

Local Government Benchmarking Framework 2023/24 noted etc.

5 There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive regarding the Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF) 2023/24, advising that

- (1) the LGBF indicators formed part of a suite of Statutory Performance measures used by the Council to consider how it was performing in its duty to deliver value for money and were used by Audit Scotland to assess how the Council was performing in its duty to deliver best value;
- (2) the LGBF provided benchmark comparisons across 9 key headings of Children's Services, Adult Social Care, Culture and Leisure, Environmental Services, Corporate Services, Housing, Economic Development and Planning, Financial Sustainability and Tackling Climate Change;
- (3) to facilitate comparisons within the LGBF, local authorities were grouped into 2 sets of benchmarking families with the groupings reflecting either similar social or environmental characteristics, depending on the measure being considered;
- (4) of a summary of key outlying indicators within the LGBF that were ranked within the highest or lowest 8 local authorities, along with those indicators currently under review, as detailed in the report;
- (5) full performance for each of the LGBF indicators was available from the Improvement Service website, with those distinct indicators having been derived from, and reflective of, a range of key areas, with some being reflective of cost, customer satisfaction and some directly relevant to the Council's strategic commitments;
- (6) Council services were required to produce Annual Business Plans that set out current year priorities, and guidance around the development of those plans recognised the importance of benchmarking for achieving and demonstrating best value; and
- (7) this Council continued to engage in an on-going programme of work with the Improvement Service and the Scottish Performance Network to ensure it was making effective use of LGBF data.

After consideration, the committee noted

- (a) that the Local Government Benchmarking Framework would be reported to this committee on an annual basis when figures had been updated; and
- (b) the ongoing programme of benchmarking work being undertaken.