



Board report



A graphical summary of the councils' performance

OCTOBER 2013

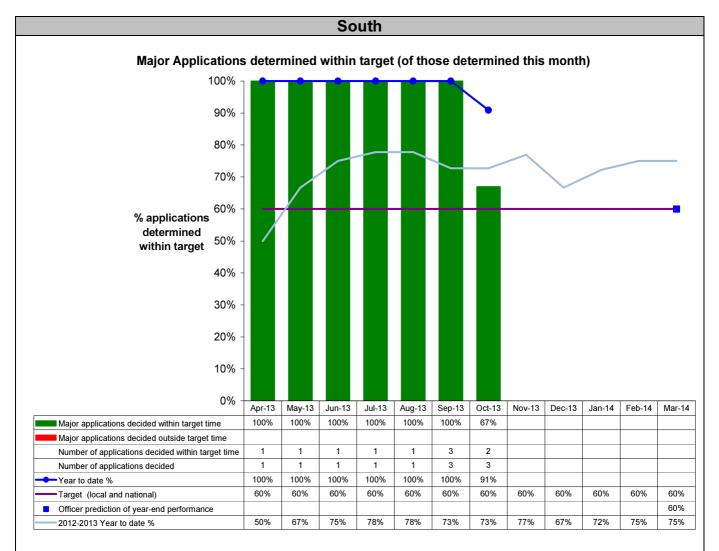
South and Vale board report

OCTOBER 2013

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SECTION 1 – PLANNING

Major planning applications determined within target (high is good)

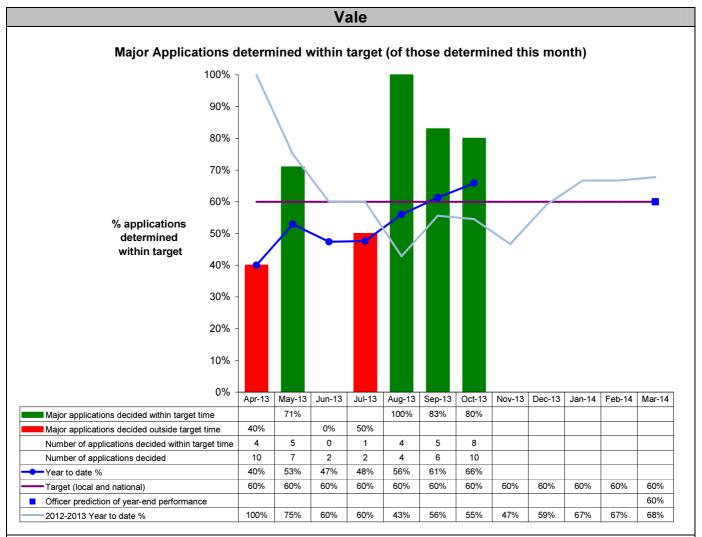


Note

This graph reports on the percentage of major applications which were determined within the target time. The target time varies according to the type of major application as follows:

- A Planning Performance Agreement (PPA) or agreed extension of time the decision date agreed with the applicant.
- **B** Non-PPAs: 13 weeks, unless an Environmental Impact Assessment is required, in which case the target time is 16 weeks.

Major planning applications determined within target (high is good)

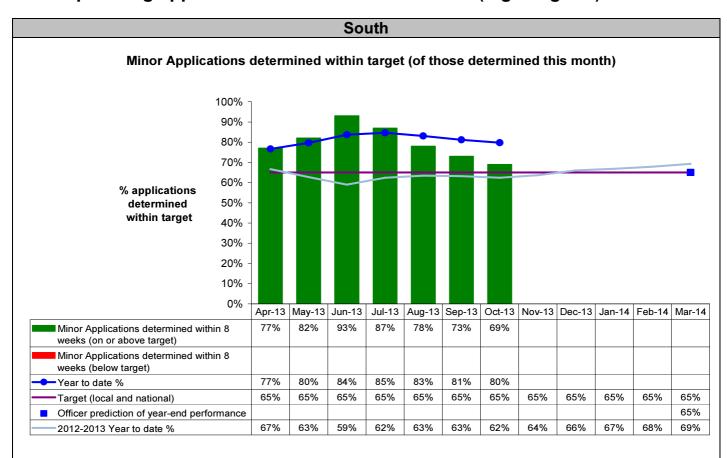


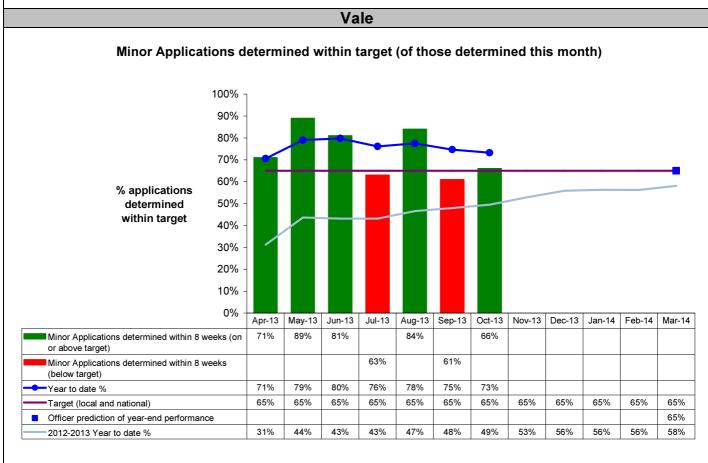
Note

This graph reports on the percentage of major applications which were determined within the target time. The target time varies according to the type of major application as follows:

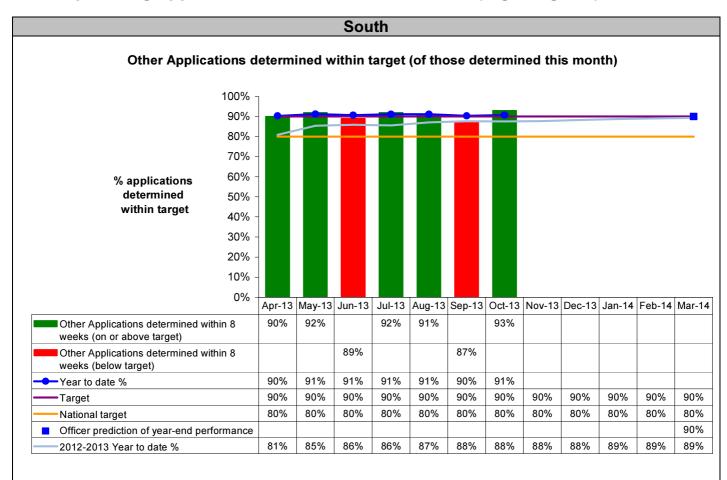
- A Planning Performance Agreement (PPA) or agreed extension of time the decision date agreed with the applicant.
- **B** Non-PPAs: 13 weeks, unless an Environmental Impact Assessment is required, in which case the target time is 16 weeks.

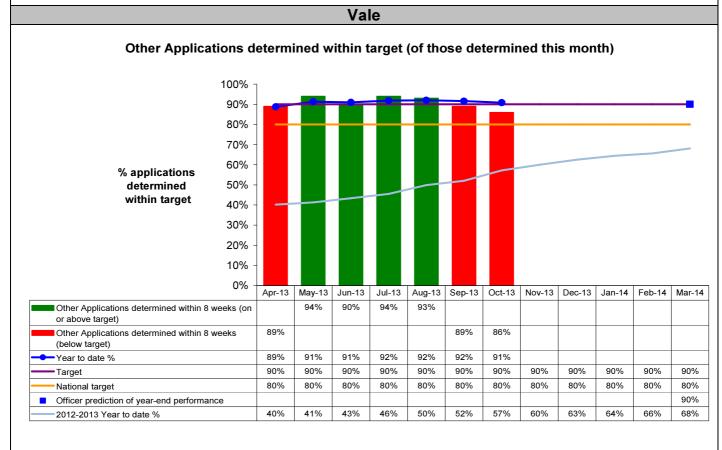
Minor planning applications determined in 8 weeks (high is good)





Other planning applications determined in 8 weeks (high is good)



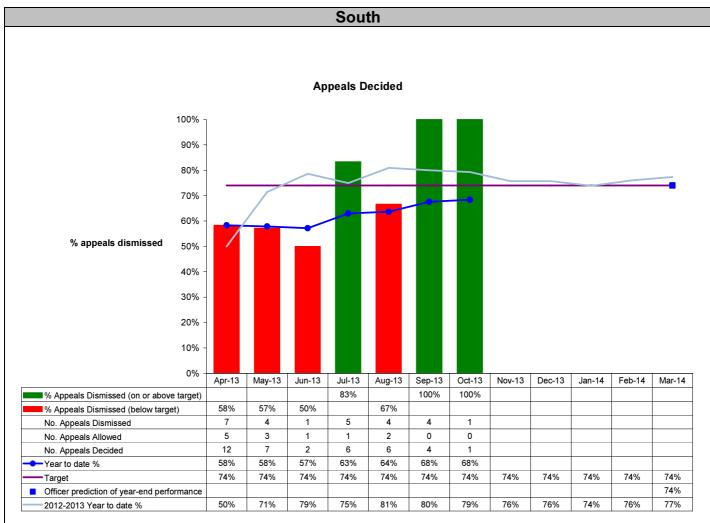


Agenda Item 5

Note

Vale - performance was 86% for the month, but remained above target overall at 91%. A significant component of those out of time in October were the six other applications that went to the two planning committees in October, five because of town or parish council objections and one due to the applicant being a member of staff. Of the five that had town or parish council objections, all were granted permission at committee.

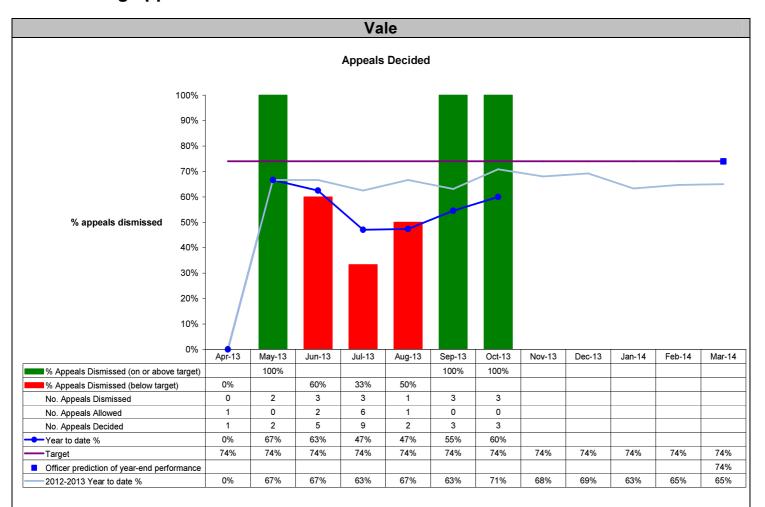
Planning appeals decisions



Note

The overall number of appeals continues to be comparatively low, and performance on appeals was above target in Quarter 2. However, the overall percentage is only gradually improving, due to the number of appeals that were allowed in the first quarter of the year. We continue to note that Planning Inspectors are generally supportive of schemes where the council's concerns have involved a subjective assessment of visual impact and a change in the character of an area.

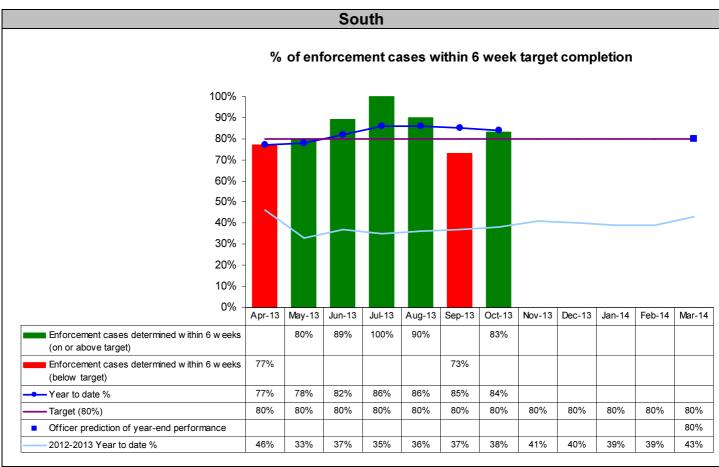
Planning appeals decisions

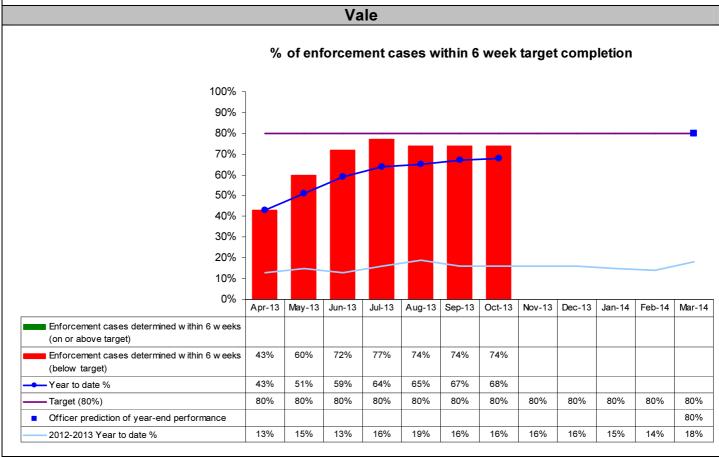


Note

Appeals performance continues to improve, with a rise to 60% for the year. This reflects the monitoring of appeal decisions on housing appeals in particular, and the subsequent adjustment of officer recommendations to take account of the different balance that is being struck by inspectors when weighing the importance of the delivery of housing against other material considerations.

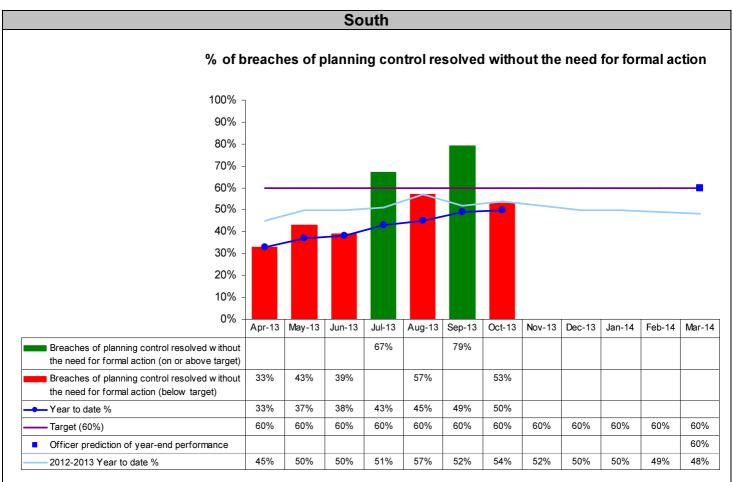
Planning enforcement: cases completed within target

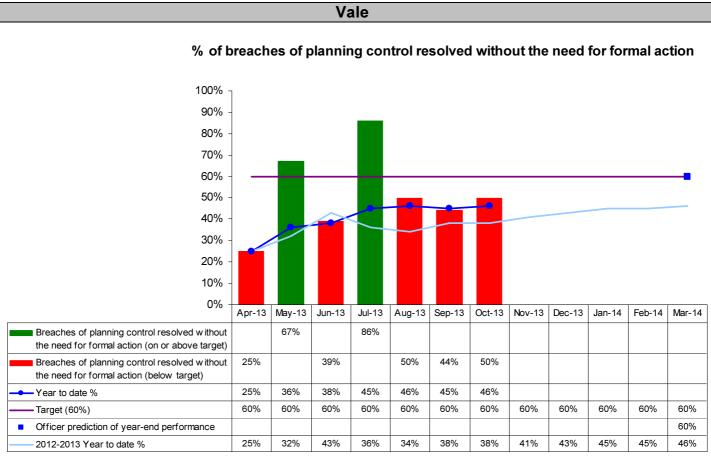




- 1. This new graph records the percentage of enforcement investigations determined within 6 weeks.
- 2. **South** performance is good, we are currently exceeding the target, and we predict that we will at least meet the target if not exceed it by year end.
- **3. Vale -** performance is currently just below the target, which was increased to 80% earlier in the year. Several old enforcement cases have recently been resolved (backlog) which has affected performance because this is a time-sensitive target. Performance will begin to improve, and it is predicted that the target will be met by year end.

Planning enforcement: breaches resolved with no need for action

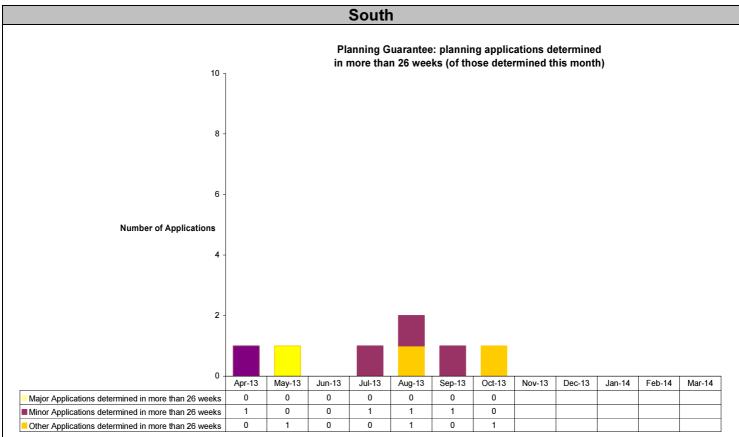


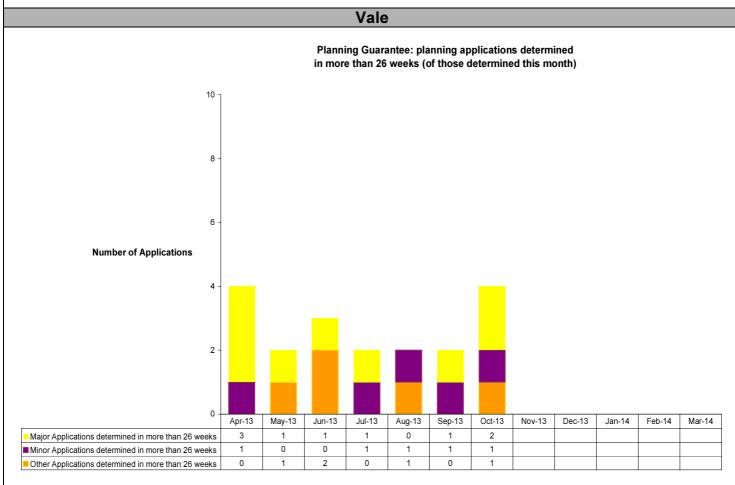


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- 1. This new graph shows the percentage of breaches of planning control that have been satisfactorily resolved without the need for notices or prosecutions. This is a new target. The team aims to resolve cases informally and has set an improvement target of 60% to begin with.
- **2. South and Vale -** overall, the steadily improving performance on both graphs shows that negotiations are becoming more successful.

Planning Guarantee

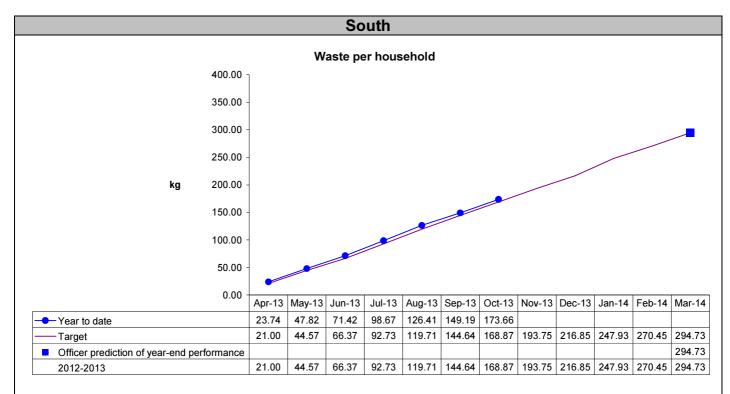


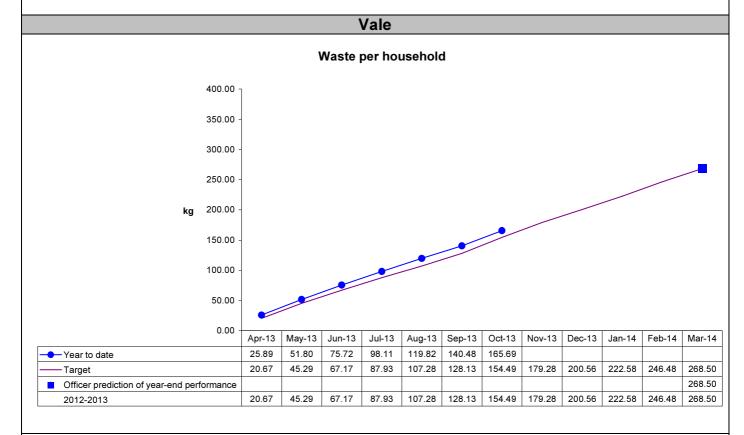


Agenda Item 5

- 1. This graph represents our interpretation of the DCLG's 'Planning Guarantee' standard. The planning application fee will be refunded if the application remains undetermined after 26 weeks. We understand that the Planning Guarantee will only apply to new applications which are submitted from 1st October 2013. It will not apply to applications subject either to a PPA or to an agreed extension of time.
- **2. South** one application subject to a PPA was determined in October, and no applications subject to an agreed extension of time were determined in October.
- **3. Vale** four applications subject to a PPA were determined in October, and no applications subject to an agreed extension of time were determined in October.

Residual waste (kg/household) (low is good)





Notes

1. South and Vale – the target is the actual in-month level achieved in 2012-13. Thus last year's performance has not been plotted, although it does appear in the data table.

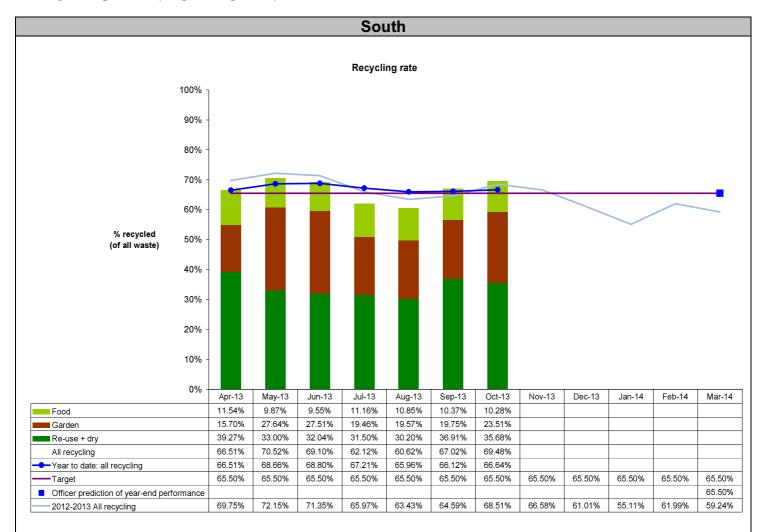
Agenda Item 5

2. South and Vale - in October, street sweepings started being diverted away from landfill to a new processing centre for sorting into different materials with the intention of gaining some recycling.

At the time of entering data, we do not know the weights of the separated materials or how each sorted category of waste has been classified.

Therefore the weights have been included as landfill, as on a worse case basis.

Recycling rate (high is good)



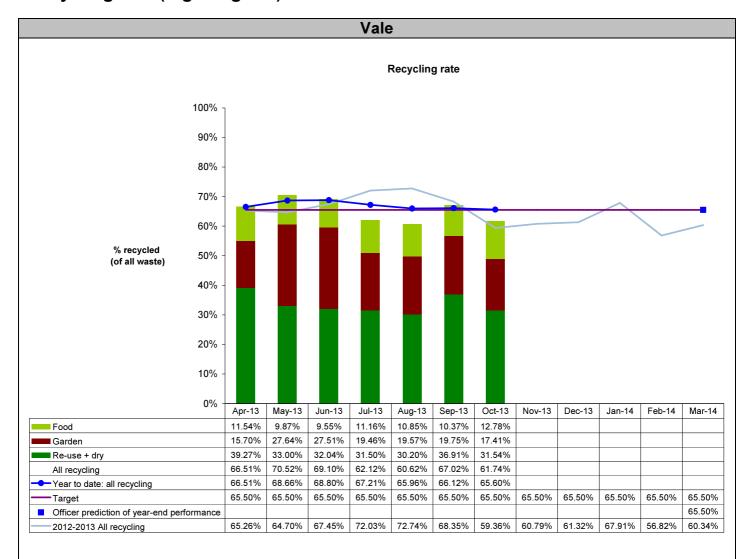
Notes

- **1.** The rejection rate for South this quarter (1 Oct 31 Dec) is 5.45%. (Rejected recycling goes to landfill.)
- 2. In October, street sweepings started being diverted away from landfill to a new processing centre for sorting into different materials with the intention of gaining some recycling.

At the time of entering data, we do not know the weights of the separated materials or how each sorted category of waste has been classified.

Therefore the weights have been included as landfill, as on a worse case basis.

Recycling rate (high is good)



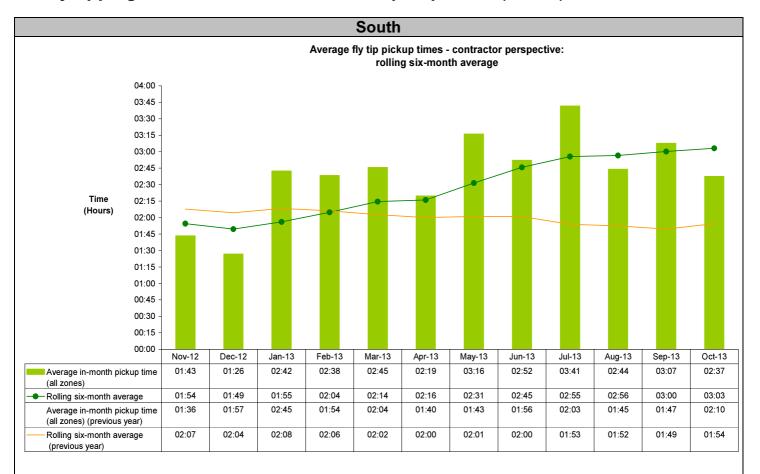
Notes

- **1.** The rejection rate for Vale this quarter (1 Oct 31 Dec) is 4.53%. (Rejected recycling goes to landfill.)
- 2. In October, street sweepings started being diverted away from landfill to a new processing centre for sorting into different materials with the intention of gaining some recycling.

At the time of entering data, we do not know the weights of the separated materials or how each sorted category of waste has been classified.

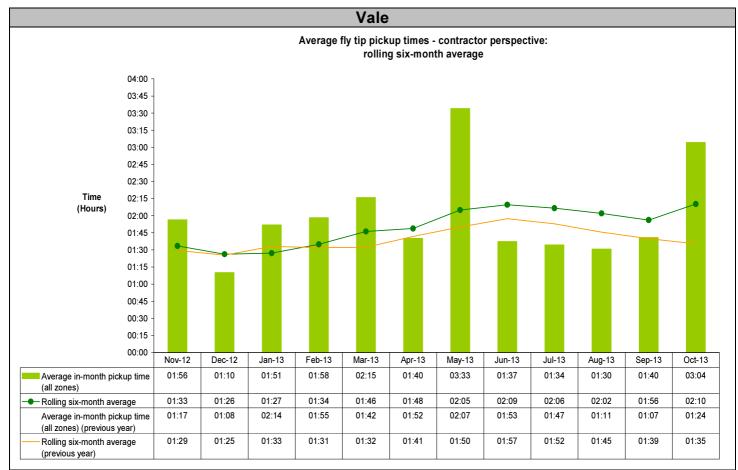
Therefore the weights have been included as landfill, as on a worse case basis.

Fly tipping clearance time - contractor perspective (South)



- 1. This graph records the average clearance time (in hours) per month for all fly tips. In addition, a six month rolling average of this figure is provided. Equivalent figures from one year ago also appear. For a given fly tip, the clearance time is defined as the time between the contractor's employee receiving a work-sheet detailing the tip to be cleared and the clearance of that tip. The tip is cleared on the same day that the worksheet is received.
- 2. Does not include private land for either South or Vale since this is the responsibility of the landowner. The councils will however investigate and take enforcement action if the landowner wishes us to and the councils' waste contractors will clear the land for the owner at cost.

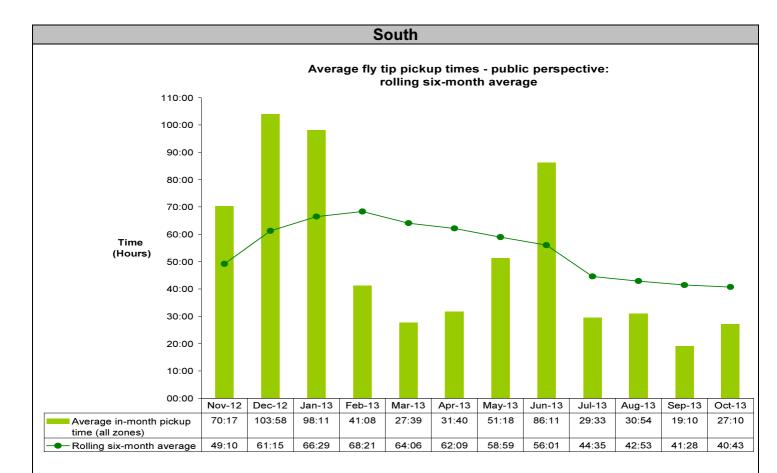
Fly tipping clearance time – contractor perspective (Vale)



Notes

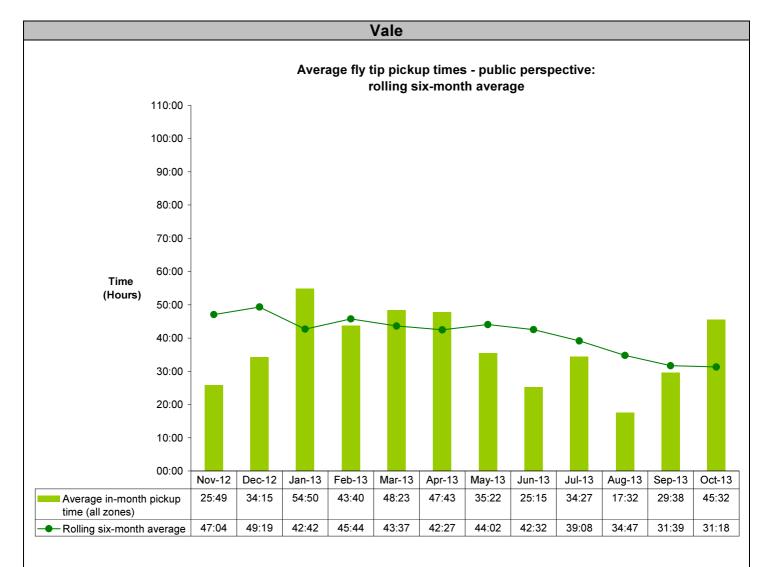
1. Please see **Notes** on page 20 for further details.

Fly tipping clearance time – public perspective (South)



- 1. This graph records the average clearance time (in hours) per month for all fly tips. In addition, there is a rolling six month average of this figure. The time measured is the total elapsed time, i.e. it is inclusive of weekends, evenings and bank holidays. For a given fly tip, the clearance time is defined as the time between the receipt of a report about a fly tip from a member of the public and the clearance of that tip.
- **2.** Data is only available from June 2012 onwards.
- **3.** The average times in this graph are higher than those in the corresponding 'contractor perspective' graph. There are several reasons for this, but typical examples would be:
- For some fly tips, it is necessary to arrange for additional equipment to be brought in;
- There are some instances where collection of a fly tip will be delayed whilst Environmental Protection
 officers carry out their initial investigation to sift for evidence amongst the fly tip. The officers prioritise
 this type of work, and always conduct these investigations as promptly and efficiently as possible;
- There may be uncertainty around land ownership, which will need to be established before arranging for removal;
- The contractor's supervisor may need to attend before the crew is actually sent out;
- It may not be possible to locate a fly tip on the first occasion due to insufficient or inaccurate information being provided by a member of the public; and
- Reports received after a certain time will not be issued to crews until the following morning unless the
 report is considered urgent. Routine reports received over the weekend or out of hours will not be
 picked up until the next normal working day.
- **4.** Please see **Note 2** on page 20 for further details about land types.

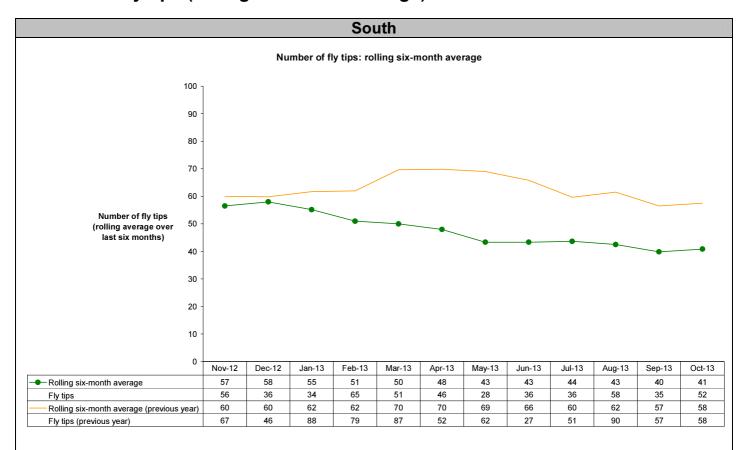
Fly tipping clearance time – public perspective (Vale)

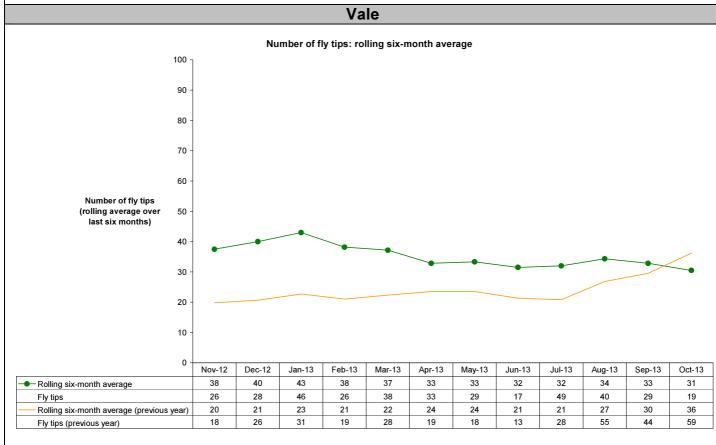


Notes

1. Please see **Notes** on page 22 for further details.

Number of fly tips (rolling six-month average)

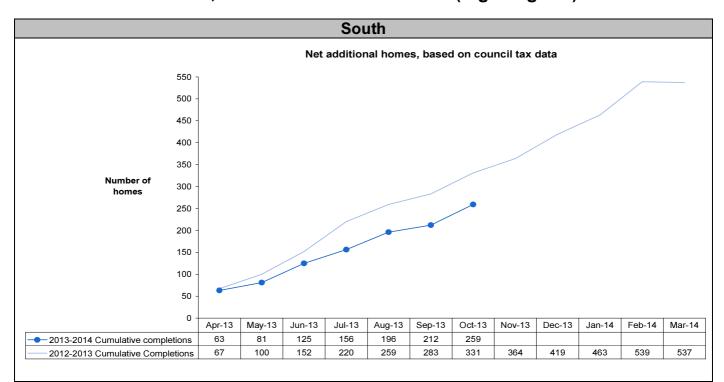


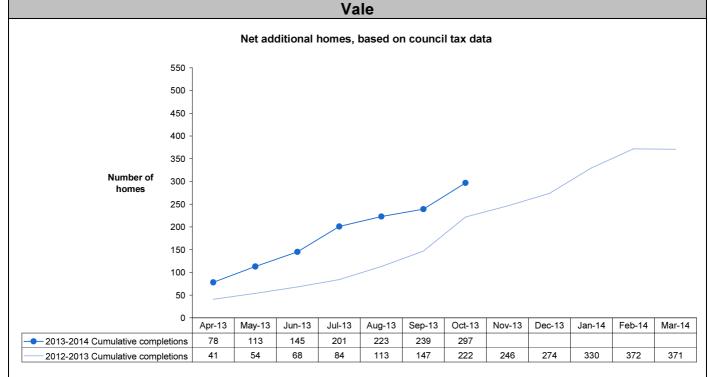


Agenda Item 5

- 1. Does not include private land for either South or Vale since clearance is the responsibility of the landowner. The councils will however investigate and take enforcement action if the landowner wishes us to and the councils' waste contractors will clear the land for the owner at cost.
- 2. South although there has historically always been higher levels of fly tips compared to Vale, mostly due to the topography of the district, the council is pleased to note that increased enforcement activity, coupled with publicity and education initiatives is reducing fly tipping levels in South. This demonstrates that the additional resources applied to this priority by the council are showing benefits and officers expect the downward trend to continue.

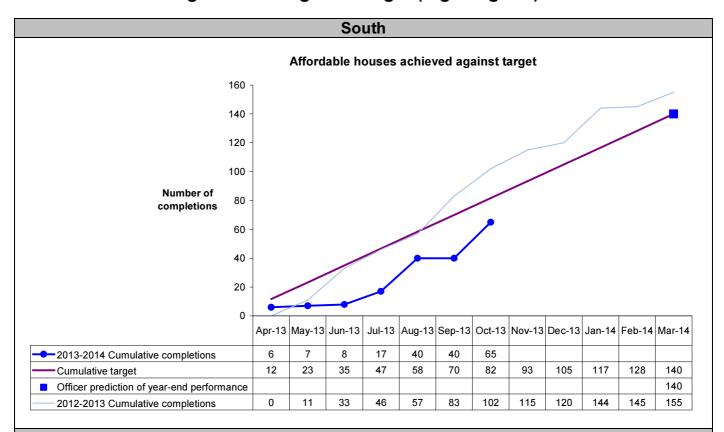
Net additional homes, based on council tax data (high is good)

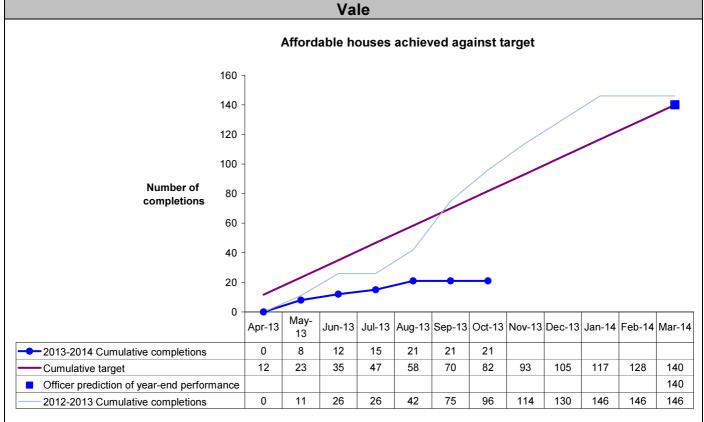




- 1. This graph measures the number of net additional homes using data from the Council Tax database. Specifically, the figure used is 'Total number of dwellings on the Valuation List' (summed over all bands).
- 2. It is possible for the total to decrease, as happened between Feb 2013 and Mar 2013 at both South and Vale this is attributable to demolitions or to conversions.

Affordable housing achieved against target (high is good)



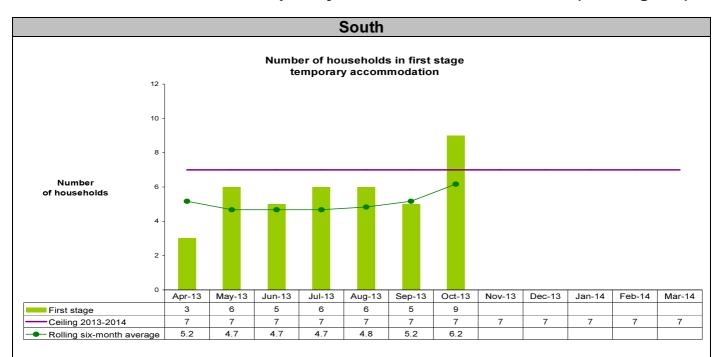


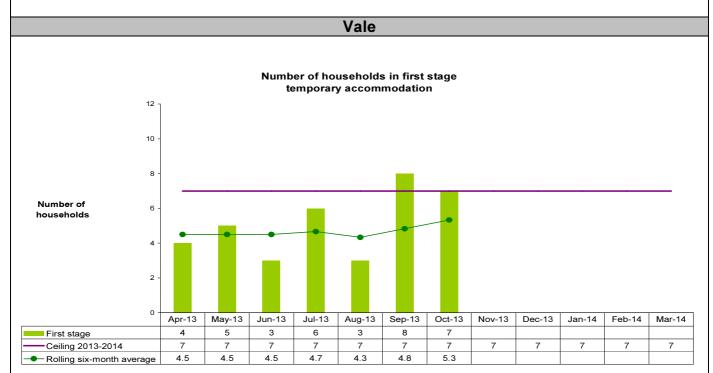
Notes

1. **South and Vale** – it is not possible to compare the 'Affordable completions' and the 'Net additional homes' in a given month. This is because affordable completions are reported to us by Housing Associations – at the point of reporting, a given affordable

- completion is very likely not to be occupied and therefore not to be on the council tax register.
- 2. South and Vale affordable housing completions so far are comparatively low as the bulk of housing completions are expected in the second half of 2013/14. These include:
- **3. Vale** Chilton Fields is set to deliver up to 44 units later this year;
 - Majors Road, Watchfield could deliver around 40 of the affordable homes due on this site by March 2014; and
 - Other sites where construction has recently started will deliver the bulk of expected affordable homes (around 50 units) towards the end of 2013/14.
- **South** three major sites will deliver completed affordable homes more towards the end of 2013/14:
 - Fairmile, Cholsey is due to complete 48 units by February 2014;
 - Icknield Road Extra Care Housing scheme for 40 units is expected in December 2013; and
 - A high proportion of the 120 homes currently under construction on three phases at Great Western Park could be finished by March 2014.

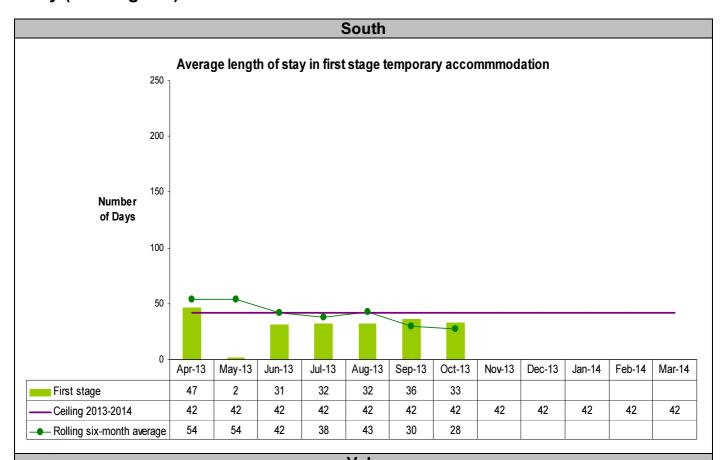
Homeless households in temporary accommodation - number (low is good)

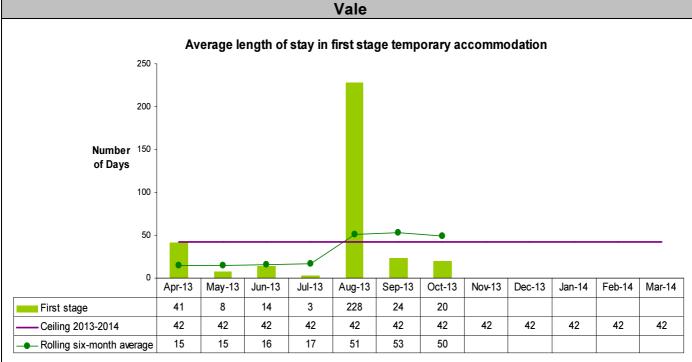




- 1. This graph measures the number of homeless households which were in first stage temporary accommodation as at the last day of each month. First stage accommodation is that initially provided whilst investigations take place as to the cause of homelessness. It is then used for those accepted as homeless until they can be moved to longer-term Second stage accommodation. The length of time an applicant stays in first stage is important as it is temporary in nature, so not ideal for the applicant, and expensive for the councils to provide.
- 2. Both councils continue to see increased numbers of homeless presentations with a consequent increase in the numbers in first stage temporary accommodation. The primary reason for this is an increase in the number of people who are being asked to vacate private rented properties by their landlord and who are not able to secure alternative accommodation.

Homeless households in temporary accommodation – average length of stay (low is good)





Notes

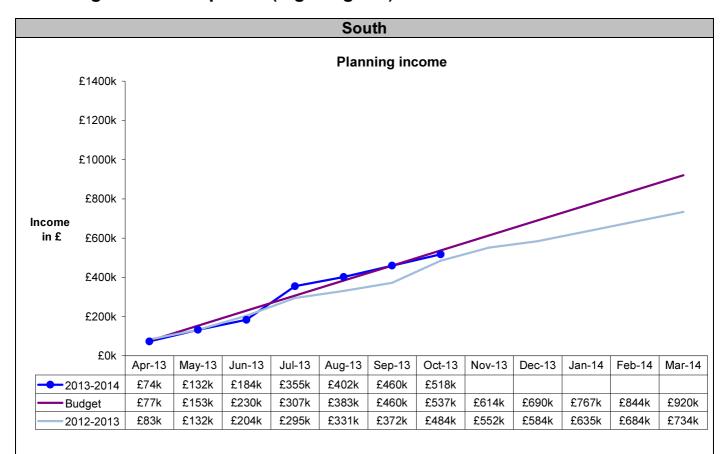
1. This new graph measures the average length of stay in first stage temporary accommodation per month. The average for a given month applies only to those households whose stay ended in that month. For instance, the average stay in October is the average length of time spent in first stage temporary accommodation by those

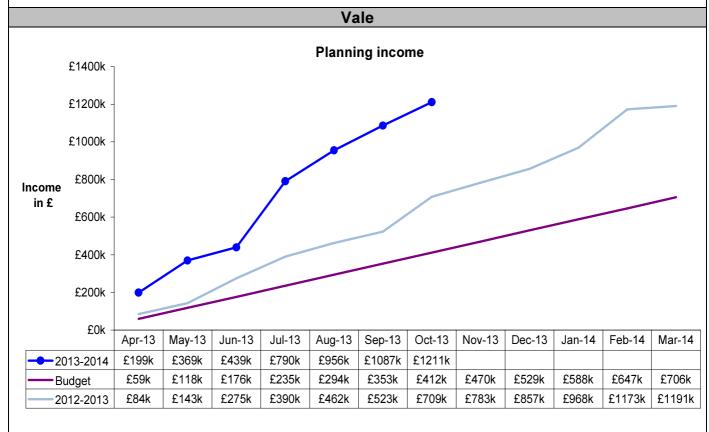
households whose stay ended in October – the stay may have started in a previous month.

- 2. Rolling six-month average this applies to the average length of stay defined in the paragraph above. So, to calculate the rolling six-month average, the average length of stay is itself averaged over the current month and the five previous months.
- **3. First stage** this is the first stage in the temporary accommodation process, i.e. nightly paid accommodation.
- **4.** Both councils continue to see increased numbers of homeless presentations, which places pressure on the numbers in temporary accommodation.
- **Vale** in August, two individuals, in distinct households, who had specific support needs (mental and/or physical health issues) left nightly paid accommodation. Appropriate supported accommodation needed to be found for the individuals concerned; such accommodation has limited availability, hence the stays were much longer than is usually the case.

SECTION 4 - FINANCE - INCOME

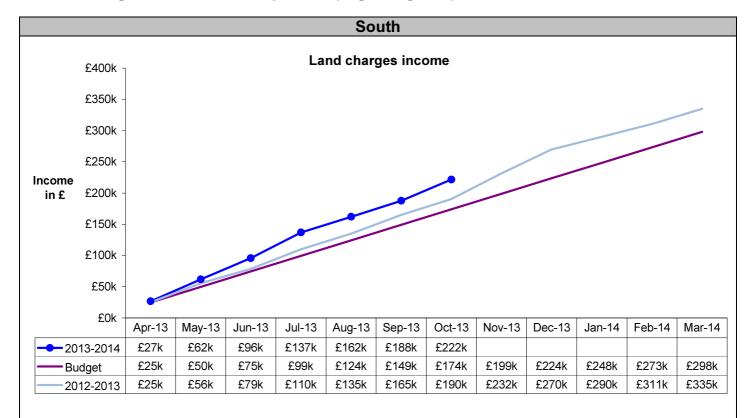
Planning income vs. profile (high is good)

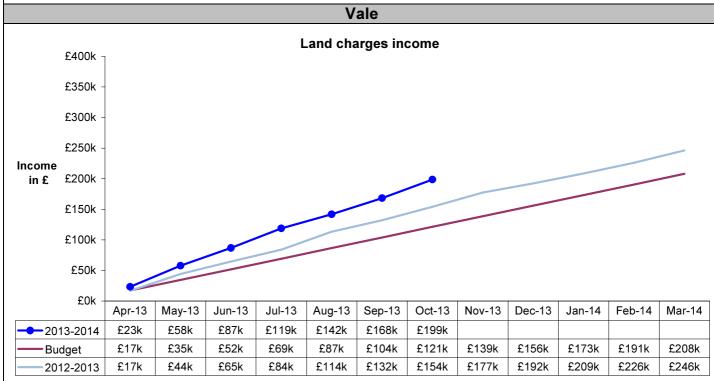




- **1.** For both councils, the following total net income is shown (building control is excluded):
 - Condition monitoring
 - Pre-applications
 - Minor amendments
 - Planning applications
 - Informal Permitted Development Enquiries
 - Lawful Development (Proposed)
 - Photocopying
- **Vale** the income is well above budget which reflects the continued high number of major planning applications received.

Land charges – income vs. profile (high is good)

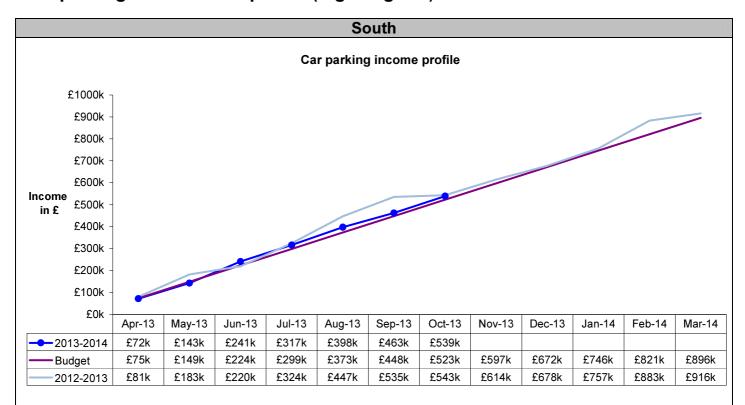


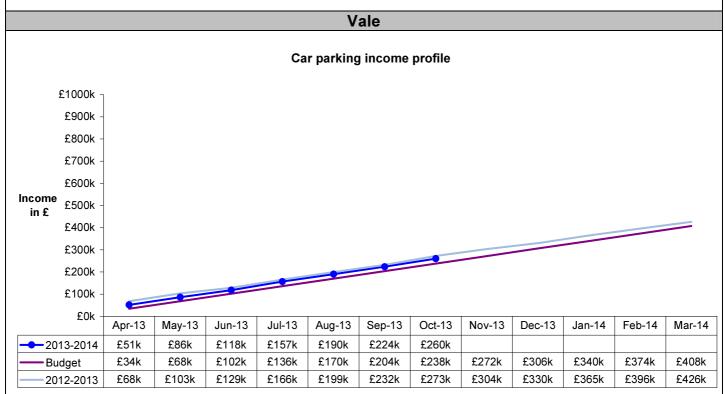


Note

South and Vale - the Land Charges income is above the predicted budget due to receiving a greater number of search requests than predicted.

Car parking – income vs. profile (high is good)

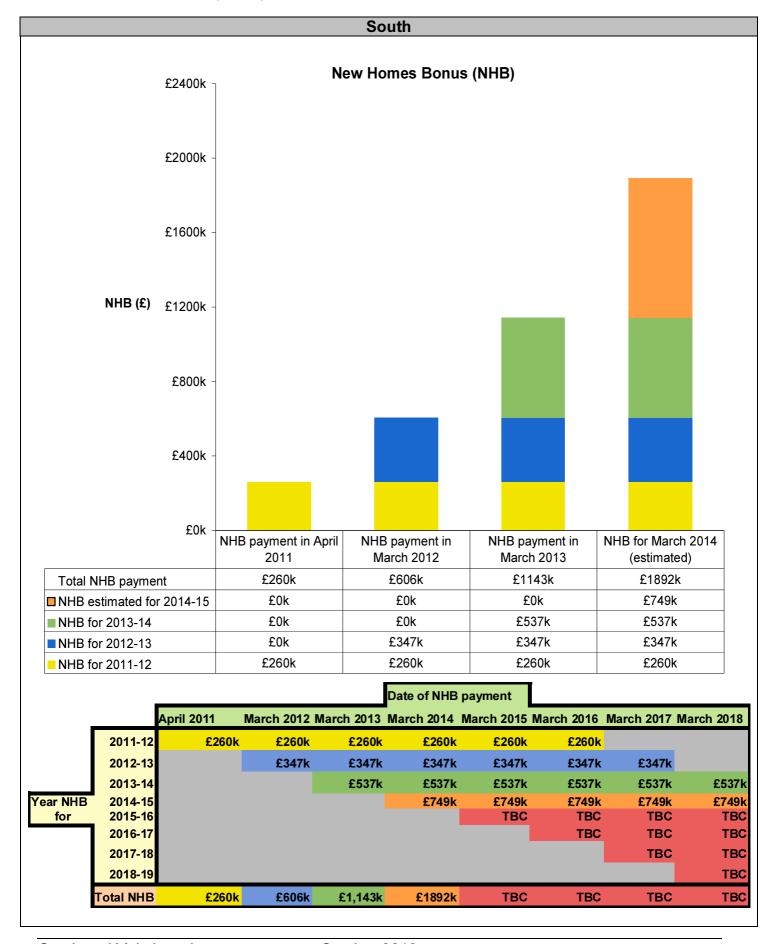




South – car park income is higher than Vale's for two main reasons:

- (i) South's free parking is generally only for one hour, whereas Vale's is for two.
- (ii) In Henley, the two town centre car parks are free prior to 10am Monday to Friday. However, they are well-used and have a high turnover of spaces.

New Homes Bonus (NHB)



Notes

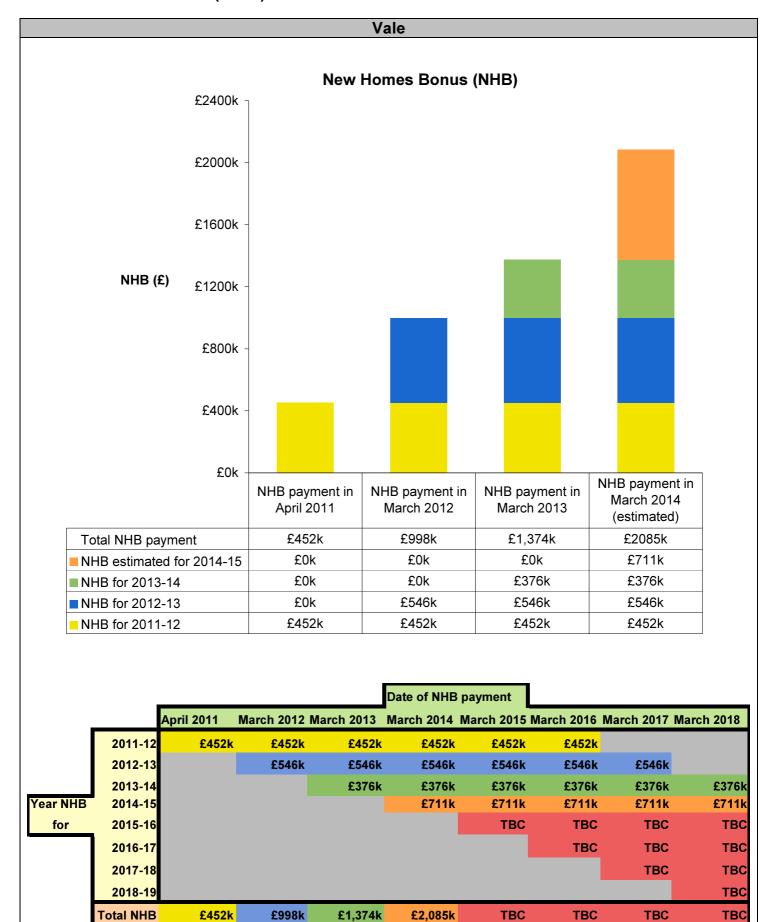
1. The Government's New Homes Bonus (NHB) scheme commenced in April 2011, and match-funds the additional council tax raised for new homes and empty properties brought back in to use. In addition, there is an extra bonus for new affordable homes. As can be seen from the Table, the total NHB each year includes NHBs from previous years. From March 2016 onwards, each total NHB will include the NHB for the most recent year, and also the NHB for each of the five previous years.

As per the 2013 Comprehensive Spending Review, the Government has announced that, from March 2016 onwards, approximately 33% of NHB will have to be passed by the council to the Local Enterprise Partnership. Note that this announcement is subject to consultation.

The council will be using some of this year's New Homes Bonus to help fund community projects

- 2. Data in **yellow** represents the payment made in April 2011.
- 3. Data in **blue** represents the payment made commencing March 2012 in 13 monthly instalments.
- **4.** Data in **green** represents the payment made commencing March 2013 in 13 monthly instalments.
- **5.** Data in **orange** represents an estimate for the payment to be made in March 2014. It has been made using council tax and housing data obtained from within the councils, and is refined each month.
- **TBC** (To Be Confirmed) means that it is not yet possible to provide an estimate to an acceptable level of certainty for the table this currently applies to the payments from March 2015 onwards.

New Homes Bonus (NHB)



Notes

The Government's New Homes Bonus (NHB) scheme commenced in April 2011, and matchfunds the additional council tax raised for new homes and empty properties brought back in to use. In addition, there is an extra bonus for new affordable homes. As can be seen from the Table, the total NHB each year includes NHBs from previous years. From March 2016 onwards, each total NHB will include the NHB for the most recent year, and also the NHB for each of the five previous years.

As per the 2013 Comprehensive Spending Review, the Government has announced that, from March 2016 onwards, approximately 33% of NHB will have to be passed by the council to the Local Enterprise Partnership. Note that this announcement is subject to consultation.

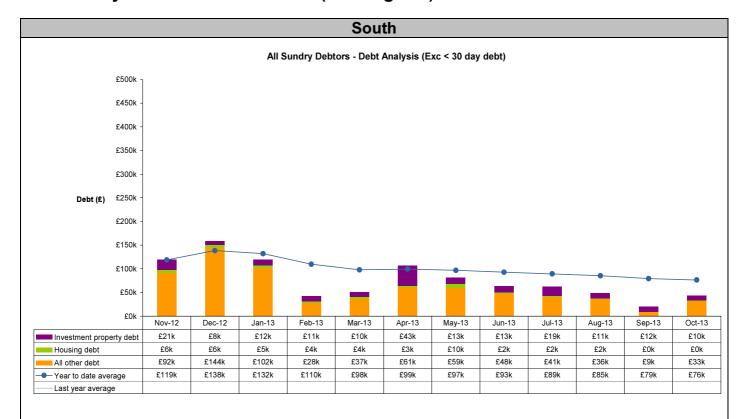
The council uses NHB according to its NHB Interim Policy:

That Cabinet

- (i) ring fences all funding it receives through the new homes bonus (excluding affordable housing premium) to support the following priorities (in descending order of priority);
- a) achieving a balanced budget (supporting the revenue account)
- b) achieving a balanced budget (supporting the capital programme)
- c) provision of New Homes Bonus grant to support community schemes to be allocated to areas committees for distribution
- (ii) ring fences the affordable housing premium to support the delivery of further affordable housing schemes.

See **Notes 2** to **6** on page 40 for further details.

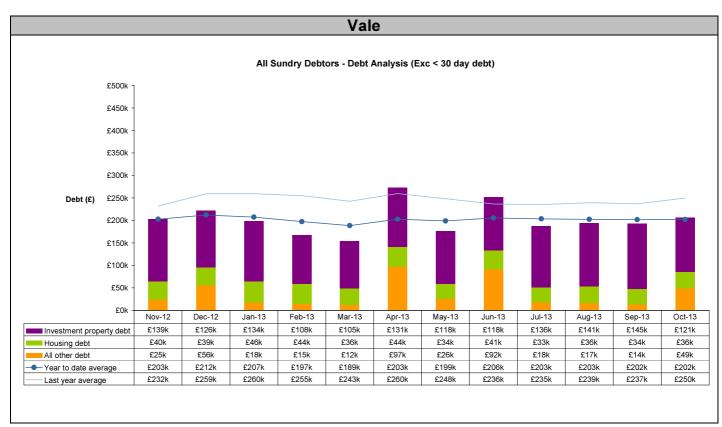
Debt analysis: South - all debts (low is good)



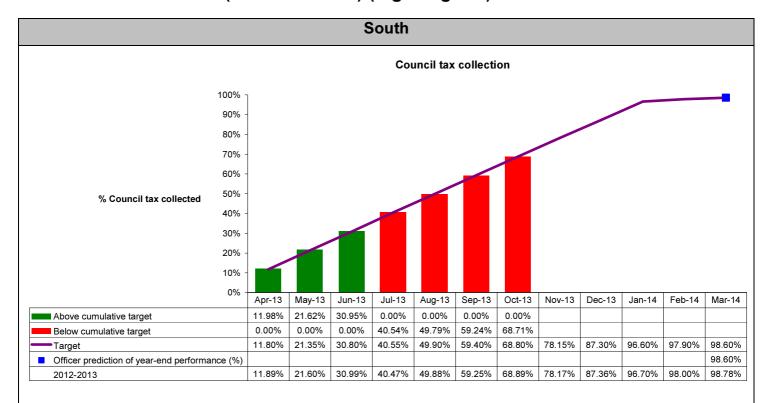
Note

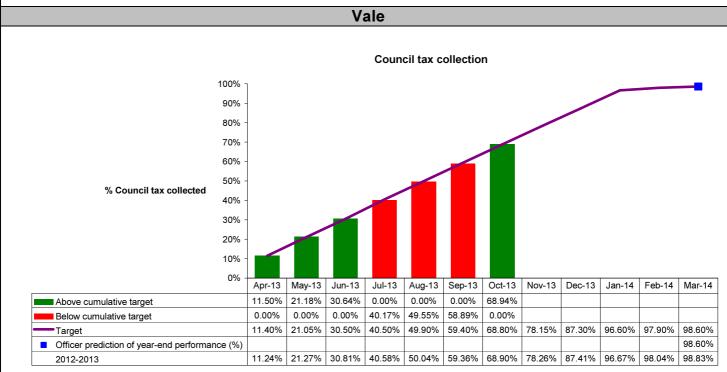
Back data for South is not readily available, so there is no 'Last year average' at present. All data is taken from Agresso.

Debt analysis: Vale – all debts (low is good)



Council tax collection (% each month) (high is good)

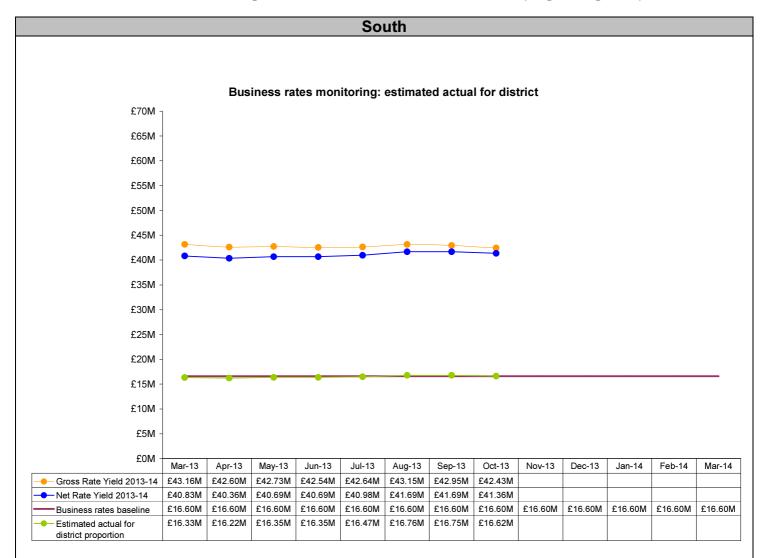




Notes

1. South and Vale – although this is a cumulative graph, bars have been used to aid readability, because the performance is so close to the target. The 2012-2013 data has not been plotted, for the same reason, although it does appear in the data table.

Business rates monitoring: estimated actual for district (high is good)



These graphs show the projected income to each council in 2013-14 from business rates, after adjustments. The figures for **March 2013** are estimates by council officers, which were made in advance of the financial year. The figures for subsequent months are iterative estimates which use the actual year to date data. Good performance is indicated by 'Estimated actual for district proportion' being above 'Business rates baseline'; the higher the better.

- 1. Business rate income is highly volatile and can be influenced by many things outside of the councils' control, such as appeals against rateable value and awards of mandatory rate relief. Over the past few years, South Oxfordshire has seen swings between estimates and outturn of plus £800,000 and minus £3.3M. Vale has seen swings of plus £1.6M and minus £3.7M.
- **2.** The following terms are used in the graphs above:
 - **Gross Rate Yield** the amount after items such as mandatory and discretionary rate relief are taken into account, but before estimated losses for appeals. (This is the 100% total business rates irrespective of Government, county or district proportion.);
 - Net Rate Yield as above, but the amount after estimated losses for appeals are taken

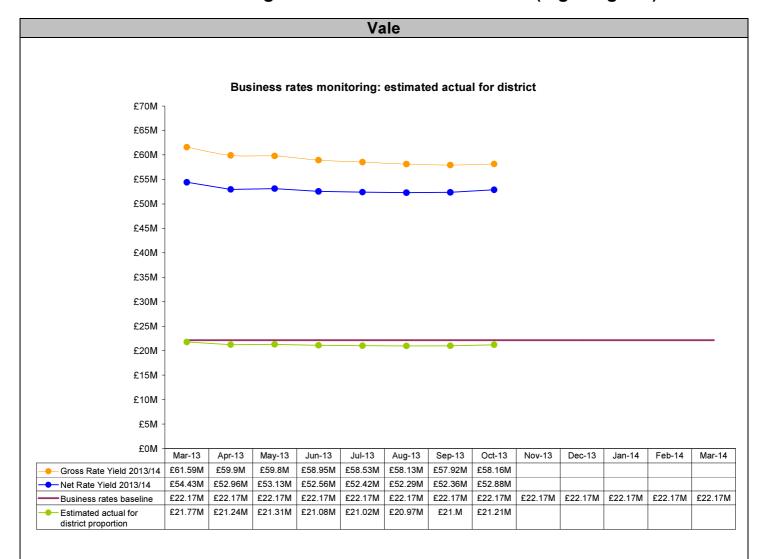
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into account and any other adjustments the councils are aware of but haven't received revised valuation from the Valuation Office Agency for (the closure of Didcot A, for example);

- Business rates baseline this is the 40% proportion of the business rate income attributable to the district which is a fixed amount determined by the Government based on previous years' business rate collections; and
- **Estimated actual for district proportion** the 40% district proportion of the total estimated actual business rates after paying over the Government's 50% share and county's 10% share, but <u>before</u> a 'tariff' is paid to the Government.

Please see the **Notes** on page 49 for further details on the 'tariff'.

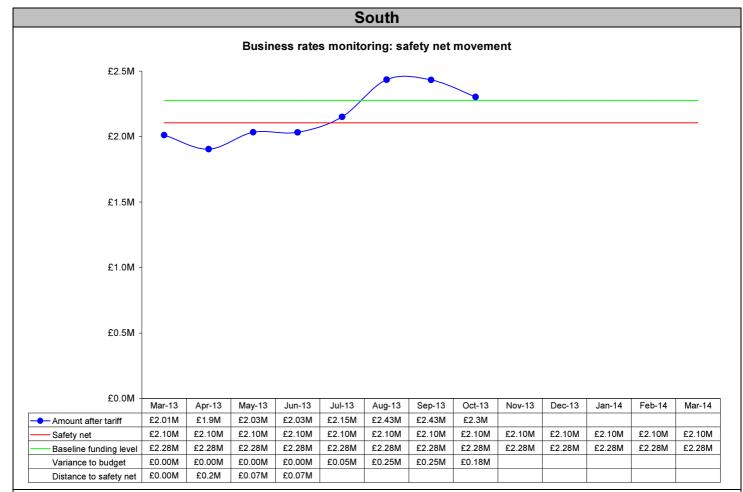
Business rates monitoring: estimated actual for district (high is good)



Notes

Please see **Notes** on page 46 for further details.

Business rates monitoring: safety net movement (high is good)



Notes

These are new graphs, which should be read in conjunction with the 'Business rates monitoring: estimated actual for district' graphs on pages 46 and 48, and the **Notes** for those graphs on page 46. Good performance is indicated by 'Amount after tariff' being above 'Baseline funding level'; the higher the better. The following terms are used in the graphs above:

Tariff – this is a fixed amount determined by the Government and is the difference between the 'business rates baseline' and the 'baseline funding level';

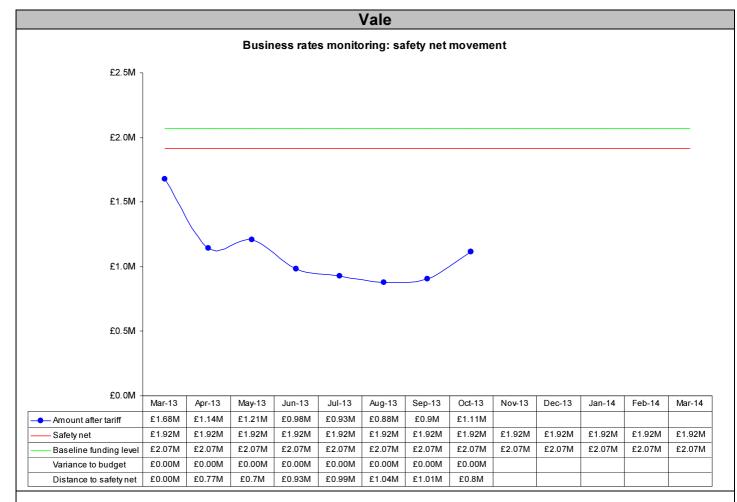
Amount after tariff – this is the 'estimated actual for district proportion' minus the 'tariff';

Baseline funding level – this is the minimum amount of money that the Government has said the council requires for its needs; and

Safety net - if the council's share of the business rates income falls below the 'baseline funding level' they will receive a 'safety net' payment. The 'safety net' is defined as 92.5 per cent of the 'baseline funding level'. The 'safety net' payment from the Government will meet any shortfall between the 'safety net' and the 'amount after tariff'.

August - October – the 'Distance to safety net' is blank, because the 'Amount after tariff' was <u>above</u> the 'Safety net' in all three of these months. It should be noted that 'Amount after tariff' in August - October includes business rates for a renewable energy (anaerobic digestion) site in Crowmarsh. Some of this money – amount currently unknown - will be removed and paid to the County Council.

Business rates monitoring: safety net movement (high is good)

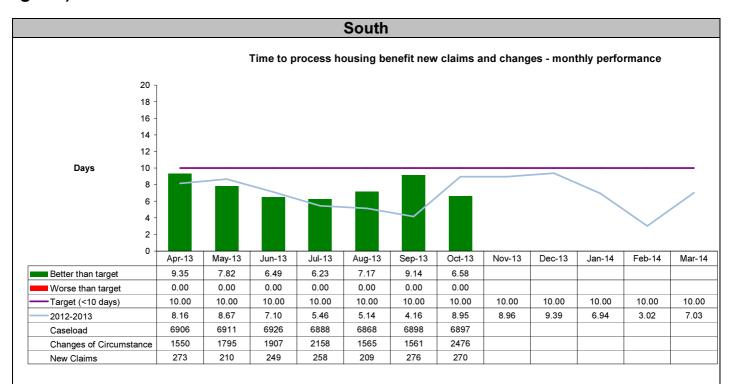


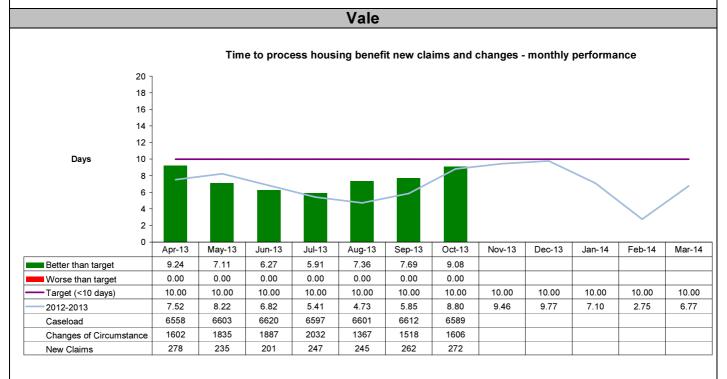
Notes

Please see Notes on page 49 for further details.

Section 5 - Benefits

Time to process housing benefit new claims and changes, monthly (low is good)

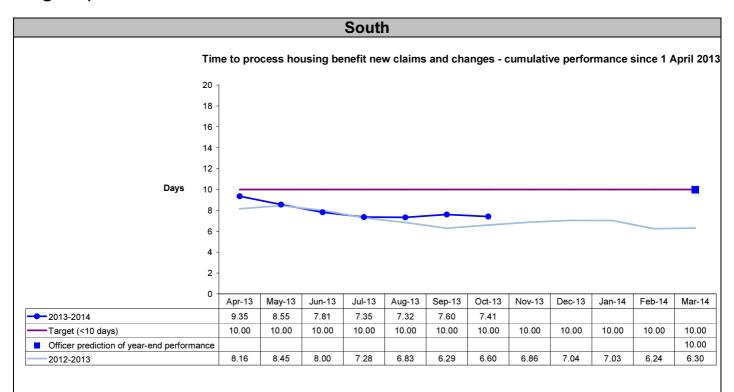


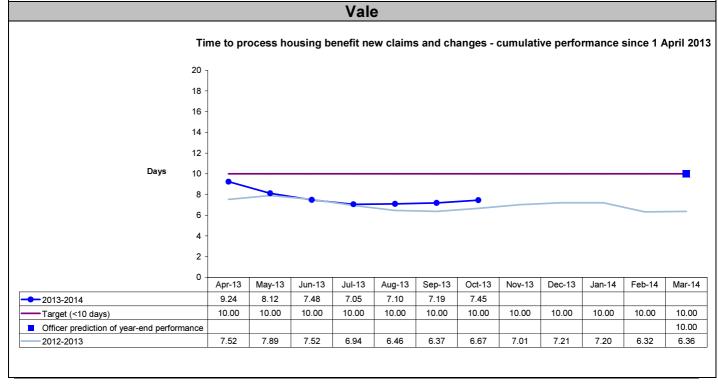


Notes

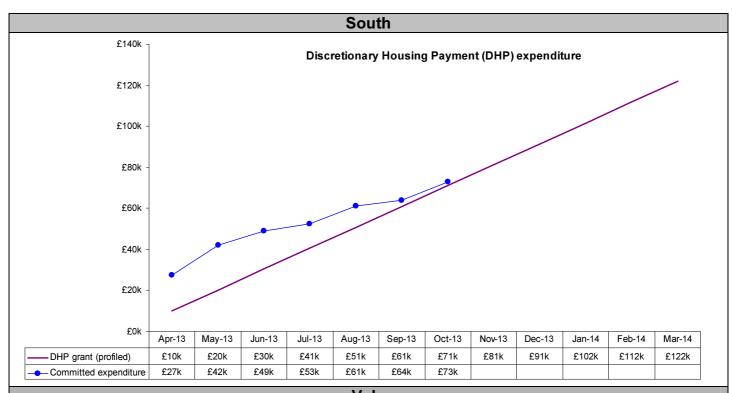
- 1. The **Caseload** is the total number of claimants who have live claims, as measured at the end of each month.
- **2. New claims** is the total number of new claims processed in-month.
- **3. Changes in circumstance** is the number of amendments made to existing claims during the month. This could be due to e.g. income and capital changes etc and cancellations.

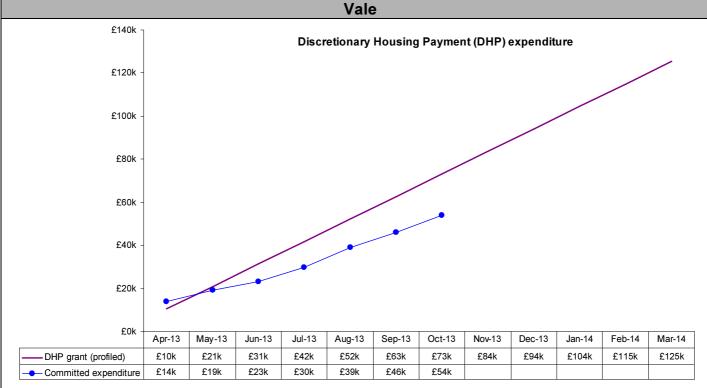
Time to process housing benefit new claims and changes, cumulative (low is good)





Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP) expenditure

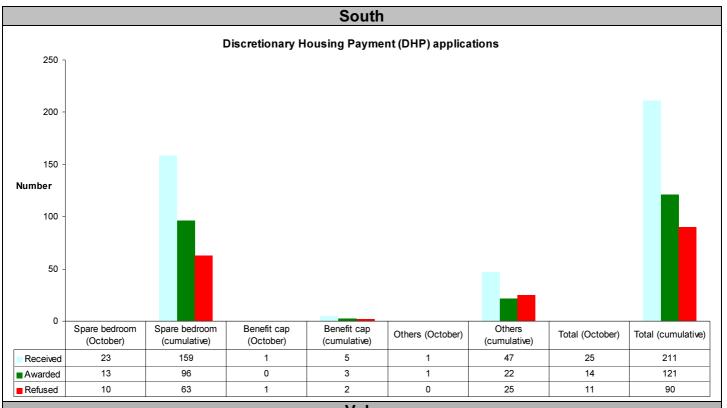




Notes

- 1. DHPs are free-standing payments made to housing benefit recipients to help with housing costs. The councils receive an annual ring-fenced specific grant from the Government to fund DHPs.
- **2.** Expenditure is shown as cumulative, because DHP awards are made for varying periods during the financial year, e.g. committed expenditure in April will span the financial year.

Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP) applications

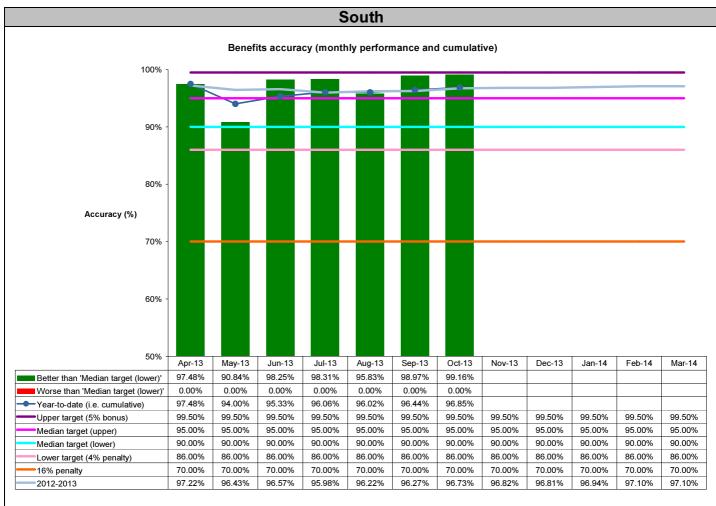


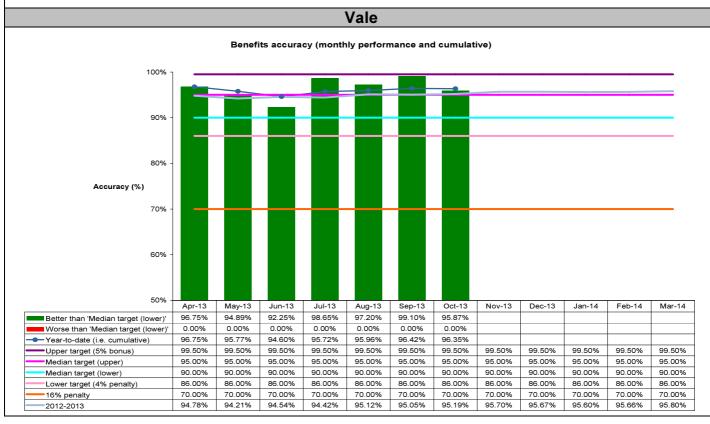
Vale **Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP) applications** 250 200 150 Number 100 50 0 Spare bedroom Benefit cap Spare bedroom Benefit cap Others Others (October) Total (October) Total (cumulative) (October) (cumulative) (October) (cumulative) (cumulative) 181 Received Awarded 10 77 1 2 15 13 Refused 5 71 0 3 3 14 8 88

Notes

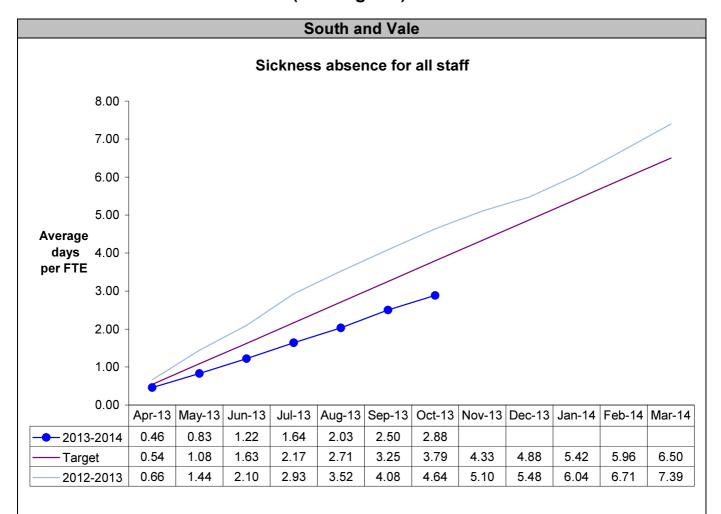
- This graph shows the applications, by type, for DHP which were considered in October. Additionally, the cumulative figures for the year are shown. (Please see **Note 1** on page 55 for a definition of DHP.)
- 2. Spare bedroom this is the spare room subsidy (social sector housing size criteria).
- 3. Benefit cap this came into force on 15 July 2013.

Financial accuracy of benefit claims (high is good)





Sickness absence for all staff (low is good)



Note

Because sickness absence is normally recorded by employees when they return to work, the figures for October are provisional and are likely to increase slightly once all absences have been recorded.

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