



REPORT TO: AUDIT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ON 29 JANUARY 2020

SUBJECT: LOCAL GOVERNMENT BENCHMARKING FRAMEWORK 2017/18 RESULTS

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

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 The reason for this report is to present to the Committee benchmarking performance data for the period 2017/18 following publication of national results and national report.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section III (I) (15) of the Council's Scheme of Administration relating to reviewing how performance information can be used to improve performance and receiving reports on trends within all council services.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee considers and notes the Council's performance in terms of informing potential future agenda items.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Local Government Benchmarking Framework data, published in December 2018 informs the National Benchmarking Report. The data is refreshed in March 2019 and again in July 2019 to incorporate the national publication of indicator results.
- 3.2 The summary (**Appendix 1**) includes -
- a performance summary against Local Government Benchmarking Framework indicators for Moray
 - detailed breakdown of results and rankings in the 2 years to 2017/18 for each indicator
- 3.3 Direct comparison between years is not possible due to the change in the number of indicators, however an assessment of results can be inferred to an

extent. The tables show that there has been an overall decline in performance; with indicator result values having declined to a greater margin (52%) than those that have improved (32%).

- 3.4 The proportion of indicators where Moray is ranked in the top quartile (ranked 1st – 8th) compared to all other Scottish local authorities has largely remained unchanged from 2016-17. The largest shift has been a decrease in indicators placed in quartile 2 (ranked 9th-16th) and the subsequent increase in indicators placed in quartile 3 (ranked 17th-24th).
- 3.5 Moray is placed in a comparator group of 8 local authorities to provide more relevant benchmarks. Against comparator authorities Moray has seen a notable decrease in indicators placed in the top quartile (ranked 1st or 2nd), while there has been an increase in indicators placed in the lowest quartile (7th or 8th).
- 3.6 The following tables summarise the Local Government Benchmarking Framework results for 2017-18 compared against the national and family group context:

Rank in Scotland (32 authorities)	2017/18	2016/17
1 st quartile (1-8)	22 indicators	23 indicators
2 nd quartile (9-16)	13 indicators	17 indicators
3 rd quartile (17-24)	24 indicators	21 indicators
4 th quartile (25-32)	19 indicators	18 indicators
	78 indicators	79 indicators
Rank in Family Group (8 authorities)	2017/18	2016/17
1 st quartile (1-2)	21 indicators	27 indicators
2 nd quartile (3-4)	15 indicators	14 indicators
3 rd quartile (5-6)	15 indicators	17 indicators
4 th quartile (7-8)	27 indicators	21 indicators
	78 indicators	79 indicators

Rank in Scotland (32 authorities)	Change between 2016/17 and 2017/18
Improved	25 indicators
Worsened	41 indicators
Unchanged	12 indicators
Rank in Family Group (8 authorities)	Change between 2016/17 and 2017/18
Improved	12 indicators
Worsened	33 indicators
Unchanged	33 indicators

- 3.7 Indicators featuring in the lowest quartile (ranked 25th to 32nd) have been scrutinised in relation to potential improvement by the relevant Service Committees.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

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

The council and its partners have agreed set out 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 within 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) Consultations

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

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 In 2017/18, 45% of Local Government Benchmarking indicator results featured in the top 16 of 32 Scottish councils.

5.2 When compared to national and comparator performance, the majority of indicators have remained within the same ranked position as last year. Generally, any movement has been around quartile 3 where there has been an increase of indicators placed.

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Background Papers:	Held by author
Ref:	