

The background of the slide features a large, light blue watermark of the City of Edinburgh coat of arms. The coat of arms consists of a shield divided into four quarters. The top-left quarter shows a castle tower, the top-right shows a stag's head with antlers, the bottom-left shows a three-masted sailing ship, and the bottom-right shows a bird with its wings spread. Above the shield is a crown with four fleurs-de-lis. Below the shield is a ribbon with the motto 'ANE FOR A'.

Agenda Item 6

**Local Government
Benchmarking Framework
2019/20**

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: Local Government Benchmarking Framework 2019/20

Meeting: Scrutiny

Date: 1 April 2021

Author: Director of Corporate & Housing Services

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 This report provides an update on the Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF) data for 2019/20. The Improvement Service published the 2019/20 Local Government Benchmarking Framework in February 2021.

2. Recommendations

2.1 It is recommended the Committee

- (1) Approve the report and acknowledge progress by Falkirk Council in meeting Council LGBF priorities.**
- (2) Where required, request further information on any specific aspects of the information provided.**
- (3) To note that a report will be provided to Members in June on a review of the Corporate Plan to date.**

3. Background

3.1 The Local Government Benchmarking Framework is a national approach to preparing, comparing, and improving the performance of Councils in Scotland. The LGBF is a requirement of the Audit Commission and is compiled by the Improvement Service, on behalf of the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE).

3.2 The Accounts Commission use the LGBF indicators as a key element of the statutory performance reporting framework. The indicators are used by Auditors to review the Council's focus on improvement during annual and Best Value audits.

3.3 The LGBF provides Elected Members, the public, and management with comparative service performance data across Scotland. It is, however, important that all Council's supplement the indicators contained within the LGBF with additional data and contextual information to reflect local priorities and concerns.

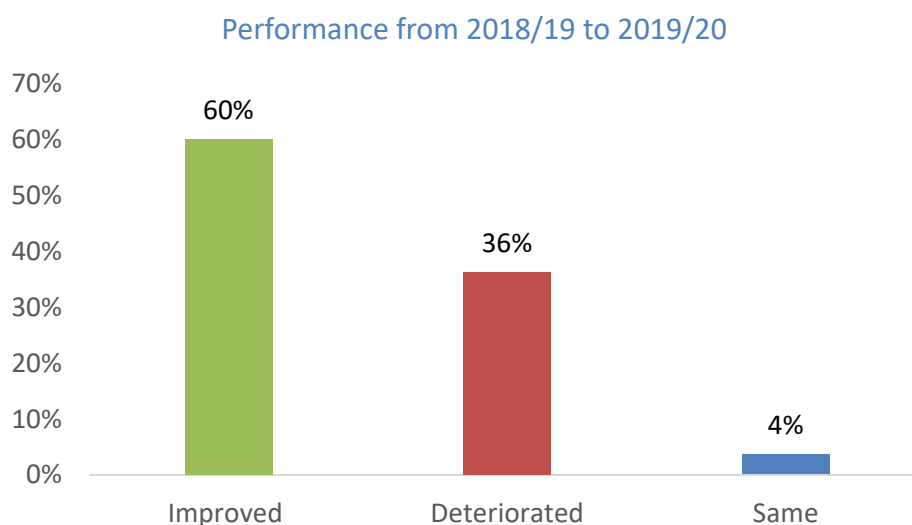
- 3.4 The LGBF data is published on the [mylocalcouncil](#) website, the [Falkirk Council](#) website for public scrutiny and the Members Portal on Pentana with the Important Indicators.
- 3.5 We are working to embed the LGBF data into the performance framework and have linked the indicators to the Corporate Plan priorities as set out in the report to the [Executive Committee on 17 November 2020](#) to monitor progress.
- 3.6 The next Corporate Plan report to Scrutiny in June will provide an overview of all three priorities, Communities, Enterprise, and Innovation with the LGBF indicators.

4. LGBF 2019/20 Performance Overview

- 4.1 There are 97 indicators in total, 80 indicators are reported in this report, the outstanding 17 will be reported later in the year following publication by the Improvement Service. Members will be aware that attainment data for 2019/20 is based on assessments. Previous years data was based on examinations.
- 4.2 The indicators cover service cost, service delivery and customer satisfaction. Analysis of the information is useful in terms of identifying where an increase or decrease in cost has impacted on service delivery and customer satisfaction. We can also identify where there has been an improvement or deterioration in performance and compare our performance to the national average and other individual local authorities, to allow Services to undertake an appropriate course of action.

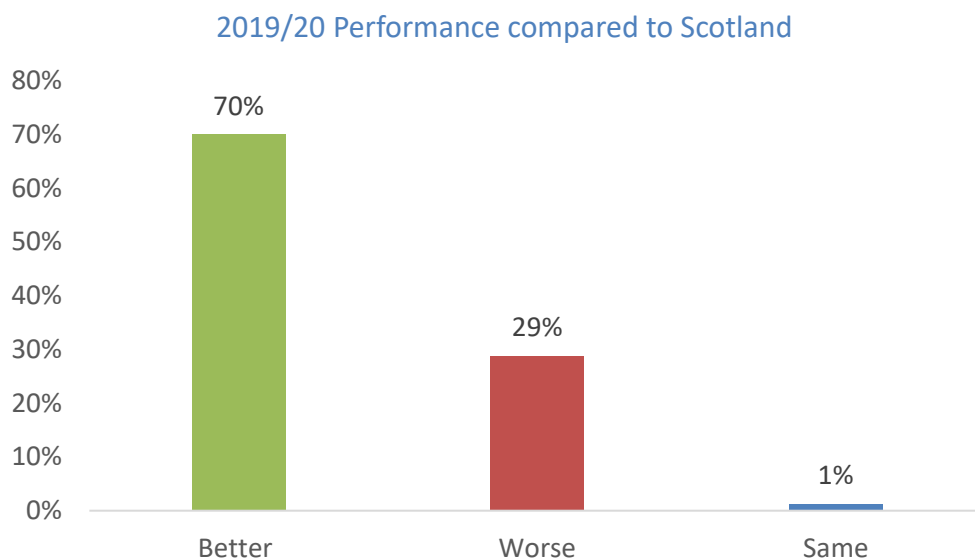
Performance from 2018/19 to 2019/20

- 4.3 The graph below shows the breakdown of the indicators for the Council. From 2018/19 to 2019/20 a total of 48 indicators (60%) improved, while performance reduced for 29 (36%) indicators.



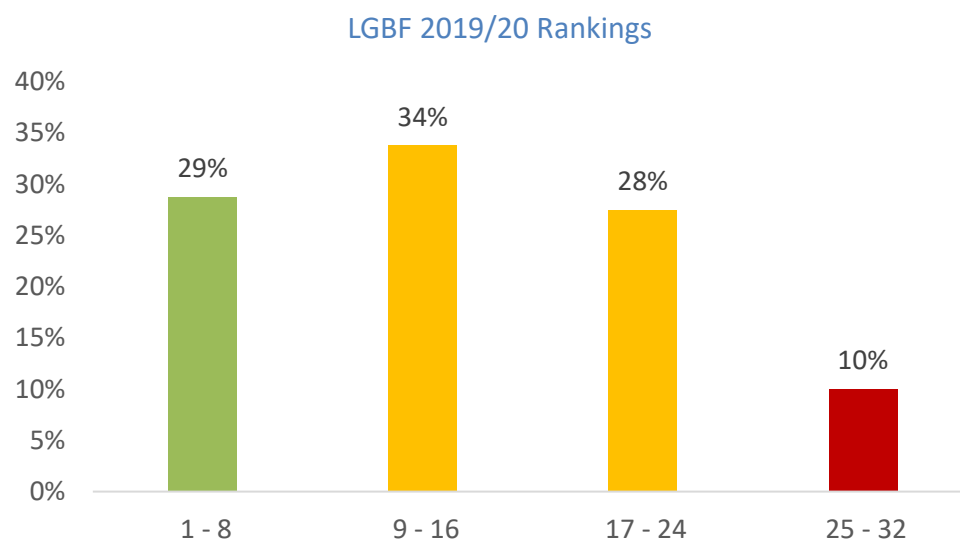
Performance compared to Scotland

- 4.4 The chart below shows a comparison to the national average for 2019/20. 70% (56) of indicators performed better than the national average, while 29% (23) did not perform as well as the Scottish average.



LGBF Rankings

- 4.5 The chart below shows that 29% (23) indicators were in the top eight Councils in Scotland. 61% (29) were in the middle rankings of Councils in Scotland and 10% (8) were in the bottom eight Councils in Scotland.



- 4.6 The appendix details each of the indicators within the themes. Data for 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20 is provided, along with the 2019/20 figure for Scotland and each ranking. Narrative on each of the themes is also given.

Reference	Indicator
SCHN1	Cost per primary school pupil
SCHN2	Cost per secondary school pupil
SCHN4	Attainment of all Children in S4
SCHN6	Attainment at S4 of children who live in deprived areas.
SCHN12a	Overall Average Total Tariff
SCHN12b	Average Total Tariff SIMD Quintile 1
SCHN12c	Average Total Tariff SIMD Quintile 2
SCHN12d	Average Total Tariff SIMD Quintile 3
SCHN12e	Average Total Tariff SIMD Quintile 4
SCHN12f	Average Total Tariff SIMD Quintile 5
SENV2a	Net waste disposal cost per premises
SCORP 1	Support services as a % of total gross expenditure*
SCORP 4	The cost per dwelling of collecting Council Tax*
SCORP 6a	Sickness absence days per teacher*
SCORP 8	Percentage of invoices sampled that were paid within 30 days*
SFINSUS2	Uncommitted General Fund Balance as a % of council annual budgeted net revenue
SFINSUS3	Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream
SHSN3	% of council dwellings that meet the Scottish Housing Quality Standard
SHSN4b	Average time taken to complete non-emergency repairs*
SHSN5	Percentage of council houses that are energy efficient*
SECON3	Average time taken to deliver a commercial planning application decision
SECON7	Proportion of people earning less than the living wage*
SECON8	Proportion of properties receiving superfast broadband*

**denotes Corporate / Business Plan Performance Indicator*

Top Ranking Indicators

4.7 The following indicators are ranked 1 to 8 in Scotland.

Bottom Ranking Indicators

4.8 The following indicators are ranked between 25 to 32 in Scotland:

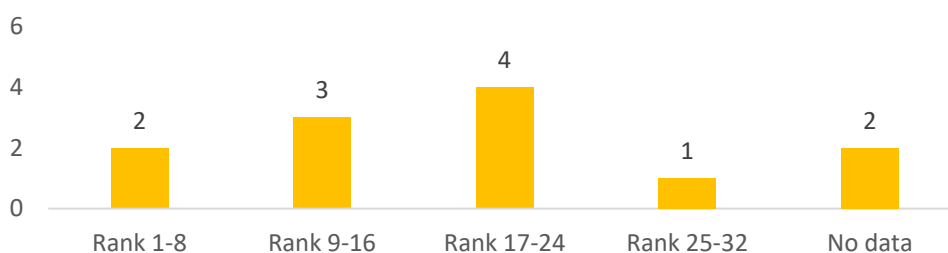
Reference	Indicator
SSW6	Rate of readmission to hospital within 28 days per 1,000 discharges
SSW8	Number of days people spend in hospital when they are ready to be discharged, per 1,000 population (75+)
SC&L1	Cost per attendance of sport and leisure facilities (including swimming pools)
SC&L2	Cost per visit to libraries
SC&L3	Cost per visit to museums and galleries
SENV7a	% of adults satisfied with refuse collection*
SCORP 3b	The percentage of the highest paid 5% employees who are women
SECON9	Town Vacancy Rates*

**denotes Corporate / Business Plan Performance Indicator*

How these link to our Corporate Plan Priorities

- 4.9 The Executive agreed the LGBF indicators to monitor the Corporate Plan in November 17th November 2020. 24 of the LGBF indicators underpin the performance measures in place for our Corporate Plan and Business Plan and span each of our priorities. Details of progress is below.

Communities (12 indicators)



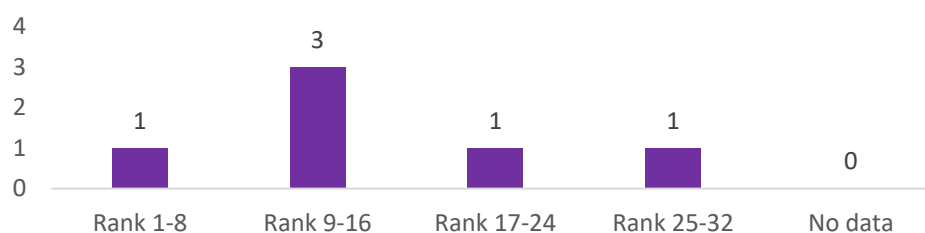
Communities indicators in top ranking:

Ref	Indicator	Falkirk 2019/20	Scotland 2019/20
SHSN4b	Average time taken to complete non-emergency repairs	5.55	7.33
SHSN5	Percentage of council houses that are energy efficient	96.37%	84.1%

Communities indicator in bottom ranking:

Ref	Indicator	Falkirk 2019/20	Scotland 2019/20
SENV7a	% of adults satisfied with refuse collection	62.23%	74.30%

Enterprise (6 indicators)

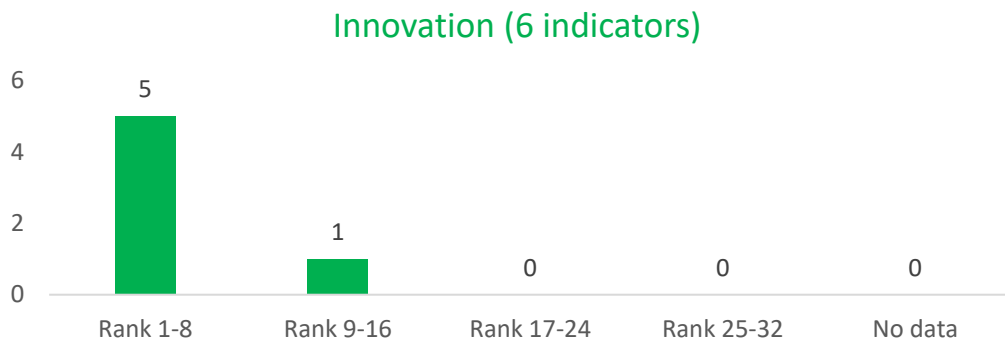


Enterprise indicator in top ranking:

Ref	Indicator	Falkirk 2019/20	Scotland 2019/20
SECON7	Proportion of people earning less than the living wage	15.2%	16.9%

Enterprise indicator in bottom ranking:

Ref	Indicator	Falkirk 2019/20	Scotland 2019/20
SECON9	Town Vacancy Rates	14.38%	11.71%



Innovation indicators in top ranking:

Ref	Indicator	Falkirk 2019/20	Scotland 2019/20
SCORP 1	Support services as a % of total gross expenditure	3.45%	4.07%
SCORP 4	The cost per dwelling of collecting Council Tax	£4.92	£6.58
SCORP 6a	Sickness absence days per teacher	4.88	6.4
SCORP 8	% of invoices sampled that were paid within 30 days	97.01%	91.72%
SECON8	Proportion of properties receiving superfast broadband	97.4%	93.27%

5. Benchmarking Family Groups

- 5.1 The Improvement Service usually holds annual national events for each service themes. Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic events were cancelled during 2020.

In February 2021, an event was held presenting the National Overview trends. This looked at financial pressures and policy progress and the impact of Covid-19 on LGBF measures. It also looked at resetting the LGBF strategic priorities for a post-Covid-19 world, this will be discussed over the next year by the Board and Steering Group.

We will initiate benchmarking independently on our priority areas that are not performing well within the LGBF this year. This will be reflected in the Council's Business Plan reported in May 2021.

6. Consultation

- 6.1 There is no requirement to carry out a consultation based on the report.

7. Implications

Financial

- 7.1 There are no financial implications arising.

Resources

- 7.2 There are no resource implications arising.

Legal

7.3 There are no legal implications arising.

Risk

7.4 There are no risk implications arising.

Equalities

7.5 There are no equalities implications arising.

Sustainability/Environmental Impact

7.6 There are no sustainability or environmental impact arising.

8. Conclusions

8.1 The report provided an overview of the 2019/20 LGBF data for Members' information.

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Director of Corporate & Housing Services

Date: 19 March 2021

Ref:

Contact Name: Michelle Duncan

Email: michelle.duncan@falkirk.gov.uk



Local Government Benchmark Framework

The Local Government Benchmarking Framework is based on seven overall service groupings which cover the major public-facing services provided to local communities and the support services. These groupings are;

1. Children's Services (Education and Child Care)
2. Adult Social Care
3. Environmental Services
4. Culture and Leisure
5. Housing
6. Corporate Support Services
7. Economic Development and Planning.

This report contains the 'Scotland Value' benchmark for each performance Indicator and its quartile position based on 'All Scottish Performance Indicators'.

This report includes three years performance data from 2017/18 to 2019/20.

Where there is no data for 2019/20, this will be released later in April by the Improvement Service.

Where there is no data for 2017/18 or 2018/19, these are new indicators or reported bi-annually.

Performance data for 2020/21 will be available early 2022.

The tables below have a new way of showing the quartiles four green bars means Falkirk is in the top eight councils, while a single red bar means Falkirk is at the bottom eight councils and the bottom quartile. The yellow bars indicate the middle, where we are close to the Scottish average. Three yellow bars mean we are in the higher quartile and two yellow bars means we are in the lower quartile.

Where an indicator underpins the priorities in the Corporate / Business Plan, these are coded in the reference column:

Communities

Enterprise

Innovation

1. Children's Services

Reference	Indicator	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20		All Scottish PIs
		Value	Value	Falkirk Value	Scotland Value	
SCHN1	Cost per primary school pupil	£4,581.78	£4,768.88	£5,149.78	£5,595.19	■■■■
SCHN2	Cost per secondary school pupil	£6,942.11	£7,171.95	£7,015.42	£7,531.35	■■■■
SCHN3	Cost per pre-school place	£5,692.58	£5,652.73	£6,891.41	£6,782.72	■■■■
SCHN4	Attainment of all Children in S4	66%	66%	68%	64%	■■■■
SCHN5	Attainment of all children at S6	35%	37%	38%	38%	■■■■
SCHN6	Attainment at S4 of children who live in deprived areas.	47%	46%	50%	47%	■■■■
SCHN7	Attainment at S6 of children who live in deprived areas.	18%	19%	22%	21%	■■■■
SCHN8a	The gross cost of "children looked after" in residential based services per child per week £	£4,197.24	£4,275.03			
SCHN8b	The gross cost of "children looked after" in a community setting per child per week £	£290.83	£343.82			
SCHN9	Balance of Care for looked after children: % of children being looked after in the Community	82.88%	82.27%			
SCHN10	% of Adults Satisfied with local schools	70%	68.07%	71.4%	71.83%	■■■■
SCHN11	Proportion of Pupils Entering Positive Destinations	94.6%	94.87%			
SCHN12a	Overall Average Total Tariff	957.23	951.16	1,000.33	929.18	■■■■
SCHN12b	Average Total Tariff SIMD Quintile 1	668	703	714	649	■■■■
SCHN12c	Average Total Tariff SIMD Quintile 2	788	748	830	759	■■■■
SCHN12d	Average Total Tariff SIMD Quintile 3	919	919	1,015	904	■■■■
SCHN12e	Average Total Tariff SIMD Quintile 4	1,023	1,213	1,197	1,029	■■■■
SCHN12f	Average Total Tariff SIMD Quintile 5	1,271	1,174	1,299	1,240	■■■■
SCHN13a	% of P1, P4 and P7 pupils combined achieving expected CFE Level in Literacy		72.03%			
SCHN13b	% of P1, P4 and P7 pupils combined achieving expected CFE Level in Numeracy		79.29%			
SCHN14a	Literacy Attainment Gap (P1,4,7 Combined) - percentage point gap between the least deprived and most deprived pupils		24.3%			
SCHN14b	Numeracy Attainment Gap (P1,4,7 Combined) - percentage point gap between the least deprived and		18.19%			

Reference	Indicator	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20		
		Value	Value	Falkirk Value	Scotland Value	All Scottish PIs
	most deprived pupils					
SCHN17	% of children meeting developmental milestones at their 27-30 month review	83.02%	83.18%			
SCHN18	% of funded Early Years Provision which is graded good or better	97.01%	98.51%	94.1%	90.2%	■■■■
SCHN19a	School Attendance Rates (per 100 pupils)		92.94%			
SCHN19b	School Attendance Rates for Looked After Children (per 100 Looked After Children)		88.22%			
SCHN20a	School Exclusion Rates (per 1000 pupils)		21.65			
SCHN20b	School Exclusion Rates for Looked After Children (per 1000 looked after children)		80.27			
SCHN21	Participation Rate for 16-19 year olds (per 100)	92.2%	92.3%	91.92%	92.13%	■■■■
SCHN22	% Child Protection Re-Registrations within 18 months	24.24%	3.91%			
SCHN23	% Looked After Children with more than one placement within the last year	26.63%	33.43%			

The Children's Services theme has 10 indicators that are within the top eight council's in Scotland. Attainment for all Children in S4 and S6 has increased and is above the Scottish average. Average tariff scores are also in the top eight councils in Scotland and this is followed for pupils in each SIMD quintile. Further to this, the attainment gap between pupils in the least deprived and most deprived is lower (585 points in Falkirk compared to 591 in Scotland).

Key	Rank
■■■■	1-8
■■■■	9-16
■■■■	17-24
■■■■	25-32

There is a delay in 14 indicators for children's services due to the academic year.

2 Adult Social Care

Reference	Indicator	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20		All Scottish PIs
		Value	Value	Falkirk Value	Scotland Value	
SSW1	Older Persons (Over65) Home Care Costs per Hour	£18.86	£22.65	£26.35	£26.13	
SSW2	Self-directed support spend for people aged over 18 as a % of total social work spend on adults	4.29%	5.23%	6.1%	8.99%	
SSW3a	% of people aged 65 and over with long-term care needs who receiving personal care at home	65.39%	65.14%	66.07%	61.65%	
SSW4b	% of adults supported at home who agree that their services and support had an impact in improving or maintaining their quality of life	78.31%		78.8%	80.03%	
SSW4c	% of adults supported at home who agree that they are supported to live as independently as possible	82.53%		79.16%	80.78%	
SSW4d	% of adults supported at home who agree that they had a say in how their help, care or support was provided	75.99%		78.6%	75.43%	
SSW4e	% of carers who feel supported to continue in their caring role	37.29%		36.58%	34.28%	
SSW5	The Net Cost of Residential Care Services per Older Adult (+65) per Week	£327.00	£330.00	£367.00	£401.46	
SSW6	Rate of readmission to hospital within 28 days per 1,000 discharges	121.29	117.38	122.07	104.69	
SSW7	Proportion of care services graded good or better	85.71%	80.61%	82.35%	81.83%	
SSW8	Number of days people spend in hospital when they are ready to be discharged, per 1,000 population (75+)	910.19	1,177.9	1,020.14	773.78	

Indicators in Adult Social Care show that there has been an increase in the percentage of people aged 65+ with long terms needs receiving personal care at home, above the Scottish level. The percentage of those who agree they had a say in how their care was provided has increased and is above the national average, however, there has been a decrease in the percentage who agree that they are supported to live as independently as possible.

The proportion of care service rated good or better increased from 2018/19 and is slightly above the national average, but is lower than the 2017/18 score.

Delayed discharges are significantly higher than the Scottish rate and the rate of hospital readmissions are considerably higher than the Scottish rate. Both of these indicators are in the worst eight in Scotland.

Key	Rank
	1-8
	9-16
	17-24
	25-32

3. Culture & Leisure

Reference	Indicator	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20		All Scottish PIs
		Value	Value	Falkirk Value	Scotland Value	
SC&L1	Cost per attendance of sport and leisure facilities (including swimming pools)	£4.44	£4.32	£3.89	£2.71	
SC&L2	Cost per visit to libraries	£4.14	£4.08	£5.58	£2.00	
SC&L3	Cost per visit to museums and galleries	£10.21	£7.90	£7.64	£3.27	
SC&L4	Cost of Parks and Open Spaces per 1,000 of the Population	£20,814.51	£18,062.04	£17,844.49	£20,107.08	
SC&L5a	% of adults satisfied with libraries	76.00%	69.30%	69.97%	72.37%	
SC&L5b	% of adults satisfied with parks and open spaces	88.67%	82.33%	80.00%	83.50%	
SC&L5c	% of adults satisfied with museums and galleries	59.00%	53.13%	58.80%	69.30%	
SC&L5d	% of adults satisfied with leisure facilities	77.33%	74.33%	72.67%	70.10%	

This theme consists of four cost indicators and four satisfaction indicators. There has been a reduction and therefore improvement for three cost indicators, however, satisfaction increase for satisfaction with libraries and museums & galleries, and decreased for satisfaction for parks & open spaces and leisure facilities. We have considerably higher costs for sport and leisure facilities, libraries and museums & galleries compared with Scotland.

Key	Rank
	1-8
	9-16
	17-24
	25-32





4. Environmental Services
















Reference	Indicator	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20		
		Value	Value	Falkirk Value	Scotland Value	All Scottish PIs
SENV1a	Net cost of Waste collection per premise	£66.53	£64.46	£54.15	£68.77	
SENV2a	Net waste disposal cost per premises	£80.06	£77.51	£64.58	£98.65	
SENV3a	Cost of street cleaning per 1,000 population	13202	14721	14445	15440	
SENV3c	Street Cleanliness Score	89.50	91.10	90.84	92.25	
SENV4a	Road cost per kilometre	£10,124.52	£10,988.02	£8,742.43	£11,262.46	
SENV4b	% of Class A roads that should be considered for maintenance treatment 10-12	29.3%	25.63%	28.7%	30.57%	
SENV4c	% of Class B roads that should be considered for maintenance treatment 10-12	42.09%	35.28%	31.69%	34.96%	
SENV4d	% of Class C roads that should be considered for maintenance treatment 10-12	40.23%	36.54%	34.23%	35.14%	
SENV4e	Percentage of Unclassified roads that should be considered for maintenance treatment	37.45%	37.75%	39.16%	37.83%	
SENV5	Cost of trading standards and environmental health per 1,000 population	£21,332.67	£21,760.01	£18,006.09	£19,722.88	
SENV5a	Cost of trading standards per 1,000 population	£6,623.67	£7,066.37	£6,749.95	£5,951.53	
SENV5b	Cost of environmental health per 1,000 population	£15,734.49	£15,225.27	£11,256.14	£13,771.35	
SENV6	% of total household waste that is recycled	55.9%	50.8%	53.02%	44.85%	
SENV7a	% of adults satisfied with refuse collection	69.00%	64.90%	62.23%	74.30%	
SENV7b	% of adults satisfied with street cleaning	71.33%	63.93%	60.60%	62.63%	

Appendix 1

Cost for waste disposal has improved and is in the top eight in Scotland. We have also reduced the cost of waste collection over the three-year period and are lower than the Scottish average. The percentage of household waste recycled is considerably higher than the Scottish average (53.02% compared to 44.85%), however satisfaction with refuse collection is low at 62.23% and in the lowest eight in Scotland.

We have reduced the cost of road maintenance from £10,124 in 2017/18 to £8,742 in 2019/20 (compared to £11,262 in Scotland). While reducing costs, the percentage of B Class and C Class roads that should be considered for treatment has reduced. The percentage of A Class roads that should be considered for treatment has increased from 25.63% to 28.7% from 2018/19 to 2019/20 and is lower than the Scottish rate of 30.57%.

Key	Rank
	1-8
	9-16
	17-24
	25-32

Reference	Indicator	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20		
		Value	Value	Falkirk Value	Scotland Value	All Scottish PIs
SCLIM1	CO2 emissions area wide per capita	14.85	14.93			
SCLIM2	CO2 emissions area wide: emissions within scope of LA per capita	4.82	4.77			
SCORP 1	Support services as a % of total gross expenditure	3.25%	3.15%	3.45%	4.07%	
SCORP 4	The cost per dwelling of collecting Council Tax	£6.89	£6.76	£4.92	£6.58	
SCORP 3b	The percentage of the highest paid 5% employees who are women	48.83%	49.33%	48.55%	56.74%	
SCORP 3c	The gender pay gap	4.05%	5.19%	4.6%	3.42%	
SCORP 6a	Sickness absence days per teacher	4.49	4.68	4.88	6.4	
SCORP 6b	Sickness Absence Days per Employee (excluding teachers)	11.24	10.43	11.64	11.93	
SCORP 7	Percentage of income due from council tax received by the end of the year	96.62%	96.64%	96.42%	95.76%	
SCORP 8	Percentage of invoices sampled that were paid within 30 days	95.80%	96.31%	97.01%	91.72%	
SCORP-ASSET1	Proportion of operational buildings that are suitable for their current use	87.46%	87.73%	87.55%	82.47%	
SCORP-ASSET2	Proportion of internal floor area of operational buildings in satisfactory condition	88.7%	90.15%	90.21%	88.62%	
SFINSUS1	Total useable reserves as a % of council annual budgeted net revenue	13%	12%	10%	16.87	
SFINSUS2	Uncommitted General Fund Balance as a % of council annual budgeted net revenue	4%	3%	3%	3.80	
SFINSUS3	Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream	5	5	3	7.20	
SFINSUS4	Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream - Housing Revenue Account	17	19	20	22.56	
SFINSUS5	Actual overrun as a percentage of budgeted expenditure	99%	99.9%	100.9%	99.35	

Appendix 1

We have six indicators in the top quartile; support services as a percentage of gross expenditure, cost per dwelling of collecting Council Tax, invoices paid within 30 days, uncommitted General Fund Balance as a percentage of annual budgeted net revenue and the ration of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream.

This theme contains seven new indicators, two on CO2 emissions and five on financial sustainability.

Key	Rank
■■■■	1-8
■■■□	9-16
■■□□	17-24
■□□□	25-32

6. Housing

Reference	Indicator	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20		
		Value	Value	Falkirk Value	Scotland Value	All Scottish PIs
SHSN1b	Gross rent arrears (all tenants) as at 31 March each year as a percentage of rent due for the reporting year	7.70%	8.09%	8.42%	7.31%	
SHSN2	% of council rent that was lost due to houses remaining empty	0.91%	1.04%	1.31%	1.07%	
SHSN3	% of council dwellings that meet the Scottish Housing Quality Standard	97.42%	97.73%	97.78%	94.86%	
SHSN4b	Average time taken to complete non-emergency repairs	7.97	6.79	5.55	7.33	
SHSN5	Percentage of council houses that are energy efficient	91.13%	95.61%	96.37%	84.1%	

Three indicators are in the top eight in Scotland. The percentage of houses that meet the Scottish Housing Quality Standards; the percentage of council homes that are energy efficient and the average time taken to complete non-emergency repairs. Performance has also improved in each of these.

Rent arrears has increased from 2017/18 to 2019/20 from 7.7% to 8.42% and is higher than the national average of 7.31%.

The percentage of rent lost due to empty houses has increased from 0.91% in 2017/18 to 1.31% in 2019/20 and is higher than the national average of 1.07%.

Key	Rank
	1-8
	9-16
	17-24
	25-32

7. Economic Development

Reference	Indicator	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20		
		Value	Value	Falkirk Value	Scotland Value	All Scottish PIs
SECON1	% Unemployed People Assisted into work from Council operated / funded Employability Programmes	22.12%	24.26%	14.45%	12.66%	
SECON2	Cost per planning application	£4,623.84	£4,636.90	£4,960.66	£4,385.33	
SECON3	Average time taken to deliver a commercial planning application decision	8.96	8.1	7.14	10.54	
SECON4	% of procurement spend spent on local enterprises	32.17%	32.34%	33.00%	28.51%	
SECON5	No of business gateway start-ups per 10,000 population	17.61	19.33	19.77	16.41	
SECON6	Cost of Economic Development & Tourism per 1,000 population	59,482.12	72,139.55	54,882.22	103,193.67	
SECON7	Proportion of people earning less than the living wage	20.4%	18.9%	15.2%	16.9%	
SECON8	Proportion of properties receiving superfast broadband	95.59%	96.7%	97.4%	93.27%	
SECON9	Town Vacancy Rates	11.94%	14.38%	14.38%	11.71%	
SECON10	Immediately available employment land as a % of total land allocated for employment purposes	58.87	58.87	58.87	36.23	

There are three indicators in the top eight councils for this theme. The average time taken to deliver a commercial planning application decision, the proportion of people earning less than the living wage and the proportion of properties receiving superfast broadband.

Town vacancy rates are higher than the national rate and in the lowest eight councils in Scotland.

Procurement spend in local enterprises has continued to increase to 33%, and is higher than the national rate of 28.51%. The rate of business gateway start-ups has also increased to 19.77 per 1,000 population compared to 16.41 per 1,000 population in Scotland.

Key	Rank
	1-8
	9-16
	17-24
	25-32