



GUIDE TO LGBF

May 2026

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Guide to Local Government Benchmarking Framework

This document provides information on the Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF).

Introduction

The Accounts Commission defines the performance information that Councils must publish locally in the following financial year. Publishing performance information is a statutory duty and is called Public Performance Reporting – PPR.

Detail

It is essential for Councils to have performance information which helps them agree their priorities and then report effectively and clearly to their communities. Performance information needs to be easily accessible and easily understood by our communities and citizens. This will allow the council's performance to be assessed and compared. Furthermore, good performance information is an essential tool for all councillors.

Councils have been encouraged by the Accounts Commission to develop their performance reporting and performance measures. To further support this the Local Government Benchmarking Framework was established in 2012.

Since its conception the LGBF has and will continue to develop.

The LGBF annually collates defined performance measures from each of the 32 Scottish local councils. The performance measures meet the Best Value principles and the characteristics of each performance measure are clearly defined and met. This is to ensure that 'what' is being measured is comparable as much as possible between all 32 councils.

The ability to compare performance across all 32 councils is Benchmarking. Benchmarking is a valuable tool for identifying improvements and supports all councils to improve services by learning and working together. Trend data is also identified and assists with noting commonalities between councils.

The 32 councils all differ in terms of geography, population and areas of deprivation. These differences should be taken into account when comparing our performance with other councils. To help make these comparisons more meaningful and share good practice we are part of a 'family group' of eight other councils with similar characteristics, including population and deprivation.

There are two sets of Family Groups - People's Services and Corporate Services.

- Within People's Services we are part of Group 2 along with Angus; East Lothian; Highland; Midlothian; Moray; Scottish Borders and Stirling.
- Within Corporate Services we are part of Group 1 along with Aberdeenshire; Dumfries and Galloway; Eilean Siar; Highland; Orkney Islands; Scottish Borders and Stirling.

Further information on the LGBF can be found by clicking this <insert link> with further information on 'family groups' can be found <here, insert link>