



# LOCAL GOVERNMENT BENCHMARKING FRAMEWORK (LGBF) 2017/18

Argyll and Bute

TELLING OUR STORY and

LOOKING FORWARD - EXPECTED IMPACT ON INDICATOR

## INTRODUCTION AND KEY TO SYMBOLS

↓ ↑ An improvement in performance – the arrow indicates the direction of travel

↓ ↑ A reduction in performance – the arrow indicates the direction of travel

↓ ↑ The performance itself isn't being measured – simply a fact i.e. 'how much is being spent'

→ No difference in position since last reporting period

★ Large improvement in performance

! Performance has dropped or is of interest

# CUSTOMER AND SUPPORT SERVICES

<b>SERVICE: CUSTOMER AND SUPPORT SERVICES</b>			
INDICATOR REF: CORP 4 - The cost per dwelling of collecting Council Tax			
Performance Range: £2.78 to £27.02 (Lowest is best)			
<b>ARGYLL AND BUTE</b>		<b>SCOTLAND</b>	
£8.32		£7.35	
CHANGE 2016/17 TO 2017/18:	19.07%	CHANGE 2016/17 TO 2017/18:	19.51%
CHANGE BASE YEAR TO 2017/18:	-37.82%	CHANGE BASE YEAR TO 2017/18:	-52.43%
RANK POSITION: 21 <sup>st</sup> RANK MOVEMENT: 14			
FAMILY GROUP RANKING 2017/18 RANK POSITION: 3 <sup>rd</sup> RANK MOVEMENT: 1			
<b>TELLING OUR STORY:</b>			
<p>The number of dwellings has increased by 92 to 48,010 and the overall cost has increased by £70,833 to £399,293. The cost of collecting council tax has seen a large rise for 2017/18 costing an additional £1.47 per dwelling. The additional costs were all due to costs associated with implementing a new council tax system – both covering the costs of a small project team and for some of the capital costs which were funded from revenue as we did not have enough capital available to fully fund. This will not affect future years as it was a one-off cost. The new system has much lower maintenance costs so this will reduce further costs of collection and bring this back to well below the Scottish average.</p> <p>This indicator has a large performance range of £24.24. The rank position has dropped 14 points. The cost of gathering council tax increased in only six councils; all others showed a reduction. Overall Scotland had a decrease of £1.79 per dwelling. In percentage terms, ABC showed the largest increase.</p>			
<b>LOOKING FORWARD - EXPECTED IMPACT ON INDICATOR:</b>			
<p>The new system will reduce costs going forward as it includes an online portal rather than these facilities having to be paid for separately. In addition there is full integration to the back office system for certain changes which will improve efficiency. A re-organisation is planned in 2019/20 which will ensure that these efficiencies are taken.</p>			

## SERVICE: CUSTOMER AND SUPPORT SERVICES

INDICATOR REF: CORP 7 - Percentage of income due from Council Tax received by the end of the year

Performance Range: 97.92% to 93.91% (Highest is best)

ARGYLL AND BUTE		SCOTLAND	
95.80%		96.00%	
CHANGE 2016/17 TO 2017/18:	0.01	CHANGE 2016/17 TO 2017/18:	0.17
CHANGE BASE YEAR TO 2017/18:	-0.35	CHANGE BASE YEAR TO 2017/18:	1.26
RANK POSITION: 21 <sup>st</sup> RANK MOVEMENT: 1			
FAMILY GROUP RANKING 2017/18			
RANK POSITION: 7 <sup>th</sup> RANK MOVEMENT: 1			

### TELLING OUR STORY:

This is another indicator where the performance range is very narrow, as a result changes in performance tend to be in 'points' rather than 'whole numbers'. The performance range is 4.01%.

The performance has increased slightly by .01 percentage point, the rank position has decreased by 1 place. Our performance is adversely affected by two factors – collection on accounts which are subject to a double charge for being long term empty are particularly hard to collect; and the fact that we do not use "line by line" accounting which would increase our figures without changing the amount of actual income received by the local authority (it changes the proportion treated as water and sewerage income which is paid over to Scottish Water).

The amount of council tax income due for receipt has increased by £3,557,283. This equates to an increase of 7.32% on the previous year.

This is the 7<sup>th</sup> largest percentage increase in monetary value for the whole of Scotland.

The Scotland average has shown an increase in performance, and an 8.59% increase of income due.










### LOOKING FORWARD - EXPECTED IMPACT ON INDICATOR:

In 2018/19 we have introduced the "Water Direct" scheme through which we send accounts to DWP to make deductions for customers who are on benefit and only pay water and sewerage – the amount of deductions are higher than with Attachment of Benefit Orders which we used previously. This benefits the council as only a proportion is paid over to Scottish Water. We have also introduced new special exercises with our appointed sheriff officers focussing on accounts which were not engaging to make payment arrangements. Together we expect to achieve c £250,000 additional collections p.a. net of costs.

**SERVICE: CUSTOMER AND SUPPORT SERVICES**

INDICATOR REF: CORP 8 - Percentage of invoices sampled that were paid within 30 days

**Performance Range: 97.13% to 78.02% (Highest is best)**

ARGYLL AND BUTE		SCOTLAND	
96.57% 		93.19% 	
CHANGE 2016/17 TO 2017/18:	2.47 	CHANGE 2016/17 TO 2017/18:	0.13 
CHANGE BASE YEAR TO 2017/18:	7.58 	CHANGE BASE YEAR TO 2017/18:	3.66 
RANK POSITION: 5 <sup>th</sup>  RANK MOVEMENT: 10 			
<b>FAMILY GROUP RANKING 2017/18</b> RANK POSITION: 1 <sup>st</sup> RANK MOVEMENT: 1 			

**TELLING OUR STORY:**

This is the 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive year that performance has improved with this indicator and the highest percentage over 8 years of data.

For the 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive year performance remains higher than the Scotland average.

**LOOKING FORWARD - EXPECTED IMPACT ON INDICATOR:**

We are continuing to roll out our “No purchase order: No payment” project which ensures more orders are placed through systems and speeds up processing of invoices when these are received. This is having a beneficial impact on payment performance.

## SERVICE: CUSTOMER AND SUPPORT SERVICES

INDICATOR REF: ECON 4 - Percentage of procurement spent on local enterprises

Performance Range: 54.17% to 9.52% (Highest is best)

ARGYLL AND BUTE		SCOTLAND	
29.40% ↓		27.40% ↑	
CHANGE 2016/17 TO 2017/18:	8.60 ↓	CHANGE 2016/17 TO 2017/18:	0.92 ↑
CHANGE BASE YEAR TO 2017/18:	0.43 ↓	CHANGE BASE YEAR TO 2017/18:	0.16 ↑
RANK POSITION: 11 <sup>th</sup> RANK MOVEMENT: 8 ↓			
FAMILY GROUP RANKING 2017/18			
RANK POSITION: 5 <sup>th</sup> RANK MOVEMENT: 3 ↓			

### TELLING OUR STORY:

This indicator only includes authority spend that is over £1,000, and 'local' is being within the same local authority and defined by the postcode area of the head office of the supplier.

The procurement spend on local enterprises has dropped by 8.60 percentage points with a downward rank movement of 8 places. The main reason for this is that one supplier (Enable Scotland) was erroneously classed as local by Spikes Cavell in 2016/17 and this has been corrected in 2017/18. Excluding this, the drop is c1.36%. The reason for the change is largely due to capital projects. In 2017/18 our second top supplier was a specialist out of area construction company employed on the Queens Hall project in Dunoon and there was another large specialist marine project where the supplier came from out of our area. The results for each year are very much influenced by the type of spend and whether there are local suppliers who have those capabilities. We do a lot of engagement with local suppliers to ensure they are aware of all procurement opportunities and have the skills to bid for our business. In 2017/18 the percentage of local suppliers bidding for our business was 28.5%. Where they do bid, local suppliers are usually very successful in winning business. There are 8 years of data for this indicator, apart from 2011/12 this is the lowest percentage spend during the 8 years but consistently higher than the Scotland average for each year.

### LOOKING FORWARD - EXPECTED IMPACT ON INDICATOR:

We expect very similar performance in 2018/19 as only two of our top 10 suppliers in 2018/19 to date are local, as again there have been a number of large projects using specialist out of area contractors.

# IMPROVEMENT AND HR

<b>SERVICE: IMPROVEMENT AND HR</b>			
INDICATOR REF: CORP 3b - The percentage of the highest paid 5% of employees who are women			
<b>Performance Range: 65.19% to 26.56% (Highest is best)</b>			
<b>ARGYLL AND BUTE</b>		<b>SCOTLAND</b>	
50.89%		54.60%	
<b>CHANGE 2016/17 TO 2017/18:</b>	0.39	CHANGE 2016/17 TO 2017/18:	1.70
<b>CHANGE BASE YEAR TO 2017/18:</b>	15.91	CHANGE BASE YEAR TO 2017/18:	8.34
<b>RANK POSITION: 22<sup>nd</sup>  RANK MOVEMENT: 2 </b>			
<b>FAMILY GROUP RANKING 2017/18</b>			
<b>RANK POSITION: 4<sup>th</sup> RANK MOVEMENT: 1 </b>			
<b>TELLING OUR STORY:</b>			
The percentage has increased this year, as it has generally across Scotland. Only 7 authorities show a decrease in this indicator.			
During this year LiveArgyll was formed. The number of staff and the number of females in the top 5% fell from 202 staff and 102 female in 2016/17 to 169 staff and 86 females in 2017/18.			
The Council has females in high profile, leadership positions in the organisation, so presents positive role models for women moving into senior roles in future. Two of the three Director level posts in the Strategic Management Team are female and five of the ten Council Heads of Service are female. We have women in gender non typical leadership roles including the Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure, the Head of Strategic Finance and the Head of Customer and Support Services. At third tier level, we have women in gender non typical senior management roles such as Strategic Transportation, IT, Finance and Procurement.			

**LOOKING FORWARD - EXPECTED IMPACT ON INDICATOR:**

Argyll and Bute has variable performance in this area, depending on changes to individual posts. We have some good examples of women in Chief Officer positions, which has increased in the last year.

As part of our Growing Our Own initiative, we are promoting a wide range of roles for women, including female mechanic apprentices, showcasing the variety of careers that are available to women in Argyll who work for the Council. We have developed and are continuing to improve our data analytics on social media, which we use to promote and advertise all of our job vacancies. We will use this to positively target senior jobs in ways that we know are attractive to women as well as men.



**SERVICE: IMPROVEMENT AND HR**

INDICATOR REF: CORP 3c - The gender pay gap

**Performance Range: -6.97% to 13.70% (Lowest is best)**

ARGYLL AND BUTE		SCOTLAND	
7.71% ↓		3.93% ↓	
CHANGE 2016/17 TO 2017/18:	-0.77 ↓	CHANGE 2016/17 TO 2017/18:	-0.28 ↓
CHANGE BASE YEAR TO 2017/18:	-0.01 ↓	CHANGE BASE YEAR TO 2017/18:	-0.57 ↓
RANK POSITION: 27 <sup>th</sup> ↑ RANK MOVEMENT: 1 ↑			
FAMILY GROUP RANKING 2017/18 RANK POSITION: 5 <sup>th</sup> RANK MOVEMENT: 1 ↑			

**TELLING OUR STORY:**

We have reduced the Gender Pay Gap by .77 percentage points, increased the rank position by 1 place. In total 19 authorities have a reduced Gender Pay Gap figure.

With regards the performance range, Glasgow City Council is the only authority that reports women are paid more than men, with a figure of -6.97%.

This is a larger improvement than the Scotland average however, the Scotland average is almost half of Argyll and Bute's.

It is important to note that the presence of a gender pay gap does not mean that women are paid less than men when doing the same job or when on the same grade. The Council has pay and grading structure that has been equality impact assessed and which ensures that everyone is paid equally for the job that they carry out.

**LOOKING FORWARD - EXPECTED IMPACT ON INDICATOR:**

The council is gradually improving its gender pay gap performance. This performance indicator is affected by the fact that the Council currently pays the Living Wage as a supplement, which lowers the base of the statistical calculation. We anticipate that this will improve when the Living Wage is consolidated in 2020. It is factual to say that a higher number of women work in part time, lower paid jobs for the Council, such as cleaning, catering and home care. This is further compounded by the fact that the overall gender profile of the workforce is heavily skewed towards women, precisely because we offer flexible and part time working. Further to this, Argyll and Bute has not outsourced catering and cleaning services, which other councils have, and which are lower paid posts, predominantly occupied by women. As referenced above, we continue to promote higher paid jobs to women by targeting advertising of posts, exemplifying some of our gender non typical post holders and encouraging young people to consider a future career in the council across a wide range of service areas.

**SERVICE: IMPROVEMENT AND HR**

INDICATOR REF: CORP 6a - Sickness absence days per teacher

Performance Range: 4.20 to 9.12 (Lowest is best)

ARGYLL AND BUTE		SCOTLAND	
5.89 ↓		5.93 ↓	
CHANGE 2016/17 TO 2017/18:	-0.38% ↓	CHANGE 2016/17 TO 2017/18:	-2.12% ↓
CHANGE BASE YEAR TO 2017/18:	-25.00% ↓	CHANGE BASE YEAR TO 2017/18:	-10.15% ↓
RANK POSITION: 16 <sup>th</sup> ↑ RANK MOVEMENT: 3 ↑			
FAMILY GROUP RANKING 2017/18 RANK POSITION: 2 <sup>nd</sup> RANK MOVEMENT: 2 ↑			

**TELLING OUR STORY:**

This is the 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive year that Teacher absence rates have fallen. The actual drop is .02 days per teacher, and there is an increase in rank position of 3 places.

Teacher numbers have fallen by 13, From 911 in 2016/17 to 898 in 2017/18.

The performance range is small at 4.92, as a result any change in performance may not necessarily equate to a change in rank position. This is a positive story for Education services, highlighting a focus by school management on attendance absence. It should be noted that the service has had an additional part time resource to support absence management over the period of the data.

**LOOKING FORWARD - EXPECTED IMPACT ON INDICATOR:**

The Council has improved its sickness absence for teachers and we aim to continue this trend. Analysis shows that as well as seasonal variations in absence, the highest reason for absence is stress related illness. The Council continues to roll out mandatory stress awareness and stress management training to all staff. We are also looking at a comprehensive review of our absence procedure and our terms and conditions. The most important aspect for the council to develop in relation to managing attendance is a preventative, wellbeing based approach, which supports and directs employees to look after their own wellbeing, whilst providing tools, advice and support to do so. Associated with this is committed action by senior management team to acknowledge the importance of a preventative approach to attendance management and to act accordingly through delivering the forthcoming strategy.

**SERVICE: IMPROVEMENT AND HR**

INDICATOR REF: CORP 6b - Sickness absence days per employee (non-teacher)

**Performance Range: 8.36 to 16.78 (Lowest is best)**

ARGYLL AND BUTE		SCOTLAND	
12.82 ↑		11.41 ↑	
CHANGE 2016/17 TO 2017/18:	10.84% ↑	CHANGE 2016/17 TO 2017/18:	4.49% ↑
CHANGE BASE YEAR TO 2017/18:	27.75% ↑	CHANGE BASE YEAR TO 2017/18:	5.69% ↑
RANK POSITION: 29 <sup>th</sup> ↓ RANK MOVEMENT: 8 ↓			
FAMILY GROUP RANKING RANK POSITION: 8 <sup>th</sup> RANK MOVEMENT: 2 ↓			

**TELLING OUR STORY:**

This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year that employee (non-teacher) absence rates have increased. The actual increase is 1.26 days per employee, and there is a drop in rank position of 8 places.

Employee (FTE) numbers have fallen by 139. From 2,894 in 2016/17 to 2,755 in 2017/18.

The performance range is larger than that of Teachers absence at 8.42. In total 21 authorities has seen an increase in absence rates. This is a disappointing area of performance, particularly when compared with the positive improvements in the teaching staff absence. The main reasons for absence are stress and medical. In terms of managing stress, we have mandatory stress awareness and stress management training available to all staff and we have recently introduced mental health first aiders to some workplaces. Our attendance management procedures are based on best practice, but we are currently reviewing and updating them to make them more user friendly.

**LOOKING FORWARD - EXPECTED IMPACT ON INDICATOR:**

There are indications that the age profile of the workforce towards older employees has an impact on absence levels related to medical issues. However this is not sufficient to explain the high rate and there are management initiatives being put in place to tackle and improve absence.

We will continue to expand the number of mental health first aiders in our workplaces and will promote the Employee Assistance Service more widely and in different ways to improve its use. We are developing a wellbeing strategy which will focus on the preventative side of employee absence, helping employees to recognise signs of stress or other ill health and taking early action to prevent acute episodes that lead to prolonged absence. It is important that as part of this, senior management become more open in talking about mental health and embrace and encourage a preventative approach to absence. As part of the process of consolidating the Living Wage, we are looking closely at our terms and conditions for LGE employees to identify any areas of potential benefit to employee wellbeing. We have also recently completed both a culture audit and an employee survey that give us good indications of employees' views on issues in the workplace that we can work with them to address.

The Council continues to operate within a climate of financial uncertainty, which adds pressure to employees when their job is potentially at risk. These continuing pressures have an impact on wellbeing and stress absence, so our future approach to budget management will reflect this by incorporating much earlier inclusion of employees in the development of proposals.

We also propose to bid for 2 additional attendance and wellbeing officers to support service managers to manage absence and ensure that the process is adhered to and support such as OHP referral is used to optimum effect. This is dependent on funding being made available.

# GOVERNANCE AND LAW

<b>SERVICE: GOVERNANCE AND LAW</b>			
INDICATOR REF: CORP 1 - Support services as a percentage of total gross expenditure ★			
Performance Range: 2.20% to 7.65% (Lowest is best)			
<b>ARGYLL AND BUTE</b>		<b>SCOTLAND</b>	
4.35% ↓		4.45% ↓	
CHANGE 2016/17 TO 2017/18	-3.39 ↓	CHANGE 2016/17 TO 2017/18	-0.55 ↓
CHANGE BASE YEAR TO 2017/18	-5.28 ↓	CHANGE BASE YEAR TO 2017/18	-0.44 ↓
RANK POSITION: 14 <sup>th</sup> ↑ RANK MOVEMENT: 16 ↑			
FAMILY GROUP RANKING 2017/18 RANK POSITION: 3 <sup>rd</sup> RANK MOVEMENT: 3 ↑			
<b>TELLING OUR STORY:</b>			
<p>There is a large change in the support service cost, a reduction of 3.39 percentage points. This has resulted in an improved rank position of 16 places.</p> <p>Argyll and Bute has achieved the largest reduction of costs compared to all authorities. Edinburgh City achieved the next largest reduction at 2.62 percentage points.</p> <p>There is the question as to whether all authorities are calculating the support services costs equally. Service Choices/Transformation Agenda will have had an impact on this indicator.</p> <p>There has been an improvement in ranking which is most likely explained by ongoing reductions in staff numbers in support services.</p>			
<b>LOOKING FORWARD - EXPECTED IMPACT ON INDICATOR:</b>			
There is likely to be a further improvement when the corporate management review is completed.			

# FACILITY SERVICES

<b>SERVICE: FACILITY SERVICES</b>			
INDICATOR REF: CORP ASSET1 - Percentage of operational buildings that are suitable for their current use			
Performance Range: 96.47% to 66.06% (Highest is best)			
<b>ARGYLL AND BUTE</b>		<b>SCOTLAND</b>	
73.74% ↑		80.96 ↑	
CHANGE 2016/17 TO 2017/18	1.06 ↑	CHANGE 2016/17 TO 2017/18	1.15 ↑
CHANGE BASE YEAR TO 2017/18	8.84 ↑	CHANGE BASE YEAR TO 2017/18	7.29 ↑
RANK POSITION: 28 <sup>th</sup> ↑ RANK MOVEMENT: 1 ↑			
FAMILY GROUP RANKING 2017/18 RANK POSITION: 6 <sup>th</sup> RANK MOVEMENT: 0 →			
<b>TELLING OUR STORY:</b>			
<p>Argyll and Bute has seen an increase of 52 buildings, which makes a total of 396 buildings. This increase has arisen as a consequence of ongoing improvements and data cleansing within our Asset Management System. Arising from that, we are now in a position to report on more properties rather than having built or purchased more buildings. As reported, the overall trend is for rationalisation of the property estate wherein the Council aims to reduce the number of buildings it occupies. Of these 292 are classed as being suitable for their current use, or 73.74%. This is an increase of 1.06 percentage points.</p> <p>Across Scotland only 8 authorities saw an increase in the number of buildings, with Argyll and Bute having the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest increase.</p> <p>The Scotland average saw a decrease of two buildings in total.</p>			

### **LOOKING FORWARD - EXPECTED IMPACT ON INDICATOR:**

The other Authorities considered to have similar geography/demographic challenges are the family group plus Moray so the list is: Aberdeenshire; Dumfries & Galloway; Eilean Siar; Highland; Moray; Orkney Islands; Scottish Borders; and Shetland Isles.

#### Summary

The performance of the Family Group listed above along with All Scotland and the Scottish average is as follows:

Maximum (Scotland)	96.47%
Maximum (Family Group)	94.76%
Scotland Average	80.96%
Family Group Average	79.55%
A&BC	73.74%
Minimum (Family Group)	66.06%
Minimum (Scotland)	66.06%
Scotland Average	80.96%

Argyll and Bute Council are towards the lower end of the range and below both the Scotland average and the Family Group average. Having said that, the trend for this indicator has been continual improvement over the last 8 years (time over which the current comparison extends) and is not unexpected given that the focus during that time has been to deal with condition related red risk elements/assets.

Given the limited availability of capital funds for other than the larger projects including: the Helensburgh & Lomond Civic Centre; Queens Hall, Dunoon, and the new schools at Kirn Primary School, Campbeltown Grammar School and Oban High School , the Council's property related priorities over the last 5 to 10 years has been to address condition issues.

#### What are better performing Authorities doing?

Other better performing Councils in our Family Group and across Scotland have invested time and resources to review their suitability assessments. They have used Survey Monkey to assist but still require submissions to be sense checked and within Education there was a requirement for returns from Head Teachers to be "moderated" by Education management.

In general, the suitability assessments need buy-in from the Client End Users as they are best placed to comment on the suitability of buildings for delivering their Service on the understanding that there is appropriate moderation.



Actions

In the coming 3 years, the Council property related capital programme will continue to address condition related red risk assets/elements which will have limited impact on suitability. However the Council will complete the refurbishment of Dunoon Primary School and deliver further office rationalisation. In addition, buildings that have been upgraded will have their suitability reassessed to reflect the capital investment.

Impact

The number of operational properties will reduce but so will the number where the suitability is rated as C (poor) or D (bad). The overall position will be for the percentage of operational buildings that are suitable for their current use to improve.

<b>SERVICE: FACILITY SERVICES</b>			
INDICATOR REF: CORP ASSET2 - Percentage of internal floor area of operational buildings in satisfactory condition			
Performance Range: 99.66% to 52.64% (Highest is best)			
<b>ARGYLL AND BUTE</b>		<b>SCOTLAND</b>	
96.83% ↑		86.31% ↑	
CHANGE 2016/17 TO 2017/18	4.75 ↑	CHANGE 2016/17 TO 2017/18	1.82 ↑
CHANGE BASE YEAR TO 2017/18	16.85 ↑	CHANGE BASE YEAR TO 2017/18	5.00 ↑
RANK POSITION: 7 <sup>th</sup> ↑ RANK MOVEMENT: 4 ↑			
FAMILY GROUP RANKING 2017/18 RANK POSITION: 2 <sup>nd</sup> RANK MOVEMENT: 1 ↑			
<p><b>TELLING OUR STORY:</b>  There is an increase of 4.75 percentage points of internal floor area that is in a satisfactory condition.</p> <p>The total internal floor area has increased by 3,362m<sup>2</sup>.</p> <p>The total internal floor area that is deemed as suitable has increased by 14,850m<sup>2</sup>.</p> <p>The Scotland average also saw an increase of 1.83 percentage points.</p>			

### **LOOKING FORWARD - EXPECTED IMPACT ON INDICATOR:**

The other Authorities considered to have similar geography/demographic challenges are the family group plus Moray so the list is: Aberdeenshire; Dumfries & Galloway; Eilean Siar; Highland; Moray; Orkney Islands; Scottish Borders; and Shetland Isles.

#### Summary

The performance of the Family Group listed above along with All Scotland and the Scottish average is as follows:

Maximum (Scotland)	99.66%
Maximum (Family Group)	98.89%
A&BC	96.83%
Scotland Average	86.31%
Family Group Average	81.83%
Minimum (Family Group)	52.64%
Minimum (Scotland)	52.64%

Argyll and Bute Council are towards the upper end of the range and above both the Scotland average and the Family Group average. The trend for this indicator has been continual improvement over the last 8 years (time over which the current comparison extends) and is not unexpected given that the focus during that time has been to deal with condition related red risk elements/assets. The indicator has also benefitted from major projects including: The Helensburgh & Lomond Civic Centre; Queens Hall, Dunoon, and the new schools at Kirn Primary School, Campbeltown Grammar School and Oban High School.

#### What are better performing Authorities doing?

Given the recently approved capital programme and that Argyll and Bute Council are one of the better performing Authorities (7<sup>th</sup> in Scotland and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Family Group), no additional actions are envisaged.

#### Actions

In the coming 3 years, the Council will continue to address property condition related red risk assets/elements and will complete the refurbishment of Dunoon Primary School. In addition, further office rationalisation should be delivered. In addition, buildings that have been upgraded will have their condition reassessed to reflect the capital investment.

#### Impact

The floor area of operational properties will reduce but so will the area where the condition is rated as C (poor) or D (bad). The overall position will be for the percentage of internal floor area of operational buildings in satisfactory condition to improve subject to investment being sustained at appropriate levels.