



Culture and Leisure

Culture and leisure services play an important role in the quality of life in local communities. In addition to the social and economic benefits delivered, the impact they have on promoting better health and wellbeing of the population and in reducing demand on other core services is well documented. Culture and leisure services also connect well with communities who more traditional and regulated services often struggle to reach. This unique relationship provides real potential to achieve impact for people in the greatest need. However, given there is little in the way of statutory protection for culture and leisure spending, culture and leisure services face a particularly challenging financial context across the coming period.

All culture and leisure cost measures are presented as net measures. This provides a better basis to compare like by like between councils, particularly in relation to different service delivery models, e.g. in-house/arm's length provision. It also recognises the increasing need for authorities to income generate across culture and leisure services, and ensures this activity is reflected accordingly.

Sports facilities

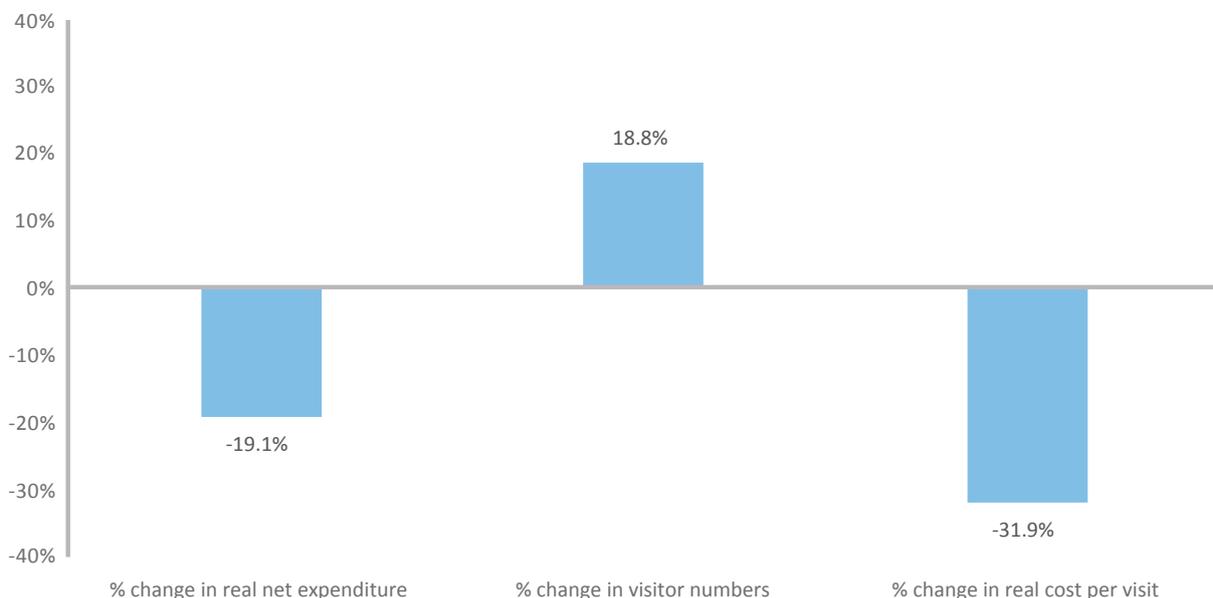
The data presented below illustrates the net cost per attendance at sports and recreation facilities. Over the eight-year period from 2010/11 to 2017/18 the average unit cost has reduced year on year from £3.97 to £2.71 in real terms. In percentage terms, this represents a 31.9% reduction.

Cost per attendance at sports facilities

2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	Change 2016-17 to 2017-18	Change 2010-11 to 2017-18
£3.97	£3.56	£3.40	£3.39	£3.11	£3.04	£2.96	£2.71	-8.4%	-31.9%

The cost per attendance figures on their own do not give a complete picture of what has been happening in sports services over the period. Significant increases in visitor numbers have been achieved against a backdrop of reductions in real net expenditure. The growth in service users has slowed in recent years, showing a 0.1% reduction in the past 12 months.

Sports facilities: change in total spend, visitor numbers and cost per visit 2010/11 - 2017/18



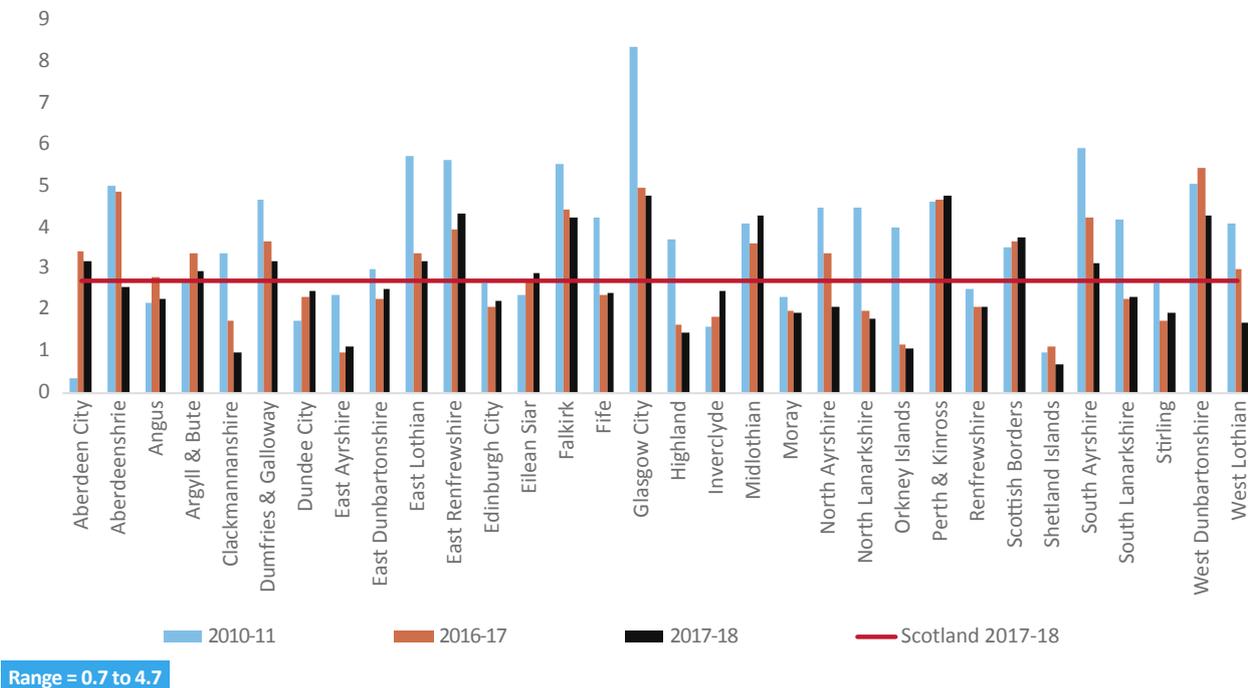
Source: Council supplied expenditure and visitor figures



Over the eight year period, the significant increase in user numbers while the unit cost of sports attendances has fallen indicates that leisure and recreation services have managed to attract more people into using their facilities while managing significant financial pressures. A key factor here may be the significant capital investment programme in sports facilities across Scotland in the noughties now bearing fruit. However, it may be that the additional capacity generated through this investment has now been reached, and thus the growth in user numbers is tapering off.

However, the picture across councils with respect to the general trend is not universal. In 2017/18, costs per attendance at a sports facility ranged from £0.70 to £4.75. The variation in unit costs has narrowed in recent years due to significant reductions at the higher cost end. There is no systematic relationship with deprivation, rurality or size of council.

Cost per attendance at sports facilities (£)



Source: Council supplied expenditure and visitor figures

Library services

Library costs are represented as the average cost per library visit (both physical and virtual). There has been a year on year reduction in unit costs since 2010/11, until the past 12 months. The average cost per library visit in 2017/18 was £2.08, while in 2010/11 the cost per visit was £3.81. In real terms, this represents a reduction of 45.4% over the period.

Cost per library visit

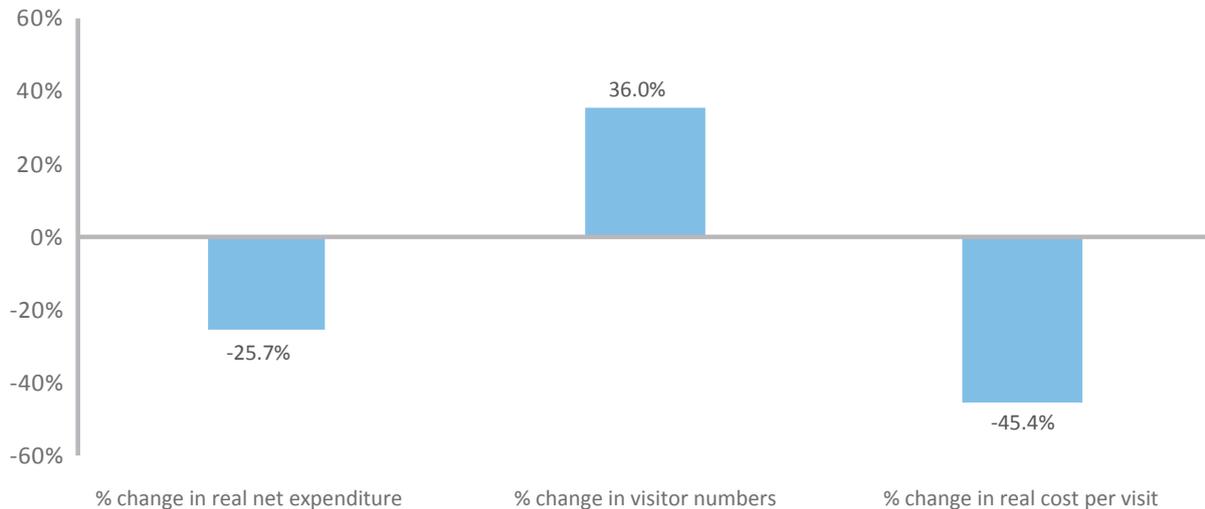
2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	Change 2016-17 to 2017-18	Change 2010-11 to 2017-18
£3.81	£3.60	£3.41	£2.74	£2.58	£2.55	£2.02	£2.08	3.1%	-45.4%

As with sports services unit cost figures on their own do not tell the full story of the last seven years for library services. Over the period covered by the LGBF, there has been a reduction in net spending on library services of 25.7%. At the same time, visitor numbers increased from 31.8



million to 43.3 million, an increase of 36%. Across this period, there has been a year on year reduction in expenditure levels, and a year on year increase in visit numbers. However, in the past 12 months, while net expenditure continued to reduce (-4.6%), the number of library visitors showed a reduction for the first time (-7.5%). The treatment of social media may account for some of the movement in recent years, and work is underway to strengthen guidance to address this going forward.

Libraries: change in total spend, visitor numbers and cost per visit 2010/11 - 2017/18



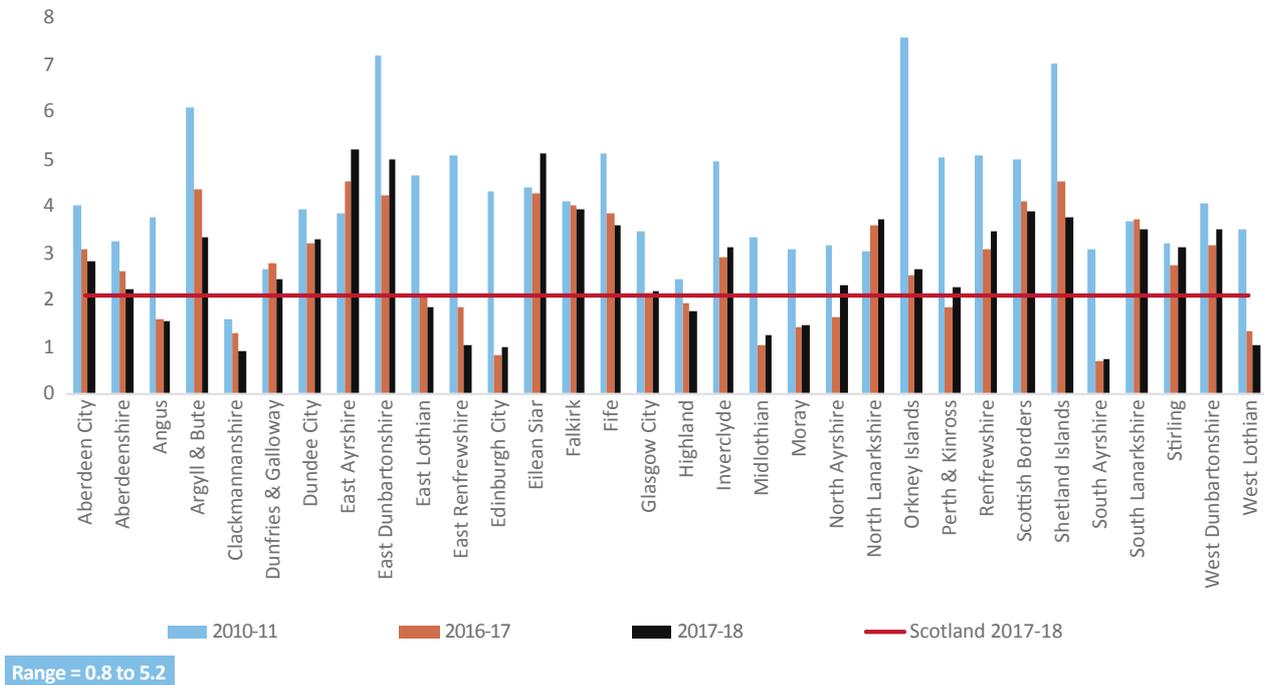
Source: Council supplied expenditure and visitor figures

Over the period, this indicates that against a difficult financial backdrop council services have achieved a growth in service user volume and as a consequence reduced the unit cost per visit to the council by a substantial margin. This shows decisions around the rationalisation of local services have been implemented intelligently and rather than reduce access, the sector has been successful in increasing visitor numbers over the period.

As with sports attendance the picture across councils with respect to the general trend is not universal. In 2017/18 the range across councils in cost per library visit was £0.76 to £5.19. The level of variation across councils has not changed significantly since the base year. There is no systematic relationship with deprivation, rurality or size of council.



Cost per library visit (£)



Source: Council supplied expenditure and visitor figures

Museum services

With respect to museum services, the pattern is similar to library and sports services in relation to falling unit costs accompanied by increasing visitor numbers. Over the eight-year period there has been a real terms reduction of 25.9% in cost per visit, from £4.70 to £3.49.

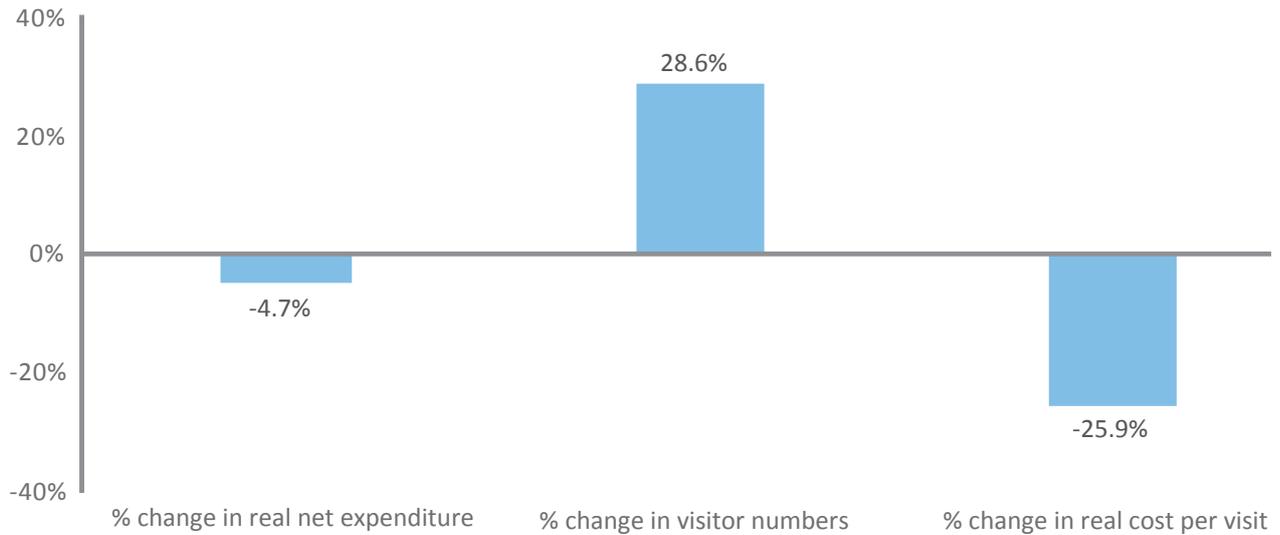
Cost per museums visit

2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	Change 2016-17 to 2017-18	Change 2010-11 to 2017-18
£4.70	£3.84	£3.88	£3.56	£3.50	£3.17	£3.38	£3.49	3.2%	-25.9%

As with other leisure and recreation services the high-level data only tells part of the story of what has been changing in museum services over the eight-year period. Net spending on museum services across Scotland has fallen by -4.7% since 2010/11 but in the same period visitor numbers have increased from 9.2 million visitors to 11.9 million visitors, an increase of 28.6%. The combined effect of this increase in the productive use of the service has been to reduce significantly the unit cost as measured by the cost per visit indicator across the period.



Museums: change in total spend, visitor numbers and cost per visit, 2010/11 - 2017/18

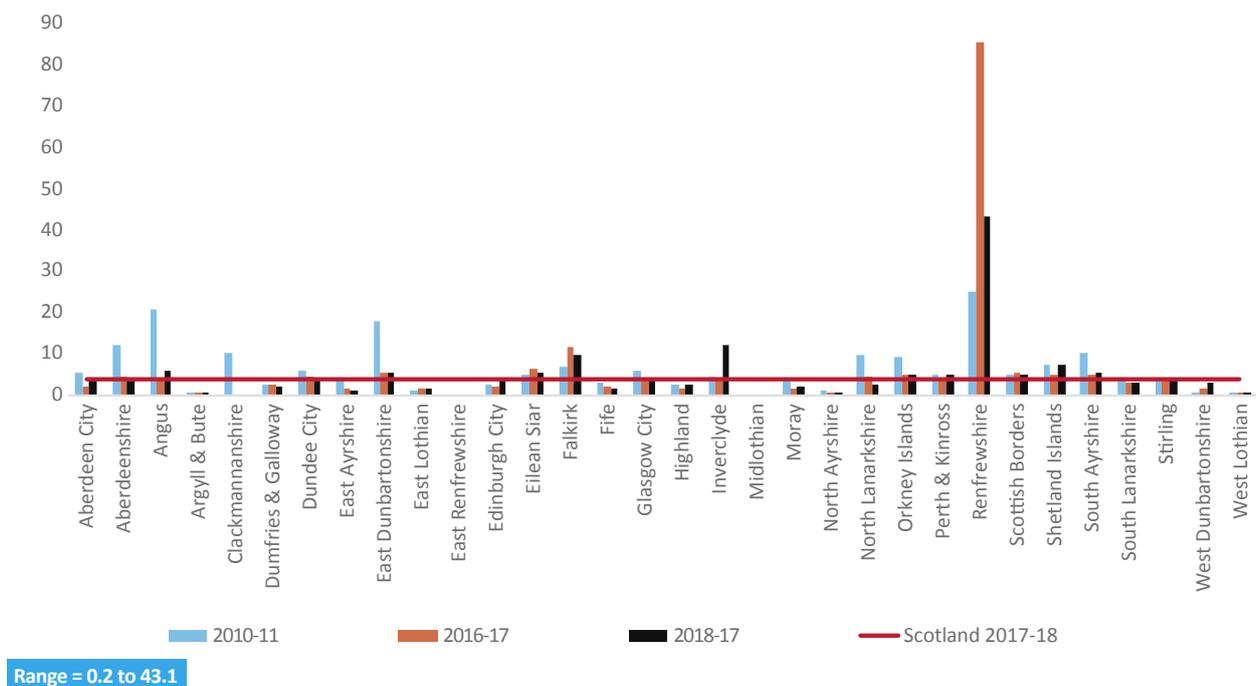


Source: Council supplied expenditure and visitor figures

Over the past two years however, unit costs have begun to rise. This is due both to visitor number reductions in recent years, and a levelling out in expenditure reductions. This has resulted in an increase in cost per visit of 3.2% over the last 12 months.

There is a significant range between councils' museums costs, which has widened substantially in the past two years. In 2017/18 the range in cost per visit was £0.28 to £43.06 (£0.28 to £12.34 excluding Renfrewshire as an outlier). There is no systematic relationship with deprivation, rurality or size of council.

Cost of museums per visit



Source: Council supplied expenditure and visitor figures

Note: Missing values for Clackmannanshire, East Renfrewshire and Midlothian reflect no council provided museum service



Parks and open spaces

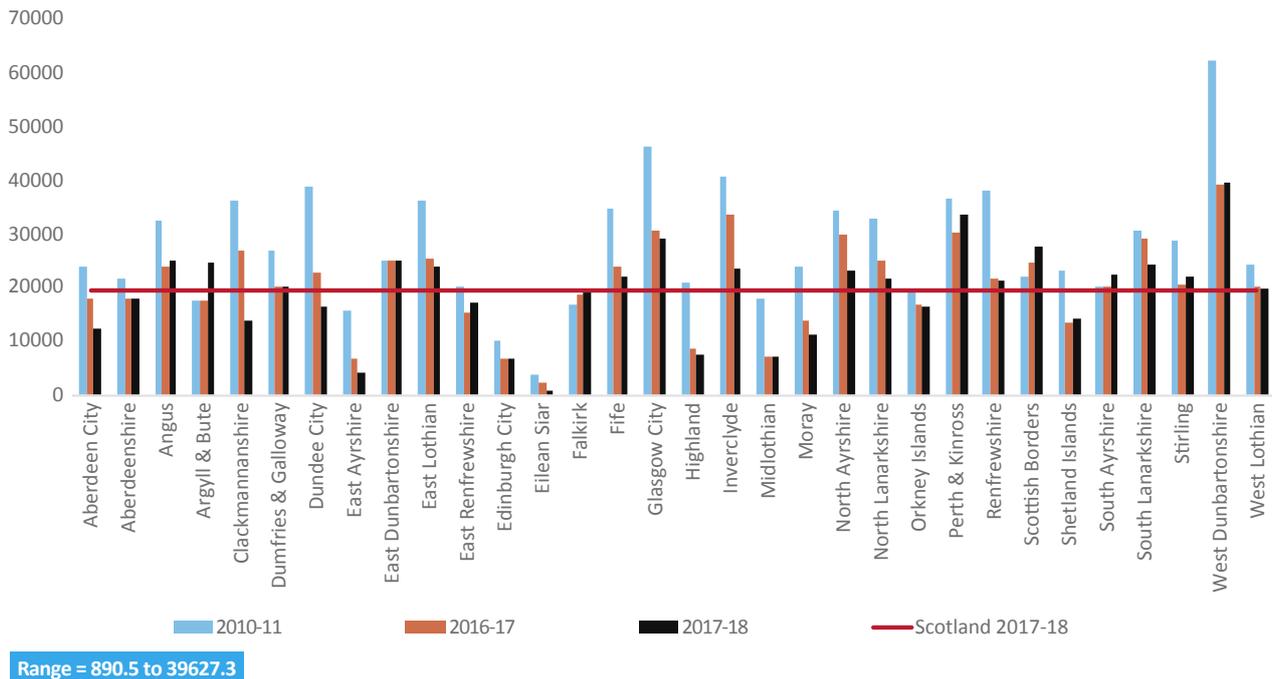
Spend on parks and open spaces is reflected as spend per 1,000 population. Over the eight-year period from 2010/11 to 2017/18 spend has reduced in real terms by 31.7%, from £29,022 to £19,814. There has been a year on year reduction across the period, including a 6.7% reduction in the past 12 months.

Cost of parks and open spaces per 1,000 population

2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	Change 2016-17 to 2017-18	Change 2010-11 to 2017-18
£29,022	£26,823	£25,624	£24,773	£24,574	£22,700	£21,229	£19,814	-6.7%	-31.7%

In 2017/18 the average cost of parks and open spaces was £19,814, ranging from £890 - £39,627. The variation across councils has narrowed since the base year due to a significant cost reduction at the higher end. In previous years, the costs of parks and open spaces varied systematically with the level of deprivation in councils, with those councils with higher levels of deprivation spending significantly more on parks and green spaces. While this still tends to hold true, the relationship is no longer significant. The average for councils with the lowest deprivation by SIMD is £17,207 compared to £22,618 for areas with highest levels of deprivation by SIMD.

Costs of parks and open spaces per 1,000 population (£)



Source: Mid-year population estimates, National Records Scotland (NRO); Council supplied expenditure figures



Work within Family Groups has identified the following factors as important in understanding the variation between authorities in culture and leisure services:

- *Local political and strategic priority given to the role of culture and leisure in supporting improvement in wider outcomes e.g. health and wellbeing, tackling inequality, economic development, community empowerment*
- *Scale of provision and level of service*
- *Digital channel shift*
- *Service delivery model and balance between in house and arm's length/trust delivery*
- *Service structure and integration with other services*
- *Staffing composition, level and roles*
- *Level of volunteering, community involvement and asset transfer*
- *Income generation capacity*
- *Asset management and co-location/multi-use venues*

Satisfaction with culture and leisure services

Satisfaction levels for all areas of culture and leisure remain high at around 70% or above. All areas have, however, experienced declining satisfaction since 2010/11, except parks and green spaces. All areas inclusive have seen a reduction in the past 12 months.

Percentage of adults satisfied with culture and leisure services

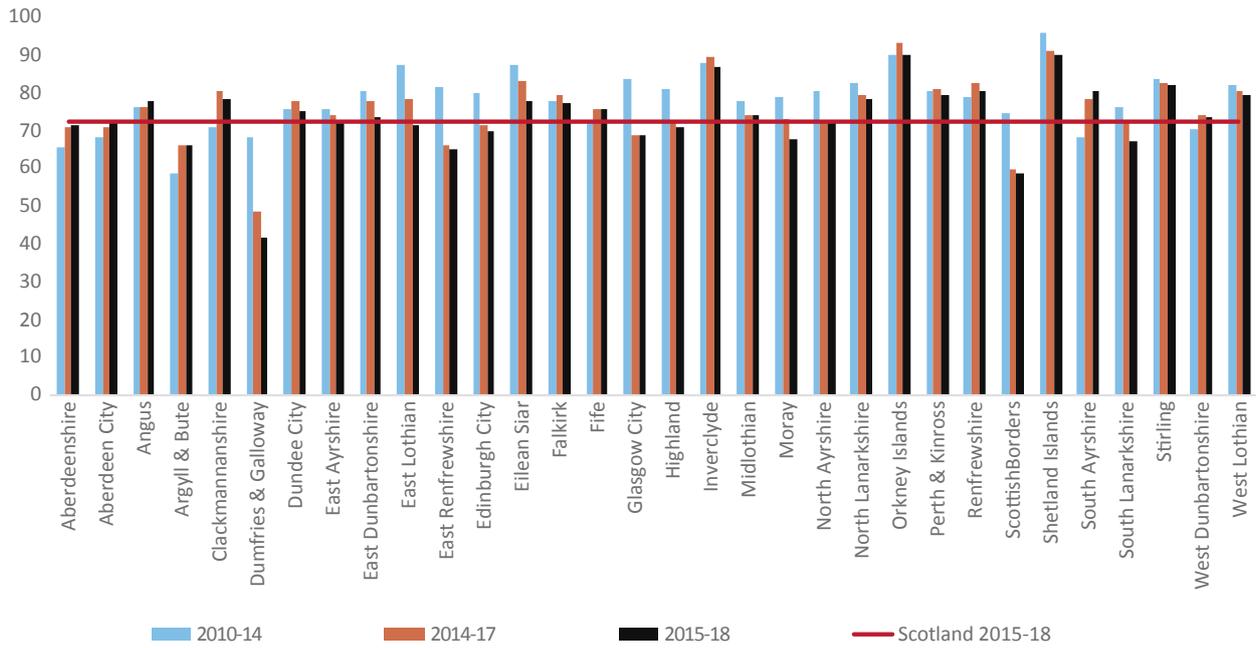
	2010-11	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	Change 2016-17 to 2017-18	Change 2010-11 to 2017-18
Libraries	83.5	83.0	81.0	77.0	74.0	73.0	72.0	-1.0%	-11.5%
Parks and Open Spaces	83.1	86.0	86.0	86.0	85.0	87.0	85.0	-2.0%	1.9%
Museums and Galleries	75.5	78.0	76.0	75.0	71.0	70.0	69.0	-1.0%	-6.5%
Leisure Facilities	74.6	80.0	78.0	76.0	73.0	73.0	72.0	-1.0%	-2.6%

As with satisfaction with local schools, to boost sample sizes 3-year rolled averages have been used to ensure the required level of precision at local levels. The data used represents satisfaction for the public at large rather than for service users. It should be noted that satisfaction rates for service users are consistently higher than those reported by the general population, but the smaller sample sizes available for service users mean it is not possible to present this data with any level of confidence.

For all culture and leisure services, satisfaction levels vary considerably across councils and this variation has been widening. In leisure, satisfaction rates range from 42% - 90%; in libraries, it is 52% - 93%; for museums, 40% - 90%; and finally, for parks the range is 70% - 93%. There are no systematic effects of deprivation, sparsity or council size on satisfaction levels in relation to culture and leisure services.

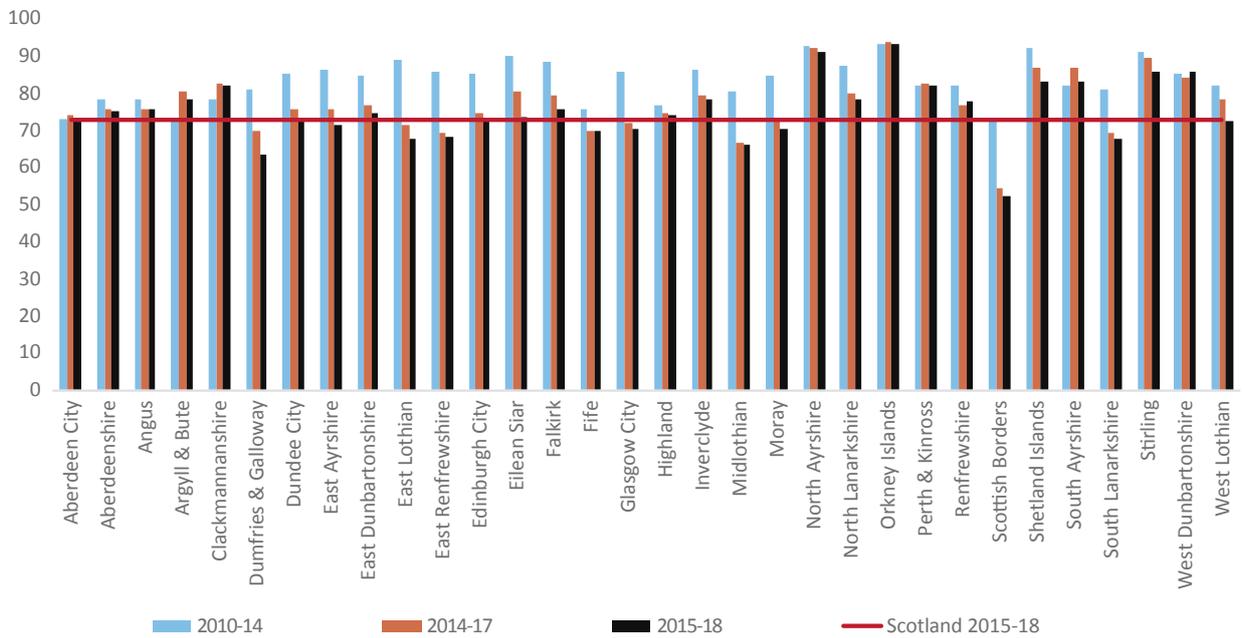


Percentage of adults satisfied with leisure facilities



Range = 41.7 to 90.3

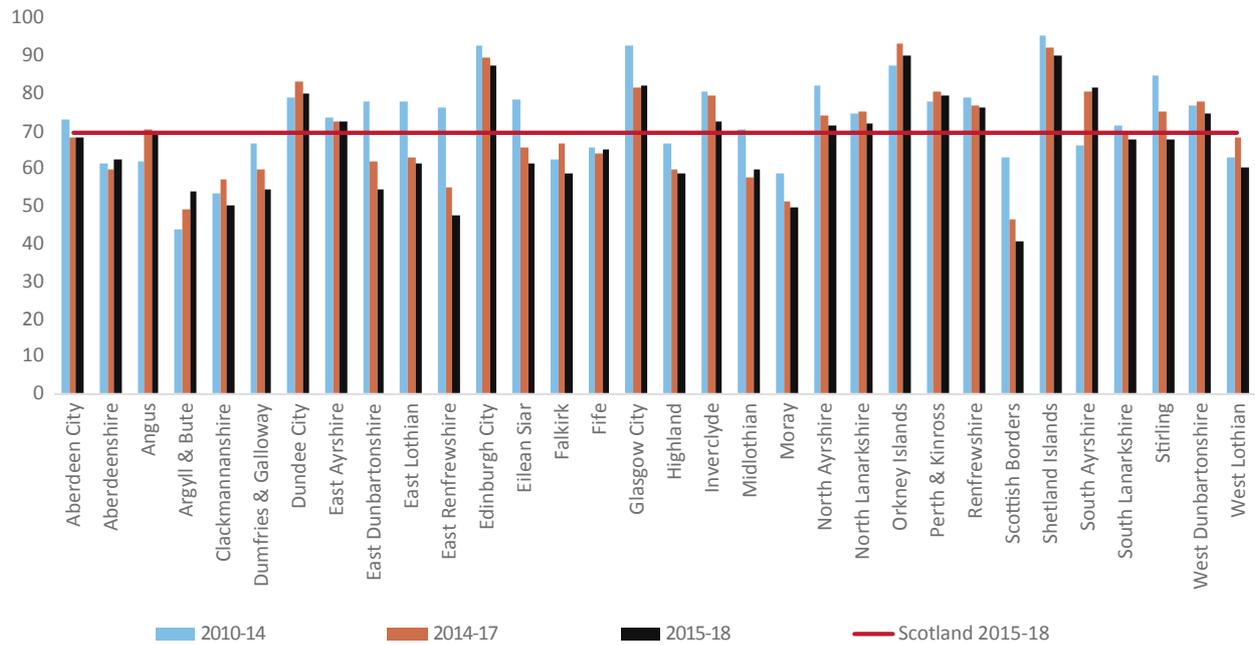
Percentage of adults satisfied with libraries



Range = 52.3 to 93.3

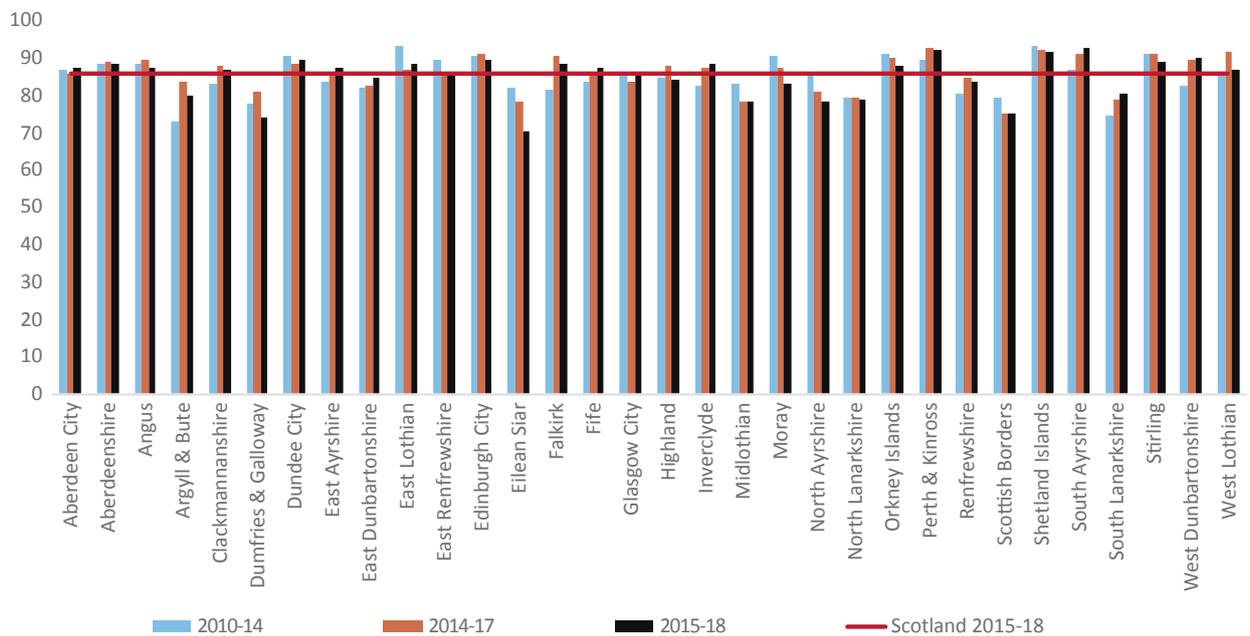


Percentage of adults satisfied with museums and galleries



Range = 40.7 to 90.3

Percentage of adults satisfied with parks and open spaces



Range = 70.3 to 93

Source: Scottish Household Survey