

# Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 14 May 2024

## Local Government Benchmarking Framework 2022/23 – Housing and Economic Development

Executive/routine  
Wards

### 1. Recommendations

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- 1.1 That the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee note the detailed analysis of the Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF) dataset regarding Housing and Economic Development for the 2022/23 financial year.

**Paul Lawrence**

Executive Director of Place

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## Local Government Benchmarking Framework 2022/23 – Housing and Economic Development

### 2. Executive Summary

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- 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 Housing and Economic Development post Covid-19.

### 3. Background

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- 3.1 Led by [SOLACE](#), with the support of the [Improvement Service](#), the LGBF 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 in comparison to others.
- 3.5 Currently the dataset holds 2022/23 data for 16 indicators which crosses the two themes of Housing Services and Economic Development (including Planning).
- 3.6 This report has been presented to Committee today following a decision of Policy and Sustainability committee on 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

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- 4.1 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 Housing and Economic Development relative position is in the top two quartiles (so above the national average) for 62% of the indicators (10 out of 16), five indicators sit in the second bottom quartile and one indicator is in the bottom quartile.
- 4.5 Compared to last year (2021/22), this shows improvement in six 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) is also included to allow consideration of different perspectives of the data. Please note that for the four housing indicators, city comparison is with Aberdeen and Dundee as Glasgow City Council does not operate a housing service.

## 5. Next Steps

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

## 6. Financial impact

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

## 7. Equality and Poverty Impact

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

## 8. Climate and Nature Emergency Implications

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- 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**

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- 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**

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- 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**

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Appendix A: 2022/23 Housing and Economic Development Overview

Appendix B: Housing and Economic Development Charts

Appendix C: LGBF Family groups

# Appendix A: 2022/23 Edinburgh Overview of Housing and Economic Development

## LGBF 2022/23 summary

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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 16 LGBF indicators;
  - c. Urban cities, Scotland average and Family Group comparative data; and
  - d. An overview of national performance trends and local factors.
2. This report covers the 16 indicators with updated data since the previous LGBF 2021/22 release. 12 indicators cover Economic Development, and four indicators cover Housing Services.

### **Edinburgh – summary of Economic Development**

3. Edinburgh is consistently performing well across the Economic Development and Planning services with the exception of the number of business gateway start-ups per 10,000 population which has remained in the bottom quartile for the last four years and now currently sits on the lowest relative position of 32.
4. In 2022/23, the Council had anticipated reduced performance due to employee turnover and the wider entrepreneur landscape in the city. Unlike some other local authorities, due to the resources available, it is not possible to track all of the businesses who contact the Council for advice and then go on to set up a new business so the number of startups after BG advice per 10,000 is generally lower in Edinburgh.
5. Unemployment rates for the % of Claimant Count as a % of 16-24 Population has returned to levels of less than 2 % with Edinburgh in second place (with East Renfrewshire in first place) for performance. Relative position also reflects the performance position.

### **Edinburgh – relative position 2022/23 Economic Development**

6. The latest figures show that overall Economic Development relative position is in the top two quartiles (so above the national average) for 83% of the indicators (10 out of 12), one indicator sits in the second bottom quartile and one indicator is in the bottom quartile.

### Chart 1: Edinburgh relative position by theme – Economic Development

LGBF 22/23 compared with 21/22 and 20/21 -% of indicators by relative position (1 to 32)



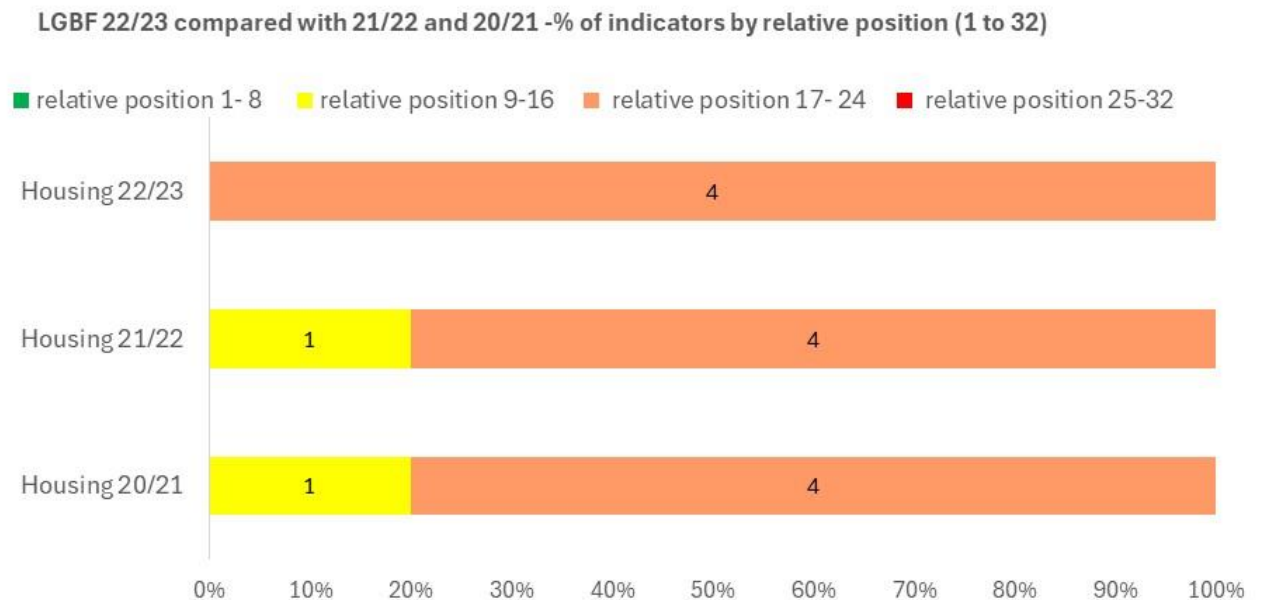
### Edinburgh – summary of Housing Services

7. All indicators continue to show the challenges Edinburgh is facing with delivering its housing services. A Housing Emergency was declared in November 2023 and the [Housing Emergency Action Plan](#) sets out the Council’s approach to start to meet these challenges. This Improvement Plan was approved by Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee 27 February 2024.
8. From May 2024 there will be regular reporting of performance to Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee to enable regular scrutiny of the indicators contained with the LGBF dataset.

### Edinburgh – relative position 2022/23 Housing Services

9. The latest figures show that overall Housing Services relative position is in the second bottom quartile for all indicators.

## Chart 2: Edinburgh relative position by theme – Housing Services



### Edinburgh – Housing Services performance

10. Compared to last year (2021/22), Edinburgh has shown a decline in all four of the indicators.
11. Rent arrears in Edinburgh have risen from 8% to 14% over the last five years. This upward trend is seen nationally but the largest rises appear for the city local authorities. Tenant's ability to pay has become harder, firstly with the impact of the pandemic and currently with the cost-of-living crisis being experienced throughout the UK. Support is available to those who are struggling to pay their rent through referrals for debt advice and help to apply for benefits. Relative position shows a gradual decline over the last five years representing the larger rises seen in the cities.
12. The rent lost due to voids has been fairly steady in Edinburgh up to 2020/21 with increases seen in the last two years (from 0.9% in 2020/21 to 2.3% in 2022/23). This rise is larger than the more gradual rise seen nationally but not as steep as the other cities (the cities average reaching 4% in 2022/23). Over this time the Council's relative position has moved from the top quartile to the third quartile. [A report](#) to Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee in February 2024 sets out a number of challenges for housing services including the number of voids requiring repair. An improvement plan has been agreed with actions aimed at improving this performance.

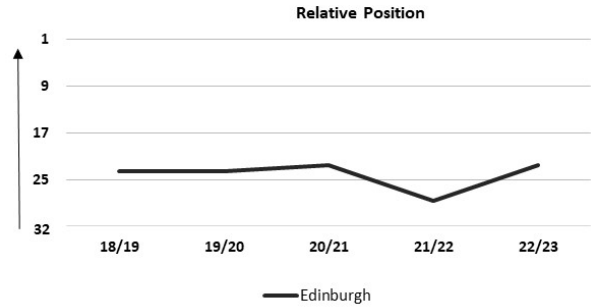
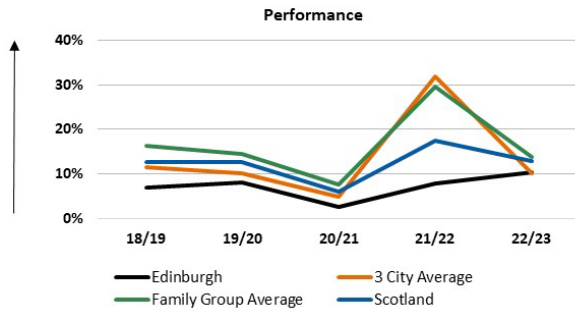
Progress with these actions will be monitored on a quarterly basis, with the impact on performance to be seen in 2024/25 and over the longer term.

13. The percentage of council dwellings meeting Scottish Housing Standards appears to show a sharp decline. However, this is resulting from increased requirements being introduced to the Energy Efficiency and Tolerable Standards at different times between 2019/20 and 2022/23. This dataset reflects the gradual transition of Local Authorities to reporting against the new Standards which is reflected in the fluctuations seen in performance over several years. It is expected that with no further imminent changes to the Scottish Housing Standards stabilising, we will be able to use this dataset for benchmarking going forward.
14. The average number of days to complete non-emergency repairs has increased in Edinburgh over the last three years from 11 days to 16 days. Relative position has moved from 22 to 24. Officers are working to ensure that repairs to the Council's properties are completed timeously to improve the service for tenants. Both the average time to complete emergency and non-emergency repairs are currently showing improvements. Through the Housing Service Improvement Plan, projects are being progressed to assist teams to better monitor and manage performance. The Council has also introduced early intervention processes to tackle dampness and mould.
15. Full charts for each indicator are shown in Appendix B.

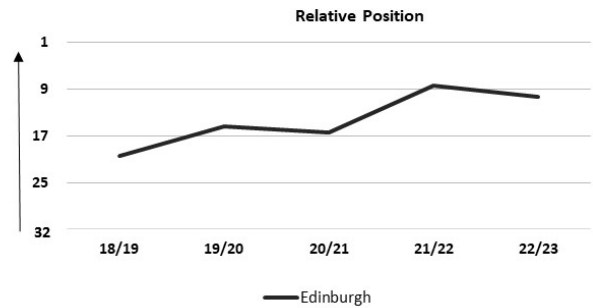
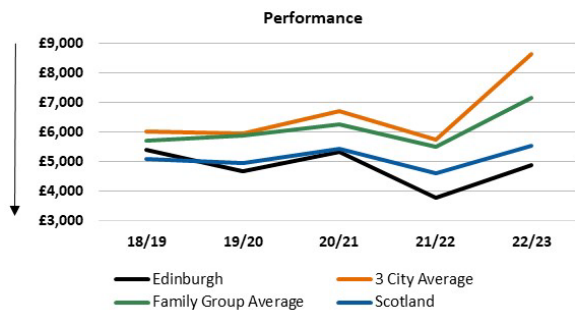


# Appendix B Economic Development Services

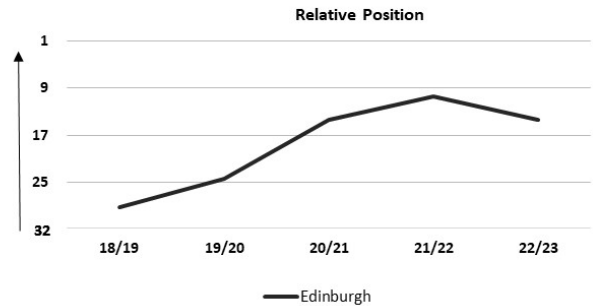
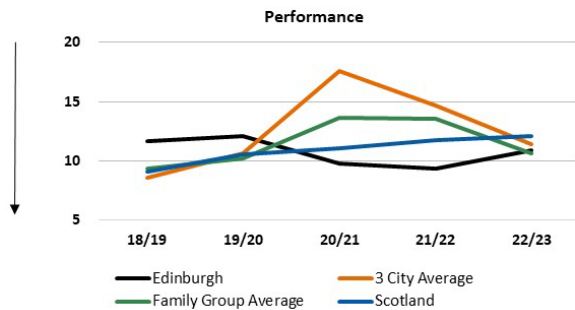
% of unemployed people assisted into work from council operated / funded employability programmes



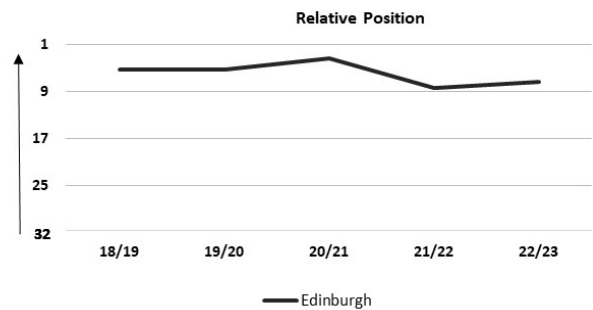
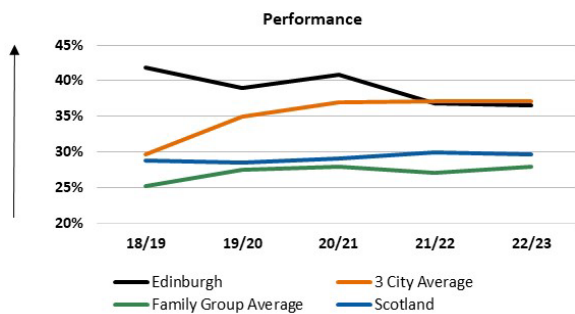
Cost of planning and building standards Per Planning Application



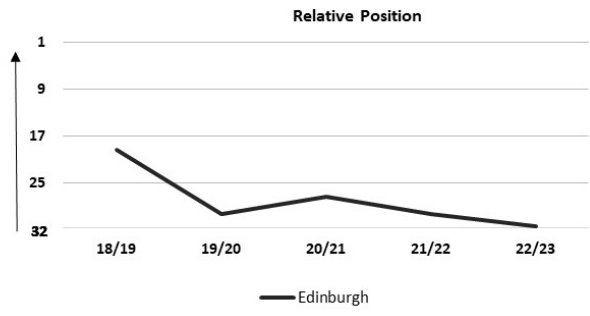
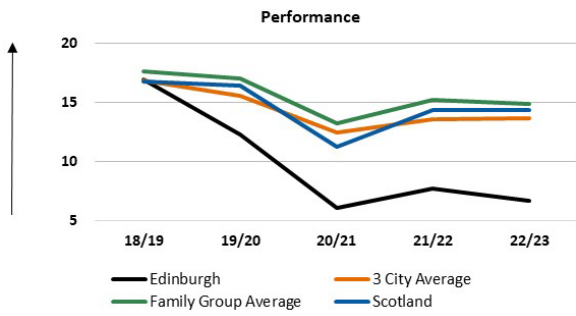
Average time per business and industry planning application (weeks)



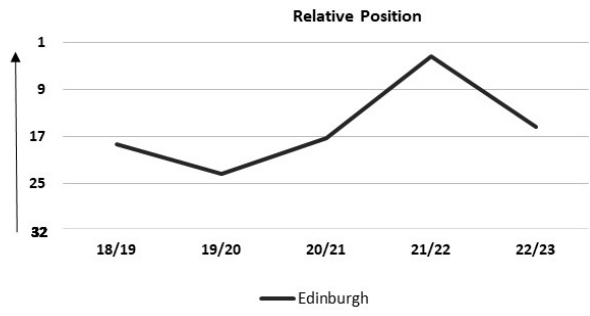
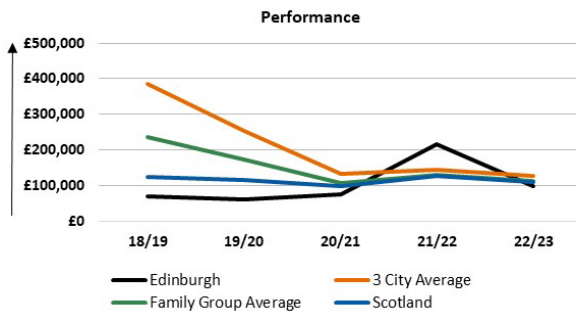
% of procurement spend spent on local enterprises



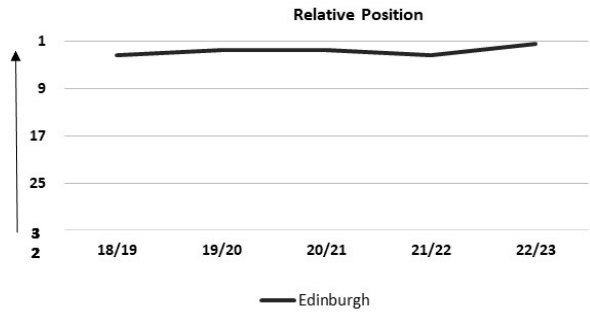
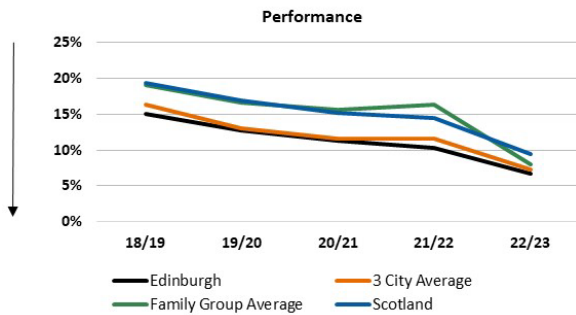
### No of business gateway start-ups per 10,000 population



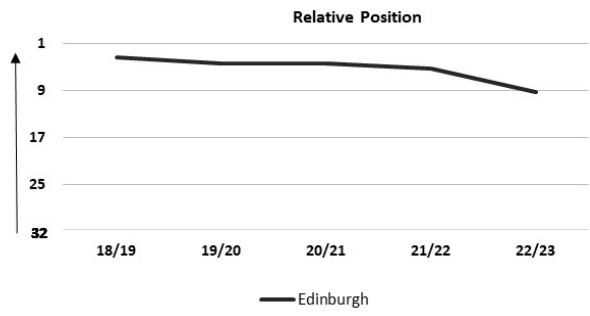
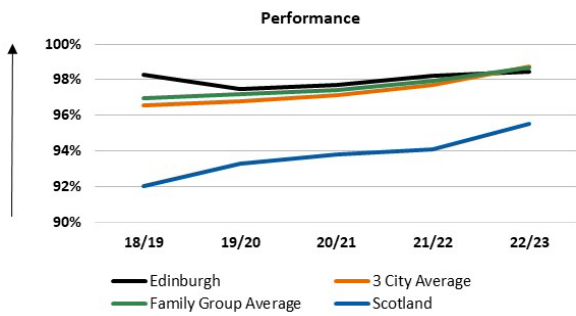
### Investment in of Economic Development & Tourism per 1,000 Population



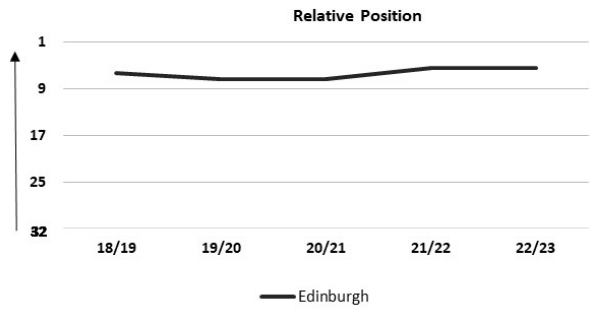
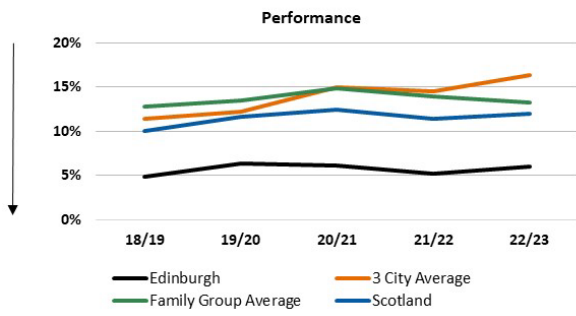
### Proportion of people earning less than the living wage



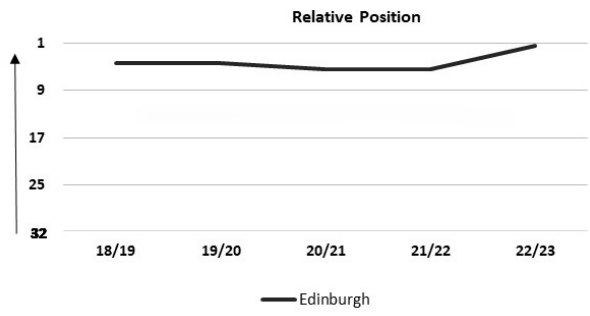
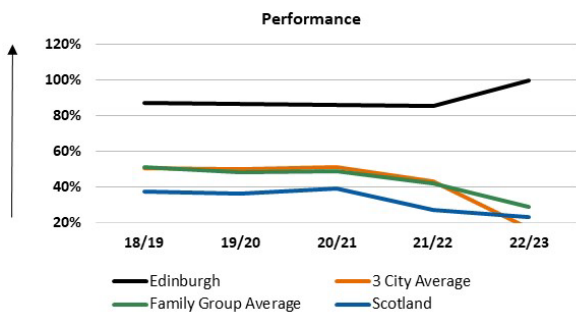
### Proportion of properties receiving superfast broadband



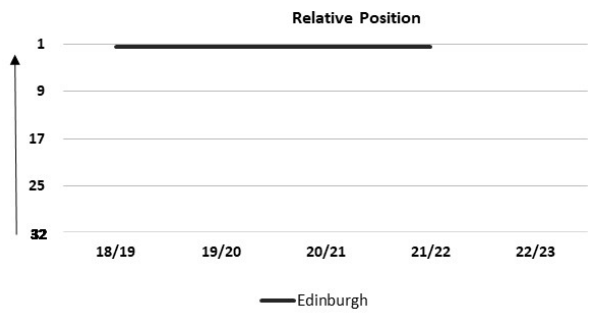
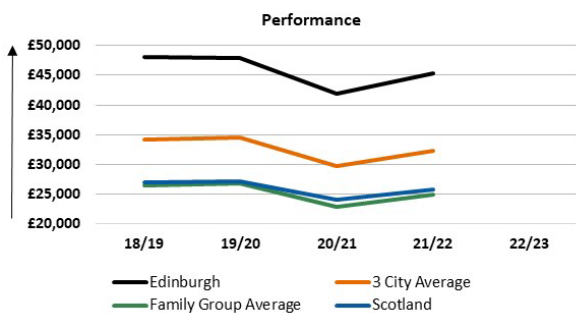
### Town Vacancy Rates



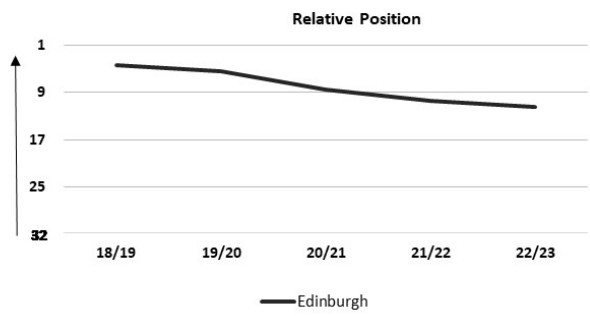
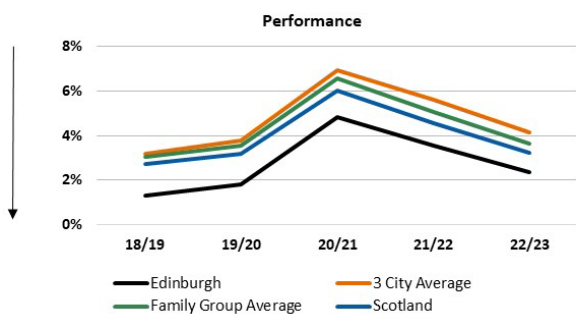
### Immediately available employment land as a % of total land allocated for employment purposes in the local development plan



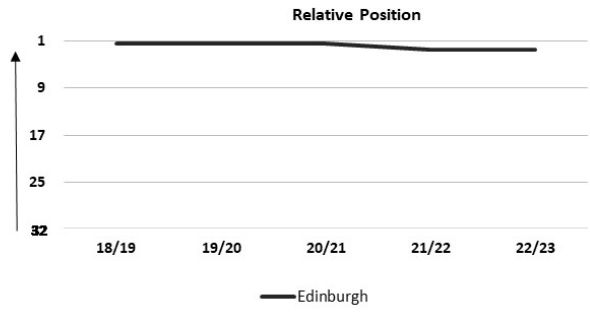
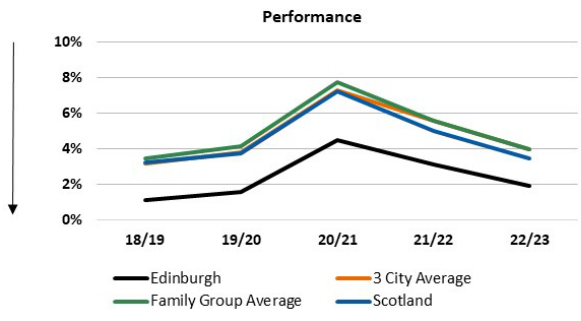
### Gross Value Added (GVA) per capita



### Claimant Count as % of Working Age Population

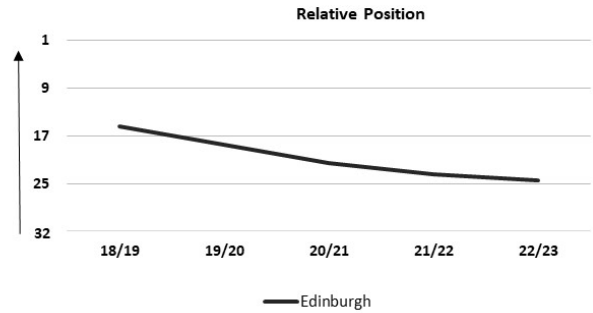
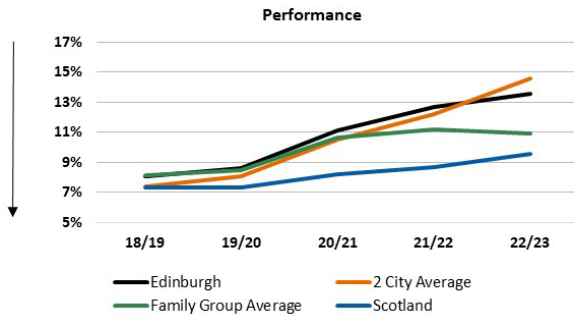


Claimant Count as % of 16-24 Population

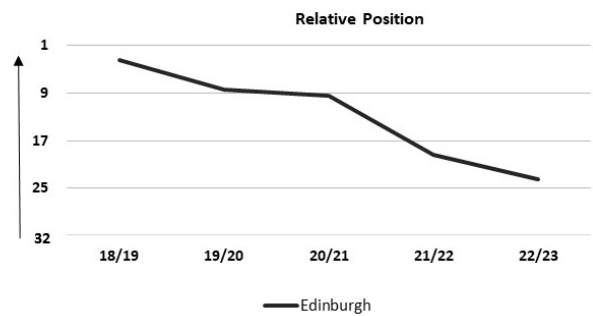
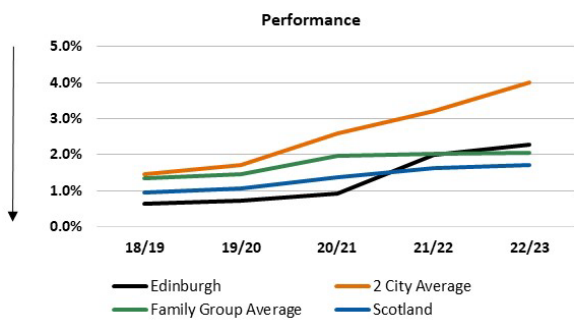


# Appendix B Housing Services

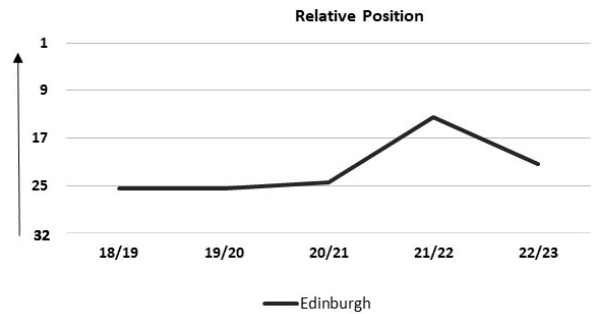
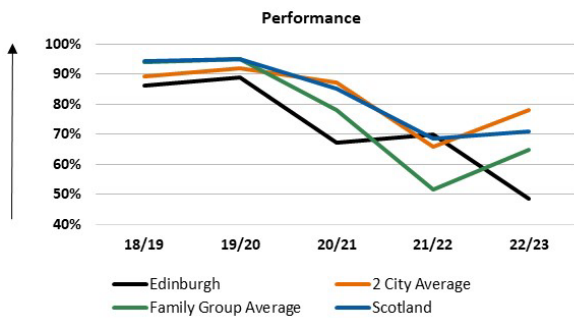
Gross rent arrears (all tenants) as at 31 March each year as a percentage of rent due for the reporting year



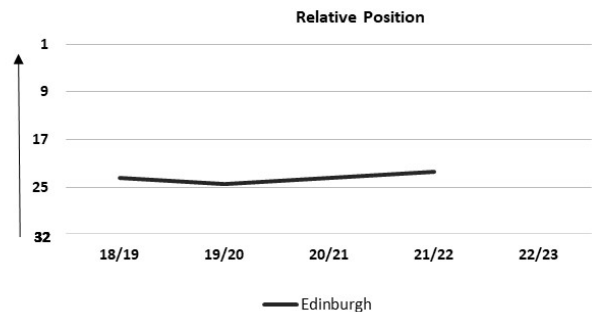
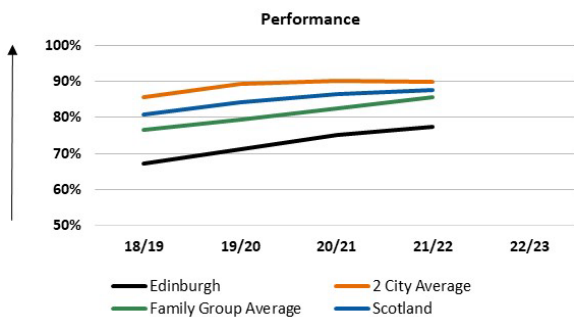
% of rent due in the year that was lost due to voids



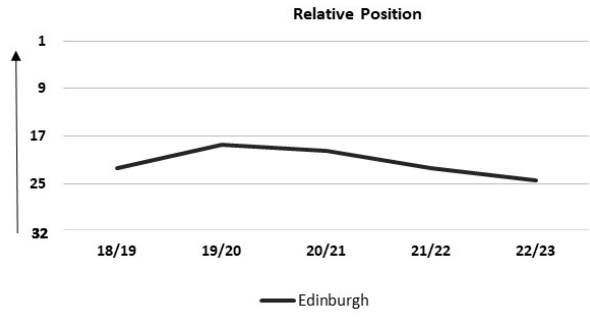
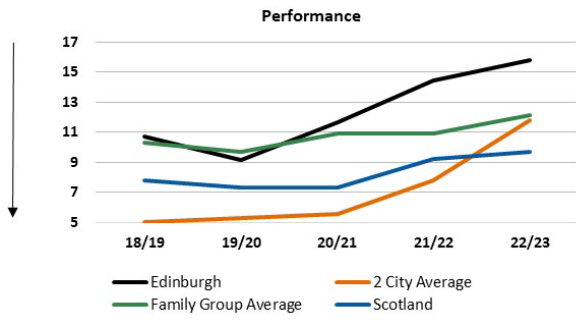
% of council dwellings meeting Scottish Housing Standards



% of council dwellings that are energy efficient



### Average number of days taken to complete non-emergency repairs



## 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.

<b>People (relative deprivation and affluence)</b>
Children, Social Care, Housing
Family Group 1
Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, <b>City of Edinburgh</b> , 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.

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