



REPORT TO: AUDIT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ON 25 JUNE 2024

**SUBJECT: LOCAL GOVERNMENT BENCHMARKING FRAMEWORK 2022-23
AND 2021-22 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 a corporate overview of benchmarking performance data for the period 2022-23 and 2021-22.
- 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.

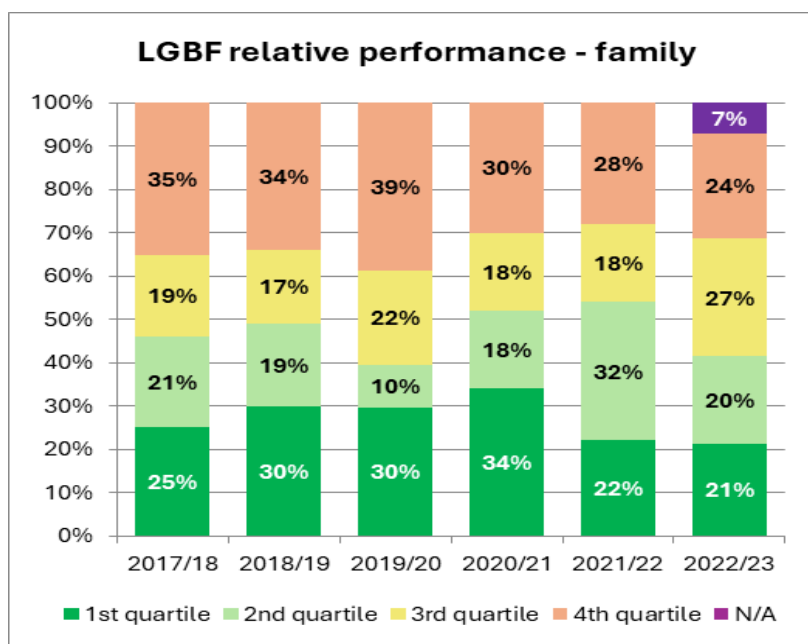
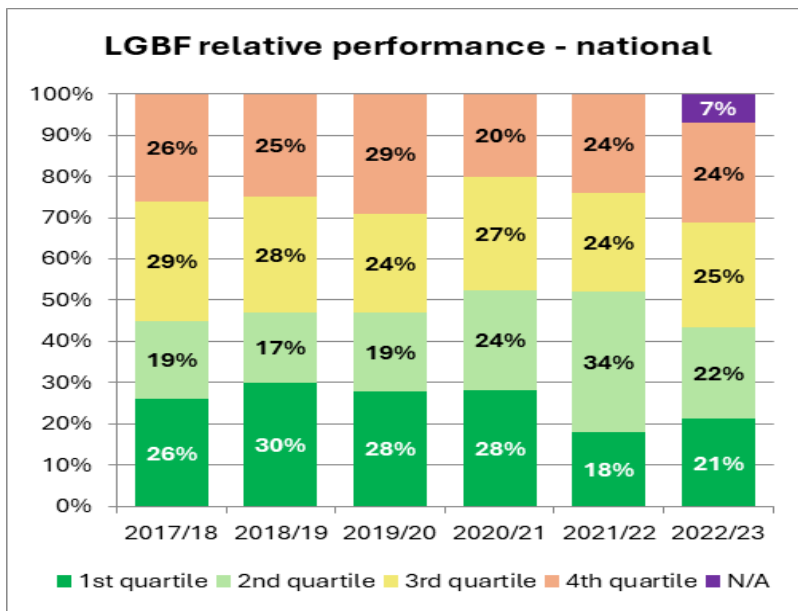
2. RECOMMENDATION

- 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 (LGBF) data, most results are published annually by late summer that informs the National Benchmarking Overview Report. 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. A limited number of results are supplied directly by local authorities. The full suite of benchmarking data can be viewed using the [LGBF Dashboard](#).
- 3.2 Results and commentary on benchmarking performance are included in Quarter 4 performance reports submitted to service committees in line with the Council's performance management framework.
- 3.3 In response to previous member comments, for indicators in the lowest quartile, where a more up to date position has been reported to service Committee, this has been reflected in the narrative.

- 3.4 With work relating to budget savings and the corporate plan taking priority in the latter part of 2023, reporting of the 2021/22 corporate overview of benchmarking data was delayed to such an extent most results for 2022/23 have been published, therefore 2021/22 data is provided for information and to show performance trends, however the narrative and focus presented in the corporate overview relates to 2022/23, addressing the requirements of the Council's Performance Management Framework.
- 3.5 Nine indicators are not due for publication in 2022/23 due to national reporting timescales, or they are no longer being collected locally. The remaining seven indicator results yet to be published cover child poverty, housing energy efficiency and carbon emissions. Results will be reported when they are published.
- 3.6 The summary (**Appendix 1**) for 2022/23 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 for both years.
- 3.7 The summary (**Appendix 2**) for 2021/22 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).
- 3.8 Caution is advised on making direct comparison between years due to significant impact of Covid-19 on more recent results, however an assessment based on available 2022/23 results can be inferred to an extent. The tables show that, for indicators currently published (92), there has been an overall drop in performance with indicator result values worsening to a greater margin (53%) than those that have improved (46%).
- 3.9 Assuming no significant change in rankings for the seven indicators yet to be updated, a shift towards the lower quartiles can be inferred in both national and family groupings.



3.10 Indicators featuring in the lowest quartile (ranked 25th to 32nd) have been scrutinised in relation to improvements by the relevant Service Committees as part of 2023/24 Quarter 4 Performance Reports, links where available are provided as background papers. **Appendix 1** provides a commentary on these indicators and the actions that are planned to address them. However, it is recognised that a number of the indicators have been consistently reported for some time. Therefore, the current position will be reviewed further by the Corporate Management Team to scrutinise and ensure actions to secure improvement in priority areas and the outcome of this will be reported to a future committee to ensure that the council is focussed on continuing to improve performance to meet its priorities.

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 improving local services and local outcomes, demonstrating best value and assisting 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 on reports submitted to relevant service committees.

5. **CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 In 2022-23, based on publication of results to date, 43% of Local Government Benchmarking Framework indicator results feature in the top 16 of 32 Scottish councils compared to 52% in 2021-22.
- 5.2 When compared to national and comparator performance, there may be slight movement in rankings towards the lower quartiles in 2022-23 following a shift from first to second quartiles in 2021/22 results.
- 5.3 The Corporate Management Team plan to undertake further review of performance information and proposed improvement actions to ensure that priority is given to improving in areas to ensure the Council priorities are met and the outcome of this will be reported to a future committee.

Author of Report: Louise Marshall, Strategy and Performance Manager
Background Papers: [National Benchmarking Overview Report 2021-22](#)
[National Benchmarking Overview Report 2022-23](#)
[LGBF Dashboards](#)
[Performance Report \(Financial Services\) Period to March 2023 and March 2024](#)
[Performance Report \(Human Resources, Information Communications Technology and Organisational Development\) Period to March 2023 and March 2024](#)
[Performance Report \(Governance, Strategy and Performance\) Period to March 2023 and March 2024](#)
[Performance Report \(Economic Growth and Development Services\) - Period to March 2023 and March 2024](#)
[Performance Report \(Environmental and Commercial Services\) - Period to March 2023 and March 2024](#)
[Performance Report \(Housing and Property Services\) – Period to March 2023 and March 2024](#)
[Performance Report \(Education\) - Period to March 2023 and March 2024](#)
[Performance Report \(Education Resources and Communities\) - Period to March 2023 and March 2024](#)
[Performance Report \(Children and Families and Criminal Justice Social Work\) - Period to March 2023](#)

Ref: SPMAN-2045703626-423 / SPMAN-2045703626-405
SPMAN-2045703626-391