

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 149,150
- number of households 69,313
- Grant Aided Expenditure for 2007/2008 (£'000) 253,862
- Band D Council Tax for 2007/2008 (£) 1,070

Statutory Performance Indicators - summary information

The council's performance worsened by 5% or more on 12 measures, and improved by 5% or more on 17 measures.

	Measures that worsened by...			Measures that improved by...		
	>15%	10-14%	5-9%	5-9%	10-14%	>15%
Scotland	7	3	4	5	4	11
Falkirk	6	5	1	4	3	10

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

In 2004/05 this council had a ranking of 25 or below in indicators 32, 33, 55, 70 and 81. By 2006/07, they had not improved by at least 5% in the following indicators:

Indicator number	Indicator definition
32	Sickness absence - the percentage of working days lost through sickness absence for chief officers and local government employees
70	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The PMP audits have been superseded by a cyclical programme of Best Value and Community Planning audits.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 2006 to October 2007)

- 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
- There were no reports published during this period that made reference to the comparative performance of councils.

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

Inspectorates (April 2006 to October 2007)

- In July 2007 the HM Inspectorate of Education published a report on a QMiE inspection of the council's education service. More information is available at: www.hmie.gov.uk
- The Benefit Fraud Inspectorate did not undertake an inspection of this council during this time period. More information is available at www.bfi.gov.uk
- The Social Work Inspection Agency has not published a report relating to this council. More information is available at: www.swia.gov.uk
- Communities Scotland did not undertake an inspection of the council during this time period. More information is available at: www.communitiesscotland.gov.uk
- The Food Standards Agency did not undertake an inspection of the council during this time period. 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 2006 to October 2007)

During this period the SPSO published four reports against the council:

- upholding a complaint regarding a planning matter – July 2006
- partially upholding a complaint regarding finance policy / administration – August 2006
- partially upholding a complaint regarding a planning policy / administration matter – November 2006
- upholding a complaint regarding a handling of application matter – October 2007

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

Statutory Performance Indicators – list of measures

Falkirk

	Measure	Rank in 06/07		PI measurement			Better ✓ or worse ✗ since 04/05		
		1-32	✓1-8 ✗ 25-32	04/05	05/06	06/07	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	7	✓	-	59.5	63.5			
2	Staff qualification – the percentage of care staff who are qualified, working in care homes for other adults	1	✓	-	90.0	90.0			
3	Privacy - percentage of residential care places occupied by older people that are in single rooms	26	✗	88.3	88.4	87.6			
4	Privacy - percentage of residential care places occupied by older people that have en-suite facilities	18		69.6	68.5	71.4			
5	Privacy - percentage of residential places occupied by other adults that are in single rooms	24		92.9	91.9	93.3			
6	Privacy - percentage of residential places occupied by other adults that have en-suite facilities	23		33.1	31.9	32.8			
7	Home care - total hours as a rate per 1,000 population aged 65+	10		544.4	565.8	579.4	✓		
8	Home care - number of home care clients aged 65+ receiving personal care as a percentage of clients	23		65.5	63.0	67.2			
9	Home care - number of home care clients aged 65+ receiving care in evenings/overnight as a percentage of clients	15		24.8	25.6	28.6			✓
10	Home care - number of home care clients aged 65+ receiving care at weekends as a percentage of clients	6	✓	56.5	55.7	69.0			✓
11	Respite care - total overnight respite nights provided for older people aged 65+ per 1,000 population	14		-	394.5	332.9			
12	Respite care - percentage of respite nights not in a care home aged 65+	6	✓	-	12.3	5.6			
13	Respite care - total daytime respite hours provided for older people aged 65+ per 1,000 population	16		-	47.9	1927.4			
14	Respite care - percentage of daytime respite not in a day centre aged 65+	1	✓	-	100.0	100.0			
15	Respite care - total overnight respite nights provided for people aged 18-64 per 1,000 population	13		-	64.5	44.9			
16	Respite care - percentage of respite nights not in a care home aged 18-64	6	✓	-	52.1	37.1			
17	Respite care - total daytime respite hours provided for people aged 18-64 per 1,000 population	19		-	380.4	146.3			
18	Respite care - percentage of daytime respite not in a day centre aged 18-64	10		-	99.6	95.7			
19	Social enquiry reports - the proportion of reports submitted by the social work department to the courts by the due date	7	✓	99.8	99.7	99.9			
20	Probation - the proportion of new probationers seen by a supervising officer within one week	8	✓	89.8	87.3	87.5			
21	Community service - the average hours per week taken to complete community service orders	19		3.9	3.4	3.3			✗
Benefits Administration									
22	Administration costs - the overall gross administration cost (£) per council tax or housing benefit application	3	✓	-	-	31.66			
23	New claims - the average time (days) taken to process new claims	15		-	27.8	29.8			

Falkirk

	Measure	Rank in 06/07		PI measurement			Better ✓ or worse ✗ since 04/05		
		1-32	✓1-8 ✗ 25-32	04/05	05/06	06/07	5-9%	10-14%	>15%
Education & Children's Services									
24	Primary schools - the percentage of schools in which the ratio of pupils to available places is between 61% and 100%	16		75.0	77.1	66.7			✗
25	Secondary schools - the percentage of schools in which the ratio of pupils to available places is between 61% and 100%	1	✓	100.0	100.0	100.0			
26	Supervision - percentage of children made subject to a supervision order that were seen by a supervising officer within 15 days	21		78.8	82.0	77.8			
27	Staff qualification – the percentage of care staff in residential homes for children who are qualified	3	✓	-	NS	81.8			
28	Respite care - total overnight respite nights provided per 1,000 population	22		-	44.3	41.1			
29	Respite care - percentage of respite nights not in a care home	10		-	33.9	40.0			
30	Respite care - total daytime respite hours provided for children per 1,000 population	15		-	620.9	674.9			
31	Respite care - percentage of daytime respite hours provided not in a day centre	11		-	100.0	99.3			
Corporate Management									
32	Sickness absence - the percentage of working days lost through sickness absence for chief officers and local government employees	27	✗	6.3	6.5	6.1			
33	Sickness absence - the percentage of working days lost through sickness absence for craft employees	27	✗	8.9	7.9	8.4			✓
34	Sickness absence - the percentage of working days lost through sickness absence for teachers	1	✓	3.2	3.4	2.6			✓
35	Litigation claims - number of claims per 10,000 population	19		36.5	33.6	34.1			✓
36	Equal opportunities policy - percentage of highest paid 2% of earners among council employees that are women	5	✓	40.1	39.5	41.5			
37	Equal opportunities policy - percentage of highest paid 5% of earners among council employees that are women	5	✓	39.0	43.0	45.8			✓
38	Public access - percentage of public service buildings that are suitable and accessible to disabled people	16		48.1	52.3	56.0			✓
39	Council tax - the cost of collecting council tax per dwelling (£) (see note 2)	7	✓	4.75	6.25	10.60			✗
40	Council tax - the percentage of council tax income for the year that was collected in the year (see note 2)	8	✓	95.2	95.9	96.2			
41	Invoice payment - the percentage of invoices paid within 30 days	14		86.0	86.5	86.2			
42	Asset management - proportion of GIA that is in satisfactory condition	9		-	-	75.3			
43	Asset management - percentage of operational buildings that are suitable for their current use	2	✓	-	-	89.4			

Falkirk

	Measure	Rank in 06/07		PI measurement			Better ✓ or worse ✗ since 04/05		
		1-32	✓1-8 ✗ 25-32	04/05	05/06	06/07	5-9%	10-14%	>15%
Cultural and Community Services									
44	Sport and Leisure Management - the number of attendances per 1,000 population for all pools	27	✗	3,233	3,028	2,804			✗
45	Indoor facilities - the number of attendances per 1,000 population	20		4,113	3,922	3,805			✗
46	Museum services - the number of visits to/usages of council funded or part funded museums per 1,000 population	5	✓	-	-	1747			
47	Museum services - the number of visits to/usages of council funded or part funded museums that were in person per 1,000 population	8	✓	-	-	732			
48	Stock turnover – the percentage of the national target met for replenishing lending stock for adults	7	✓	76.5	75.2	78.3			
49	Stock turnover – the percentage of the national target met for replenishing lending stock for children and teenagers	18		60.5	63.7	59.3			
50	Use of libraries – the number of visits to libraries per 1,000 population	18		-	-	4993			
51	Use of libraries – the number of borrowers as a percentage of the resident population	19		25.0	24.1	21.7			✗
52	Learning centre and learning access points - number of users as a percentage of the resident population	21		9.1	10.3	8.9			
53	Learning centre and learning access points - number of time terminals are used per 1,000 population	24		514.4	514.8	565.6			✓
Development Services									
54	Processing time – the percentage of householder applications dealt with within two months	12		76.6	81.4	85.1			✓
55	Processing time – the percentage of all applications dealt with within two months	15		57.1	60.5	64.5			✓
Housing									
56	Tenancy changes - the percentage of rent loss due to voids	13		2.30	2.20	1.60			✓
57	Tenancy changes - the percentage of dwellings that were not low demand that were re-let within four weeks	25	✗	-	29.8	14.5			
58	Tenancy changes - the average time (days) to re-let houses that are not low demand	22		-	48	67			
59	Rent arrears - current tenant arrears as a percentage of the net amount of rent due in the year (see note 2)	12		7.5	6.2	5.6			✓
60	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)	16		6.5	5.4	5.0			✓
61	Rent management - the proportion of tenants giving up their tenancy during the year that were in rent arrears (see note 2)	13		-	-	34.7			
62	Rent management - the average number of weeks rent owed by tenants leaving in arrears (see note 2)	21		-	-	12.39			
63	Rent management - the percentage of former tenant arrears written off or collected during the year (see note 2)	22		-	-	45.3			
64	Council house sales - the percentage of sales completed within 26 weeks	10		82.9	79.4	86.1			
65	Homelessness - average time (weeks) between presentation and completion of duty by the council for those cases assessed as homeless or potentially homeless	3	✓	2.2	3.9	10.8			✗
66	Homelessness - percentage of cases reassessed as homeless or potentially homeless within 12 months of previous case being completed	7	✓	2.2	1.5	2.7			✗

Falkirk

	Measure	Rank in 06/07		PI measurement			Better ✓ or worse ✗ since 04/05		
		1-32	✓1-8 ✗ 25-32	04/05	05/06	06/07	5-9%	10-14%	>15%
Protective Services									
67	Food hygiene - the percentage of premises with a minimum inspection frequency of 12 months or less, that were inspected on time	12		-	96.6	99.3			
68	Domestic noise complaints - the average time (hours) between the time of the complaint and attendance on site: Requiring attendance on site	24		-	-	168.0			
69	Domestic noise complaints - the average time (hours) between the time of the complaint and attendance on site: Dealt with under Part V of the Antisocial Behaviour (Scotland) Act 2004	24		-	-	157.0			
70	Consumer complaints - the percentage of complaints processed within 14 days of receipt	14		70.4	70.3	71.5			
71	Business advice requests - the percentage of requests dealt with within 14 days of receipt	31	✗	96.5	97.4	65.9			✗
72	Inspection of trading premises - the percentage of premises in high and medium risk inspection level that were inspected on time	9		63.6	82.1	97.9			✓
Roads & Lighting									
73	Carriageway condition - percentage of network that should be considered for maintenance treatment	25	✗	47.4	50.5	54.0			✗
74	Traffic light repairs - the percentage of repairs completed within 48 hours	23		92.7	88.4	90.6			
75	Street light repairs - the percentage of repairs completed within seven days	9		96.5	93.8	96.2			
76	Road network restrictions - the percentage of council and private bridges assessed that failed to meet the European standard of 40 tonnes	7	✓	3.1	3.1	3.1			
Waste Management									
77	Refuse collection - the net cost per property (£) of refuse collection (see note 2)	8	✓	53.34	58.93	52.60			
78	Refuse collection - the net cost per property (£) of refuse disposal (see note 2)	9		53.25	55.53	59.56			✗
79	Refuse collection - the number of complaints per 1,000 households	28	✗	59.0	87.7	84.4			✗
80	Recycling - of the municipal waste collected by the authority, the percentage that was recycled	7	✓	19.1	30.1	35.0			✓
81	Cleanliness - overall cleanliness index achieved (see note 2)	6	✓	65	66	72			✓
82	Abandoned Vehicles - proportion of abandoned vehicles removed within 14 days (see note 2)	14		-	-	85.2			
		✓1-8	26						
		✗ 25-32	8						

Data features	Symbol	04/05	05/06	06/07
No Service	(NS)	0	1	0
Failure to report	(FTR)	0	0	0
Unreliable data	(underlined)	0	0	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 2004/05	
Improvement	
5-9%	4
10-14%	3
>15%	10
Decline	
5-9%	1
10-14%	5
>15%	6