

**PERTH & KINROSS COUNCIL
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

25 April 2022

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BENCHMARKING FRAMEWORK 2020/21

**Report by Chief Executive
(Report No. 22/98)**

This report presents a summary of Perth and Kinross Council's performance during 2020/21 against the Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF) indicators, published by the Improvement Service in March 2022.

The benchmarking data helps the Council, members of the public and other stakeholders see how Perth and Kinross Council is performing in key areas compared to other local authorities.

BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

- 1.1 LGBF data for 2020/21 was published by the Improvement Service in March 2022, via an online tool called '[MyLocalCouncil](#)', which can be accessed on the Council's website. The Improvement Service also produced a [National Overview Report 2020/21](#).
- 1.2 The data is intended as a tool to support decision making and to better understand factors that councils can control in balancing costs and performance. The benchmarking data on its own does not identify how to improve. Within the National Overview Report, a summary of factors has been compiled which family groups (sub-groups of local authorities with similar characteristics) have identified as important in understanding the variation between councils' performance for each area.
- 1.3 In keeping with the approach taken with the Annual Performance Report, and in recognition of the impacts that Covid-19 has had on data in 2020/21, comparative information on indicators to the previous year has not been provided. Instead, information has been provided around Scottish and family group averages, to give additional context for each indicator, in a year where making comparisons should be treated with caution.
- 1.4 The report follows the same format as last year stylistically, with a couple of enhancements to improve accessibility, such as standardisation of performance and cost icons and colours.
- 1.5 This year, the suite of measures for economic development and children's services have been expanded to include two additional indicators detailing the claimant count; one in relation to gross value added per capita and one examining the percentage of children living in poverty.
- 1.6 Ranking data gives a sense of how Perth and Kinross Council is performing in comparison to other local authorities. However, it is necessary to take into

account that legitimate variations in data will exist across councils due to local policy choices and demographic profiles. For example, rural local authorities will have different calls upon their Environment Service functions compared to urban authorities, and these are reflected in their statistics. Rankings based on data which show small variations between councils can be misleading as it may only be 1 – 2% difference. For this year's report, the data range for each indicator has been included (excluding the three Island Councils as they are often outliers). For cost indicators, ranking is based upon costs being lower, however, this is not useful as reduced costs do not necessarily mean improved outcomes for local communities and, as a result, the cost indicators have not been ranked within this report.

- 1.7 Whilst recognising these issues, Perth and Kinross Council is committed to the LGBF and using benchmarking information to prompt and promote progressive improvement. The LGBF is only one source of benchmarking data, and the Council uses many sources to compare performance with other authorities and these can often show different trends and patterns.

2 PERFORMANCE SUMMARY 2020/21

- 2.1 All 62 non-cost performance indicators (PIs) with 2020/21 data have been ranked in terms of their performance out of 32 local authorities, reflecting each local authority in Scotland. They are then divided into four groups, known as quartiles. Shown below is a summary of how Perth & Kinross Council performance indicators compare to all other local authorities in Scotland.

- 12 indicators (20%) are in the upper quartile;
- 20 indicators (32%) are in the upper middle quartile;
- 20 indicators (32%) are in the lower middle quartile; and
- 10 indicators (16%) are in the lower quartile.

- 2.2 This report provides an overview of the information that is contained within the Improvement Service National Overview Report and the online toolkit, taking account of the national and local trends along with the key highlights for Perth and Kinross Council. The online tool is published on the [Council's website](#) and this report is intended to be used alongside it. It provides data for Perth and Kinross up to 2020/21 and allows members of the public to compare the performance of all 32 Scottish Local Authorities as well as compare our performance within our family groups.

3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 Perth and Kinross Council is committed to using benchmarking to improve our understanding of how we perform in comparison to other councils and why difference in performance occurs. Benchmarking supports change and improvement by helping the Council to identify and share good practice.
- 3.2 It is recommended that the Scrutiny Committee:
- i) Scrutinises the LGBF results for 2020/21; and
 - ii) Notes that the LGBF results will be used to inform the development of the Council's wider performance management and planning framework.

Authors

Name	Designation	Contact Details
Louisa Dott	Team Leader (Corporate Performance)	LJDott@pkc.gov.uk

Approved

Name	Designation	Date
Barbara Renton	Executive Director (Communities)	08 April 2022

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1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Strategic Implications	Yes / None
Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement	Yes
Corporate Plan	Yes
Resource Implications	
Financial	None
Workforce	None
Asset Management (land, property, IST)	None
Assessments	
Equality Impact Assessment	None
Strategic Environmental Assessment	None
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	None
Legal and Governance	None
Risk	None
Consultation	
Internal	Yes
External	None
Communication	
Communications Plan	Yes

1. Strategic Implications

Community Plan / Corporate Plan

- 1.1 This report supports the delivery of the Strategic Objectives within Perth and Kinross Community Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan) 2017-2027 and Corporate Plan 2018-2022.

2. Resource Implications

Financial

- 2.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Workforce

- 2.2 There are no workforce implications arising from this report.

Asset Management (land, property, IT)

- 2.3 There are no asset management implications arising from this report.

3. Assessments

Equality Impact Assessment

- 3.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, the Council is required to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations

between equality groups. Carrying out Equality Impact Assessments for plans and policies allows the Council to demonstrate that it is meeting these duties.

3.2 This report has been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment process (EqIA) with the following outcome:

(i) Assessed as **not relevant** for the purposes of EqIA

Strategic Environmental Assessment

3.3 The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 places a duty on the Council to identify and assess the environmental consequences of its proposals. no further action is required as it does not qualify as a PPS as defined by the Act and is therefore exempt.

Sustainability

3.4 Under the provisions of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 the Council has to discharge its duties in a way which contributes to the achievement of sustainable development. Under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 the Council also has a duty relating to climate change and, in exercising its functions must act:

- in the way best calculated to delivery of the Act's emissions reduction targets;
- in the way best calculated to deliver any statutory adaptation programmes; and
- in a way that it considers most sustainable.

3.5 The information contained within this report has been considered under the Act. However, no action is required as the Act does not apply to the matters presented in this report.

Legal and Governance

3.6 Not applicable.

Risk

3.7 Not applicable.

4. Consultation

Internal

4.1 The Executive Leadership Team and all Service Management Teams were consulted during the preparation of this report.

External

4.2 Not applicable.

5. Communication

5.1 Not applicable.

2. BACKGROUND PAPERS

The background papers referred to within the report are:

Report by Improvement Service: [National Overview Report 2020/21](#) and the LGBF data made available to Councils by The Improvement Service.

3. APPENDICES

Local Government Benchmarking Framework 2020/21