jun 2025		Claudia Deeth, Public Protection Manager Tel: (01480) 388233 or email: Claudia.Deeth@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		S Howell & L Davenport-Ray	Environment, Communities & Partnerships
Market Towns Programme - Spring Update	Cabinet	18 Mar 2025		Pamela Scott, Head of Economy, Regeneration and Housing Delivery Tel: (01480) 388486 or email: Pamela.Scott@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		S Wakeford	Performance & Growth

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Subject/Matter for Decision	Decision/ recommendation to be made by	Date decision to be taken	Documents Available	How relevant Officer can be contacted	Reasons for the report to be considered in private (paragraph no.)	Relevant Executive Councillor	Relevant Overview & Scrutiny Panel
Market Towns Programme - Spring Update Report##	Cabinet	18 Mar 2025		Pamela Scott, Head of Economy, Regeneration and Housing Delivery Tel: (01480) 388486 or email: Pamela.Scott@huntingdonshire.gov.uk	3	S Wakeford	Performance & Growth
Leisure Opportunities##	Cabinet	18 Mar 2025		Gregg Holland, Head of Leisure Service, Health and Environment Tel: (01480) 388157 or email: Gregg.Holland@huntingdonshire.gov.uk	3	S Howell	Environment, Communities & Partnerships
Garden Waste Incentive Scheme***	Cabinet	18 Mar 2025		Andrew Rogan, Head of Operations Tel: (01480) 388082 or email: Andrew.Rogan@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		S Taylor	Environment, Communities & Partnerships

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Subject/Matter for Decision	Decision/ recommendation to be made by	Date decision to be taken	Documents Available	How relevant Officer can be contacted	Reasons for the report to be considered in private (paragraph no.)	Relevant Executive Councillor	Relevant Overview & Scrutiny Panel
Local Government Reorganisation and Devolution – Interim Proposals***	Cabinet	19 Mar 2025		Michelle Sacks, Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service Tel: (01480) 388116 or email: Michelle.Sacks@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		S Conboy	N/A - Special Council Meeting to be held on 19 March 2025
Community Infrastructure Levy Funding	Cabinet	15 Apr 2025		Claire Burton, Implementation Team Leader Tel: (01480) 388274 or email: Claire.Burton@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		T Sanderson	Performance & Growth
Corporate Plan Update	Cabinet	15 Apr 2025		Neil Sloper, Head of Policy, Performance & Emergency Planning Tel: (01480) 388635 or email: Neil.Sloper@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		S Conboy	Performance & Growth

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Subject/Matter for Decision	Decision/ recommendation to be made by	Date decision to be taken	Documents Available	How relevant Officer can be contacted	Reasons for the report to be considered in private (paragraph no.)	Relevant Executive Councillor	Relevant Overview & Scrutiny Panel
Huntingdon Sport and Health Hub Feasibility Report***##	Cabinet	15 Apr 2025		Gregg Holland, Head of Leisure Service, Health and Environment Tel: (01480) 388157 or email: Gregg.Holland@huntingdonshire.gov.uk	3	S Howell	Environment, Communities & Partnerships
One Leisure independent Review Update***	Cabinet	17 Jun 2025		Gregg Holland, Head of Leisure Service, Health and Environment Tel: (01480) 388157 or email: Gregg.Holland@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		S Howell	Environment, Communities & Partnerships
Play Sufficiency***	Cabinet	17 Jun 2025		Helen Lack, Development and Delivery Manager - Parks Countryside and Climate Tel: (01480) 388658 or email: Helen.Lack@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		S Taylor	Environment, Communities & Partnerships

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Subject/Matter for Decision	Decision/ recommendation to be made by	Date decision to be taken	Documents Available	How relevant Officer can be contacted	Reasons for the report to be considered in private (paragraph no.)	Relevant Executive Councillor	Relevant Overview & Scrutiny Panel
Great Staughton Neighbourhood Plan Examination Outcome and Progression to Referendum***	Cabinet	17 Jun 2025		Clare Bond, Planning Policy Team Leader Tel: (01480) 387104 or email: Clare.Bond@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		T Sanderson	Performance & Growth
Economic Growth Strategy***	Cabinet	17 Jun 2025		Rebecca Tomlin, Economic Development Manager Tel: (01480) 388534 or email: Rebecca.Tomlin@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		S Wakeford	Performance & Growth

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Public
Key Decision - No

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Title/Subject Matter:	Corporate Performance Report, Quarter 3 2024/25
Meeting/Date:	Overview and Scrutiny (Performance and Growth) Panel, 5 th March 2025
Executive Portfolio:	Councillor Stephen Ferguson, Executive Councillor for Resident Services and Corporate Performance and Councillor Lara Davenport-Ray, Executive Councillor for Climate Transformation & Workforce
Report by:	Ben Clifton-Attfield (Performance Coordinator) Steffen Gosling (Business Performance and Insights Team Leader)
Ward(s) affected:	All

RECOMMENDATION

The Overview and Scrutiny Panel is invited to comment on details of delivery of Corporate Plan actions/projects and operational performance measures from the Cabinet report attached.

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Title/Subject Matter:	Corporate Performance Report, Quarter 3 2024/25
Meeting/Date:	Cabinet, 18th March 2025
Executive Portfolio:	Councillor Stephen Ferguson, Executive Councillor for Resident Services and Corporate Performance and Councillor Lara Davenport-Ray, Executive Councillor for Climate Transformation & Workforce
Report by:	Ben Clifton-Attfield (Performance Coordinator) and Steffen Gosling (Business Performance and Insights Team Leader)
Ward(s) affected:	All

Executive Summary:

The purpose of this report is to brief Members on progress with Corporate Plan actions/projects and the results and forecasts for operational performance measure as at the end of Quarter 3 (October to December 2024).

Recommendations:

The Cabinet is invited to consider and comment on progress and performance during Quarter 3, as summarised in the Corporate Performance Report attached and detailed in Appendices A and B.

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present an update on delivery of the Corporate Plan during Quarter 3 (October to December 2024).

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The annual refresh for 2024/25 of the Council's Corporate Plan 2023-2028 was approved at the Council meeting in March 2024. The performance data in the attached Corporate Performance Report and its appendices relates to the performance measures and actions/projects selected for 2024/25.
- 2.2 Performance data has been collected in accordance with standardised procedures.
- 2.3 At the request of the performance and growth committee, this report has been scheduled for March. The council's performance framework produced and used this information to update its performance actions in January. The quarter 4 report will be available in June.

3. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

- 3.1 Members of Cabinet and the Overview and Scrutiny (Performance and Growth) Panel have an important role in the Council's Performance Management Framework and a process of regular review of performance data has been established. The focus is on delivery against our strategic outcomes and regular reporting should enable Scrutiny to maintain a strategic overview.
- 3.2 Progress on Corporate Plan actions/projects and operational performance measures is reported quarterly. The **Corporate Performance Report** attached summarises progress and performance by outcome. The report is focused on outcomes, with a single page summary followed by tables and pie charts summarising the status of actions/projects and performance measures linked to the outcome. A full list is also provided for each outcome which shows the status reported for each action/project and performance measure linked to that outcome as at Q3.
- 3.3 Further detail is also available in appendices to the Corporate Performance Report. **Appendix A** provides integrated updates on Corporate Plan actions and projects from responsible officers, covering both progress against planned delivery and the impact that has had on the outcome.
- 3.4 **Appendix B** provides updates on operational performance measures, showing performance, this year broken down by month and how this compares to targets, intervention levels and last year's performance, where possible. This is provided via graphs to make such comparisons simpler and provide a visual indicator of direction of travel. For those who may need to use screen readers to access the information, an accessible table version is available online here:

[Corporate Plan and Performance - Huntingdonshire.gov.uk](https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/corporate-plan-and-performance)

3.5 The following table summarises overall progress in delivering Corporate Plan actions for 2024/25:

Status of Corporate Plan Actions	Number	Percentage
Green (on track)	36	71%
Amber (within acceptable variance)	14	27%
Red (behind schedule)	1	2%

The number of actions on track (Green) has remained the same this period (35), however, one action has fallen behind schedule (Red) from Amber last quarter.

Note: actions being delivered as/through projects/programmes are not included in this table as their status is being reported via project reporting mechanisms instead and this avoids any double counting. Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

3.6 The statuses of Corporate Plan projects at the end of December are shown in the following table.

Status of Corporate Plan Projects/Programmes	Number	Percentage
Green (on track)	5	36%
Amber (within acceptable variance)	8	57%
Red (behind schedule)	1	7%

The number of projects Green (on track) has decreased from 80% (12) in quarter 2 to 36% (5). One project (Civil Parking Enforcement Delivery) has fallen Red (behind schedule) this quarter from a Green status in quarter 2.

Note: this only includes corporate projects which are linked to actions in the current Corporate Plan.

3.7 The latest statuses for operational performance measures at the end of December are summarised here:

Latest Operational Performance Indicator Results	Number	Percentage
Green (on track)	22	69%
Amber (within acceptable variance)	6	19%
Red (behind schedule)	4	12%

The number of operational indicators recorded as Amber has decreased by two, with one performance indicator turning Green (on track) and performance indicator 4 (The number of residents enabled to live safely at home and prevented from requiring care or a prolonged stay in hospital due to a Disabled Facilities Grant) turning Red (behind schedule).

Forecast outturn statuses for operational performance measures are summarised here:

Forecast Year-End Operational Performance Indicator Results	Number	Percentage
Green (on track)	23	72%
Amber (within acceptable variance)	8	25%
Red (behind schedule)	1	3%

The number of performance indicators forecast to be green has reduced by three since quarter two, with all three now forecasting Amber (within acceptable variance) by the end of the year.

4. COMMENTS OF OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANELS

- 4.1 The Overview and Scrutiny (Performance & Growth) Panel is due to receive this report at its meeting on 5th March 2025. Comments from the Panel will be shared with Cabinet following the Overview and Scrutiny Panel's meeting.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 The Cabinet is invited to consider and comment on progress and performance during Quarter 1, as summarised in the **Corporate Performance Report** and detailed in **Appendices A and B**.

6. LIST OF APPENDICES INCLUDED

Appendix 1 – Corporate Performance Report, Quarter 3, 2024/25

Appendix A – Progress on Corporate Plan Actions/Projects, Quarter 3, 2024/25

Appendix B – Operational Performance Measure Graphs, Quarter 3, 2024/25

CONTACT OFFICERS

Corporate Performance Report

Ben Clifton-Attfield, Performance Coordinator

ben.cliftonattfield@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

Steffen Gosling, Business Performance and Insights Team Leader

steffen.gosling@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

Project Performance (projects/programmes linked to Corporate Plan actions)

Linda Omezi, Project Management Office Manager

linda.omezi@huntingdonshire.gov.uk



Huntingdonshire

D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L

Performance Report

Quarter 3 - 2024/25

Do - Enable - Influence



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Outcome 1: Improving the happiness and wellbeing of residents

We want the highest possible quality of life for the people of Huntingdonshire. It will be a place which attracts employers and visitors and somewhere residents are proud to call home. We will be evidence based, responsive and support the foundations of a good life. This includes personal independence, prosperity, social connection, community and good health.



Most actions for this outcome are on track at the end of this quarter. We have built on the successes of last quarter with the Community Health and Wealth Strategy. Input from rural communities, young people, and other groups shaped the final strategy, which was approved by members in December. This can now move into delivery.

The WorkWell programme for early intervention in learning is well underway, holding multiple sessions promoting residents' advice as a way of working rather than just a service. Our work with the Poverty Commission for Cambridgeshire will also result in improved living conditions for our residents. However, while the Council Tax and Work Well projects have commenced well this quarter, the loss of a key asset has delayed the continuation of the action to maximise and report on the benefits of a targeted approach to supporting residents ending as Amber.

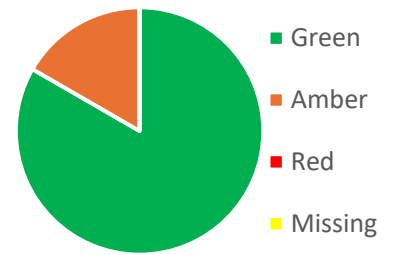
A series of skills and employment events, funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, were delivered this quarter, including networking events and opportunities for training and educational support with over one hundred people, upskilling our residents. Support for businesses has continued resulting in seven organisations receiving financial support and eleven receiving non-financial support so far. Work to maximise local benefit through a Community Wealth building approach has benefitted from significant progress – a joint agreement signed to act as an anchor institution during the rebuild of Hinchingsbrooke Hospital.

Huntingdonshire Futures, in partnership with the Great Ouse Valley Trust, has now initiated several project activities including a feasibility study to establish the benefits associated with creating a self-designated area covering the Great Ouse Valley in Huntingdonshire for the benefit of our communities and work to establish the barriers to employment for women returning to work.

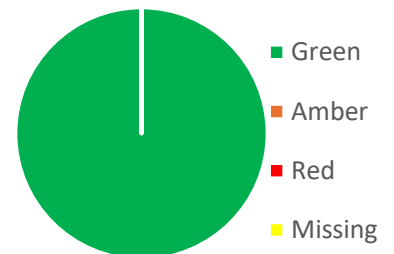
The number of residents attending our One Leisure Active Lifestyle sessions is up by 163% compared to quarter 3 in 2023/24, and attendance at our Sports Development Activities is also up by 4% compared to quarter 3 in 2023/24. Both services are performing above target and are forecasted to be ahead of targets at year-end. The only measure that is not on track is One Leisure facilities admissions, which reported an Amber status. This is due to lower admissions than the quarter three target (27.9k admissions lower than the 1,096,614 target for the end of December).

Performance Summary:

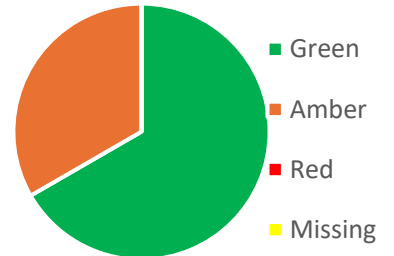
Status of Corporate Plan actions	Number	%
Green (on track)	5	83%
Amber (within acceptable variance)	1	17%
Red (behind schedule)	0	0%
Missing	0	0%



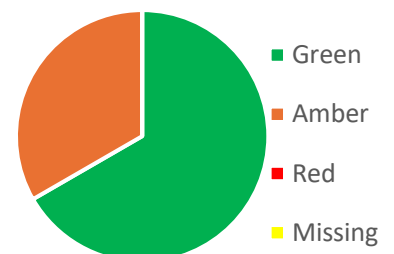
Status of Corporate Plan projects/programmes	Number	%
Green (progress on track)	2	100%
Amber (behind schedule, project may be recoverable)	0	0%
Red (significantly behind schedule, serious risk/issues)	0	0%
Missing	0	0%



Operational PI latest status	Number	%
Green (achieved)	2	67%
Amber (within acceptable variance)	1	33%
Red (below acceptable variance)	0	0%
Missing	0	0%



Operational PI year-end forecast status	Number	%
Green (achieved)	2	67%
Amber (within acceptable variance)	1	33%
Red (below acceptable variance)	0	0%
Missing	0	0%



Corporate Plan Action	Direction of Travel	Latest Status
1. Deliver a Community Health and Wealth Strategy, to link broader social determinants of health with a Community Wealth Building approach.	↑	G
2. Undertake a 'deliberative democracy' approach to the development of our Community Health and Wealth Strategy.	↔	G
4. Refresh our Social Value Policy and explore larger opportunities to maximise local benefit through a Community Wealth Building approach to procurement and the roles of anchor institutions.	↑	G
5. Focus on maximising physical activity in the district, and work to promote this across local partners.	↔	G
6. Maximise, and report on, the benefits of a targeted approach to support residents to improve their quality of life through the promotion and delivery of relevant services (e.g. run campaigns based on a customer segmentation approach, track progress and regularly report on take-up and impact).	↓	A
7. Continue to work with statutory partners to secure improvements to transport options for Huntingdonshire, including active travel.	↔	G

Corporate Plan Project/Programme	Direction of Travel	Latest Status
3. Deliver the skills and employment workstream of the UK shared prosperity programme (PROJECT).	↔	G
8. Formally engage with relevant stakeholders, residents and businesses to explore how place strategy priorities are transformed into practical delivery (PROJECT).	↔	G

Operational Performance Indicator	Latest Status	Forecast Status
1. Number of attendances at One Leisure Active Lifestyles programmes (cumulative year to date)	G	G
2. Number of attendances at Sports Development activities and programmes (cumulative year to date)	G	G
3. Number of One Leisure Facilities admissions – swimming, Impressions, fitness classes, sports hall and pitches (excluding Burgess Hall and school admissions) (cumulative year to date)	A	A

Outcome 2: Keeping people out of crisis



We will identify the root causes that lead people into crises and find ways to prevent them. We will do this through our own actions. We will also work in partnership with residents, businesses, community groups, charities and our public sector partners.

All actions and projects linked to this outcome in quarter three have green status. The project to deliver an integrated approach to supporting financial vulnerability working with our partners continues to progress well.

The Citizens Advice Bureau is now fully embedded within Pathfinder House, resulting in more face-to-face appointments being offered to our residents. Where residents have not benefited from the structured approach offered by Citizens Advice, they are referred to the Council's Residents Advice and Information Team which has resulted in successful outcomes. Work has been completed to understand the actions needed to establish resident advice and information as a way of working with recommendations and implementation to be agreed upon in quarter four.

The joint project with the Police & Crime Commissioner has delivered a proof of concept for safely sharing anonymised data to contribute to work on the Serious & Violent Crime Act, helping to address incidents of violent crime within the district.

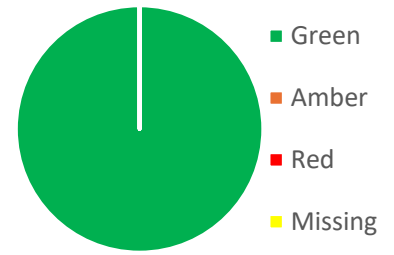
A quarterly report for actions in this outcome will be presented to members of the Overview and Scrutiny (Environment, Communities and Partnerships) Panel with an update on how the Council Tax project. Other work carried out is helping us to identify and act on opportunities to adopt early intervention and maximise the benefits of a targeted approach to support residents at risk of experiencing crisis through the promotion and delivery of relevant services, such as our joint data project with the Police.

The number of Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) adaptations has fallen to Red status in quarter 3 and the average time taken to complete DFGs remains red. However, the action to review the DFG system has also been undertaken this quarter, identifying a range of actions that would benefit the system heading into quarter four.

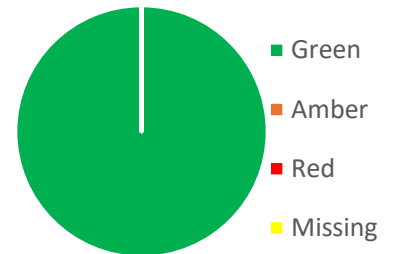
The remaining performance measures related to this outcome all have a Green status for quarter three. Highlights include our Benefits team's performance which reduced the average time to process new claims and changes of circumstance and our Housing Needs and Resource team which achieved eighty-five homelessness preventions from October to December.

Performance Summary:

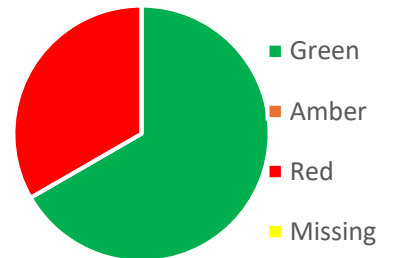
Status of Corporate Plan actions	Number	%
Green (on track)	2	100%
Amber (within acceptable variance)	0	0%
Red (behind schedule)	0	0%
Missing	0	0%



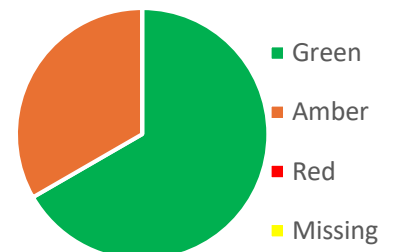
Status of Corporate Plan projects/programmes	Number	%
Green (progress on track)	1	100%
Amber (behind schedule, project may be recoverable)	0	0%
Red (significantly behind schedule, serious risk/issues)	0	0%
Missing	0	0%



Operational PI latest status	Number	%
Green (achieved)	4	67%
Amber (within acceptable variance)	0	0%
Red (below acceptable variance)	2	33%
Missing	0	0%



Operational PI year-end forecast status	Number	%
Green (achieved)	4	67%
Amber (within acceptable variance)	2	33%
Red (below acceptable variance)	0	0%
Missing	0	0%



Corporate Plan Action	Direction of Travel	Latest Status
10. Act on opportunities for early intervention and regularly report on learning and impact.	↔	G
11. Maximise, and report on, the benefits of a targeted approach to support residents at risk of experiencing crisis through the promotion and delivery of relevant services (e.g. improve data sharing with the police to inform a targeted on-the-ground door-knocking campaign to help prevent crime).	↔	G

Corporate Plan Project/Programme	Direction of Travel	Latest Status
9. Report regularly on progress on the delivery of an integrated financial vulnerability model between HDC and partners (PROJECT).	↔	G

Operational Performance Indicator	Latest Status	Forecast Status
4. The number of residents enabled to live safely at home and prevented from requiring care or a prolonged stay at hospital due to a Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) (cumulative year to date)	R	A
5. Average time (in weeks) between date of referral and practical completion of jobs funded through Disabled Facilities Grants (cumulative year to date)	R	A
6. Average number of days to process new claims for Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support (cumulative year to date)	G	G
7. Average number of days to process changes of circumstances for Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support (cumulative year to date)	G	G
8. Number of homelessness preventions achieved (cumulative year to date)	G	G
9. Number of households housed through the housing register and Home-Link scheme (cumulative year to date)	G	G

Outcome 3: Helping people in crisis

Where a crisis has already happened, we will work holistically to understand the issues, the cause of these issues and what opportunities exist to address them. We will seek to prevent multiple personal crises becoming entrenched and unmanageable by addressing root causes



Actions within this outcome remain unchanged from quarter two, mostly on track as of the end of December 2024.

The Community team continue to support refugees and other guests by fostering good community relations and providing advice and assistance to both hosts and guests under the Homes for Ukraine scheme.

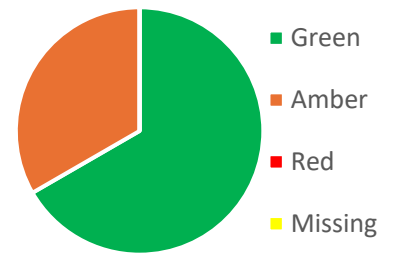
The action to promote WeAreHuntingdonshire as a tool for partners to provide directed and tailored support, based on our 'wider determinants of health' approach has maintained an Amber status in quarter three. The service design lead has reviewed and recommended improvements to the WeAreHuntingdonshire website so that we can better understand its strengths and areas that require improvement. Further promotion of the tool was undertaken this quarter, using a range of methods including leaflets delivered to specific areas within the district, households that have moved into or within the district and directly within our communities.

Our work with partners to review the provision of Disabled Facilities Grants remains Amber, however, the Overview and Scrutiny (Environment, Communities and Partnerships) Panel Task and Finish Group is nearing completion with its review of the DFG system and has highlighted a series of opportunities to improve the process for our residents. This will progress to actions in quarter four.

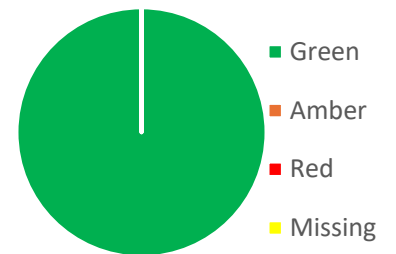
The number of homelessness preventions achieved, and the number of households housed through the housing register and Home-Link scheme, mean that the Housing Needs and Resources team successfully kept the numbers of households in Temporary Accommodation (TA) consistently below our target at the end of every month this quarter.

Performance Summary:

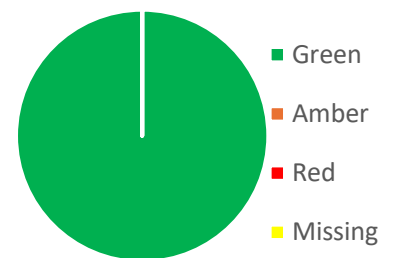
Status of Corporate Plan actions	Number	%
Green (on track)	4	67%
Amber (within acceptable variance)	2	33%
Red (behind schedule)	0	0%
Missing	0	0%



Operational PI latest status	Number	%
Green (achieved)	1	100%
Amber (within acceptable variance)	0	0%
Red (below acceptable variance)	0	0%
Missing	0	0%



Operational PI year-end forecast status	Number	%
Green (achieved)	1	100%
Amber (within acceptable variance)	0	0%
Red (below acceptable variance)	0	0%
Missing	0	0%



Corporate Plan Action	Direction of Travel	Latest Status
12. Continue to support refugees and other guests, seeking to support good community relations and smooth transition into long-term residency or return home.	↔	G
13. Work with partners to review the provision of Disabled Facilities Grants and ensure we maximise our ability to prevent crisis and support those who need help.	↔	A
14. Focus on maximising the economic success of residents via a Community Wealth building approach.	↔	G
15. Maximise, and report on, the benefits of a targeted approach to support residents experiencing crisis through the promotion and delivery of relevant services (e.g. identifying individuals who could benefit from support offered by the Resident Advice and Information team and reporting on outcomes).	↔	G
16. Continue to promote WeAreHuntingdonshire as a tool for partners to provide directed and tailored support based on our wider determinants approach.	↔	A
17. Lobby, and support campaigns, for improvements to the living conditions of local residents.	↔	G

Operational Performance Indicator	Latest Status	Forecast Status
10. Number of households in Temporary Accommodation (snapshot at end of each period)	G	G

Outcome 4: Improving housing



We want everyone to live in a safe, high quality home regardless of health, stage of life, family structure, income and tenure type. Homes should be energy efficient and allow people to live healthy and prosperous lives. New homes should be zero carbon ready and encourage sustainable travel.

Work with Health and Social Care Providers to explore future models of housing, support, and care to live independently for longer remains Green. A series of focus groups and consultations specialising in housing needs for older people, and other specialist groups, within the district, helping inform future housing decisions have been completed.

The Affordable Housing Advice note to support the delivery of more affordable housing has been completed with adoption in December.

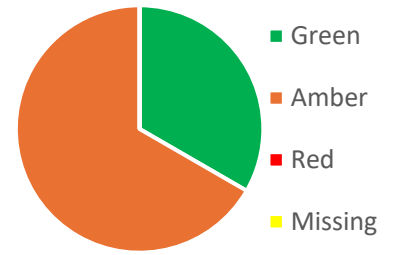
Five actions are Amber this quarter because of external factors. Actions relating to the Supported Housing (Regulatory Oversight Act) cannot proceed until associated regulations are set out by the Government. Work with registered providers on regeneration opportunities continues to be discussed with our partners, but Places For People activity has been more focused on new developments and actions with other providers are still in the planning stage. Our work on a policy to support the use of civil penalties in private-sector housing enforcement awaits guidance from the Government, however, there have been many positive standardisation efforts with our neighbouring authorities.

The increase in the number of homes with a council tax banding is exceeding its target. However, the number of new affordable homes delivered remains slightly below target in quarter three (235 delivered compared to a target of 261) this reflects an overall slowing of construction this year and hence associated affordable homes. The council continues to work with developers and registered providers to deliver new homes, forecasts indicate that this metric will miss its target at the end of the year (288 forecasted compared to the target of 292), however, this is not uncommon in construction and is symptomatic of our extraordinary performance last year.

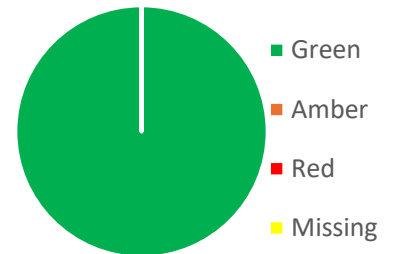
All three planning application performance indicators continue to show above-target performance at the end of quarter three, with our performance rivalling other high-performing authorities in the region. This strong performance with faster decision-making on planning applications received supports the delivery of new homes and other types of development within the district.

Performance Summary:

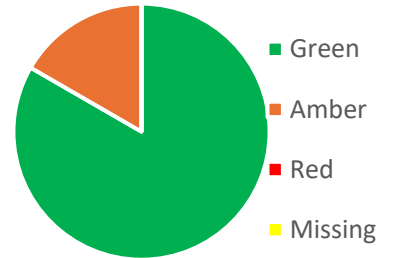
Status of Corporate Plan actions	Number	%
Green (on track)	3	33%
Amber (within acceptable variance)	6	67%
Red (behind schedule)	0	0%
Missing	0	0%



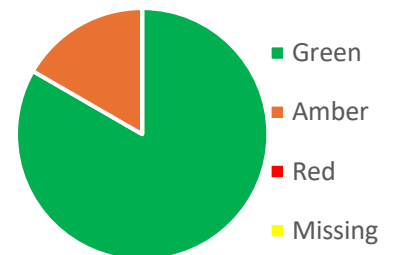
Status of Corporate Plan projects/programmes	Number	%
Green (progress on track)	1	100%
Amber (behind schedule, project may be recoverable)	0	0%
Red (significantly behind schedule, serious risk/issues)	0	0%
Missing	0	0%



Operational PI latest status	Number	%
Green (achieved)	5	83%
Amber (within acceptable variance)	1	17%
Red (below acceptable variance)	0	0%
Missing	0	0%



Operational PI year-end forecast status	Number	%
Green (achieved)	5	83%
Amber (within acceptable variance)	1	17%
Red (below acceptable variance)	0	0%
Missing	0	0%



Corporate Plan Action	Direction of Travel	Latest Status
18. Commence work on a new Housing Strategy for 2025-2030.	↔	G
20. Complete an Affordable Housing Advice note that will support the delivery of new affordable housing by providing clear guidelines to developers.	↔	G
21. Commence work on a policy to support the use of civil penalties with regard to private sector housing enforcement.	↔	A
22. Carry out a review of supported exempt accommodation in the area, linked to the Supported Housing (Regulatory Oversight) Act, which will lead to the development of a Supported Housing Strategy.	↔	A
23. Implement the government's new National Supported Housing Standards and introduce licensing regulations.	↔	A
24. Maintain the level of new housing delivery, which meets the needs of Huntingdonshire residents, including the type of home and tenure (open market and social housing).	↓	A
25. Work in partnership to look at best practice and funding to improve housing conditions, including retrofit programmes in social and private housing.	↓	A
26. Continue to work with Registered Providers to improve conditions in existing accommodation through regeneration schemes.	↔	A
27. Work with Health and Social Care Providers to explore future models of housing, support and care, enabling people to live independently for longer.	↔	G

Corporate Plan Project/Programme	Direction of Travel	Latest Status
19. Continue to use surplus Council owned sites to deliver affordable housing, for example working with the Longhurst Group (PROJECT).	↑	G

Operational Performance Indicator	Latest Status	Forecast Status
11. Net change in number of homes with a Council Tax banding (cumulative year to date)	G	G
12. Number of new affordable homes delivered (cumulative year to date)	A	A
13. Percentage of planning applications processed on target – major (within 13 weeks or agreed extended period) (cumulative year to date)	G	G
14. Percentage of planning applications processed on target – minor or other (within 8 weeks or agreed extended period) (cumulative year to date)	G	G
15. Percentage of planning applications processed on target – household extensions (within 8 weeks or agreed extended period) (cumulative year to date)	G	G
16. Number of planning applications over 16 weeks old where there is no current extension of time in place (total at end of each month)	G	G

Outcome 5: Forward-thinking economic growth

We want our local economy to attract businesses that prioritise reducing their carbon footprint. A place where businesses choose to start up, grow and invest in high value jobs so they and our residents and high streets, can flourish and thrive. Local people should be able to develop their skills to take advantage of these opportunities, with businesses and education providers working more closely together to deliver an inclusive economy.



This quarter has seen the continued promotion of Huntingdonshire as a destination for high-value inward investment, with promotion at events all over the country. This quarter has also seen greater interaction with our online followers, with LinkedIn receiving the greatest number of new followers and interaction on our posts. Business support programmes being funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) also remain on track this quarter, with the Economic Development team continuing to support those who have been awarded grants, all of which are either spent or committed to be spent by February.

Our partnership efforts are strong. The Economic Development team is working on future Further Education (FE) needs and engaging with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough combined authority to share our Local Growth Plan and Place Strategy. This helps us contribute to regional discussions. The team also participates in workshops and meetings on the State of the Nation work, and our Planning team is involved in activities related to the A428, A141, and East-West Rail developments.

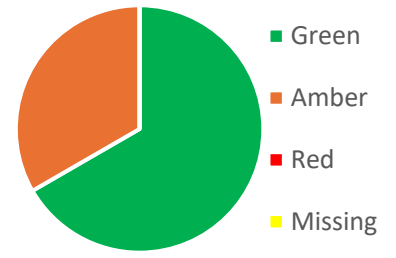
The Market Towns Programme remains Green with regeneration work at prominent locations throughout the district, such as at the Cromwell Museum, Old Falcon and the Priory Centre.

The Local Plan production is well on track. Public consultation on three elements ended on 27 November with over 6,700 responses. Additional sites are being assessed for development potential. The Annual Monitoring Report (parts 1 and 2) is complete. Work continues on the evidence base for climate change and Gypsy and Traveller accommodation. An employment land need assessment has been commissioned, and meetings with the duty to cooperate partners and major development scheme promoters are ongoing.

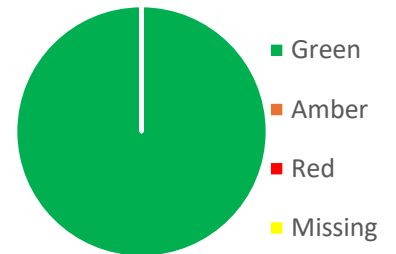
Amber progress with the Economic Growth Strategy has progressed with procurement of the strategy (alongside economic evidence for the local plan) completed during December 2024. Work has begun in January 2025, and a draft is scheduled for Spring 2025.

Performance Summary:

Status of Corporate Plan actions	Number	%
Green (on track)	4	67%
Amber (within acceptable variance)	2	33%
Red (behind schedule)	0	0%
Missing	0	0%



Status of Corporate Plan projects/programmes	Number	%
Green (progress on track)	3	100%
Amber (behind schedule, project may be recoverable)	0	0%
Red (significantly behind schedule, serious risk/issues)	0	0%
Missing	0	0%



Corporate Plan Action	Direction of Travel	Latest Status
28. Promote Huntingdonshire as a destination for high value inward investment, prioritising businesses that are proactively reducing their carbon emissions, and produce an annual report on activity.	↔	G
30. Refresh the Huntingdonshire Economic Growth Strategy.	↓	A
33. Work with intermediaries, professional service networks, investors and developers to understand the health of the economy, develop responses and attract investment.	↔	G
34. Work with the CPCA and partners to complete a review of the future demand for Further Education (FE) provision in the St Neots area and development of the Local Skills Implementation Plan, prioritising connections between FE provision and local employers aligned to core growth sectors.	↓	A
35. Influence and contribute to the creation of a Devolution2 deal for Cambridgeshire & Peterborough; the State of the Region and Place Strategy Vision work and the commissioning of all future business support and grant funding provision.	↔	G
36. Influence delivery of infrastructure including East West Rail (EWR), A428, A141 Strategic Outline Business Case and future Transport Strategies.	↔	G

Corporate Plan Project/Programme	Direction of Travel	Latest Status
29. Deliver the business support projects within the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) programme, including Manufacturing Digitalisation, Green Business Initiative, Jumpstart business competition and a new Start-up programme (PROJECT).	↔	G
31. Continue the delivery of the Market Town Programme, including the ongoing delivery of Future High Street projects in St Neots, development of new Retail Hub in Ramsey, and various other funded projects within the four market towns. Commence feasibility work on new projects to enable them to be brought forward when funding is available (PROJECT).	↔	G
32. Continue the update to the Local Plan, including updating evidence bases in line with National Planning Policy, particularly where it relates to Economy, Environment and Housing (PROJECT).	↔	G

Outcome 6: Lowering carbon emissions



We will take positive action to reduce carbon emissions and become a net zero carbon Council by 2040. We will enable and encourage local people and businesses to reduce carbon emissions and increase biodiversity across Huntingdonshire.

Most actions remain on track at the end of December with good progress.

Significant progress has been made to roll out solar power across buildings owned by the Council following the approval of the investment project of £412,000 to maximise the use of solar panels on One Leisure sites, bringing us closer to our aim to use self-generated energy at our sites by 2026. The implementation project has started.

The Net Zero Villages Fund of £257,000 was approved by the Cabinet to progress grants to community buildings to reduce carbon emissions and support their sustainability through lower operating costs.

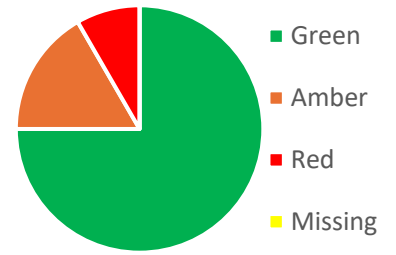
The biodiversity for all project continues to progress following the successful hiring of two new graduate ecologists and the enhancement works carried out at Priory Park and Hill Rise. The Council has also recognised the Huntingdonshire Plan for Nature at October's Cabinet which highlights priority habitats and will influence the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS). This helps us contribute to biodiversity net gain but will also have a positive influence on nature across the district.

Our work to influence and accelerate the active travel routes has progressed with feasibility studies for the priority routes established in Cambridgeshire County Council's Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan for Huntingdonshire commissioned along with work to identify further community priorities in quarter four. Our next investment in EV charging has also been commissioned ready for rollout in quarter four.

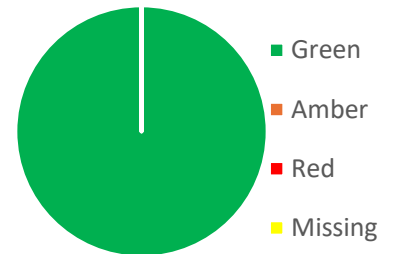
The action to develop the Council's procurement rules to further embed social and environmental value has been reported as Red this quarter due to delays surrounding staff changes. However, following the successful engagement of staff, we are ready to recommence progress on this action in quarter four.

Performance Summary:

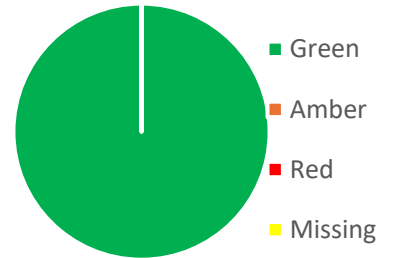
Status of Corporate Plan actions	Number	%
Green (on track)	9	75%
Amber (within acceptable variance)	2	17%
Red (behind schedule)	1	8%
Missing	0	0%



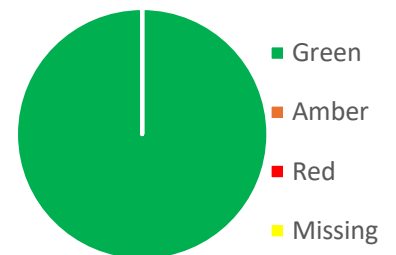
Status of Corporate Plan projects/programmes	Number	%
Green (progress on track)	2	100%
Amber (behind schedule, project may be recoverable)	0	0%
Red (significantly behind schedule, serious risk/issues)	0	0%
Missing	0	0%



Operational PI latest status	Number	%
Green (achieved)	1	100%
Amber (within acceptable variance)	0	0%
Red (below acceptable variance)	0	0%
Missing	0	0%



Operational PI year-end forecast status	Number	%
Green (achieved)	1	100%
Amber (within acceptable variance)	0	0%
Red (below acceptable variance)	0	0%
Missing	0	0%



Corporate Plan Action	Direction of Travel	Latest Status
37. Complete Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) Fuel Trial and present a business case for decision.	↔	G
38. Deliver a Fleet Decarbonisation Plan.	↔	G
39. Deliver our Energy Strategy.	↔	G
40. Deliver the Climate Conversation in 2024, showcasing community action and listening to local people in their communities.	↔	G
41. Identify emissions from HDC IT data centres to include in reporting and establish disposal methods for IT equipment to reduce environmental impact.	↔	A
42. Establish climate and carbon emissions learning and development plan for Council employees.	↔	G
43. Accelerate Solar Power Adoption on Council Buildings.	↔	G
44. Support community projects and plans that reduce carbon emissions.	↔	G
47. Deliver the Phase 1 Rural Pilot HDC Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Strategy Actions.	↑	G
48. Develop the Council's procurement rules to further embed social and environmental value.	↓	R
49. Expand positive climate action support for local businesses, celebrating best practice and sharing knowledge.	↔	A
50. Adopt the Huntingdonshire Plan for Nature and influence the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) with our priorities.	↔	G

Corporate Plan Project/Programme	Direction of Travel	Latest Status
45. Deliver Biodiversity for All (2023-2025) to enable community action and support green skills development (PROJECT).	↔	G
46. Commission Active Travel Studies (UKSPF) to influence/inform future investment priorities (PROJECT).	↑	G

Operational Performance Indicator	Latest Status	Forecast Status
17. Efficiency of vehicle fleet driving – Energy Efficient Driving Index score for the Waste service (cumulative year to date)	G	G

Outcome 7: Delivering good quality, high value-for-money services

Around 80% of our resources are aligned to business as usual (BAU) service delivery and this priority focuses on delivering good quality, high value for money services with good control and compliance with statutory functions. We will continue to provide a wide range of existing statutory and important services and seek to improve their efficiency and effectiveness.



Good progress has been made on a range of actions and projects focused on improving service delivery, including the successful delivery of the upgrades to the path and cycleways at Riverside Park in St Neots. This quarter we were also able to contribute towards our target to deliver an independent corporate peer challenge to assess, challenge and improve what we do. The results of which were sent to the local government association. 21 Green actions, 6 Amber actions and no Red actions were achieved.

Four of the six projects and programmes associated with this outcome were reported as being on track at the end of quarter three. The enhancement of the visitor facilities at Hinchingsbrooke Park remained at Amber. Work was extended due to the seasonal requirements of the studies, to ensure full consideration of biodiversity requirements in advance of the planning application. This is now concluded and ready for planning submission in quarter 4.

The implementation of the Civil Parking Enforcement project continues to have excellent progress within the Council with signs and lining work underway. However as formal parliamentary approval is awaited, a go-live date cannot yet be confirmed.

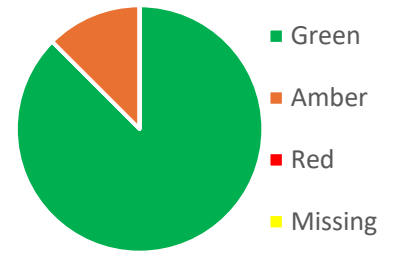
Twelve operational performance indicators exceeded their targets this quarter, with only two falling behind expectations and reporting a Red status.

While the number of missed bins is higher than expected, due to the service and route changes resulting from the chargeable green bin service, our percentage of missed bins (0.073%) is lower than the national average number of missed bins (0.076%). The number of missed bins continues to reduce each month as our operations team collaborates more closely with residents and crews to ensure that we are actively reporting any issues.

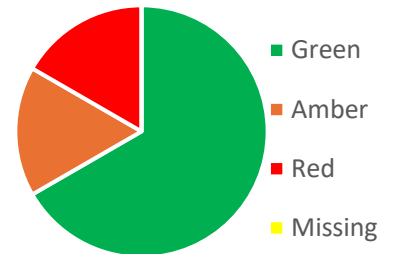
We also saw the number of reported fly-tips increase above its threshold for the quarter. Whilst this is likely impacted by recycling centres having reduced hours during the festive period; this is being carefully reviewed and the street cleansing team continues to carry out initiatives to reduce fly-tipping in the district and acts swiftly to clean up incidents. Performance of the cleansing team remains strong this quarter, with an average of 99.2% of sampled areas being predominantly clean of weeds, and seasonal detritus.

Performance Summary:

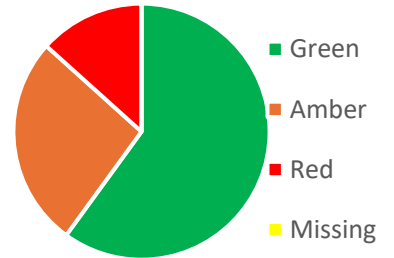
Status of Corporate Plan actions	Number	%
Green (on track)	7	88%
Amber (within acceptable variance)	1	13%
Red (behind schedule)	0	0%
Missing	0	0%



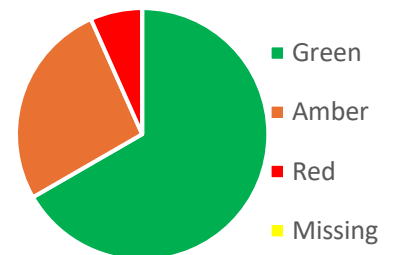
Status of Corporate Plan projects/programmes	Number	%
Green (progress on track)	4	67%
Amber (behind schedule, project may be recoverable)	1	17%
Red (significantly behind schedule, serious risk/issues)	1	17%
Missing	0	0%



Operational PI latest status	Number	%
Green (achieved)	9	60%
Amber (within acceptable variance)	4	27%
Red (below acceptable variance)	2	13%
Missing	0	0%



Operational PI year-end forecast status	Number	%
Green (achieved)	10	67%
Amber (within acceptable variance)	4	27%
Red (below acceptable variance)	1	7%
Missing	0	0%



Corporate Plan Action	Direction of Travel	Latest Status
51. Refresh our Commercial Investment Strategy to develop proposals for future strategic investments.	↑	G
58. Deliver an independent Corporate Peer Challenge of the Council that will assess, challenge and improve what we do.	↔	G
59. Assess, and where prudent, use the emerging national benchmarking data from the Office of Local Government (Oflog) to improve our performance.	↔	G
60. Bring forward and expand our use of unit costs to demonstrate productivity within priority service areas.	↔	A
61. Pilot the use of Artificial Intelligence within the Council, seeking to create efficiencies and service improvement whilst ensuring we comply with all relevant legislation.	↔	G
62. Listen to local residents and respond to their input on service delivery.	↔	G
63. Enable our outstanding volunteers in our parks, nature reserves and elsewhere to continue to improve the quality of those spaces.	↔	G
64. Our well-run council will act as a model for our peers.	↔	G

Corporate Plan Project/Programme	Direction of Travel	Latest Status
52. Complete the remaining elements of the Workforce Strategy to prepare the Council for the changing skills needed in our future workforce and ensure we can continue to attract, retain and nurture talent (PROJECT).	↔	G
53. Continue our Customer Services improvement programme to ensure that our customers are always at the heart of what we do (PROJECT).	↔	G
54. Continue the Development Management Improvement programme to improve the performance of the planning service (PROJECT).	↔	G
55. Progress delivery of Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) across the District to enforce on-street parking activity (PROJECT).	↓	R
56. Deliver the enhancement of visitor facilities at Hinchingsbrooke Country Park (PROJECT).	↔	A
57. Upgrade path and cycleways at Riverside Park St Neots (PROJECT).	↔	G

Operational Performance Indicator	Latest Status	Forecast Status
18. Percentage of household waste reused/recycled/composted (cumulative year to date)	A	A
19. Collected household waste per person (kilograms) (cumulative year to date)	G	G
20. Residual waste collected per household (kilograms) (cumulative year to date)	A	A
21. Number of missed bins (cumulative year to date)	R	R

Operational Performance Indicator	Latest Status	Forecast Status
22. Percentage of sampled areas which are clean or predominantly clean of litter, detritus, graffiti, flyposting, or weed accumulations (cumulative year to date)	G	G
23. Number of fly tips recorded (cumulative year to date)	R	A
24. Number of enforcement actions taken on fly tips (fines/court summons) (cumulative year to date)	G	G
25. The number of programmed food safety inspections undertaken (cumulative year to date)	G	G
26. Percentage of calls to Call Centre answered (cumulative year to date)	G	G
27. Average wait time for customers calling the Call Centre (cumulative year to date)	G	G
28. Council Tax collection rate (cumulative year to date)	G	G
29. Business Rates collection rate (cumulative year to date)	G	G
30. Staff short-term sickness days lost per full time equivalent (FTE) (Rolling 12 month total)	A	G
31. Staff long-term sickness days lost per full time equivalent (FTE) (Rolling 12 month total)	A	A
32. Staff turnover (per individual month)	G	G

Appendix A: Progress on Corporate Plan Actions



Outcome: Improving the happiness and wellbeing of residents

Activity type: Do

2024/25 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 3	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
1. Deliver a Community Health and Wealth Strategy, to link broader social determinants of health with a Community Wealth Building approach.	Cllr Howell	Council approved the Strategy and associated funding at its meeting in December. This is a significant step forward, and the focus in Q4 will move to delivery	↑	G	The approval of the strategy and the associated fund demonstrates a clear way of working for the future as well as reassures partner organisations that collaborating on funding opportunities will achieve greater outcomes for all and a greater return on investment.
2. Undertake a 'deliberative democracy' approach to the development of our Community Health and Wealth Strategy.	Cllr Howell	Council approved the Strategy and associated funding at its meeting in December. This is a significant step forward, and the focus in Q4 will move to delivery	↑	G	Ensures that the criteria that is developed around the fund is inclusive and representative of our different communities and what they deem to be priorities.



Outcome: Improving the happiness and wellbeing of residents

Activity type: Enable

2024/25 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 3	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
3. Deliver the skills and employment workstream of the UK shared prosperity programme (PROJECT).	Cllr Wakeford	Project proceeding to completion by March 2025. Variety of activities across different applicable UK shared prosperity fund projects are being delivered, including networking events and opportunities for training and educational support, and also direct financial support in business grants	↔	G	Impact is measured in terms of outputs completion. Outputs achieved to date, but not limited to: 1) Seven organisations receiving financial support other than grants. 2) Eleven organisations receiving non-financial support. 3) One facility supported/created, 4) 100 people attending training sessions. For detail on all relevant UK shared prosperity fund programme projects refer to the relevant Highlight report.
4. Refresh our Social Value Policy and explore larger opportunities to maximise local benefit through a Community Wealth Building approach to procurement and the roles of anchor institutions.	Cllr Davenport-Ray	<p>The action to progress this has seen some slowing due to key staff moving to roles outside HDC. However, resource has been brought in and this will progress in Q4.</p> <p>However, significant progress has been made with Hinchingsbrooke Hospital, with a joint agreement being signed to act as an anchor institution during the rebuild</p>	↑	G	The willingness to utilise funding for a shared partnership post demonstrates the enthusiasm to work differently and in ways that will have the greatest impact. This first step is huge progress and sets the expectations for similar initiatives.

2024/25 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 3	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
5. Focus on maximising physical activity in the district, and work to promote this across local partners.	Cllr Howell	<p>Refurbishment of both St Ives Indoor and St Neots Gym Facilities have taken place in Q3 with re-opening in January 2024 leading to a better experience for customers.</p> <p>Active Lifestyles have continued to deliver the Community Health Prevention Project including working directly with both Huntingdon and A1 Primary Care Networks to deliver targeted arthritis pain management courses to identified patients with excellent response to date.</p> <p>A physical activity and healthy eating project with two Oxmoor Schools has been delivered targeting childhood obesity levels.</p>	↔	G	<p>The work the Leisure & Health Service are doing to increase the number of people being physically active is seen in the fact there were >600 members in December 2024 compared to the same period last year.</p> <p>Quarter 3 saw the Active Lifestyles (Health) team record over 10,000 attendances at all led activities - 152% increase on the same period last year (7,013).</p> <p>The Active Lifestyles (Health) team have recorded over 8,800 attendances at the Community Health Prevention Programme targeting Frailty and Cardio-Vascular Disease (CVD) prevention since starting the activity programme (July 2023) and over 1,000 individuals.</p>

<p>6. Maximise, and report on, the benefits of a targeted approach to support residents to improve their quality of life through the promotion and delivery of relevant services (e.g. run campaigns based on a customer segmentation approach, track progress and regularly report on take-up and impact).</p>	<p>Cllr Howell</p>	<p>The council tax project commenced but with the rollout of WorkWell and the loss of a member of staff, it was agreed to delay sending any further invites to participate. The project will recommence in Q4 as team are back up to full strength.</p>	<p>↓</p>	<p>A</p>	<p>The project has not progressed at the pace that was hoped meaning residents who would have engaged, will receive the help and support later than anticipated. It is important to note that this initiative is entirely voluntary and it is difficult to determine uptake.</p>
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Outcome: Improving the happiness and wellbeing of residents

Activity type: Influence

2024/25 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 3	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
7. Continue to work with statutory partners to secure improvements to transport options for Huntingdonshire, including active travel.	Cllr Wakeford	To be read in conjunction with 36. Continued active engagement in delivery of new A428; Further public consultation on A141 closed on 24/11/24 and analysis of findings awaited. Further East West Rail non-statutory consultation live 14/22/24 - 24/01/25 with continued promotion of active travel connectivity.	↔	G	Continued promotion of the strategic importance of Huntingdonshire in unlocking growth ambitions for economy, housing and environment.

2024/25 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 3	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
8. Formally engage with relevant stakeholders, residents and businesses to explore how place strategy priorities are transformed into practical delivery (PROJECT).	Cllr Conboy	Budget proposals submitted to drive work forward in 2025/26. Revised approach endorsed by SLT and Informal Cabinet to progress. Pride of Place work commenced with Gt Ouse Valley Park Feasibility in partnership with Gt Ouse Valley Trust. Inclusive Economy project to establish route causes of barriers to employment for women returning to work commissioned. Futures Grant Scheme Outcomes presentation completed and scheduled for Member Briefing.	↔	G	The new approach is a more sustainable way for HDC to deliver the goal of Huntingdonshire Futures to make Huntingdonshire a better place to live, work and visit over the next 30 years. The projects that are ongoing will have varied impacts including allowing a deeper understanding of the barriers to employment facing women returning to the workplace, and developing an enduring partnership with the Great Ouse Valley Trust focused on the unique landscape of Huntingdonshire.



Outcome: Keeping people out of crisis

Activity type: Do

2024/25 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 3	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
9. Report regularly on progress on the delivery of an integrated financial vulnerability model between HDC and partners (PROJECT).	Cllr Howell	Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) are now fully embedded at PFH meaning that they are able to offer more face to face appointments on site as well as part of their outreach offer. Where residents have not benefited from the structured approach by CAB, they are being referred to the Residents Advice Team which has resulted in many successful outcomes.	↔	G	Avoids duplication and the need for residents to tell their story multiple times. Ensures that the resident gets the right service and support at first point of contact meaning issues are resolved more quickly and more sustainable solutions are being found.
10. Act on opportunities for early intervention and regularly report on learning and impact.	Cllr Howell	WorkWell programme underway with 38 residents signed up. Multiple sessions held with staff, teams and partners to understand actions needed to make Residents Advice a way of working, no moving to recommendations.	↔	G	Ensuring a sustainable approach can be found that allows for the Residents Advice offer to become a way of working as opposed to a standalone team.



Outcome: Keeping people out of crisis

Activity type: Enable

2024/25 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 3	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
11. Maximise, and report on, the benefits of a targeted approach to support residents at risk of experiencing crisis through the promotion and delivery of relevant services (e.g. improve data sharing with the police to inform a targeted on-the-ground door-knocking campaign to help prevent crime).	Cllr Howell	A joint project with the Police & Crime Commissioner is in place. This is focused on a proof of concept for safely sharing anonymised data that will contribute to work on the Serious & Violent Crime Act. This is working well, and a proof of concept is in place. More progress is expected in Q4	↔	G	Progress will inform targeting of resource into the identified areas of the district to address issues of crime and specifically violent offences.



Outcome: Helping people in crisis

Activity type: Do

2024/25 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 3	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
12. Continue to support refugees and other guests, seeking to support good community relations and smooth transition into long-term residency or return home.	Cllr Howell	There continue to only be 5 properties that have been procured by SERCO and 18 assylum seekers are currently being accomodated. No decision outcomes have resulted in the need for temp. accomadation. Support to Ukrainian hosts and guests continues with very few new arrivals.	↔	G	The approach to refugees that has been taken has resulted in very minimal impact on our services including the need for temp accomodation. As well as enabling refugees to be self sufficient and live healthy, happy lives
2024/25 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 3	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
13. Work with partners to review the provision of Disabled Facilities Grants and ensure we maximise our ability to prevent crisis and support those who need help.	Cllr Ferguson	Officers are nearing completion of a review of the DFG system. This has identified a set of actions, and a number of topics that would benefit from working with a Member Task & Finish Group. The group will meet in Q4, taking forward a number of challenging areas	↔	A	Residents will receive adaptions in a more efficient manner that adeqartely meet their needs enabling them to live more easily within their home.



Outcome: Helping people in crisis

Activity type: Enable

2024/25 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 3	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
14. Focus on maximising the economic success of residents via a Community Wealth building approach.	Cllr Howell	Council approved the Strategy and associated funding at its meeting in December. This is a significant step forward, and the focus in Q4 will move to delivery	↔	G	Discussions with partners around shared funding of posts agreed in principle, with a focus of boosting local employment opportunities.
15. Maximise, and report on, the benefits of a targeted approach to support residents experiencing crisis through the promotion and delivery of relevant services (e.g. identifying individuals who could benefit from support offered by the Resident Advice and Information team and reporting on outcomes).	Cllr Howell	The project was completed over the summer of 24 and the lessons learnt are now being applied in the wrap around support offer.	↔	G	The learning from this initiative has a legacy in that the 'what works' is now being offered to other identified residents in need.
16. Continue to promote WeAreHuntingdonshire as a tool for partners to provide directed and tailored support based on our wider determinants approach.	Cllr Howell	One of the tasks taken on by the Service Design Lead is to fully review and demonstrate the value or not of the WAH site. This work has been under way and will feature as part of the recommendations due in Q4.	↓	A	Understanding the value and benefits of the messaging and necessary changes made to ensure the campaigns are successful.



Outcome: Helping people in crisis

Activity type: Influence

2024/25 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 3	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
17. Lobby, and support campaigns, for improvements to the living conditions of local residents.	Cllr Conboy	The Council continues to work with partners seeking improvements. The creation of a Poverty Commission for Cambridgeshire (run by the County) will see input from HDC	↔	G	Those most in need identified and targeted support given.



Outcome: Improving housing

Activity type: Do

2024/25 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 3	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
18. Commence work on a new Housing Strategy for 2025-2030.	Cllr Wakeford	Some early work has started on the new Housing Strategy by researching new legislation, liaising with planning and looking at other Cambs authorities strategies	↔	G	The work to date will support the evidence gathering required to inform a new Housing Strategy, more work will continue over the next quarter.
2024/25 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 3	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
19. Continue to use surplus Council owned sites to deliver affordable housing, for example working with the Longhurst Group (PROJECT).	Cllr Wakeford	The revised contract with Amplius (formerly Longhurst) has now been signed, work towards submission of the planning application by the end of the financial year continues. Work has commenced with Estates on identification of other potential sites.	↔	A	The revised contract enables the work to continue bringing forward nine sites for the delivery of affordable housing, The identification of further sites will not only enable the delivery of further homes but ensure the Council is using the land it owns as efficiently as possible.
20. Complete an Affordable Housing Advice note that will support the delivery of new affordable housing by providing clear guidelines to developers.	Cllr Wakeford	The Affordable Housing Advice Note has now been completed and was included in a Housing Report to Cabinet in December 2024.	↔	G	The advice note provides clarification and transparency in how the Council delivers new affordable housing in the District.
21. Commence work on a policy to support the use of civil penalties with regard to private sector housing enforcement.	Cllr Ferguson	No further update at this time as the guidance is still awaited.	↔	A	This will allow civil penalties to be issued where breaches of legislation are found and allow the enforcement of housing legislation in the private housing sector.

2024/25 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 3	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
22. Carry out a review of supported exempt accommodation in the area, linked to the Supported Housing (Regulatory Oversight) Act, which will lead to the development of a Supported Housing Strategy.	Cllr Ferguson	No further update at this time.	↔	A	No immediate impact as we have been unable to commence this work so far.
23. Implement the government's new National Supported Housing Standards and introduce licensing regulations.	Cllr Ferguson	No further update at this time.	↔	A	No immediate impact as we have been unable to commence this work so far.



Outcome: Improving housing

Activity type: Enable

2024/25 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 3	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
24. Maintain the level of new housing delivery, which meets the needs of Huntingdonshire residents, including the type of home and tenure (open market and social housing).	Cllr Wakeford	The Council continues to work with Developers and Registered Providers to deliver new affordable homes, however, this year's total will be considerably lower than last years. This is not uncommon in construction as some years see higher delivery than others. We are continuing to deliver a high number of open market homes.	↓	A	The delivery of new homes helps to support housing need and growth in the district, whilst the number of affordable homes is lower this year than last the number of market homes remains high. The delivery of housing also supports the districts economic growth ambitions.
25. Work in partnership to look at best practice and funding to improve housing conditions, including retrofit programmes in social and private housing.	Cllr Wakeford	Cambridgeshire Private Sector Housing Group are holding an event in January 2025 focussing on Damp and Mould. This event is open to registered providers and information has been circulated via Homes for Cambridgeshire & Peterborough and through direct mailing.	↓	A	Damp and Mould remains a priority issue for residents living in social housing, by holding this event we are able to share good practice across the sector.



Outcome: Improving housing

Activity type: Influence

2024/25 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 3	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
26. Continue to work with Registered Providers to improve conditions in existing accommodation through regeneration schemes.	Cllr Wakeford	Further meetings have taken place with a registered provider exploring a regeneration project within their land ownership.	↔	A	The regeneration project will deliver improved housing conditions for existing residents in the district whilst also enabling a better housing mix to be brought forward that meets future need.
27. Work with Health and Social Care Providers to explore future models of housing, support and care, enabling people to live independently for longer.	Cllr Wakeford	Work has progressed with Health and Social Care to identify housing need for older people in the district, work has commenced for other specialist groups	↔	G	Working with Cambridgeshire County Council in the demand for specialist housing provision enables the Council to be informed on the type of housing required in the district based on housing projections.



Outcome: Forward-thinking economic growth

Activity type: Do

2024/25 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 3	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
28. Promote Huntingdonshire as a destination for high value inward investment, prioritising businesses that are proactively reducing their carbon emissions, and produce an annual report on activity.	Cllr Wakeford	The Economic Development Team alongside other colleagues within HDC continues to advertise and promote the Invest In Huntingdonshire brand and support and exhibit at events. Within the LinkedIn platform there has been a greater take up of "followers" and engagement on posts. Provision of business support for existing businesses and new business continues to be a area of focus.	↔	G	We are continuing to raise the profile of the district, its innovative companies and key selling attributes.

2024/25 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 3	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
29. Deliver the business support projects within the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) programme, including Manufacturing Digitalisation, Green Business Initiative, Jumpstart business competition and a new Start-up programme (PROJECT).	Cllr Wakeford	We continue to support business who have been awarded grants within the UK shared prosperity fund and REPF programme of projects. The grants have been spent / committed so that the funds will be fully spent by February to enable HDC to meet CPCA timescales. Regular internal board monitoring of outputs continues to take place with regular engagement with CPCA to ensure grant conditions are being met.	↔	G	Outcomes and outputs are recorded within the UK Shared Prosperity Fund programme separately.
30. Refresh the Huntingdonshire Economic Growth Strategy.	Cllr Wakeford	Procurement of the strategy has taken place and was completed during December 2024. Works are due to commence in January 2025, with a view to a draft being produced during the Spring.	↓	A	Work is now ready to commence in Spring 2025. A more detailed timetable will be available once work commences.

2024/25 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 3	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
31. Continue the delivery of the Market Town Programme, including the ongoing delivery of Future High Street projects in St Neots, development of new Retail Hub in Ramsey, and various other funded projects within the four market towns. Commence feasibility work on new projects to enable them to be brought forward when funding is available (PROJECT).	Cllr Wakeford	Good progress has been made; particularly with the Old Falcon, Priory Centre and Cromwell Museum projects. Engagement and delivery of other projects continues.	↑	G	Improvement to the local economy of the four market towns in the district, creating more high-quality jobs and skills prospects for local residents. Additional benefits to the Council include increased Business Rates income potential.

2024/25 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 3	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
32. Continue the update to the Local Plan, including updating evidence bases in line with National Planning Policy, particularly where it relates to Economy, Environment and Housing (PROJECT).	Cllr Sanderson	Extensive public consultation on 3 elements of the local plan update completed on 27 November with over 6,700 responses received. Additional sites received to assess for further development potential. Annual Monitoring Report (parts 1 and 2) completed as part of the evidence base. Ongoing work on evidence base for climate change and Gypsy and Traveller accommodation assessment. Employment land need assessment commissioned. Ongoing meetings with duty to cooperate partners and major development scheme promoters.	↑	G	Public consultation responses and evidence base documents will help to inform preparation of the draft Preferred Options Local Plan. Meetings will help to ensure that statutory and legal preparation tests are met at the future examination.



Outcome: Forward-thinking economic growth

Activity type: Enable

2024/25 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 3	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
33. Work with intermediaries, professional service networks, investors and developers to understand the health of the economy, develop responses and attract investment.	Cllr Wakeford	Regular engagement meetings with businesses taking place along with companies supporting businesses in the region, alongside this the team engage with organisations like the Chamber of Commerce and Federation of Small Businesses for market intelligence.	↔	G	Intelligence gathering from the market is a vital part of understanding trading conditions and business sentiment.



Outcome: Forward-thinking economic growth

Activity type: Influence

2024/25 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 3	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
34. Work with the CPCA and partners to complete a review of the future demand for Further Education (FE) provision in the St Neots area and development of the Local Skills Implementation Plan, prioritising connections between FE provision and local employers aligned to core growth sectors.	Cllr Wakeford	Following outcomes of the work being recieved we continue to work with the CPCA to discuss the next steps.	↓	A	A set of recommendations for Further Education provision and skills needs will support our corporate priorities and the Inclusive Economy workstream within the Huntingdonshire Futures project.

2024/25 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 3	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
35. Influence and contribute to the creation of a Devolution2 deal for Cambridgeshire & Peterborough; the State of the Region and Place Strategy Vision work and the commissioning of all future business support and grant funding provision.	Cllr Wakeford	Colleagues continue to engage in shared activities such as the Local Growth Plan.	↔	G	This work enables us to influence and contribute to wider discussions in the region and to ensure that Council objectives included in the Place Strategy and Corporate Plan inform future direction of travel for business support and grant funding provision.
36. Influence delivery of infrastructure including East West Rail (EWR), A428, A141 Strategic Outline Business Case and future Transport Strategies.	Cllr Wakeford	To be read in conjunction with priority 7. Additional East-West Rail non-statutory consultation live until 24/01/25; A428 in delivery; Additional A141 consultation closed in Nov 24 and awaiting analysis of findings; no further updates on Lincs and Fens Reservoirs since submission of HDC comments in Q2.	↔	G	Active continued promotion and recognition of infrastructure to support ambitious Growth in Huntingdonshire, including uplift in housing need as identified in new NPPF issued December 24.



Outcome: Lowering carbon emissions

Activity type: Do

2024/25 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 3	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
37. Complete Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) Fuel Trial and present a business case for decision.	Cllr Taylor	Report on the finding from the trial along with recommendations are currently working through the governance process. Informal Cabinet meeting for 20th Jan 2025, O&S planned for 6th Feb and Cabinet 11th March 2025.	↔	G	Directly aligned with the Corporate Plan and Net Zero 2040 target.

2024/25 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 3	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
38. Deliver a Fleet Decarbonisation Plan.	Cllr Taylor	The work on the final report is continuing as planned, there were slight delays while data was being sought from UK power network regarding depot capacity for charging infrastructure. This has only recently been received and is being worked into the final report and strategy.	↔	G	Directly aligned with the Corporate Plan and Net Zero 2040 target.
39. Deliver our Energy Strategy.	Cllr Howell	Consultancy Support for facilities in place to develop a Buildings Energy Strategy draft by end of March	↔	G	Lowering the carbon footprint of Council buildings through reduced energy use and changing energy sources.
40. Deliver the Climate Conversation in 2024, showcasing community action and listening to local people in their communities.	Cllr Davenport-Ray	Climate Conversation delivered on 6th November 2024	↔	G	Maintaining the Council's climate leadership role by influencing and inspiring other agencies and Councils to take climate action. Community engagement on the priorities they would like to know more about to lower carbon emissions.
41. Identify emissions from HDC IT data centres to include in reporting and establish disposal methods for IT equipment to reduce environmental impact.	Cllr Davenport-Ray	Our initial efforts with facilities have been put on hold as we shifted to broader carbon emission sources, particularly energy consumption which inherently includes ICT. We are now planning to collaborate with our partners in 3CICT to observe carbon emissions and identify reduction strategies.	↔	A	No immediate impact as we have been unable to commence this work so far.

2024/25 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 3	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
42. Establish climate and carbon emissions learning and development plan for Council employees.	Cllr Davenport-Ray	Traning approach agreed with Learning & development to be rolled out in 2025	↔	G	A greater awareness of climate impacts and adaptation for all staff so that the subject can be embedded in all decision making and guidance.
43. Accelerate Solar Power Adoption on Council Buildings.	Cllr Howell	Cabinet approval to invest £412k to maximise use of solar across our leisure centres approved with project starting	↔	G	Self-generated electricity on Council operational sites in place by 2026, with reduced energy spend on electricity and improved energy security. The equipment has a 25 year expected lifespan.



Outcome: Lowering carbon emissions

Activity type: Enable

2024/25 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 3	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
44. Support community projects and plans that reduce carbon emissions.	Cllr Davenport-Ray	Net Zero Villages Fund approved by Cabinet and launched in December	↑	G	Climate action by and involving our community has been influenced and enabled through the Council's approach to addressing the climate priorities within the Climate Strategy.
2024/25 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 3	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
45. Deliver Biodiversity for All (2023-2025) to enable community action and support green skills development (PROJECT).	Cllr Taylor	Successful recruitment of two new graduate ecologists to progress work. Project work started on community codesigned enhancements to initial strategic sites Priory Park and Hill Rise. Green Skills celebration event hosted attended by the Lord Lieutenant. Weather has impacted project delivery change control to extend completion date of project submitted to return project to green.	↔	G	Engaging with our communities across Huntingdonshire has informed/influenced decisions that increase biodiversity across the district.
46. Commission Active Travel Studies (UKSPF) to influence/inform future investment priorities (PROJECT).	Cllr Wakeford	Active Travel Studies and Priorities Comissioned and underway following incepetion meeting. Draft to be completed in Q4	↑	G	Improvement to the local economy of the four market towns in the district and creating increased high-quality jobs and skills prospects for local residents.

2024/25 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 3	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
47. Deliver the Phase 1 Rural Pilot HDC Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Strategy Actions.	Cllr Taylor	List of feasible sites concluded and contract awards for implementation in Q4	↑	G	Continuation of works to support access to electric vehicle charging in rural areas where onstreet and household charging is less feasible - delivering HDC's Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy.



Outcome: Lowering carbon emissions

Activity type: Influence

2024/25 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 3	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
48. Develop the Council's procurement rules to further embed social and environmental value.	Cllr Davenport-Ray	Delayed implementation due to staff changes. Additional procurement officers have now started. To progress from Q4.	↓	R	Further enhancing support for local businesses and enabling reporting on local economy spend. Limited progress due to staff changes.
2024/25 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 3	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
49. Expand positive climate action support for local businesses, celebrating best practice and sharing knowledge.	Cllr Davenport-Ray	Action delayed to progress with new Economic Development Manager in Q4	↓	A	Further enhancing support to the business community to help deliver their net zero ambitions.
50. Adopt the Huntingdonshire Plan for Nature and influence the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) with our priorities.	Cllr Taylor	Completed. Huntingdonshire's Priority Natural Landscapes were endorsed in October by Cabinet and Council	↔	G	The impact of this action has strengthened the council's ability to contribute to the LNRS and comply with the Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) requirements set out in the Environment Act. This will have a positive benefit to nature in the district.



Outcome: Delivering good quality, high value-for-money services

Activity type: Do

2024/25 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 3	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
51. Refresh our Commercial Investment Strategy to develop proposals for future strategic investments.	Cllr Mickelburgh	Regular enagement meetings with CIPFA as they progress through the work.	↑	G	Early in 2025/26 there will be engagement with wider stakeholders and development of strategy updates

2024/25 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 3	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
52. Complete the remaining elements of the Workforce Strategy to prepare the Council for the changing skills needed in our future workforce and ensure we can continue to attract, retain and nurture talent (PROJECT).	Cllr Davenport-Ray	Break down of actions at end of November: 9 completed 15 in progress 25 to start - Examples of some work: Roadshows held with staff at all sites to promote initiatives - Staff Temperature survey completed - New Employee Assistace Programme Contract. Health Kiosk in place at Pathfinder and Easfield House. - icare nominations can now be submitted all year - Menopause awareness day - session for staff by nutritionist.	↔	G	Positive staff feedback Engagement from staff at all sites e.g Xmas competition and staff coming up with ideas they are leading on. Relationship building between staff. Turn over reduced in Month of December.

2024/25 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 3	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
53. Continue our Customer Services improvement programme to ensure that our customers are always at the heart of what we do (PROJECT).	Cllr Ferguson	HDC Website updated (Nov 24), Revs & Bens and Planning FAQs updated, Ops FAQs update work ongoing (End date Feb 25), Webforms made Mobile friendly (112 out of 180), remaining work ongoing (End date Feb 25). Localisation of website project under scoping (End date Aug 25) and AI projects under evaluation (End date Sept - Dec 25)	↔	G	Benefit measurement to start after 3 Months of change.
54. Continue the Development Management Improvement programme to improve the performance of the planning service (PROJECT).	Cllr Sanderson	Peer review undertaken November 2024 and final report awaited. This will frame the priority approach to the suite of proposed changes to ensure an efficient, well run dept that can adapt to change as proposed by the NPPF and wider government proposals.	↑	G	The Peer Review will from the priority approach to the suite of changes to make Planning a more efficient service, able to respond the the changes proposed by the NPPF in December 2024.

2024/25 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 3	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
55. Progress delivery of Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) across the District to enforce on-street parking activity (PROJECT).	Cllr Taylor	The CPE project is behind planned delivery due to the need for parliamentary time to approve the Decriminalisation of Parking. The Council's activity is on track with signs and lines work fully contracted and commencing in Q4 and back office system let through framework.	↓	R	Positive progression towards the delivery of CPE in Huntingdonshire. Clear, attractive, accessible and safe streets.
56. Deliver the enhancement of visitor facilities at Hinchingsbrooke Country Park (PROJECT).	Cllr Taylor	The project has been impacted by the need to ensure full consideration of biodiversity net gain Requirements on this County Wildlife Site. Planning application to progress in Q4.	↓	A	Enabling significant investment to provide enhanced visitor facilities to support increased population growth and use of site - supporting activity, physical and mental. The improvements will address the issues arising from popularity that impact near neighbours with parking issues. the work undertaken will ensure any biodiversity impact is mitigated.

2024/25 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 3	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
57. Upgrade path and cycleways at Riverside Park St Neots (PROJECT).	Cllr Taylor	Completed. Works delivered using allocated CIL funding and full planning permission achieved for whole site improvements to pathways. Alternative funding being sourced to complete full site design.	↔	G	Upgraded paths enable full use in all weathers and expands the inclusiveness to support all users, enhancing and encouraging use of this beautiful river frontage for health and well-being in this strategic open space serving St Neots.
58. Deliver an independent Corporate Peer Challenge of the Council that will assess, challenge and improve what we do.	Cllr Conboy	Q3 Update report drafted and shared with Informal Cabinet and sent to the Local Government Association. 21 Actions Green, 6 actions amber and none red.	↔	G	Clear actions adopted to reflect the Local Government Association Corporate Peer Challenge suggestions
59. Assess, and where prudent, use the emerging national benchmarking data from the Office of Local Government (Oflog) to improve our performance.	Cllr Ferguson	The new Government has announced the closure of Oflog, so this action is concluded.	↔	G	The new Government has announced the closure of Oflog, so this action is concluded.

2024/25 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 3	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
60. Bring forward and expand our use of unit costs to demonstrate productivity within priority service areas.	Cllr Ferguson / Cllr Mickelburgh	Key resources left HDC to pursue roles with other employers. These resources have been replaced, and in Q4 we intend to look again at this action.	↔	A	Other elements have been given the go ahead to achieve iterative project outcomes through concurrent activity.
61. Pilot the use of Artificial Intelligence within the Council, seeking to create efficiencies and service improvement whilst ensuring we comply with all relevant legislation.	Cllr Ferguson	In Q3 a trial of Microsoft Co-pilot has been undertaken. It showed promise in automating tasks and activities. There has also been action at a national level to obtain the best licence prices for the public sector - and this has concluded. The next stage will be a phased roll-out of this technology There has also been significant market engagement on the use of AI to improve customer service provision, more will be shared in Q4	↔	G	Automation of tasks and activities is likely to increase productivity and doing this with controls will manage the risks of using this technology.
62. Listen to local residents and respond to their input on service delivery.	Cllr Conboy	On the back of the Community Health and Wellbeing workshops that took place in August and September, it was acknowledged that the workshops did not capture feedback from seldom heard groups across the community. To address these gaps, we undertook a programme of additional sessions in November and	↑	G	Feedback will be used to inform the development and actions of the Community Health and Wellbeing Strategy.



Outcome: Delivering good quality, high value-for-money services

Activity type: Enable

2024/25 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 3	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
63. Enable our outstanding volunteers in our parks, nature reserves and elsewhere to continue to improve the quality of those spaces.	Cllr Taylor	Continued green skills volunteering with biodiversity for all, continued seasonal maintenance on countryside sites.	↔	G	Community participation promoting health and well-being, physical exercise and supporting maintenance of valued public spaces.



Outcome: Delivering good quality, high value-for-money services

Activity type: Influence

2024/25 Actions/Projects	Portfolio Holder	Progress Update at Quarter 3	Direction of Travel	Latest Status	Impact as a Result of Action
64. Our well-run council will act as a model for our peers.	Cllr Conboy	The delivery of the action plan from the Corporate Peer Challenge is progressing to time - and in Q4 the review team will revisit HDC to formally check on progress	↔	G	A well-run council meets customer needs. By sharing what we do with others, we seek to share good practice and enhance Huntingdonshire's reputation.

Appendix B: Operational Performance Measure Graphs, Quarter 3, 2024/25



Improving the happiness and wellbeing of residents	Latest Status	Outturn Status
PI1 Number of attendances at One Leisure Active Lifestyles programmes	G	G
PI2 Number of attendances at Sports Development activities and programmes	G	G
PI3 Number of One Leisure Facilities admissions – swimming, Impressions, fitness classes, sports hall and pitches (excluding Burgess Hall and school admissions)	A	A
Keeping people out of crisis	Latest Status	Outturn Status
PI4 The number of residents enabled to live safely at home and prevented from requiring care or a prolonged stay at hospital due to a Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG)	R	A
PI5 Average time (in weeks) between date of referral and practical completion of jobs funded through Disabled Facilities Grants	R	A
PI6 Average number of days to process new claims for Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support	G	G
PI7 Average number of days to process changes of circumstances for Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support	G	G
PI8 Number of homelessness preventions achieved	G	G
PI9 Number of households housed through the housing register and Home-Link scheme	G	G
Helping people in crisis	Latest Status	Outturn Status
PI10 Number of households in Temporary Accommodation (snapshot at end of each period)	G	G

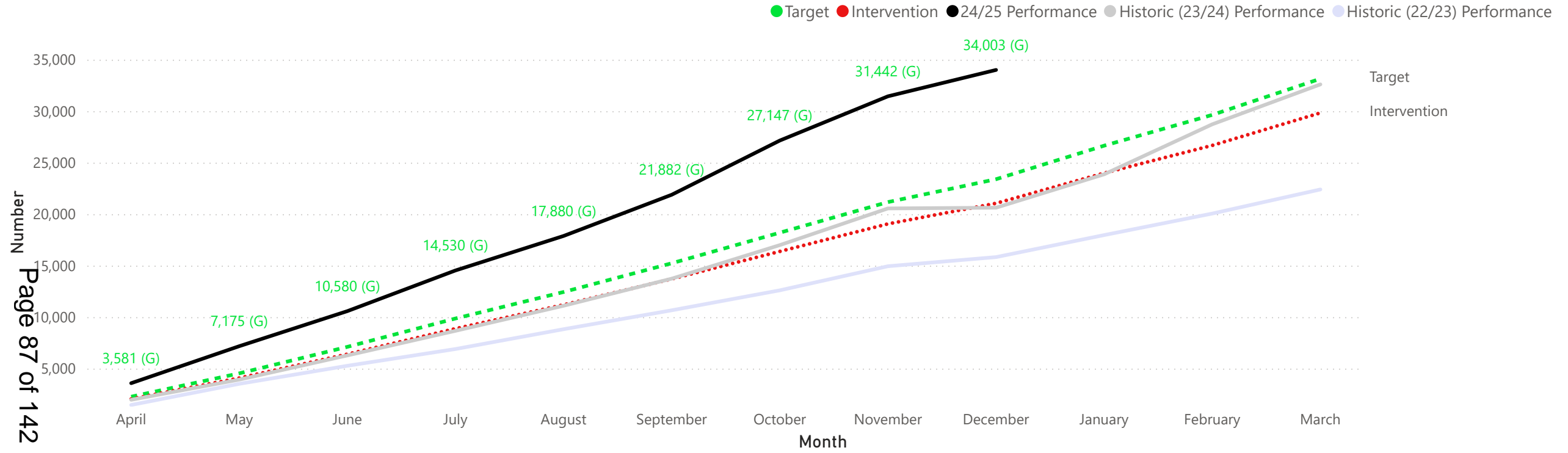
Improving Housing	Latest Status	Outturn Status
PI11 Net change in number of homes with a Council Tax banding	G	G
PI12 Number of new affordable homes delivered (reported quarterly only)	A	A
PI13 Percentage of planning applications processed on target – major (within 13 weeks or agreed extended period)	G	G
PI14 Percentage of planning applications processed on target – minor or other (within 8 weeks or agreed extended period)	G	G
PI15 Percentage of planning applications processed on target – household extensions (within 8 weeks or agreed extended period)	G	G
PI16 Number of planning applications over 16 weeks old where there is no current extension of time in place (total at end of each month)	G	G

Lowering carbon emissions	Latest Status	Outturn Status
PI17 Efficiency of vehicle fleet driving – Energy Efficient Driving Index score for the Waste service	G	G

Providing good quality, high value-for-money services	Latest Status	Outturn Status
PI18 Percentage of household waste reused/recycled/composted	A	A
PI19 Collected household waste per person (kilograms)	G	G
PI20 Residual waste collected per household (kilograms)	A	A
PI21 Number of missed bins	R	R
PI22 Percentage of sampled areas which are clean or predominantly clean of litter, detritus, graffiti, flyposting, or weed accumulations	G	G
PI23 Number of fly tips recorded	R	A
PI24 Number of enforcement actions taken on fly tips (fines/court summons)	G	G
PI25 The number of programmed food safety inspections undertaken	G	G
PI26 Percentage of calls to Call Centre answered	G	G
PI27 Average wait time for customers calling the Call Centre	G	G
PI28 Council Tax collection rate	G	G
PI29 Business Rates collection rate	G	G
PI30 Staff short-term sickness days lost per full time equivalent (FTE) (Rolling 12 month total)	A	G
PI31 Staff long-term sickness days lost per full time equivalent (FTE) (Rolling 12 month total)	A	A
PI32 Staff turnover (per individual month)	G	G

Outcome: Improving the happiness and wellbeing of residents

PI 1. Number of attendances at One Leisure Active Lifestyles programmes



Latest commentary from service:

December is historically the quietest month for the One Leisure Active lifestyles service as we shut down for 2 weeks over the festive period. With it being the start of the New Year, we have 21 courses starting. We are 165% up compared to December 2023. We received a comment from a Care Setting that stated a patient of theirs had changed their decision to have a 'Do Not Resuscitate' order due to the new programmes of activities the Active Lifestyles team are delivering in their care setting. They felt they had nothing to live for and now with the social aspect, fun and enjoyment they have changed their mind.

Latest year-end forecast:

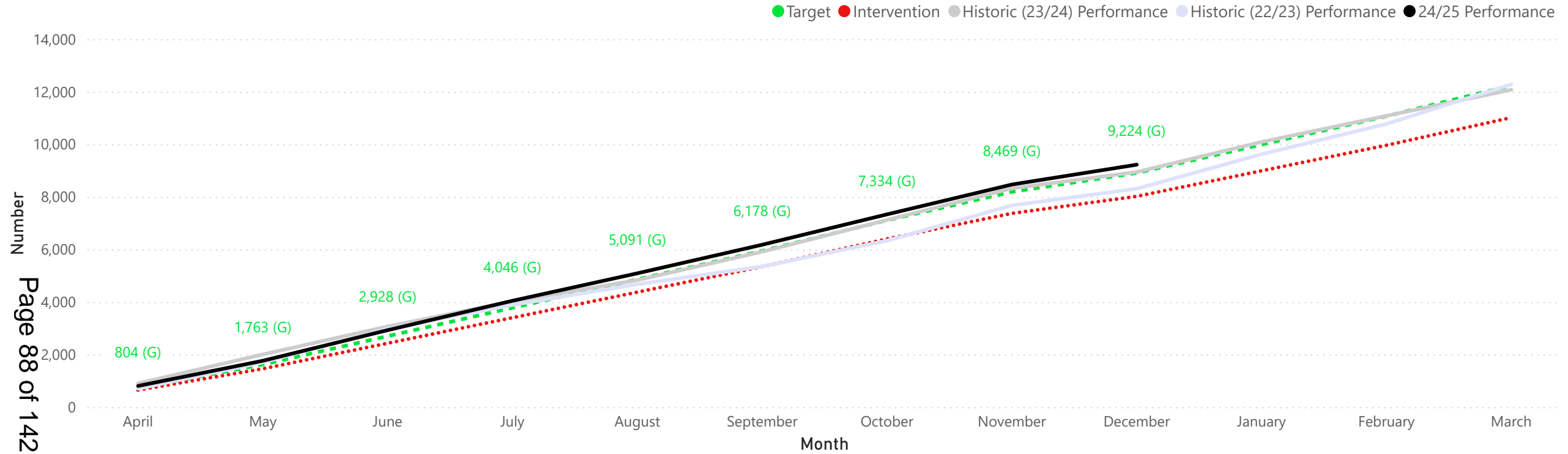
43,000

Latest projected outturn status:

G

Outcome: Improving the happiness and wellbeing of residents

PI 2. Number of attendances at Sports Development activities and programmes



Latest commentary from service:

Sports Development continues to trend positively and year to date in December 2024 is 3.1% ahead compared to December 2023. December is the quietest month of the year, as delivery of all sessions is postponed for two-weeks due to the holidays. Nevertheless, we would expect end of year targets to be achieved in 2025. Moving into January, new sessions will be added to the existing delivery provision, including a third after-school club session at Upwood Primary School, a further class from St John's School will be included in the Oxmoor Schools Project, a new Walking Football session at One Leisure St Ives Outdoor will start and a bi-weekly 'Skating' session will commence as an extension of the Home Education sports delivery at One Leisure Huntingdon.

Latest year-end forecast:

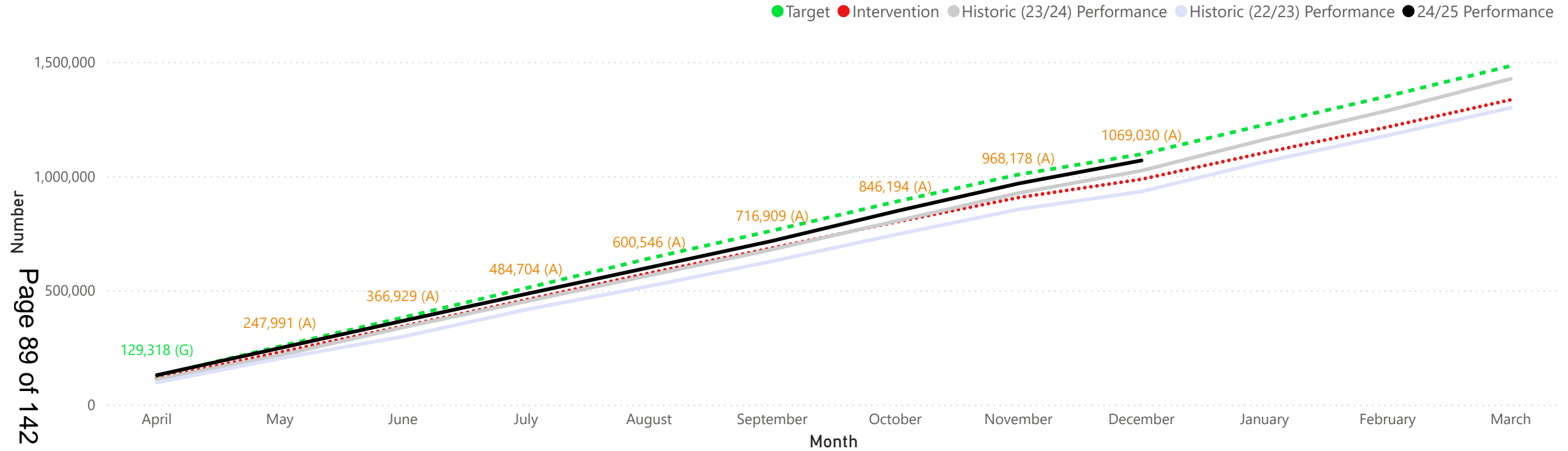
12,600

Latest projected outturn status:

G

Outcome: Improving the happiness and wellbeing of residents

PI 3. Number of One Leisure Facilities admissions - swimming, Impressions, fitness classes, sports hall and pitches (exc Burgess Hall & school admissions)



Latest commentary from service:

Year to date, One Leisure admissions are currently -27k down against target. However, vs last year admissions are ahead by +45k. For December admissions are +11k ahead of target and +3k vs December last year. The quarter performance has not been negatively affected as anticipated following the temporary gym arrangements at both St Ives Leisure Centre and St Neots Leisure Centre to accommodate the gym refresh capital investment projects. Both projects are due to be completed W/C 13th January and it is predicted both gyms will have a positive impact on admissions from now until the end of the year; further reducing the deficit to the target. Whilst there is a deficit to target, Gym, Group Excercise, Swims Courses & Pitches will continue to perform strongly to recover the gap in performance now until the end of the year.

Latest year-end forecast:

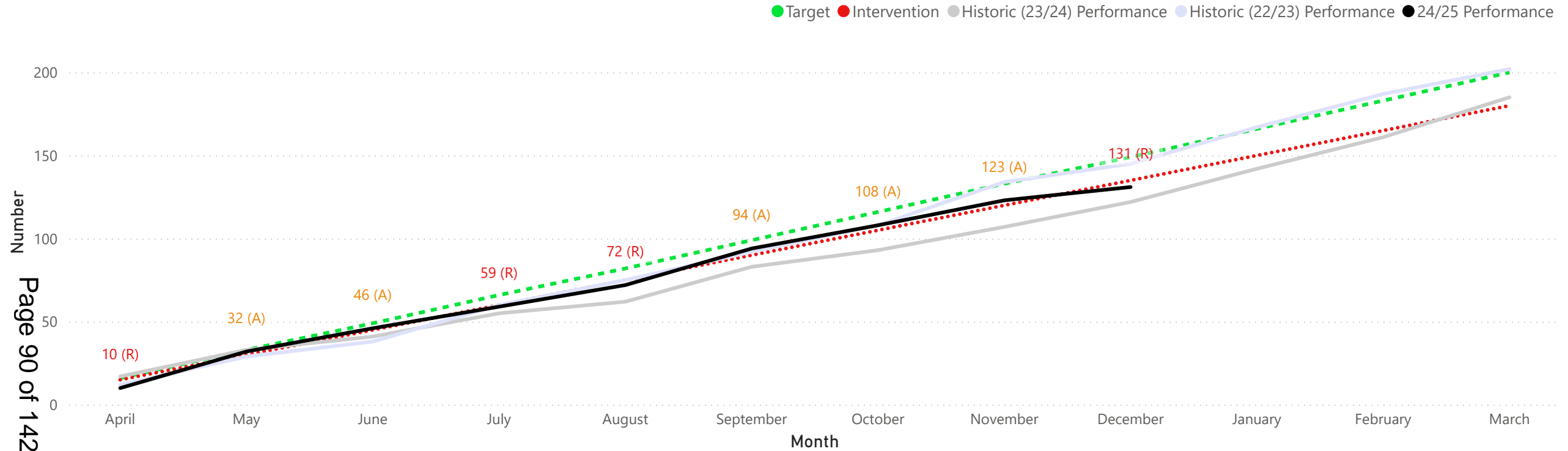
1,455,538

Latest projected outturn status:

A

Outcome: Keeping people out of crisis

PI 4. The number of residents enabled to live safely at home and prevented from requiring care or a prolonged stay in hospital due to a Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG)



Latest commentary from service:

The number of residents helped via a Disabled Facilities Grant is up from 122 cases reported in December 2023. The delays continue to relate to the time it is taking Places for People to approve works to their properties. This has been escalated for further assistance and will be one of the issues tackled by the Member working group focusing on DFG's.

Latest year-end forecast:

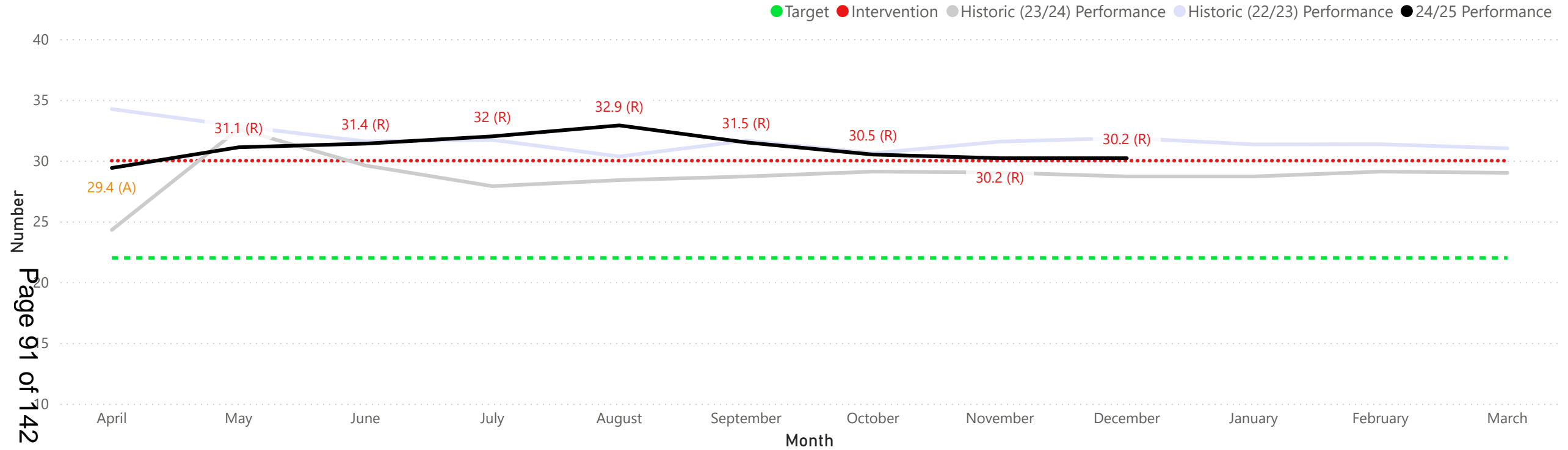
190

Latest projected outturn status:

A

Outcome: Keeping people out of crisis

PI 5. Average time (in weeks) between date of referral and practical completion of jobs funded through Disabled Facilities Grants



Latest commentary from service:

The metric continues to be impacted by the time taken by Places for People to approve works. The average number of weeks reported in December 2023 was 28.7. Cambs Home Improvement Agency staff previously on sick leave have now returned to work. Complex cases and extensions take considerably longer to complete and impact the number of weeks overall. The Member working group will be considering the challenges being faced and make recommendations for action based on priority.

Latest year-end forecast:

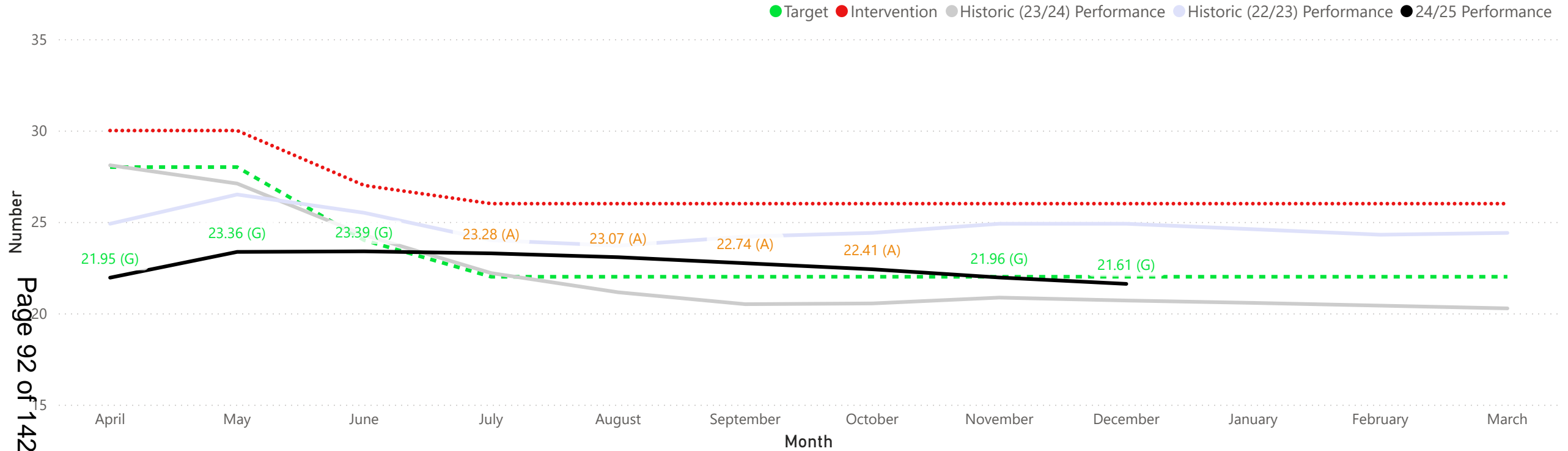
30

Latest projected outturn status:

A

Outcome: Keeping people out of crisis

PI 6. Average number of days to process new claims for Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support



Latest commentary from service:

The average number of days taken to the end of December was 21.61 days with the actual number for the month of December at 17.59 days. The number of new claims processed up to December 2024 increased by 649 when compared to the same period up to December 2023. The team continues to work hard to deal with the number of new claims received. Careful monitoring of impacts from the new Council Tax Support Scheme continues to ensure that performance should remain on track.

Latest year-end forecast:

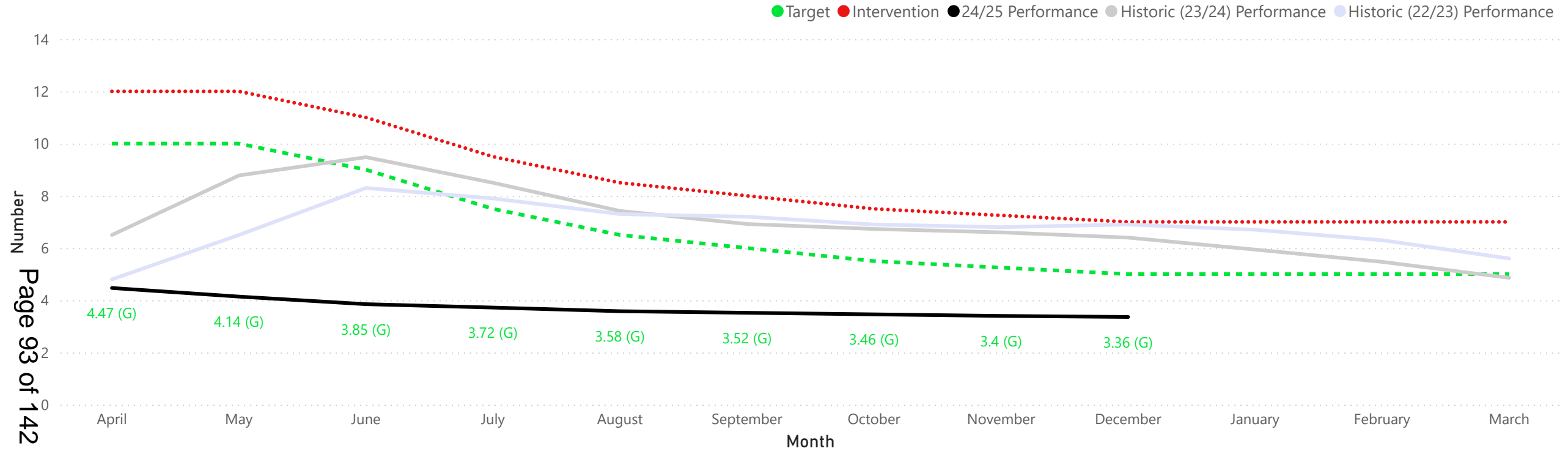
22

Latest projected outturn status:

G

Outcome: Keeping people out of crisis

PI 7. Average number of days to process changes of circumstances for Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support



Latest commentary from service:

The average number of days taken to the end of December was 3 days quicker than at the same point last year, despite a significant increase in the number of changes processed. This has been achieved as a result of improvements in automation brought about by the implementation of the new Council Tax Support Scheme. Careful monitoring continues to ensure that performance remains on track.

Latest year-end forecast:

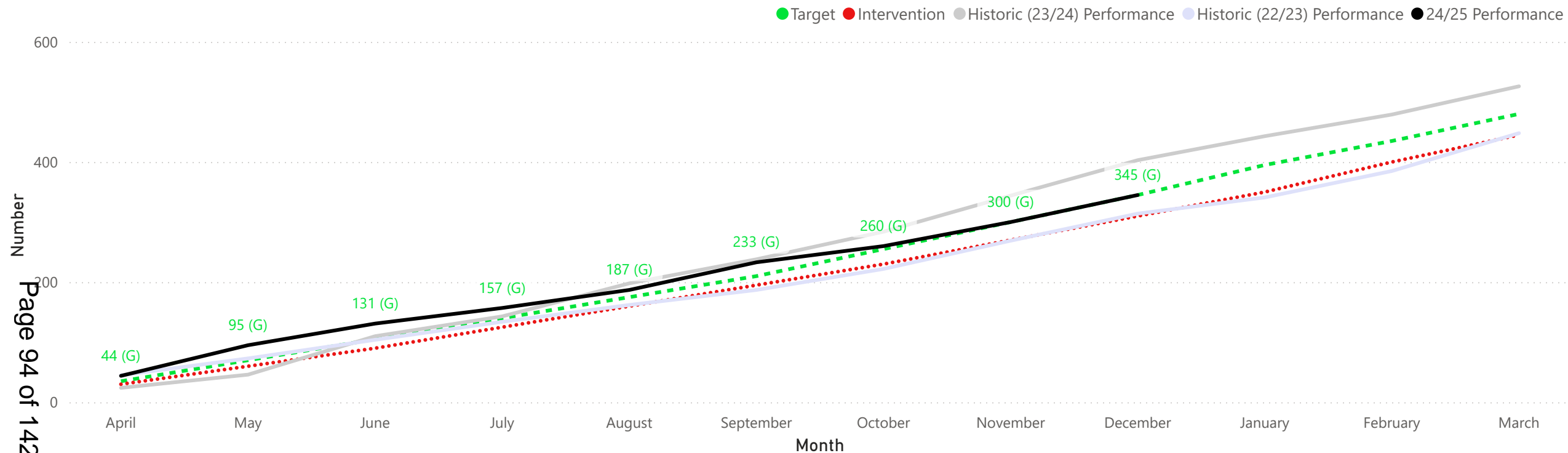
4

Latest projected outturn status:

G

Outcome: Keeping people out of crisis

PI 8. Number of homelessness preventions achieved



Latest commentary from service:

The number of successful homelessness preventions fluctuates throughout the year depending on the rate of homelessness presentations and the opportunity to intervene in a timely way. We have achieved a total of 45 successful preventions in December, giving a cumulative total of 345 in the year. This represents a 14% decrease from the 403 preventions recorded during the same period last year. This reduction was forecast as the number of households housed via the register, which is one of the main ways in which preventions are achieved, was forecast to be lower due to fewer properties becoming available for letting this year. This in turn was due to reductions in the new build delivery programme. When considering whether this has led to an increase in the number of households in temporary accommodation (PI10), we can see that this figure is being kept within target.

Latest year-end forecast:

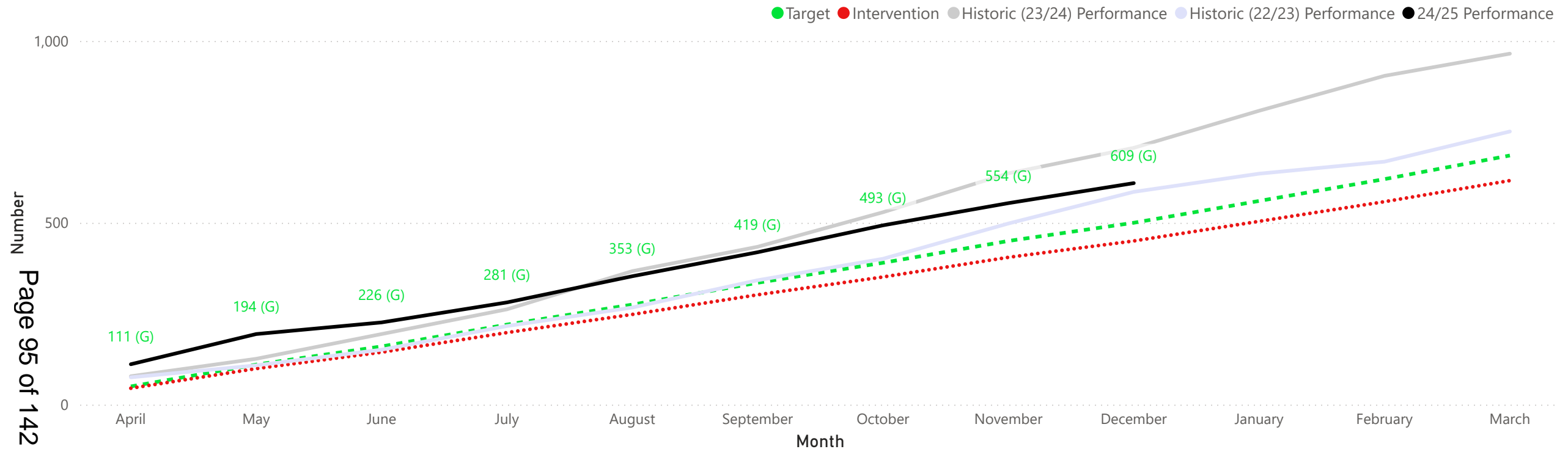
480

Latest projected outturn status:

G

Outcome: Keeping people out of crisis

PI 9. Number of households housed through the housing register and Home-Link scheme



Latest commentary from service:

The number of households housed will vary from month to month depending on the number of vacancies arising in existing social rented stock, plus the additional units delivered through the new build programme. There were 609 households housed between April and December. This compares to the 706 households in the same period last year, a 14% decrease. This reduction was forecast as fewer new builds will be delivered this year when compared to last year, meaning that overall the number of lettings this year is likely to be approximately 250 less than last year.

Latest year-end forecast:

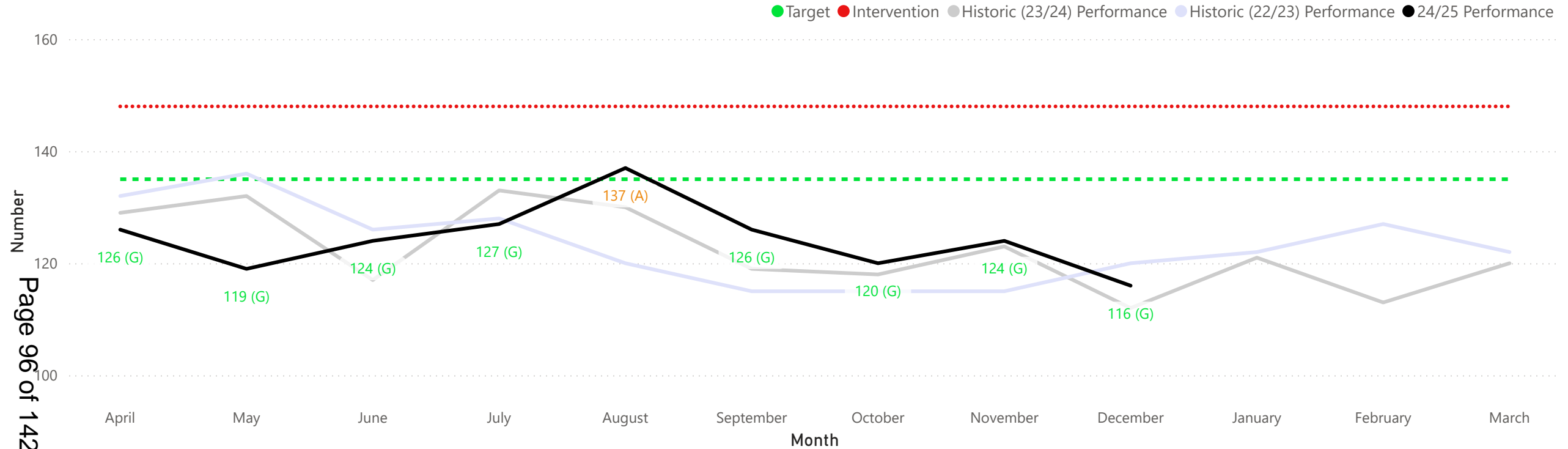
700

Latest projected outturn status:

G

Outcome: Helping people in crisis

PI 10. Number of households in Temporary Accommodation



Latest commentary from service:

The number of households in temporary accommodation (TA) at any one time will depend upon the number of homelessness preventions to the council, how successful we are at preventing homelessness wherever possible, and our ability to move households through TA into settled housing as quickly as possible. Considering each of these, we are aiming to hold the maximum number of households in TA at any time below 135. The number at the end of December was 116, compared to the 112 households in TA at the same point as last year. Through the successful interventions and preventions achieved (PI8) we are continuing to resolve households' homelessness, keeping our use of temporary accommodation within targets.

Latest year-end forecast:

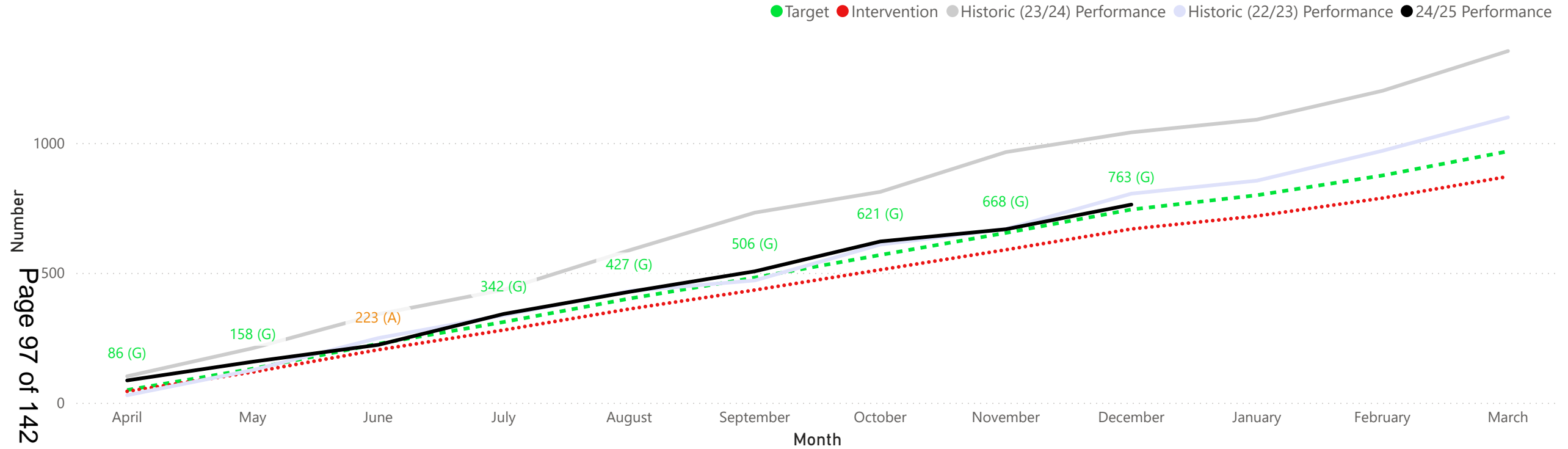
135

Latest projected outturn status:

G

Outcome: Improving housing

PI 11. Net change in number of homes with a Council Tax banding



Latest commentary from service:

The number of homes in the district with a council tax banding rose by 95. This is still above the target, which we are still expecting to exceed by the end of the year.

Latest year-end forecast:

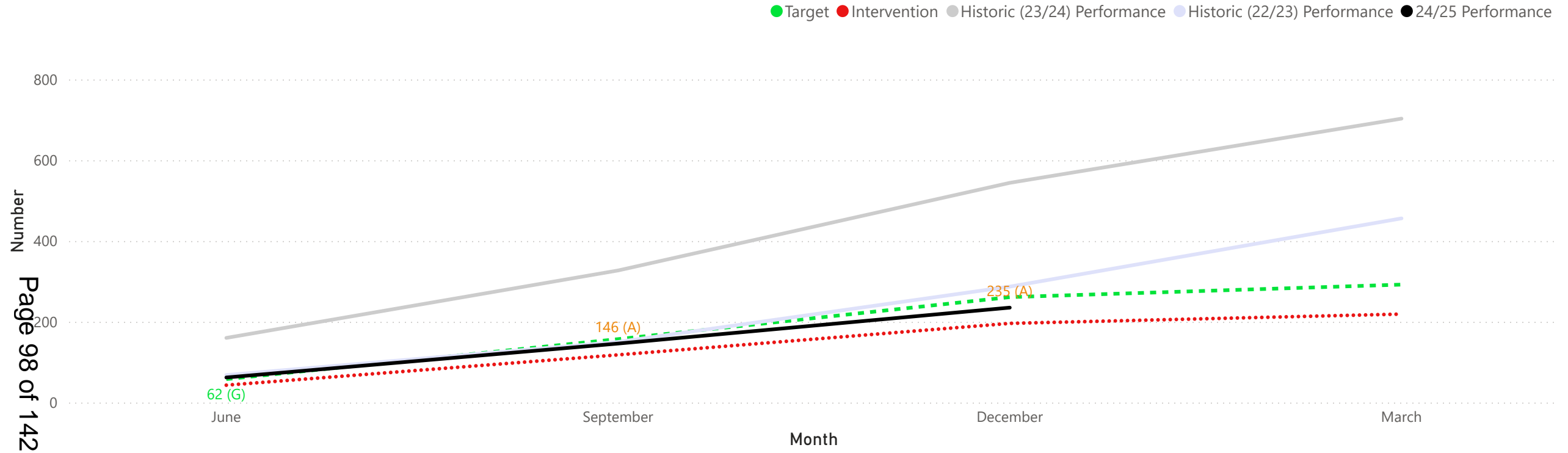
968

Latest projected outturn status:

G

Outcome: Improving housing

PI 12. Number of new affordable homes delivered (updated quarterly only)



Latest commentary from service:

Latest year-end forecast:

288

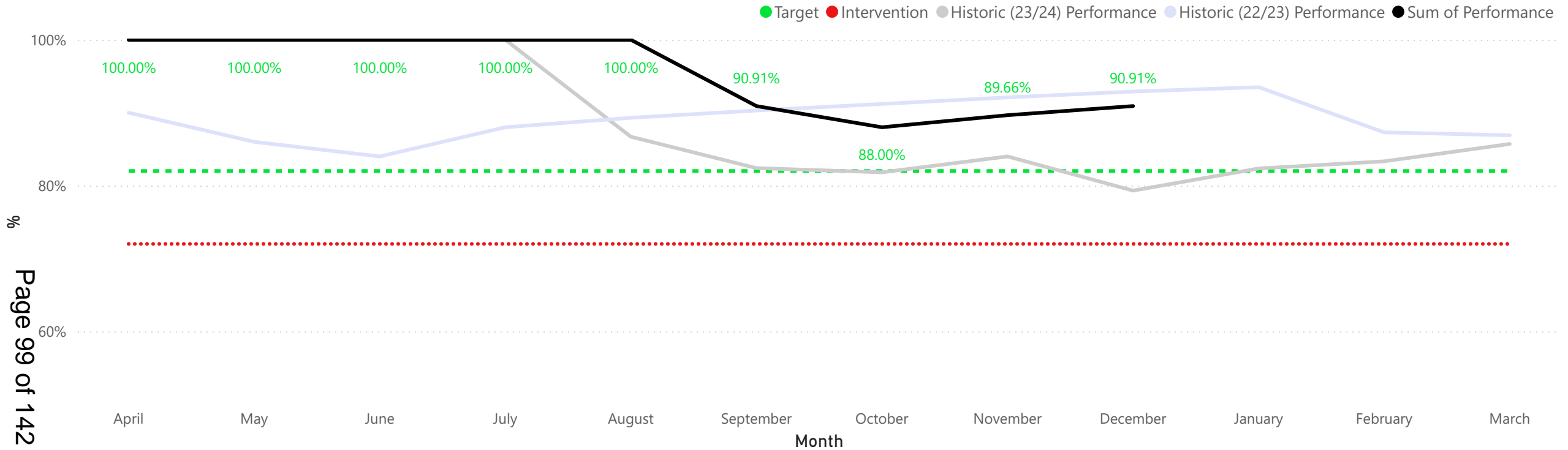
The performance to end of this quarter is slightly lower than anticipated (235 completed rather than 261). At the end of Q2 the revised forecast to year end was 288. Indications are that this may be improved. Due to the higher number in Q4 and potential for slippage, it is considered prudent for the target to remain as 288 at this stage.

Latest projected outturn status:

A

Outcome: Improving housing

PI 13. Percentage of planning applications processed on target – major (within 13 weeks or agreed extended period)



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Latest commentary from service:

4 out of 4 Major applications were determined within time last month. YTD performance has risen by 1.25% as we continue to expect to perform above target by end of year. Forecast revised to 85% based on performance over the last 6 months.

Latest year-end forecast:

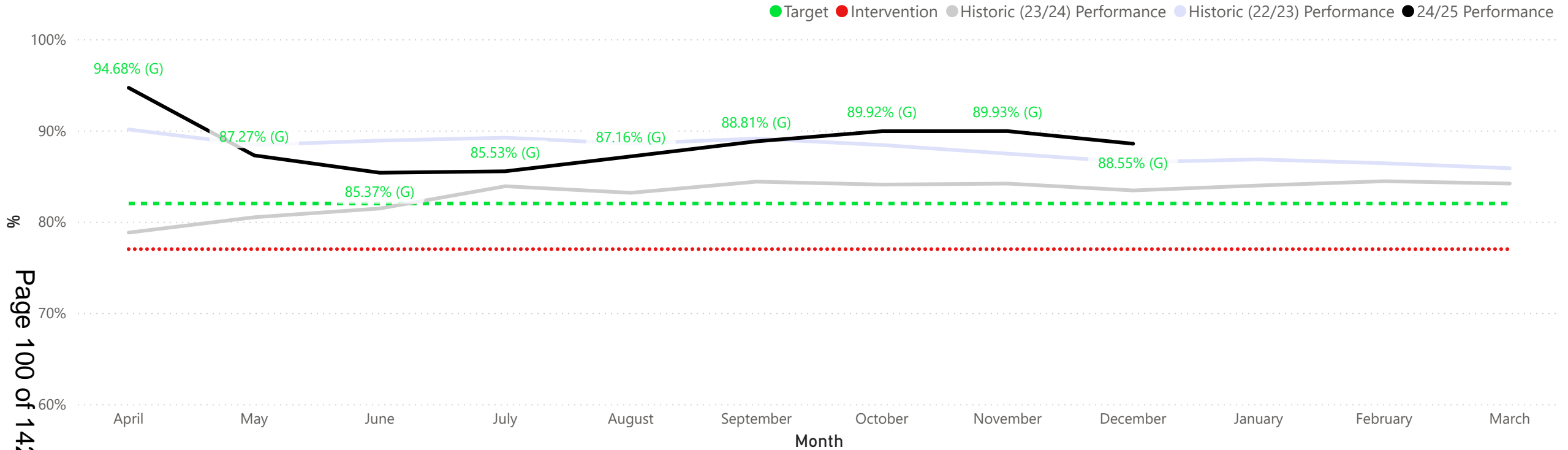
85.0%

Latest projected outturn status:

G

Outcome: Improving housing

PI 14. Percentage of planning applications processed on target – minor or other (within 8 weeks or agreed extended period)



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Latest commentary from service:

Latest year-end forecast:

85.0%

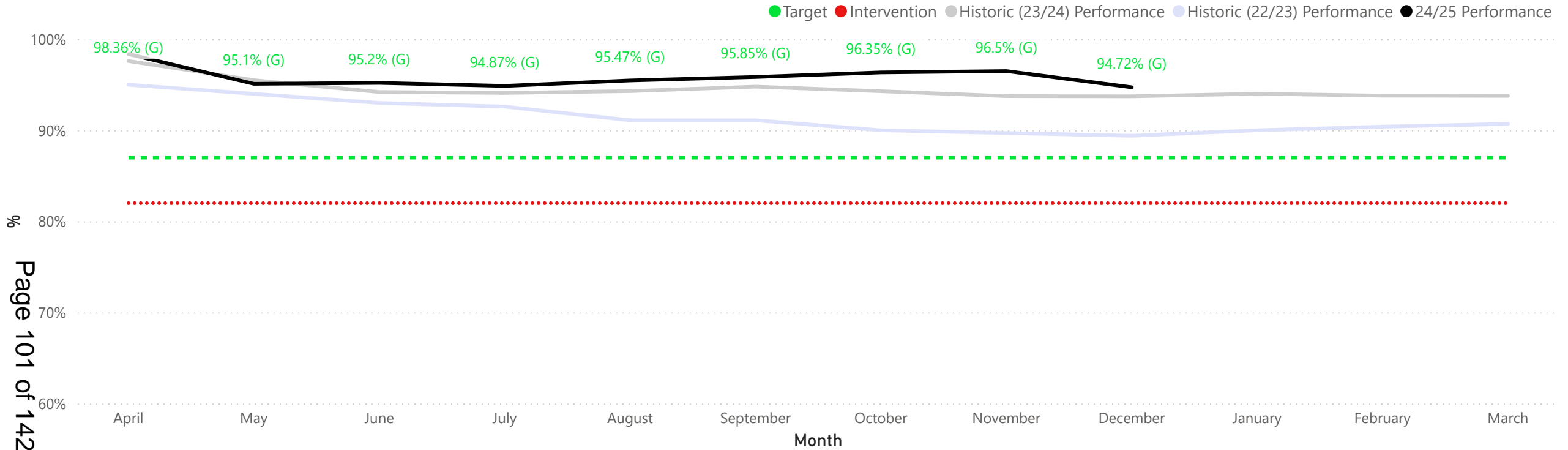
88 out of 104 Minor & Other applications were determined in time last month. Whilst YTD performance has decreased slightly, we still remain on track to achieve the forecast performance by end of year. Forecast revised to 85% based on performance over the last 6 months.

Latest projected outturn status:

G

Outcome: Improving housing

PI 15. Percentage of planning applications processed on target – household extensions



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Latest commentary from service:

44 out of 48 Householder applications were determined in time last month. YTD performance has decreased by 1.78% however high performance throughout the year has meant we expect to achieve the forecast performance. The forecast has been revised to 93% based on performance over the last 6 months.

Latest year-end forecast:

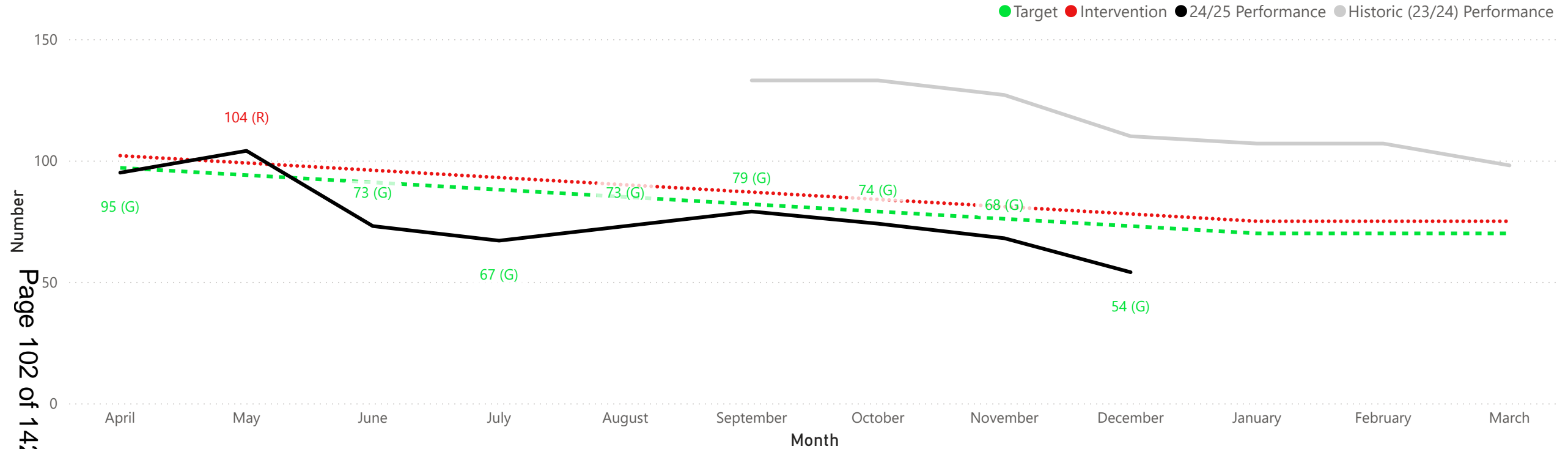
93.0%

Latest projected outturn status:

G

Outcome: Improving housing

PI 16. Number of planning applications over 16 weeks old where there is no current extension of time in place



Latest commentary from service:

Backlog reports were reviewed with a strategic approach, proactively tackling the cases over 16 weeks during December, enabling the reduction in applications over 16 weeks without a live extension of time by 14. We will be continuing this approach through January 2025. Forecast revised to 45 in light of this success.

Latest year-end forecast:

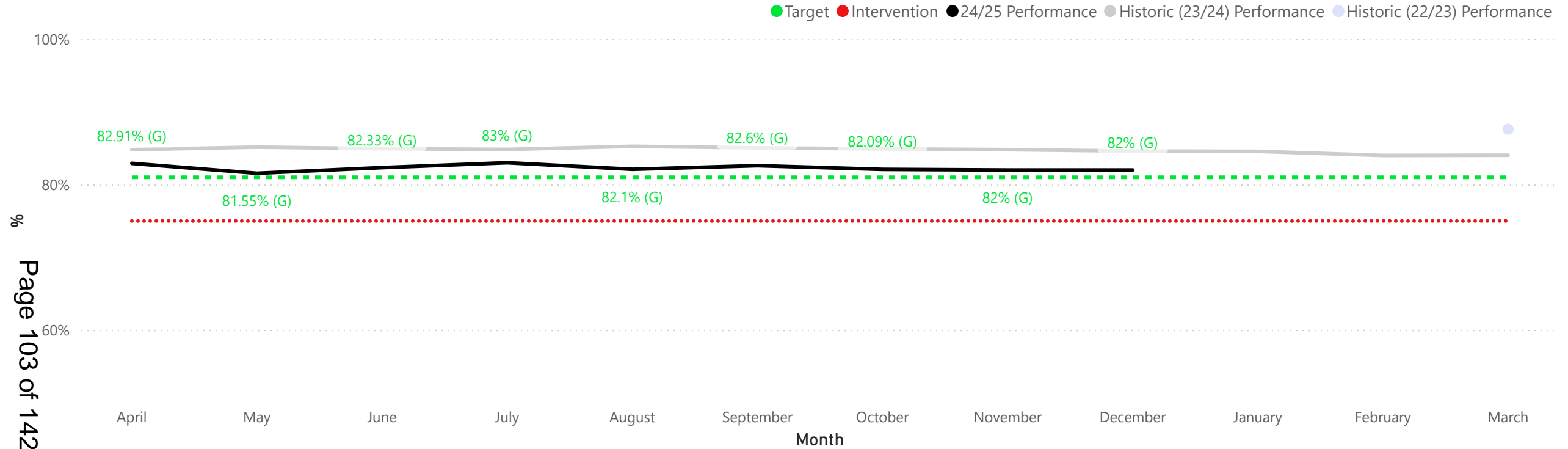
45

Latest projected outturn status:

G

Outcome: Lowering our carbon emissions

PI 17. Efficiency of vehicle fleet driving – Energy Efficient Driving Index score for the Waste service



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Latest commentary from service:

Decembers EEDI score was 83%
We're still waiting for the installation of the telematics system on a number of new vehciles

Latest year-end forecast:

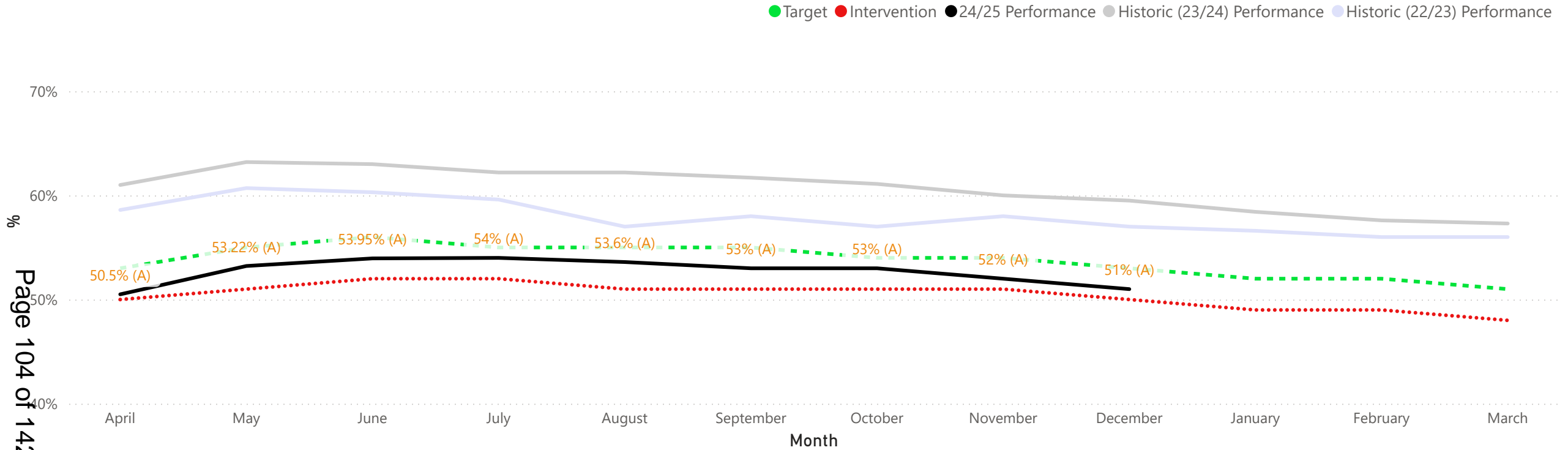
81.0%

Latest projected outturn status:

G

Outcome: Delivering good quality, high value-for-money services

PI 18. Percentage of household waste reused/recycled/composted



Latest commentary from service:

In December, 44% of waste collected was either recycled or composted. Compared to December 2023, we have seen a 33% decrease in garden waste tonnage collected in December 2024.

Garden waste tonnage typically drops during the winter months, and seasonal variations make these figures unpredictable and beyond our control. Currently, 54% of households in the district are subscribed to the garden waste service.

As expected, there has been an increase in residual waste since the introduction of the garden waste service. Residual waste tonnage rose by 20% in December 2024 compared to December 2023. Meanwhile, recycling tonnages have remained steady throughout the year.

Latest year-end forecast:

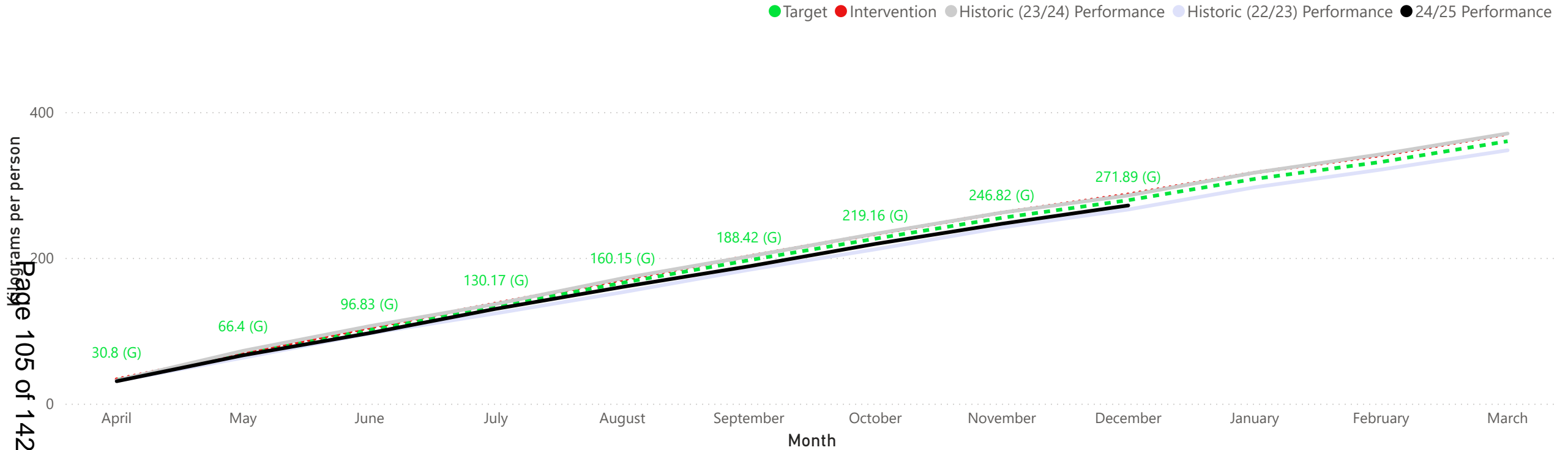
48.0%

Latest projected outturn status:

A

Outcome: Delivering good quality, high value-for-money services

PI 19. Collected household waste per person (kilograms)



Latest commentary from service:

Since the introduction of the garden waste subscription service, the overall tonnage of waste collected from households has decreased.

This reduction is predominately due to the seasonal variations in garden waste, typically reduce during the winter months, therefore contribute to fluctuations in the overall collected tonnage.

Recycling - 67.92 YTD (Dec = 7.72)
 Refuse - 132.41 YTD (Dec = 14.08)
 Garden - 71.56 YTD (Dec = 3.27)

Latest year-end forecast:

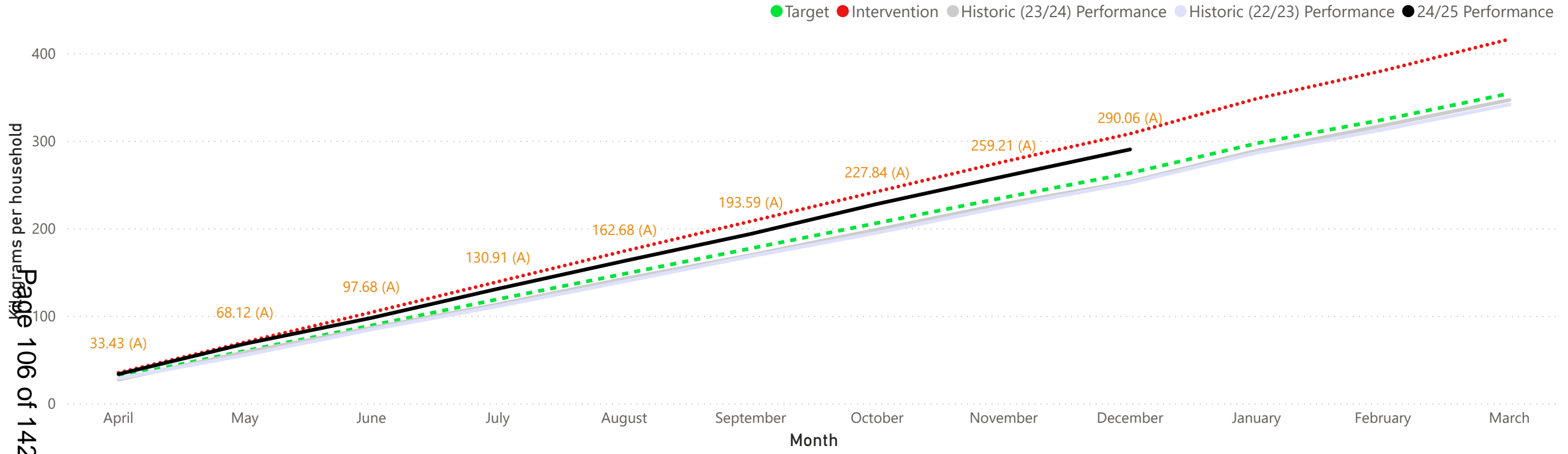
360.00

Latest projected outturn status:

G

Outcome: Delivering good quality, high value-for-money services

PI 20. Residual waste collected per household (kilograms)



Latest commentary from service:

As expected, there has been an increase in residual waste since the introduction of the garden waste service. Residual waste tonnage rose by 20% in December 2024 compared to December 2023.

The team continue to promote waste minimisation to residents through social media, attending events and educational sessions

Latest year-end forecast:

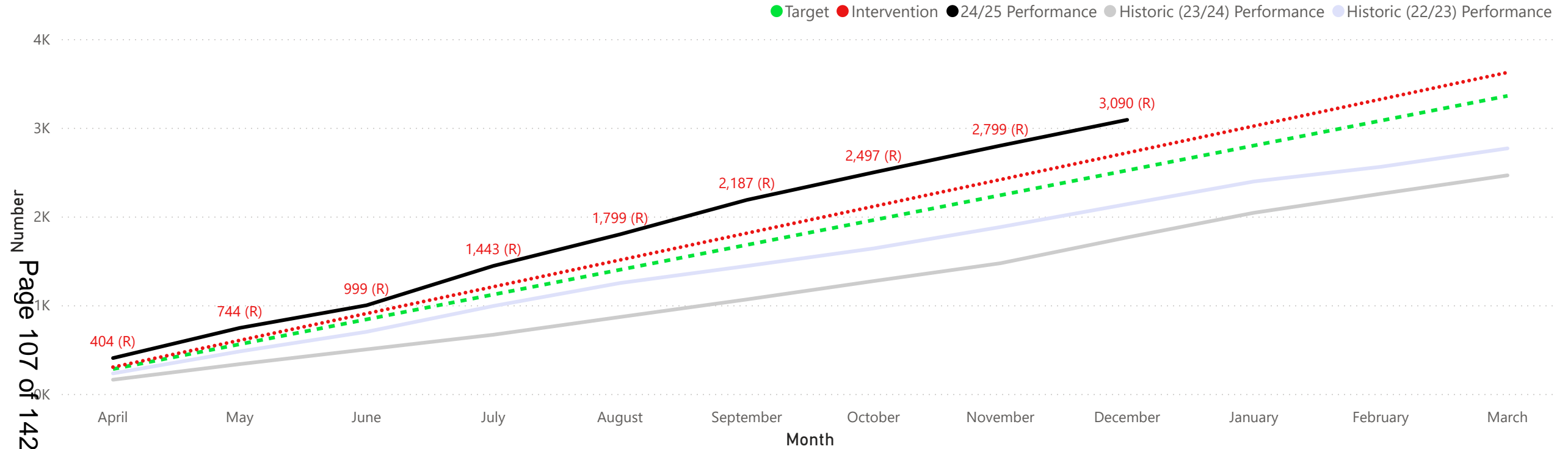
380.00

Latest projected outturn status:

A

Outcome: Delivering good quality, high value-for-money services

PI 21. Number of missed bins



Latest commentary from service:

There were 491829 collections in December of which 0.06% were missed. Although the number of missed bins is higher than our targeted stretch goal of 0.05% of collections, our year-to-date figure stands at 0.073%. This is still below the APSE benchmarked average of 0.076%.

The introduction of the chargeable garden waste service has led to new collection routes for crews and changes for residents, which has contributed to an increase in missed bins.

However, we are seeing a reduction in missed bins as we collaborate more closely with the collection crews and ensure that teams are actively reporting any issues.

Latest year-end forecast:

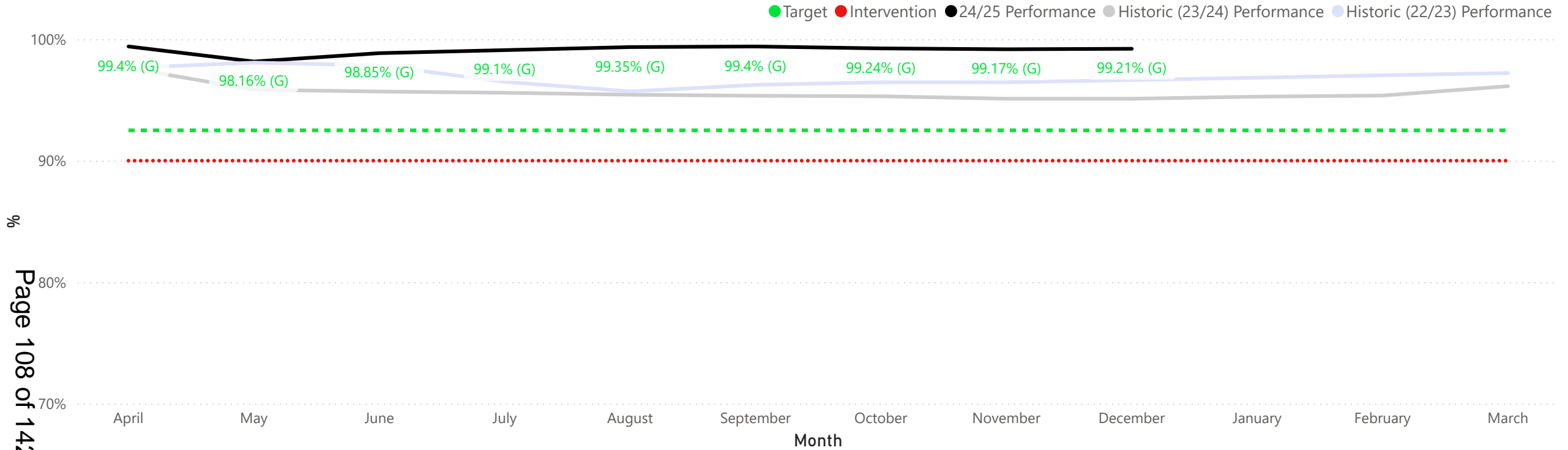
4,200

Latest projected outturn status:



Outcome: Delivering good quality, high value-for-money services

PI 22. Percentage of sampled areas which are clean or predominantly clean of litter, detritus, graffiti, flyposting, or weed accumulations



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Latest commentary from service:

Another good month with only one failure, for detritus. The team have been working very hard targetting known problem areas to keep on top of the leaves and detritus and this has really paid off with very few calls coming in from members of the public.

Latest year-end forecast:

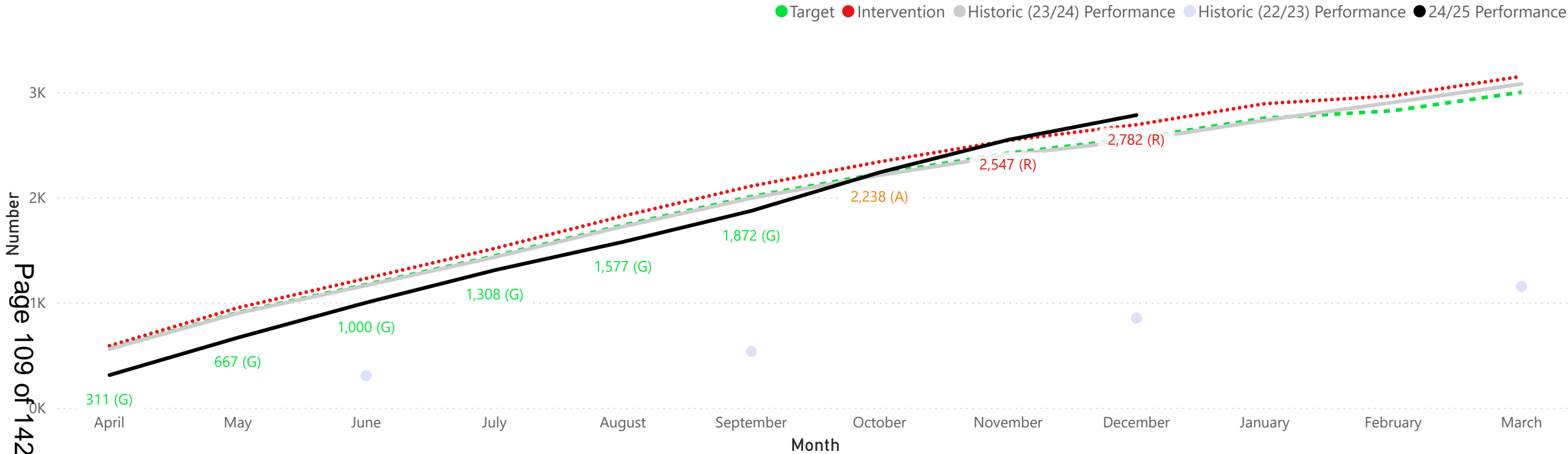
95.0%

Latest projected outturn status:

G

Outcome: Delivering good quality, high value-for-money services

PI 23. Number of fly tips recorded



Latest commentary from service:

235 flytips cleared in December, including 13 green waste flytips. We do usually see a decrease in number of flytips in December so this is fairly typical.

Latest year-end forecast:

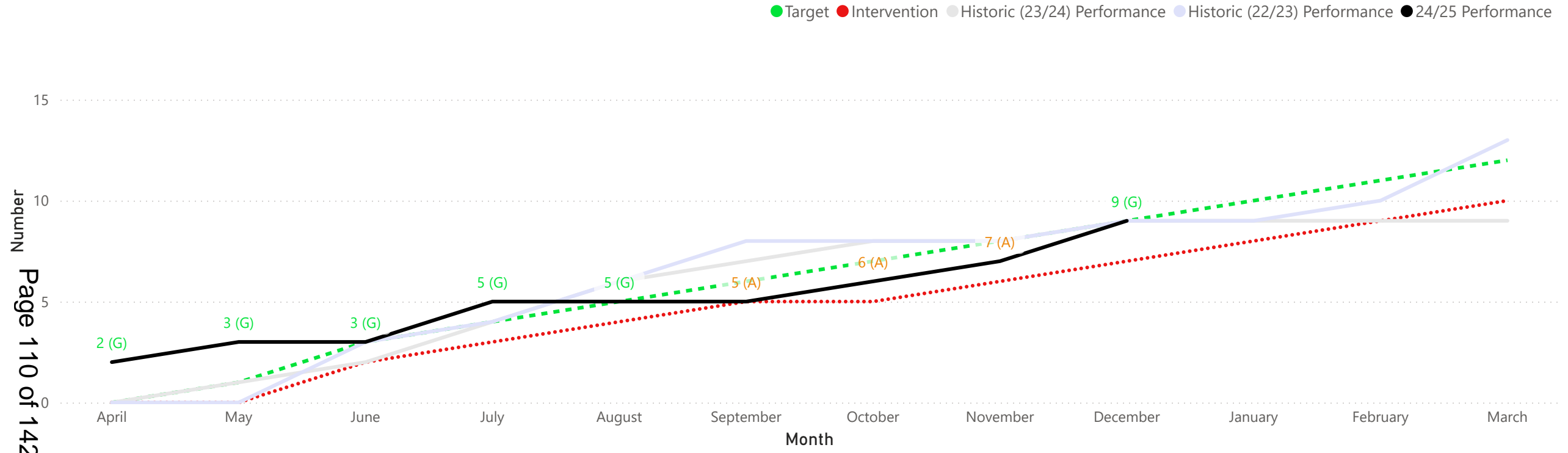
3,150

Latest projected outturn status:

A

Outcome: Delivering good quality, high value-for-money services

PI 24. Number of enforcement actions taken on fly tips (fines/court summons)



Latest commentary from service:

The Team continues to act on service requests where evidence is found and work alongside legal in prosecutions however the outcomes in court, although positive and enforcement issues. The fines and sanctions issued are still below expectations of what the team would expect for the level of crimes involved.

Latest year-end forecast:

12

October
Court result – Duty of Care - £276 fine , £100 costs, £110 VS = 486.00

November
Court result – Fly-Tip - £100 fine , £519.33 costs , £40 VS = 659.33

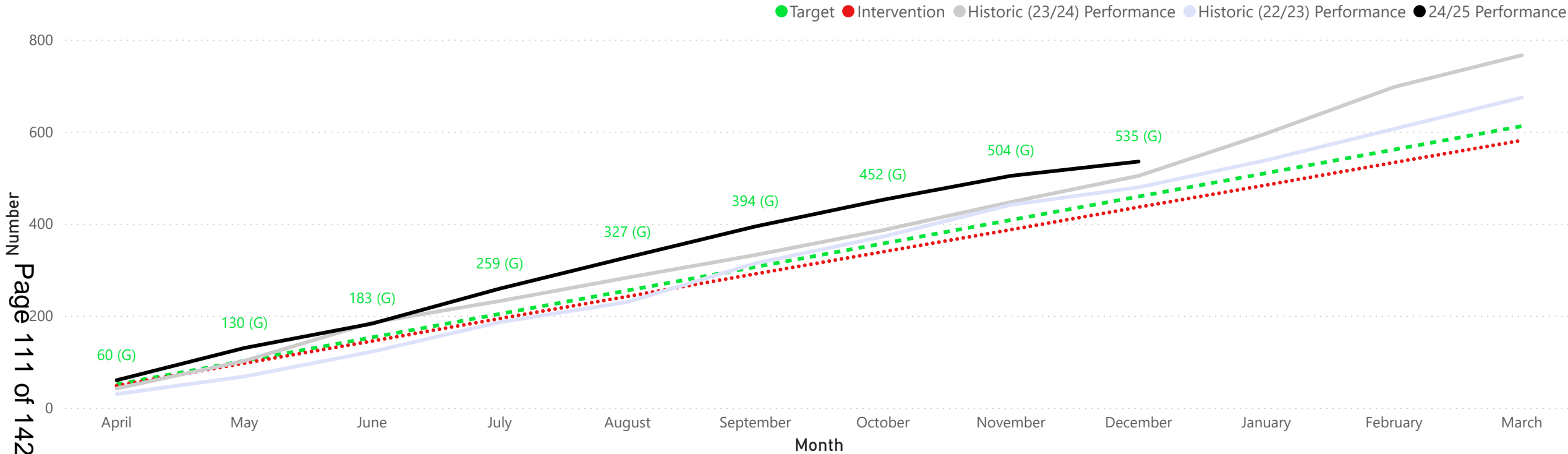
December Duty of Care Fixed penalty notice issued and paid for £250.00 on the 02/12. Duty of Care Fixed penalty notice is...

Latest projected outturn status:

G

Outcome: Delivering good quality, high value-for-money services

PI 25. The number of programmed food safety inspections undertaken



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Latest commentary from service:

Inspections continue to exceed the target set despite numbers being slightly lower in December due to the holiday season, sickness and refraining from inspecting businesses as their busiest time.

Latest year-end forecast:

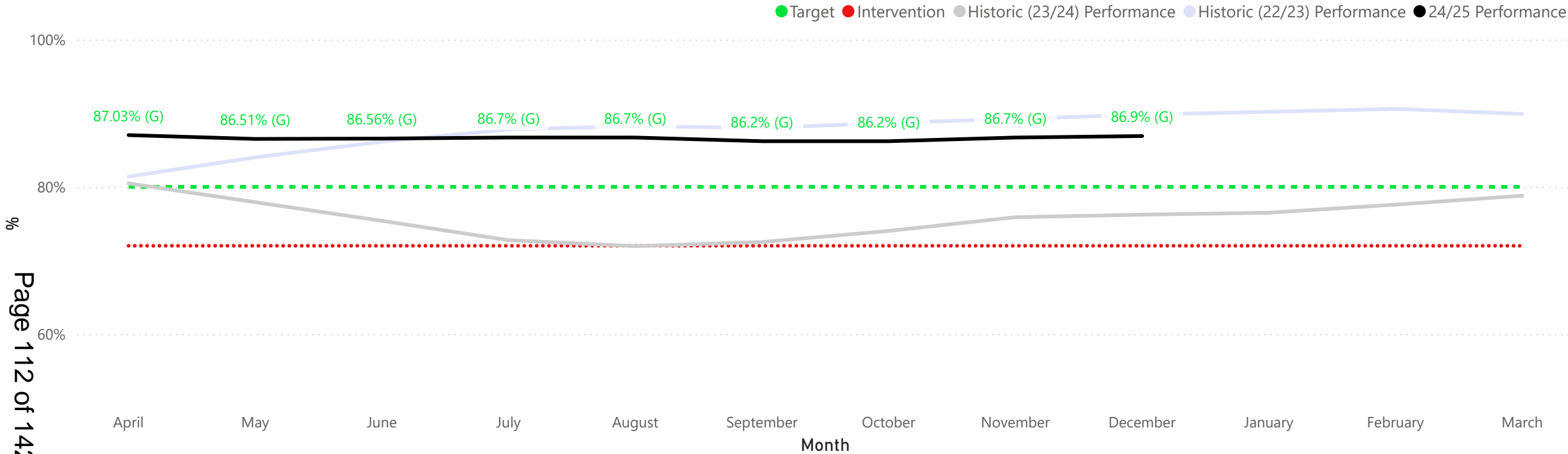
713

Latest projected outturn status:

G

Outcome: Delivering good quality, high value-for-money services

PI 26. Percentage of calls to Call Centre answered



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Latest commentary from service:

Calls answered percentage has slightly improved due to call volumes decreasing 14% in December from November's level. We had two new part time team members start on the 25th November, this may impact the calls answered percentage in the coming months whilst they work through their training plan and call volumes increase in January.

Latest year-end forecast:

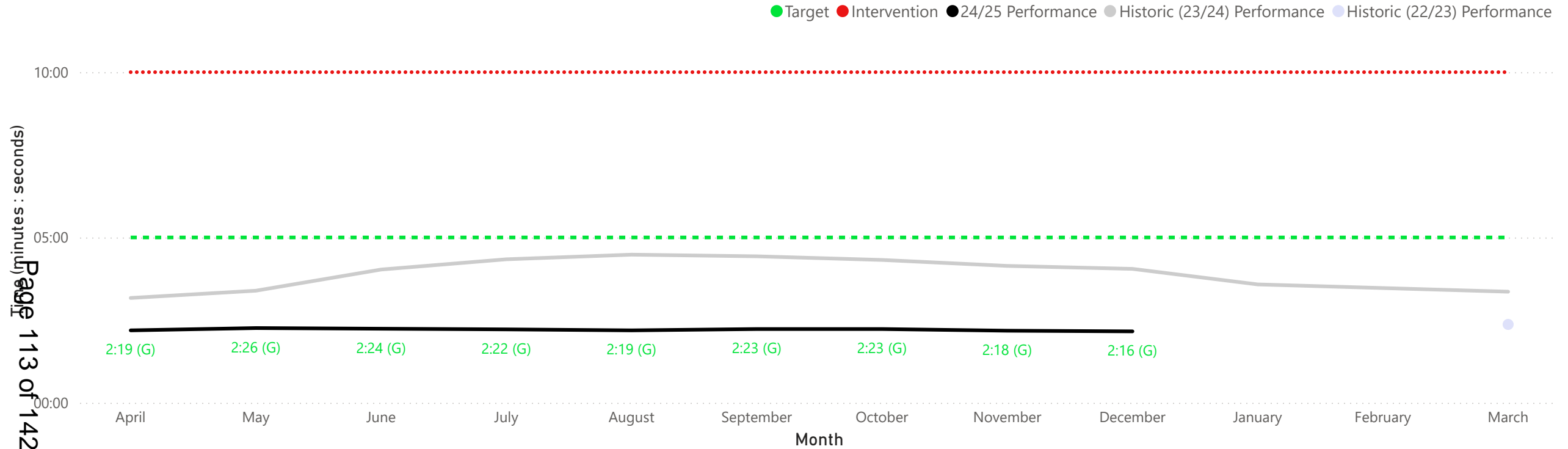
83.7%

Latest projected outturn status:

G

Outcome: Delivering good quality, high value-for-money services

PI 27. Average wait time for customers calling the Call Centre



Latest commentary from service:

Latest year-end forecast:

02:35

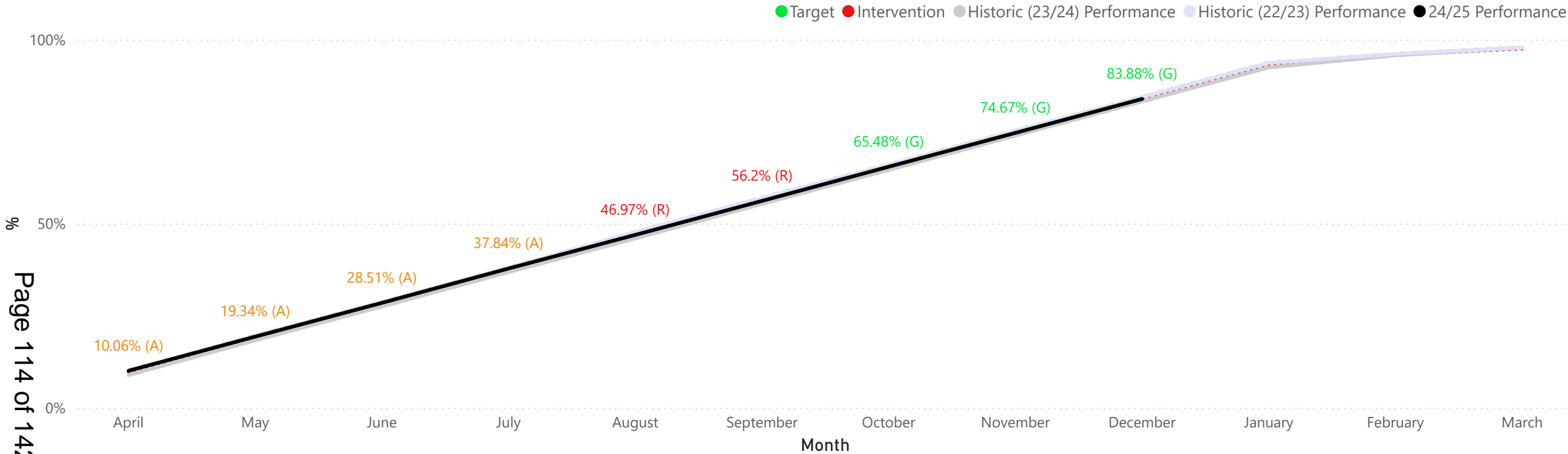
The average wait time has also improved by five seconds, helped by incoming calls decreasing 14% in December from November's level. It might increase slightly in the coming months whilst we train two new recruits to the team, and call volumes increase in January. The performance is still expected to be well within the target set.

Latest projected outturn status:

G

Outcome: Delivering good quality, high value-for-money services

PI 28. Council Tax collection rate



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Latest commentary from service:

Latest year-end forecast:

97.86%

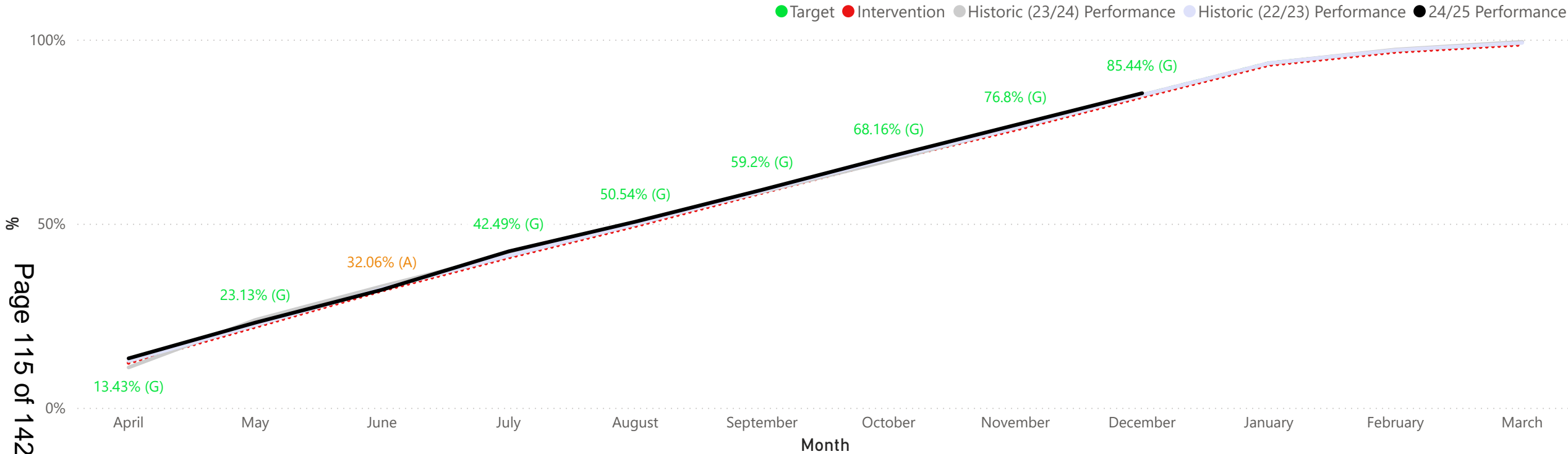
Latest projected outturn status:

December collection is now 0.69% above the target, which was amended to better reflect the movement of instalments due for payment in year. The final outturn forecast remains unchanged.

G

Outcome: Delivering good quality, high value-for-money services

PI 29. Business Rates collection rate



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Latest commentary from service:

December collection is 0.53% above target. The final outturn forecast remains unchanged.

Latest year-end forecast:

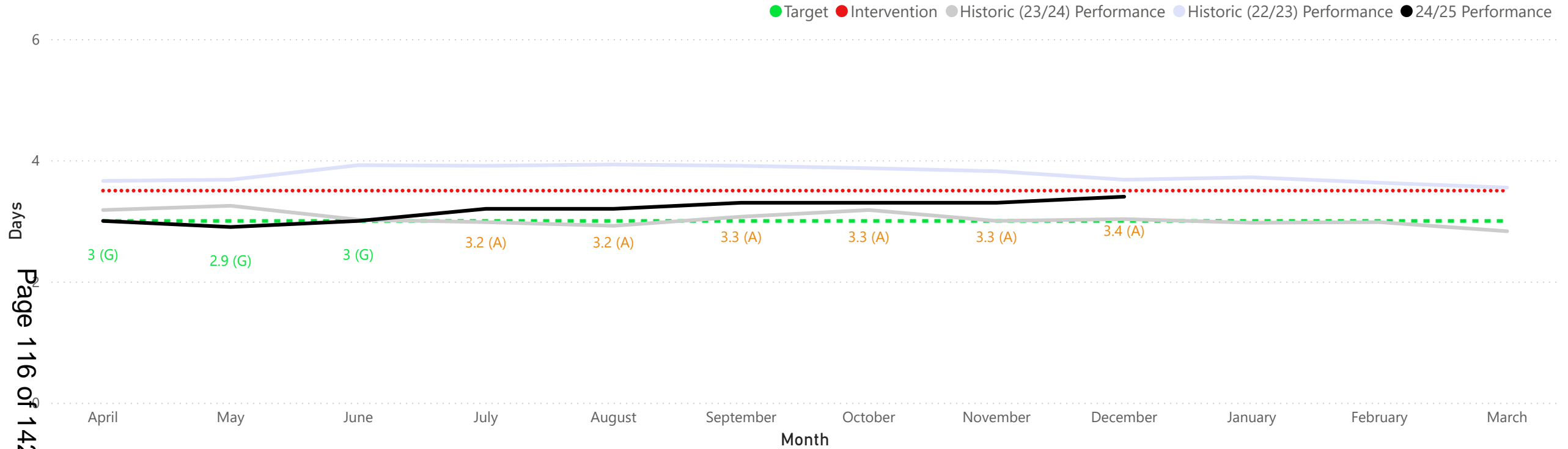
99.12%

Latest projected outturn status:

G

Outcome: Delivering good quality, high value-for-money services

PI 30. Staff short-term sickness days lost per full time equivalent (rolling 12 month total)



Latest commentary from service:

Short term sickness has remained higher than the KPI, however these are the months that sickness does tend to increase due to seasonal coughs and colds. This period we're are also contending with seasonal illnesses, which are likely to impact on short term sickness

Latest year-end forecast:

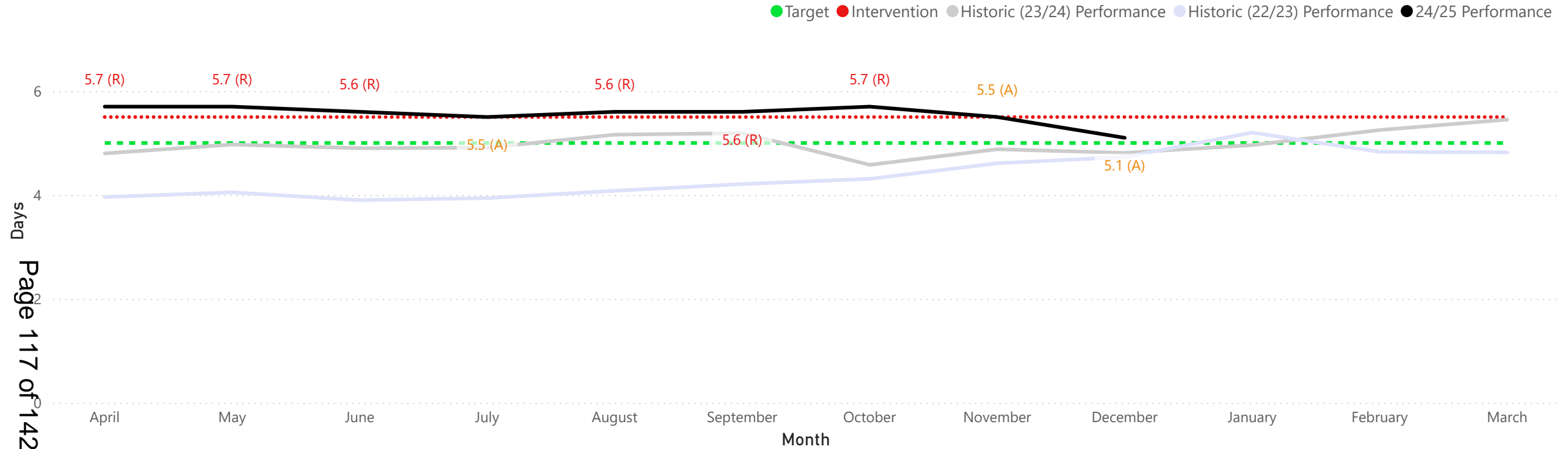
3.0

Latest projected outturn status:

G

Outcome: Delivering good quality, high value-for-money services

PI 31. Staff long-term sickness days lost per full time equivalent (rolling 12 month total)



Latest commentary from service:

A number of long term sickness cases have been resolved which has positively impacted on the long term percentage. We still have a small number of sickness cases that are needing to be managed and supported in a sensitive manner

Latest year-end forecast:

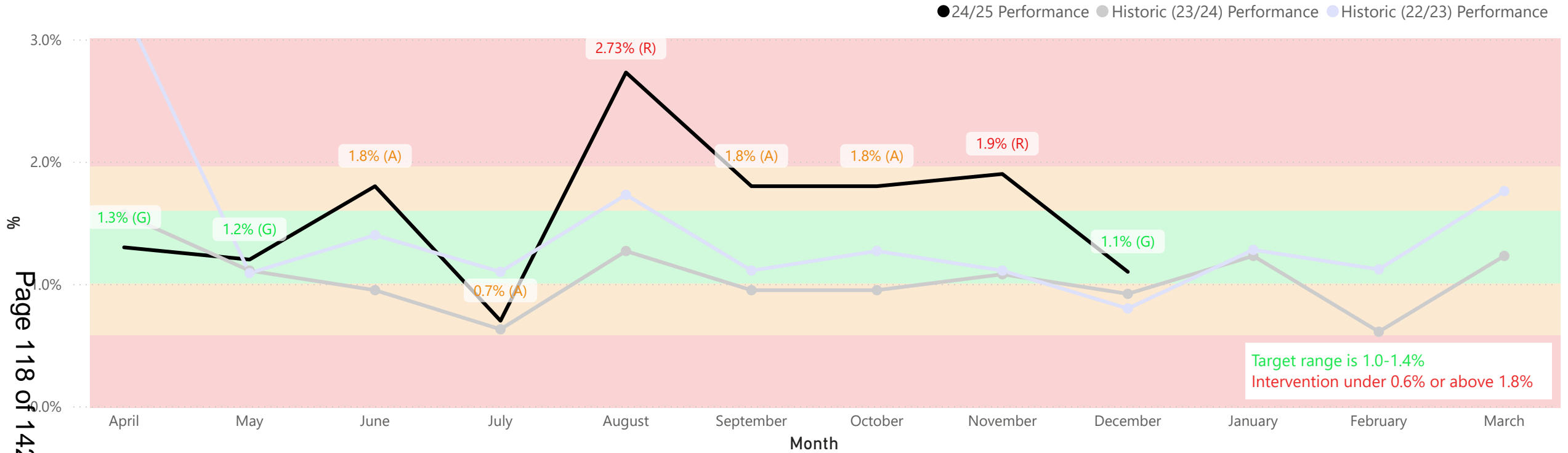
5.4

Latest projected outturn status:

A

Outcome: Delivering good quality, high value-for-money services

PI 32. Staff turnover (per individual month)



Latest commentary from service:

Turnover has reduced over this quarter but and is now meeting the KPI level. Leaving reasons are continuing to be monitored closely and action taken where concerns are raised

Latest year-end forecast:

1.00%

Latest projected outturn status:

G

Public
Key Decision - No

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Title/Subject Matter: Market Towns Programme Update

Meeting/Date: Overview & Scrutiny (Performance & Growth) –
5th March 2025

Executive Portfolio: Executive Councillor for Jobs, Economy &
Housing

Report by: Head of Economy, Regeneration & Housing
Delivery

Ward(s) affected: All

Recommendation(s):

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

- Comment on the contents of the report and delivery progress concerning the Market Town's Programme and related activities.

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**Public
Key Decision – No**

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Title/Subject Matter: Market Town's Programme Update (MTPU)

Meeting/Date: Overview & Scrutiny (Performance & Growth)
5th March 2025

Cabinet – 18th March 2025

Executive Portfolio: Executive Councillor for Economy, Regeneration
& Housing

Report by: Regeneration & Housing Delivery Manager

Ward(s) affected: All

Executive Summary:

This report provides the Spring 2025 update on the Market Towns Programme (MTP).

The MTP is an ambitious programme of economic-led interventions to renew and reshape our town centres and high streets in a way that promotes growth, improves experiences, and ensures sustainability in the future, it therefore supports the Huntingdonshire Futures Journey of Pride in Place and the Corporate Plan by creating a better Huntingdonshire for future generations.

The MTP is funded through a combination of external funding from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (DLUHC), Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA), Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and National Highways.

Recommendation(s):

The Cabinet is asked to:

- Note contents of report and delivery progress concerning the Market Town's Programme and related activities.

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To provide an update on activity across all strands of the Market Town Programme.

2. RAMSEY TOWN CENTRE ENHANCEMENT

- 2.1. The Ramsey sub programme comprises of three linked activities, which include:
 - The pedestrianisation of a focused area within the Great Whyte area of Ramsey town centre.
 - The development of up to six 'shop in a box' small retail units in this pedestrianised location.
 - Improvements to the Mews Close car park to mitigate street parking loss and improve the visitor experience.
- 2.2. Following consultation with local businesses, residents and town centre users in September last year, the project team has developed a number of improvements to the scheme. Changes made to the initial design options include further mitigation for the reduction in on-street parking spaces, and general layout improvements.
- 2.3. These design updates will form the basis for pre-application discussions with the Planning Authority during February. Subject to the outcome of these discussions, further adjustments may be required.
- 2.4. Upon completion of the pre-application process, HDC will provide an update to residents, business and other consultees informing them of change made and how these relate to the consultation feedback. A formal planning application will then be submitted in respect of the 'shop in a box' scheme elements. Statutory approval concerning changes to highway management, as and where required, will be undertaken via the relevant highway processes overseen by Cambridgeshire County Council.
- 2.5. A delivery programme for this scheme will be determined once the scheme is confirmed and a contractor has been procured.
- 2.6. In parallel to finalising the design of the main Great Whyte project, HDC is also reviewing options to improve off-street car parking in liaison with Ramsey Town Council. This includes considering a partnership to improve and manage the Mews Close Car park and investigating the potential to expand parking provision in nearby locations. The delivery of any proposals to be developed will be subject to the final scheme agreed for the Great Whyte area.

3. HUNTINGDON AND ST IVES PROGRAMME

Cromwell Museum expansion, Huntingdon

- 3.1. HDC has worked very closely with the Cromwell Museum, Huntingdon Town Council and the CPCA to support the acquisition of new premises. The purpose of which is to provide a new building which the Museum can expand its significant and internationally recognised collection into.
- 3.2. This work has now culminated in the successful acquisition of 6 to 7 Market Square, Huntingdon, which was completed on the 14th of February. This building will provide an opportunity to expand the Museum's offering to far more than currently available space. It will also provide space for an improve customer experience, an outlet for food and drink refreshments and a hireable venue for town centre events and activities.
- 3.3. Work is now turning to supporting the Cromwell Museum in carrying out immediate and necessary remedial works to safeguard the property in the short to medium term. This includes repairs to the roof, which will be made using funding secured by HDC from the Combined Authority.
- 3.4. Discussions have already begun with potential funders, including the Heritage Lottery Fund and National Highways, to ensure the wider refurbishment and construction works can be taken forward. The scheme to develop the Museum and all the necessary supporting facilities is significant and will require up to £4 million in investment. The Cromwell Museum is aiming to begin these works by 2027.
- 3.5. The existing Museum building will continue to be an essential element of the Museum's offering, providing a dedicated space for educational activities, in what was once Oliver Cromwell's school.

4. SHOP FRONT GRANT SCHEME – ALL MARKET TOWNS

- 4.1. The Shop Front Grant scheme has been a highly successful initiative which has delivered investment and improvements to businesses and shop premises within our town and neighborhood centres across the district.
- 4.2. The scheme has now concluded. Since the project began, 18 months ago, HDC received 80 grant applications, 53 of which were approved, totaling just over £200,000. At the time of writing, 34 of the schemes have been completed, two have recently been abandoned, however the remainder are on course for completion by the end of March 2025. A summary of the scheme applications and awards is included below:

Fig 1: Shop Front Grant Summary (figures correct as at 13/02/25)

	Huntingdon	St Ives	St Neots	Ramsey	District	Total
Applications	18	21	22	10	9	80
Award numbers	16	15	9	6	7	53
Reject numbers	2	6	13	4	2	27
To be reviewed	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grant award	£76,845	£39,711	£50,936	£11,350	£21,843	£200,685
Total cost of works	£91,605	£55,846	£108,165	£17,143	£25,785	£298,544
Abandoned Projects	0	0	2	0	0	2
Completions	13	10	5	3	3	34
Paid Grants	£49,543	£28,155	£31,579	£9,650	£11,367	£130,294

5. DIGITAL INFORMATION SCREENS – ALL MARKET TOWNS

- 5.1. HDC continues to work towards delivery of the Digital Information Screens with our delivery partner Trueform. There will be 8 screens delivered across the market towns of St Neots, St Ives, Huntingdon, and Ramsey, with two screens in each town.
- 5.2. The Digital Screens will provide a resource for Town Councils and other local organisations to promote tourism, heritage, and local businesses. Residents, visitors, and shoppers will benefit from an up-to-date source of information in the town centre as well as having the ability to link into Cambridgeshire wide activities concerning the Visitor Economy and real time information concerning transport links and bus services.
- 5.3. The screens have presented a challenge in terms of the wide range of screen locations, each with their own unique characteristics in terms of planning, permits and connection to utilities such as energy and Wi-Fi. The screens will, however, provide a valuable local asset which can help to foster partnership not only between the Town Council and HDC, but also with local traders and community groups.
- 5.4. The screens will be managed and updated by Town Councils for three years, after which they will be reviewed for continuation. Training has been provided to Town Council staff and the screens will be launched with a full complement of town specific business and event information. Those using the screens will also have the chance to look at content for other Huntingdonshire network towns, for day or shopping visits.
- 5.5. The Screens are being installed on a phased basis during this Spring. Details on exactly which screens will go live and when will be provided soon.

6. ST NEOTS

Priory Centre

- 6.1. Refurbishment and expansion of the Priory Centre is one of the most significant projects within the Market Town programme. It will deliver major improvements to the Priory Centre, which will enable it to offer a much broader range of services, cultural activities, and facilities in a vastly improved setting.
- 6.2. Following the grant of planning permission in the Autumn, HDC and St Neot has worked closely with our architects (AOC) and our preferred Contractor (SEH French Ltd) to finalise the development scheme, so it can proceed to delivery. At the outset of this project both HDC, the owner of the Priory Centre, and St Neots Town Council, the tenant, have sought to deliver the best possible facility. This has meant challenging both organisations to ensure the maximum possible investment possible.
- 6.3. The Centre has been closed since late 2024, which has enabled intrusive investigating surveys to be undertaken as part of the design and construction planning. Whilst the Centre has been closed, the Town Council has rented alternative facilities in the town centre, which are being used for Town Council activities as well as providing hireable space for community groups, to minimise the impact of the Priory Centre being closed.
- 6.4. HDC has confirmed it will be investing just under £7 million in the facility, utilising direct funding as well as grant funding from the Future High Street's Fund and the Community Infrastructure Levy.
- 6.5. St Neots Town Council Finance & Governance Committee met on the 18th of February to consider a contribution towards construction and refurbishment costs. The Committee unanimously resolved to recommend the Town Council commit funding of up to £1,950,000.00 from CIL reserves towards this purpose. The project will now proceed to the full Town Council meeting on the 25th of February for a final decision.
- 6.6. Subject to the recommendation of the Finance & Governance committee being accepted, the only other outstanding item to be resolved is the issuing of a permit from the Environmental Agency. This permit is necessary to allow work to be undertaken close to the river. Whilst it is possible to commence mobilisation, construction work will be limited until this permit has been granted. Subject to this, HDC is targeting a start date towards the end of March or beginning of April.

Old Falcon

- 6.7. A planning application in respect of the Old Falcon was considered and approved by the Development Management Committee at its meeting on Monday, 17th February 2025.

- 6.8. This Grade II Listed former hotel, has remained vacant for over 20 years, and has declined significantly in recent years. In collaboration with the building's owner, HDC's Market Towns team has developed proposals to transform the site into a mix of commercial and residential units, ensuring its long-term sustainability while preserving its historic character. This has resulted in the planning application being considered by the Development Management committee.
- 6.9. This granting of planning consent will enable this important local landmark building to be restored and repurposed as part of broader efforts to revitalise St Neots town centre.
- 6.10. Whilst the full restoration works will not commence immediately, HDC, working again closely with the property owner, will be undertaking improvements to the building façade. This will include repainting, improvements to the appearance of the windows, entrances, and clearance of vegetation. These works will be completed during the Spring and will be coordinated with the completion of the main town centre improvement works within the Market Square and surround areas.

Town Centre Improvements

- 6.11. This project is being delivered by Taylor Woodrow and HDC Officers are being supported by Cambridgeshire County Council in a project management capacity as the Highways Authority.
- 6.12. The works are progressing well and are on track for completion in April 2025. The northern half of the Market Square is largely complete with street furniture due to be installed imminently. The construction of the south side rain gardens is proceeding at pace, and electrical installation works have commenced.
- 6.13. The remaining areas of work include the completion of the paving works on Market Square south, bridge footway repaving, spot repairs to the footways at South Street/New Street junction, and installation, testing and commissioning of the new electrical systems.

Performance Stage

- 6.25. HDC continues to work with AOC (our appointed architect) to investigate the feasibility of a permanent performance stage in St Neots Market Square and develop proposals for such a structure.
- 6.26. AOC have now completed the RIBA Stages 0-2 (Feasibility and Concept Design) phase and submitted a report to HDC which includes three tested and costed design directions. The cost of a permanent stage (regardless of chosen design) has been found to exceed the available budget, and during this phase several risks have been identified which would need to be addressed if the project is to proceed. AOC's report, with an accompanying report from the HDC Project Manager detailing their

recommendation, will shortly be provided to HDC members and St Neots Town Council for review.

- 6.27. It will be necessary in any scenario to seek an extension for use of the CPCA funds allocated to this project from 2024/25 to 2025/2026. To this end, a change control request has been submitted which will be considered by CPCA's Investment Panel on the 11th of March 2025.

7. FINANCE UPDATE

Funding source	Grant secured	Spend to date	Balance
1. St Neots Regeneration			
Future High Street Fund	£3,748,815	£2,256,314 <small>Note: this figure is reduced versus December report due to internal reallocation of expenditure from FHSF to CPCA grant.</small>	£1,492,501
CiL	£4,830,000	£0	£4,830,000
CPCA	£3,100,000	£2,782,281	£317,718
National Highways	£3,493,218	£3,493,218	£0
CPCA Masterplan phase 1 (legacy)	£260,000	£260,000	£0
Funding totals	£15,432,033	£8,791,814	£6,641,219

Funding source	Grant secured	Spend to date	Balance
2. Huntingdon & St Ives			
CPCA Accelerated Funding	£802,150	£802,150	£0
Funding totals	£802,150	£802,150	£0

Funding source	Grant secured	Spend to date	Balance
3. Ramsey			
Local Growth Fund	£1,153,525	£0	£1,153,525
UKSP (revenue)*	£160,835	£127,169	£33,665
CPCA Accelerated Funding (legacy)	£295,000	£58,652	£236,347
Funding totals	£1,609,360	£185,821	£1,423,539

Funding source	Grant secured	Spend to date	Balance
4. Programme total			
All funding sources	£17,843,543	£9,779,786	£8,063,757

* Note: UKSPF funding was restructured in December 2024 with the CPCA to ensure maximum delivery and reduce the likelihood of funds remaining unspent at the end of March 2025. As a result, several UKSPF project budgets have been revised to meet this objective. Total UKSF programme funding is unchanged.

10.COMMENTS OF OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY

- 10.1. The comments of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel will be included in this section before the Cabinet considers it.

11.KEY IMPACTS / RISKS

BUDGET MANAGEMENT RISK

- 11.1. The projects that sit within the MTP are at various stages and therefore, as work progresses to detailed level, cost reliability and accuracy increases, the level of risk is more certain.
- 11.2. One of the most significant elements of the MTP was the St Neots Town Centre Improvements. The tender process for this resulted in costs being confirmed at a significant cost saving compared to previous estimates. This lowered the risk for this project and the programme overall significantly.
- 11.3. The Priory Centre project is another hugely significant scheme with an elevated level of risk in terms of construction cost inflation. A competitive process has been undertaken, and a contractor (SHE French Ltd) has been selected to deliver the works. The contract value has also now been confirmed alongside funding sources. The level of risk has therefore been reduced to an acceptable level.

PROGRAMME RESOURCE RISKS

- 11.4. The MTP requires different skills, expertise, and external technical support at various stages of project delivery. The programme itself has multiple projects which must be managed simultaneously identifying all interdependences across the programme. There is significant internal and external stakeholder management and detailed consultation with partners and resident/ business groups.
- 11.5. This could result in competing priorities across organisations that will require careful consideration. Mitigation: As part of the project, a detailed resources plan and communications strategy with stakeholders has been developed to ensure the management of expectations and information being shared promptly. HDC's website is regularly updated with the progress across the core programme sites, more time is being invested in engaging stakeholders, a greater presence on social media and revamping of the newsletter.

REPUTATIONAL RISKS

- 11.6. The MTP is a high priority for the Council, so monthly reporting, governance and timely decision-making are critical to ensure the programme is successfully delivered. A further key element is having in place a well-planned Communications Plan. This is monitored weekly and

designed to be proactive, looking ahead several months for potential issues for which communications and publicity are important tools for resolving.

- 11.7. Further to this, the programme governance and reporting lines will be continually monitored to ensure that the key programme milestones are managed and achieved. A full MTP programme risk register is in place along with individual project risk registers. Given the size and complexity of the MTP it features on the Council's Strategic Risk register, along with the mitigating actions.

LINK TO THE CORPORATE PLAN, STRATEGIC PRIORITIES, AND/OR CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

- 11.8. The delivery of the MTP is aligned with the principles and key objectives of the HDC Corporate Plan, specifically it links to:

- Priority 2: Creating a better Huntingdonshire for future generations, through Forward Thinking Economic Growth

12. CONSULTATION

- 12.1. Within the reporting period, a statutory planning consultation was undertaken about the Old Falcon planning application. No other informal or formal consultations have been completed during this time.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 12.2. This programme contains multiple projects where legal advice and guidance is required as part of project delivery. Project Staff will liaise with the Legal Services Manager as required to ensure appropriate legal oversight and advice if provided when relevant.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 12.3. The MTP Project team is currently fully resourced in staffing and budget terms to deliver the MTP programme as set out.

EQUALITIES

- 12.4. The Council has a statutory duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and foster good relations in respect of nine protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.
- 12.5. Good planning and effective regeneration can improve environments and opportunities for communities experiencing disadvantage. Planning which does not engage with or consider the needs of local communities is unlikely to improve their life chances and may further entrench area-based disadvantage.

ENVIRONMENTAL

12.6. The Council has a duty to ensure we continue to promote an environmentally positive recovery in Huntingdonshire following the impacts of COVID 19. We also have a duty to deliver sustainable place making. In December 2021, the Council adopted a core set of environmental principles. In October 2022, the Council passed a Cost of Living and Climate Change motion that recognises that the current cost of living, and climate crises require joint attention to support the wellbeing of residents and businesses. In February 2023 Council formally recognised the Climate Crisis and Ecological Emergency, adopted the Council's Climate Strategy underlining the organisations commitment to:

- setting a positive example through its actions to be a net carbon zero Council by 2040
- an enabler supporting action within our communities and across our partners.
- an encourager to those that live, work, and visit Huntingdonshire to take climate action and reduce carbon emissions.

12.8. The Council has direct control of only a tiny proportion of all the carbon emissions within Huntingdonshire, but we can adopt a key role to influence the district, demonstrating good practice whilst setting policies and strategies to influence businesses and communities to tackle climate change whilst enabling sustainable living and growth. These principles are embedded within the MTP.

LIST OF APPENDICES INCLUDED

Not applicable.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Report to Cabinet (FHSF (Future High Street Fund)) 13th February 2020 can be found [here](#)
- Report to Cabinet (FHSF) 28th July 2020 – EXEMPT.
- Report to Cabinet (Market Towns Accelerated Programme) 18th March 2020 can be found [here](#)
- Report to Cabinet (FHSF) 23rd. February 2021 can be found [here](#)
- Market Towns Programme Spring 2022 Update to Cabinet, 17 March 2022 can be found [here](#)
- Market Towns Programme Summer 2022 Update to Cabinet June 2022 can be found [here](#)

- Market Towns Programme Autumn 2022 Update to Cabinet September 2022 can be found [here](#)
- Market Towns Programme Winter 2022 Update to Cabinet December 2022 can be found [here](#)
- Market Towns Programme Spring 2023 Update to Cabinet March 2023 can be found [here](#)
- Market Towns Programme Autumn 2023 Update to Cabinet October 2023 can be found [here](#)
- Market Towns Programme Winter 2023 Update to Cabinet December 2023 can be found [here](#)
- Market Towns Programme Spring 2024 Update to Cabinet April 2024 can be found [here](#)
- Market Towns Programme Summer 2024 Update to Cabinet July 2024 can be found [here](#)
- Market Towns Programme Winter 2024 Update to Cabinet December 2024 can be found [here](#)

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