

Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF)

2017-18 Results for the
Scottish Borders

February 2019



Background

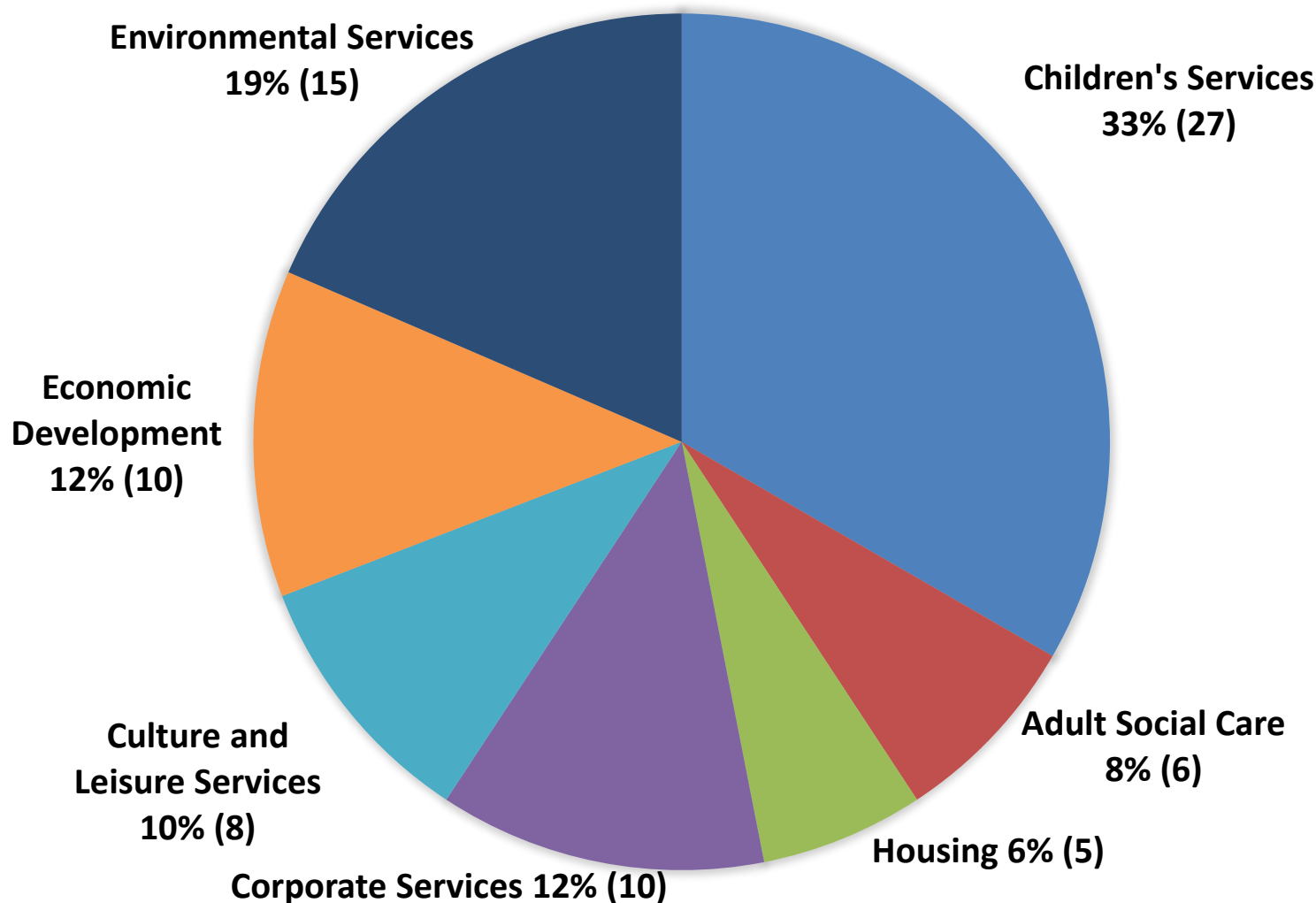
- [Local Government Benchmarking Framework](#) (LGBF) launched in 2013, and reflects a commitment by SOLACE* (Scotland) to **develop better measurement/comparable data as a catalyst for improving services** and enhancing public accountability across local government.
- Publicly reporting LGBF is a **statutory requirement** for all authorities; results and use of the LGBF is assessed during Best Value audits.
- Framework is constructed predominantly from **measures already collected** by Scottish Government, CIFPA etc. for other purposes.
- Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers – <http://www.solace.org.uk/>

LGBF Purpose

- Supports councils to target transformational change resources to areas of greatest impact
 - Allows evidence based comparisons on spending, performance and customer satisfaction between similar councils (“Family Group”)
- Provides high level ‘**can openers**’ to support Senior Managers and Elected Members to ask questions
 - designed to help explore the choices that are being made locally about service design and delivery, and compare these to other councils, particularly within family groups.
 - Cost, performance and satisfaction across a theme should be considered collectively to give a rounded picture of performance.
- LGBF measures **cannot be interpreted in isolation**
 - should be used alongside other performance information to interpret and report on the progress being made against the council’s strategic priorities.

LGBF indicators 2017/18: 81 in total

% (and number) of indicators by service area



Key National Messages: last 12 months

(taken from Improvement Service national overview report)

- Scottish Government funding for councils continues to fall (-2.3% in past 12 months, and -8.3% since 2010/11, in real terms)
- Councils are continuing to prioritise Social Care, Looked After Children, and Education. Resulting in pressure on other services e.g. Culture and Leisure
- Despite the significant budgetary pressures over this period, there has been continued progress in key policy areas over the past 12 months:
 - educational attainment and participation rates
 - council tax collection
 - economic development and planning
 - recycling rates

Impact of Funding Pressures Nationally

(taken from Improvement Service national overview report)

- Reduction in satisfaction for all key services – some large reductions in past 12 months
- Slower progress in overall attainment and reduction for the most deprived for the first year since launch of framework, resulting in a widening attainment gap
- Continued reduction in quality ratings for early years provision
- 18% people still earning less than living wage
- Reduction in visitors to museums, libraries and sports
- Decline in roads conditions
- Reduction in street cleanliness
- Increase in absence levels to highest level since framework began (although improvement for teachers); 10% reduction in Full Time Equivalents.
- Slower progress re Economic Development measures than previously

Presentation of Data

- National Online tool presents our position relative to ALL local authorities
- Valuable to look at our position relative to other similar Local Authorities (FAMILY GROUP)- now part of the tool too

“Place” Services

Aberdeenshire

Argyll & Bute

Dumfries & Galloway

Eilean Siar

Highland

Orkney Islands

Scottish Borders

Shetland Islands

“People” Services

Angus

Argyll & Bute

East Lothian

Highland

Midlothian

Moray

Scottish Borders

Stirling

Scottish Borders

Areas of Strength in 17/18 

% of Pupils from Deprived Areas Gaining 5+ Awards at Level 5 / Level 6 (SIMD - Quintile 1)

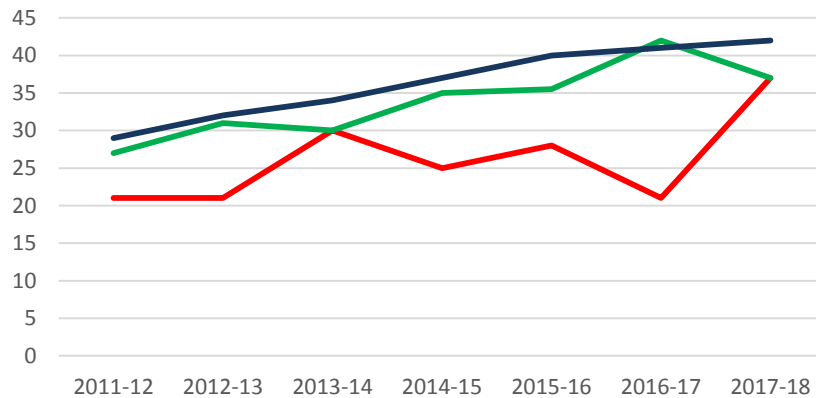


— Scottish Borders

— FG Median

— Scotland

% of Pupils from Deprived Areas Gaining 5+ Awards at Level 5 (SIMD)



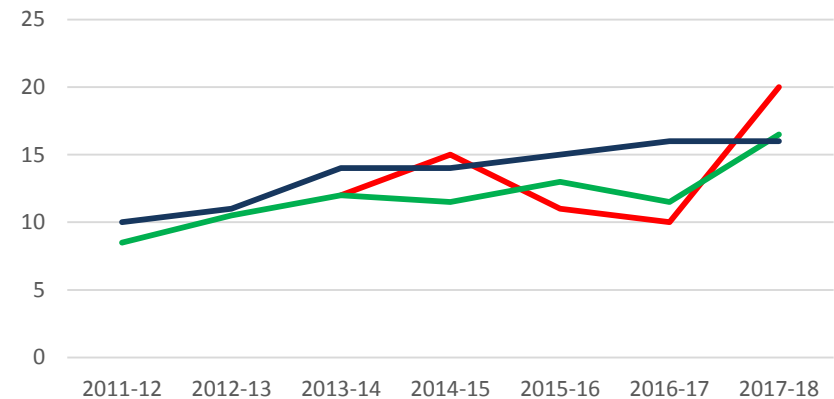
Result for 2017/18

Scottish Borders = 37%

Family Group (FG) = 37%

Scotland = 42%

% of Pupils from Deprived Areas Gaining 5+ Awards at Level 6 (SIMD)



Result for 2017/18

Scottish Borders = 20%

Family Group (FG) = 16%

Scotland = 16%

- % of pupils from the 20% most deprived areas (of Scotland) gaining 5+ awards at level 5 and level 6 has improved in Scottish Borders, especially at level 6 (however, numbers are low and can have a large impact on %)



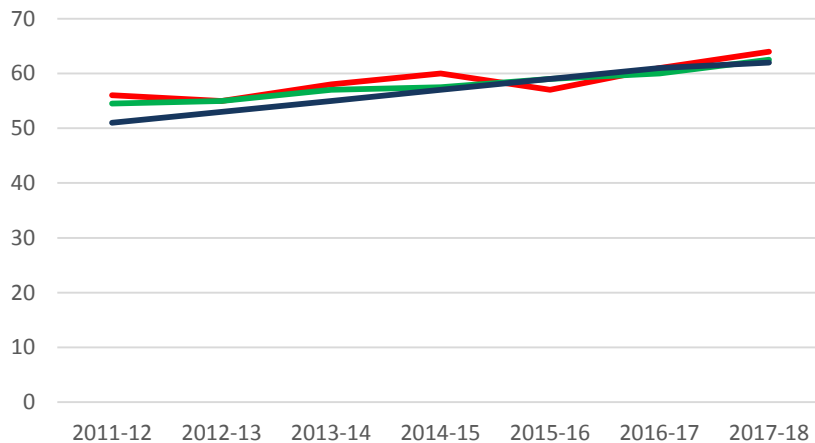
Overall Pupil Attainment

— Scottish Borders

— FG Median

— Scotland

% of Pupils Gaining 5+ Awards at Level 5



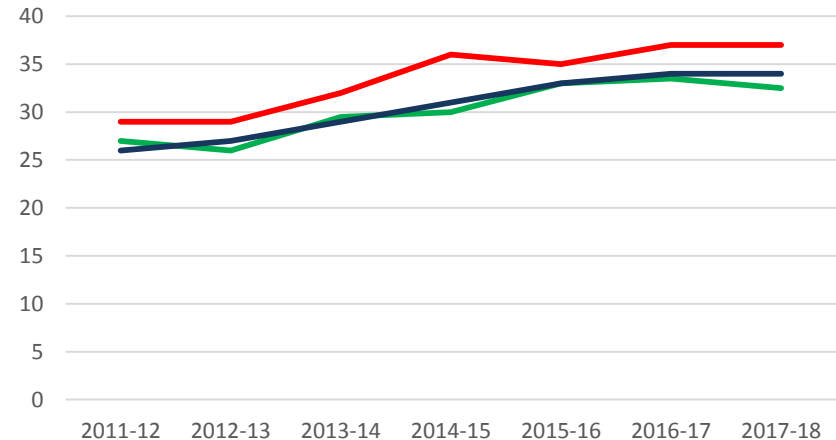
Result for 2017/18

Scottish Borders = 64%

Family Group (FG) = 62%

Scotland = 62%

% of Pupils Gaining 5+ Awards at Level 6



Result for 2017/18

Scottish Borders = 37%

Family Group (FG) = 32.5%

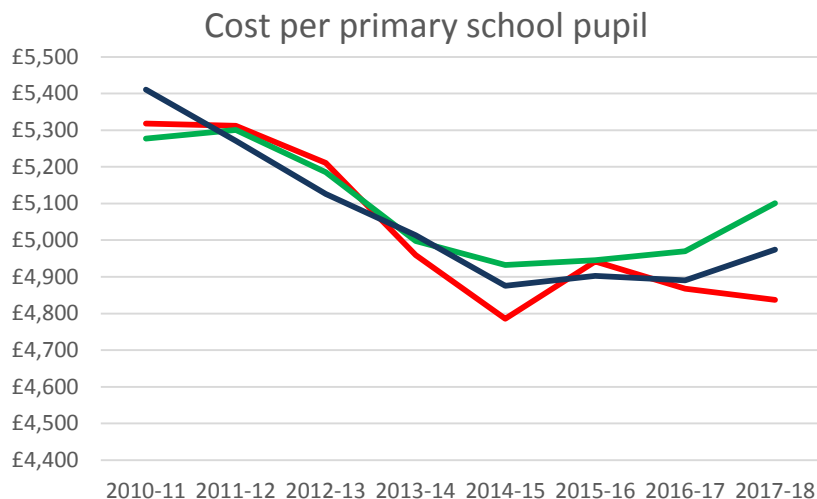
Scotland = 34%

- Attainment for Scottish Borders pupils has improved or been maintained at all levels and is higher than FG and Scotland



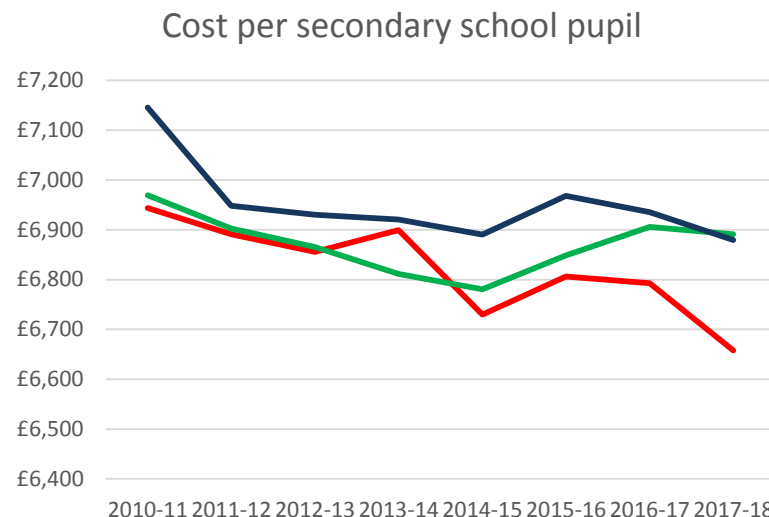
Costs per Pupil for Primary and Secondary

— Scottish Borders — FG Median — Scotland



Result for 2017/18

Scottish Borders = £4,837
Family Group (FG) = £5100
Scotland = £4,974



Result for 2017/18

Scottish Borders = £6,658
Family Group (FG) = £6,880
Scotland = £6,880

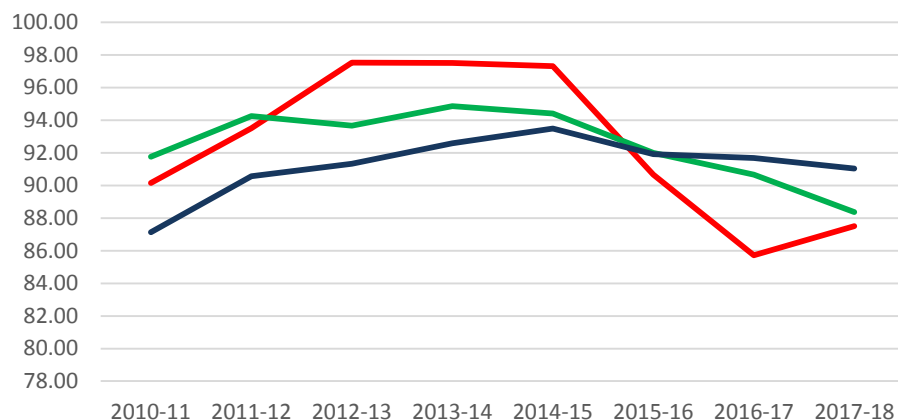
- Costs per pupil have continued to reduce for both Primary and Secondary in the Scottish Borders, below the level for Scotland.



Quality Ratings for Early Years Childcare Provision (good or better)

— Scottish Borders — FG Median — Scotland

Quality Ratings for Children's Provision



Result for 2017/18

Scottish Borders = 87.5%

Family Group (FG) = 88%

Scotland = 91%

- Trajectory as expected, given ongoing work with providers (some of whom are private sector) and partners to focus on improvement and on quality of early years provision.

Council Tax Collection Cost and Income Received

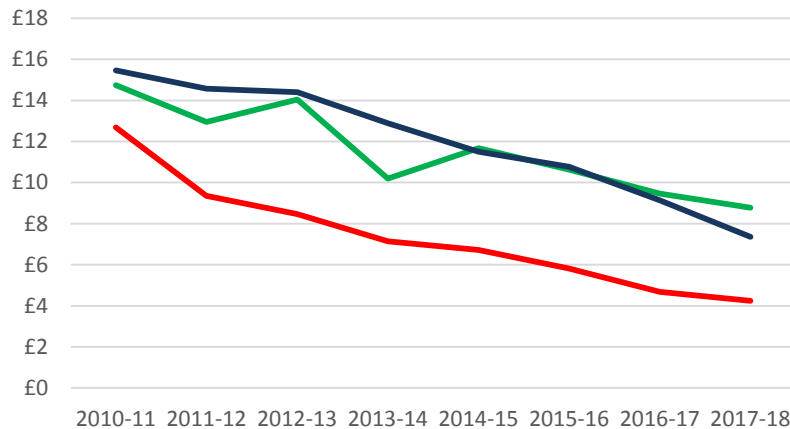


— Scottish Borders

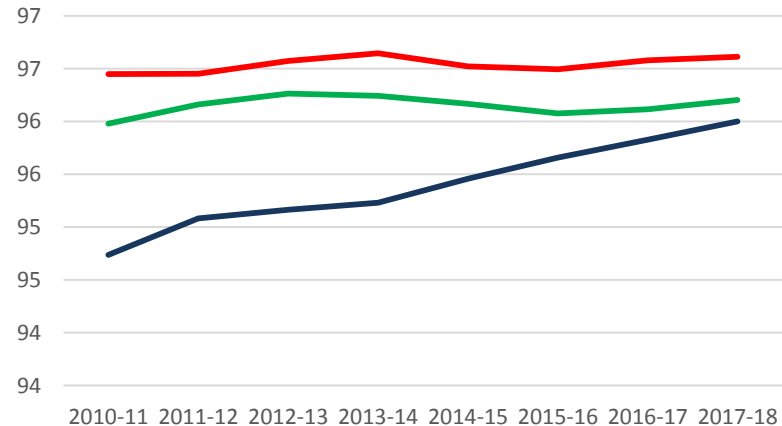
— FG Median

— Scotland

The cost per dwelling of collecting Council Tax



Percentage of income due from Council Tax received by the end of the year



Result for 2017/18

Scottish Borders = £4.24

Family Group (FG) = £8.77

Scotland = £7.35

Result for 2017/18

Scottish Borders = 96.61%

Family Group (FG) = 96.20%

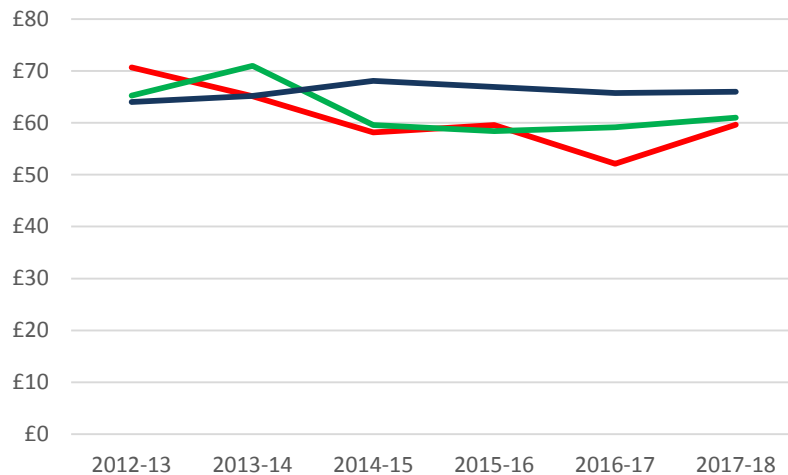
Scotland = 96%

- Costs reducing and income due has increased slightly

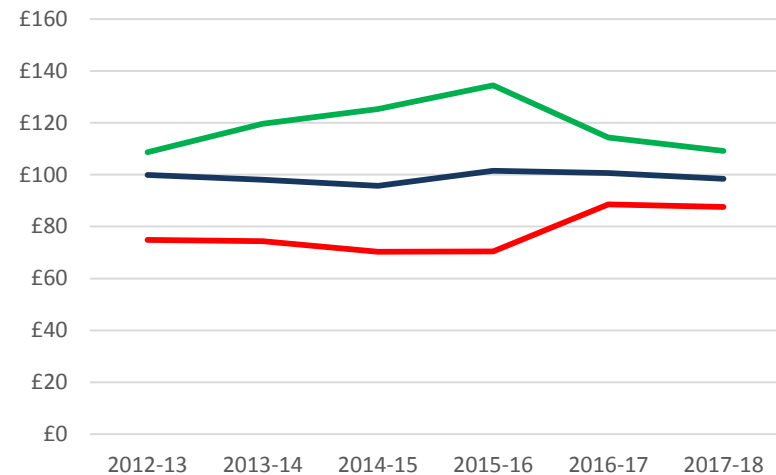
Waste: costs, recycling, satisfaction



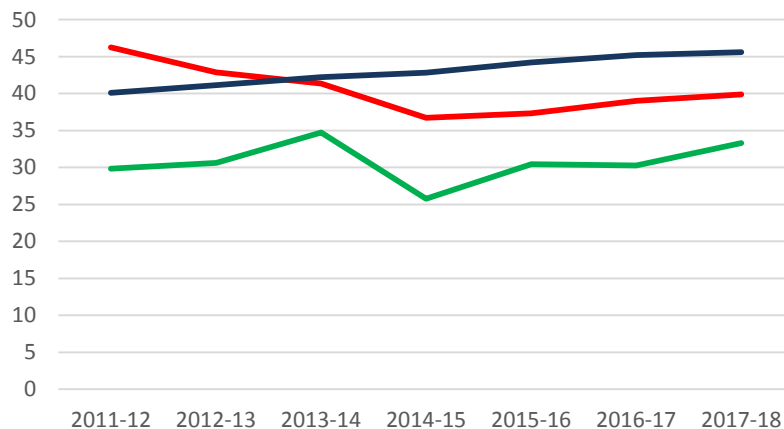
Net cost of Waste collection per premises



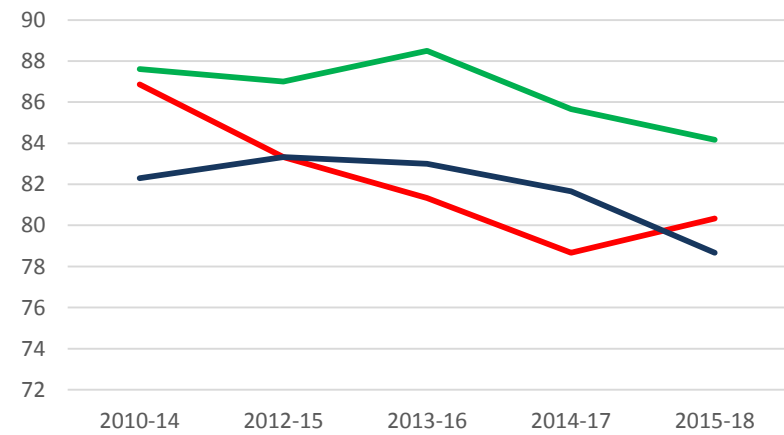
Net cost per Waste disposal per premises



The % of total household waste arising that is recycled



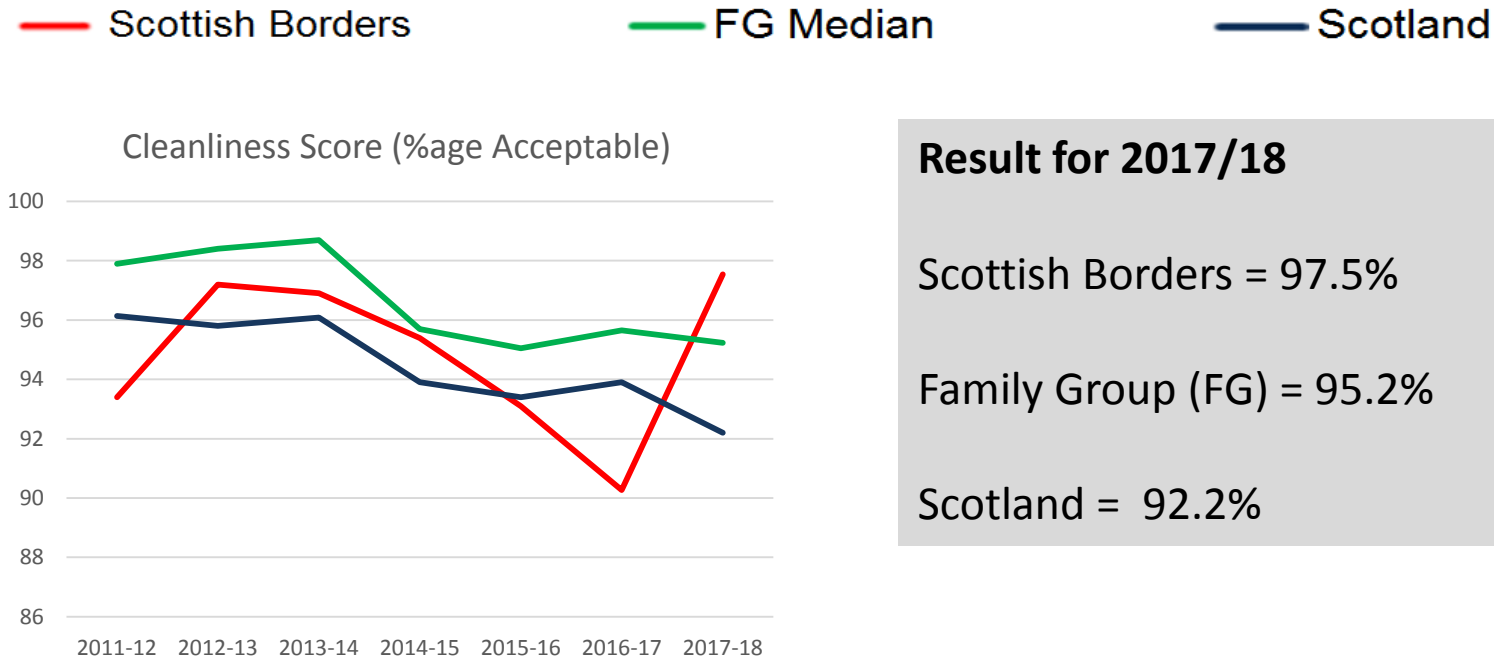
% of adults satisfied with refuse collection



- Positive position given rural challenges and increasing costs (collection and disposal)
- Work to do with households to increased recycling rates (using #yourpart campaign)



Cleanliness Score- % acceptable



Result for 2017/18

Scottish Borders = 97.5%

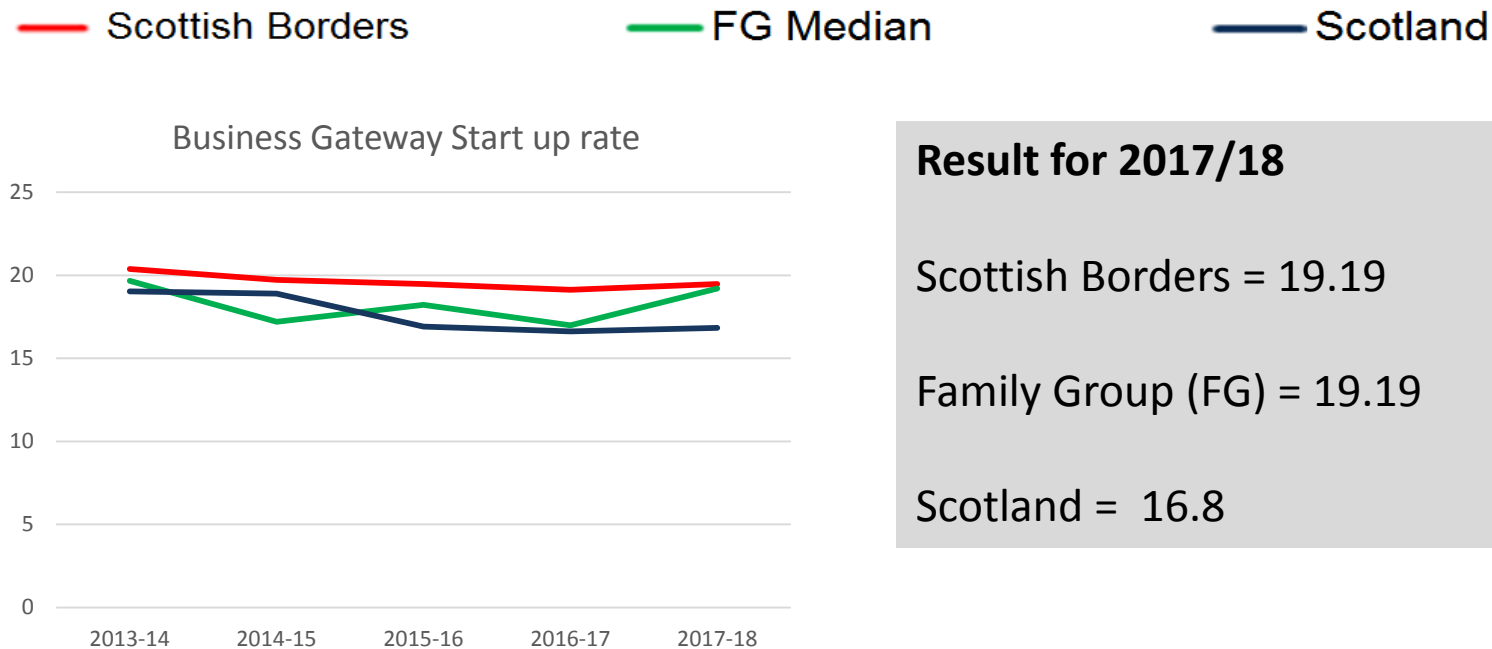
Family Group (FG) = 95.2%

Scotland = 92.2%

- The system for the surveying has changed and includes a “whole area” approach- footway/roadway AND adjacent green spaces.
- We have high standards of cleanliness in our green spaces and so will derive an immediate benefit as a result of the change to the survey methodology.
- Coupled with this is our skilled and knowledgeable workforce deployed intelligently to maintain cleanliness standards e.g. we deploy staff to attend to localities that have secondary schools, to follow up the lunchtime litter, with benefits to the wider community.



Business Gateway Start-Ups per 10,000 population



Result for 2017/18

Scottish Borders = 19.19

Family Group (FG) = 19.19

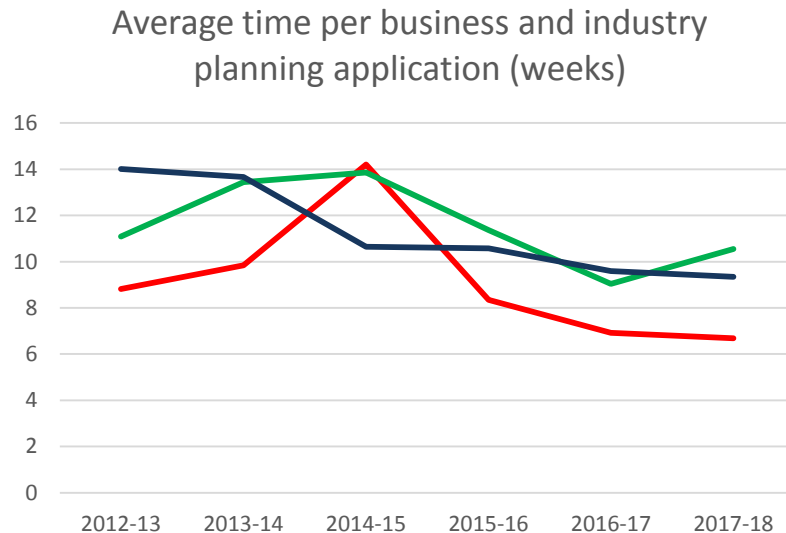
Scotland = 16.8

- The Scottish Borders continues to have a higher rate of Business Gateway “Start Ups” compared to Scotland.
- The development of the new South of Scotland Enterprise Agency over the next few years will ensure that start-ups are provided with the appropriate supported to grow within our unique rural economy



Average Time Per Commercial Planning Application

— Scottish Borders — FG Median — Scotland



Result for 2017/18

Scottish Borders = 6.67 weeks

Family Group (FG) = 10.5 weeks

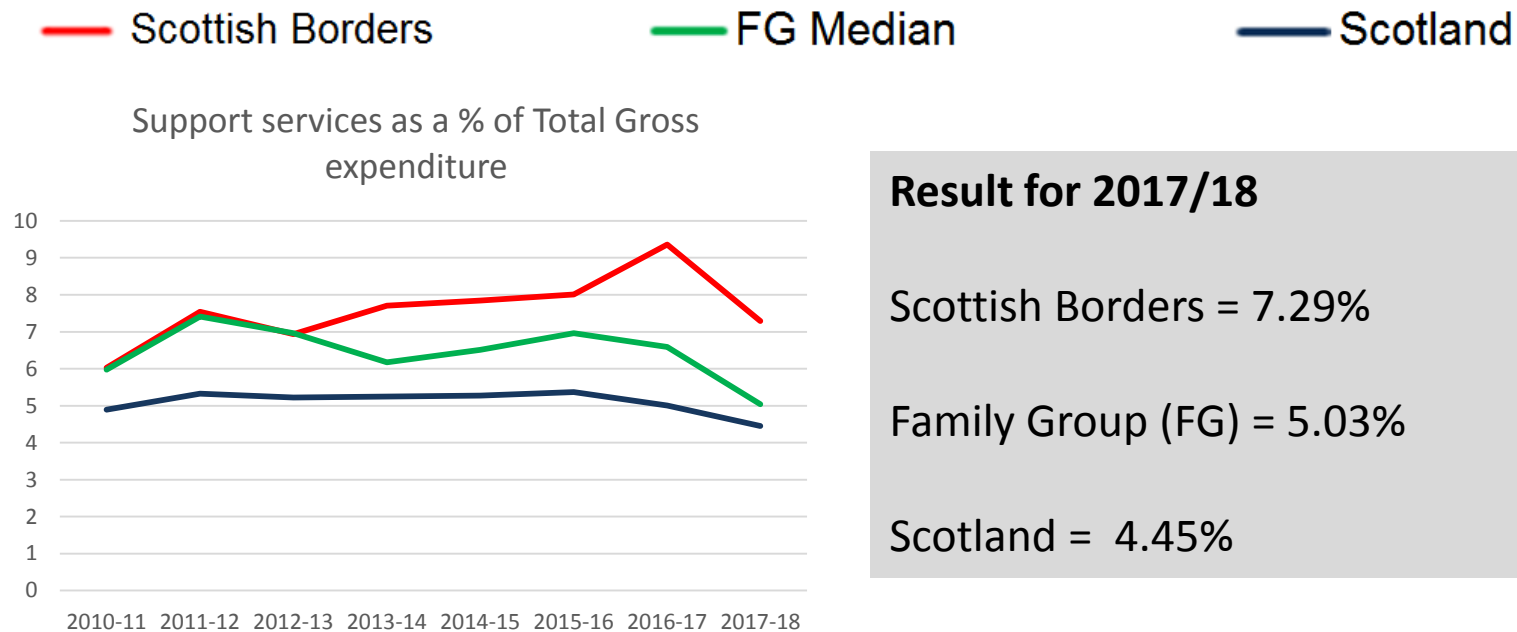
Scotland = 9.3 weeks

- The average time for **business or industry planning applications** continues to decrease and is below the FG and Scotland level, assisting not only the applicant but the local construction sector too.

Scottish Borders 17/18

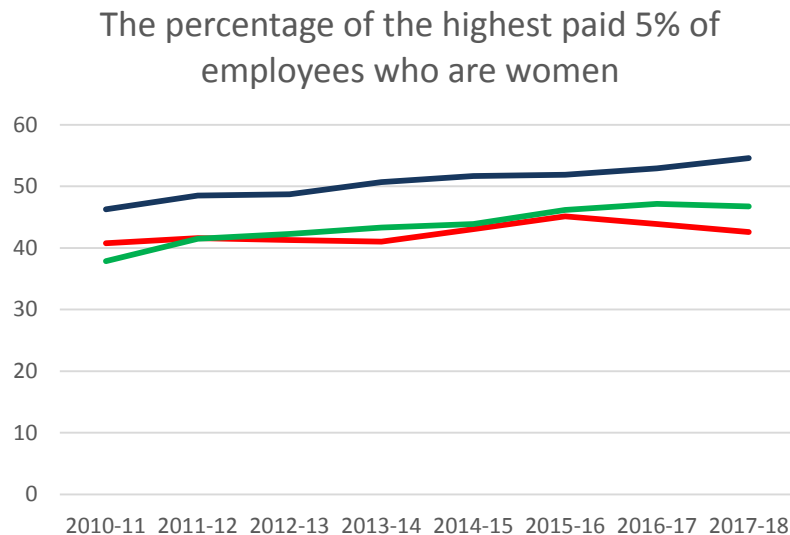
Areas of Challenge

Support Services as a % of Total Gross Expenditure



- Ongoing consolidation of support services across SBC reflects as higher central costs compared to other local authorities which still have support costs embedded in services.
- Significant reduction in actual costs since last year
 - **2016/17 = £28,671k; 2017/18 = £22,198k**
- Ambitious programme of digital transformation and investment which was reflected in our 16/17 support costs.

The percentage of the highest paid 5% of employees who are women



Result for 2017/18

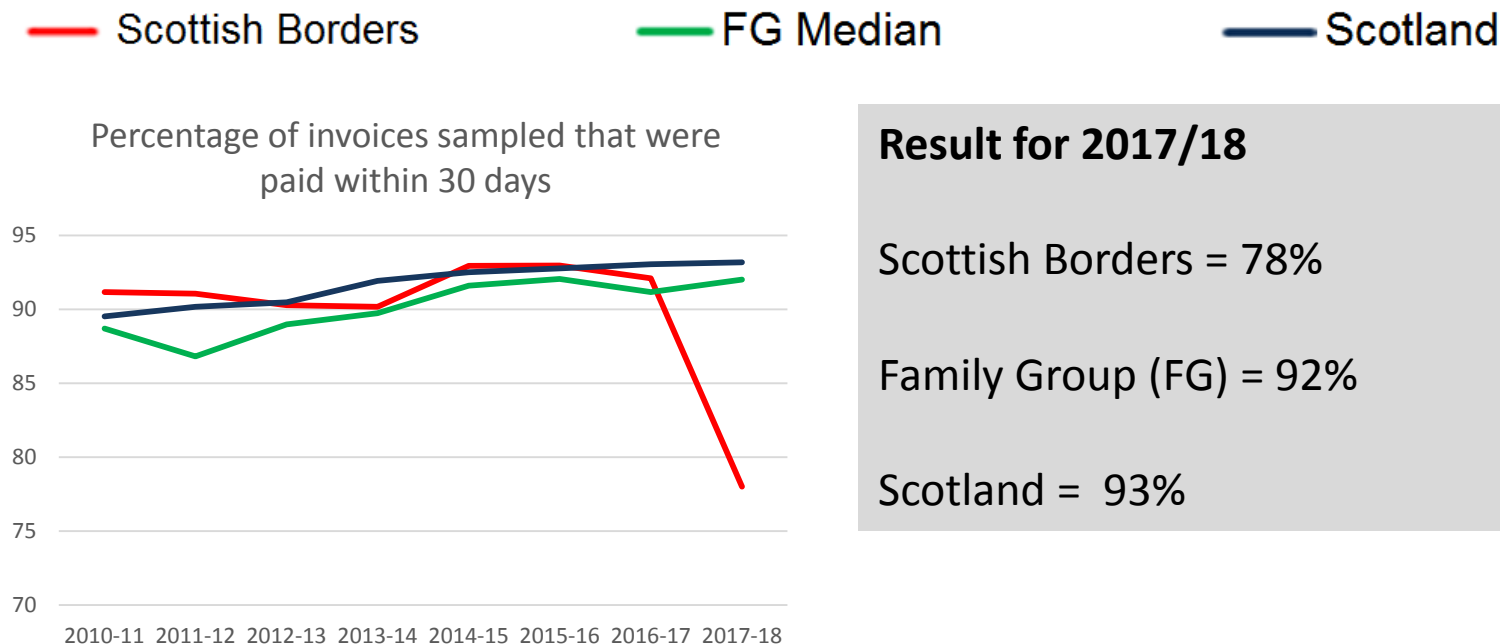
Scottish Borders = 42.57%

Family Group (FG) = 46.7%

Scotland = 54%

- The total number of employees in the top 5% has decreased from 155 to 148
- The number of women in this top 5% has only decreased by 5 (from 68 to 63)

% of invoices sampled that were paid within 30 days



Result for 2017/18

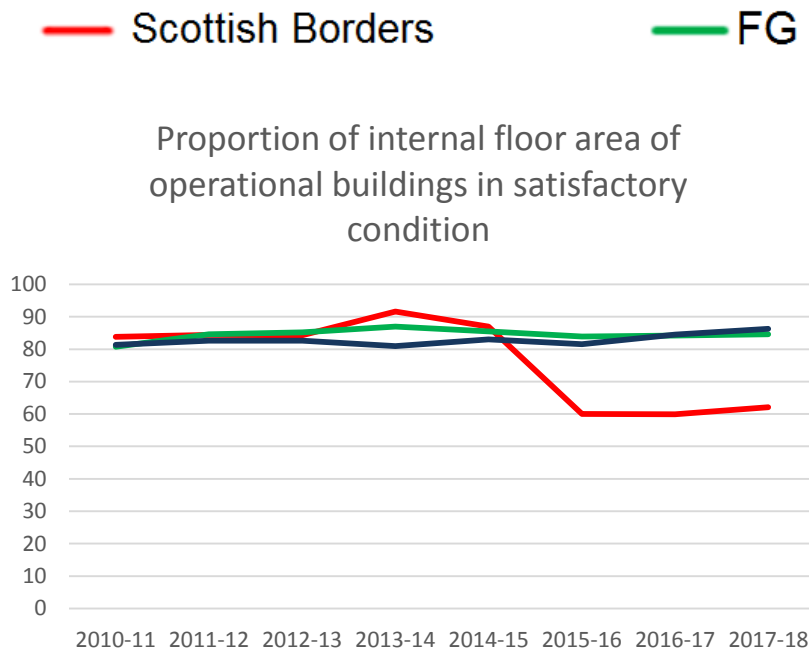
Scottish Borders = 78%

Family Group (FG) = 92%

Scotland = 93%

- As anticipated, there was a decrease in the %, with the ongoing implementation of a new system.
- Figures are monitored at Executive committee on Quarterly basis
- Figures for 2018/19 show a marked improvement compared to 2017/18; (Q3 Oct-Dec shows that **83%** of invoices were paid within 30 days.)

Proportion of internal floor area of operational buildings in satisfactory condition



Result for 2017/18

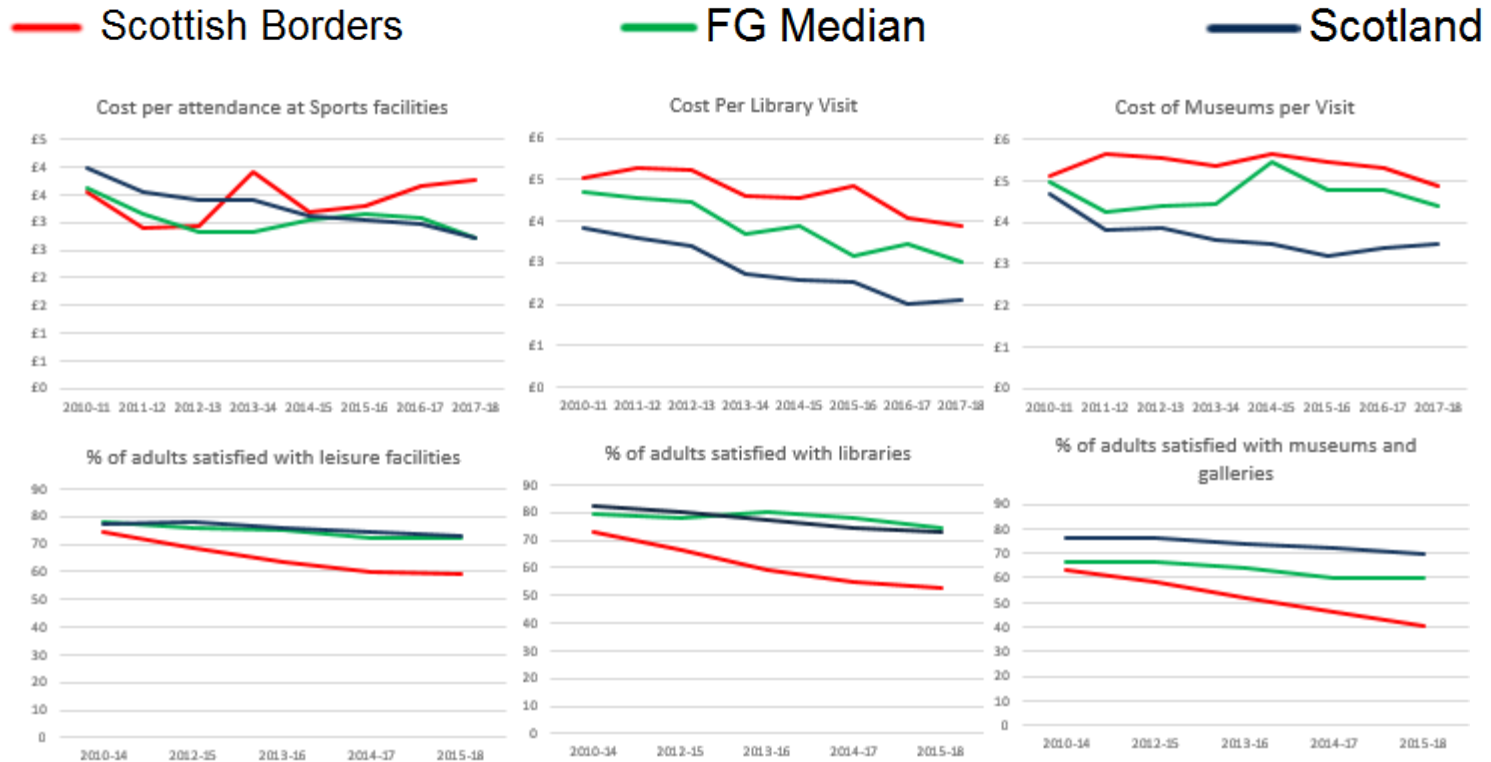
Scottish Borders = 62%

Family Group (FG) = 86%

Scotland = 86%

- The proportion of internal floor area of operational buildings in satisfactory condition remains below the FG and Scotland.
- We are anticipating that this indicator will improve following incorporation of all new school builds including Kelso High School, Langlee Primary and Broomlands Primary.
- Work to improve and rationalise our estate across each locality, focusing on buildings that are truly fit for purpose to deliver high quality services whether that be care, education or other key council services.

Culture and Leisure Costs and Satisfaction



- The trend for Scottish Borders for Culture and Leisure services is higher costs compared to the FG and Scotland and a decrease in satisfaction
 - *Note that the sport measures includes Duns, Jedburgh and school facilities at PPP schools not yet operated by Live Borders*
- Ongoing work with Live Borders, who now have a new consolidated strategy for sport and culture

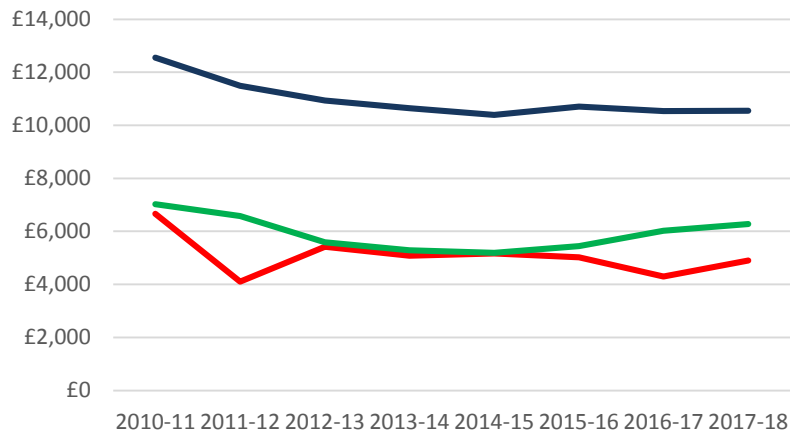
Road Cost and Maintenance

— Scottish Borders

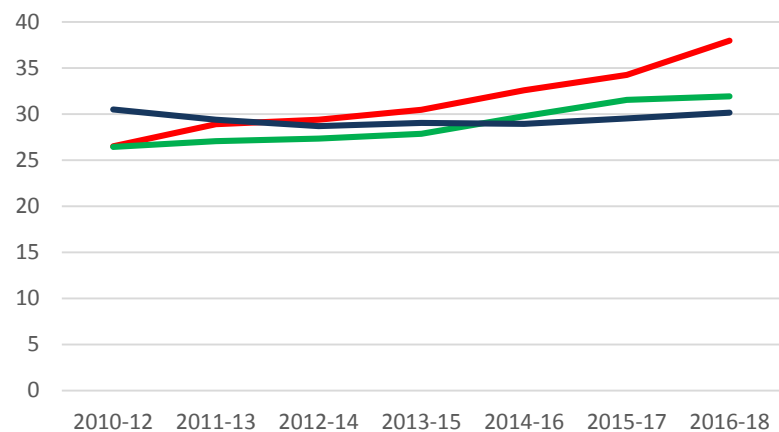
— FG Median

— Scotland

Cost of maintenance per kilometre of roads

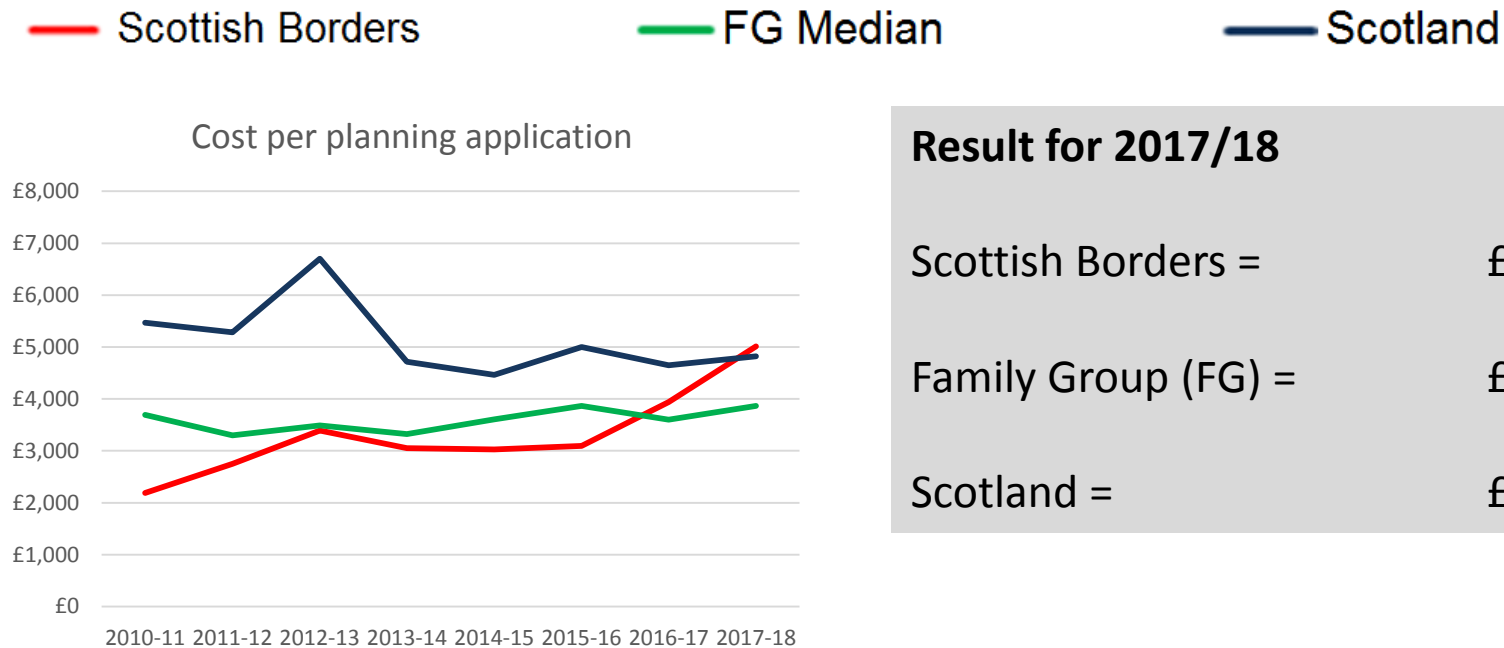


Percentage of A class roads that should be considered for maintenance treatment



- Increase in investment between 16/17 and 17/18
- Proportion of roads that should be considered for maintenance treatment is higher compared to Scotland and the FG (across all categories)
- Service is now optimising planned and unplanned maintenance regimes, combined with a range of services improvements, delivering efficiencies for the available spend.

Cost per Planning Application



Result for 2017/18

Scottish Borders = £5,010

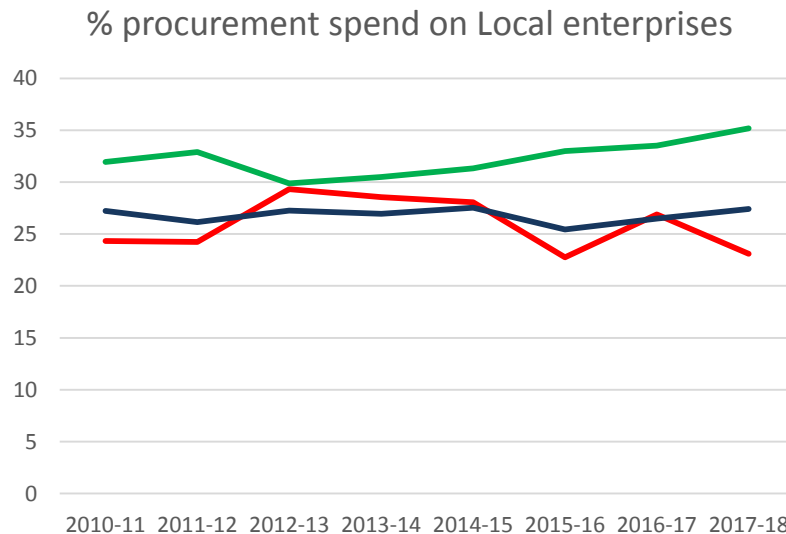
Family Group (FG) = £3,866

Scotland = £4,819

- Includes all expenditure and income relating to planning and **economic development**
 - Includes £1.1m of extra expenditure, compared to 2016-17 on Leader 2020 programme and the Selkirk CARS (additional expenditure was offset by additional grant income but measure only looks at gross expenditure).
- Borders figure also influenced in the last three years by increased fees for larger applications and a range of costs and budget increases that do not have a direct relationship to the cost of processing a planning application.

% procurement spend on local enterprises

— Scottish Borders — FG Median — Scotland



Result for 2017/18

Scottish Borders = 23%

Family Group (FG) = 35%

Scotland = 27%

- The % of procurement spend on local enterprises is lower than FG and Scotland
- This measure only includes enterprises defined as “Core trade” i.e. where the councils spend is over £1,000.
- Enterprises location is defined by their postcode - where supplier’s postcode is not known they have been excluded from the calculation
- SBC’s 17/18 annual procurement report shows that **44.3%** of SBC spend with third parties was with businesses operating in the geographical boundaries of the Scottish Borders

Where to see the 2017/18 LGBF Results

Online tool: [*My Local Council*](#)

- 4 aspects to data presentation:
 - Latest data: Local compared to Scotland
 - Data overtime: Local compared to Scotland
 - Latest data for all councils
 - Latest data for similar councils (family group)
- Please contact Performance@scotborders.gov.uk with any questions or comments.