

Local Government Benchmarking Framework

2015/16

Introduction

This report provides information on the publication of 2015/16 data provided by the Scottish Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF). The publication and use of these data form part of the Council's statutory requirements for public performance reporting as directed by the Accounts Commission.

Led by [SOLACE](#), with the support of the [Improvement Service](#), this project aims to provide a benchmarking toolkit to support the targeting of local government resources to areas of greatest impact. The framework allows local authorities to compare their own performance across a suite of 60 indicators of efficiency (unit cost) and outcomes, covering all areas of local government activity.

Data published through the framework are an important resource to complement and inform the Council's own corporate performance framework, providing national comparators and other benchmarks for the key performance indicators considered each month by the Council's Corporate Leadership Team.

2015/16 Local Government Benchmarking Framework

A report providing Scotland level results and trends from analysis of benchmarking data for the five years to 2015/16 was published by the Improvement Service in February 2016. A full report on Scotland level results is available at the [Local Government Benchmarking website](#).

Alongside this report, the [My Local Council](#) website provides full detail on all indicators published as part of the Local Government Benchmarking Framework. Tools available at the website allow users to examine the most recent published datasets, look at trends over time, and compare City of Edinburgh Council performance against that of other Councils in Scotland.

Following this national publication, guidance provided by the Accounts Commission requires councils to use this framework as part of their annual local public performance reporting schedule. The benchmarking framework is split into seven themes and these are:

Children's Services

Environmental Services

Corporate Services

Culture and Leisure Services

Adult Social Care Services

Housing Services

Economic Development

This report provides a short overview of 2015/16 results for Edinburgh under the three overlapping strategic themes outlined in the Council's Business Plan 2016-20: **improve quality of life, ensure economic vitality, build excellent places** and our overarching commitment across all these themes, to provide best value for the people of Edinburgh and to **deliver lean and agile Council services**.

Appendix 1 of this report shows Edinburgh's performance over the past 6 years along with a league table showing comparison to the other 32 Local Authorities.

Improve Quality of Life

A summary of data for **Children's Service** shows that:

- S6 attainment rates for pupils in the 20% most deprived areas of the city show an improvement over the past five years from 8% in 2011/12 to 14% in 2015/16 2013/14 with Edinburgh moving to 13th place from 16th.
- Work prospects in terms of Positive Destinations have improved for Edinburgh residents since 2011. Positive Destinations tracks all school leavers (15-18yrs) and in March 2017 the figure was 93.7% for Edinburgh, a significant improvement on 2010/11 when the figure was 87.4% for Edinburgh.
- Cost per pupil of primary and secondary education, and pre-school registration remain below the Scottish average with primary ranked as the 4th, secondary ranked as the 6th and preschool costs per pupil ranked as the 3rd lowest in Scotland.
- Satisfaction with schools showed a drop in 2015/16 of 7.4% to 65.3%, the lowest rating in Scotland, according to a Scotland-wide survey.

A summary of data for **Older People's Care and Adult Social Care Services** shows that:

- For percentage of people 65+ with intensive needs receiving care at home indicator, Edinburgh ranks 16th out of 32 Local Authorities and shows performance above the Scottish average. This indicator describes people with high level support which are supported within their own home or community rather than a residential or hospital setting.
- The cost per resident of adult residential care and cost of home care provision have dropped compared to previous year. Edinburgh ranked 3rd for residential care and 16th for home care.
- Edinburgh has had a high percentage of social work spend on adults for a number of years. This reflects the pioneering approach to Direct Payments that the Council has taken over a number of years. Edinburgh continues to have a relatively high percentage of total social work spend on direct payments (6.7%), third to first Glasgow (27.6%) and to second Aberdeenshire (7.9%) and slightly above the Scottish average of 6.6%.
- Satisfaction with Adult social care services fall from previous year, with only 77.2% of adults receiving any care or support who rate it as excellent or good and 81.6% of adults supported at home who agree that their services and support had an impact in improving or maintaining their quality of life, according to latest data from the Scottish Household Survey. Edinburgh ranking against other authorities for both these measures remains in the last quartile and below the Scottish average.

A summary of data for **Culture and Leisure Services** shows that:

- For the third year in a row, Edinburgh libraries offer the best value in Scotland in terms of cost per visit. Satisfaction with libraries has decreased slightly but is still above Scottish average.
- Cost per attendance at sport and leisure facilities has fallen slightly, with satisfaction 1% below the Scottish average of 75.7%.
- Satisfaction with museums and galleries remains among the highest in Scotland (dropping from No 2 last year to No 3 this year) with costs per visit rising but still among the lowest in Scotland and well below the Scottish average of £3.07.
- Cost per parks and open spaces has increased slightly, with satisfaction 5.6% above the Scottish average of 85.7%.

A summary of data for **Domestic Noise** shows that:

- Definition for the domestic noise complaints now includes both parts of the indicators which is the average time between time of complaint and attendance on site, for those requiring attendance on site. Edinburgh ranks 10th for 2015/16.

Ensure Economic Vitality

A summary of data for **Economic Development** shows that:

- 10.58% of unemployed people assisted into work by Council funded/operated Employability Programmes, a slight decrease compared to 2014/15 and a significant increase compared to 2012/13. Edinburgh ranked 16th and is below the Scottish average of 14.1%.

Further benchmarking data for economy is available through the [Scottish Local Authority Economic Development Group \(SLAED\)](#) framework which was published in December 2016.

A summary of data for **Planning** shows that:

- Cost per planning application have decreased more than halved compared to 2011/12 with Edinburgh ranked 19th out of 32 Local Authorities in 2015/16. The average time per commercial planning application has also decreased with Edinburgh's performance well below the Scottish average.

Build Excellent Places

A summary of data for **Housing Services** shows that:

- Rent lost on empty homes reduced in 2015/16, putting Edinburgh among the best 3 Local Authorities (North Ayrshire 1st and West Lothian 2nd) with two other urban cities, Aberdeen ranked 24th and Dundee ranked 20th.
- The average time taken to complete non-emergency repairs has risen from 8 to 9.2 days and just slightly below the Scottish average of 9.4 days.
- At the end of March 2016, the Council brought 75.7% homes to the Scottish Housing Quality Standard. The remaining homes are either exempt or require private owner agreement to make the improvements.
- Majority of local authorities, including Edinburgh, saw rent arrears increase between 2013/14 and 2015/16. Gross rent arrears increased from 6.3% to 7.8% in Edinburgh, which is 1.5% above the Scottish average.

A summary of data for **Environmental Services** shows that:

- Waste collection net cost per premise has fallen by 20% on last year and Edinburgh ranked 18th compared to 24th in 2014/15. The waste disposal net cost per premise has increased with Edinburgh ranked 17th compared to 7th previous year.
- Street cleaning costs have remained relatively static over the past three years. The city continues to have a good performance in this area with around 90% of streets considered to be meeting expected cleansing levels.
- Recycling rates continue to improve and Edinburgh has the highest rate compared to the three city comparators (Aberdeen 38.5%, Glasgow 26% and Dundee 33.3%). Large increases in food waste recycling, with tonnages collected increasing by 51% for 15/16 than in 14/15 and by 71% than in 13/14 have contributed to the increase in performance.

- The cost of road maintenance (per km) has increased from last year and with £23,625 is well above the Scottish average of £10,791.
- The cost of delivering environmental health has increased this year and remains the most costly in Scotland per 1000 population and well above the Scottish average.
- The percentage of A, B, C class roads that should be considered for maintenance treatment have all decreased slightly which has resulted in Edinburgh's position below the Scottish averages.

Deliver Lean and Agile Services

A summary of data for **Corporate Services** shows that:

- Democratic core service costs as a % of total Council running costs have decreased slightly since 2014/15. These costs extend beyond direct support to members, with the majority of expenditure relating to officer support of the Council's democratic structures.
- Women account for 49.3% of the top 5% earning council staff. This places Council at 20th compared to 9th previous year and below the Scottish average.
- The cost per dwelling of collecting council tax has fallen over the past three years, but is still among the highest in Scotland.
- The council paid 97% of all invoices within 30 days in 2015/16 and ranks the 2nd best performing in Scotland.
- Sickness absence rate for teachers has improved to 4.8 working days (4th lowest rate in Scotland) and remained the same for other employees with an average of 10.7 working days lost during 2015/16 and above the national average of 10.6.
- Performance for Council accommodation that is suitable for its current use has increased slightly although remains as the lowest in Scotland compared to other Local Authorities.

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