

## Appendix C

### Aberdeen City Council

#### 2025 Post-INSIGHT Attainment Summary

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##### Introduction

Formally benchmarked educational attainment and achievement data are released at various points throughout the course of each subsequent academic year with an emphasis on the provision, and use of two main sets of comparable measures, for the purpose of detailed analysis by education authorities and schools.

The first of these releases, the **Local Benchmark Measures**, which are reflected in the summary below, offer a pre-review (i.e. prior to completion of the appeals process) evaluation of outcomes from examination diet and end of year achievement assessments of all Senior Phase pupils undertaking evaluated work aligning with the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF)

The Framework encompasses Scottish Qualification Authority, Vocational, Skills for Work and Foundation Apprenticeship qualifications, along with a range of personal development courses and activities. Each of these in combination contribute to a holistic assessment of the educational progress and achievement being made by our young people.

Evaluation of the data provided through each release of the Insight Tool is provided through an extensive, and on-going, analysis by the education authority and its partners which 'tests' the validity of the current National Improvement Framework Plan and informs the development of future Plans.

##### Summary

This represents a summary of the Aberdeen City Council data post-INSIGHT in September and replicates the content and format of discussions with individual schools. The focus is on Literacy and Numeracy, Attainment For All and Breadth & Depth, aspects which align directly with priorities within National Improvement Framework planning at local and national levels.

##### Glossary

ASN – Additional Support Need

CECYP/CE – Care Experienced Children and Young People

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EAL – English as an Additional Language

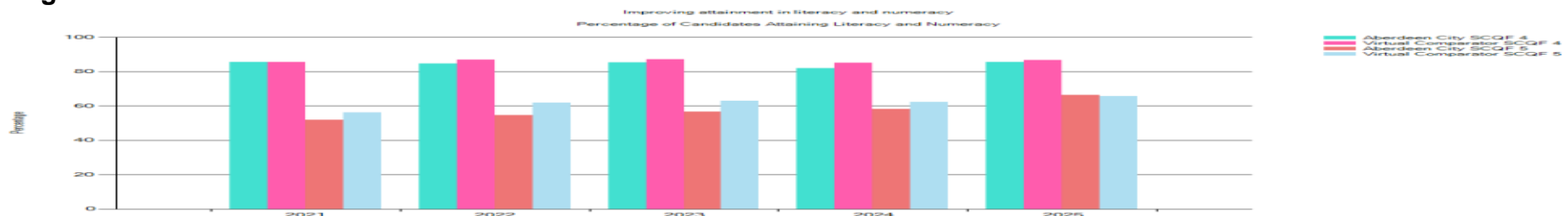
FSM – Free School Meals entitlement

SCQF – Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework

VC – Virtual Comparator

#### Literacy & Numeracy – Stages 4 -6

##### Stage 4



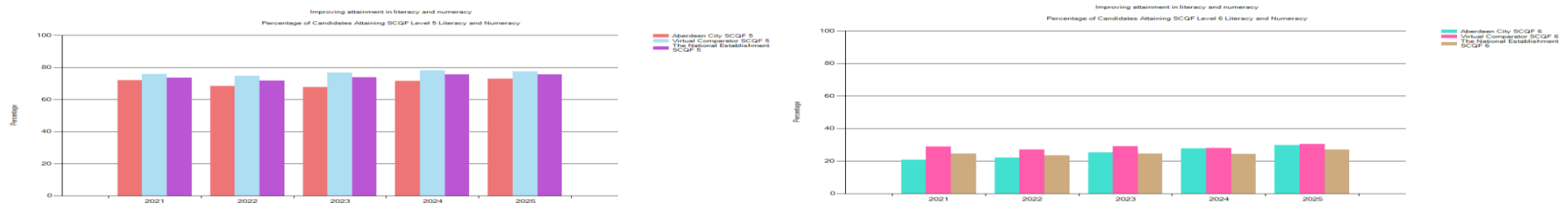
- In each of the last three years, **most** young people in S4 achieve SCQF 4 in Literacy and Numeracy with the current year figure the highest in the last three years at **85.57%**. There are signs that the gap to the Virtual Comparator is closing.
- In each of the last three years, **a majority** of young people in S4 achieve SCQF 5 in Literacy and Numeracy, with an increasing trend observable. The latest figure of **66.65%** is now marginally ahead of the Virtual Comparator.
- The trends for the composite parts of Literacy and Numeracy broadly follows the collective. When looking at targeted groups, young people with Additional Support Needs (ASN) broadly follows the overall picture. Young people with English as an Additional Language (EAL) and those in Quintile 1 performed ahead of the Virtual Comparator and National picture with 2025 showing the highest figure for SCQF 4 and SCQF 5 in the last three years.

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##### Stage 5

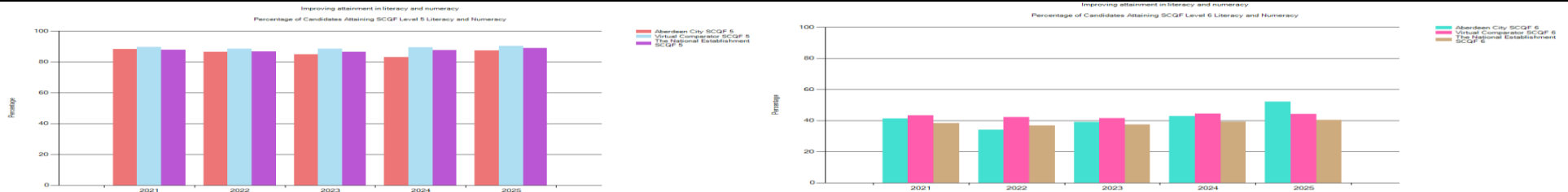


- In each of the last three years, **a majority** of young people in S5 (on S5 roll) achieve SCQF 5 in Literacy and Numeracy, with the current figure of **72.93%** the highest in the last three years and showing an increasing trend. The figure remains behind the Virtual Comparator
- **Just under half** of young people over the last three years have achieved both Literacy and Numeracy at SCQF 6, although the current figure of **29.84%** is part of an improving three year trend. The ACC figure is now only marginally behind the Virtual Comparator and ahead of the national establishment.
- The literacy contribution to the collective figure has broadly held steady for both SCQF 5 and 6, with improvements in the collective being down to gains in numeracy particularly in SCQF 6 which is now ahead of the Virtual Comparator as a standalone measure.
- When looking at targeted groups, the performance of young people with Additional Support Needs in S5 (on S5 roll) broadly follows the overall picture. Young people with English as an Additional Language continue to outperform the cohort at both SCQF 5 and SCQF 6. However, there is continued focus required on young people in Quintile 1 but particularly those with Free School Meal entitlement and Care Experience (although there are only ten young people in this latter group)

##### Stage 6

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- In each of the last three years, **most** young people in S6 (on S6 roll) achieved SCQF 5 Literacy and Numeracy, with the current figure (**87.39%**) the highest in this period. However, the figure remains behind the Virtual Comparator.
- For the first time in three years, **a majority** of young people in S6 achieved SCQF 6 Literacy and Numeracy with the current figure (**52.10%**) the highest in an increasing three-year trend. This figure appears now some way ahead of the Virtual Comparator.
- Composite Literacy and Numeracy data largely follows the collective figure but the more than eight percent improvement at SCQF 6 in Numeracy is particularly notable as part of this data-set, with this figure more than ten percent ahead of the Virtual Comparator.
- When looking at targeted groups, the performance of young people with ASN and EAL in S6 (on S6) perform in line with the whole cohort. The performance of young people in Quintile 1 follows the cohort for SCQF 6 but not at SCQF 5 which is behind the trajectory.

### Attainment For All

Attainment for All converts learner success in qualifications into *tariff points*, which numerically represents the cumulative attainment of our pupils across the Senior Phase stages. This is presented within INSIGHT by percentile quintiles of candidate attainment that enables comparative analysis of trends across the spectrum of abilities.

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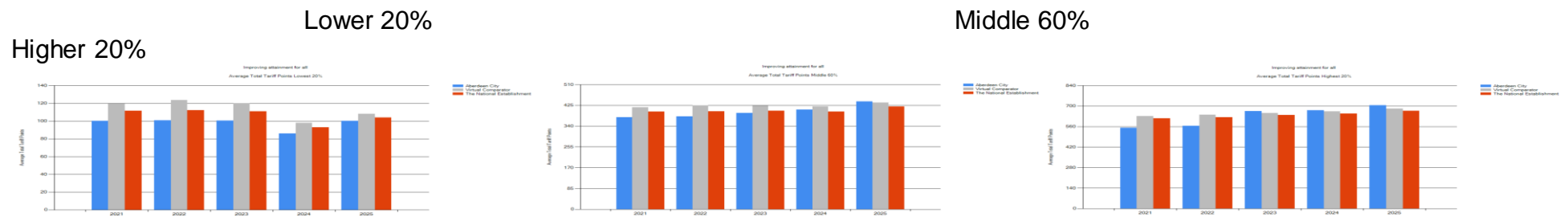
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The graphs below shows the performance of learners split into the Lower 20 percentile (L20), Middle 60 percentile (M60) and Highest 20 percentile (H20) quintiles of candidate attainment. The charts below outline outcomes from leavers across all Senior Phase stages. It should be borne in mind that completion of a proportion of course activity may be undertaken across more than a single stage.

#### Attainment for All - S4 -S6

##### Stage 4



- The lowest 20% performance has increased compared to 2024 although the overall picture remains mixed. The figure remains behind the Virtual Comparator although the gap has narrowed this year.
- The middle 60% performance shows an increasing three-year trend with the current year now showing ahead of the Virtual Comparator.
- The Highest 20% performance shows an increasing three-year trend with the figure showing ahead of the Virtual Comparator for three consecutive years.
- The performance of targeted groups in the Lowest 20% is mixed, broadly reflecting the mixed picture in this group as a whole. Young people with English as an Additional Language, and in Quintile 1 have shown an improvement in 2025 and are ahead of the

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VC whilst the three-year trend is mixed. However, the performance of young people with Additional Support Needs and entitled to Free School Meals shows behind the Virtual Comparator.

- The performance of targeted groups in the Middle 60% represents a broadly positive picture, reflecting improvements in the group overall. Young people with Additional Support Needs, and Quintile 1 show a three-year improving trend with the figure ahead of the Virtual Comparator.
- Young people with English as an Additional Language have shown an increase compared on the previous year with the figure ahead of the Virtual Comparator. Performance for young people entitled to Free School Meals, and with Care Experience shows improvement on the previous year but is still behind the Virtual Comparator.

The performance of targeted groups in the Highest 20% represents something of a mixed picture.

- Young people with English as an Additional Language continue to perform well with an increasing trend and ahead of the Virtual Comparator. Young people with Additional Support Needs show an increase on the previous year and are ahead of the Virtual Comparator. However, young people with entitlement to Free School Meals, Care Experience and those in Quintile 1 show behind the Virtual Comparator despite a mixed picture across the last three years.

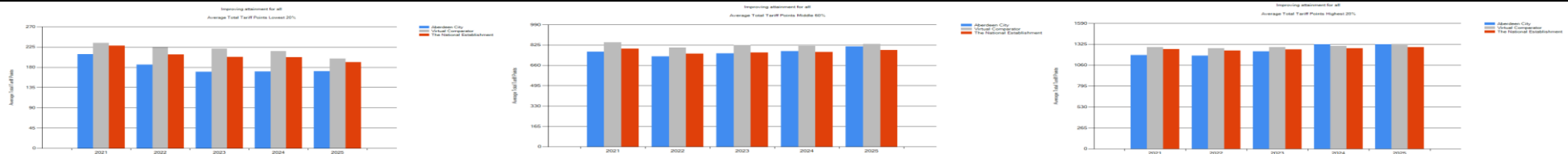
#### Stage 5

	Lower 20%	Middle 60%
Highest 20%		

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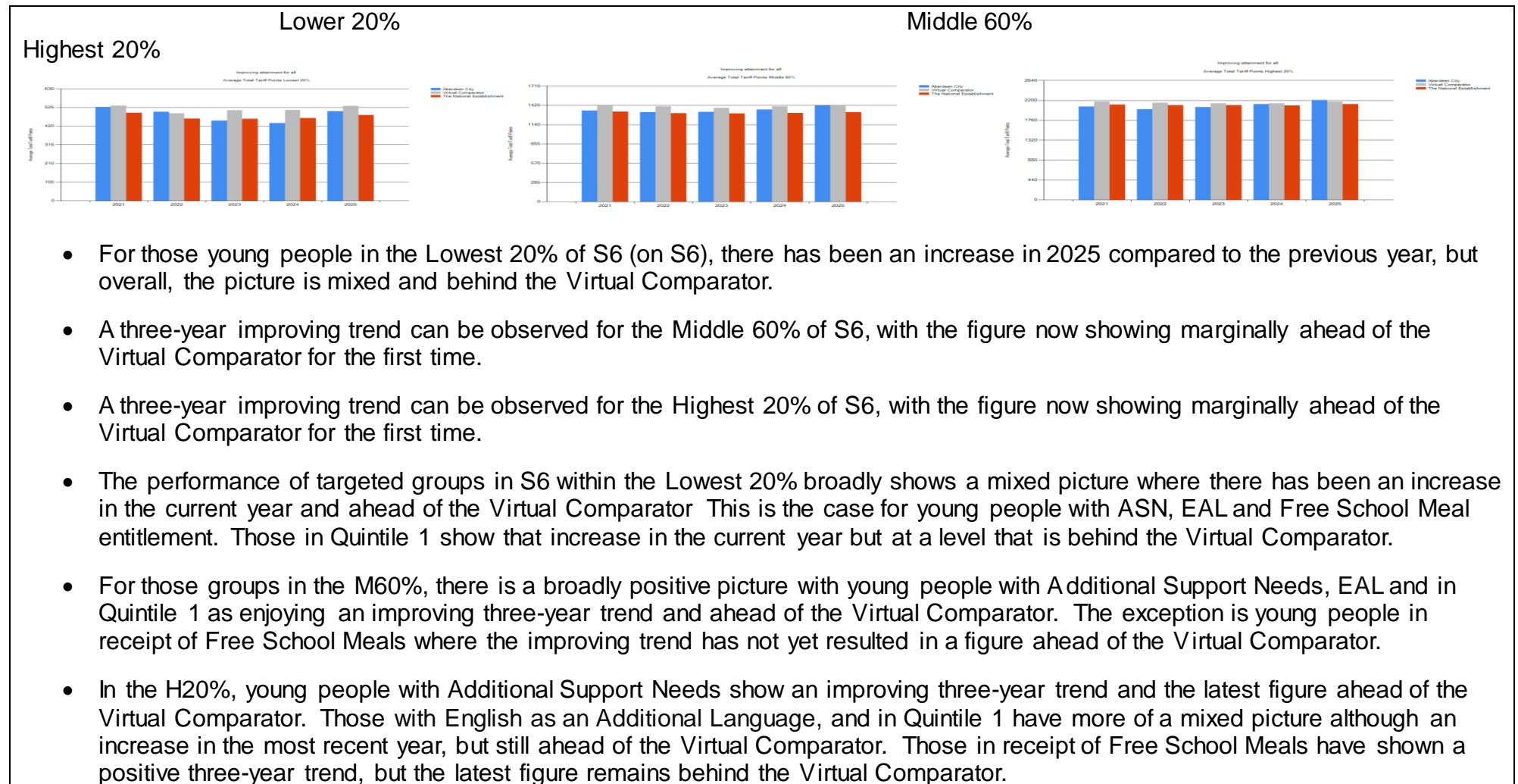


- For young people in the Lowest 20% of S5 (on S5 roll), there has been a slight increase in 2025 compared to the previous year with the overall figure holding steady and showing behind the Virtual Comparator.
- For those in the Middle 60%, there is an increasing three-year trend, and the figure shows as approaching the Virtual Comparator.
- For those in the Highest 20%, there is a slight increasing three-year trend, and the figure shows ahead of the Virtual Comparator for the second consecutive year.
- The performance of targeted groups in the Lowest 20% largely shows a mixed picture and figures that are behind the Virtual Comparator. Young people with ASN, FSM and those in Quintile 1 fall into this category. Young people with EAL show an increasing trend and are ahead of the Virtual Comparator.
- For targeted groups in the Middle 60%, the picture is broadly positive.
- Young people with ASN, EAL and those in Quintile 1 show figures following a three-year increasing trend and now ahead of the Virtual Comparator. The exceptions are for those in receipt of Free School Meals or Care Experience where the picture is mixed and behind the Virtual Comparator.
- In the Highest 20%, the same targeted groups are performing well. Those with ASN, EAL and those in Quintile 1 are on a three-year increasing trend and with a figure ahead of the VC. Again, those with FSM and Care Experience contexts are behind the VC.

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- The figure for young people with Care Experience is too small to be reliable.

#### **Breadth & Depth – S4 (on S4), S5 (on S5), S6 (on S6)**

##### **Breadth & Depth**

Breadth & Depth information provides data to show the number of learners as a percentage of their cohort who achieve a series of passes in a particular SCQF level -for example those who achieve more than one pass at Level 5 in S4. The number of passes and levels selected align with those key measures highlighted within National Improvement Framework Evidence Reporting (NIFIER) and Scotland's National Performance Framework.

##### **Stage 4 (SCQF)**

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#### 2025 Post-INSIGHT Attainment Summary

S4 (onS4) SCQF 2025 VC Comparison	Cohort	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6	Number in Cohort
1 or more	2025 Aberdeen City	96.92%	94.57%	87.68%	33.69%	2045
1 or more	Virtual Comparator	97.36%	94.67%	85.73%	12.53%	20450
3 or more	2025 Aberdeen City	91.34%	88.51%	74.57%	0.39%	2045
3 or more	Virtual Comparator	93.17%	89.01%	73.46%	0.15%	20450
5 or more	2025 Aberdeen City	85.38%	81.66%	61.08%	0.00%	2045
5 or more	Virtual Comparator	87.24%	82.01%	60.02%	0.00%	20450

S4 (onS4) SCQF Three-Year Trend	Cohort	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6	Number in Cohort
1 or more	2025 Aberdeen City	96.92%	94.57%	87.68%	33.69%	2045
1 or more	2024 Aberdeen City	96.37%	93.48%	84.03%	17.56%	2010
1 or more	2023 Aberdeen City	96.60%	94.90%	84.70%	4.33%	1941
3 or more	2025 Aberdeen City	91.34%	88.51%	74.57%	0.39%	2045
3 or more	2024 Aberdeen City	90.25%	86.32%	70.35%	0.20%	2010
3 or more	2023 Aberdeen City	91.60%	89.23%	67.85%	0.00%	1941
5 or more	2025 Aberdeen City	85.38%	81.66%	61.08%	0.00%	2045
5 or more	2024 Aberdeen City	81.24%	77.71%	55.72%	0.00%	2010
5 or more	2023 Aberdeen City	80.94%	77.85%	52.70%	0.00%	1941

- **Almost all** young people in S4 (94.57%) achieved at least one Level 4 pass. **Most** (87.68%) achieved a least one Level 5 pass. **A minority** (33.69%) of young people in S4 achieved at least one Level 6 pass.
- **Less than half** of measures in 2025 for breadth and depth show ACC figures behind the VC.
- **All** measures comparing 2025 to prior year's show an increase on 2024, with **less than half** now showing a progressive three-year positive trend.

#### Stage 5 (SCQF)

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#### 2025 Post-INSIGHT Attainment Summary

S5 on S5 2025 with VC		Level 5	Level 6	Level 7	Number in Cohort
1 or more	2025 Aberdeen City	90.96%	77.36%	1.79%	1736
1 or more	Virtual Comparator	92.00%	76.64%	1.59%	17360
3 or more	2025 Aberdeen City	83.70%	58.12%	0.00%	1736
3 or more	Virtual Comparator	84.87%	58.01%	0.01%	17360
5 or more	2025 Aberdeen City	74.60%	38.25%	0.00%	1736
5 or more	Virtual Comparator	76.17%	35.87%	0.00%	17360

S5 on S5 2025 Three-Year Trend		Level 5	Level 6	Level 7	Number in Cohort
1 or more	2025 Aberdeen City	90.96%	77.36%	1.79%	1736
1 or more	2024 Aberdeen City	90.84%	71.62%	1.25%	1681
1 or more	2023 Aberdeen City	91.53%	70.48%	1.14%	1582
3 or more	2025 Aberdeen City	83.70%	58.12%	0.00%	1736
3 or more	2024 Aberdeen City	82.45%	53.90%	0.00%	1681
3 or more	2023 Aberdeen City	82.05%	53.41%	0.13%	1582
5 or more	2025 Aberdeen City	74.60%	38.25%	0.00%	1736
5 or more	2024 Aberdeen City	71.74%	33.67%	0.00%	1681
5 or more	2023 Aberdeen City	69.91%	30.03%	0.00%	1582

- **Almost all** young people in S5 achieved at least one Level 5 SCQF pass. **Most** young people in S5 achieved at least one Level 6 SCQF pass. **A few** young people in S5 achieved a Level 7 SCQF pass.
- **Almost all** measures in S5 comparing ACC performance with prior years showed an improvement in breadth and depth for SCQF. **A majority** of these show a clear three-year improving trend.

#### Stage 6 (SCQF)

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S6 on S6 SCQF Comp with VC		Level 5	Level 6	Level 7	Number in Cohort
1 or more	2025 Aberdeen City	96.77%	93.84%	44.09%	1023
1 or more	Virtual Comparator	97.97%	93.64%	48.46%	10230
3 or more	2025 Aberdeen City	95.60%	85.53%	13.49%	1023
3 or more	Virtual Comparator	95.82%	84.08%	9.26%	10230
5 or more	2025 Aberdeen City	91.69%	70.97%	0.39%	1023
5 or more	Virtual Comparator	91.49%	69.42%	0.09%	10230

S6 on S6 SCQF Three-Year Trend		Level 5	Level 6	Level 7	Number in Cohort
1 or more	2025 Aberdeen City	96.77%	93.84%	44.09%	1023
1 or more	2024 Aberdeen City	96.57%	91.43%	43.15%	992
1 or more	2023 Aberdeen City	96.84%	91.36%	44.68%	949
3 or more	2025 Aberdeen City	95.60%	85.53%	13.49%	1023
3 or more	2024 Aberdeen City	93.85%	80.34%	12.40%	992
3 or more	2023 Aberdeen City	94.52%	81.35%	10.75%	949
5 or more	2025 Aberdeen City	91.69%	70.97%	0.39%	1023
5 or more	2024 Aberdeen City	87.90%	66.63%	0.30%	992
5 or more	2023 Aberdeen City	89.78%	63.86%	0.32%	949

- **Almost all** young people achieved at least one Level 6 SCQF award in Stage 6. **Just under half** of S6 achieved a Level 7 SCQF award.
- **All** measures for SCQF performance in breadth and depth in Stage 6 showed progression compared to the prior year. In **a minority** of cases, this represents a positive three-year journey.

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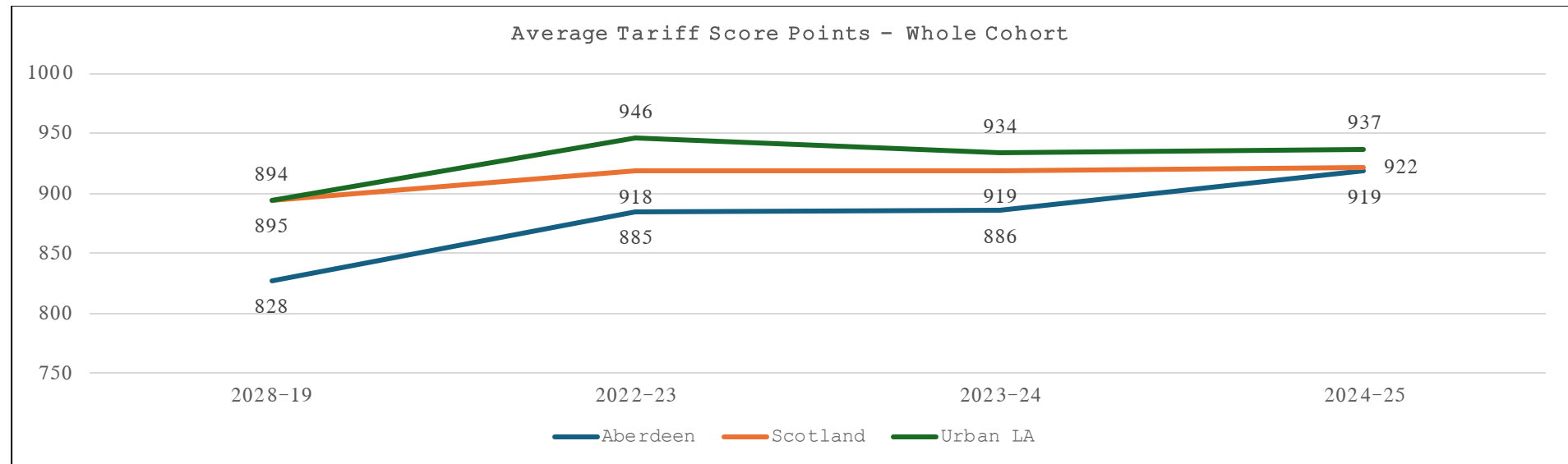
As a supplement to the INSIGHT data presented above, the Scottish Local Government Benchmarking Framework has recently released benchmarked Tariff Score data which encompasses the fourth core focus of attainment 'Attainment in the Context of Deprivation'. Summary comments around the outcomes from this release, derived from data shared by the Scottish Government with the Improvement Service are captured below.

These data are not classified as Official Statistics but assist local authorities to understand the relative outcomes of Senior Phase pupils out with the context of formal SCQF National and Virtual Comparator benchmarks.

As with the INSIGHT data, year-to year variations, and those between comparators, which are less than 1% should generally be regarded as representing stable or equal performance, respectively. This principle takes some account of natural variations in cohort sizes and profiles between years and across benchmarks.

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- In contrast to the National and Urban LA benchmarks, which are stable, **the SCQF Average Tariff Score for all pupils presented in 2024/25 has risen substantially in comparison with each previous year** ( with the exception of 2021/22) of this measure. The distances to both the National figure and the Large Urban Average benchmark are on a materially closing trend.
- In 2024/25, Aberdeen City is ranked **12<sup>th</sup> out of 32 Local Authorities for this measure, the highest placing to date**

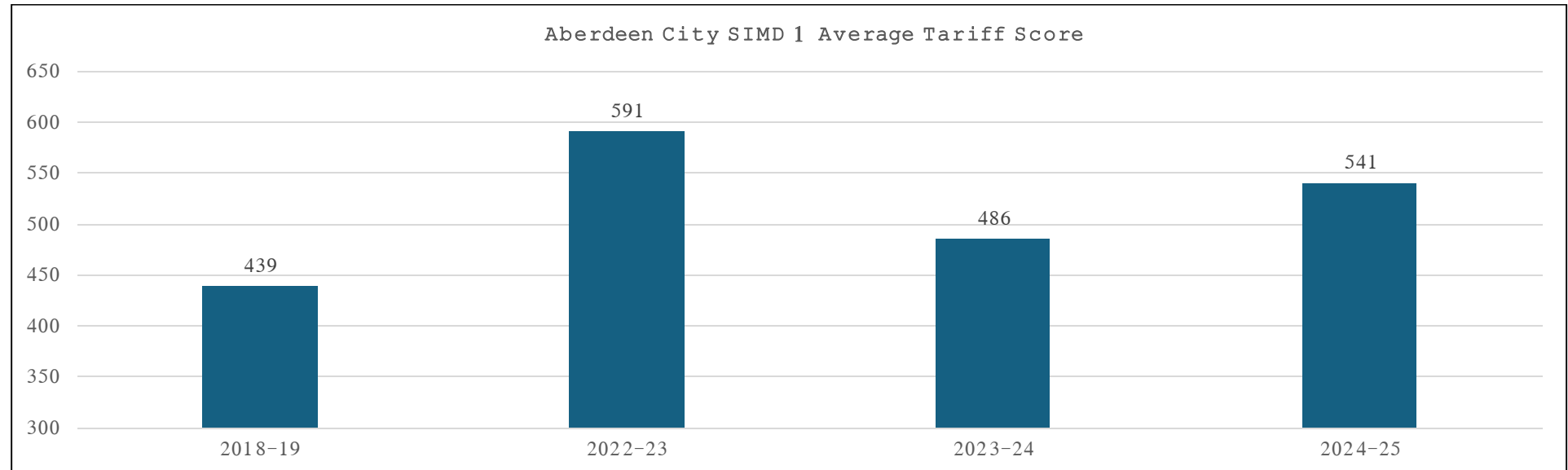
## SIMD 1

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- Average Tariff Scores for Aberdeen pupils in the **Most Deprived Quintile ( SIMD 1)** have risen ( **+11%**) **year-on-year** faster than at National level, in comparison with almost all other authorities, each of the city's Large Urban comparators, and in the context of the Urban Average figure.
- **Just under half of all Scottish Local Authorities recorded a fall in Average Tariff Scores for this SIMD cohort in 2024/25.**
- **The city has moved upwards into the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quartile** of LA rankings for this measure, equalling the previous highest placing ( excluding 2022/23) over the timeline of this measure.

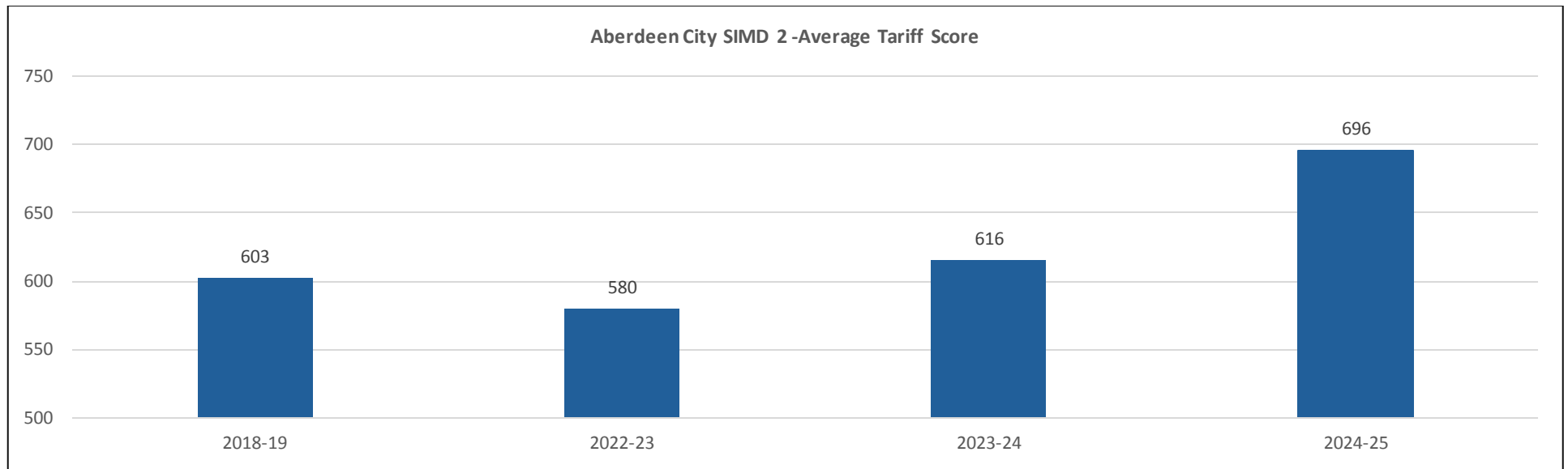
### SIMD 2

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- The city has recorded a significant increase in Tariff Scores of pupils within SIMD 2, **achieving the highest score to date over the full course of this measure.**
- **The year-on year % increase of 12.9% is amongst the largest annual improvements** to date for Aberdeen, and amongst all local authorities in 2024/25. It also represents a substantial closing of the distances to those outcomes at National ( 772 points) and Urban Comparator levels.
- The city is placed 21<sup>st</sup> out of 32 Scottish Local Authorities, a material improvement in the city's relative placement after a period of comparatively low performance for this measure. **This is particularly pleasing given the focus on attainment in SIMD 2 that had been applied during the 2024/25 academic year.**



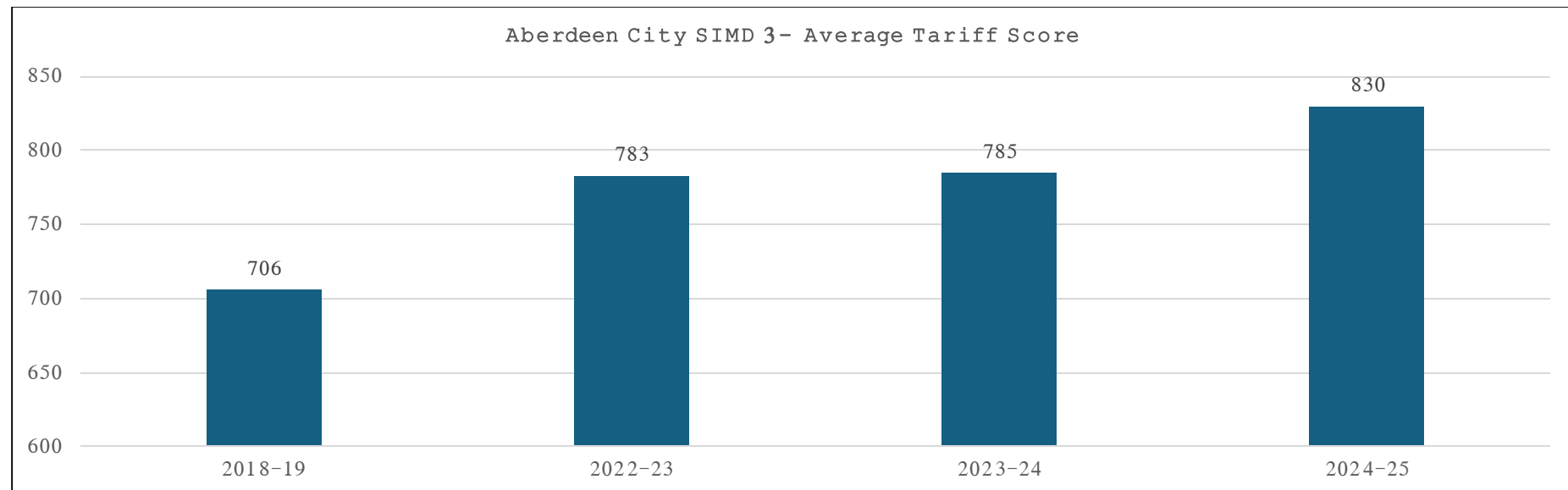
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#### SIMD 3



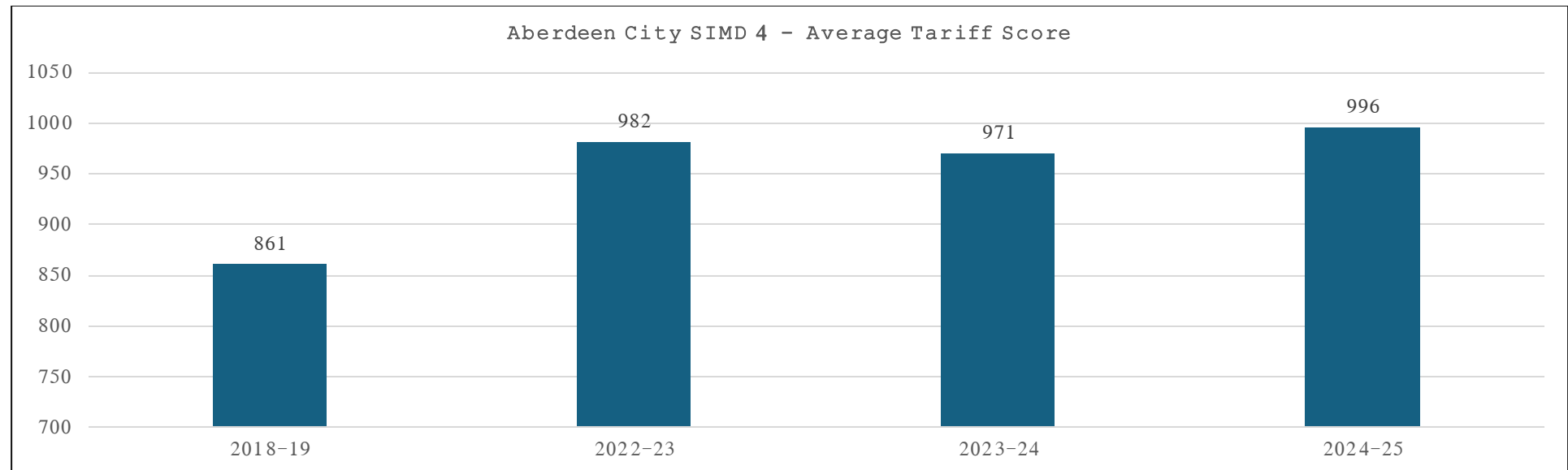
- With an improvement rate of 5.7%, **the 2024/25 Tariff Score for pupils in SIMD 3 equals the previous high for this measure recorded in 2021/22.**
- Against a background of static year-to-year change at National and Urban comparator levels, there has been some closing of the distances to both of these comparators, and **an improvement in the city's relative standing into the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quartile of Local Authority performance.**
- **Just under half of all LA's recorded a year-on-year fall in this outcome** in comparison with 2023/24, of which six are either geographic or affluence related benchmarks for the city.

#### SIMD 4

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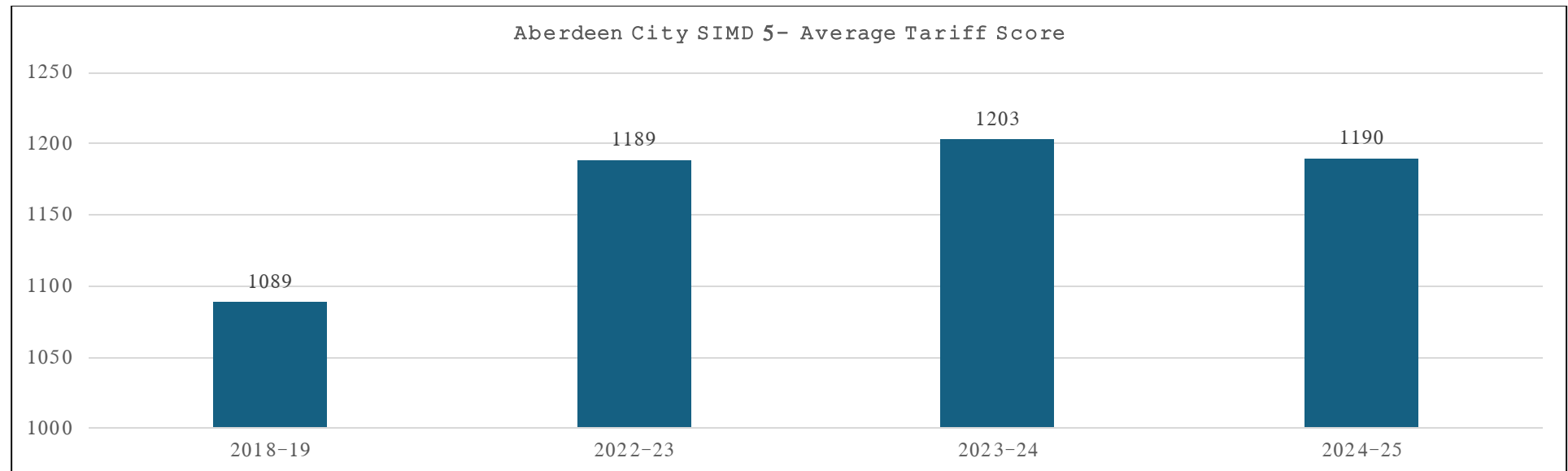
- In contrast to the majority of the city's Large Urban comparators and the National landscape, **Aberdeen saw it's 2024/25 outcome for SIMD 4 rise slightly (+2.5%)** and at a faster rate than the affluence based comparator.
- In 2024/25 more than half of all Scottish Local Authorities experienced a fall in the Tariff Score for this SIMD cohort whilst **Aberdeen recorded the highest Tariff Score for SIMD 4 pupils to date.**
- This has closed the distances between Aberdeen and each of its comparators and **represents a third consecutive year in which the city's relative standing is improved.**

## SIMD 5

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- **The Tariff Scores for those in the Least Deprived Quintile has remained stable for a second consecutive year.** This pattern is consistent with the picture for National and Large Urban comparators, although marginally below both benchmarks.
- The 2024-25 outcome **closes the distance to the affluence based Family Group Average** which saw a small decline year-on-year (-2.7%) to 1257 points and has resulted in Aberdeen City making gains in the ranked position within the second quartile of performance, which is the **highest relative standing to date for this measure.**
- **This is only the third year in which Aberdeen City has been placed in the second quartile of performance for this measure and represents a four year improvement trend in our relative standings.**