



REPORT TO: AUDIT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ON 4 DECEMBER 2018

SUBJECT: LOCAL GOVERNMENT BENCHMARKING FRAMEWORK 2016/17 RESULTS

BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 The reason for this report is to present to the Committee benchmarking performance data for the period 2016/17 following publication of national results and national report.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section III I (17) and (20) of the Council's Administrative Scheme 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 informs the National Benchmarking Report. The data is refreshed in March and again in July 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 2016/17 for each indicator
- 3.3 Direct comparison between years is not possible due to the fluctuation in the number of indicators, however an assessment of results can be inferred to an extent. The tables show that there has been a slight drop in performance; with indicator result values having worsened to a slightly greater margin (49%) than those that have improved (47%).
- 3.4 This should be balanced against the council's positioning in the national picture which shows a small decrease in terms of the percentage of indicators

categorised in the top (53%) / lowest (47%) sixteen councils compared to last year, 60% and 40% respectively. On further investigation against all other Scottish councils, the movement seems to have been around quartile 3, which reassuringly is at neither extreme where in equal measure, indicators have dropped down as well as encouragingly pushed up. The majority of indicators (61%) having remained within the same ranked position as last year.

- 3.5 Moray is placed in a comparator group of 8 local authorities to provide more relevant benchmarks, the tables show that again movement is around quartile 3 but with more certainty in an upward direction of travel with indicators moving into quartiles 1 and 2 suggesting that the Council's performance is either improving at a greater rate / or worsening to a lesser extent than those in our family group. Similarly the majority of indicators (58%) have remained within the same ranked position as last year.

Indicators	Values
Improved	34 indicators
Worsened	35 indicators
No Change	3 indicators

- 3.6 Local Government Benchmarking Framework allows results to be placed in a national and family group context:

Rank in Scotland (32 authorities)	2016/17	2015/16
1 st quartile (1-8)	23 indicators	23 indicators
2 nd quartile (9-16)	15 indicators	22 indicators
3 rd quartile (17-24)	18 indicators	9 indicators
4 th quartile (25-32)	16 indicators	21 indicators
Total	72 indicators	75 indicators
Rank in Family Group (8 authorities)	2016/17	2015/16
1 st quartile (1-2)	26 indicators	22 indicators
2 nd quartile (3-4)	13 indicators	10 indicators
3 rd quartile (5-6)	13 indicators	22 indicators
4 th quartile (7-8)	20 indicators	21 indicators
Total	72 indicators	75 indicators

Rank in Scotland (32 authorities)	Change between 2015/16 and 2016/17
Improved	13 indicators
Worsened	15 indicators
Unchanged	44 indicators
Rank in Family Group (8 authorities)	Change between 2015/16 and 2016/17
Improved	20 indicators
Worsened	10 indicators
Unchanged	42 indicators

- 3.7 In 2016/17, sixteen indicators featured in the lowest quartile nationally:

- Secondary schools senior phase attainment and tariff scores
 - Children looked after in a community setting
 - Gender pay gap
 - Operational buildings condition
 - Satisfaction with, museums, street cleanliness and local schools
 - Employability programmes
- 3.8 Tariff scores are under review with a changed approach being developed. Satisfaction indicators are based on Scottish Household Survey results, recognised as a small sample of the general public, therefore where local results from service users is available, this has been provided in the narrative of the report to complement the national data. Other areas are referenced in routine performance reports presented to service committees.
- 3.9 The majority of indicators are placed in the top 16 councils in Scotland (quartiles 1 and 2). Indicators featuring in the lowest quartile (councils ranked 25th to 32nd) have been scrutinised in relation to potential improvement by the relevant Service Committees.
- 3.10 Summary data provided could inform future agenda items if committee is minded to revisit individual areas.

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

The Corporate Policy Unit Manager has been consulted and is in agreement with the contents of this report. Service Managers provided input in terms of their response to Local Government Benchmarking Framework results.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 In 2016/17, 53% 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, movement has been around quartile 3 in a positive direction of travel. There has been a reduction in the number of indicators ranked within the lowest quartile (lowest 8).

Author of Report:	Louise Marshall, Performance Management Officer
Background Papers:	Held by author
Ref:	