

# Local Government Benchmarking Framework: National Benchmarking Overview Report 2021/22

Interim Secretary

Item 17  
Meeting date: 15 June 2023

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## Purpose

1. This paper introduces for the Commission's information the Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF) National Benchmarking Overview Report 2021/22 and introduces representatives of the LGBF Board who will present the draft report at today's meeting.

## Recommendations

2. The Commission is invited to:
  - Consider the [LGBF National Benchmarking Overview Report 2021/22](#) with a view to identifying any implications for upcoming publications, and in the context of the Commission's Statutory Performance Information Direction, the new approach to Best Value, the recently published Local Government Overview 2023 and developments relating to the proposed New Deal for local government.
  - Consider and comment upon the accompanying presentation by Kenneth Lawrie and Emily Lynch summarising the report and presenting the LGBF Board's thinking on the future development of the project.
  - Note that further dialogue with the LGBF Board to this end will take place in coming months, with the Commission to be updated accordingly.

## Background

3. The Commission has maintained a close interest in the development of the LGBF. This interest reflects the Commission's ongoing commitment to encourage local government-led benchmarking and improvement, as well as its statutory responsibilities in directing local authorities to publish performance information and securing the audit of Best Value.
4. The Commission published in December 2021 its three-year [Statutory Performance Information Direction](#). The Direction sets out the performance information that the Commission requires councils to publish and applies for the information covering the three years from 1 April 2022. A core theme of the Direction is the Commission's continued encouragement of the LGBF project. In their 2021/22 annual audit reports, auditors reported on progress made by councils against the Direction, and this was reported to the Commission by the Controller of Audit in the Annual Assurance and Risks Report, considered and approved by the Commission in March 2023.

## National Benchmarking Overview Report 2021/22

5. The Improvement Service published this report on 21 March 2023. This is in effect the annual report of the LGBF project and is the eleventh such annual report. It is attached in the **Appendix**. As part of a new approach to reporting, a supplementary interactive [LGBF dashboard](#), which provides access to data and analysis at an indicator level, service level, family group level and council level, along with narrative to support meaningful interpretation, has also been developed and implemented.
6. Kenneth Lawrie, Chair of the LGBF Board (and Chief Executive of Falkirk Council) and Emily Lynch, Programme Manager, Improvement Service, are present at today's meeting to present the report. They will summarise the conclusions of the report.

## Conclusion

7. The Commission is asked to consider the 2021/22 Benchmarking Overview report in the context of its SPI direction, the development of a new approach to reporting on Best Value and the wider developments relating to the proposed New Deal for local government.