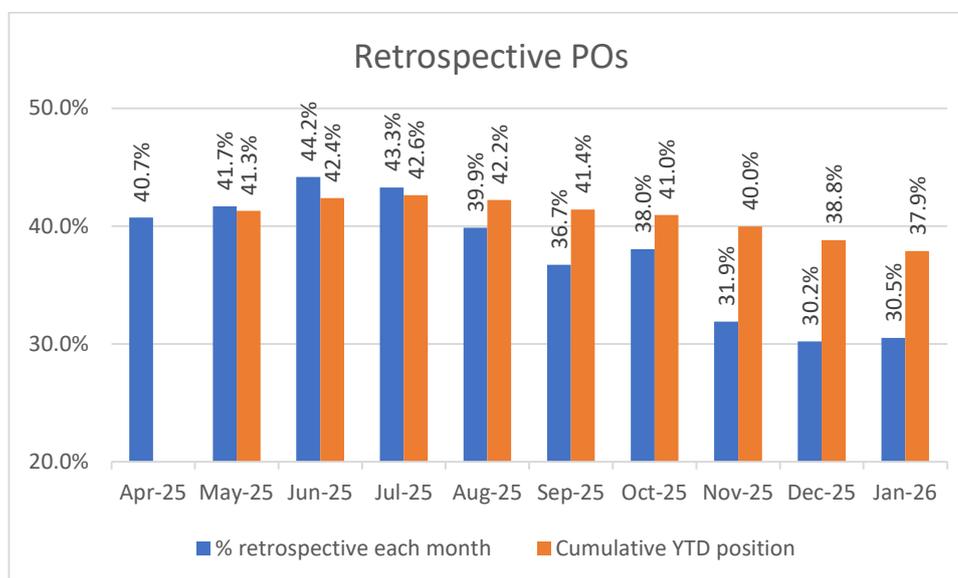


Purchase Order Compliance update

- 1.1 This update is provided at the request of the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee.
- 1.2 The following table provides an analysis of retrospective orders by gross value and volume. The measurement used is the invoices that have been cleared for payment and posted to the general ledger per month for the period April 2025 to January 2026 inclusive excluding interface files. Of the £69.959m, £19.202m relate to prior year(s) invoices being processed.

Directorate	Retrospective Orders (No.)	Retrospective Orders (Gross £m)
Adults Services	135	3.264
Public Health & Public Protection	167	2.398
Children's Services	1,284	17.011
Regeneration, Housing & Environment	3,155	40.841
Chief Execs Office	15	0.617
Corporate Resources	230	5.382
Law and Governance	58	0.168
Below the Line Additions	83	0.278
TOTAL Retrospective	5,127	69.959

- 1.3 The next graph provides the performance each month and the cumulative position over the year to date showing an improvement each month.



- 1.4 The volume of retrospective purchase orders has remained static during January 2026. Changes to the automated response text on the council receiving the invoice and the alert sent to budget holders if a retrospective purchase order has been raised both went live late January as described in the previous update to Committee. This is the next steps that have been introduced alongside direct intervention and support from finance and procurement colleagues. As part of closedown 2025/26 processes, further activity is planned to remind budget holders of their responsibilities and ensure that purchase orders are raised at

the right point. The procurement diagnostic work underway will also inform improvement activity.

- 1.5 Whilst steps continue on improving PO compliance, the next graph provides the direction of travel each month on the value of retrospective purchase orders as a percentage of overall gross spend on all goods, works and services. This includes interface files which are processed via the council's supplier payment process. During January 2026, 9.9% of gross spend related to retrospective orders being £3.970m of £40.270m spent.

