



REPORT TO: AUDIT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ON 10 JUNE 2015

**SUBJECT: LOCAL GOVERNMENT BENCHMARKING FRAMEWORK 2013/14
FAMILY GROUP RESULTS**

BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. REASON FOR URGENCY/REPORT

- 1.1 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 requires to be considered on the grounds of urgency in order to give early consideration to Local Government Benchmarking Framework family group results for the period 2013/14. The timescale proved challenging in collating the data in the format required coupled with competing priorities relating to year end performance reporting commitments for 2014/15.
- 1.2 The reason for this report is to present to the Committee results of other local authorities within the Council's family group as requested following submission of summary data to the meeting of this Committee in April 2015 (item 4a of the Agenda refers) and to brief members of the Committee on how the indicators in the Local Government Benchmarking Framework were selected.
- 1.3 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 the Council's performance against National and Family Group results in terms of informing potential future agenda items.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In the report 'Local Government Benchmarking Framework 2013/14 Results' presented to the meeting of this Committee on 15 April 2014, benchmarking

information in summary format was considered helpful in order to analyse Moray's performance against family group and national averages but members requested that the provision of Family Group results would assist with scrutiny and that this should be provided in a further report to the next meeting.

3.2 The tables (Appendix 1) include

- detailed breakdown of results and ranking for 2012/13 and 2013/14
- family Group results for 2013/14
- narrative relating to each section drawn from the National Overview Report published by Improvement Service aimed at adding a local context.

3.3 The data provided could inform future agenda items if committee is minded to revisit individual areas.

3.4 Family Group Benchmarking activity progresses inline with the schedule set out below albeit indicative timescales have been subject to slippage. Benchmarking family groups are led by services within councils and while they will ultimately be self-sustaining, they have had support from the Improvement Service in the initial set up phase. The benchmarking schedule endorsed by the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives aims to embed benchmarking across all service areas where there is not already existing arrangements in place. Moray is within Family Group 2 for People Services (education, social work and housing) and also for Other Services (environmental services and culture / leisure services).

Phase 1 – Starting August 2014

	Sports Services	Council Tax	Waste Management	Looked After Children
FG 1	Shetland Islands	Western Isles	Highland	Edinburgh
FG 2	Perth & Kinross	North Ayrshire	Stirling	Argyll & Bute
FG 3	Renfrewshire	East Renfrewshire	Clackmannanshire	Fife
FG 4	Aberdeen City	Glasgow	Dundee	Inverclyde

Phase 2 – Starting March 2015

	Museums	Street Cleaning	Equalities	HR
FG 1	Orkney	Dumfries & Galloway	Aberdeenshire	Borders
FG 2	North Ayrshire	North Ayrshire	Fife	Fife
FG 3	Angus	Midlothian	South Lanarkshire	West Lothian
FG 4	North Lanarkshire	Falkirk	West Dunbartonshire	East Dunbartonshire

Phase 3 – Starting June 2015

Economic Development	Libraries	Support Services
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Phase 4 – Starting October 2015

Parks and Open Spaces	Trading Standards and Environmental Health	Democratic Services	Invoicing
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3.5 In response to an outstanding question raised by the Committee on how the indicators were chosen. The indicators were selected after a wide ranging consultation with councils. Agreed criteria was used to select the indicators, the criteria was that each indicator had to be:

- a) Relevant to what council services delivered to customers and citizens;
- b) Unambiguous and clearly understood;
- c) Underpinned by timely data;
- d) Accessible with clear guidelines on their application;
- e) Statistically and methodologically robust;
- f) Consistently applied across services and all councils;
- g) Cost effective to collect.

The Improvement Service hold regular Local Government Benchmarking Framework Learning Events, these are well supported by all councils and are used to review and improve aspects of the project going forward. The next scheduled event is on 17th June, focused on Family Group activity.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**(a) Moray 2023: A Plan for the Future/Service Plan/Health and Social Care Integration**

The council and its partners have agreed 5 year priorities, as set out in Moray 2023, with a range of outcome targets included in the 10 year plan 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 against the 10 year plan 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

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.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 That the Committee considers the Council's performance against National and Family Group results.

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