

RAC Foundation for Motoring

Local Authority Parking Finances in Scotland 2013/14

This note covers parking finances for the 32 local authorities in Scotland. As in England, local authorities are required to submit details of their finances to the Scottish Government in a standard format. They are normally published in February/March, nearly a year after the financial year end. This report looks at the section on parking income and expenditure for the periods 2013/14.

The published data are less comprehensive than in England and do not split on- and off-street parking or show penalty income separately.

1. Introduction

Of the 32 local authorities in Scotland, 11 had decriminalised parking enforcement (DPE) during 2013/14, with two more introducing it later in 2014 (Argyll and Bute and Inverclyde) (see Appendix). Fife is considering its introduction in March 2015. Within the remaining local authorities, the police had previously operated the traffic warden system, but at a summit meeting of local authorities held in November 2013, Police Scotland said they were withdrawing this service, although they would continue to deal with dangerous parking. They expected that local authorities would employ contracted parking attendants, authorise their existing staff to control parking or choose not to decriminalise parking enforcement.

Transport Scotland does not publish statistics on the number of parking fines issued, although local authorities are supposed to report the number of civil parking offences to the Scottish Government. Edinburgh issues about 230,000 parking charge notices per year and Dundee 23,000 so the total number in Scotland is likely to be around 700,000.¹ This is compared to the 4.1 million parking charge notices issued annually in London and 4.4 million in the rest of England.

Two authorities - East Lothian and North Lanarkshire - show no income or expenditure as they do not control any parking activity. Inverclyde, which previously showed no costs, has incurred £130,000 in costs during 2013/14 to set up its scheme, which started just after the end of the 2013/14 financial year. Aberdeen City shows its parking in its trading account, rather than separately.

In 2013/14, 16 local authorities showed surpluses, 14 showed deficits and, as previously noted, two did not have any parking accounts.

¹ This estimate of the number of parking charges notices issued in Scotland has been calculated based on the number of parking charge notices issued by these two local authorities in 2013/14 (as taken from their annual parking reports) compared to their total parking incomes and that of all other local authorities in Scotland.

2. Summary

Table 1 below shows the summary accounts for local authorities in Scotland.

Table 1 Summary of parking accounts for Scotland

		2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
		£million			
Parking	Income	64.6	66.2	69.7	73.3
	Costs	35.9	37.2	36.3	39.8
	Surplus	28.6	29	33.4	33.6
All transport	Net cost	503	477	487	460
	Net cost before parking surplus	527	506	521	493
Parking surplus as % of all transport costs excluding parking surplus		5.4%	5.7%	6.6%	6.8%

3. Income

Total income in 2013/14 was £73.3m, 5% higher than 2012/13 (Table 2). Note that this includes meter and penalty income for on- and off-street parking, but does not include income received by commercial parking facilities.

Edinburgh, Glasgow and Aberdeen account for 71% of parking income (up from 68% in 2012/13), although the cities only represent 24% of Scotland's population.

Table 2 Parking income

		2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	Change between 2013/14 and 2012/13	DPE
		£million				%	
1	Edinburgh, City of	21.40	22.89	23.68	24.74	4	*
2	Glasgow City	14.38	13.84	17.44	17.87	2	*
3	Aberdeen City	7.80	8.50	8.07	9.20	14	*
4	Dundee City	3.75	3.85	3.38	3.61	7	*
5	Perth & Kinross	2.86	2.92	3.01	3.02	0	*
6	Fife	2.70	2.85	2.65	2.97	12	*
7	Stirling	2.18	2.21	2.19	2.22	2	
8	South Lanarkshire	2.14	2.29	2.14	2.16	1	*
9	Highland	1.48	1.22	1.22	1.24	2	
10	East Ayrshire	1.02	0.95	1.15	1.24	8	*
11	Renfrewshire	1.25	1.22	1.02	1.06	4	*
12	South Ayrshire	0.40	0.35	0.61	0.83	35	*
13	Argyll & Bute	0.84	0.75	0.72	0.71	-1	#
14	Aberdeenshire	0.59	0.70	0.67	0.70	3	
15	Moray	0.76	0.78	0.68	0.66	-4	
16	Falkirk	0.49	0.49	0.46	0.45	0	
17	East Renfrewshire	0	0	0.09	0.19	116	
18	North Ayrshire	0.14	0.04	0.13	0.18	36	
19	Scottish Borders	0.17	0.21	0.17	0.15	-16	
20	Orkney Islands	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.09	-22	
21	Eilean Siar (Hebrides)	0.01	0.02	0.04	0.03	-14	
22	Dumfries & Galloway	0.05	0.04	0.03	0.02	-42	
23	Clackmannanshire	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01	-7	
24	Angus	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	100	
25	Shetland Islands	0.00	0.01	0.02	0.00	-73	
26	East Dunbartonshire	0	0	0	0		*
27	East Lothian	0	0	0	0		
28	Inverclyde	0	0	0	0		#
29	Midlothian	0	0	0	0		
30	North Lanarkshire	0	0	0	0		
31	West Dunbartonshire	0	0	0	0		
32	West Lothian	0.05	0	0	0		
	Total	64.58	66.23	69.70	73.34	5	
* DPE in operation							
# DPE operational after 2013/14 year end (Argyll and Bute - May 2014, Inverclyde - Oct 2014)							

4. Costs

Table 3 ranks councils in terms of expenditure on parking; capital charges² are included but were broadly negligible.

Overall expenditure has risen by 10%, with the three largest established parking authorities showing increases of 13-15%. Some of the other authorities, such as Fife, East Ayrshire and East Dunbartonshire have been ramping up their enforcement with a consequent large increase in costs.

The table also shows the proportion of income taken up by costs. Nationally, it is 54%, having risen from 52% last year. Edinburgh's costs are 38% of income, compared with 36% last year. Most of the mid-sized councils spend 75-90% of their income on parking management, including enforcement.

² Capital charges: interest and depreciation. Only Dundee has a significant amount (£440k) with three others between 10 and 50k

Table 3 Total expenditure

	Total expenditure					Expenditure as % of income				DPE	
	2010 /11	2011 /12	2012 /13	2013 /14	Change between 2013/14 and 2012/13	2010 /11	2011 /12	2012 /13	2013 /14		
	£million					%					
1	Edinburgh, City of	8.31	8.88	8.51	9.43	11	39	39	36	38	*
2	Glasgow City	7.39	7.01	6.57	7.57	15	51	51	38	42	*
3	Aberdeen City	3.52	4.19	3.72	4.19	13	45	49	46	46	*
4	Dundee City	3.10	3.56	3.02	2.86	-5	83	92	89	79	*
5	Fife	2.08	2.30	1.79	2.64	47	77	81	68	89	*
6	Perth & Kinross	2.14	1.88	2.41	2.31	-4	75	65	80	76	*
7	Stirling	2.06	2.23	2.27	2.07	-9	94	101	104	93	
8	South Lanarkshire	1.58	1.71	1.83	1.70	-7	74	75	85	79	*
9	East Ayrshire	0.56	0.57	0.84	1.01	20	54	60	73	81	*
10	Highland	1.24	0.90	0.98	0.96	-3	83	74	81	77	
11	South Ayrshire	0.29	0.30	0.44	0.58	32	71	87	72	70	*
12	Aberdeenshire	0.39	0.42	0.41	0.46	11	66	60	61	65	
13	Renfrewshire	0.41	0.51	0.46	0.45	-1	33	42	44	42	*
14	Moray	0.60	0.42	0.42	0.44	4	78	54	62	67	
15	Argyll & Bute	0.38	0.31	0.32	0.43	37	45	42	44	61	#
16	North Ayrshire	0.21	0.29	0.39	0.36	-7	153	803	297	204	
17	Scottish Borders	0.43	0.32	0.31	0.35	16	258	155	175	240	
18	Falkirk	0.35	0.35	0.37	0.32	-15	71	73	82	70	
19	East Dunbartonshire	0.07	0.06	0.11	0.28	151	~	~	~	~	*
20	East Renfrewshire	0.05	0.04	0.21	0.26	23	~	0	244	139	
21	Dumfries & Galloway	0.31	0.30	0.29	0.24	-18	670	702	1127	1593	
22	Angus	0.11	0.16	0.13	0.17	25	~	~	~	~	
23	West Lothian	0.09	0.10	0.10	0.14	49	188	~	~	~	
24	Inverclyde	0	0	0	0.13		~	~	~	~	#
25	Orkney Islands	0.10	0.10	0.11	0.11	7	97	94	95	129	
26	Clackmannanshire	0.01	0.07	0.11	0.11	-3	33	447	727	757	
27	West Dunbartonshire	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	5	~	~	~	~	
28	Eilean Siar	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.08	326	170	70	54	270	
29	Midlothian	0.09	0.09	0.08	0.06	-32	~	~	~	~	
30	Shetland Islands	0	0.03	0.03	0.01	-80	~	217	167	125	
31	East Lothian	0	0	0	0		~	~	~	~	
32	North Lanarkshire	0	0	0	0		~	~	~	~	
	Total	35.95	37.19	36.31	39.79	10	56	56	52	54	
* DPE in operation											
# DPE operational after 2013/14 year end (Argyll and Bute - May 2014, Inverclyde - Oct 2014)											
~ No income recorded											

5. *Surpluses*

Table 4 shows the parking surpluses for the past four years and the year on year change. It also shows the proportion that parking surpluses represent of total transport expenditure (before deduction of parking surpluses/deficits).

Total parking *surpluses* amounted to £35.3m between 16 local authorities, of which Edinburgh, Glasgow and Aberdeen contribute 87%. The increase in surpluses over 2013/14 was 1%. The total of parking *deficits* is £1.7m (£1.7m) between 14 local authorities. Overall, parking contributed £33.6m to local authority finances in Scotland in 2013/14 compared with £33.4m in 2012/13 – an increase of 0.5%.

Table 4 Parking surpluses

		Surplus					% of total transport expenditure before parking surplus/deficit				DPE
		2010 /11	2011 /12	2012 /13	2013 /14	Change between 2013/14 and 2012/13	2010 /11	2011 /12	2012 /13	2013 /14	
		£million					%				
1	Edinburgh, City of	13.09	14.01	15.18	15.30	1 ^c	45	50	49	52 [*]	
2	Glasgow City	6.99	6.82	10.86	10.30	-5 ^a	22	19	30	33 [*]	
3	Aberdeen City	4.27	4.32	4.36	5.01	15 ^c	30	28	31	31 [*]	
4	Dundee City	0.65	0.29	0.37	0.74	100 ^c	6	4	4	9 [*]	
5	Perth & Kinross	0.72	1.03	0.61	0.71	16 ^c	4	7	4	5 [*]	
6	Renfrewshire	0.84	0.71	0.57	0.61	7 ^c	7	5	4	5 [*]	
7	South Lanarkshire	0.56	0.58	0.31	0.46	48 ^c	2	2	1	1 [*]	
8	Fife	0.63	0.55	0.85	0.34	-60 ^a	1	1	2	1 [*]	
9	Highland	0.25	0.32	0.24	0.29	21 ^c	1	1	1	1	
10	Argyll & Bute	0.46	0.43	0.40	0.28	-30 ^a	2	3	3	1 [#]	
11	South Ayrshire	0.12	0.05	0.17	0.25	47 ^c	1	0	2	2 [*]	
12	Aberdeenshire	0.20	0.28	0.27	0.24	-11 ^a	1	1	1	1	
13	East Ayrshire	0.47	0.38	0.31	0.23	-26 ^a	4	3	3	2 [*]	
14	Moray	0.17	0.36	0.26	0.22	-15 ^a	2	4	3	3	
15	Stirling	0.12	-0.02	-0.08	0.15	-288 ^b	1	0	-1	2	
16	Falkirk	0.14	0.13	0.08	0.14	75 ^c	1	1	1	1	
17	East Lothian	~	~	~	~		~	~	~		
18	North Lanarkshire	~	~	~	~		~	~	~		
19	Shetland Islands	0	-0.01	-0.01	0.00	-100 ^b	0	0	0	0	
20	Orkney Islands	0.00	0.01	0.01	-0.03	-400 ^a	0	0	0	0	
21	Eilean Siar (Hebrides)	-0.01	0.01	0.02	-0.05	-350 ^a	0	0	0	-1	
22	Midlothian	-0.09	-0.09	-0.08	-0.06	-25 ^b	-1	-1	-1	-1	
23	East Renfrewshire	-0.05	-0.04	-0.12	-0.07	-42 ^b	-1	0	-1	-1	
24	West Dunbartonshire	-0.08	-0.08	-0.08	-0.08	0	-2	-1	-1	-1	
25	Clackmannanshire	0.01	-0.05	-0.09	-0.09	0	0	-2	-3	-3	
26	Inverclyde	0	0	0	-0.13		0	0	0	-1 [#]	
27	West Lothian	-0.04	-0.10	-0.10	-0.14	40 ^d	0	-1	-1	-1	
28	Angus	-0.11	-0.15	-0.13	-0.16	23 ^d	-1	-1	-1	-1	
29	North Ayrshire	-0.07	-0.25	-0.26	-0.19	-27 ^b	-1	-2	-2	-2	
30	Scottish Borders	-0.26	-0.11	-0.13	-0.21	62 ^d	-1	-1	4	-1	
31	Dumfries & Galloway	-0.26	-0.26	-0.27	-0.22	-19 ^b	-1	-1	-1	-1	
32	East Dunbartonshire	-0.07	-0.06	-0.11	-0.28	155 ^d	-1	-1	-1	-4 [*]	
	Total	28.63	29.04	33.39	33.56	1 ^c	5	6	7	7	
* DPE in operation											
# DPE operational after 2013/14 year end											
~ No parking accounts											
^a Decreasing surplus											
^b Decreasing deficit											
^c Increasing surplus											
^d Increasing deficit											

David Leibling

May 2015

Full tables:

<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2015/02/3131/downloads>

