



SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL

# PERFORMANCE REPORT

## Annual Performance Report 2024/25



Clean, green future



Fulfilling our  
potential



Strong inclusive  
economy, transport  
and infrastructure



Empowered, vibrant  
communities



Good health and  
wellbeing



Working together  
improving lives

# Introduction



The Annual Performance Report presents a summary of the Scottish Borders Council's performance information for the period April 2024 to March 2025.

The Council has set out in its plan six outcomes that it seeks to achieve, shown in the image below.

For each outcome the report summarises the Council's position against:

- The milestones that were set out to be achieved this year
- The organisation's performance indicators (quarterly)
- The organisation's performance indicators (annually from LGBF)
- How the Council compares against other local authorities in Scotland

## The Outcomes We Seek to Achieve



Clean, green future



Empowered, vibrant communities



Fulfilling our potential



Strong inclusive economy, transport and infrastructure



Good health and wellbeing



Working together improving lives

The operating environment for the Council continues to be very challenging. The Council is faced with a number of financial and economic influences such as increasing demands on services, increasing costs and higher interest rates and wider labour market factors affecting the Council's ability to recruit to fill key vacancies in a number of areas.

New digital innovations, business process re-engineering and technology solutions continue to be pursued in order for the Council to deliver vital services to the community as efficiently and effectively as possible.

The current operating environment also presents many opportunities for the Scottish Borders, including continued ever closer working with the NHS, South of Scotland Enterprise (SOSE), the Edinburgh and South East Scotland Regional City Deal and the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal. These initiatives combined with the Council's planned investment in infrastructure of the Borders and our annual procurement spend provide huge opportunities for economic growth and the creation of high quality employment in the South of Scotland. The Council will continue to work with our all community planning partners and National Government to ensure we maximise this potential for our communities.

The Council has continued to progress its Performance Management Framework throughout 2024/25. Work continues on developing a revised suite of performance indicators, and increasing the use of benchmarking. Business intelligence dashboards continue to be developed and adopted to enhance use of data within the organisation.

For more detailed information on any of the information contained in this report please visit the Council's [Performance](#) pages.

# How to Use



The Annual Performance Report consists of four sections:

**Summary:** This gives an overview of all our performance and then a high level summary of our performance for each of our desired outcomes.

**Milestones:** This gives a more detailed summary of the milestones we set out to achieve for the year, and whether we achieved them or not.

**Indicators (Quarterly):** This gives a summary of performance against our indicators for each quarter of the year.

**Indicators (Annual – LGBF):** This gives a summary of performance against the annual indicators published by the Local Government Benchmarking Framework. Please note that these indicators are often a year behind our quarterly indicators due to publishing timescales.

**Comparison Against Others (LGBF):** This gives an overview of how we compare against other Scottish Local Authorities using the most recent data available.

We have used two icons throughout the document to allow you to navigate quickly between the summary and more detailed information:



If you click on the magnifying glass icon you will be taken to more detail about this area.



If you click on the home icon you will be taken back to the higher level summary.

Throughout the document we use the following colours to represent our view on our performance:

## Indicators

	There has been a notable improvement, or the data indicates an excellent position
	There has been no significant change since the previous review, and progress is positive or satisfactory
	There has been a notable reduction in performance, or the data suggests a position that we will be focusing on for improvement
<i>i</i>	The indicator shows data for information purposes only

## Comparison Against Others

	Excellent
	Similar to others
	Focus for Consideration

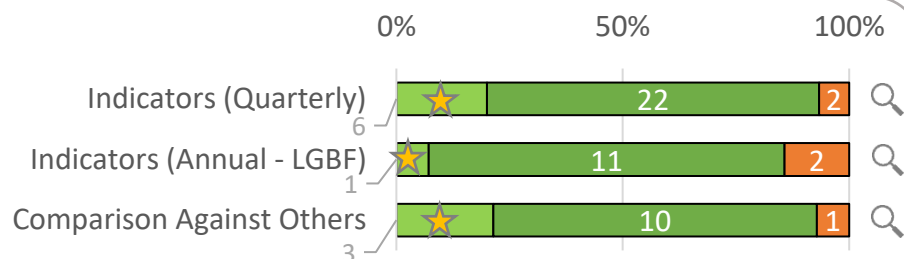
# Summary



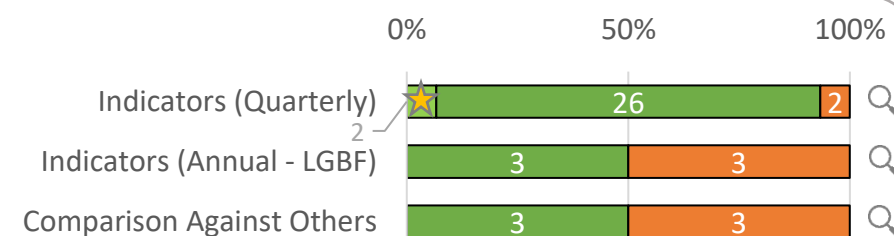
A summary of performance against each outcome is shown by milestones achieved, Indicators (both quarterly and annual) and comparison against other Local Authorities in Scotland. Bright green with a star shows areas where performance has been excellent. Green reflects areas that are positive/satisfactory. Orange indicates areas that have been challenging or, in the case of comparisons against others, areas where it's worthwhile considering why we differ from others.



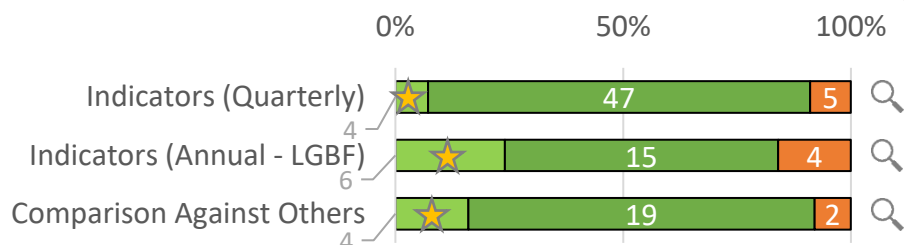
Clean, green future



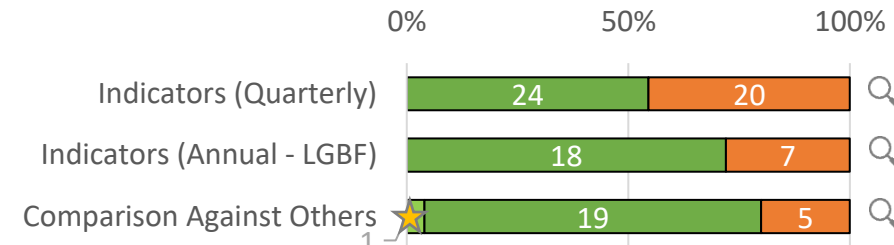
Empowered, vibrant communities



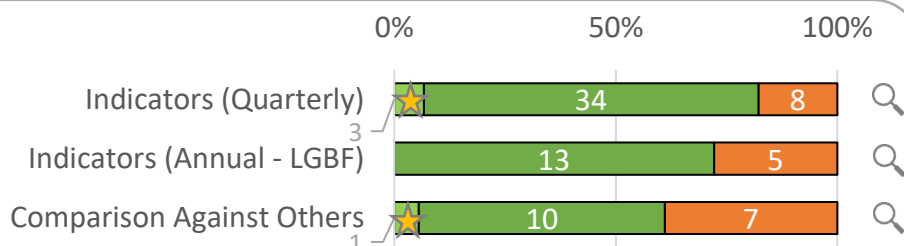
Fulfilling our potential



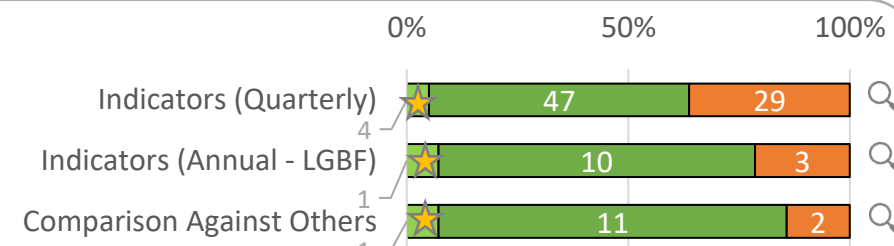
Good health and wellbeing



Strong inclusive economy, transport and infrastructure



Working together improving lives



# CLEAN GREEN FUTURE

**PRIORITY:** Accelerate action to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change and extreme weather.



## Summary of Performance



### Milestones

The majority of milestones that were set out for 24/25 have been met. Positive progress has been made on:

- Flood Prevention
- Wildflower sites
- Reduction of greenhouse gasses.
- In-cab technology for the Waste Collection Fleet
- Energy Efficiency Strategy Area Based Schemes (EES:ABS)
- Borderlands Energy Programme.



### Indicators



Water Consumption and LPG are both performing at an Excellent Level.



Although the household recycling rate and the rate of household waste sent to landfill were both performing well, they have each had a dip in performance in Q4. This dip was expected due to the introduction of new legislation which requires upholstered domestic seating to be sent for incineration instead of being recycled. The decrease can also be attributed to operational issues at the treatment facility which the municipal residual waste is sent to



The percentage of adults satisfied with street cleaning remained consistent between 22/23 and 23/24 as did the street cleanliness score of 94%.



### Comparison with Others



Scottish Borders is now ranked 2nd in Scotland for Recycling at 58% and is both above the national (44%) and family group (37%).



Proportion of adults satisfied with refuse collection well above the Scotland and Family Group average.



The cost of parks & open spaces per 1,000 population is higher in the Borders than in our Family Group and in Scotland. Work continues better understand the differences.



Satisfaction with Parks & Open Spaces in the Scottish Borders, which is slightly better than Scotland and Family Group



CO2 emissions within the scope of the Local Authority were the same as the average for our Family Group.



# FULFILLING OUR POTENTIAL

**PRIORITY:** Empower schools and their communities to deliver a high-quality education focused on excellence, equity, wellbeing and improved outcomes for children, young people, and families.



## Summary of Performance



### Milestones

The majority of the milestones were met or partially met in the specified quarter. This includes:

- Targeting additional resources where the poverty related attainment gap is greatest
- Increasing the proportion of 16-19 year olds participating in education, employment or training
- Sustaining the percentage of school leavers entering a positive destination
- Improving outcomes for children and young people with Additional Support Needs

Milestones not achieved and work will continue in areas including:

- Increasing the number of qualifications available to senior phase pupils
- Increasing the proportion of Care Experience school leavers attaining 5 or more SCQF awards



### Indicators



The number of Modern Apprentices currently employed by SBC remains high and is positive.



The average school attendance across primary schools is now showing as an Excellent level.



The number of exclusion incidents and pupils excluded for the total of Primary and Secondary Schools are reducing but still below the target and are a focus of improvement



Both the Numeracy and Literacy Attainment Gap has narrowed between 22/23 and 23/24.



The participation rate for 16-19 year olds has improved between 22/23 and 23/24 which is positive.



### Comparison with Others



The percentage of Pupils Gaining 5+ Awards at Level 6 is higher in our region than it is in our Family Group or with Scotland.



The Scottish Borders P1, P4, P7 Literacy Gap reduced to 22.4%, slightly better than the family group (22.93%) but higher than the national average (20.4%)



The Scottish Borders P1, P4, P7 Numeracy Gap has reduced significantly to 17.47%, lower (better) than the family group (19.98%) and in line with the national average (17.41%).



Proportion of pupils entering positive destinations and Participation rate for 16-19-year-olds (%) in the Scottish Borders is slightly higher than Scotland and Family Group.





# STRONG INCLUSIVE ECONOMY, TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

**PRIORITY:** Deliver the key economic development programmes for our region - the **South of Scotland Regional Economic Strategy, Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal** and the **Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal and Regional Prosperity Framework** – making our economy stronger, greener and more sustainable.



## Summary of Performance



### Milestones

The majority of milestones set out for 23/24 have been met or partially met. These have included:


- Completion of a Bus Network Review
- A new Events and Tourism strategy has been delivered
- Funding secured for a Business Case and Feasibility study on the extension to the Borders Railway
- Developing the Levelling Up partnership


Milestones not achieved include:


- A Regional Intelligence Hub remaining as an aspirational proposal
- The electrification of the Borders Railway has been postponed by the Scottish Government







### Indicators

 The Occupancy Rates of Industrial and Commercial Units has remained at a consistent level throughout the financial year.


 There has been an Excellent performance in the monetary gain for financial cases closed in year and a significant increase since the previous year.


 There has been an increase throughout the year of Capital Projects with and Amber RAG status. Steps are being taken to address this.


 Proportion of properties receiving superfast broadband has increased between 22/23 and 23/24. 



 The percentage of Class A & B roads that should be considered for maintenance treatment has increased by 2% since the previous measurement period. 

### Comparison with Others

 Scottish Borders has lower average time to process business and industry planning applications than our Family Group and the Scottish average.

 Scottish Borders consistently has a lower GVA compared to the family group and Scotland. SBC has limited influence on this indicator, although SBC and partners are supporting growth through the Regional Economic Strategy.

 Claimant Count as a % of Working Age Population and % of 16-24 Population is similar to Scotland and Family Group.

 SBC spent less on road network compared to this previous year. This has been compounded by the inflationary impact on the cost of works. These two factors are impacting overall condition of the network. 

# EMPOWERED VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

**PRIORITY:** Support communities and empower people to achieve strong, active, resilient and sustainable communities and to realise opportunities for improving people's lives.



## Summary of Performance



### Milestones

All milestones were either met or partially met with the majority being complete.

Positive progress has been made on:

- Refreshing the Ant-Poverty Strategy
- Updating the Child Poverty Report
- Supporting Communities with developing place plans, community-led plans, associated investment plans and asset transfers
- Supporting the process of electing Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament
- Supporting the elected Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament in their roles
- Reviewing the Council's estate



### Indicators



The number of both Active and Progressing Resilience Plans have remained consistent over 24/25 which is Excellent.



The number of people carrying out volunteer work with SBC has been at a good level for all of 24/25.



The cost per attendance at sports facilities has reduced between the previous reporting period of 22/23 and 23/24.



However, the percentage of adults satisfied with leisure facilities has also reduced.



### Comparison with Others



The cost to attend at sports facilities, libraries, museums & galleries in the region is lower than that of both the Family Group and Scotland averages.



However, the percentage of adults satisfied with leisure facilities, libraries, museums & galleries is also lower in the Scottish Borders than in the Family Group or Scotland.





# GOOD HEALTH AND WELLBEING

**PRIORITY:** Ensure the people of the Scottish Borders have the opportunities and are supported to take control of their health and wellbeing, enjoying a high quality of life.



## Summary of Performance



### Milestones

All milestones were either met or partially met and positive progress can be seen in the following areas:

- Supporting the MacMillan Improving Cancer Journey joint partnership venture
- Developing Social Prescribing across the Borders
- Development of Early Intervention/ Intensive Family Support Teams
- Commissioning of an independent advocacy service for all children and young people aged up to 26 years of age
- The use of Technology Enabled Care has increased



### Indicators



There has been a consistently positive number of domestic abuse cases at a Multi Agency Risk Assessment Case Conference.



We continue to have a higher number of Looked After Children, and Looked After Children in residential placements than we would like.



There continues to be a high number of bed days associated with delayed discharges in residents aged 75+.



There has been an increase between 22/23 and 23/24 in the percentage of adults supported at home who agree that their services and support had an impact in improving or maintaining their quality of life



### Comparison with Others



Scottish Borders continue to have a higher proportion of adults choosing a direct payment or a mixed package of care compared to family group and Scotland.



% of SWF Crisis Grant decisions within 1 day and % of SWF Community Care Grant decisions within 15 days in the Scottish Borders continues to be higher than Scotland despite high demand.



Scottish Borders Council has a lower proportion of children being looked after in the community compared to Scotland and their Family Group. It is expected that the Out of Authority Placement Project will align SBC with the Family Group and Scotland.



# WORKING TOGETHER, IMPROVING LIVES

**PRIORITY:** Ensure that Scottish Borders Council is effective, sustainable, responsive and aligned to the needs and priorities of our communities.



## Summary of Performance



### Milestones

The majority of milestones set out in 24/25 have been met. Positive progress includes:

- The implementation of new Career Pathways across SBC Services
- A strategy is being developed along with clear policies for the use of AI
- An ongoing programme for upskilling SBC staff in digital skills has been developed
- An Integrated Workforce Plan to enhance joint staff development arrangements with NHS Borders has been developed and implemented

Milestones not achieved and work will continue in areas including:

- Developing a blueprint for a 'Smart Rural Region'



### Indicators



The percentage of invoices that we pay with 30 days had been consistently Excellent over 24/25.



Our staff turnover rate has remained consistent over the 24/25 and is within usual boundaries.



The time taken to respond to complaints is higher than we would like. This is a focus for improvement with steps being taken to make improvements.



We continue to look at streamlining the FOI process to ensure we can answer more FOIs on time.



The gender pay gap has decreased from 22/23 to 23/24.



The percentage of operational buildings that are suitable for their current use has decreased again from 22/23 to 23/24.



### Comparison with Others



The percentage of invoices sampled that were paid within 30 days was higher in the Scottish Borders than the average of our Family Group or Scotland.



The percentage of internal floor area of operational buildings in satisfactory condition is lower in our region than in our Family Group or Scotland.



The Scottish Borders sickness absence days per teacher and Sickness absence days for non-teachers is similar to our Family Group and Scotland.



The Council remains financially stable, broadly inline with the Scottish average. The Family Group includes Island Councils which hold large reserves linked to Oil production and therefore are not considered to be comparable with SBC.





SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL

# PERFORMANCE REPORT

## Milestones Summary 2024/25



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# Introduction

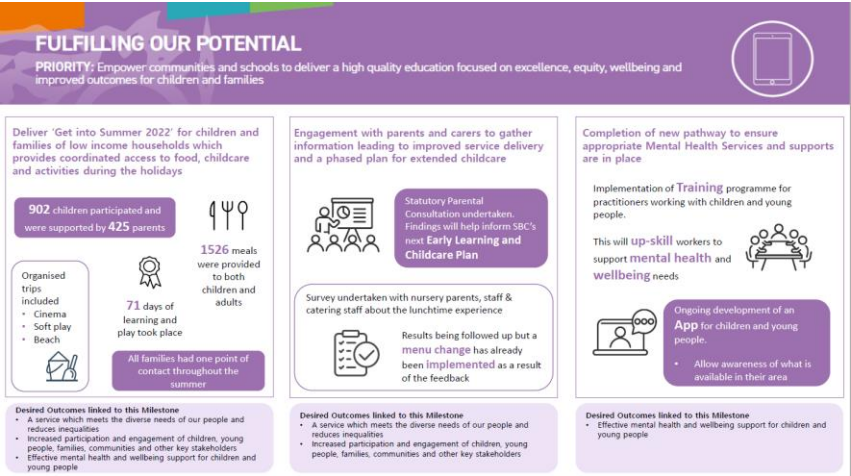


Scottish Borders Council published its 2024/25 Council Plan that set out the Council’s ambitions and priorities for the year ahead. It outlined what the Council wanted to achieve, and how it intended to do this.

A number of Key Milestones were outlined for 2024/25 that the Council aimed to achieve. This report summarises all the milestones that were set out for 2024/25, and whether they were achieved or not. The report is structured into the 6 themes of the Council Plan.

More detailed progress on the delivery of all of the milestones can be found in the Council’s Quarterly Performance Reports which are available on the Council’s [Performance](#) webpages.

## Example of Quarterly Report on Milestones



## Key Milestone Progress key

	Complete
	Mostly Complete
	Partially Complete
	Milestone not Met

# CLEAN GREEN FUTURE

**PRIORITY:** Accelerate action to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change and extreme weather.



Indicator	Quarter	Progress Made	Complete
Publish and begin implementation of a long-term Scottish Borders Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy, focused upon fuel poverty challenges, and opportunities for energy efficiency and renewable heat alternatives	Q2	✓	● Will continue to build on
Ensure the Council is on track to meet its emissions targets comprising: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An organisational target of Net Zero by 2045</li> <li>• A 20% reduction in fleet fossil fuel (petrol, diesel) consumption and a 20% reduction in business mileage where employees use their own car for work by 2024-2025</li> <li>• Develop a plan to address direct emissions associated with the Council's estate by 30 November 2024</li> </ul>	Q4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ✗</li> <li>• ✗</li> <li>• ✓</li> </ul>	<div> <div></div> </div> An estates plan is in development, but emissions and fossil fuel use targets have not been met
Working on a partnership basis within the South of Scotland and within the Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership, develop a South of Scotland route map to Net Zero with a focus on an initial 5-year action plan, and a complementary Scottish Borders regional approach to delivering emissions mitigation and climate-ready region.	Q4	✓	<div> <div></div> </div> Partly complete
Protect and increase the resilience of communities and infrastructure from climate change and extreme weather events through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delivery of flood protection and coastal change/adaptation schemes (Individual schemes are set out within the Localities Section of this Council Plan)</li> <li>• Increasing the number and supporting development of active Community Resilience Plans</li> <li>• Maximising the numbers of individuals signed up to SB Alerts</li> </ul>	Q4	✓	● Will continue to build on
Progress 'in-cab' technology for waste services, and a trade waste database to help make better informed decisions to support more efficient and effective service delivery	Q4	✓	●









Key: ● Complete ● Mostly Complete ● Partially Complete ✗ Milestone not Met



# CLEAN GREEN FUTURE

**PRIORITY:** Accelerate action to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change and extreme weather.



Indicator	Quarter	Progress Made	Complete
Working with Edinburgh and South-East Scotland City Region partners, complete a regional climate risk and opportunity assessment to include the Borders Economy and Infrastructure	Q4	✓	 Partly complete
Pilot the 'Recollect' web service and app to help the public to reduce, reuse and recycle by clarifying what can be reused or recycled, while providing notifications and bin collection dates.	Q4	✓	
Support the development of a Scottish Borders Climate Action Network of organisations and individuals to stimulate community action on climate resilience and greenhouse gas emissions reduction.	Q4	✓	
Deliver retrofit insulation and renewable heat systems to homes in the Scottish Borders under Energy Efficient Scotland Area-Based Schemes	Q4	✓	
Identify and facilitate a pilot programme of local energy investment opportunities for the Scottish Borders which can be progressed within the Borderlands Energy Masterplan	Q4	✓	
Submit Borderlands Business Cases to UK and Scottish Governments to support delivery of 6 Natural Capital pilot projects which aim to demonstrate innovation in land use management in the South of Scotland	Q4	✓	
Establish and expand wildflower sites to enhance and increase biodiversity and help connect people with nature	Q4	✓	
Together with partners, continue to deliver against targets set out within the Scottish Borders Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2018-2028	Q4	✓	












# FULFILLING OUR POTENTIAL

**PRIORITY:** Empower schools and their communities to deliver a high-quality education focused on excellence, equity, wellbeing and improved outcomes for children, young people, and families.



Indicator	Quarter	Progress Made	Complete
Develop a multi-agency children and young people's participation and engagement strategy, ensuring that the voices of children and young people across the Borders, in particular those with protected characteristics, are at the heart of our decision-making processes	Q2	✓	 Draft strategy complete & further version to be published later in year
Improve the performance in numeracy and literacy of children and young people in P1, P4, P7 and S3, as reflected in the Achievement of Curriculum for Excellence	Q3	✓	 Achieved for P1, P4, P7 but not for S3
Increase the attendance of care experienced learners in primary and secondary schools and the proportion of care experienced school leavers attaining 5 or more awards at any SCQF level	Q3 (Q4)	✓	 Partly complete Full data available in Q4
Target additional resources where the poverty related attainment gap is greatest by responding to the Scottish Attainment Challenge	Q3	✓	 Will continue to build on
Ensure that the best approaches to support neurodivergent learners are developed and shared, by ensuring that all staff have engaged with awareness training on neurodiversity and implement best practice	Q3	✓	 Partly complete Delivery due August 25
Increase the number of qualifications available to pupils in the senior phase, as part of a broader programme of actions designed to produce better pathways for young people from child to adulthood	Q3	✗	 No additional qualifications available but a broader selection available
Increase the proportion of 16-19 year olds participating in education, employment or training based on the Annual Participation Measure produced by Skills Development Scotland	Q3	✓	
Increase the proportion of school leavers attaining 1 or more awards at SCQF level 5 and 6*	Q3 (Q4)		✗ Moved to Q4
Sustain the percentage of school leavers entering a positive destination	Q3 (Q4)		✗ Moved to Q4







Key:  Complete  Mostly Complete  Partially Complete  Milestone not Met



# FULFILLING OUR POTENTIAL

**PRIORITY:** Empower schools and their communities to deliver a high-quality education focused on excellence, equity, wellbeing and improved outcomes for children, young people, and families.



Indicator	Quarter	Progress Made	Complete
Increase the proportion of school leavers attaining 1 or more awards at SCQF level 5 and 6*	Q4 (Q3)	✓	 Achieved for SCQF Level 6 but not Level 5
Increase the attendance of care experienced learners in primary and secondary schools and the proportion of care experienced school leavers attaining 5 or more awards at any SCQF level	Q4 (Q3)	✗	Attainment has not increased
Sustain the percentage of school leavers entering a positive destination	Q4	✓	
Implement the Respectful Relationships and Anti-Bullying Policy across all schools and settings	Q4	✓	
Improve outcomes for children and young people with Additional Support Needs by reviewing our processes and systems for allocations of resources, as well as our staffing structure to maximise partnership working	Q4	✓	 Will continue to build on
Increase service delivery and resource allocation at cluster level to ensure that decision-making sits at the heart of the community, notably, ensure that Early Learning and Childcare is embedded into a local delivery model	Q4	✓	 Progressing strategy
Develop a SBC Outdoor learning Strategy to ensure that children and young people in Borders Schools benefit from a consistent and high-quality wellbeing-focused approach to outdoor play and activity	Q4	✓	 Progress on delivery model but not service delivery & resource allocation

Key:  Complete  Mostly Complete  Partially Complete  Milestone not Met



# STRONG INCLUSIVE ECONOMY, TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

**PRIORITY:** Deliver the key economic development programmes for our region - the **South of Scotland Regional Economic Strategy, Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal** and the **Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal and Regional Prosperity Framework** – making our economy stronger, greener and more sustainable.



Indicator	Quarter	Progress Made	Complete
Complete the Bus Network Review of the Scottish Borders, with the objectives of designing a network which is based on community and business needs and supports increased use of public transport, and lower greenhouse gas emitting modes of travel	Q1	✓	<div></div>
With partners, promote the potential for inward investment within the Borders, focusing on the development of business space and housing, as part of the South of Scotland Inward Investment Strategy	Q3	✓	Ongoing piece of work
Working with partners, assess the feasibility of a Net-Zero accelerator hub to address green skills requirements in a variety of sectors and to grasp future green job opportunities, including in renewables, retrofit, agri-environment, wider land-use and nature restoration	Q3	✓	<div></div> Partly complete
Deliver a new Events and Tourism Strategy across 2024, informed by the South of Scotland (SoS) Responsible Tourism Strategy, the SoS Cycling Strategy, and Regional Events Strategy	Q4	✓	<div></div>
Working with Edinburgh and South-East Scotland City Region , support the development of a proposal for a Regional Intelligence Hub to develop data, analytical insights and expertise to support inclusive and evidence-informed policy-making on a regional scale	Q4	✗	Regional Intelligence Hub remains an aspirational proposal
Promote Community Wealth Building by maximising community benefits and enabling local businesses to access the opportunities offered by the Council's procurement programme, as part of a refreshed 2024/2025 Corporate Procurement Strategy; and by pursuing community benefits opportunities arising from onshore wind in conjunction with partners	Q4	✓	<div></div> Will continue to build on
Develop the Levelling Up Partnership, totalling £20m, in collaboration with UK and Scottish Governments to identify key investment opportunities within the region	Q4	✓	<div></div> Will continue to build on



# STRONG INCLUSIVE ECONOMY, TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

**PRIORITY:** Deliver the key economic development programmes for our region - the **South of Scotland Regional Economic Strategy, Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal** and the **Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal and Regional Prosperity Framework** – making our economy stronger, greener and more sustainable.



Indicator	Quarter	Progress Made	Complete
Implement our Digital Strategy and action plan, in collaboration with regional partners, maximising digital investment opportunities for the Borders to include areas lacking 4G coverage and promotion of 5G in connection with the Destination Tweed project, thus supporting our ambition of becoming a Smart Rural Region	Q4	✓	<div><div></div></div> Will continue to build on
Continue to advocate for the electrification of the 1st stage of the Borders Railway, and develop the business case for the extension of the Railway to Hawick and Carlisle	Q4	✓	<div><div></div></div> Progress on business case but potential electrification postponed
Develop a Local Access and Transport Strategy and Active Travel Delivery Plan, informed by the SoS Cycling Strategy, with the overarching aspiration being a fully integrated transport system between bus, rail and other transport modes across the region, supporting integration into bus and rail	Q4	✓	<div><div></div></div> Due to be heard at Council in Q1 2025/26
Implement a rural taxi-bus pilot funded through the Shared Prosperity Fund for three areas in the Scottish Borders, around Selkirk, Jedburgh and Newcastleton, to provide agile and cost-effective connections between rural areas and the identified towns	Q4	✓	<div><div></div></div> Only one taxi-bus service implemented
Continue to play a lead role in the delivery of Employability Support across the region, working with the Local Employability Partnership (LEP) to shape the delivery of support according to the needs of young people and adults across the region	Q4	✓	<div><div></div></div>



# EMPOWERED VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

**PRIORITY:** Support communities and empower people to achieve strong, active, resilient and sustainable communities and to realise opportunities for improving people's lives.



Indicator	Quarter	Progress Made	Complete
Update our evidence base, 'The Picture of Poverty', ensuring that we have an up to date understanding of the needs of people across the Borders	Q1	✓	● Will continue to build on
Produce a full refresh of the Council's Anti-Poverty Strategy, following partnership work and public consultation	Q2	✓	●
Produce an annual update of the Local Child Poverty report and action plan to guide further action on poverty	Q2	✓	●
Working with partners, seek to maximise the value and impact of community benefits arising from economic activity within the region, such as onshore and off-shore wind developments, Regional Growth Deals, other capital projects and economic activity	Q3	✓	● Will continue to build on
Support communities in the Borderlands target towns of Eyemouth, Galashiels, Hawick and Jedburgh to develop community-led plans and associated investment plans	Q4	✓	●
Support the additional 54 communities which have expressed an interest in developing place plans, to promote a partnership approach at the local level to create plans which can be endorsed and registered under planning regulations	Q4	✓	●
Implement the increase of £16,070 in the financial support to Community Councils to better enable them to serve their communities, and increase the resources available to festivals across the region (totalling £30,000), on an application basis, to help manage increased health and safety cost pressures in the delivery of events	Q4	✓	●
Embed a new and improved community engagement approach which facilitates communication between local communities and the Council, encourages young people to contribute, and is inclusive of all Borderers	Q4	✓	● Will continue to build on

Key: ● Complete ● Mostly Complete ● Partially Complete ✗ Milestone not Met



# EMPOWERED VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

**PRIORITY:** Support communities and empower people to achieve strong, active, resilient and sustainable communities and to realise opportunities for improving people's lives.



Indicator	Quarter	Progress Made	Complete
Support the process of electing Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament (MSYPs) every 2 years and support the elected MSYPs in their roles both locally and nationally thereby promoting and developing civic literacy and engagement for young people	Q4	✓	●
Refresh our website to improve communication and accessibility for the public	Q4	✓	◐ Will continue to build on
Implement the Scottish Borders Local Housing Strategy 2023-2028 with a view to delivering more homes, including affordable homes, in well designed, sustainable communities that increase opportunities for all, supporting personal independence, health and wellbeing, and address homelessness	Q4	✓	● Will continue to build on
Review the Council's estate with a view to delivering sustainable services from the right buildings in the right places	Q4	✓	●
Work with communities to empower them and build local capacity in support of asset transfers when they are a viable option, and enable the delivery of person-centred services in partnership with communities	Q4	✓	●
Establish a post to create a credit union in the Scottish Borders with the aim of providing sustainable and affordable credit to families and individuals	Q4	✓	●










# GOOD HEALTH AND WELLBEING

**PRIORITY:** Ensure the people of the Scottish Borders have the opportunities and are supported to take control of their health and wellbeing, enjoying a high quality of life.



Indicator	Quarter	Progress Made	Complete
Implement an Integrated Community Reablement Service, giving all service users the opportunity of up to 6 weeks' reablement support	Q1	✓	 Phases identified but work still to begin
Continue to provide support to the MacMillan Improving Cancer Journeys joint partnership venture, delivering good quality advice, information and emotional support to those diagnosed with cancer and their families	Q1	✓	Ongoing piece of work
Work in partnership to deliver 'Creating Hope in the Scottish Borders', the local three-year action plan for Mental Health Improvement and Suicide Prevention which aims to increase the number of people in good mental health at every age and stage of life and to reduce the number of suicide deaths in the Scottish Borders	Q1	✓	Ongoing piece of work
Develop social prescribing across the Scottish Borders to provide activity and projects which offer support to improve and maintain the health and wellbeing of the adult population and prevent unnecessary use of public funded health and social care services	Q1	✓	 Wrapped into larger Wellbeing Programme
Further develop and implement the Carers' Implementation Plan	Q1	✓	 Partially complete Development will continue
Development of an Early Intervention / Intensive Family Support Teams which operate across the Scottish Borders. These teams will offer holistic family support to families most in need of additional support	Q1	✓	 Plans complete & team to be operational later in year
Commission an independent advocacy service for all children and young people aged up to 26 years of age which will focus on those involved in formal processes within children's services	Q1	✓	 Plans complete & team to be operational later in year







Key:  Complete  Mostly Complete  Partially Complete  Milestone not Met



# GOOD HEALTH AND WELLBEING

**PRIORITY:** Ensure the people of the Scottish Borders have the opportunities and are supported to take control of their health and wellbeing, enjoying a high quality of life.



Indicator	Quarter	Progress Made	Complete
Develop the interface between SBC and NHS Occupational Therapy Staff, to ensure a coordinated approach to Occupational Therapy support	Q1	✓	 To be included in roles & service monitoring review
Develop a multi-agency Participation and Engagement Strategy for Children's Services. This will provide a framework for the development of participation, engagement and co-production with children, young people and their families	Q2	✓	
Increase the use of Technology Enabled Care and assistive equipment from the Community Equipment Store, enabling people to remain independent for as long as possible	Q2	✓	 Will continue to build on
Produce a partnership agreed Strategic Plan for young people and adults across the Borders giving a clear operational and commissioning direction to services for the next 3/5 years	Q4	✓	 Strategic Plan underway
Increase capacity by adopting a new approach to care at home delivery. This includes working collaboratively with care at home providers, focusing on a person's outcomes, the use of Technology or a provider being contracted on a block basis	Q4	✓	
Establish a corporate council commissioning framework which will ensure consistency in the approach to commissioning across all council areas and mean that services are planned and commissioned based on need and delivery of services ensures best value and better outcomes for the people using these services	Q4	✓	 Recommendation made to CMT









Key:  Complete  Mostly Complete  Partially Complete  Milestone not Met



# WORKING TOGETHER, IMPROVING LIVES

**PRIORITY:** Ensure that Scottish Borders Council is effective, sustainable, responsive and aligned to the needs and priorities of our communities.





Indicator	Quarter	Progress Made	Completed
Implement new Career Pathways across all SBC Services, to provide greater clarity for all staff on development opportunities in line with SBC's corporate direction	Q1	✓	
Develop a SBC Strategy & clear policies for Artificial Intelligence, to embrace opportunities, enhance service delivery and ensure maximum customer benefits	Q1	✓	 Full strategy to be completed
Develop ongoing programme of upskilling in Digital Skills for all SBC staff, empowering all staff to contribute to SBC's digital future operating model	Q2	✓	
Develop better information sharing systems and protocols, including deployment of Health Share jointly with NHS Borders	Q2	✓	 Planned updates to be implemented
Develop and implement an Integrated Workforce Plan to enhance joint staff development arrangements with NHS Borders	Q2	✓	
Complete Digital Transformation Programme in Protective Services, to facilitate more customer focused and responsive activity across various critical functions	Q3	✓	 Due to be completed by end of 2025
Improve visibility of all services by rolling out Business Intelligence, which will facilitate better service decision making, improved transparency on key performance, and increase quality assurance for customer delivery	Q3	✓	
Develop a blueprint for a 'Smart Rural Region' and for how SBC's Digital Strategy can be fully realised to deliver high quality digitally enabled services and innovation for SBC and its partners	Q3	✗	Work Paused due to Review of the Digital Transformation Programme
All service redesign activities will incorporate the principles set out in the new Customer Strategy and Community Engagement Strategy, so that the needs of SBC's customers are at the heart of all key service decisions and policy changes	Q4	✓	 Ongoing piece of work



# WORKING TOGETHER, IMPROVING LIVES

**PRIORITY:** Ensure that Scottish Borders Council is effective, sustainable, responsive and aligned to the needs and priorities of our communities.



Indicator	Quarter	Progress Made	Completed
Complete a programme of Transformation Change in partnership with Live Borders to develop excellent services, financial sustainability and clearer strategic outcomes.	Q4	✓	 Due to be heard at Council in Q1 2025/26
Redefine SBC’s Transformation Programme for the next 5 years, including the development and implementation of a new Operating Model, to ensure ongoing high service standards, financial sustainability and modernisation in a rapidly changing context. This will include developing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• a new SBC-wide strategy for commissioning services to ensure best value from all SBC spend.</li><li>• a strategy to maximise external funding opportunities for investment in the Scottish Borders.</li><li>• a review of all processes in order to streamline all SBC services towards better customer outcomes.</li><li>• a review, modernisation &amp; consolidation of all SBC’s estate to ensure financial and environmental sustainability, including clear partnership co-location options aligned with customer needs</li></ul>	Q4	✓	





SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL

# PERFORMANCE REPORT

## Indicators (Quarterly) 2024/25



Clean, green future



Fulfilling our potential



Strong inclusive economy, transport and infrastructure



Empowered, vibrant communities



Good health and wellbeing



Working together improving lives

# Introduction






Scottish Borders Council maintains a number of public performance indicators to demonstrate its performance. This report presents the Council's progress against the identified public performance indicators for the year. The report is structured into the 6 themes of the Council Plan.

For each theme, detail is provided on each performance indicator.

For more detailed information on any of the information contained in this report please visit the Council's [Performance](#) pages.

## Performance Indicators Key

	Excellent	There has been a notable improvement, or the data indicates an excellent position
	Positive/Satisfactory	There has been no significant change since the previous review, and progress is positive or satisfactory
	Focus for Improvement	There has been a notable reduction in performance, or the data suggests a position that we will be focusing on for improvement
<i>i</i>	Information Only	The indicator shows data for information purposes only

Each Performance Indicator has been given a status bar so that the performance for each quarter of the year can be seen.





# CLEAN GREEN FUTURE

**PRIORITY:** Accelerate action to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change and extreme weather.



Indicator	Status	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Annual Household Recycling Rate		56.52%	55.05%	53.84%	53.18%
Annual Household Waste Landfilled Rate		0.21%	0.21%	0.23%	2.69%
Annual Household Waste to Other Treatment		43.27%	44.74%	45.93%	44.13%
Annual Average Community Recycling Centre Recycling Rate		76.75%	75.51%	73.99%	72.99%
Electricity Consumption (kWh) <i>(annual rolling)</i> *		16,926,537	17,012,162	16,771,094	16,204,620
Gas Consumption (kWh) <i>(annual rolling)</i> *		24,746,804	25,365,556	25,290,782	25,189,815
Water Consumption (m3) <i>(annual rolling)</i>		192,626	188,785	172,751	171,251
Oil Consumption <i>(annual rolling)</i>		3,870,157	3,975,756	3,852,364	3,924,664
LPG (KWh) <i>(annual rolling)</i> *		553,779	520,666	501,082	485,655
Biomass (KWh) <i>(annual rolling)</i> *		967,053	1,021,407	819,842	739,999

\* Please Note that the Q2 figure had been reported as a quarterly figure and not as a Rolling Annual Figure. The revised figures are shown here.

Key: ★ Excellent ● Positive/Satisfactory ● Focus for Improvement ⓘ Information only



# FULFILLING OUR POTENTIAL

**PRIORITY:** Empower schools and their communities to deliver a high-quality education focused on excellence, equity, wellbeing and improved outcomes for children, young people, and families.



Indicator	Status	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Average primary school attendance rate		93.05%	96%	93%	94%
Average secondary school attendance rate		89.74%	94%	89%	90%
Average primary and secondary school attendance rate		91.4%	95%	91%	92%
Number of Exclusion Incidents – Primary Schools		11	Less than 5, more than zero*	18	12
How many primary school pupils were excluded?		9	Less than 5, more than zero*	15	11
Number of Exclusion Incidents - Secondary Schools		28	21	21	19
How many secondary school pupils were excluded?		28	20	21	19
Number of Exclusion Incidents – Primary and Secondary Schools		39	Between 21 and 25*	39	31
How many primary and secondary school pupils were excluded?		37	Between 21 and 24*	36	30
Number of Schools/Nurseries inspected per Quarter	<i>i</i>	9	2	4	2
New Modern Apprentices employed by SBC		4	8	15	14
Current Modern Apprentices employed within SBC		43	37	25	25
Modern Apprentices securing SBC employment after apprenticeship Cumulative Year to Date		1	4	15	16

\* Please note that the figure has not been published this quarter as the data could be identifiable

Key: ★ Excellent ● Positive/Satisfactory ● Focus for Improvement *i* Information only



# FULFILLING OUR POTENTIAL

**PRIORITY:** Empower schools and their communities to deliver a high-quality education focused on excellence, equity, wellbeing and improved outcomes for children, young people, and families.



Indicator	Status	2023/24	2024/25
Participation - Number of Learners	<div><div></div></div>	567	562
Participation - Number of learning programmes delivered	<div><div></div></div>	621	669
Achievement - Number of learning programmes that lead to outcomes of: Increased employability	<div><div></div></div>	38 *	57
Achievement - Number of learning programmes that lead to outcomes of: Increased health and wellbeing	<div><div></div></div>	186	187
Achievement - Number of learning programmes that lead to outcomes of: Increased skills	<div><div></div></div>	116	132
Achievement - Number of learning programmes that lead to outcomes of: Family outcomes	<div><div></div></div>	101	99
Progression - Number of learning programmes that lead to: Progression to employment, further learning, volunteering or participation in a community activity	<div><div></div></div>	113	151
Progression - Number of learning programmes that lead to: Accreditation (nationally recognised)	<div><div></div></div>	53	134

\* Please Note that this figure had been incorrectly reported as 229 in the Quarter 4 Report 2023/24 and Annual Report 2023/24. The revised figure is shown here.



# STRONG INCLUSIVE ECONOMY, TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

**PRIORITY:** Deliver the key economic development programmes for our region - the **South of Scotland Regional Economic Strategy, Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal** and the **Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal and Regional Prosperity Framework** – making our economy stronger, greener and more sustainable.



Indicator	Status	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
RAG status is "Green"		14	13	7	8
RAG status is "Amber"		2	3	3	4
RAG status is "Red"		2	2	2	2
Working age population (16 - 64) employment rate*	<i>i</i>	74.9%	73.1%	74.6%	Not yet available
Working age population (16 - 64) Claimant Count (including Universal Credit and JSA)	<i>i</i>	3.03%	3.23%	3.03%	3.13%
Working age population (18 - 24) Claimant Count (including Universal Credit and JSA)	<i>i</i>	4.47%	4.83%	4.53%	4.8%
Financial Inclusion - Number of People referred in the quarter		303	314	352	470
Financial Inclusion - Monetary Gain for cases closed in the quarter		£954,015	£1,124,623	£891,212	£1,619,315
Financial Inclusion - Cumulative Monetary Gain for cases closed in the year to date		£954,015	£2,078,638	£2,969,850	£4,589,164
Housing Benefit - New Claims (Avg No. of Days to process)		15.48	13.94	16.79	22.21
Housing Benefit - Change Events (Avg No. of Days to process)		6.67	10.01	7.03	3.12
Total number of new Business Start-Ups (Business Gateway)		25	13	11	7
Number of clients attending start-up workshops/seminars (Business Gateway)		137	137	118	152
Occupancy Rates of Industrial and Commercial Units		91%	92%	91%	92%
Total Number of Contracts Awarded with Community Benefit Clauses (CBC) included only ** Reported Q2		28			
Number of new Employment and Skills opportunities delivered as a result of Community Benefit Clauses (CBC) ** Reported Q2	<i>i</i>	124			

\* Please Note that there is a lag of one Quarter for data provided for employment rates

Key: ★ Excellent ● Positive/Satisfactory ● Focus for Improvement *i* Information only



# EMPOWERED VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

**PRIORITY:** Support communities and empower people to achieve strong, active, resilient and sustainable communities and to realise opportunities for improving people's lives.



Indicator	Status	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Asset Transfers - Number of Requests Received	<i>i</i>	0	0	0	1
Asset Transfers - Number of Requests Agreed	<i>i</i>	0	0	1	0
Asset Transfers - Number of Requests Refused	<i>i</i>	0	0	0	0
Participation Requests - Number of Requests Received	<i>i</i>	0	0	1	0
Participation Requests - Number of Requests Agreed	<i>i</i>	0	0	1	0
Participation Requests - Number of Requests Refused	<i>i</i>	0	0	0	0
The number of people carrying out volunteer work with SBC		131	64	365	72
Community Funding - Total Scottish Borders	<i>i</i>	£67,697	£45,722	£66,664	£80,307
Community Funding – Berwickshire	<i>i</i>	£5,414	£0	£20,565	£21,130
Community Funding – Cheviot	<i>i</i>	£32,948	£10,344	£17,452	£17,924
Community Funding – Eildon	<i>i</i>	£5,786	£7,500	£17,883	£6,500
Community Funding - Teviot & Liddesdale	<i>i</i>	£14,764	£7,119	£10,764	£22,721
Community Funding – Tweeddale	<i>i</i>	£8,784	£20,758	£0	£12,031
Neighbourhood Small Schemes Fund – Total Value of funds awarded (cumulative)	<i>i</i>	£22,000	£100,000	£202,000	£212,800
SB Alert - No. of people registered		7255	7242	7228	7994
No. of Active community resilience plans (cumulative)		55	55	55	55
No. of Progressing community resilience plans (cumulative)		0	0	0	0

Key: ★ Excellent ● Positive/Satisfactory ● Focus for Improvement *i* Information only



# GOOD HEALTH AND WELLBEING

**PRIORITY:** Ensure the people of the Scottish Borders have the opportunities and are supported to take control of their health and wellbeing, enjoying a high quality of life.



Indicator	Status	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Looked After Children (aged 12+) in family-based placements compared to those in residential placements		64%	62%	58%	61%
Looked After Children (All ages) in family-based placements compared to those in residential placements		71%	71%	71%	74%
Number of Looked After Children (LAC)		199	204	206	203
Number of Inter-agency Referral Discussions (IRDs) held about a child	<i>í</i>	116	116	113	186
Number of children on Child Protection Register	<i>í</i>	46	43	40	47
Number of Concerns	<i>í</i>	71	103	95	105
Number of Inquiries with Investigatory Powers	<i>í</i>	67	64	69	71
Additional homes provided affordable to people in the Borders, based on our wages?	<i>í</i>	52	0	4	16
Bed days associated with delayed discharges in residents aged 75+; rate per 1,000 population *		355.9	387.3	371.1	Not yet available
Number of people killed on Border Roads	<i>í</i>	3	3	1	3
Number of people seriously injured on Border Roads	<i>í</i>	15	9	13	13

\* Please Note that there is a lag of one Quarter for data provided for Delayed Discharges

Key: ★ Excellent ● Positive/Satisfactory ● Focus for Improvement *í* Information only



# GOOD HEALTH AND WELLBEING

**PRIORITY:** Ensure the people of the Scottish Borders have the opportunities and are supported to take control of their health and wellbeing, enjoying a high quality of life.



Indicator	Status	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Number of Referrals To Domestic Abuse Services		91	116	121	112
Number of High Risk domestic abuse cases discussed at Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)		59	45	47	57
Number of persons being monitored for Antisocial Behaviour		327	344	244	262
Number of new temporary homelessness accommodation tenancies that commenced in the time period		88	60	81	68
Percentage of households assessed as unintentionally homeless or threatened with homelessness (where contact was maintained) who secured settled accommodation in either Social Housing, Private Rented Housing or Owner/Occupied housing		94%	92%	94%	89%
Average number of days from assessment to closure for applications assessed as homeless or threatened with homelessness		177	181	184	203
Average number of days households spent in temporary accommodation during the course of their homeless assessment		173	117	173	137





# WORKING TOGETHER, IMPROVING LIVES

**PRIORITY:** Ensure that Scottish Borders Council is effective, sustainable, responsive and aligned to the needs and priorities of our communities.



Indicator	Status	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Av.time (wks) taken to process all planning apps - Maj Dev (cumulative)		0	35.4	Not yet available	
Av.time (wks) taken to process all planning apps - Local Dev (non-householder) (cumulative)		7.3	7.7	Not yet available	
Av.time (wks) taken to process all planning apps - Local Dev (householder) (cumulative)		6.1	6.5	Not yet available	
Number of Planning Applications Received	<i>i</i>	276	249	220	272
Council Tax – In Year Collection Level		30.42%	55.69%	80.65%	96.12%
Capital Receipts Generated		£215,000	£210,410	£197,500	£107,250
Properties surplus to requirements	<i>i</i>	45	42	41	41
Properties actively being marketed		12	12	12	17
Properties progressed to "under offer"		15	12	11	11
Average times: the average time in working days to respond to complaints at stage one		6.7	7.2	5.9	5
Performance against timescales: the number of complaints closed at stage one within 5 working days as percentage of total number of stage one complaints		73.5%	69.9%	73.3%	79.2%
Average times: the average time in working days to respond to complaints at stage two		39.6	34.4	29.4	35.9
Performance against timescales: the number of complaints closed at stage two within 20 working days as percentage of total number of stage two complaints		30%	0%	58.3%	10%

Key: ★ Excellent ● Positive/Satisfactory ● Focus for Improvement *i* Information only



# WORKING TOGETHER, IMPROVING LIVES

**PRIORITY:** Ensure that Scottish Borders Council is effective, sustainable, responsive and aligned to the needs and priorities of our communities.



Indicator	Status	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Average times: the average time in working days to respond to complaints after escalation		36	24.5	33.8	28.1
Performance against timescales: the number of escalated complaints closed within 20 working days as a percentage of total number of escalated stage two complaints		25%	38.5%	41.7%	36.4%
Number of Complaints Closed	<i>í</i>	169	182	185	185
FOI Requests Received	<i>í</i>	278	270	365	393
Percentage of FOI Requests Completed on Time		77%	84%	91%	90%
Number of Facebook Engagements		6,017	11,403	8,133	11,730
Council Tax Valuation List - Percentage of New Properties added to the list within 0-3 months		54%	53%	36%	42.5%
Valuation Roll (Non Domestic) – Percentage of new, altered or demolished properties amended on the valuation roll within 0-3 months		71%	44%	32%	22%
SBC Absence Rate – Staff		5.51%	5.21%	6.55%	6.16%
SBC Absence Rate – Teaching Staff		3.23%	2.53%	4.45%	4.13%
Staff Absence Rate (overall)		4.95%	4.56%	6.04%	5.66%
SBC Staff Turnover		1.81%	3.42%	2.41%	1.8%

Key: ★ Excellent ● Positive/Satisfactory ● Focus for Improvement *í* Information only



# WORKING TOGETHER, IMPROVING LIVES

**PRIORITY:** Ensure that Scottish Borders Council is effective, sustainable, responsive and aligned to the needs and priorities of our communities.



Indicator	Status	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Percentage of Invoices paid within 30 days	<div><div>★</div><div>★</div><div>★</div><div>★</div><div>★</div></div>	95%	96%	97%	98%
Consolidated Call Numbers - HQ Switchboard, 0300, SW Duty Hub and Homelessness	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	42,921	39,592	34,334	37,913

Key: ★ Excellent   ● Positive/Satisfactory   ● Focus for Improvement   ⓘ Information only





SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL

# PERFORMANCE REPORT

## LGBF Annual Indicators Report 2025

Latest reporting year 2023-24



Clean, green future



Fulfilling our  
potential



Strong inclusive  
economy, transport  
and infrastructure



Empowered, vibrant  
communities



Good health and  
wellbeing



Working together  
improving lives

# Introduction



Scottish Borders Council reports a number of public performance indicators to Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF) in order to demonstrate its performance. This report presents the Council's progress against the identified LGBF Indicators for the latest year compared to the previous year. The report is structured into the 6 themes of the Council Plan.

For each indicator the performance status is shown and then a numerical value for Scottish Borders Council's (SBC) performance the previous year and then the latest year.

Status	Previous Year	Latest Year
●	£6,952	£7,064

For more detailed information on any of the information contained in this report please visit the Council's [Performance](#) pages.

## Status Key

★	Excellent	There has been a notable improvement, or the data indicates an excellent position
●	Positive/Satisfactory	There has been no significant change since the previous review, and progress is positive or satisfactory
●	Focus for Improvement	There has been a notable reduction in performance, or the data suggests a position that we will be focusing on for improvement
í	Information Only	The indicator shows data for information purposes only

# CLEAN GREEN FUTURE

**PRIORITY:** Accelerate action to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change and extreme weather.

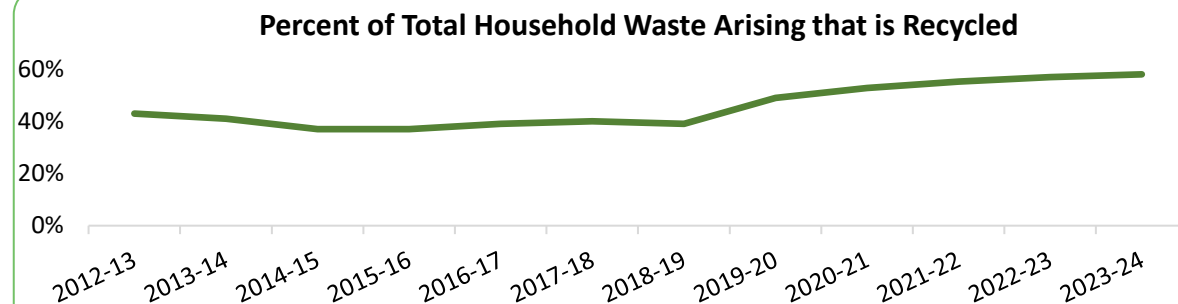
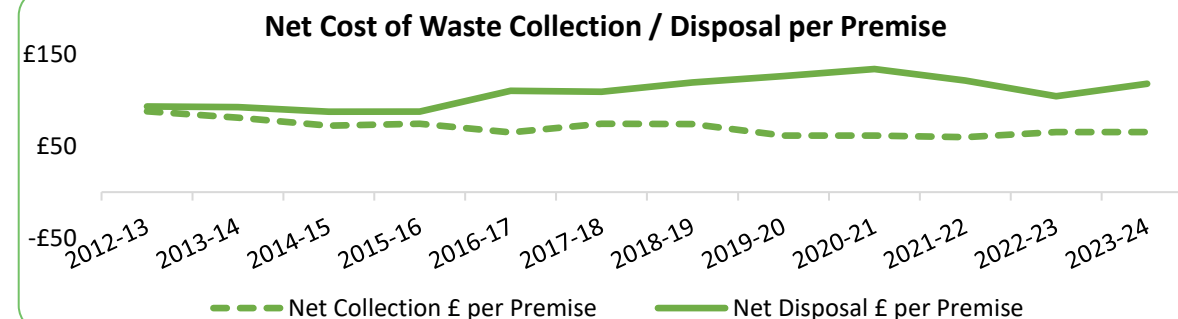


## Waste & Recycling

Waste & Recycling	Status	Previous Year	Latest Year
Net cost of waste collection per premise	●	£65	£65
Net cost of waste disposal per premise	●	£104	£118
% of total household waste arising that is recycled	●	57%	58%
% of adults satisfied with refuse collection	★	83%	85%

## Street Cleaning

Street Cleaning	Status	Previous Year	Latest Year
Net cost of street cleaning per 1,000 population	●	£12,089	£11,695
Street Cleanliness Score	●	94%	94%
% of adults satisfied with street cleaning	●	61%	64%



Waste Collection costs have remained similar, however recent investment in staff and vehicles to improve service standards are likely to result in increased costs in future years. Waste Disposal costs have increased. This is predominantly due to inflationary increases in supplier costs and changes in material market values.

Explore trends over time, and comparisons with other authorities in more detail, at: [SBC Performance / local-government-benchmarking](#)

Key: ★ Excellent ● Positive / Satisfactory ● Focus for Improvement



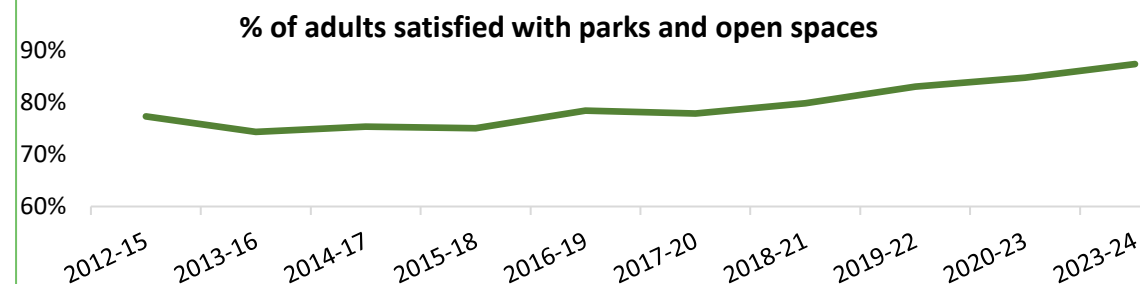
# CLEAN GREEN FUTURE

**PRIORITY:** Accelerate action to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change and extreme weather.



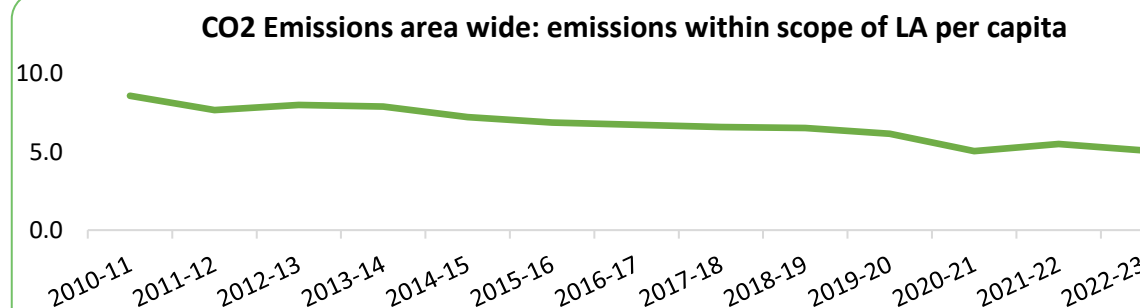
## Parks & Open Spaces

	Status	Previous Year	Latest Year
Cost of parks & open spaces per 1,000 population	●	£29,266	£30,267
% of adults satisfied with parks and open spaces	●	85%	87%



## Emissions

	Status	Previous Year	Latest Year
CO2 emissions area wide per capita	●	4.17	3.85
CO2 emissions area wide: emissions within scope of LA per capita	●	5.51	5.10
CO2 emissions from Transport per 1,000 population	●	37.7	44.1
CO2 emissions from Electricity per 1,000 population	●	36.1	33.0
CO2 emissions from Natural Gas per 1,000 population	●	39.6	38.2



Costs for parks and open spaces have increased due to inflationary increases. Satisfaction with parks and open spaces continues to increase.

The decrease in emissions within scope of the local authority can be attributed to the decreases in fuel, natural gas and gas oil consumption. The other emission sources are not all within the scope of the Council and would require further analysis to understand.

Explore trends over time, and comparisons with other authorities in more detail, at: [SBC Performance / local-government-benchmarking](#)

Key: ★ Excellent ● Positive / Satisfactory ● Focus for Improvement





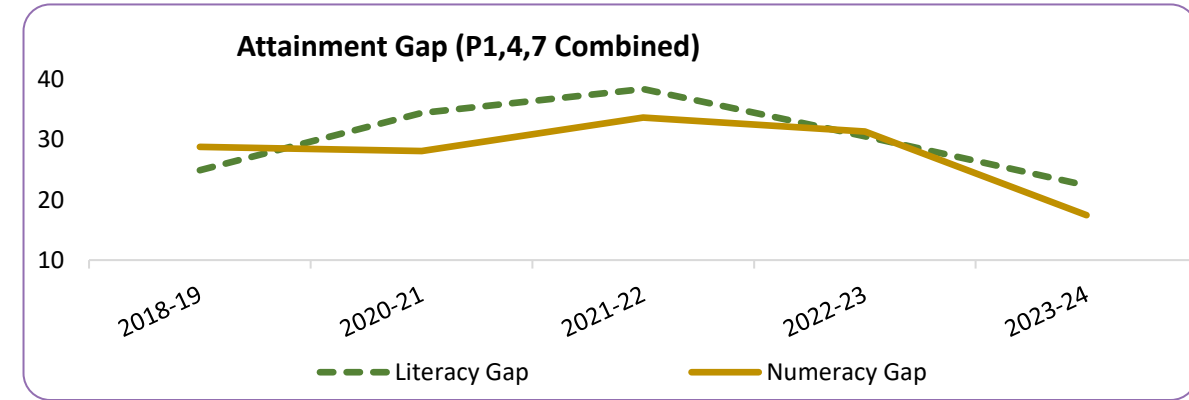
# FULFILLING OUR POTENTIAL

**PRIORITY:** Empower schools and their communities to deliver a high-quality education focused on excellence, equity, wellbeing and improved outcomes for children, young people, and families.



Early Years	Status	Previous Year	Latest Year
Cost per Pre-School Education place	●	£12,204	£12,1267
Proportion of funded early years provision which is graded good/better	●	93%	90%

Primary School	Status	Previous Year	Latest Year
Cost Per Primary School Pupil	●	£6,952	£7,064
% of P1, P4 and P7 pupils combined achieving expected CFE Level in Literacy	●	72%	73%
% of P1, P4 and P7 pupils combined achieving expected CFE Level in Numeracy	★	77%	81%
Literacy Attainment Gap	●	30.6 pp	22.4 pp
Numeracy Attainment Gap	★	31.4 pp	17.5 pp



The rising cost for primary schools is attributed to the increase in salaries of teachers and support staff.

P1, P4, P7 Literacy gap has narrowed by 8.2 percentage points to 22.4%. This is the lowest (best) rate in 7 years and is now narrower than the pre-covid gap.

P1, P4, P7 Numeracy gap has narrowed by 13.9 percentage points to 17.47%. This is the lowest (best) rate ever recorded.

This is due to increased engagement with the SBC Way Breakthrough Curriculum, the setting of ambitious Stretch Aims and rigorous approach to targeted support in school communities in SIMD Quintile 1.

Explore trends over time, and comparisons with other authorities in more detail, at: [SBC Performance / local-government-benchmarking](#)

Key: ★ Excellent ● Positive / Satisfactory ● Focus for Improvement



# FULFILLING OUR POTENTIAL

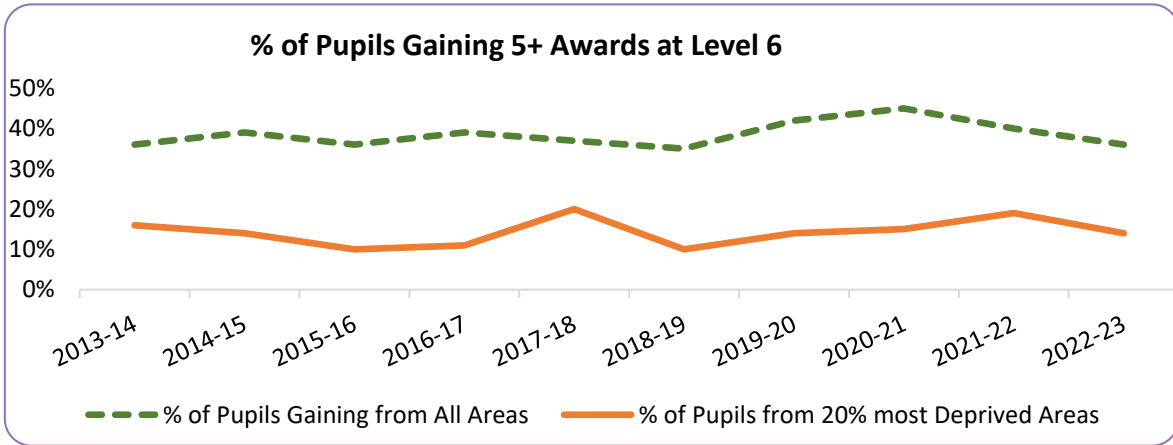
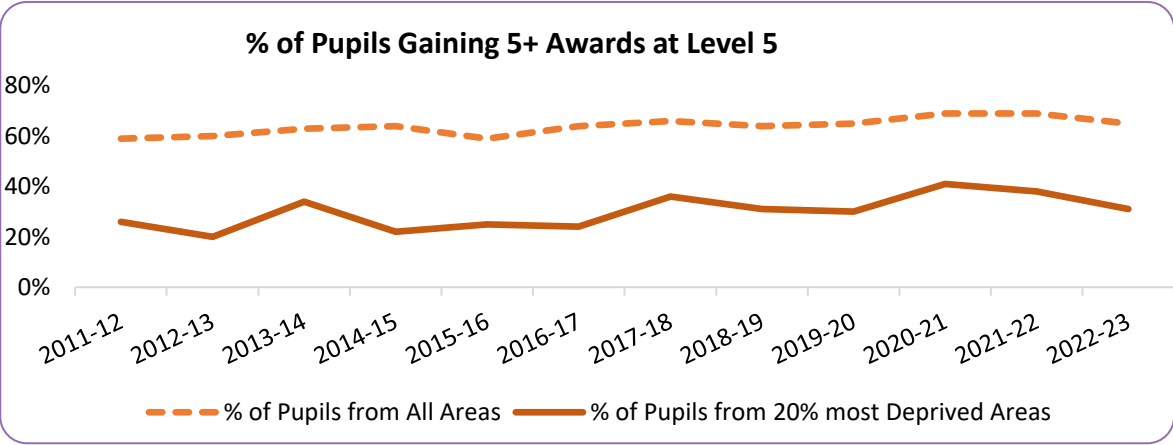
**PRIORITY:** Empower schools and their communities to deliver a high-quality education focused on excellence, equity, wellbeing and improved outcomes for children, young people, and families.



Secondary School	Status	Previous Year	Latest Year
Cost per Secondary School Pupil	●	£9,131	£9,574
% of Pupils Gaining 5+ Awards at Level 5	●	69%	65%
% of Pupils Gaining 5+ Awards at Level 6	●	40%	36%
% of Pupils from Deprived Areas Gaining 5+ Awards at Level 5 (SIMD)	●	38%	31%
% of Pupils from Deprived Areas Gaining 5+ Awards at Level 6 (SIMD)	●	19%	14%

The rising cost for secondary schools is attributed to the increase in salaries of teachers and support staff.

We continue to work with secondary schools to maximise the attainment of all leavers and will now need to have a particular focus on the attainment of the 43% leavers in S4 and S5, including winter leavers. For the 7% of leavers who are in the 20% who experience the greatest poverty, we continue to focus on developing the curriculum offer to best meet students needs and interests and increasing the number of qualifications and expectations. And though 82% achieve 5 or more at SCQF level 4, schools are aiming to attain the highest level of accreditation for all learners.



Explore trends over time, and comparisons with other authorities in more detail, at: [SBC Performance / local-government-benchmarking](#)

Key: ★ Excellent ● Positive / Satisfactory ● Focus for Improvement



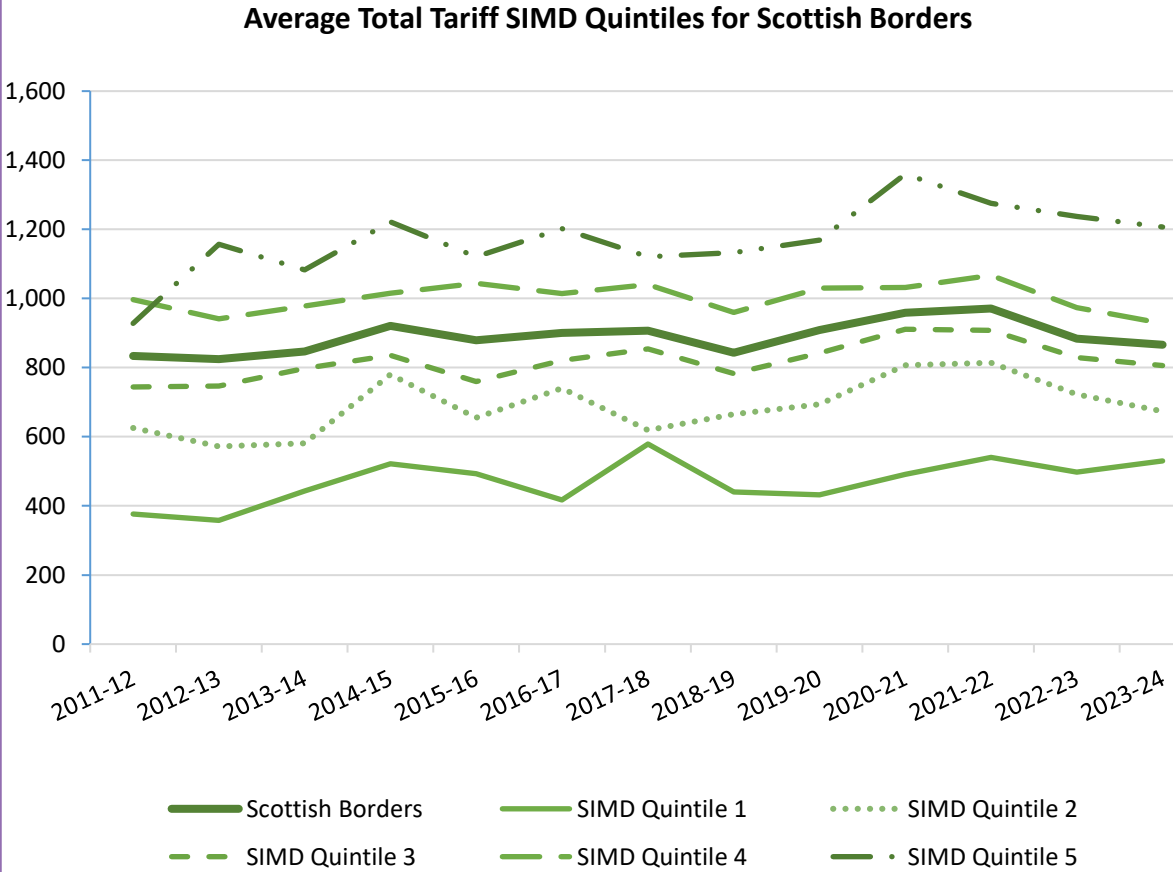
# FULFILLING OUR POTENTIAL

**PRIORITY:** Empower schools and their communities to deliver a high-quality education focused on excellence, equity, wellbeing and improved outcomes for children, young people, and families.



Secondary School	Status	Previous Year	Latest Year
Overall Average Total Tariff	●	883	866
Average Total Tariff SIMD quintile 1	●	498	530
Average total tariff SIMD quintile 2	●	723	674
Average total tariff SIMD quintile 3	●	829	806
Average total tariff SIMD quintile 4	●	974	978
Average total tariff SIMD quintile 5	●	1237	1207

We continue to work with secondary schools to maximise the attainment of young people through developing the senior phase curriculum offer to best meet students needs and interests. As we develop our curriculum to include other types of qualifications apart from the traditional Nat 5 and Higher, overall tariff points are impacted by this. Our S4 curriculum is almost split 50/50 between Nat 5's and other awards. Our national and family comparators don't take in account the differing curriculum models across local authorities. We are increasing the number of qualifications from a minimum of 6 to 7 from August 25 for all S4 pupils and this will support improved attainment.



Explore trends over time, and comparisons with other authorities in more detail, at: [SBC Performance / local-government-benchmarking](#)

Key: ★ Excellent ● Positive / Satisfactory ● Focus for Improvement



# FULFILLING OUR POTENTIAL

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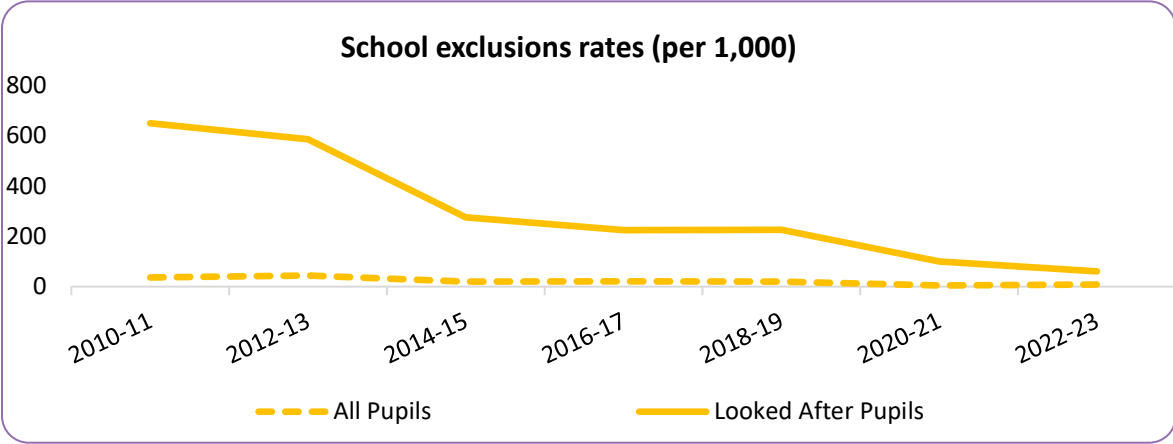
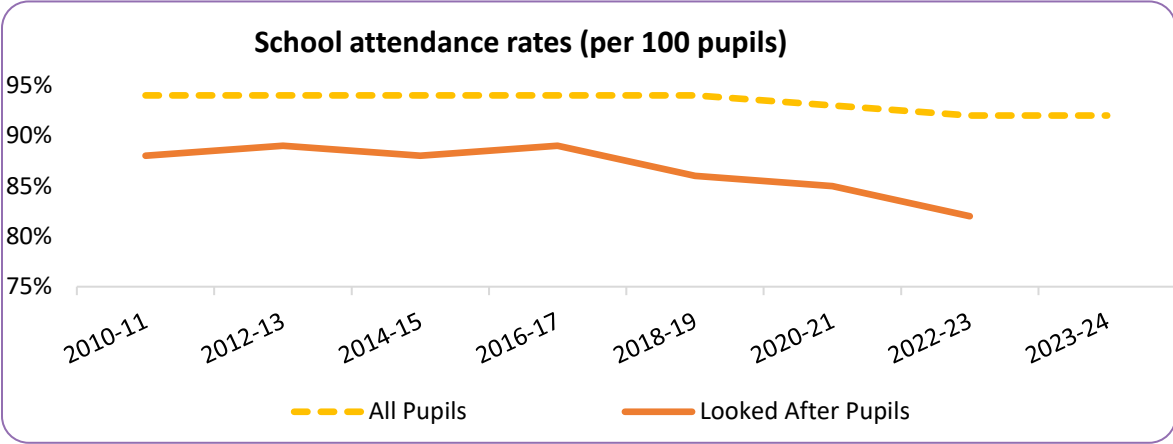


School Attendance	Status	Previous Year	Latest Year
School attendance rates (per 100 pupils)	★	92%	92%
School attendance rates (per 100 'looked after pupils')	●	85%	82%

School Exclusions	Status	Previous Year	Latest Year
School exclusions rates (per 1,000 pupils)	★	4.5	8.9
School exclusions rates (per 1,000 'looked after pupils') *	★	226.2	60.6

The most recent data from 2022-23 for exclusion rate (per1,000) for Looked After Pupils showed a significant drop from 226.19 in 2018-19 to 60.61. SBC exclusion guidelines are aligned with The Promise Scotland's aspiration to end exclusions for Care Experienced Young People. SBC's Revised Exclusions Policy will be launched in August 2025, with a focus on inclusion and prevention..

Explore trends over time, and comparisons with other authorities in more detail, at: [SBC Performance / local-government-benchmarking](#)



\* The school exclusion rate (per 1,000) for Looked After Pupils for 2020-21 is a proxy for the graph.

Key: ★ Excellent ● Positive / Satisfactory ● Focus for Improvement



# FULFILLING OUR POTENTIAL

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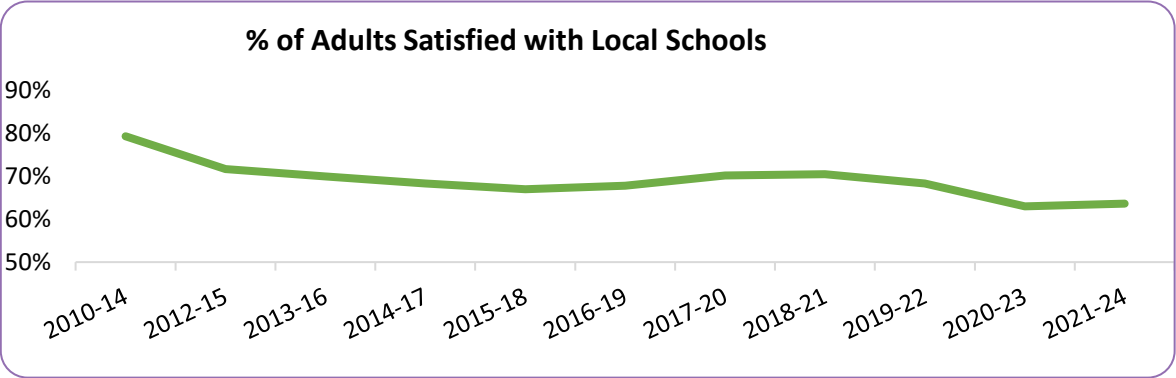
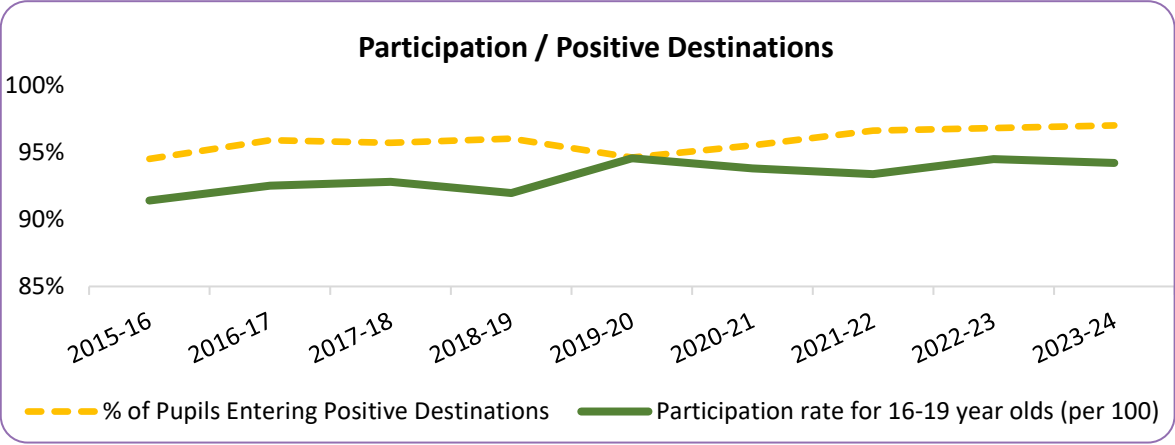


Participation / Positive Destinations	Status	Previous Year	Latest Year
Participation rate for 16-19 year olds (per 100)	●	94%	94%
Proportion of Pupils Entering Positive Destinations	★	97%	97%

Satisfaction	Status	Previous Year	Latest Year
% of Adults Satisfied with Local Schools	●	63%	64%

The Annual Participation Measure was maintained at 94.2% which is similar to previous years. This is in part due to a relentless focus to ensure positive and sustained destinations for young people and strong partnerships.

We have seen the impact on young people across education settings since the pandemic through an increase, for example in ASN needs and mental health and wellbeing and a small rise in home educated children. This may contribute to the satisfaction levels of adults in our communities. It is important to note that satisfaction is asked of all adults not just those adults with children in local schools.



Explore trends over time, and comparisons with other authorities in more detail, at: [SBC Performance / local-government-benchmarking](#)



# STRONG INCLUSIVE ECONOMY, TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

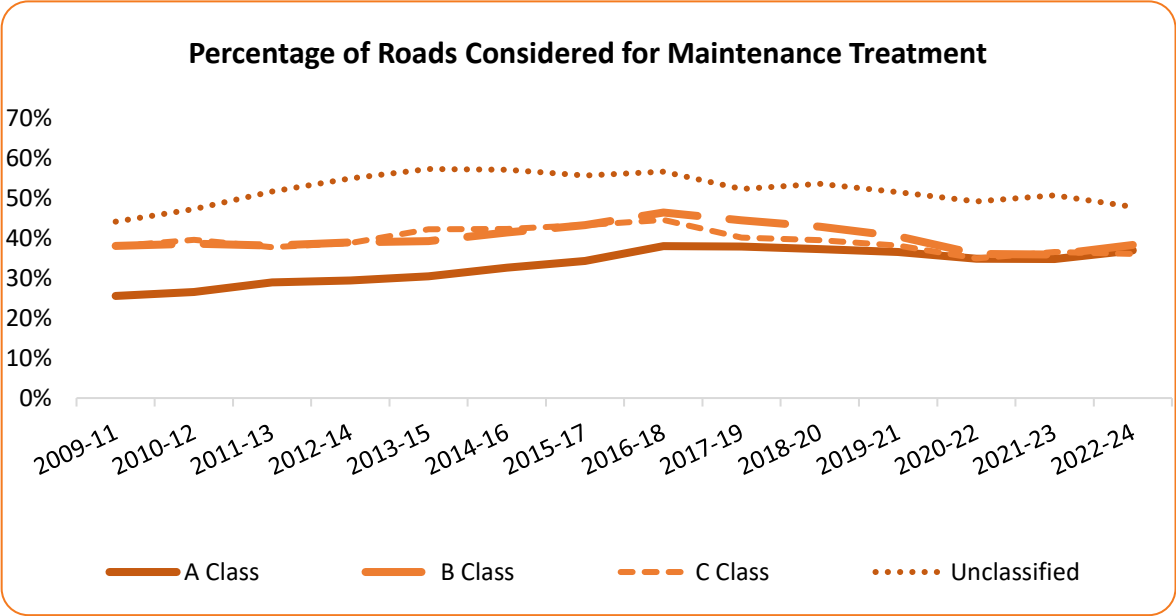
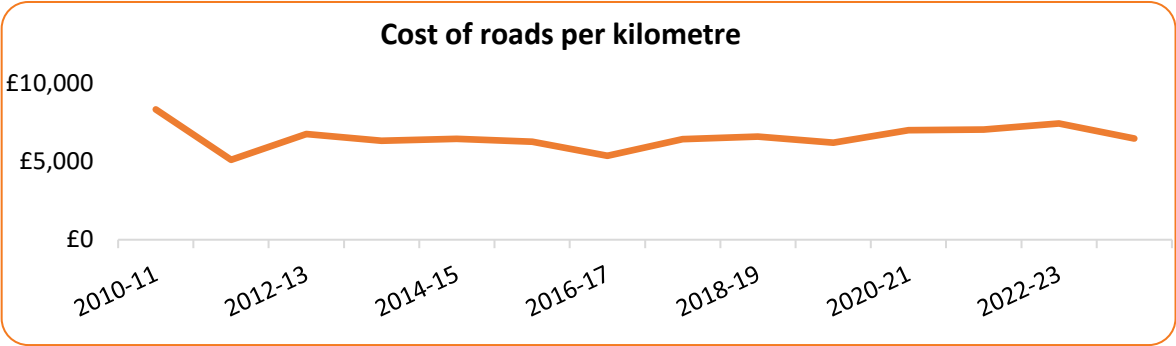
**PRIORITY:** Deliver the key economic development programmes for our region - the **South of Scotland Regional Economic Strategy**, **Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal** and the **Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal** and **Regional Prosperity Framework** – making our economy stronger, greener and more sustainable.



Roads	Status	Previous Year	Latest Year
Cost of roads per kilometre	●	£7,415	£6,463
% of A Class roads that should be considered for maintenance treatment	●	35%	37%
% of B Class roads that should be considered for maintenance treatment	●	36%	38%
% of C Class roads that should be considered for maintenance treatment	●	36%	36%
% of unclassified roads that should be considered for maintenance treatment	●	51%	48%

As we are spending less on our Roads compared to previous years the condition of the roads is continuing to deteriorate.

The length of the A Class Roads and B Class Roads considered for maintenance treatment has increased since 2021-23.



Explore trends over time, and comparisons with other authorities in more detail, at: [SBC Performance / local-government-benchmarking](#)

Key: ★ Excellent ● Positive / Satisfactory ● Focus for Improvement



# STRONG INCLUSIVE ECONOMY, TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

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## Planning

	Status	Previous Year	Latest Year
Cost of planning and building standards Per Planning Application	●	£5,692	£7,822
Average time per business and industry planning application (weeks)	●	7	8
Immediately available employment land as a % of total land allocated for employment purposes	●	41%	25%

## Economic Development

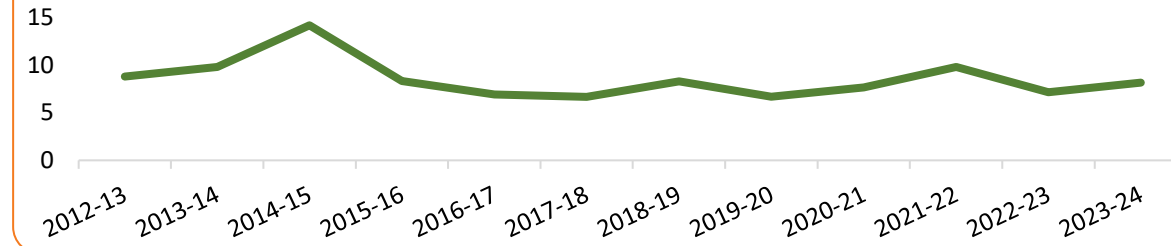
	Status	Previous Year	Latest Year
Investment in of Economic Development & Tourism per 1,000 Population	●	£87,165	£91,006
Proportion of properties receiving superfast broadband	●	90%	95%
% of procurement spend spent on local enterprises	●	26%	24%

The 'Cost of Planning & Building Standards per planning application' in the Scottish Borders has increased. This is because the applications decreased by 26% whereas the total cost of delivering the planning service has only increased by 2% (below inflation). The number of applications fluctuate and have since increased.

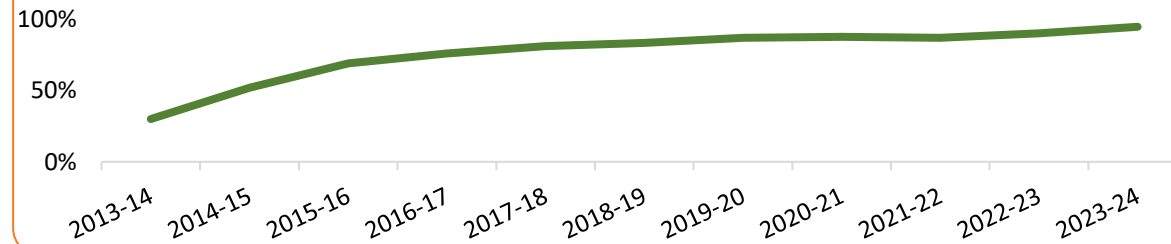
Explore trends over time, and comparisons with other authorities in more detail, at:

[SBC Performance / local-government-benchmarking](#)

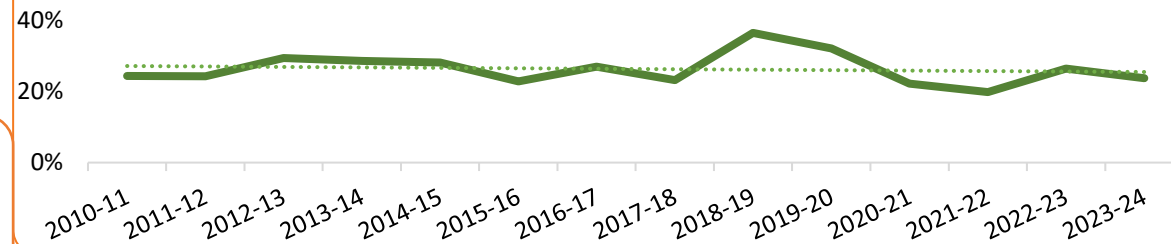
Average time per business and industry planning application (weeks)



Proportion of properties receiving superfast broadband



% of procurement spend spent on local enterprises



Key: ★ Excellent ● Positive / Satisfactory ● Focus for Improvement





# STRONG INCLUSIVE ECONOMY, TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

**PRIORITY:** Deliver the key economic development programmes for our region - the **South of Scotland Regional Economic Strategy, Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal** and the **Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal and Regional Prosperity Framework** – making our economy stronger, greener and more sustainable.

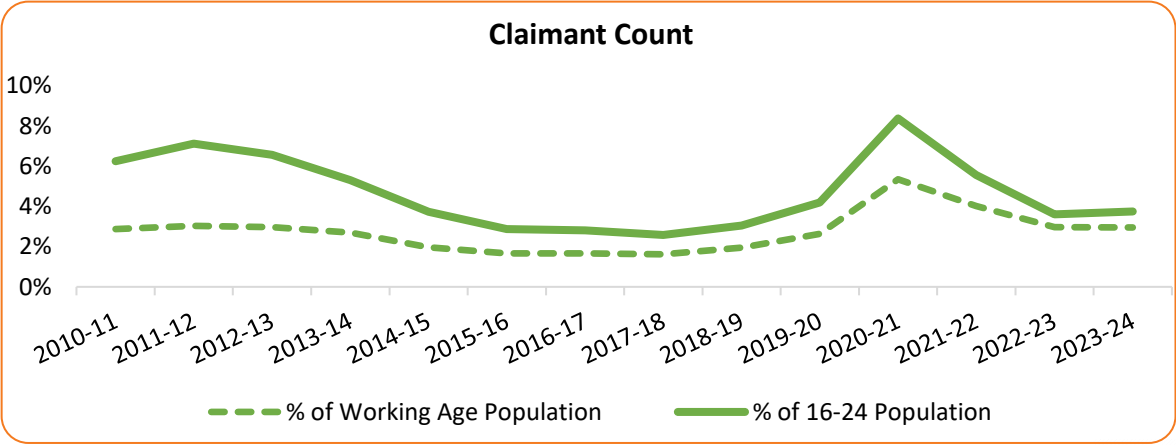
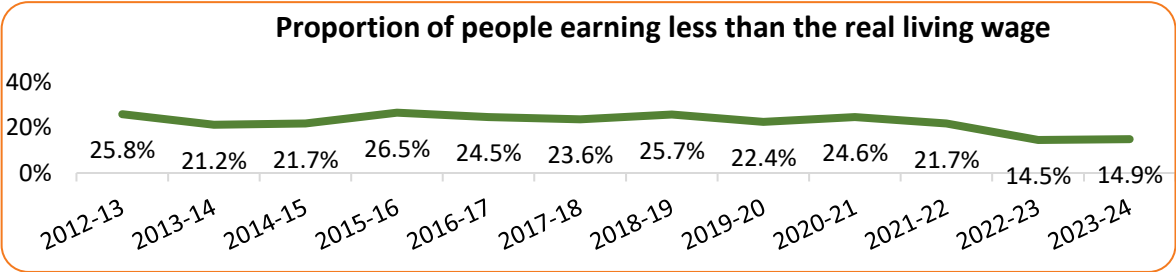
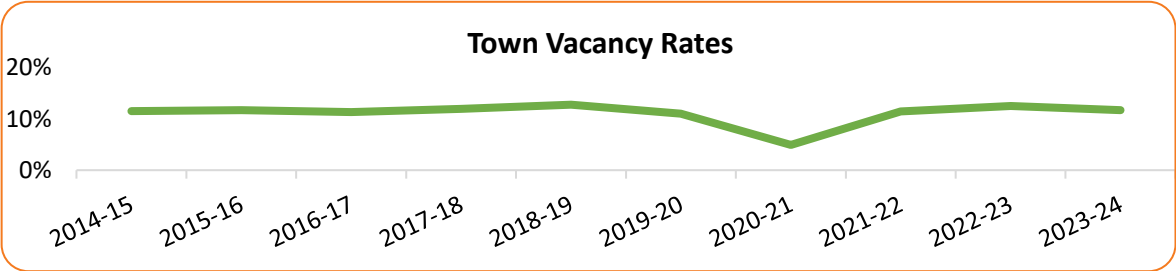


Economy Indicators	Status	Previous Year	Latest Year
Town Vacancy Rates	●	13%	12%
No of business gateway start-ups per 10,000 population	●	18.6	19.6
Proportion of people earning less than the real living wage	●	15%	15%
Gross Value Added (GVA) per capita	●	£20,169	£19,100
Claimant Count as a % of Working Age Population	●	3.0%	2.9%
Claimant Count as a % of 16-24 Population	●	3.6%	3.7%
% of unemployed people assisted into work from council operated / funded employability programmes	●	5%	4%

Scottish Borders continues to have an increasing number of start-ups supported by Business Gateway.

Figures are steady for the Gross Value Added (GVA) per capita, but there is room for improvement. SBC has limited influence on this indicator, although SBC and partners are supporting growth through the Regional Economic Strategy.

Explore trends over time, and comparisons with other authorities in more detail, at: [SBC Performance / local-government-benchmarking](#)



Key: ★ Excellent ● Positive / Satisfactory ● Focus for Improvement



# EMPOWERED VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

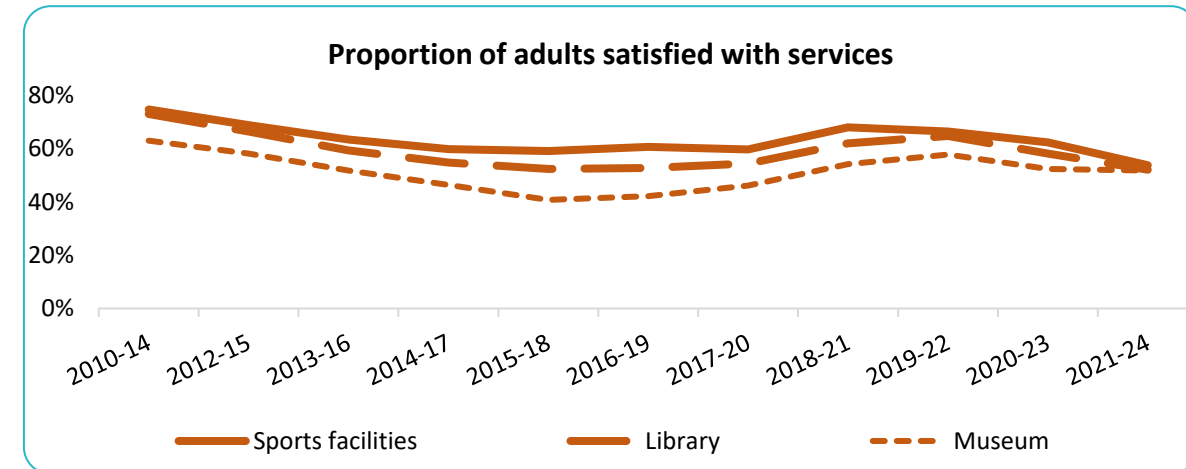
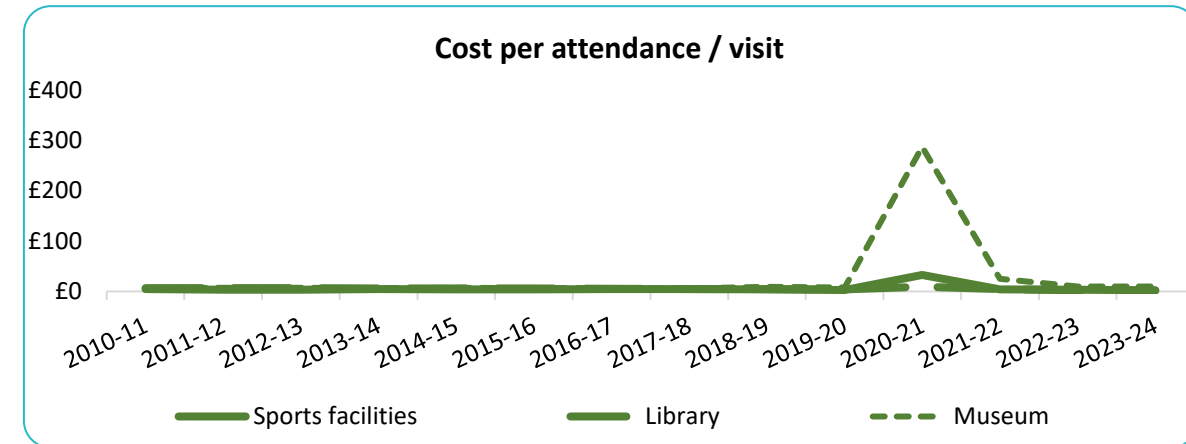
**PRIORITY:** Support communities and empower people to achieve strong, active, resilient and sustainable communities and to realise opportunities for improving people's lives.



Leisure	Status	Previous Year	Latest Year
Cost per library visit	●	£2.187	£1.87
% of adults satisfied with libraries	●	58%	52%
Cost per visit to Museums & Galleries	●	£9.45	£9.73
% of adults satisfied with museums and galleries	●	52%	52%
Cost per attendance at sports facilities	●	£3.12	£2.14
% of adults satisfied with leisure facilities	●	62%	54%

There has been an increase in attendance at sport facilities and museums. There has been significant increase in the number of virtual visits to libraries. These increases in attendance have resulted in the cost per visit decreasing.

Scottish Borders Council and Live Borders are looking at options to modernise libraries, museums and sport facilities.



Explore trends over time, and comparisons with other authorities in more detail, at: [Explore the data | Benchmarking \(improvementservice.org.uk\)](https://improvementservice.org.uk)

Key: ★ Excellent ● Positive / Satisfactory ● Focus for Improvement

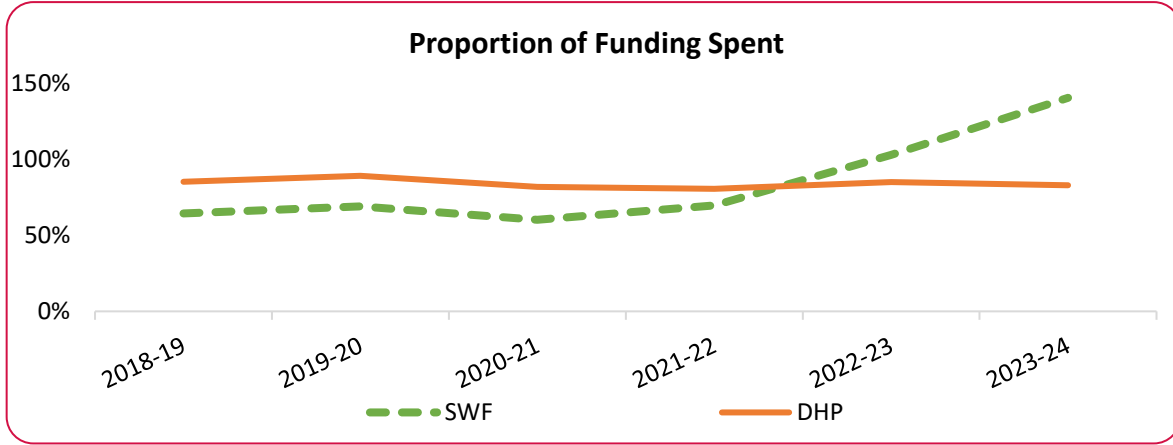
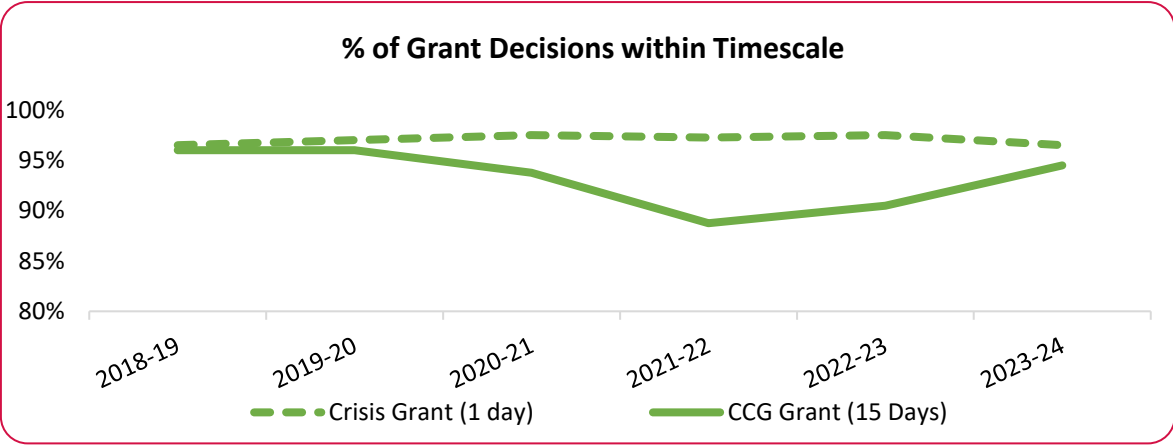


# GOOD HEALTH AND WELLBEING

**PRIORITY:** Ensure the people of the Scottish Borders have the opportunities and are supported to take control of their health and wellbeing, enjoying a high quality of life.



Grant/Funding	Status	Previous Year	Latest Year
% of Crisis Grant Decisions within 1 day	●	98%	97%
% CCG Grant Decisions within 15 Days	●	97%	94%
Proportion of (Scottish Welfare Fund) SWF Funding Spent	●	103%	140%
Proportion of (Discretionary Housing Payments) DHP Funding Spent	●	85%	83%



Demand for the Crisis Grants and Community Care Grants remains high, and service continue to be delivered at a satisfactory level.

Demand for Crisis Grants service continues at a high level due to cost of living pressures and spend has increased despite change in quarter 4 to only awarding high priority items.

Measures to maximise take up DHP (Discretionary Housing Payments) with partners were introduced with partners.

Explore trends over time, and comparisons with other authorities in more detail, at: [Explore the data | Benchmarking \(improvementservice.org.uk\)](#)

Key: ★ Excellent ● Positive / Satisfactory ● Focus for Improvement



# GOOD HEALTH AND WELLBEING

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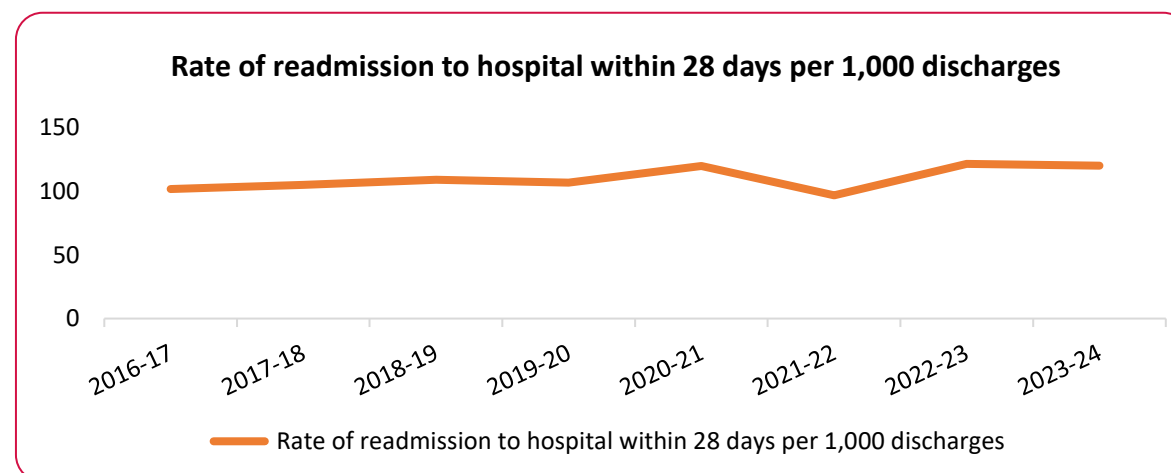
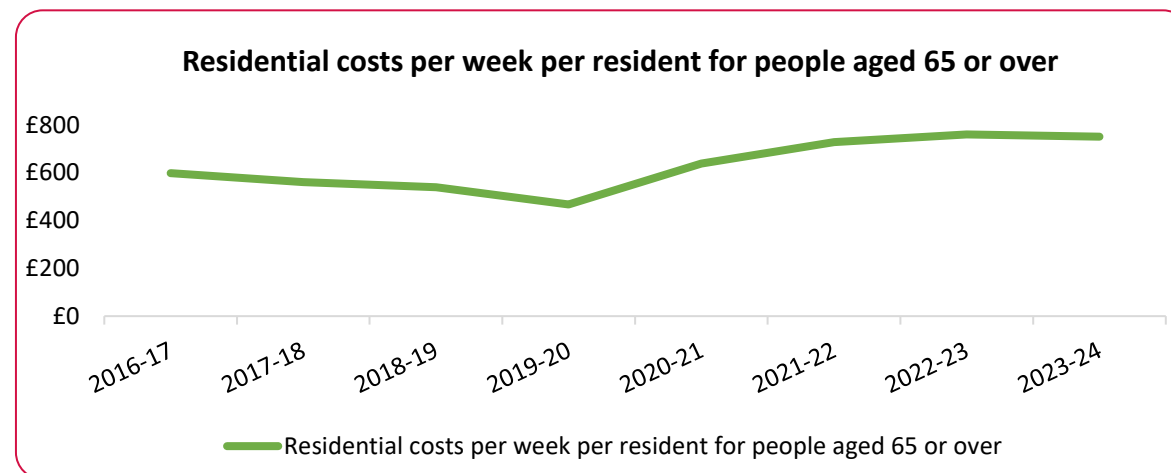


Adult Social Care	Status	Previous Year	Latest Year
Home care costs per hour for people aged 65 or over	●	£19	£18
Self Directed Support spend on adults 18+ as a % of total social work spend on adults 18+	●	8.7%	9.1%
% of people 65+ with long-term care needs who are receiving personal care at home	●	62%	61%
Residential costs per week per resident for people aged 65 or over	●	£760	£750
Proportion of adult care services graded good or better	●	81%	71%
Rate of readmission to hospital within 28 days per 1,000 discharges	●	121	120
Number of days people spend in hospital when they are ready to be discharged, per 1,000 pop (75+)	●	1,283	1,435

There has been a slight decrease in the rate of readmission to hospital within 28 days per 1,000 discharges, however, work continues to be done to reduce this further.

We have observed a notable increase in the days people spend in hospital when ready to be discharged. There are a number of actions being taken to tackle this.

Explore trends over time, and comparisons with other authorities in more detail, at: [SBC Performance / local-government-benchmarking](#)



Key: ★ Excellent ● Positive / Satisfactory ● Focus for Improvement



# GOOD HEALTH AND WELLBEING

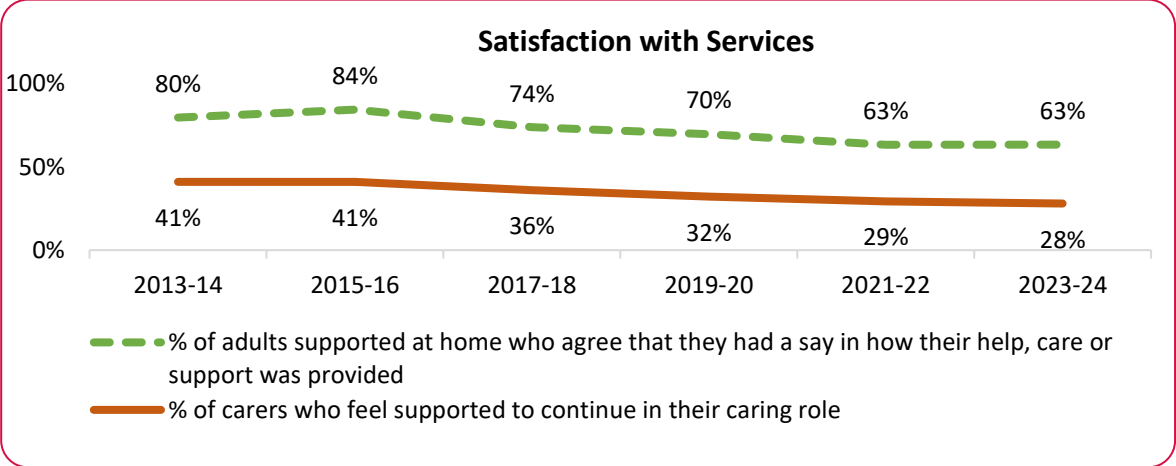
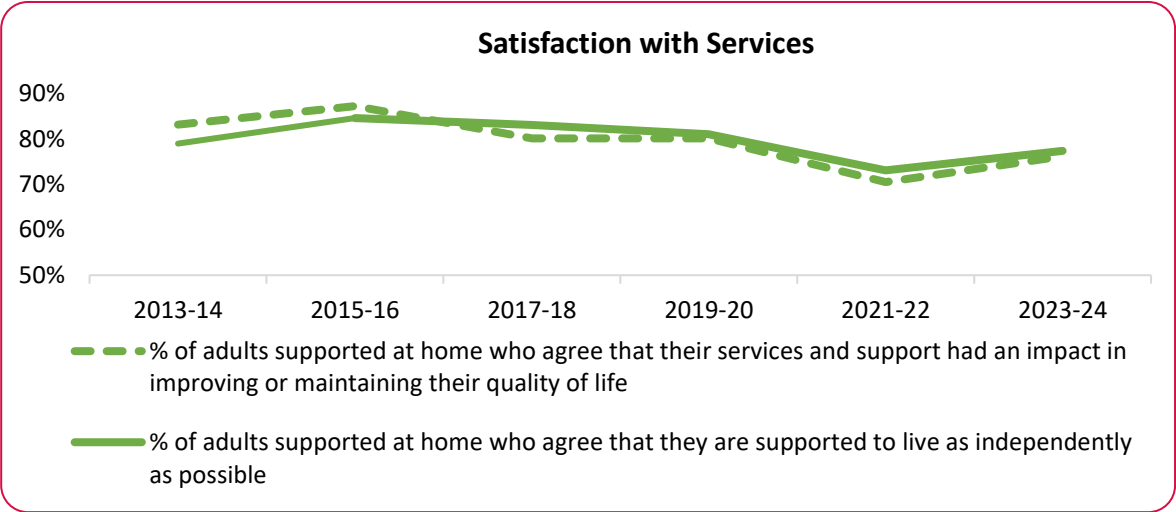
**PRIORITY:** Ensure the people of the Scottish Borders have the opportunities and are supported to take control of their health and wellbeing, enjoying a high quality of life.



Adult Social Care	Status	Previous Year	Latest Year
% of adults supported at home who agree that their services and support had an impact in improving or maintaining their quality of life	●	71%	76%
% of adults supported at home who agree that they are supported to live as independently as possible	●	73%	77%
% of adults supported at home who agree that they had a say in how their help, care or support was provided	●	63%	63%
% of carers who feel supported to continue in their caring role	●	29%	27%

The % of adults supported at home who agree that they had a say in how their help, care or support was provided in the Scottish Borders is consistent.

There is a universal challenge for service providers to recruit and retain staff which impacts on delays in people receiving services & the satisfaction levels of unpaid carers in relation to feeling supported at the right time.



Explore trends over time, and comparisons with other authorities in more detail, at: [Explore the data | Benchmarking \(improvementservice.org.uk\)](#)

Key: ★ Excellent ● Positive / Satisfactory ● Focus for Improvement



# GOOD HEALTH AND WELLBEING

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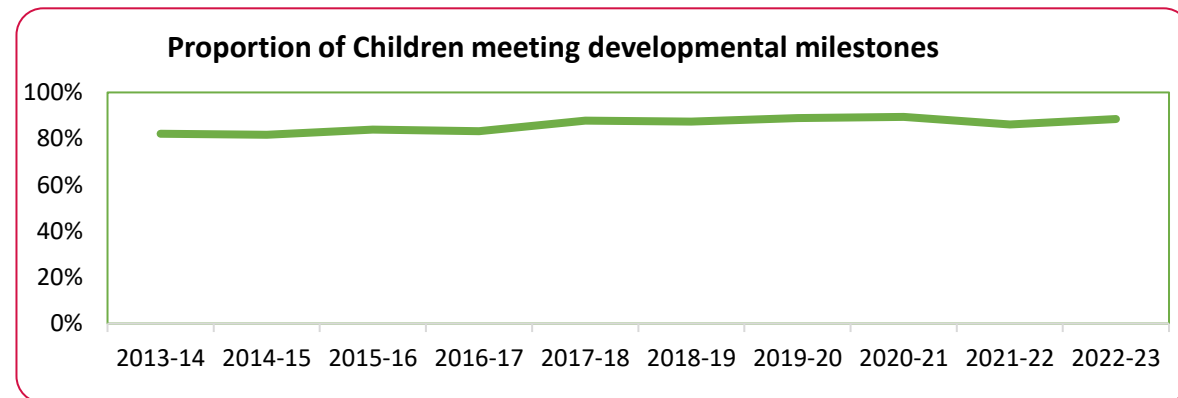
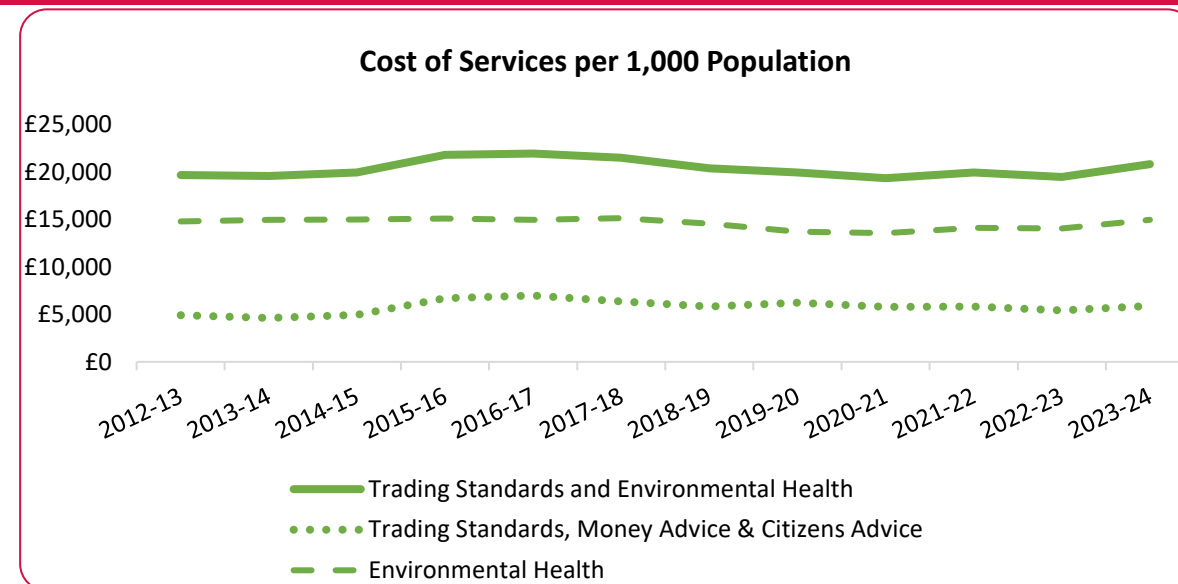


Trading Standards / Environmental Health / Money Advice & Citizens Advice	Status	Previous Year	Latest Year
Cost of Trading Standards and environmental health per 1,000 population	●	£19,498	£20,844
Cost of Trading Standards, Money Advice & Citizens Advice per 1,000 population	●	£5,421	£5,882
Cost of environmental health per 1,000 population	●	£14,077	£14,962

Children	Status	Previous Year	Latest Year
Proportion of Children meeting developmental milestones	●	86%	89%
Proportion of children living in poverty (after housing costs)	●	23%	24%

Child poverty levels in the Scottish Borders have remained consistent with last year and pre-covid levels. The Council has an active plan and strategy to reduce child poverty levels in the area, although it has limited influence.

Explore trends over time, and comparisons with other authorities in more detail, at: [SBC Performance / local-government-benchmarking](#)



Key: ★ Excellent ● Positive / Satisfactory ● Focus for Improvement



# GOOD HEALTH AND WELLBEING

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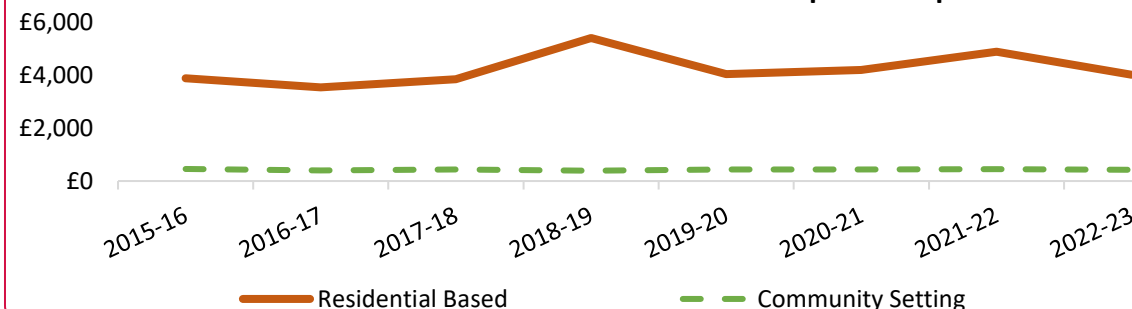


Looked After Children / Child Protection	Status	Previous Year	Latest Year
The Gross Cost of "Children Looked After" in Residential Based Services per Child per Week	●	£4,880	£4,017
The Gross Cost of "Children Looked After" in a Community Setting per Child per Week	●	£453	£424
% of children being looked after in the community	●	82%	78%
Proportion of LAC with more than 1 placement in the last year	●	20%	21%
Proportion of Child Protection re-registrations within 18 months	●	13%	7%

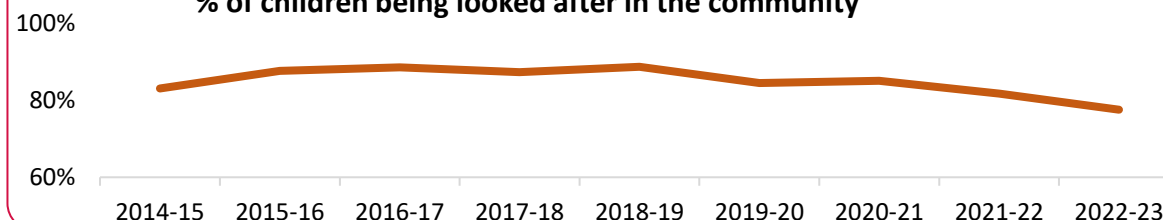
Out of Authority (OOA) Project continues. Current focus is on potential returns from OOA, residential provision and early intervention. Although costs for "Children Looked After" in Residential based services in 2022-23 have gone down there is still a need for improvement.

The lack of foster carers and early intervention services is detrimental to placement stability. This is being addressed in the Out of Authority Project and the national Foster Carer Recruitment Drive.

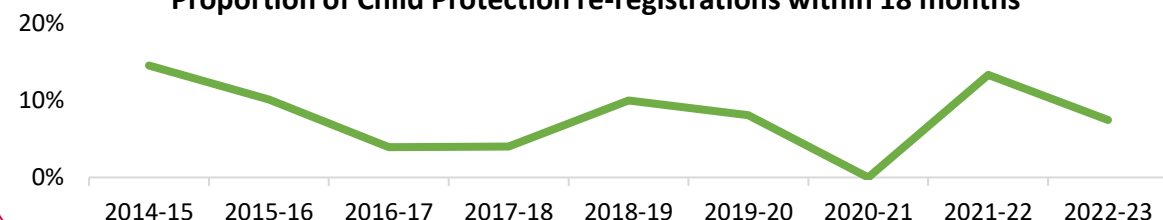
**The Gross Cost of "Children Looked After" Services per Child per Week**



**% of children being looked after in the community**



**Proportion of Child Protection re-registrations within 18 months**



Explore trends over time, and comparisons with other authorities in more detail, at: [Explore the data | Benchmarking \(improvementservice.org.uk\)](https://improvementservice.org.uk)

Key: ★ Excellent ● Positive / Satisfactory ● Focus for Improvement





# WORKING TOGETHER, IMPROVING LIVES

**PRIORITY:** Ensure that Scottish Borders Council is effective, sustainable, responsive and aligned to the needs and priorities of our communities.

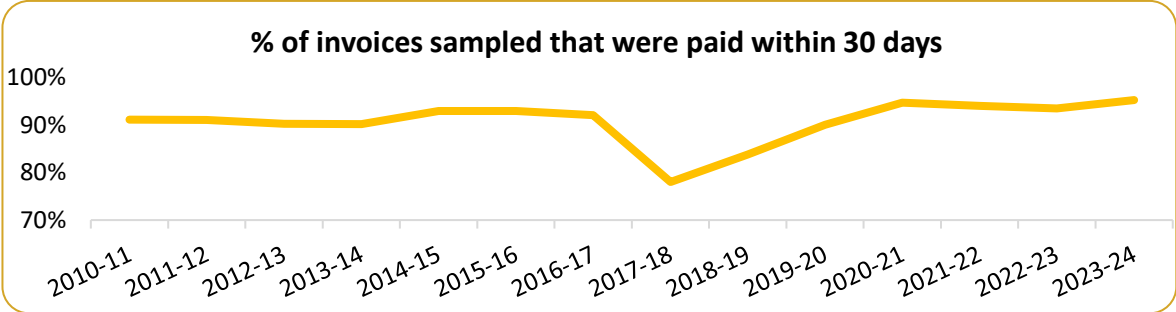
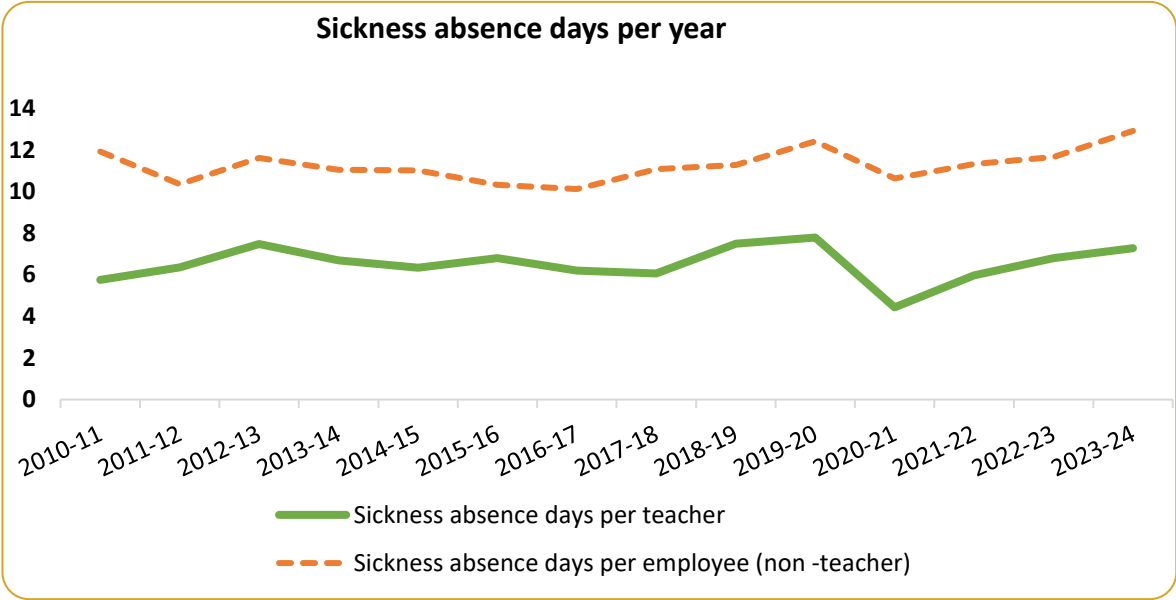


Human Resources / Corporate Services	Status	Previous Year	Latest Year
Support services as a % of total gross expenditure	●	5.9%	6.7%
% of the highest paid 5% employees who are women	●	55.7%	53.9%
The gender pay gap (%)	●	3.4%	2.6%
The cost per dwelling of collecting council tax	●	£8.42	£7.29
Sickness absence days per teacher	●	6.8	7.3
Sickness absence days per employee (non-teacher)	●	11.7	12.9
% of income due from council tax received	●	96.6%	96.2%
% of invoices sampled that were paid within 30 days	★	93.5%	95.3%

The in-year collection of council tax was slightly down on the previous year. This is a similar picture nationally.

The 95% of invoices paid within 30 day comfortably exceeds our 93% target and matches our previous highest achievement in 20/21. It is a 1% improvement on the last 2 years

Explore trends over time, and comparisons with other authorities in more detail, at: [SBC Performance / local-government-benchmarking](#)



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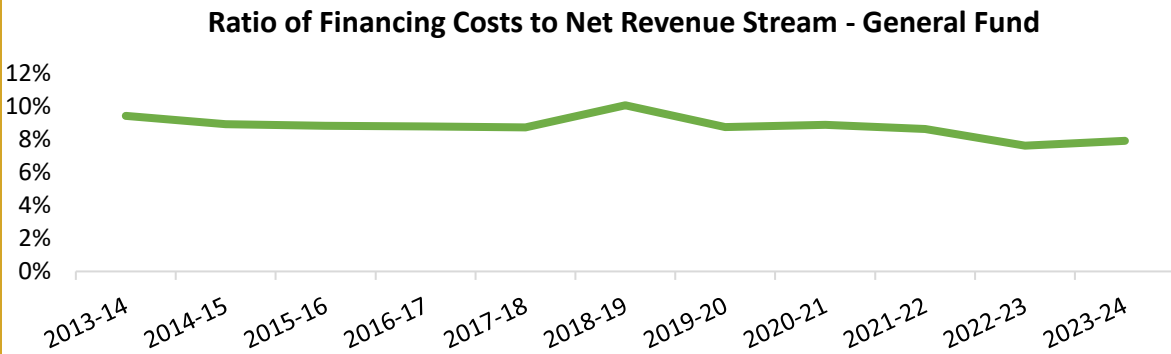
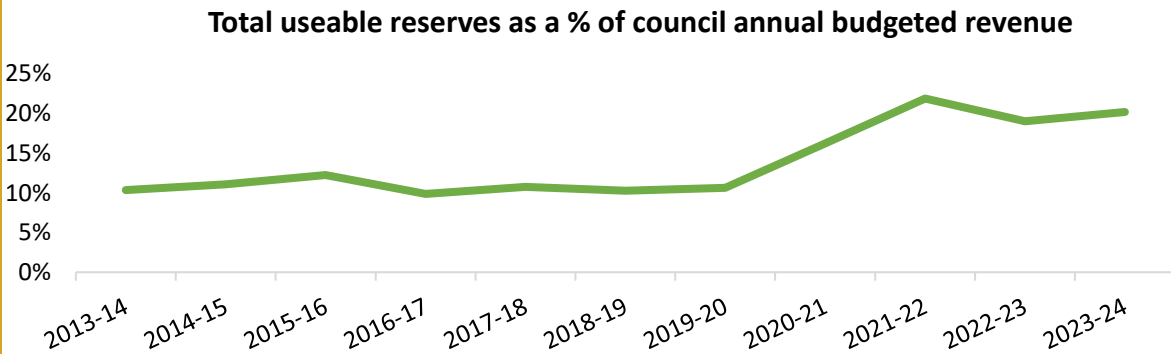


# WORKING TOGETHER, IMPROVING LIVES

**PRIORITY:** Ensure that Scottish Borders Council is effective, sustainable, responsive and aligned to the needs and priorities of our communities.



Financial Stability	Status	Previous Year	Latest Year
Total useable reserves as a % of council annual budgeted revenue	●	19%	20%
Uncommitted General Fund Balance as a % of annual budgeted net revenue	●	3.0%	2.0%
Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream - General Fund	●	7.6%	7.9%
Actual outturn as a percentage of budgeted expenditure	●	98.5%	96.5%



The financial sustainability indicators for the Scottish Borders show stability.

The Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream - General Fund of 7.9% remains below Council target of 10% and has dropped in recent years due to increasing overall budgets. The ratio reflects the ambitious Capital programme in place across the Council.

Explore trends over time, and comparisons with other authorities in more detail, at: [SBC Performance / local-government-benchmarking](#)

Key: ★ Excellent ● Positive / Satisfactory ● Focus for Improvement

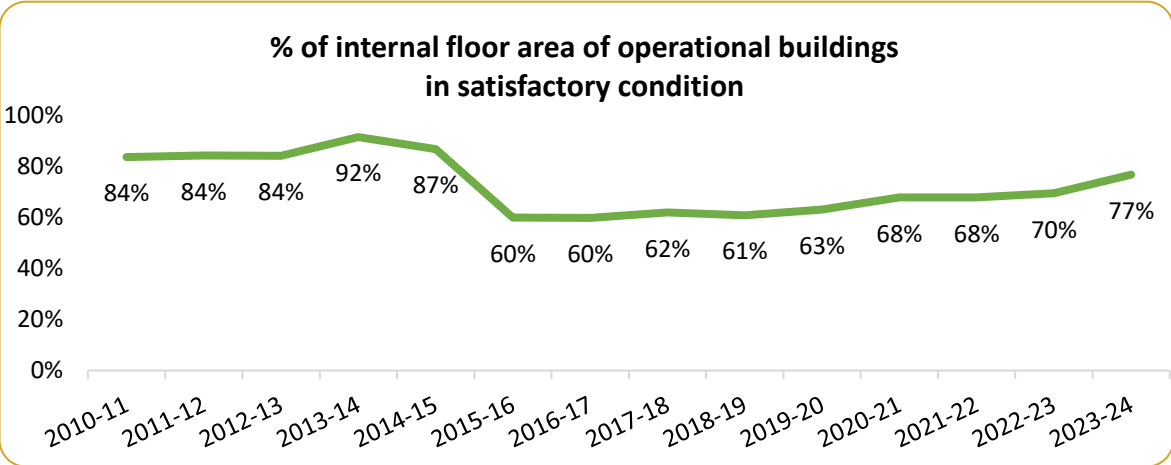
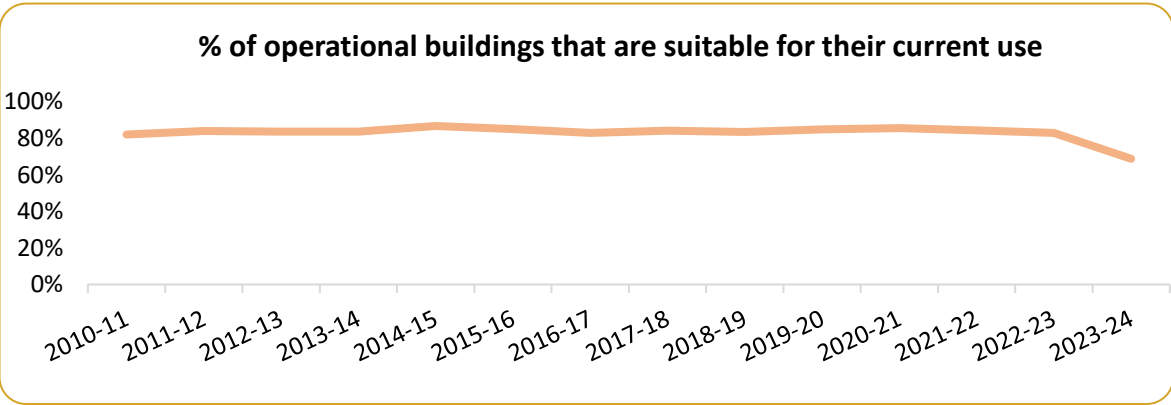


# WORKING TOGETHER, IMPROVING LIVES

**PRIORITY:** Ensure that Scottish Borders Council is effective, sustainable, responsive and aligned to the needs and priorities of our communities.



Buildings	Status	Previous Year	Latest Year
% of operational buildings that are suitable for their current use	●	83%	69%
% of internal floor area of operational buildings in satisfactory condition	●	70%	77%



In 2023 SBC implemented a more robust suitability and condition survey process. This identified several buildings that although previously deemed suitable, under the new criteria are now found to fall below this expectation. Efforts are being made to address this under budgetary constraints.

Further improvement of internal floor area in satisfactory condition was identified through the same 2023 suitability and condition survey process. Efforts are continuing to improve this further.

Explore trends over time, and comparisons with other authorities in more detail, at: [SBC Performance / local-government-benchmarking](#)

Key: ★ Excellent ● Positive / Satisfactory ● Focus for Improvement





SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL

# PERFORMANCE REPORT

## LGBF Comparison Against Others 2025

Latest reporting year 2023-24



Clean, green future



Fulfilling our potential



Strong inclusive economy, transport and infrastructure



Empowered, vibrant communities



Good health and wellbeing



Working together improving lives

# Introduction



The Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF) is a high-level benchmarking tool designed to support senior management teams and elected members to ask questions about key council services.

It reflects a commitment by The Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers in Scotland (SOLACE Scotland) and the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) to develop better measurement and comparable data as a catalyst for improving services, targeting resources to areas of greatest impact and enhancing public accountability.

The framework provides high-level 'can openers' which are designed to focus questions on why variations in cost and performance are occurring between similar councils. They do not supply the answers. That happens as councils engage with each other to 'drill down' and explore why these variations are happening.

The LGBF helps councils compare their performance against a suite of efficiency, output and outcome indicators that cover all areas of local government activity. Publication of the LGBF forms part of each council's statutory requirements for public performance reporting, replacing the previous SPI regime. Please be aware that the data available is not always from the most recent financial year. The year that data relates to is marked on each indicator.

Further detail on trends over time and comparisons with other authorities can be found at: [SBC Performance / local-government-benchmarking](#)

Councils are arranged in 'family groups', so that we are comparing councils that are similar in terms of the type of population that they serve (e.g. relative deprivation and affluence) and the type of area in which they serve them (e.g. urban, semi-rural, rural). The point of comparing like with like is that this is more likely to lead to useful learning and improvement.

Throughout the document we use the following colours to represent our view on our performance:

★	Excellent
●	Similar to others
●	Focus for Consideration

For each indicator the numerical value is then shown for Scottish Borders Council (SBC), our family group, and Scotland as a whole. The arrows against the family group and Scotland indicate whether these values are higher, lower or similar to Scottish Borders Council.

Status	SBC	Family Group	Scotland
●	80.3%	↑ 86.5%	↔ 81.0%

# CLEAN GREEN FUTURE

**PRIORITY:** Accelerate action to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change and extreme weather.



## Waste & Recycling

	Year	Status	SBC	Family Group		Scotland	
Net cost of waste collection per premise	2023-24	★	£65	↑	£79	↑	£79
Net cost of waste disposal per premise	2023-24	★	£118	↑	£140	↔	£104
% of total household waste arising that is recycled	2023-24	●	58%	↓	37%	↓	44%
% of adults satisfied with refuse collection	2021-24	★	85%	↔	83%	↓	78%

The net cost of collection per premise is significantly lower than the Scottish and Family Group average. However, recent investment in staff and vehicles to improve service standards are likely to result in increased costs in future years.

The net cost of disposal per premise is significantly lower than the Family Group average but above the Scottish Average. This is likely to be due to the additional haulage costs experienced by rural areas to access treatment facilities that tend to be in the central belt.

Adult satisfaction with street cleansing in the Scottish Borders is similar to the family group and better than Scotland.

## Street Cleaning

	Year	Status	SBC	Family Group		Scotland	
Net cost of street cleaning per 1,000 population	2023-24	●	£11,695	↑	£14,062	↑	£15,961
Street Cleanliness Score	2023-24	●	94%	↓	93%	↓	92%
% of adults satisfied with street cleaning	2021-24	●	64%	↔	64%	↓	58%

Explore trends over time, and comparisons with other authorities in more detail, at:

[SBC Performance / local-government-benchmarking](#)

Key: ★ Excellent ● Similar to others ● Focus for Consideration



# CLEAN GREEN FUTURE

**PRIORITY:** Accelerate action to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change and extreme weather.



## Parks & Open Spaces

	Year	Status	SBC	Family Group		Scotland	
Cost of parks & open spaces per 1,000 population	2023-24	●	£30,267	↓	£19,688	↓	£23,376
% of adults satisfied with parks and open spaces	2021-24	●	87%	↔	847%	↔	85%

## Emissions

	Year	Status	SBC	Family Group		Scotland	
CO2 emissions area wide per capita (Tonnes)	2022-23	●	3.9	↑	5.7	↑	4.8
CO2 emissions area wide: emissions within scope of LA per capita (Tonnes)	2022-23	●	5.1	↔	5.1	↓	4.2
CO2 emissions from Transport per 1,000 population (Tonnes)	2022-23	●	44	↑	139	↔	28
CO2 emissions from Electricity per 1,000 population (Tonnes)	2022-23	●	33	↑	96	↔	43
CO2 emissions from Natural Gas per 1,000 population (Tonnes)	2022-23	●	38	↔	40	↔	57

SBC costs of Parks & Open Spaces /1000 population continues to be higher than family group/national benchmarking; work ongoing to identify the variance.

Since 2017 there has been a steady increase in satisfaction with Parks & Open Spaces in the Scottish Borders, which is now slightly better than Family Group and National benchmarking

The CO2 emissions for the Scottish Borders is in line with national trend but lower than family grouping.

Explore trends over time, and comparisons with other authorities in more detail, at:

[SBC Performance / local-government-benchmarking](#)

Key: ★ Excellent ● Similar to others ● Focus for Consideration





# FULFILLING OUR POTENTIAL

**PRIORITY:** Empower schools and their communities to deliver a high-quality education focused on excellence, equity, wellbeing and improved outcomes for children, young people, and families.



Early Years	Year	Status	SBC	Family Group	Scotland
Cost per Pre-School Education Place	2023-24	●	£12,167	↔ £11,444	↔ £11,658
% of funded early years provision which is graded good/better	2023-24	●	90%	↔ 990%	↔ 90%

Cost per primary school pupil remains lower than the family group and national averages and follows the same longitudinal trend.

Primary School	Year	Status	SBC	Family Group	Scotland
Cost Per Primary School Pupil	2023-24	●	£7,064	↑ £9,238	↔ £7,213
% of P1, P4 and P7 pupils combined achieving expected CFE Level in Literacy	2023-24	●	73%	↔ 73%	↔ 74%
% of P1, P4 and P7 pupils combined achieving expected CFE Level in Numeracy	2023-24	★	81%	↔ 79%	↔ 80%
Literacy Attainment Gap	2023-24	●	22pp	↔ 20pp	↔ 20pp
Numeracy Attainment Gap	2023-24	●	17pp	↔ 19pp	↔ 17pp

SBC performance for pupils achieving expected Literacy is similar to Family Group and Scotland, and pupils achieving expected Numeracy level as higher than both the family group and Scotland.

When compared to family group and national averages, the attainment gap for literacy and numeracy in SBC is similar.

Explore trends over time, and comparisons with other authorities in more detail, at:  
[SBC Performance / local-government-benchmarking](#)

Key: ★ Excellent ● Similar to others ● Focus for Consideration





# FULFILLING OUR POTENTIAL

**PRIORITY:** Empower schools and their communities to deliver a high-quality education focused on excellence, equity, wellbeing and improved outcomes for children, young people, and families.



Secondary School	Year	Status	SBC	Family Group		Scotland	
Cost per Secondary School Pupil	2023-24	●	£9,574	↑	£11,533	↔	£8,957
% of Pupils Gaining 5+ Awards at Level 5	2022-23	●	65%	↔	64%	↔	66%
% of Pupils Gaining 5+ Awards at Level 6	2022-23	●	36%	↔	34%	↔	38%
% of Pupils from Deprived Areas Gaining 5+ Awards at Level 5 (SIMD)	2022-23	●	31%	↑	39%	↑	50%
% of Pupils from Deprived Areas Gaining 5+ Awards at Level 6 (SIMD)	2022-23	●	14%	↔	15%	↑	22%
Overall Average Total Tariff	2023-24	●	866	↔	874	↑	918
Average Total Tariff SIMD quintile 1	2023-24	●	530	↔	513	↑	658
Average total tariff SIMD quintile 2	2023-24	●	674	↔	671	↑	762
Average total tariff SIMD quintile 3	2023-24	●	806	↑	842	↑	889
Average total tariff SIMD quintile 4	2023-24	●	978	↑	1011	↑	1049
Average total tariff SIMD quintile 5	2023-24	●	1207	↓	1142	↑	1260

Cost per pupil remains lower than the family group but has risen slightly above the national average, following the same longitudinal trend.

The **% of Pupils Gaining 5+ Awards at Level 5** for SBC schools are in line with the national comparators and above our family grouping of local authorities for this measure. For those from the 20% deprived areas, we continue to improve attainment for young people who experience the greatest barriers to achieving.

**Average Total Tariff** scores SBC schools are generally performing in line with the family group averages and slightly below Scotland. We continue to improve and effectively monitor the attainment for young people in the senior phase through our quality assurance processes.

Explore trends over time, and comparisons with other authorities in more detail, at:  
[SBC Performance / local-government-benchmarking](#)

Key: ★ Excellent ● Similar to others ● Focus for Consideration



# FULFILLING OUR POTENTIAL

**PRIORITY:** Empower schools and their communities to deliver a high-quality education focused on excellence, equity, wellbeing and improved outcomes for children, young people, and families.



Attendance/ Exclusion/ Positive Destination	Year	Status	SBC	Family Group	Scotland
School attendance rate	2023-24	●	97%	↔ 95%	↔ 96%
School attendance rate (Looked After Children)	2022-23	●	82%	↑ 85%	↑ 84%
School exclusion rates (per 1,000 pupils)	2022-23	★	8.9	↑ 16.2	↑ 16.6
School exclusions rates (per 1,000 'looked after pupils')	2022-23	★	61	↑ 102	↑ 97
Participation rate for 16-19 year olds (per 100)	2023-24	●	95%	↔ 93%	↔ 94%
Proportion of Pupils Entering Positive Destinations	2023-24	●	97%	↔ 95%	↔ 96%

The most recent data from 2022-23 shows that SBC attendance rate for 'looked after pupils' (82%) in this measure is lower than the family group (85%) and Scotland (84%).

The SBC exclusion rate per 1000 looked after pupils is lower than the family group and Scotland.

The Scottish Borders continues to have a higher participation rate and positive destination rate; slightly higher than both family group and Scotland.

Satisfaction	Year	Status	SBC	Family Group	Scotland
% of Adults Satisfied with Local Schools	2021-24	●	64%	↔ 73%	↔ 70%

Explore trends over time, and comparisons with other authorities in more detail, at:  
[SBC Performance / local-government-benchmarking](#)

Key: ★ Excellent ● Similar to others ● Focus for Consideration



# STRONG INCLUSIVE ECONOMY, TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

**PRIORITY:** Deliver the key economic development programmes for our region - the **South of Scotland Regional Economic Strategy, Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal** and the **Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal and Regional Prosperity Framework** – making our economy stronger, greener and more sustainable.



Roads	Year	Status	SBC		Family Group		Scotland
Cost of roads per kilometre	2023-24	●	£6,463	↔	£6,996	↑	£13,788
% of A Class roads that should be considered for maintenance treatment	2022-24	●	36.9%	↓	29.2%	↓	28.9%
% of B Class roads that should be considered for maintenance treatment	2022-24	●	38.3%	↓	33.7%	↓	32.5%
% of C Class roads that should be considered for maintenance treatment	2022-24	●	36.0%	↔	35.9%	↔	33.4%
% of unclassified roads that should be considered for maintenance treatment	2020-24	●	54.8%	↓	41.1%	↓	36.2%

SBC spent less on road network compared to this previous year. This has been compounded by the inflationary impact on the cost of works. These two factors are impacting overall condition of the network.

SBC are spending less per kilometre than the average of our family group and less than the average for the whole of Scotland. The length of the A Class Roads and B Class Roads considered for maintenance treatment has increased since 2021-23 with SBC continuing to track below both the Family Group Average and the Scottish Average. This can be partly attributed to the overall length of the road network in the Scottish Borders which extends to approximately 2,900 kilometres.

Explore trends over time, and comparisons with other authorities in more detail, at:  
[SBC Performance / local-government-benchmarking](#)

Key: ★ Excellent ● Similar to others ● Focus for Consideration



# STRONG INCLUSIVE ECONOMY, TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

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Planning	Year	Status	SBC	Family Group	Scotland
Cost of planning and building standards Per Planning Application	2023-24	●	£7,822	↔ £6,319	↔ £6,679
Average time per business and industry planning application (weeks)	2023-24	★	8.2	↑ 12.8	↑ 10.7
Immediately available employment land as a % of total land allocated for employment purposes.	2023-24	●	25%	↑ 45%	↔ 25%

Economic Development	Year	Status	SBC	Family Group	Scotland
Investment in of Economic Development & Tourism per 1,000 Population	2023-24	●	£91,006	↑ £167,541	↑ £118,765
Proportion of properties receiving superfast broadband	2023-24	●	95%	↓ 86%	↔ 96%
% of procurement spend spent on local enterprises	2023-24	●	24%	↔ 36%	↔ 31%

The average time per application remains consistent and better than both the national average and the family group.

The investment in Economic Development & Tourism in the Scottish Borders has increased in contrast to the decrease for the family group and Scotland.

Properties receiving Superfast Broadband in Scottish Borders is following similar trend to Family Group and Scotland

Explore trends over time, and comparisons with other authorities in more detail, at:  
[SBC Performance / local-government-benchmarking](#)

Key: ★ Excellent ● Similar to others ● Focus for Consideration



# STRONG INCLUSIVE ECONOMY, TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

**PRIORITY:** Deliver the key economic development programmes for our region - the **South of Scotland Regional Economic Strategy, Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal** and the **Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal and Regional Prosperity Framework** – making our economy stronger, greener and more sustainable.



Economy Indicators	Year	Status	SBC	Family Group		Scotland	
Town Vacancy Rates	2023-24	●	12%	↔	13%	↔	12%
No of business gateway start-ups per 10,000 population	2023-24	●	20	↔	18	↓	14
Proportion of people earning less than the real living wage	2023-24	●	15%	↔	15%	↓	10%
Gross Value Added (GVA) per capita	2022-23	●	£19,100	↑	£23,669	↑	£27,039
Claimant Count as a % of Working Age Population	2023-24	●	2.9%	↔	2.5%	↔	3.1%
Claimant Count as a % of 16-24 Population	2023-24	●	3.7%	↔	3.2%	↔	3.4%
% of unemployed people assisted into work from council operated / funded employability programmes	2023-24	●	4%	↑	15%	↑	12%

The Scottish Borders and the family group have similar level of people earning less than the living wage.

Scottish Borders consistently has a lower GVA compared to the family group and Scotland. SBC has limited influence on this indicator, although SBC and partners are supporting growth through the Regional Economic Strategy.

The Scottish Borders has a specialised employability service (key worker support) designed to help those people in the Scottish Borders with the multiple barriers into the workforce. When looking at the family group with results for SBC are similar to the other rural councils within this family group. The SBC also has limited external service provision; however, work is progressing with external partners including the 3rd Sector.

Explore trends over time, and comparisons with other authorities in more detail, at:  
[SBC Performance / local-government-benchmarking](#)

Key: ★ Excellent ● Similar to others ● Focus for Consideration



# EMPOWERED VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

**PRIORITY:** Support communities and empower people to achieve strong, active, resilient and sustainable communities and to realise opportunities for improving people's lives.



Leisure	Year	Status	SBC	Family Group		Scotland	
Cost per library visit	2023-24	●	£1.87	↔	£2.72	↔	£2.38
% of adults satisfied with libraries	2020-24	●	52%	↑	71%	↑	67%
Cost per visit to Museums & Galleries	2023-24	●	£9.73	↑	£11.73	↓	£3.50
% of adults satisfied with museums and galleries	2020-24	●	52%	↑	68%	↑	69%
Cost per attendance at sports facilities	2023-24	●	£2.14	↔	£2.97	↑	£4.35
% of adults satisfied with leisure facilities	2020-24	●	53%	↑	73%	↑	67%

For the culture and leisure services the cost per visit in the Scottish Borders is well below the costs for both Family Group and Scotland and this may impact the level of satisfaction.

SBC & Live Borders are looking at options for modernising our libraries, museums & galleries, and leisure facilities.

Explore trends over time, and comparisons with other authorities in more detail, at:  
[SBC Performance / local-government-benchmarking](#)

Key: ★ Excellent ● Similar to others ● Focus for Consideration



# GOOD HEALTH AND WELLBEING

**PRIORITY:** Ensure the people of the Scottish Borders have the opportunities and are supported to take control of their health and wellbeing, enjoying a high quality of life.



Grant/Funding	Year	Status	SBC	Family Group	Scotland
% of Crisis Grant Decisions within 1 day	2023-24	●	97%	↔ 96%	↔ 94%
% CCG Grant Decisions within 15 Days	2023-24	●	95%	↔ 95%	↓ 83%
Proportion of SWF Funding Spent (Scottish Welfare Fund)	2023-24	●	140%	↓ 114%	↓ 129%
Proportion of DHP Funding Spent (Discretionary Housing Payments)	2023-24	●	83%	↔ 89%	↑ 101%

The proportion of grant decisions made within timescales in the Scottish Borders are similar / slightly better compared to the Family Group and Scotland.

Demand nationally for SWF budget has increased so in quarter 4 SBC changed the priority level to only award high priority items.

SBC is encouraging take up of DHP funding within constraints of the budget; the take up is similar to Family Group.  
Measures to maximise take up with partners were introduced and we will hopefully see improvements in 24-25.

Explore trends over time, and comparisons with other authorities in more detail, at:  
[SBC Performance / local-government-benchmarking](#)

Key: ★ Excellent ● Similar to others ● Focus for Consideration





# GOOD HEALTH AND WELLBEING

**PRIORITY:** Ensure the people of the Scottish Borders have the opportunities and are supported to take control of their health and wellbeing, enjoying a high quality of life.



Adult Social Care	Year	Status	SBC	Family Group		Scotland	
Home care costs per hour for people aged 65 or over	2023-24	★	£18	↑	£34	↑	£34
Self Directed Support spend on adults 18+ as a % of total social work spend on adults 18+	2023-24	●	9%	↓	7%	↔	9%
% of people aged 65 and over with long-term care needs receiving personal care at home	2023-24	●	61%	↔	59%	↔	63%
Residential costs per week per resident for people aged 65 or over	2023-24	●	£750	↓	£696	↓	£723
Proportion of care services graded 'good' (4) or better in Care Inspectorate inspections	2023-24	●	71%	↑	79%	↑	77%
Rate of readmission to hospital within 28 days per 1,000 discharges	2023-24	●	120	↔	103	↔	104
Number of days people spend in hospital when they are ready to be discharged, per 1,000 pop (75+)	2023-24	●	1,435	↓	843	↓	846

Scottish Borders average cost for home care per hour for people aged 65 and over have reduced due to the implementation of digital transformation allowing for increased clients (hours) though scheduling and reduced travel time and costs. Very different from family group and Scotland.

We remain above the Scottish national average for the rate of readmission to hospital withing 28 days pr 1,000 discharges at present however, work continues to be done to reduce this. There has been a slight decrease on last year which is positive.

Number of days people spend in hospital when they are ready to be discharged, per 1,000 pop (75+) in the Scottish Borders are higher than we would like compared to others. We are actively reviewing our practices and services in partnership with stakeholders to enhance and develop our performance as a service.

Explore trends over time, and comparisons with other authorities in more detail, at:

[SBC Performance / local-government-benchmarking](#)

Key: ★ Excellent ● Similar to others ● Focus for Consideration



# GOOD HEALTH AND WELLBEING

**PRIORITY:** Ensure the people of the Scottish Borders have the opportunities and are supported to take control of their health and wellbeing, enjoying a high quality of life.



Adult Social Care	Year	Status	SBC	Family Group	Scotland
% of adults supported at home who agree that their services and support had an impact in improving or maintaining their quality of life	2023-24	●	76%	↔ 73%	↓ 69%
% of adults supported at home who agree that they are supported to live as independently as possible	2023-24	●	77%	↔ 74%	↓ 72%
% of adults supported at home who agree that they had a say in how their help, care or support was provided	2023-24	●	63%	↔ 61%	↓ 59%
% of carers who feel supported to continue in their caring role	2023-24	●	28%	↑ 33%	↔ 31%

In the Scottish Borders there are a higher percentage of adults supported at home who agree that their services and support had an impact in improving or maintaining their quality of life, compared to family group and Scotland.

In the Scottish Borders there are a higher percentage of adults supported at home who agree that they are supported to live as independently as possible, compared to family group and Scotland.

There is a universal challenge for service providers to recruit and retain staff which impacts on delays in people receiving services and the satisfaction levels of unpaid carers in relation to feeling supported at the right time. SBC now has a carer strategy and implementation plan which should help to increase the percentage of carers who feel supported to continue their caring role.

Explore trends over time, and comparisons with other authorities in more detail, at:  
[SBC Performance / local-government-benchmarking](#)

Key: ★ Excellent ● Similar to others ● Focus for Consideration



# GOOD HEALTH AND WELLBEING

**PRIORITY:** Ensure the people of the Scottish Borders have the opportunities and are supported to take control of their health and wellbeing, enjoying a high quality of life.



Looked After Children / Child Protection	Year	Status	SBC	Family Group	Scotland
The Gross Cost of "Children Looked After" in Residential Based Services per Child per Week	2023-23	●	£4,016	↑ £4,844	↑ £5,071
The Gross Cost of "Children Looked After" in a Community Setting per Child per Week	2023-23	●	£424	↔ £415	↔ £445
% of children being looked after in the community	2023-23	●	78%	↔ 85%	↑ 89%
Proportion of LAC with more than 1 placement in the last year	2023-23	●	21%	↔ 18%	↔ 17%
Proportion of Child Protection re-registrations within 18 months	2023-23	●	7%	↔ 4%	↔ 6%

Scottish Borders Council has a lower proportion of children being looked after in the community compared to Scotland and their Family Group. It is expected that the Out of Authority Placement Project will align SBC with the Family Group and Scotland.

Foster carer recruitment and retention is a national issue. This is being addressed at a Scottish Government level. A national Foster Carer Recruitment Drive is hoping to improve placement stability.

Explore trends over time, and comparisons with other authorities in more detail, at:

[Explore the data | Benchmarking \(improvementservice.org.uk\)](#)

Key: ★ Excellent ● Similar to others ● Focus for Consideration



# GOOD HEALTH AND WELLBEING

**PRIORITY:** Ensure the people of the Scottish Borders have the opportunities and are supported to take control of their health and wellbeing, enjoying a high quality of life.



Trading Standards / Environmental Health / Money Advice & Citizens Advice	Year	Status	SBC	Family Group	Scotland
Cost of Trading Standards and environmental health per 1,000 population	2023-24	●	£20,844	↑ £35,710	↑ £22,804
Cost of Trading Standards, Money Advice & Citizens Advice per 1,000 population	2023-24	●	£5,882	↑ £10,811	↑ £7,266
Cost of environmental health per 1,000 population	2023-24	●	£14,962	↑ £24,899	↑ £15,538

Children	Year	Status	SBC	Family Group	Scotland
Proportion of Children meeting developmental milestones	2022-23	●	89%	↔ 85%	↓ 82%
Proportion of children living in poverty (after housing costs)	2022-23	●	24%	↔ 23%	↔ 22%

Scottish Borders Council and other councils have limited influence on this indicator and is happy to see that most children are meeting the developmental milestones..

Scottish Borders has a similar child poverty pattern as the family group and Scotland..

Explore trends over time, and comparisons with other authorities in more detail, at:  
[SBC Performance / local-government-benchmarking](#)

Key: ★ Excellent ● Similar to others ● Focus for Consideration



# WORKING TOGETHER, IMPROVING LIVES

**PRIORITY:** Ensure that Scottish Borders Council is effective, sustainable, responsive and aligned to the needs and priorities of our communities.



Human Resources / Corporate Services	Year	Status	SBC		Family Group		Scotland
Support services as a % of total gross expenditure	2023-24	●	7%	↓	4%	↓	4%
% of the highest paid 5% employees who are women	2023-24	●	54%	↔	52%	↔	59%
The gender pay gap (%)	2023-24	●	2.5%	↑	3.7%	↔	1.7%
The cost per dwelling of collecting council tax	2023-24	●	£7.27	↔	£7.55	↔	£5.89
Sickness absence days per teacher	2023-24	●	7.3	↔	8.2	↔	7.6
Sickness absence days per employee (non-teacher)	2023-24	●	12.1	↑	13.3	↑	13.9
% of income due from council tax received	2023-24	●	96%	↔	96%	↔	96%
% of invoices sampled that were paid within 30 days	2023-24	★	95%	↓	93%	↓	93%

The Council consistently shows a higher percentage of Support Services as a percentage of total gross expenditure due to its centralised support model; this means we include support services in this indicator which other councils will include in service budgets.

Employee absence is slightly lower in the Scottish Borders compared to the Family Group and Scotland as a whole.

SBC continues to outperform both our Family Group and Scottish average for the percentage of invoices sampled that were paid within 30 days.

Explore trends over time, and comparisons with other authorities in more detail, at:

[SBC Performance / local-government-benchmarking](#)

Key: ★ Excellent ● Similar to others ● Focus for Consideration



# WORKING TOGETHER, IMPROVING LIVES

**PRIORITY:** Ensure that Scottish Borders Council is effective, sustainable, responsive and aligned to the needs and priorities of our communities.



Financial Stability	Year	Status	SBC	Family Group		Scotland	
Total useable reserves as a % of council annual budgeted revenue	2023-24	●	20%	↑	97%	↔	24%
Uncommitted General Fund Balance as a % of annual budgeted net revenue	2023-24	●	20%	↑	10%	↔	2%
Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream - General Fund	2023-24	●	8%	↓	6%	↓	6%
Actual outturn as a percentage of budgeted expenditure	2023-24	●	97%	↔	100%	↔	100%

The Council remains broadly inline with the Scottish average for both **Total useable reserves as a % of council annual budgeted revenue** and **Uncommitted General Fund Balance as a % of annual budgeted net revenue**. The Family Group includes Island Councils which hold large reserves linked to Oil production and therefore are not considered to be comparable with SBC.

SBC is 2% higher than Scotland and our Family group for **Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream - General Fund**, reflecting the ambitious capital programme underway.

The Council reported a £0.6m underspend against budget during 2023/24 which was carried forward to support Live Borders.

Explore trends over time, and comparisons with other authorities in more detail, at: [SBC Performance / local-government-benchmarking](#)

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# WORKING TOGETHER, IMPROVING LIVES

**PRIORITY:** Ensure that Scottish Borders Council is effective, sustainable, responsive and aligned to the needs and priorities of our communities.



Buildings	Year	Status	SBC	Family Group	Scotland
% of operational buildings that are suitable for their current use	2023-24	●	68.8%	↑ 82.4%	↑ 85.5.1%
% of internal floor area of operational buildings in satisfactory condition	2023-24	●	76.8%	↑ 90.3%	↑ 89.8%

SBC has a lower proportion of operational buildings suitable for their current use in comparison to Family Group and Scotland. Efforts are being made in an attempt to address this under budgetary constraints.

SBC has a lower proportion of internal floor area in satisfactory condition in comparison to Family Group and Scotland. Efforts are continuing to address this under budgetary constraints.

