

Prosperous: Value for Money indicators

Providing and maintaining infrastructure

Highways

Cost Quality Customer rating for the efficiency of DCC Highways function compared to a benchmark of about 100 other authorities by Leeds University (also used as part of DfT’s Self-Assessment programme for incentivised funding). DCC has consistently been in the highest band but dropped in the last year due a drop in customer satisfaction with road condition. It is however, still in the top end of the second quartile.

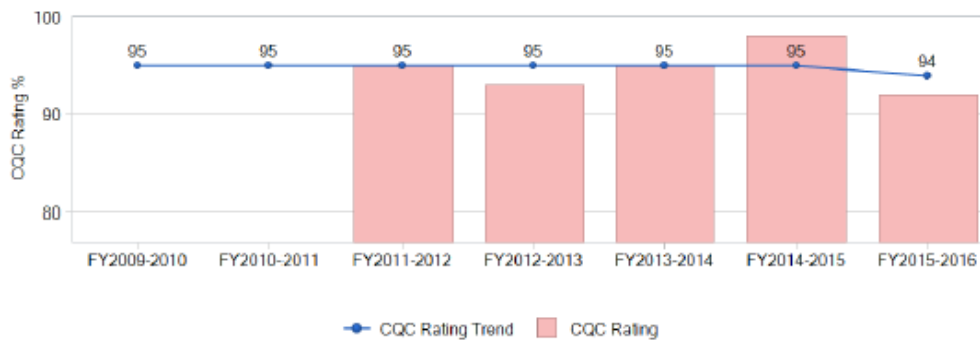
The efficiency ranking is statistically adjusted to make comparisons fair and is based on characteristics of:

- Expenditure
- Size – land area / road length
- Traffic levels
- Road condition by classification
- Wages and material cost
- Change in public satisfaction with road condition.

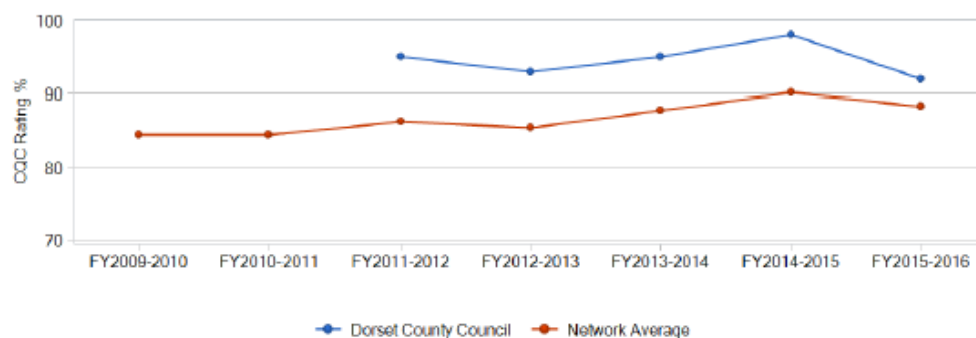
To aid comparison CQC Ratings are categorised in Bands (Band A - top quartile, Band D - bottom quartile). These bands will be used to give greater transparency of the results between Authorities, as appropriate.



The graph below shows the change in your CQC Ratings over time using a statistical trend line. This change in performance is important as it provides a basis for calculating efficiency savings.



Cost Quality Rating of DCC (as above) is compared to the average of the benchmarked authorities below.



Digital

DCC has made a capital investment of £8.6m in digital infrastructure which has leveraged an infrastructure build worth £41.9m from BDUK, partners and BT benefitting the local economy by £838m

£1 investment in business (SME) connections is estimated by BDUK to return £8 to the local economy in the short term

£20 of net economic growth is estimated by BDUK to be delivered by every £1 of public sector investment in fibre optic superfast broadband in the longer term (10 years)

1 in 4 businesses getting connected to a fibre optic superfast broadband service are estimated by BDUK to employ a new full time equivalent employee.

BDUK estimate that profits in businesses connecting to a fibre optic superfast broadband increase by on average £1.3K per annum.

DCC business survey in 2016 reported 23% of businesses saw an increase in profits and 43% saw a reduction of operating costs once connected to a fibre optic superfast broadband

Take up of publically subsidised networks is currently at 40%

Access to a fibre optic superfast broadband is estimated by the LSE and Imperial College to increase property values by 3%

Supporting Dorset's growth

DCC employ a Planning Obligations Manager at a cost of around £44k per annum to secure contributions from developers towards DCC's cost in providing the infrastructure required to serve new development. During the financial year 2016/17 he negotiated and signed agreements to fund £2.3m worth of future transport infrastructure (see also below) and £11.5m of education infrastructure. This can be spent as and when development is complete or reaches negotiated triggers points.

During the year 2016/17 £.7m of collected developer contributions was spent. £1.1m was spent in 2015/16 and £1.5m spent in 2014/15 on both transport and education infrastructure.

The Transport Planning Team in 2016/17 secured £3.45m of Growth Deal money to provide transport improvements to unlock growth and working with the Planning Obligation Manager and

Transport Development Liaison secured an additional £2.3m of developer contributions (also identified above). Across the whole team this represents an investment in transport of around £0.5m per staff for 2016/17.

This year to date almost £1m in external funding and almost £2.4 million in developer contributions has been negotiated, already exceeding the value secured last year.

DCC with a small number of other authorities has jointly developed specialist software to help predict trip generation from new development proposals. Marketing of this software has now been set up as a commercial operation and on an annual basis is returning a dividend to DCC of around £80k a year.

Business support – Property Pilot employment and commercial land and premises database:

1 April to 30 June 2017	
Total property related enquiries	99
Enquiries resulting in positive outcome (enquiries closed after 2 years)	79
Department of International Trade inward investment opportunities	2

Property Pilot covers the Dorset LEP area and is funded by all local authorities. Dorset CC hosts the post, and contributes 25% of the operating costs (including salary, travelling, software licences and training) at about £10k.

The property data, economic intelligence and account management information accrued through the project are used to populate responses to Department for International Trade inward investment enquiries, and the Property Pilot Officer co-ordinates responses on behalf of local partners.

LEADER – European Union funded rural development programme (as at August 2017)

	Funding allocation	Total contracted (£000s)	% of allocation
Northern Dorset LAG	£1.3 million	£57	4.4%
Southern Dorset LAG	£1.32 million	£599	45%

Dorset is divided into two Local Action Groups, covering the whole of rural Dorset. ‘Total contracted’ is the level of funding committed to projects, which have been appraised, approved and have funding contracts in place allowing delivery to commence. Both LAGs currently have active pipelines of projects in development and appraisal. LEADER has been subject to periods of inactivity due to elections and the EU referendum. LEADER is delivered at minimal cost to Dorset CC as management and animation costs are recovered from Government and the EU.

Enterprise Zone – Dorset Innovation Park

Early days, EZ designated 1 April 2017, data will be collected by BEIS from all EZs allowing comparison of performance (though direct comparisons will need to be caveated to reflect differing circumstances).

European Union growth programme

Dorset CC is integrally involved in defining strategic priorities and delivering the investment of European Structural Invest Funds (European Regional Development Fund, European Social Fund and European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development) with a budget of some £43 million up to 2020.

Each project coming forward for funding is subject to a thorough appraisal and approval process, including an assessment of value for money. This will focus on valuing key outcomes, such as £30,000 is the benchmark for 1 new job.

Whilst intervention rates vary, the EU contributions are generally matched 50/50 from other funds, including Government Departments, Big Lottery, and private sector applicants. The cost of Technical Assistance provided by Dorset CC is recouped from EU funds.

Growing Places Fund (GPF) – managed by Dorset CC on behalf of Dorset LEP

Outputs (direct)	From start of GPF
Jobs created/safeguarded (not including multiplier effect and construction jobs)	69 safeguarded, 26 created – this excluded secondary and indirect jobs (e.g. co-workers and occupiers of business parks which were serviced through money from the GPF)
Workspace created	4
Dwellings completed	11 affordable homes and 1 Community Land Trust established
Infrastructure/public realm	5 schemes
Leverage of additional funding	£22.8 million

GPF is a £9.6 million revolving loan fund to unlock stalled employment and housing schemes. The GPF is managed by Dorset CC on behalf of the Dorset LEP. An allowance of 2% of the fund is available to cover management costs, and has been used to cover legal costs associated with contract preparation, leaving £9.45 million is available for investment. As at 30 September 2017, 86% of funds were committed, leaving a balance available to invest of £1.32m. In 2017/18 the Dorset LEP agreed to recognise and recompense Dorset CC for officer time managing the GPF, on the basis of one day per week.

On a cumulative basis the GPF in Dorset has committed £11.44 million or 121.2% of its funds. Total funds recycled through the GPF loan scheme since it commenced is £3.79 million (i.e. 40% of the investment pot). The schemes from which money has been recycled are:

- North Dorset Business Park: £0.41 million repaid with the majority of the remaining plots under offer
- Castle Court, Osprey Quay: Public realm works, £0.5 million loan repaid in full
- Boscombe Regeneration: 11 houses built, £1.12 million loan repaid in full
- Field International Ltd: £1.3 million repaid
- Cobham Gate: £0.35 million repaid

Leverage: During 2016 the GPF was for a time 100% committed. For a large part of 2017, limited funding has been available and as a result applications have not been accepted. Following the repayment of investments the GPF is now open for new applications.

In 2016 Poole Harbour Commissioners (PHC) was seeking a £2m loan towards an £8m development. As there was insufficient money available PHC were offered a GPF loan of £1m. This offer was discussed with PHC's bankers who subsequently agreed to provide the full amount of the loan themselves. Cobham Gate business park scheme received a £1.5 million loan from GPF of which £0.35 million has already been repaid. This secured an £11m scheme, to open up a 25 acre (10.12 hectare) site; it includes road improvements and the first new unit, a new depot for DPD.

Furthermore, the GPF investment of £2 million in the Ultrafast Broadband project is to lever £2 million from BDUK and £2.6 million from the supplier.

The total leverage for the GPF to date, including PHC and those schemes which had not yet drawn-down is calculated to be in excess of £22.8 million. This figure excludes the investment which has

subsequently gone into Osprey Quay and Hamworthy following the public realm and road improvement works.

The value of the Environment to the economy

DCC spends £6.3m gross (£3.7m income + £2.6m core budget in 2017/18) on maintaining, supporting and improving Dorset's Environment. The environment in Dorset is itself a significant economic asset and has been calculated* to contribute

- c. £1.5bn of GVA per annum
- supports c. 30,000 jobs
- amounts to 8-10% of total annual economic output and employment in the county

*Ash Futures (December 2015)

DCC manages a range of assets such as its Country Parks and other local countryside sites, the network of 3000 miles of public rights of way, 46 County Farms, and 200,000 trees along the highway network and on its properties.

DCC contributes £28,000 in 2017/18 towards the cost of the Dorset AONB function. In 2016/17 each £1 spent from partnership funds generated an additional £4.15 of value in delivery, with a total project value for the year of £875,000. In addition, volunteers contributed £117,460 value in hours to projects. Overall the AONB as a geographical area has been calculated* to influence c. £62-67 million of output p.a.

*Ash Futures (December 2015)

DCC contributes £120,000 in 2017/18 towards the costs of maintaining the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site. This geographical area has been calculated* to influence c. £103-119 million of output p.a.

*Ash Futures (December 2015)

DCC has leveraged in inward investment into the county while contributing modest funds itself:

- County Farms Estate has an income of £740,000 per annum and provides an annual operational surplus of £556,000 to DCC. It directly supports 46 agricultural businesses who in turn underpin many local rural service and supply businesses.
- The Dorset Coast Forum (DCF) partnership was established by DCC in 1995 : External funding won includes Fisheries Local Action Group - £800,000; Coastal Connections - £5,600,000; C-Scope - £1,000,000; Coastal Pathfinder £370,000. In the past 10 years, every £1 invested by DCC has been used to leverage £34 in return to the coastal economy.
- The Urban Heaths Partnership (UHP), established by DCC in 2001, supports projects and activities to alleviate urban pressures on the Dorset heaths. The County Council's hosting costs are fully recovered from the Dorset Heathlands Planning Framework which obtains contributions from new residential development in the area. Without the work of the UHP such permissions could not be granted in the vicinity of our internationally important heathlands.

The financial performance of the Country Parks (Durlston, Avon Heath and Hardy's Birthplace Centre) is monitored annually, the return on investment in 2016/17 across the Parks portfolio was 4.4%. The cost of running the Parks was £605,407 excluding 'below the line', and income £632,282, resulting in an operating surplus of £26,875.

Volunteers support the practical work of the Coast & Countryside Service. In doing so volunteers gain experience in the workplace, skills training and certification, and benefits to personal wellbeing.

Monitored quarterly, the number of volunteer days undertaken April - June 2017 was 667. This equates to an annual contribution of volunteers into the Service of 11.8 FTE, or £236,000.

DCC continues to improve its environmental performance and reduce its carbon footprint. Overall Carbon emissions in 2015/16 showed a decrease of c. 13% since the base year of 2008/9, and 3% in the past year. This brings emissions close to target levels for the first time. Key improvements have been in the following areas: street lighting; energy consumption in buildings; business mileage; office waste; water; and fleet fuel.