

**MEETING: 10 MARCH 2022**

**REPORT BY: SECRETARY TO THE COMMISSION**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT BENCHMARKING FRAMEWORK:  
NATIONAL BENCHMARKING OVERVIEW REPORT 2020/21**

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### **Purpose**

1. This paper introduces for the Commission's information the Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF) National Benchmarking Overview Report 2020/21 and introduces representatives of the LGBF Board who will present the draft report at today's meeting.

### **Background**

2. 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.
3. 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 annual audit reports, auditors reported on progress made by councils against the Direction, and this is reported to the Commission by the Controller of Audit in his Annual Assurance and Risks Report, elsewhere on today's agenda.

### **National Benchmarking Overview Report 2020/21**

4. The Improvement Service publishes this report on 4 March 2022. This is in effect the annual report of the LGBF project and is the tenth such annual report. It is attached in the **Appendix**.
5. 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.

### **Future development of LGBF**

6. The LGBF Board continues to consider the future development of the project (the Secretary of the Commission attends meetings of the Board as an observer), and the LGBF representatives will update the Commission on the Board's thinking. Such dialogue will also continue to take place in coming months, both with the Secretary at Board meetings but also between the Chair and Board Chair. The Commission will be kept updated on these developments.

## **Conclusion**

7. The Commission is invited to:

- a) Consider the attached LGBF National Benchmarking Overview Report 2020/21 with a view to any implications for the Local Government Overview report.
- b) 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.
- c) Note that further dialogue with the LGBF Board to this end will take place in coming months, with the Commission to be updated accordingly.

**Paul Reilly**  
**Secretary to the Commission**  
**1 March 2022**

## **APPENDIX: DRAFT NATIONAL BENCHMARKING OVERVIEW REPORT 2020/21**

**See separate paper.**