SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL CORPORATE PRIORITIES

QUARTERLY PUBLIC PERFORMANCE REPORT: Q3 2015/16 (Oct-Dec)

HOW ARE WE DOING?

In 2013, we published our Corporate Plan, with eight priorities to work towards over a five year period. This report gives you an overview of our progress.

For each priority, a selection of performance information has been presented to let you see how we are doing.

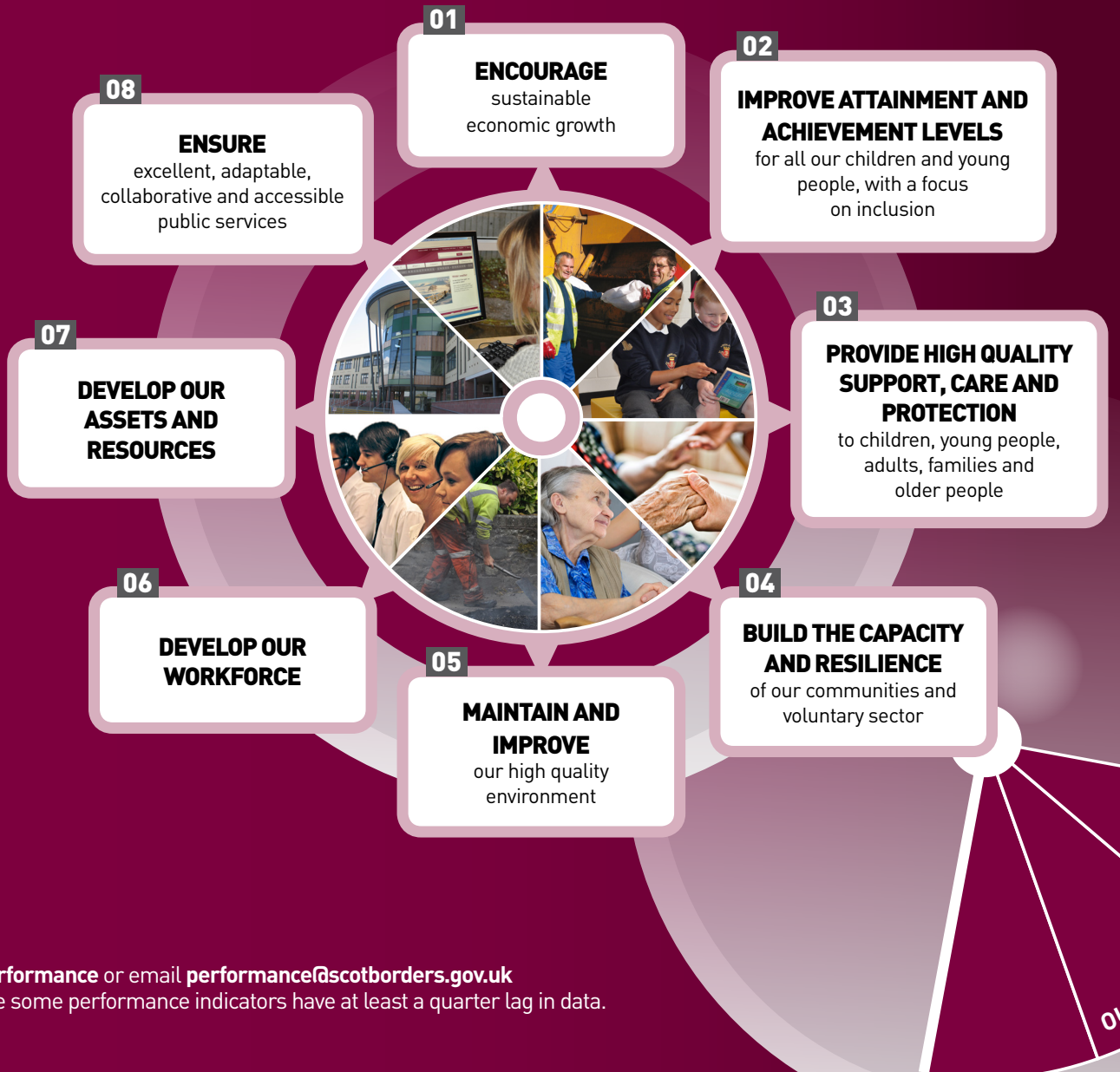
Where possible, quarterly (Q) data has been used, but this is not possible for every area of our work, for example, educational attainment.

Some of the data presented may be subject to minor amendments as end of year figures are compiled for reporting to the Scottish Government.

KEY:

- On target
- Just off target
- Off target
- For information
- Position in Scotland

Q1 - Apr-Jun
Q2 - Jul-Sep
Q3 - Oct-Dec
Q4 - Jan-Mar



For more on performance visit **www.scotborders.gov.uk/performance** or email **performance@scotborders.gov.uk**
Correct at time of publication: 16 February 2016. Please note some performance indicators have at least a quarter lag in data.

01

ENCOURAGE SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH

HOW ARE WE DOING?

Employment Rate

Scottish Borders	Scotland	Scottish Borders	Scotland
77.8%	72.0%	76.7%	73.1%
Q2 2014/15		Q2 2015/16	

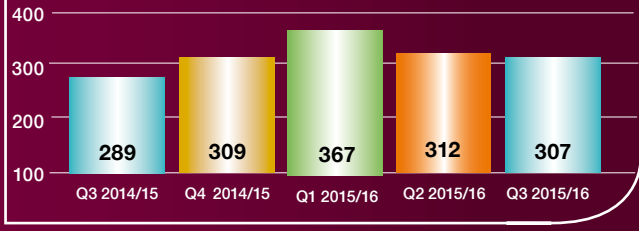
Businesses Supported

246 in Q2 2014/15

226 in Q2 2015/16

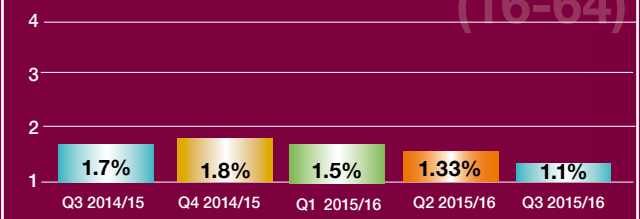
business gateway

Number of planning applications received



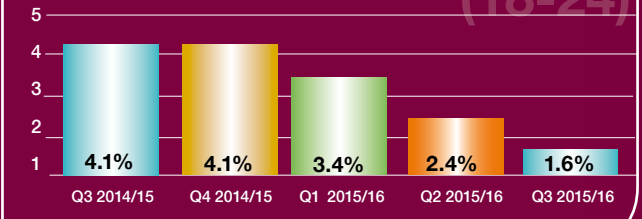
Job Seekers Allowance

Working age population (16-64) claiming Job Seekers Allowance



Job Seekers Allowance

Working age youth population (18-24) claiming Job Seekers Allowance



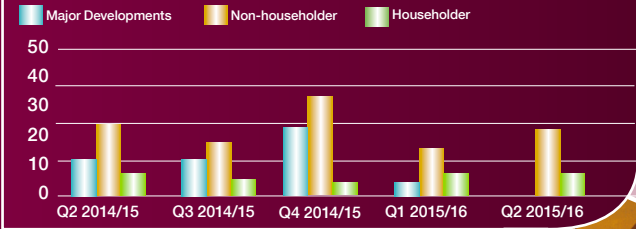
New Business Start ups

(Business Gateway)

63 in Q3 2014/15 target 55

34 in Q3 2015/16 target 60

Av. Time Taken (in weeks) to process all planning applications



Funding for Businesses

Q3 2015/16

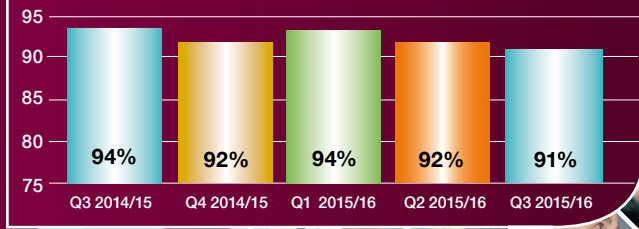
Scottish Borders Business Loan Fund = £57.5k

3 loans awarded in Q3

Scottish Borders Business Fund (grants) =

9 grants awarded in Q3 totalling **£29.4k**

% of invoices paid within 30 days



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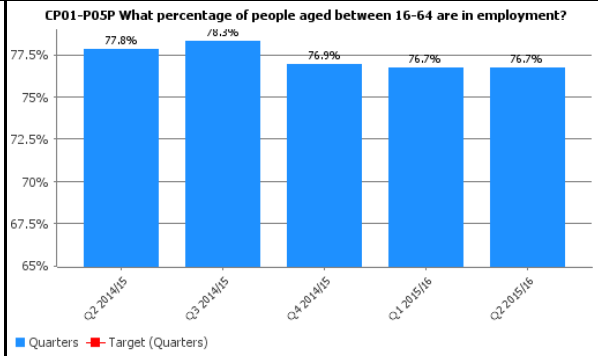
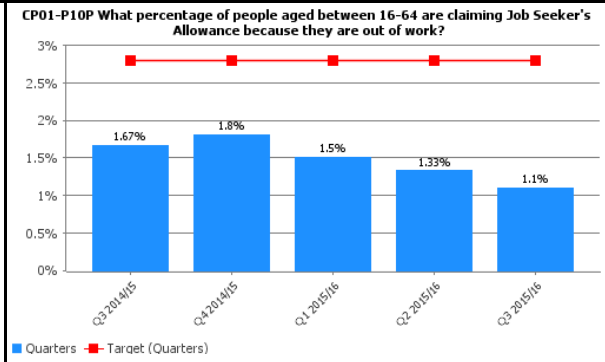
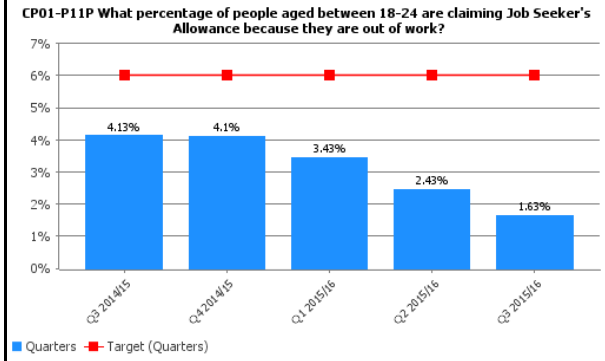
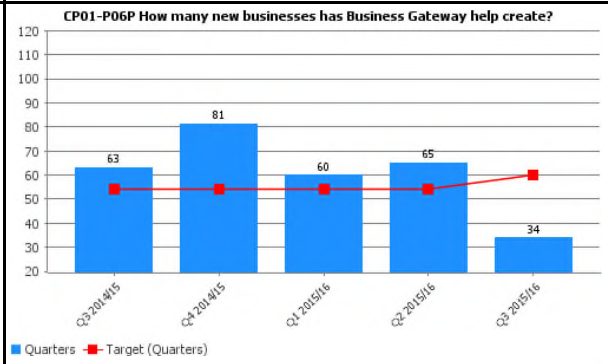
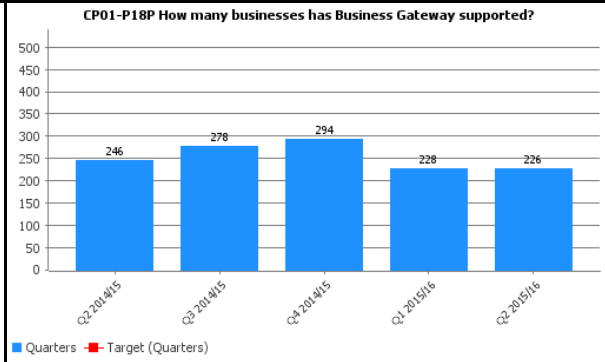
Appendix 1: Scottish Borders Council Executive Committee – Quarterly Public Performance Report, February 2016 (Q3 2015/16)

KEY	positive long term trend *(over last 4 periods)*	negative long term trend *(over last 4 periods)*	Little long term change *(over last 4 periods)*	on target	just off target	off target	data only

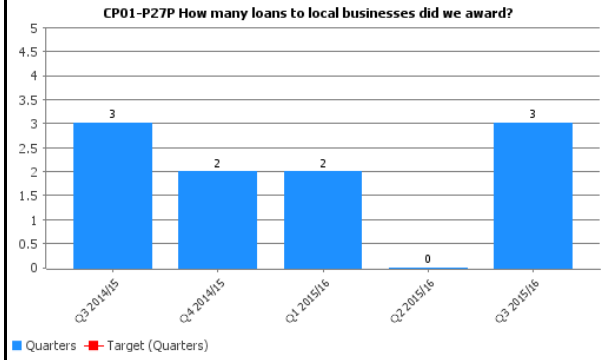
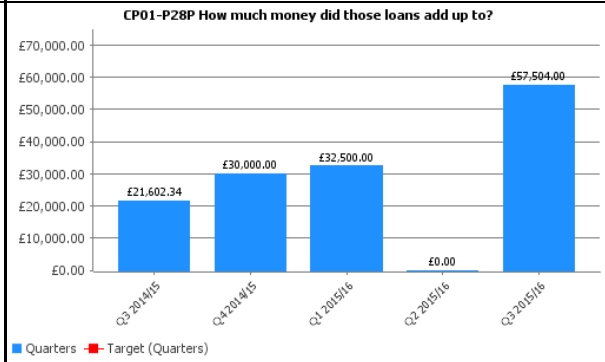
Corporate Priority 1: Encourage sustainable economic growth

Short Name	Trend Chart	Current Value	Commentary	Long Term Trend	Status against Target	Managed By
What percentage of people aged between 16-64 are in employment?		76.7%	**Observations:** 55,500 people were in employment in this quarter, which is 500 down on the previous quarter. The overall rate remains higher than Scotland (73.1%) and GB (73.4%). Note: One quarter lag in data.			Bryan McGrath
What percentage of people aged between 16-64 are claiming Job Seeker's Allowance because they are out of work?		1.1%	**Observations:** The Scottish Borders rate still sits below the Scottish rate of 1.7% and the UK rate of 1.5%.			Bryan McGrath

Appendix 1: Scottish Borders Council Executive Committee – Quarterly Public Performance Report, February 2016 (Q3 2015/16)

Short Name	Trend Chart	Current Value	Commentary	Long Term Trend	Status against Target	Managed By
What percentage of people aged between 18-24 are claiming Job Seeker's Allowance because they are out of work?		1.63%	**Observations:** The Scottish Borders rate of 1.6% is below both the UK rate of 1.9% and the Scottish rate of 2.0%.			Bryan McGrath
How many new businesses has Business Gateway help create?		34	**How are we performing:** In the quarter to end of December we have recorded 34 starts against a target of 60. This performance is reflected across the country and has been raised nationally as an issue. Across all of Businesses Gateways we are 2114 starts down on the same period last year, and the Borders does reflect this trend. A number of factors are being cited as the cause for this including the low rates of unemployment, the separation of the New Enterprise Allowance scheme form the Business Gateways and the increase in usage of online resources. *Note: businesses supported- Q3 figures not available due to technical difficulties nationally as Business Gateway moves to a new CRM system **Actions we are taking to improve/maintain performance:** The issue is being addressed nationally and on a local basis we have increased focussed resource to try and achieve the annual target by end of March.			Bryan McGrath
How many businesses has Business Gateway supported*?		226 (Q2)				Bryan McGrath

Appendix 1: Scottish Borders Council Executive Committee – Quarterly Public Performance Report, February 2016 (Q3 2015/16)

Short Name	Trend Chart	Current Value	Commentary	Long Term Trend	Status against Target	Managed By
How many loans to local businesses did we award?		3	**How are we performing:** During this Quarter, 5 loan applications were submitted. Three loans worth £57,504 were approved. (One application for £10,000 was declined. One application for £20,000 was deferred) **Actions we are taking to improve/maintain performance:** Business Gateway advisers continue to promote loans and grants. Assessment of applications by a panel drawn from Finance and Economic Development will continue to provide a robust decision-making process.			Bryan McGrath
How much money did those loans add up to?		£57,504.00				Bryan McGrath

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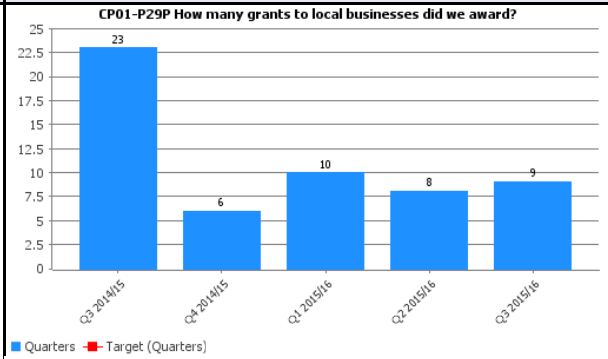
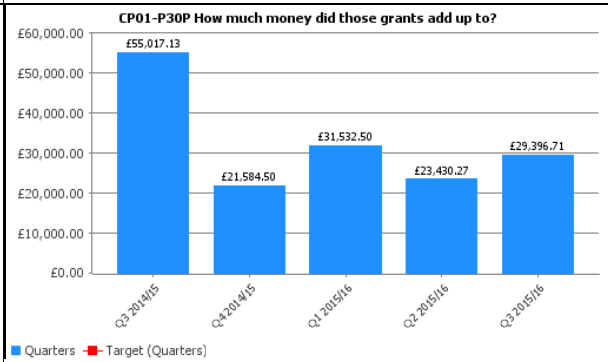
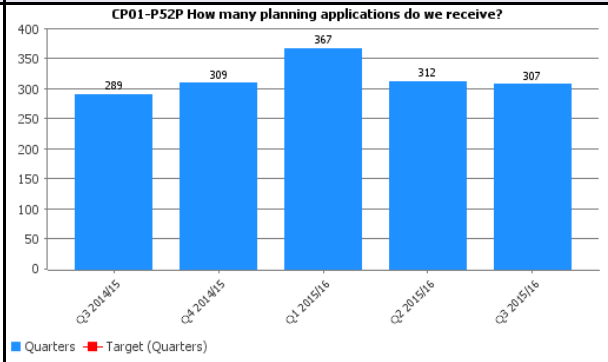
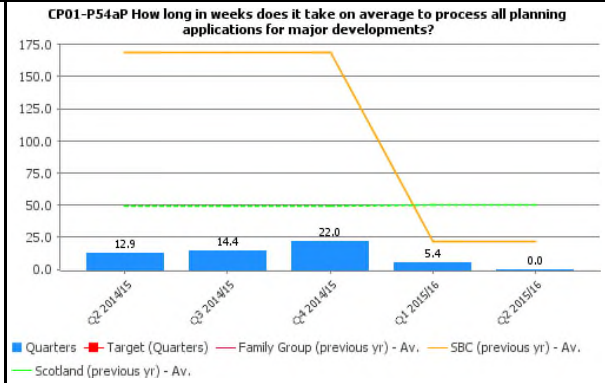
Short Name	Trend Chart	Current Value	Commentary	Long Term Trend	Status against Target	Managed By
How many grants to local businesses did we award?		9	**How are we performing:** Nine grants were awarded out of 14 applications in this Quarter. Although smaller than the corresponding Quarter last year, the amount of grant funding increased on Quarter 2, 2015-16. **Actions we are taking to improve/maintain performance:** As per loans (above)			Bryan McGrath
How much money did those grants add up to?		£29,396.71				Bryan McGrath

Appendix 1: Scottish Borders Council Executive Committee – Quarterly Public Performance Report, February 2016 (Q3 2015/16)

Short Name	Trend Chart	Current Value	Commentary	Long Term Trend	Status against Target	Managed By
How many planning applications do we receive?		307	**Observations:** The number of applications received has been broadly in line with the previous quarter at just over 300. Whilst this is a quarter where historically application numbers reduce, the current quarter's figure is healthier than those recorded for this period in the preceding 3 years - 296, 286 and 289 last year. The number of applications outstanding and waiting to be determined at the time end of the quarter fell for the sixth consecutive month and is now 236 lower than the start of the year.			Ian Aikman
How long in weeks does it take on average to process all planning applications for major developments?		0	**How are we performing:** There were no major applications determined in the last quarter. However, there has been a significant downward trend in times taken to determine major applications. The figure of 5.4 weeks in Q1 can be read against a Scottish average of 34.2 weeks. Note: One quarter lag in data. **Actions we are taking to improve/maintain performance:** Provisions of the Development Management Improvement Plan such as the greater use of processing agreements, project management approach to determine major applications, better case management and monitoring of applications and the introduction of new processes for concluding legal agreements have all contributed to this improvement in performance.			Ian Aikman

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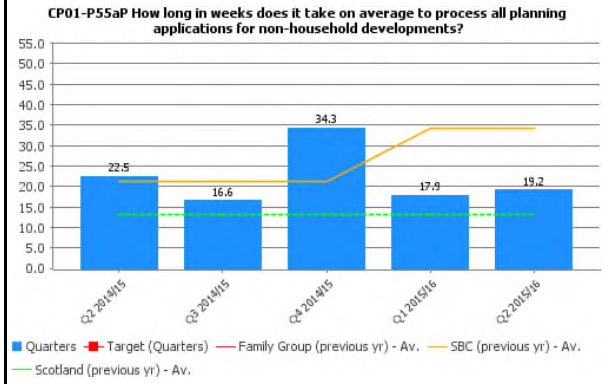
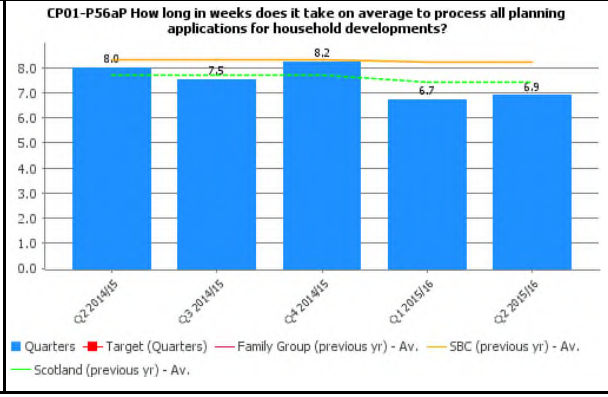
Short Name	Trend Chart	Current Value	Commentary	Long Term Trend	Status against Target	Managed By
How long in weeks does it take on average to process all planning applications for non-household developments?		19.2	**How are we performing:** There was an increase in the determination period for applications in this category from 17.2 to 19.2 weeks from Q1. The Scottish average for the period was 11.7 weeks. SBC performance is influenced heavily by the number of legal agreements required under the developer contributions policy. However, whilst further action is required to move towards the Scottish average it should be noted that there is has been a progressive improvement in performance in comparison to previous years from 26.8 weeks in 2013/13 and 22.7 weeks in 2014/15 Note: One quarter lag in data. **Actions we are taking to improve/maintain performance:** As set out above relating to the Development Management Improvement Plan, but in particular the action to streamline the legal agreement process and better case management and monitoring of applications, is helping sustain the improved performance.			Ian Aikman
How long in weeks does it take on average to process all planning applications for household developments?		6.9	**How are we performing:** There has been a slight increase in the time taken to determine householder applications from 6.7 weeks to 6.9 week. This however, still reflects well against the Scottish average for that quarter of 7.2 weeks. This again is reflective of a progressive downward trend in time taken to determine applications from 8.6 weeks in 2013/14 and 7.5 in 2014/15. Note: One quarter lag in data. **Actions we are taking to improve/maintain**			Ian Aikman

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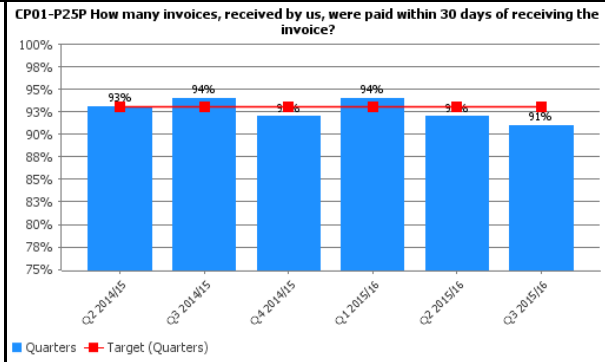
Short Name	Trend Chart	Current Value	Commentary	Long Term Trend	Status against Target	Managed By
			performance: As set out above relating to the Development Management Improvement Plan, but in particular use of processing agreements and better case management and monitoring of applications is helping sustain the improved performance.			
How many invoices, received by us, were paid within 30 days of receiving the invoice?		91%	**How are we performing:** The overall average for the quarter shows that 91% of invoices were paid within 30 days. The dip in the monthly indicator for October has since recovered with an improved performance of 94% reported for December 2015. **Actions we are taking to improve/maintain performance:** Support and process improvements continue to be shared with Service departments.			Lynn Mirley