



REPORT TO: AUDIT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ON 16 JUNE 2021

SUBJECT: LOCAL GOVERNMENT BENCHMARKING FRAMEWORK 2019-20 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 2019-20.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section III I (17) and (20) 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. REASON FOR URGENCY

- 2.1 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985, on the Chair certifying that, in his opinion it required to be considered on the grounds of urgency in order to ensure the Committee has a timely update on the Council's benchmarking performance data.

3. RECOMMENDATION

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

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Local Government Benchmarking Framework data, published in February 2021 informs the National Benchmarking Overview Report 2019-20. The data was refreshed in May 2021 to incorporate the national publication of indicator results. The full suite can be viewed using My Local Council tool.
- 4.2 Performance reporting was deferred as Covid-19 responses took priority during the spring and summer 2020 period. Resources have thereafter been directed to re-instating performance reporting arrangements in a changed

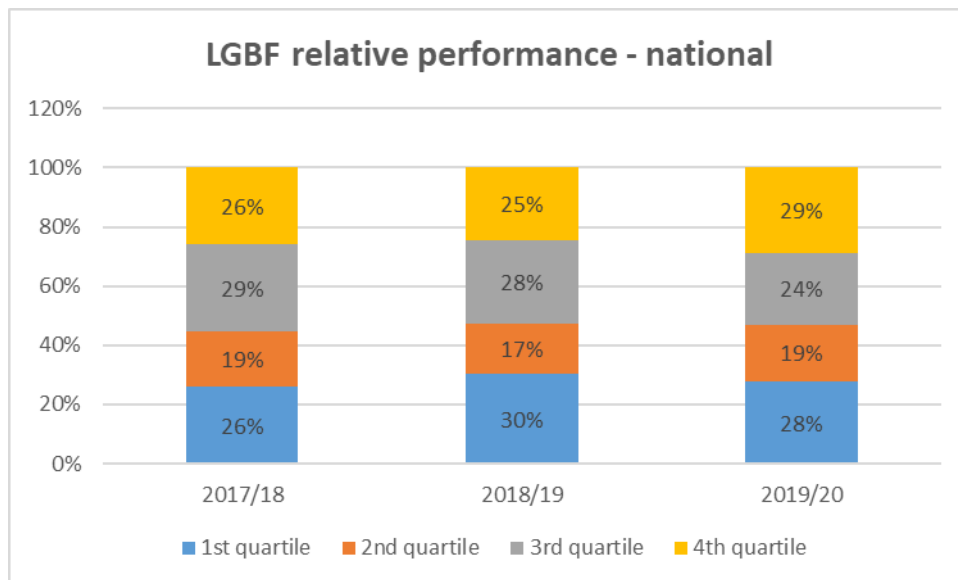
landscape as set out in Council's Performance Management Framework on a priority basis. As a result, this report also incorporates 2018-19 data as due to the time elapsed perhaps limited value in terms of reporting separately.

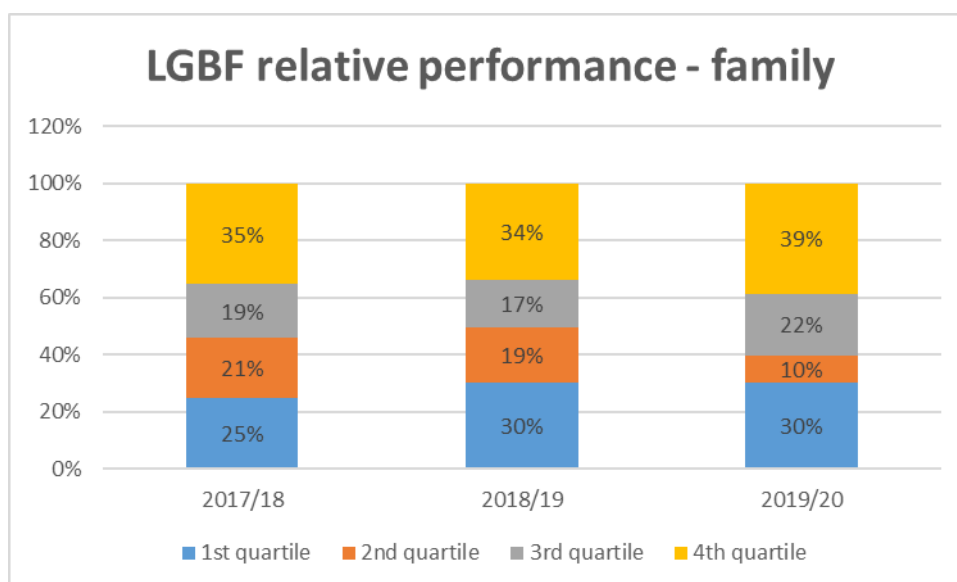
4.3 The summary (**Appendix 1**) includes –

- i) results summary based on previous 12 months of results improving / worsening by 5%
- ii) tables detailing all indicator results presented by service themes and a performance summary for each service theme focused on exception (indicators placed in the lowest quartile)

4.4 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 table of indicator results in the appendix show that there has been an overall improvement in performance with indicator result values improved to a greater margin (54%) than those that have worsened (46%).

4.5 The proportion of indicators where Moray is ranked in the top quartile (ranked 1st – 8th) compared to all other Scottish local authorities and within the family grouping improved slightly.





- 4.6 Indicators featuring in the lowest quartile (ranked 25th to 32nd) have been scrutinised in relation to improvements by the relevant Service Committees; Education, Communities and Organisational Development on 26 May 2021 and Economic Growth, Housing and Environmental Sustainability on 8 June 2021 as part of 2020/21 Quarter 4 Performance Reporting.

5. **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) Consultations

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

6. CONCLUSION

6.1 In 2019/20, 47% of Local Government Benchmarking Framework indicator results featured in the top 16 of 32 Scottish councils.

6.2 When compared to national and comparator performance, the improvement in indicator results does not appear to be having a significant impact on rankings suggesting a greater rate of improvement in other authorities.

Author of Report: Louise Marshall, Strategy and Performance Manager

Background Papers: [National Benchmarking Overview Report 2019/20](#)
LGBF [My Local Council](#) tool

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