

Falkirk Council

Information on council performance comes from statutory performance indicators, value for money and other reports. **All** of these must be taken into account in considering how a council is performing. Further details about all of the information below are available in Section 1 of this document.

Contextual data

• total resident population	145,920
• number of households	63,767
• Grant Aided Expenditure for 2004/2005 (£'000)	217,361
• Band D Council Tax for 2004/2005 (£)	951

Statutory Performance Indicators - summary information

The council's performance worsened by 5% or more on 19 measures, and improved by 5% or more on 11 measures.

	Measures that worsened by...			Measures that improved by...		
	>15%	10-14%	5-9%	5-9%	10-14%	>15%
Scotland						
Falkirk	6	7	6	2	2	7

A full set of the SPI measures used for this analysis is included at the end of the profile.

In 2001/02 this council had a ranking of 25 or below in indicators 30 and 66. By 2003/04, they had not improved by at least 5% in the following indicators:

Indicator number	Indicator definition
30	Sickness absence - the percentage of working days lost through sickness absence for craft and manual employees
66	Consumer complaints - the percentage of complaints processed within 14 days of receipt

Progress towards Best Value

Between 1999 and 2002, the Accounts Commission's Performance Management and Planning (PMP) audit assessed the arrangements that councils' had in place to manage their performance under Best Value. It examined the extent to which councils and their various services had in place the basic building blocks for Best Value, in particular the key management processes required. Comment on the findings of the PMP Audit for the council may be found in the Profiles for 2001/02.

The PMP audits are now being superseded by a cyclical programme of Best Value and Community Planning audits. This programme began in early 2004 and aims to cover all 32 councils over three years.

Accounts Commission/Audit Scotland reports (April 2003 to December 2004)

- There were no Accounts Commission statutory reports published on this council during the time period
- The appointed auditor's report on the council's financial statement for the year was unqualified
- The following Value for Money reports were published during the time period and looked at the comparative performance of all councils:
 - *'Bye now, pay later? A follow-up review of the management of early retirement'* (June 2003). This report mentioned Falkirk Council as not having reviewed its early retirement policy since 1996.

- *'Dealing with offending by young people A follow-up report' (November 2003)*. This report mentioned Falkirk Council as one of the larger councils where children generally receive the required level of supervision.
- *'Maintaining Scotland's Roads' (November 2004)*. This report made no specific mention of Falkirk Council.

More information about the work of the Accounts Commission and Audit Scotland are available at www.audit-scotland.gov.uk

Inspectorates (April 2003 to December 2004)

- HM Inspectorate of Education completed a QMiE inspection of the council's education department in April 2004. More information is available at www.scotland.gov.uk/hmie
- The Benefit Fraud Inspectorate did not undertake an inspection of the council during this time period. More information is available at www.bfi.gov.uk
- The Social Work Services Inspectorate included a section on this council in their annual report *'Growth & Development'* (November 2002). More information is available at www.scotland.gov.uk/socialwork/swsi
- The Food Standards Agency completed an audit of this council's food law enforcement services as part of their audit scheme year 3 (April 2003 to March 2004). More information is available at www.foodstandards.gov.uk

For more information on the work of Inspectorates in general, please refer to Section 1 of this report

Scottish Public Services Ombudsman (April 2003 to December 2004)

- There were no findings of maladministration against this council during this time period.

More information on the work of the Ombudsman is available at www.scottishombudsman.org.uk

Statutory Performance Indicators – list of measures

Falkirk

	Measure	Rank in 03/04		PI measurement			Better ✓ or worse X since 01/02		
		1-32	✓1-8 X 25-32	01/02	02/03	03/04	5-9%	10-14%	>15%
Adult Social Work									
1	Staff qualification – the percentage of care staff who are qualified, working in care homes for older people	8	✓	43	48	52			✓
2	Staff qualification – the percentage of care staff who are qualified, working in care homes for other adults	1	✓	71	75	75	✓		
3	Privacy - percentage of residential care places occupied by older people that are in single rooms	15		-	-	88.3			
4	Privacy - percentage of residential care places occupied by older people that have en-suite facilities	9		-	-	68.8			
5	Privacy - percentage of residential places occupied by other adults that are in single rooms	22		-	-	85.2			
6	Privacy - percentage of residential places occupied by other adults that have en-suite facilities	20		-	-	28.9			
7	Home care - total hours as a rate per 1,000 population aged 65+	12		-	-	566.6			
8	Home care - number of home care clients aged 65+ receiving personal care as a percentage of clients	12		-	-	63.3			
9	Home care - number of home care clients aged 65+ receiving care in evenings/overnight as a percentage of clients	2	✓	-	-	62.7			
10	Home Care - number of home care clients aged 65+ receiving care at weekends as a percentage of clients	30	X	-	-	24.7			
11	Social enquiry reports - the proportion of reports requested by the courts that were allocated to social work staff within 2 working days of receipt by the social work department	8	✓	98.7	99.0	99.7			
12	Social enquiry reports - the proportion of reports submitted by the social work department to the courts by the due date	12		99.9	99.8	99.7			
13	Probation - the proportion of new probationers seen by a supervising officer within one week	17		87.4	77.9	76.1		X	
14	Probation - the proportion of people subject to a probation order who were reported to the court for breach of probation during the year	22		24.5	30.3	28.0		X	
15	Community service - the average hours per week taken to complete community service orders	13		4.9	4.2	3.8			X
Benefits Administration									
16	Administration costs - the overall gross administration cost (£) per council tax or housing benefit application	3	✓	19.13	31.94	32.40			X
17	New claims - the average time (days) taken to process new claims	6	✓	42	32	33			✓
18	Changes of circumstances - the average time (days) taken to process notifications of changes of circumstances	13		15	13	11			✓
19	Accuracy and security of processing - percentage of cases for which the calculation of benefit due was correct.	25	X	95.1	94.6	93.2			
Children's Services									
20	Primary schools - the percentage of schools in which the ratio of pupils to available places is between 61% and 100%	9		77.1	70.8	75.0			
21	Secondary schools - the percentage of schools in which the ratio of pupils to available places is between 61% and 100%	1	✓	87.5	100.0	100.0			✓
22	Special educational needs - the average number of weeks taken to complete an assessment of special educational needs	24		27	29	30			X
23	Child care placements – the percentage of children being looked after by the council who are in community placements	25	X	87.9	86.5	83.1		X	

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	Measure	Rank in 03/04		PI measurement			Better ✓ or worse X since 01/02		
		1-32	✓ 1-8 X 25-32	01/02	02/03	03/04	5-9%	10-14%	>15%
Children's Services									
24	Staff qualification – the percentage of care staff in residential homes for children who are qualified	NS		77	100	NS			
25	Privacy - percentage of residential places occupied by children that are single rooms	24		-	-	81.8			
26	Privacy - percentage of residential places occupied by children that have en-suite facilities	21		-	-	9.1			
27	Social background reports - percentage of reports requested by the Reporter, that were submitted within 20 days	3	✓	-	-	65.0			
28	Supervision - percentage of children made subject to a supervision order that were seen by a supervising officer within 15 days	22		-	-	72.3			
Corporate Management									
29	Sickness absence - the percentage of working days lost through sickness absence for chief officers, administrative, professional, technical and clerical staff	24		5.2	5.5	5.5	X		
30	Sickness absence - the percentage of working days lost through sickness absence for craft and manual employees	26	X	7.7	6.5	7.4			
31	Sickness absence - the percentage of working days lost through sickness absence for teachers	6	✓	3.8	3.7	3.4		✓	
32	Litigation claims - number of claims per 10,000 population	24		-	-	38.5			
33	Equal opportunities policy - percentage of highest paid 2% of earners among council employees that are women	9		-	-	32.4			
34	Equal opportunities policy - percentage of highest paid 5% of earners among council employees that are women	12		-	-	36.6			
35	Council tax - the gross cost of collecting council tax per dwelling (£) (see note 2)	2	✓	-	7.36	7.62			
36	Council tax - the percentage of council tax income for the year that was collected in the year (see note 2)	10		93.8	94.0	94.6			
37	Non-domestic rates - percentage of income due from non-domestic rates that was received by the end of the year	13		-	97.4	97.1			
38	Invoice payment - the percentage of invoices paid within 30 days	21		-	-	80.7			
Cultural and Community Services									
39	Sport and Leisure Management - the number of attendances per 1,000 population for all pools	23		3077	3042	3129			
40	Indoor facilities - the number of attendances per 1,000 population	13		4625	3773	4298	X		
41	Processing time - the average time (days) taken to satisfy library book requests	8	✓	16	16	13			✓
42	Stock turnover – the percentage of the national target met for replenishing lending stock for adults	10		81.4	85.4	74.5	X		
43	Stock turnover – the percentage of the national target met for replenishing lending stock for children and teenagers	19		66.7	54.4	59.6		X	
44	Use of libraries – the number of borrowers as a percentage of the resident population	13		26.5	26.5	26.1			
45	Use of libraries – the average number of issues per borrower	2	✓	41.4	40.3	34.4			X
46	Learning centre and learning access points - number of users as a percentage of the resident population	9		-	3.4	8.3			
47	Learning centre and learning access points - number of time terminals are used per 1,000 population	19		-	137.2	453.3			

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	Measure	Rank in 03/04		PI measurement			Better ✓ or worse X since 01/02		
		1-32	✓1-8 X 25-32	01/02	02/03	03/04	5-9%	10-14%	>15%
Development Services									
48	Building warrants - percentage of requests for a building warrant responded to within 15 days	25	X	-	19.2	49.4			
49	Building warrants - percentage of building warrants issued (or an application otherwise determined) within 6 days	1	✓	-	100.0	100.0			
50	Completion certificates - average time (days) taken to respond to a request for a completion certificate	13		-	4	4			
51	Completion certificates - percentage of completion certificates issued (or an application otherwise determined) within 3 days	30	X	-	69.5	39.7			
52	Processing time – the percentage of householder applications dealt with within two months	3	✓	88.9	88.4	91.9			
53	Processing time – the percentage of all applications dealt with within two months	7	✓	62.3	66.4	73.4			✓
Housing									
54	Tenancy changes - the percentage of rent loss due to voids	19		2.38	2.78	3.00			X
55	Tenancy changes - the percentage of empty houses that were re-let within four weeks	10		36.0	29.5	43.5			✓
56	Rent arrears - current tenant arrears as a percentage of the net amount of rent due in the year (see note 2)	21		6.9	7.9	9.6			X
57	Rent arrears - the percentage of current tenants owing more than 13 weeks' rent at the year end, excluding those owing less than £250 (see note 2)	27	X	6.1	7.3	8.9			X
58	Council house sales - the percentage of sales completed within 26 weeks	14		67.6	50.9	65.1			
59	Homelessness - average time between presentation and completion of duty by the council for those cases assessed as homeless or potentially homeless	1	✓	-	-	2.0			
60	Homelessness - percentage of cases reassessed as homeless or potentially homeless within 12 months of previous case being completed	5	✓	-	-	2.4			
Protective Services									
61	Food hygiene - the percentage of premises with a minimum inspection frequency of 12 months or less, that were inspected on time	28	X	89.9	88.8	81.9	X		
62	Noise complaints - the percentage of cases settled on first contact that were dealt with on day of receipt	30	X	-	-	45.9			
63	Noise complaints - the percentage of cases needing further action, completed within 14 days of receipt	23		-	-	48.6			
64	Pest control - the percentage of responses to requests for high-priority pest control services within two days	15		91.8	96.6	96.7	✓		
65	Pest control - the percentage of responses to requests for low-priority pest control services within five days	21		92.8	93.0	94.7			
66	Consumer complaints - the percentage of complaints processed within 14 days of receipt	29	X	76.4	72.0	66.2		X	
67	Business advice requests - the percentage of requests dealt with within 14 days of receipt	20		100.0	88.6	95.0	X		
Roads & Lighting									
68	Carriageway condition - percentage of network that should be considered for maintenance treatment	10		-	-	44.5			
69	Traffic light repairs - the percentage of repairs completed within 48 hours	20		91.6	93.9	90.0			
70	Street light repairs - the percentage of repairs completed within seven days	18		97	97	95			

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	Measure	Rank in 03/04		PI measurement			Better ✓ or worse ✗ since 01/02		
		1-32	✓1-8 ✗ 25-32	01/02	02/03	03/04	5-9%	10-14%	>15%
Waste Management									
71	Refuse collection - the gross cost per property (£) of refuse collection (see note 2)	3	✓	37.60	39.61	41.70	✗		
72	Refuse collection - the gross cost per property (£) of refuse disposal (see note 2)	10		49.87	51.53	52.35			
73	Refuse collection - the percentage of special uplifts of bulky domestic refuse completed within five days	26	✗	72.4	58.4	64.7	✗		
74	Refuse collection - the number of complaints per 1,000 households	25	✗	-	-	39.9			
75	Recycling - of the household, commercial and industrial waste collected by the authority, the percentage that was recycled	17		5.6	6.8	11.2	✓		
		✓1-8 ✗ 25-32	18 12						

Data features	Symbol	01/02	02/03	03/04
No Service	(NS)	0	0	1
Failure to report	(FTR)	0	0	0
Unreliable data	(underlined)	0	4	0

Notes

1. An underlined measurement indicates unreliable data.
2. This measure is presented in family groups in Section 3.
3. Unreliable data has not been ranked.

Count of measures showing significant change since 2001/02	
Improvement	
5-9%	2
10-14%	2
>15%	7
Decline	
5-9%	6
10-14%	7
>15%	6