

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.

Despite a real reduction in spend of 17% since 2010/11, leisure and cultural services have sharply increased their use rates and reduced their costs per use. This provides evidence of positive service transformation and how widely valued council services are by communities across Scotland.

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

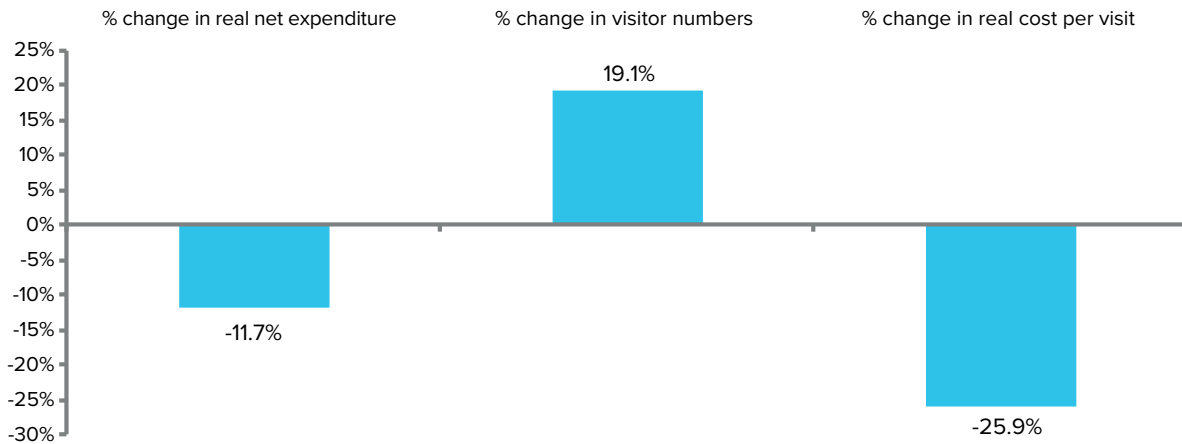
The data presented below illustrates the net cost per attendance at sports and recreation facilities. Over the six-year period from 2010/11 to 2016/17 the average unit cost has reduced year-on-year from £3.91 to £2.90 in real terms. In percentage terms, this represents a 25.9% reduction.

Cost per Attendance at Sports Facilities

% Change	Cash	Real
2010/11 - 2016/17	-18.4	-25.9
2010/11 - 2011/12	-9.1	-10.4
2011/12 - 2012/13	-2.7	-4.7
2012/13 - 2013/14	1.6	-0.1
2013/14 - 2014/15	-7.1	-8.4
2014/15 - 2015/16	-1.5	-2.2
2015/16 - 2016/17	-0.8	-3.0

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. However, the growth in service users has slowed slightly in recent years, growing only 2.0% in the past 12 months.

Sports Facilities: Change in Total Spend, Visitor Numbers and Cost per Visit 2010/11–2016/17

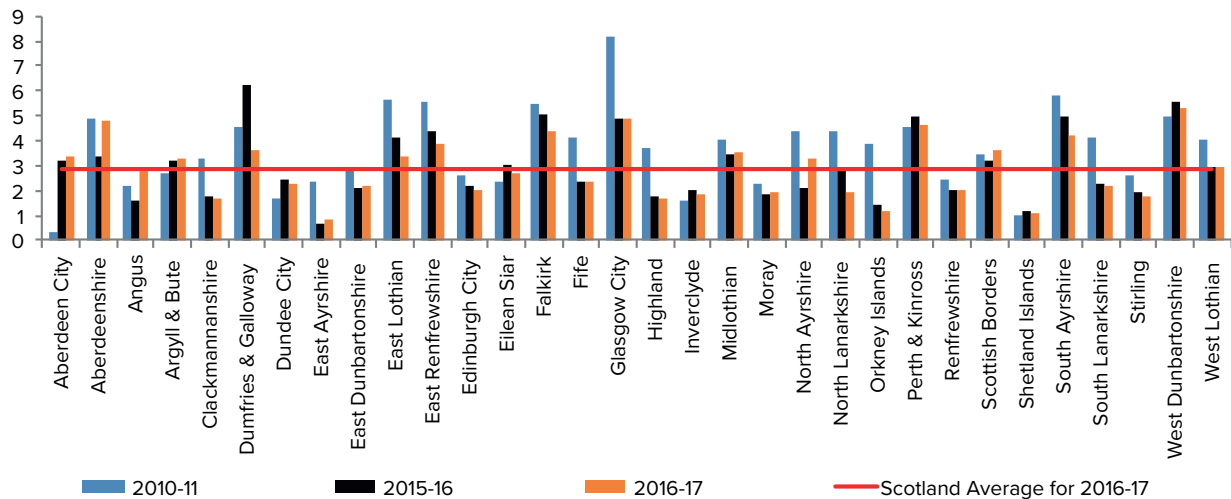


Council supplied expenditure and visitor figures

Over the seven-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 10 years ago 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 now tapering off.

However, the picture across councils with respect to the general trend is not universal. In 2016/17, costs per attendance at a sports facility ranged from £0.84 to £5.34. The variation in unit costs has narrowed in recent years mainly due to 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

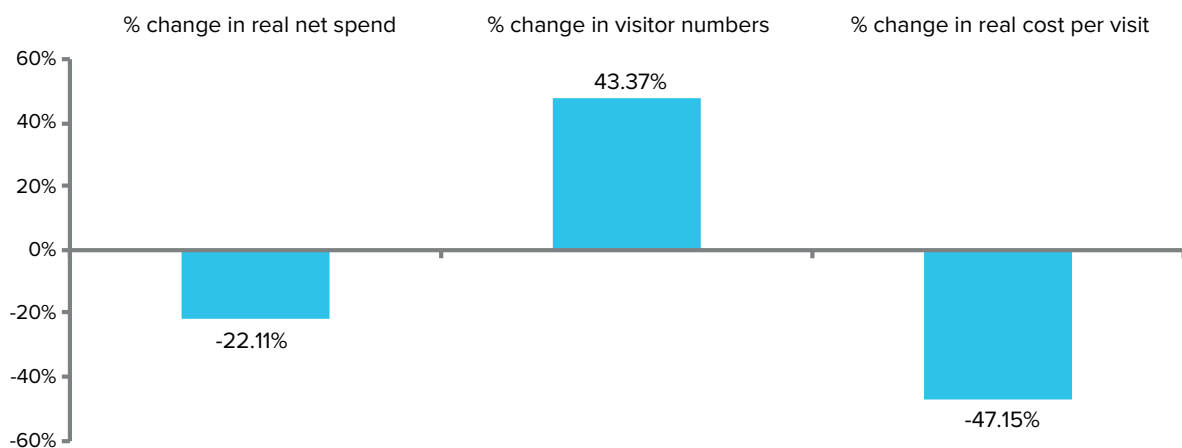
Library costs are represented as the average cost per library visit (both physical and virtual). There has been a year on year reduction in unit costs since 2010/11. The average cost per library visit in 2016/17 was £1.98, while in 2010/11 the cost per visit was £3.75. In real terms, this represents a reduction of 47.1% over the period. This represents significant year on year reductions, including a 21% reduction in the past 12 months.

Cost Per Library Visit

% Change	Cash	Real
2010/11 - 2016/17	-41.9	-47.1
2010/11 - 2011/12	-4.4	-5.7
2011/12 - 2012/13	-3.3	-5.3
2012/13 - 2013/14	-18.3	-19.7
2013/14 - 2014/15	-4.6	-6.0
2014/15 - 2015/16	-0.3	-0.9
2015/16 - 2016/17	-19.0	-20.8

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 net spending on library services across Scotland fell by 22.1%. At the same time, visitor numbers increased across the country by 47.4%. Across this period, there has been a year on year reduction in expenditure levels, and a year-on-year increase in visit numbers. In the past 12 months alone, net expenditure reduced by 10.1% and library visitor numbers grew by 13.5%

Libraries: Change in Total Spend, Visitor Numbers and Cost per Visit 2010/11–2016/17

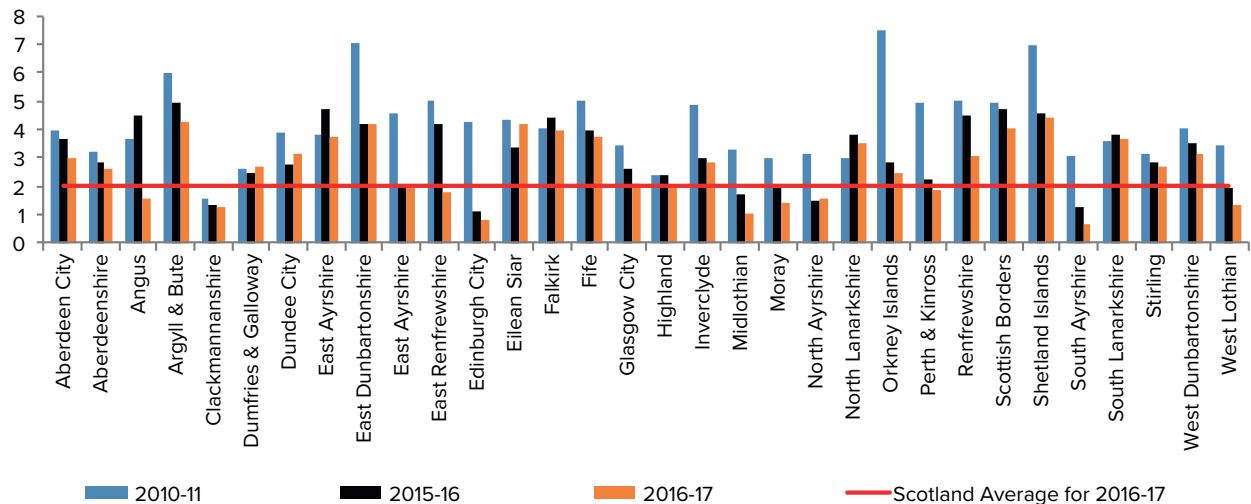


Council supplied expenditure and visitor figures

Again 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 2016/17 the range across councils in cost per visit was £0.67 to £4.45. This range has narrowed 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

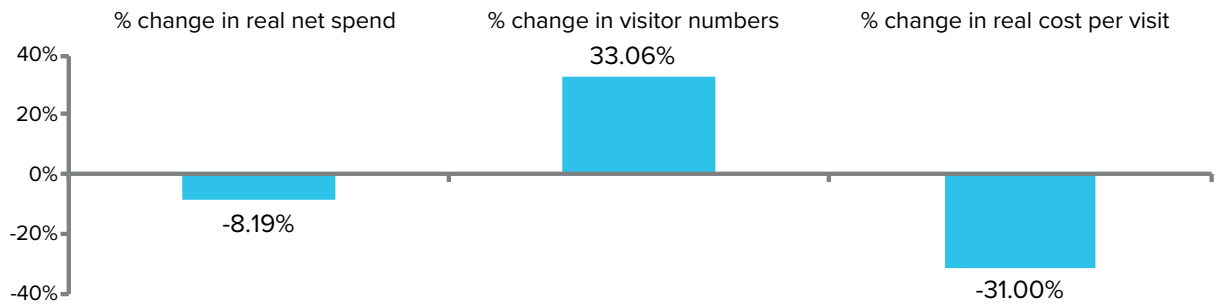
With respect to museum services, the pattern is similar to library and sports services in relation to falling unit costs accompanied by increasing visitor numbers. Over the seven-year period there has been a real terms reduction of 31% in cost per visit, from £4.62 to £3.19.

Cost Per Museums Visit

% Change	Cash	Real
2010/11 - 2016/17	-24.1	-31.0
2010/11 - 2011/12	-17.4	-18.5
2011/12 - 2012/13	3.2	1.1
2012/13 - 2013/14	-6.7	-8.3
2013/14 - 2014/15	-0.4	-1.8
2014/15 - 2015/16	-8.6	-9.2
2015/16 - 2016/17	4.7	2.6

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 seven-year period. Net spending on museum services across Scotland has fallen by -8.2% since 2010/11 but in the same period visitor numbers have increased by 33.1%. 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.

Museums: Change in Total Spend, Visitor Numbers and Cost per Visit 2010/11–2016/17

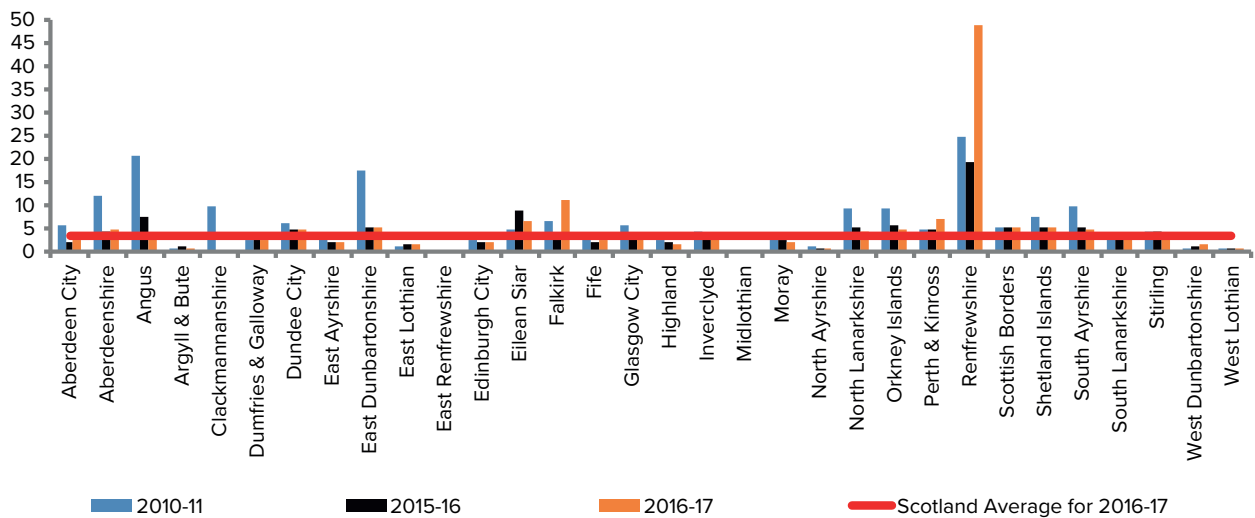


Source: Council supplied expenditure and visitor figures

Over the past 12 months however, for the first time, there has been a reduction in visitor numbers of -2.6%. During the same period, the reduction in spend has slowed to 0.3%. This has resulted in an increase in cost per visit of 2.6% over the last 12 months.

There is a significant range between councils' museums costs, which has widened in the past 12 months. In 2016/17 the range in cost per visit was £0.28 to £48.91 (£0.28 to £11.31 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

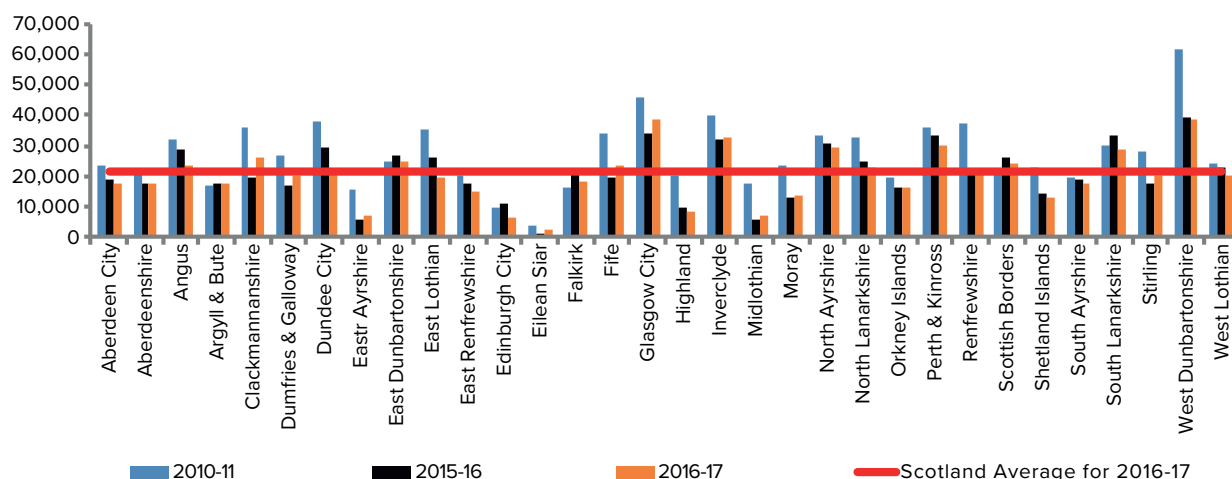
Spend on parks and open spaces is reflected as spend per 1,000 population. Over the seven-year period from 2010/11 to 2016/17 this has reduced in real terms by 24.3%, from £28,520 to £21,581. There has been a year on year reduction across the period.

Cost of Parks and Open Spaces per 1,000 Population

% Change	Cash	Real
2010/11 - 2016/17	-16.8	-24.3
2010/11 - 2011/12	-6.4	-7.7
2011/12 - 2012/13	-2.5	-4.5
2012/13 - 2013/14	-1.5	-3.2
2013/14 - 2014/15	0.5	-1.0
2014/15 - 2015/16	-6.9	-7.5
2015/16 - 2016/17	-1.0	-3.2

In 2016/17 the average cost of parks and open spaces was £21,581, with costs ranging from £2,230 - £38,692. The range across councils has narrowed since the base year due to a reduction in costs at the higher end. Costs of parks and open spaces vary systematically with the level of deprivation in councils, with those councils with higher levels of deprivation spending significantly more on parks and green spaces. The average for councils with the lowest deprivation by SIMD is £17,125 compared to £27,948 for areas with highest levels of deprivation by SIMD.

Cost 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 & 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 arms-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 above 70%. However, all areas except parks and green spaces have seen a decrease in satisfaction since 2010/11. Libraries and museums have seen a further reduction in the past 12 months.

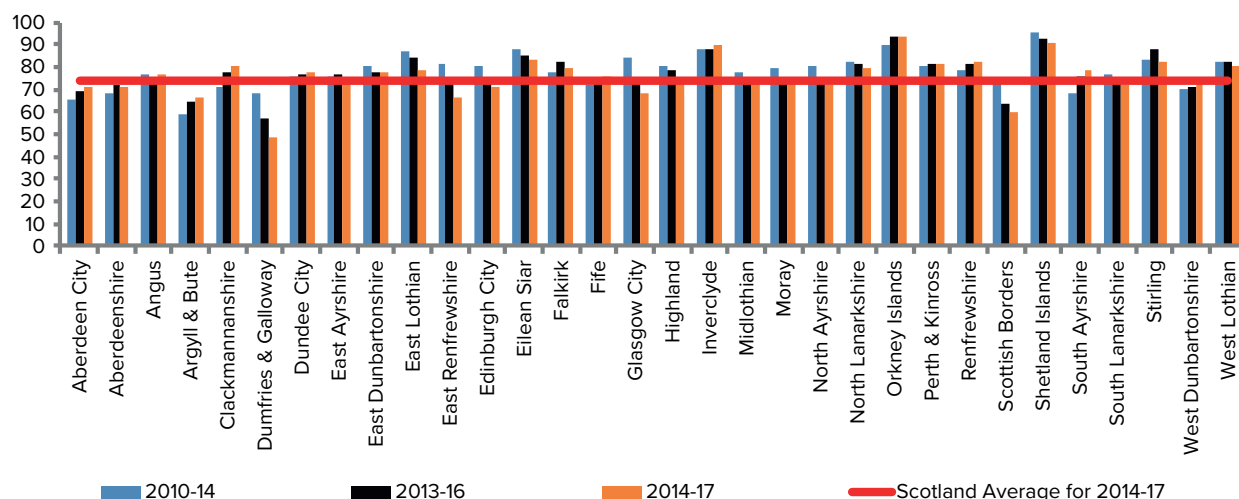
Percentage of Adults Satisfied with Culture and Leisure Services

Year	Leisure % satisfied	Libraries % satisfied	Museums % satisfied	Parks % satisfied
2010/11	74.6	83.5	75.5	83.1
2012/13	80.0	83.0	78.0	86.0
2013/14	78.0	81.0	76.0	86.0
2014/15	76.0	77.0	75.0	86.0
2015/16	73.0	74.0	71.0	85.0
2016/17	73.0	73.0	70.0	87.0

As with satisfaction with local schools, to boost sample sizes three-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.

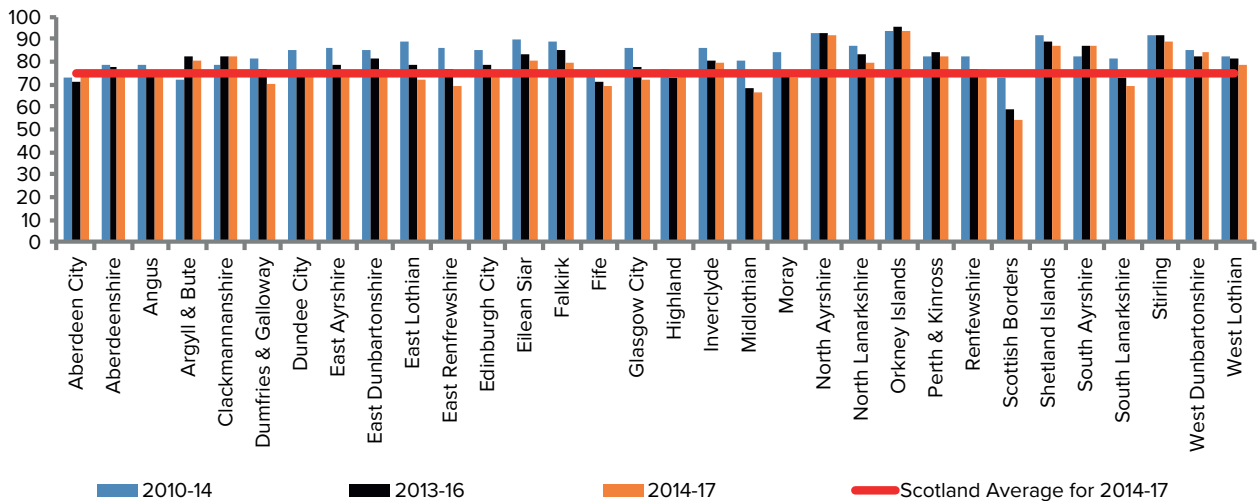
For all culture and leisure services, satisfaction levels vary considerably across councils. In leisure, satisfaction rates range from 49% - 93%; in libraries, it is 55% - 94%; for museums, 46% - 93%; and finally, for parks the range is 75% - 93%. Variation between councils has widened in the most recent year for all services except parks. 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

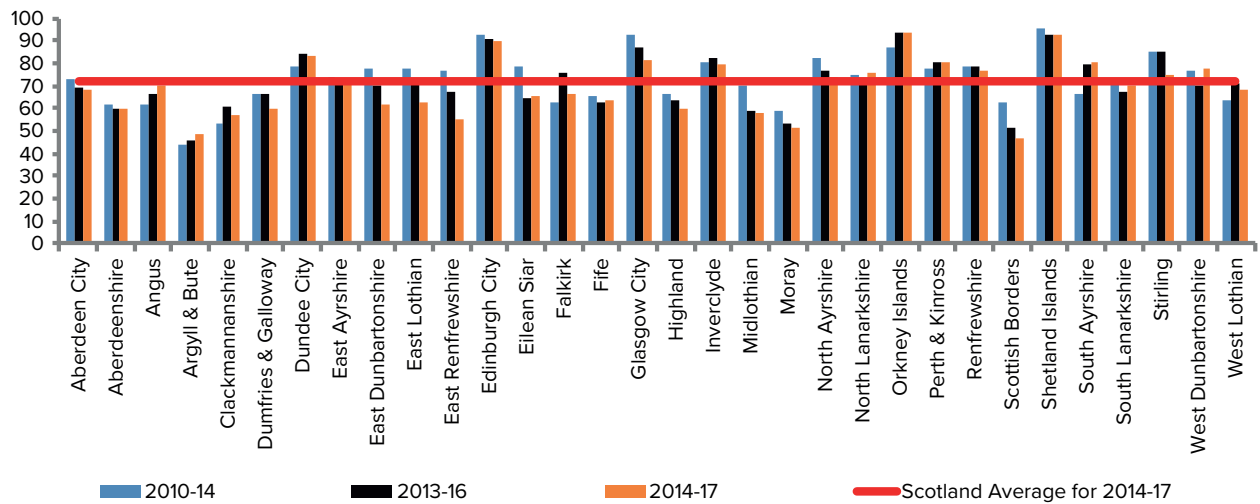


Source: Scottish Household Survey, Scottish Government

Percentage of Adults Satisfied with Libraries



Percentage of Adults Satisfied with Museums and Galleries



Percentage of Adults Satisfied with Parks and Open Spaces

