

The objective of this review was to identify potential savings in non-pay operating costs through spend and opportunity analysis and high-level benchmarking at the University of Kent.

We focused on all major addressable expenditure areas including major CapEx estates expenditure, as well as exploring non-procurement spend areas such as bursaries and scholarships, student union financial support and international student recruitment.

### Our approach

We pursued three key strands:

- 1. Spend analysis:** We examined internal procurement and budget data, identifying opportunities and signposting areas for improvement in both the procurement addressable and other non-pay expenditure areas. This work included a review of the finance coding systems and their fitness for purpose to provide robust spend management information.
- 2. High-level benchmarking:** We leveraged available external benchmarks, including SUPC supplier and framework spend, sector intelligence and comparator university spend level reviews to identify potential procurement savings opportunities.

- 3. A high-level review of procurement team resourcing:** to support savings opportunity realisation.

### Our impact and value added

Our findings included:

- **Specific savings opportunities and timelines:** We produced a savings/benefits opportunities schedule with estimated savings and associated timelines.
- **A comparator spend review** identified three high spend categories where expenditure appeared to be significantly above comparator universities. The university have already followed up on two of these areas.

- **Procurement team investment:** We recommended that by further investing in developing the procurement team, that target savings could increase by 25% over current savings achieved.
- **ROI report:** This summarised the estimated savings / value add; the timelines to deliver; any investment costs (e.g. developing resources) and the overall projected return on investment.



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“The PVA was of great value to us. It enabled our team to further identify and signpost significant potential non-pay savings and value opportunities as well as benchmark our performance to our peers. Included were opportunities that could be realised with further investment in the procurement team with a ROI conservatively estimated at 3:1.”



Mark Reed  
Assistant Director of Finance (Procurement)  
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