

Transport and Environment Committee

10.00am, Thursday, 23 May 2024

Local Government Benchmarking Framework 2022/23 – Environmental Services

Executive/routine
Wards

Routine
All

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 That the Transport and Environment Committee note the report setting out the detailed analysis of the Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF) Environmental dataset for the 2022/23 financial year.

Paul Lawrence

Executive Director of Place

Contact: Kevin Kelly, Senior Change and Delivery Officer

E-mail: kevin.kelly@edinburgh.gov.uk | Tel: 0131 529 7629

Local Government Benchmarking Framework 2022/23 – Environmental Services

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report provides an overview of the 2022/23 benchmarking data provided by the Scottish Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF) and reflects the recovery of Environmental services post Covid-19.

3. Background

- 3.1 Led by [SOLACE](#), with the support of the [Improvement Service](#), the Local Government Benchmarking Framework aims to provide a benchmarking toolkit for local government.
- 3.2 The publication and use of this data forms part of the Council's statutory requirements for public performance reporting as directed by the Accounts Commission.
- 3.3 It should be noted that LGBF data is always retrospective, and the framework provides benchmarking data and national rankings for services that were delivered in the financial year 2022/23.
- 3.4 This is benchmarking data for all Scottish Local Authorities and, where the data is relevant, can present a useful analysis of us in comparison to others.
- 3.5 Currently the dataset for Environmental Services holds 2022/23 data for 15 indicators.
- 3.6 This report has been prepared for this committee following a motion at the Policy and Sustainability committee meeting of 23 May 2023 which requested that 'The report should be subdivided and provided to the relevant service area Executive Committees to allow greater scrutiny of performance and the actions required to instil a culture of continuous improvement, learning lessons from the better performance in Family Group Councils.'

4. Main report

- 4.1 An online toolkit on the [Improvement Service dashboard](#) has been created to help councils benchmark with other councils.
- 4.2 The framework allows local authorities to compare their performance across a suite of indicators of efficiency (unit cost), outputs and outcomes, covering a wide range of local government activity.
- 4.3 This dataset provides information showing relative position for Edinburgh with the other councils as well as timeseries data for each of the indicators for Edinburgh.

High level Overview

- 4.4 The latest figures show that overall Environmental services relative position is in the top two quartiles (so above the national average) for 27% of the indicators (four out of 15), four indicators sit in the second bottom quartile and seven indicators sit in the bottom quartile.
- 4.5 Compared to last year (2021/22), the Council has shown improvement in five of the indicators. However, performance has declined in 10 of the indicators.
- 4.6 To enable comparison with other Local Authorities, the national average, a 'family group' average and an average of the other three urban cities (Aberdeen, Dundee and Glasgow) are also included to allow consideration of different perspectives of the data.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 The Local Government Benchmarking Framework 2022/23 data analysis will be used to inform Senior Management Team discussions and the Council Planning and Performance Framework.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 There is no financial impact associated with this report.

7. Equality and Poverty Impact

- 7.1 There is no equality or poverty impact arising from the analysis of this data.

8. Climate and Nature Emergency Implications

- 8.1 There are no climate or nature emergency impacts arising from the analysis of this data.

9. Risk, policy, compliance, governance and community impact

- 9.1 The publication and use of the benchmarking data forms part of the Council's statutory requirements for public performance reporting, as [directed](#) by the Accounts Commission.

10. Background reading/external references

- 10.1 [LGBF National Overview Report 2022/23](#) published by the Improvement Service in March 2024.
- 10.2 [Improvement Service Explore the Data](#) website.

11. Appendices

Appendix A: 2022/23 Environmental Services Overview

Appendix B: Environmental Services Charts

Appendix C: LGBF Family groups

Appendix A: 2022/23 Edinburgh Overview of Environmental Services

LGBF 2022/23 summary

1. This analysis of the most recent Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF) data provides:
 - a. a summary of Edinburgh's relative position and indicator performance compared to the previous years, 2020/21 (mid-Covid) and 2021/22 (post-Covid)
 - b. indicator data and the national relative position for 15 LGBF indicators
 - c. urban cities, Scotland average and Family Group comparative data
 - d. an overview of national performance trends and local factors.
2. This report covers the 15 indicators with updated data since the previous LGBF 2021/22 release.

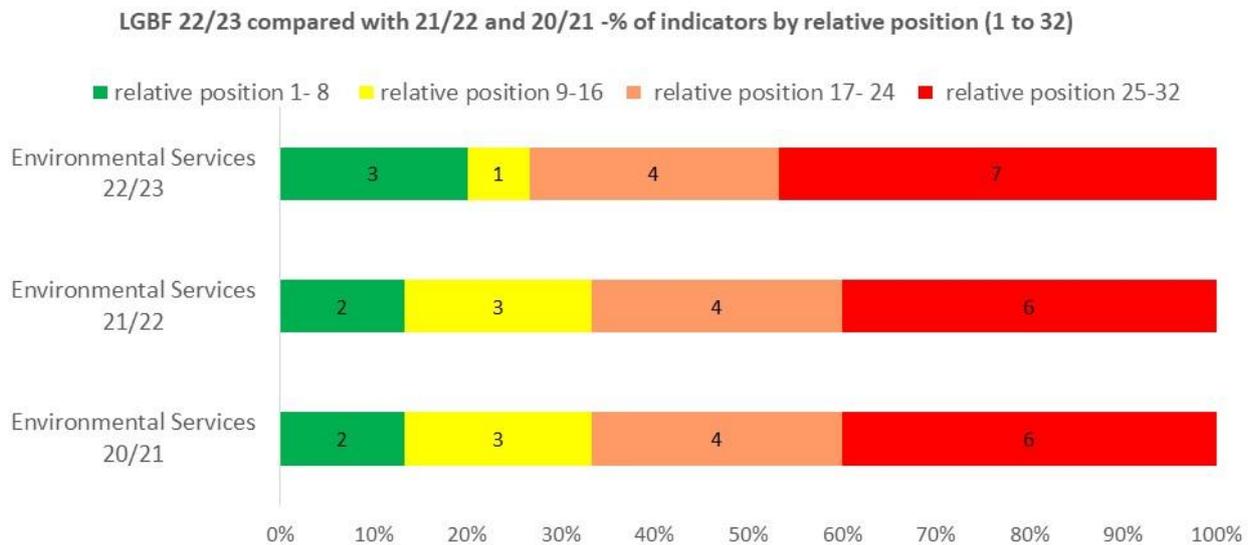
Edinburgh – summary of Environmental Services

3. Cleansing – the cost of the service per 1,000 population increased in 2022/23 as a result of the £1.072m investment from the Council. The benchmark as it stands does not really reflect Edinburgh's status a tourism destination, particularly over the festival, and the service holds a specific budget for enhanced cleansing resources for this period.
4. Whilst the latter has been the case for some years, the investment award has influenced the cost of the service delivered, has positively influenced the cleanliness score and has started to improve the number of adults satisfied with street cleansing.
5. Cost of waste collection – The cost of waste collection has increased from 2021/22 to 2022/23. This is largely as a result of investment made by the Council in the communal bin project. This required up front investment in additional routes and an increased frequency of collection as bin hubs started to be rolled out in the latter part of 2021/22 but more significantly in 2022/23.
6. The recycling rate in Edinburgh decreased by almost 3% to 37% but is above two of the other three cities. Performance is slightly below the family group average (41%). Relative position decreased by three places to 26. Whilst the overall recycling rate hovers around 40%, kerbside recycling performance (just short of 50%) compares well with other councils that mainly have kerbside services. Communal services however do not perform as well as they could and probably recycle around 30%. The communal bin project is designed to significantly increase residents access to the full range of recycling services provided to kerbside households.
7. In Edinburgh, the road network condition in all categories improved between 2021/22 and 2022/23 following an increase in investment. This investment affected the Council's relative position for the road costs measure, showing a decrease to 29.

Edinburgh – relative position 2022/23

8. Environmental services relative position is above the national average (so in the top two quartiles) for 27% of the indicators (4 out of 15), four indicators sit in the second bottom quartile and seven indicators sit in the bottom quartile.

Chart 1: Edinburgh relative position by theme – Environmental Services

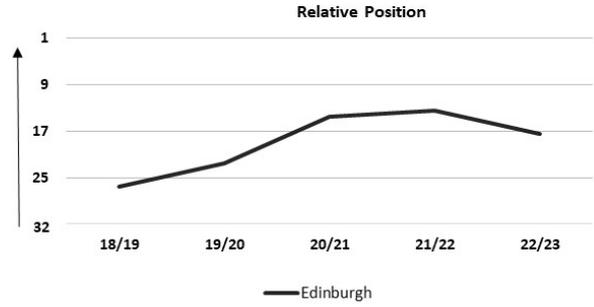
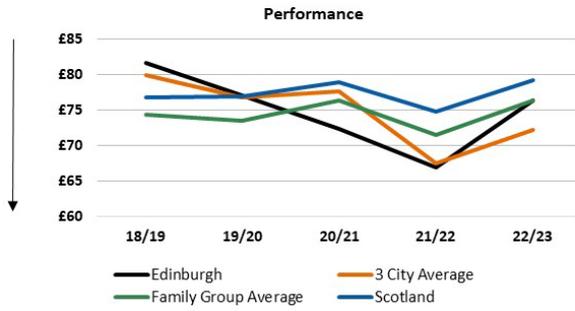


Edinburgh – Environmental performance

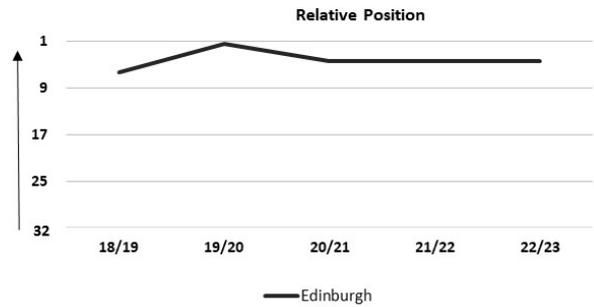
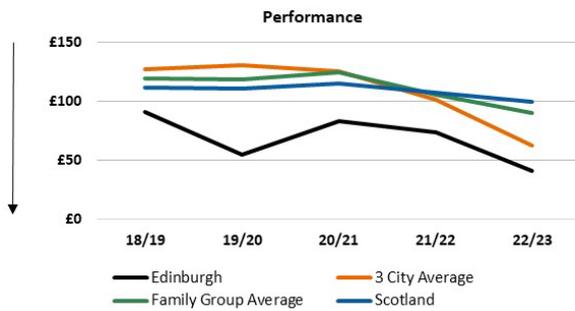
9. Compared to last year (2021/22) we have shown improvement in 5 of the indicators. However, performance has declined in 10 of the indicators.
10. Full charts for each indicator are shown in Appendix B.

Appendix B Environmental Services

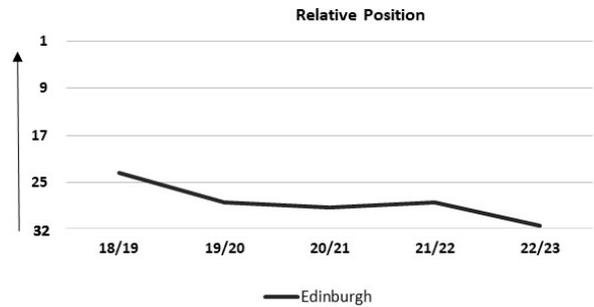
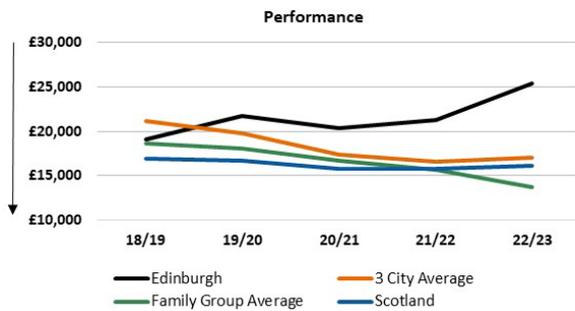
Net cost of waste collection per premise



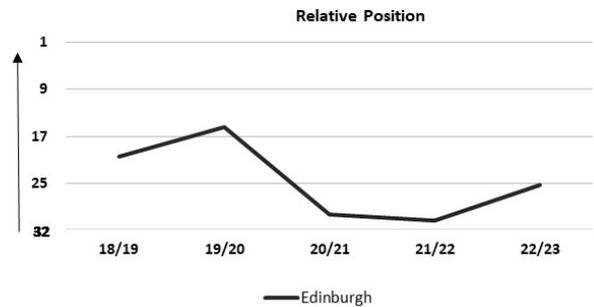
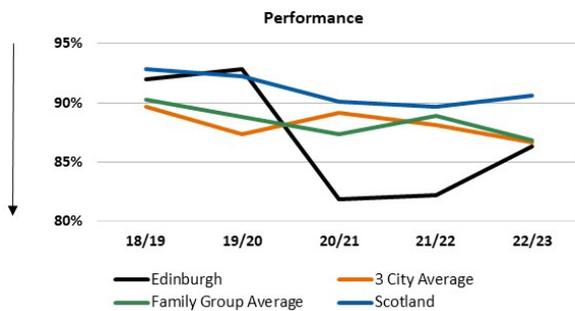
Net cost of waste disposal per premise



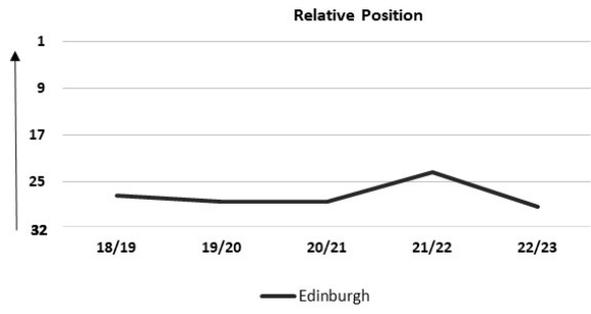
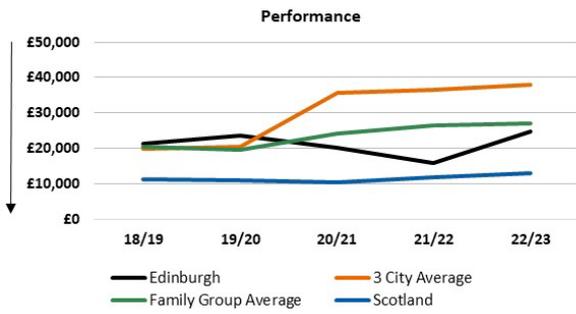
Net cost of street cleaning per 1,000 population



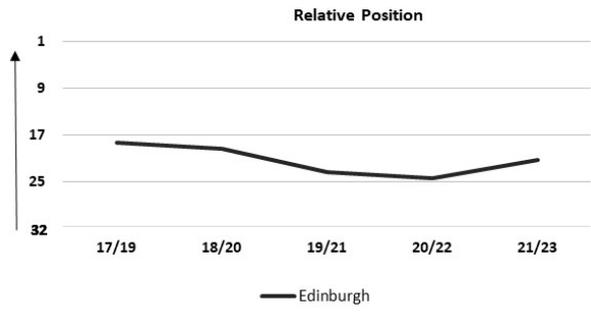
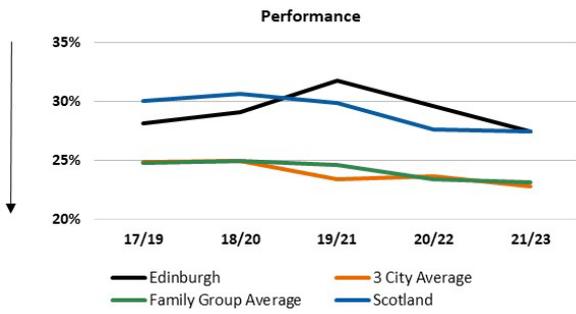
Street Cleanliness Score



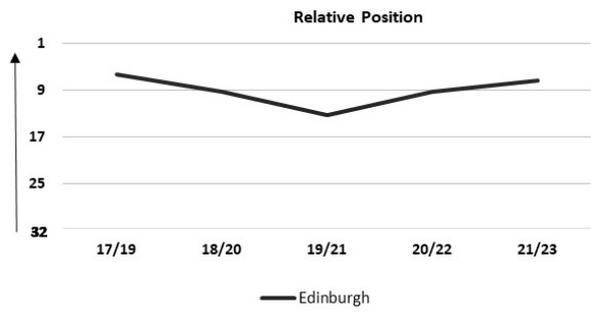
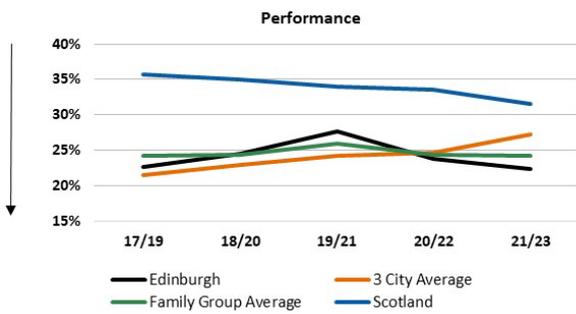
Cost of roads per kilometre



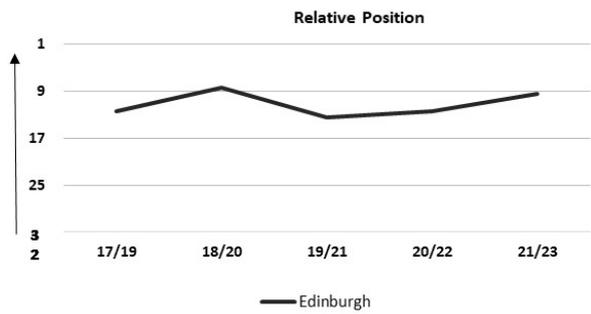
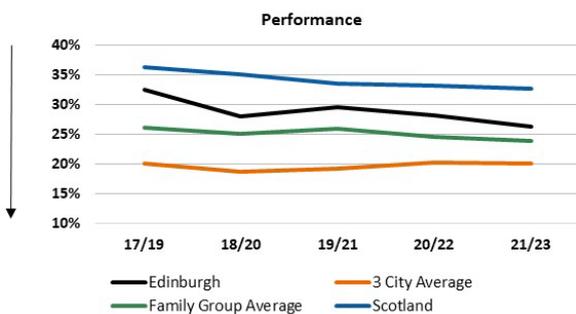
% of A Class roads that should be considered for maintenance treatment



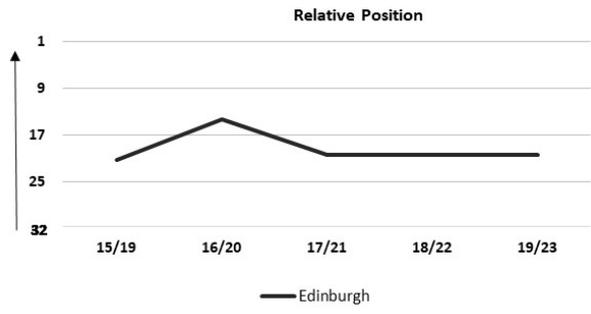
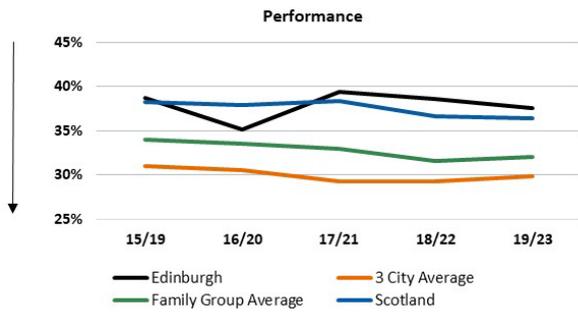
% of B Class roads that should be considered for maintenance treatment



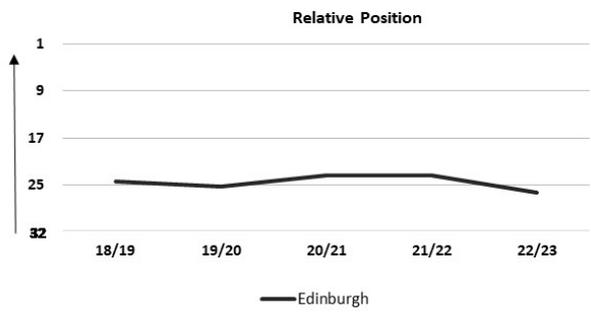
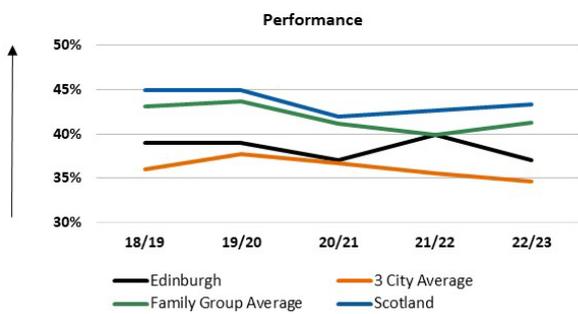
% of C Class roads that should be considered for maintenance treatment



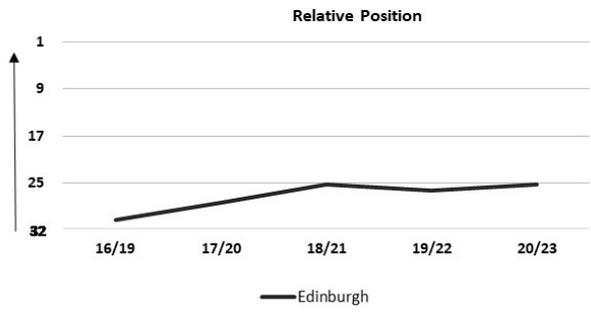
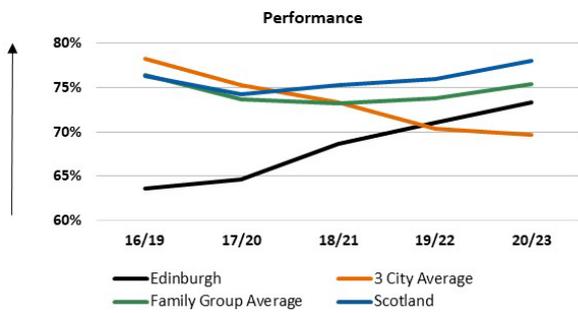
% of U Class roads that should be considered for maintenance treatment



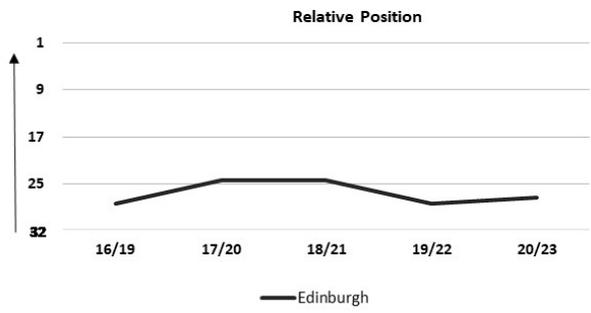
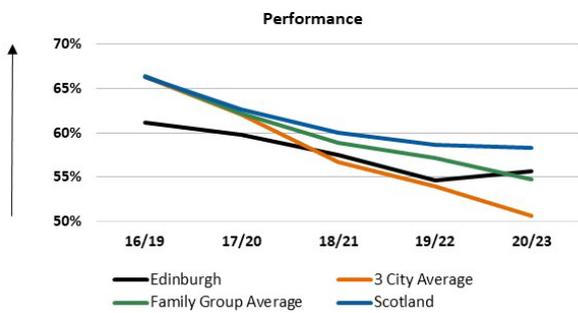
% of total household waste arising that is recycled



% of adults satisfied with refuse collection



% of adults satisfied with street cleaning



Appendix C LGBF Family Groups

The People family group reflects delivery of services to residents only, with comparison to other Local Authorities with similar wealth and deprivation.

People (relative deprivation and affluence)
Children, Social Care, Housing
Family Group 1
Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, City of Edinburgh , East Dunbartonshire, East Renfrewshire, Orkney Islands, Perth & Kinross, Shetland Islands

The Urban family group reflects the density of population and delivery of services to **all** residents, visitors and businesses.

Other (Urban)
Corporate, C & L, Environmental, Econ Dev, Fin Sus, Tackling Climate Change
Family Group 4
Aberdeen City, City of Edinburgh , Dundee City, East Dunbartonshire, Falkirk, Glasgow City, North Lanarkshire, West Dunbartonshire