



REPORT TO: AUDIT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ON 3 AUGUST 2016

SUBJECT: LOCAL GOVERNMENT BENCHMARKING FRAMEWORK 2014/15 RESULTS

BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 The reason for this report is to present to the Committee benchmarking summary performance data for the period 2014/15 following publication of national results
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section III H (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. RECOMMENDATION

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

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Local Government Benchmarking Framework data was refreshed following the Scottish Government publication on validated finance data in March 2016, with results submitted to individual service Committees thereafter.
- 3.2 Overall the picture in 2014/15 is one of steady performance, there were small margins of improved / worsening performance in contrast to the significant margins in both reported in 2013/14. Slight improvement was made in quartile rankings nationally and in family groups, specifically in the lowest quartiles but in the majority, rankings have remained unchanged.
- 3.3 The majority of indicators are placed in the top 16 councils in Scotland (quartiles 1 and 2). Indicators featuring in the lowest quartile (council's ranked 25th to 32nd) have been scrutinised in relation to potential improvement by the relevant Service Committee. 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 2014/15 for each indicator

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

4. **SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

(a) **Moray 2026: A Plan for the Future and Moray Corporate Plan 2015 - 2017**

The council and its partners have agreed set out priorities in the Moray 2026, 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**

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 2014/15, 82% of Local Government Benchmarking indicator results featured in the top 16 of 32 Scottish Local Authorities.

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