



REPORT TO: CORPORATE COMMITTEE ON 31 JANUARY 2023

SUBJECT: LOCAL GOVERNMENT BENCHMARKING FRAMEWORK 2020-21 RESULTS

BY: DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE (EDUCATION, COMMUNITIES & ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT)

1. REASON FOR REPORT

1.1 The reason for this report is to present to the Committee with a corporate overview of benchmarking performance data for the period 2020-21.

1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section III A (4) of the Council's Scheme of Administration relating to monitoring performance in accordance with the Council's performance management framework.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee consider and note the Council's performance in terms of a corporate overview of benchmarking results.

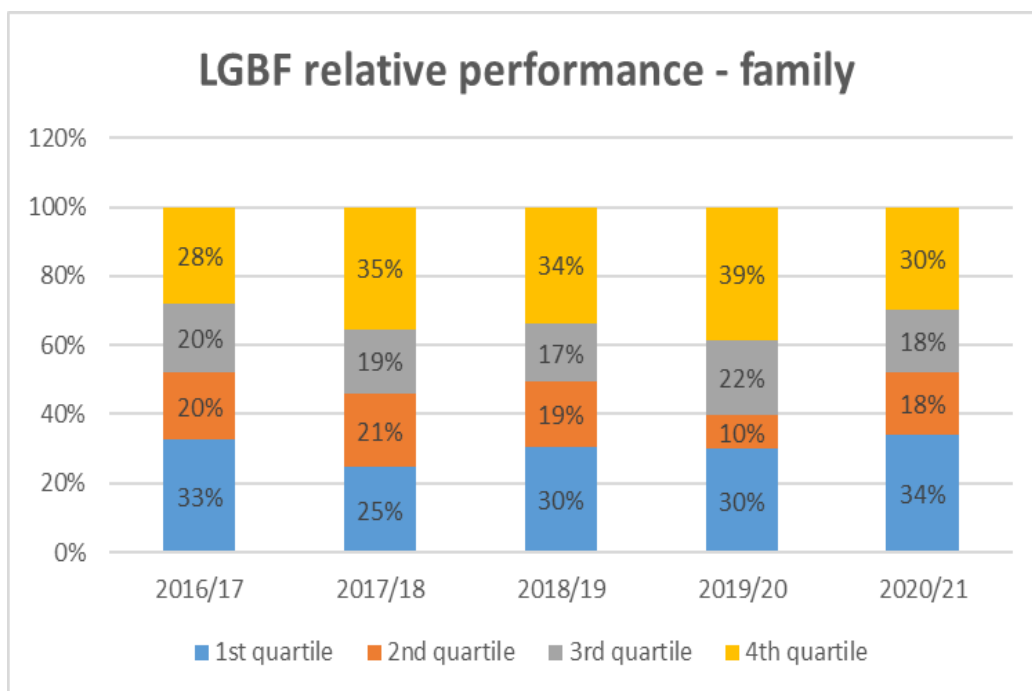
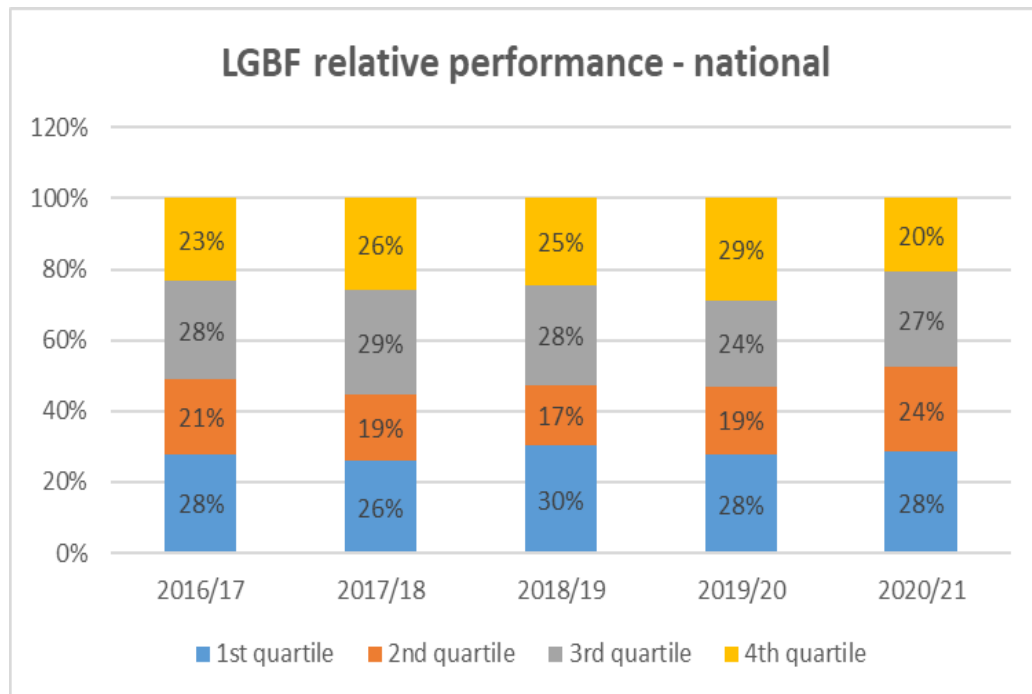
3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Local Government Benchmarking Framework data, fully published in July 2022 informs the National Benchmarking Overview Report 2020-21. The majority of results are gathered from national sources following annual data submissions that are subject to extensive validation processes, a contributory factor to the time-lag in publication and reporting. There are a limited number of results supplied directly by local authorities. The full suite of benchmarking data can be viewed using My Local Council tool. Results and commentary on 2020-21 results were included in 2021-22 quarter 4 performance reports submitted to service committees in line with the Council's performance management framework.

3.2 The summary (**Appendix 1**) includes –

- i) notes to results by exception (indicators ranked in lowest quartile)
- ii) bullet points highlighting results that have improved / worsened by 5% (based on previous year)
- iii) tables detailing all indicator results presented by service themes

- 3.3 Caution on making direct comparison between years due to significant impact of Covid-19 on more recent results, however an assessment of results can be inferred to an extent. The tables show that there has been an overall improvement in performance with indicator result values improved to a greater margin (62%) than those that have worsened (38%).
- 3.4 There has been notable positive movement in the percentage of indicators ranked by quartiles in both national and family groupings.



- 3.5 Indicators featuring in the lowest quartile (ranked 25th to 32nd) have been scrutinised in relation to improvements by the relevant Service Committees; Education, Children's and Leisure Services on 8 June 2022, Corporate on 14 June 2022, Economic Development and Infrastructure and Housing and Community Safety on 21 June 2022 as part of 2021/22 Quarter 4 Performance Reports.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Corporate Plan and 10 Year Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP))

The Council and its partners have agreed priorities in the LOIP, with a range of outcome targets included for each of the priorities. It will be important that service committees keep those targets in mind when reviewing the performance data in the national benchmarking results, for two reasons:

1. To recognise that to achieve success the targets might mean weaker performance in non-priority areas, and
2. To consider whether the priorities and targets should be reviewed or amended in light of the information contained with the national benchmarking results.

(b) Policy and Legal

The Council has a statutory obligation to publish a range of information that will demonstrate that it is securing best value and assist in comparing performance both over time and between authorities where appropriate.

(c) Financial implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

(d) Risk Implications

There are no direct risk implications arising from this report although effective performance management assists in the management of risk.

(e) Staffing Implications

There are no direct staffing implications arising from this report.

(f) Property

None.

(g) Equalities/Socio Economic Impact

An Equality Impact Assessment is not needed because the report is to inform the committee on performance issues.

(h) Climate Change and Biodiversity Impacts

None

(i) Consultations

Heads of Service and Service Managers have been consulted and reports have gone to relevant service committees.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 In 2020-21, 52% of Local Government Benchmarking Framework indicator results featured in the top 16 of 32 Scottish councils.**
- 5.2 When compared to national and comparator performance, improvement can be inferred due to positive movement in rankings across quartiles.**

Author of Report: Louise Marshall, Strategy and Performance Manager
Background Papers: [National Benchmarking Overview Report 2020-21](#)
[My Local Council](#)
[Performance Report \(Financial Services\) Period to March 2022](#)
[Performance Report \(Human Resources, Information Communications Technology and Organisational Development\) Period to March 2022](#)
[Performance Report \(Governance, Strategy and Performance\) Period to March 2022](#)
[Performance Report \(Economic Growth and Development Services\) - Period to March 2022](#)
[Performance Report \(Environmental and Commercial Services\) - Period to March 2022](#)
[Q4 2021-22 Performance Report - Education - Period to March 2022](#)
[Q4 2021-22 Performance Report - Education Resources and Communities - Period to March 2022](#)
[Q4 2021-22 Performance Report - Children and Families and Criminal Justice Social Work - Period to March 2022](#)

Ref: SPMAN-2045703626-215 / SPMAN-2045703626-217