
Report To:	Policy & Resources Committee	Date:	6 February 2024
Report By:	Corporate Director - Education, Communities and Organisational Development	Report No:	PR/01/24/MR/KB
Contact Officer:	Morna Rae	Contact No:	01475 712065
Subject:	Corporate Policy and Performance Update: November 2023 - February 2024		

1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

1.1 For Decision For Information/Noting

1.2 This report provides the Committee with an update on Corporate Policy and Performance matters relating to:

- Public Service Improvement Framework (PSIF);
- Equalities;
- Best Value; and
- Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF) 2022/23 update.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee notes the latest updates in relation to Corporate Policy and Performance.

Ruth Binks
Corporate Director
Education, Communities and Organisational Development

3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

3.1 A Corporate Policy and Performance update report is considered at every meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee; the last such report was submitted to the meeting of the Committee on 21 November 2023.

3.2 PSIF Framework

3.3 The PSIF is a framework developed and managed by the Improvement Service to drive quality and excellence in the public sector. Inverclyde Council adopted the framework in 2008 to support improvement at a service level. A three-year cyclical programme of PSIF assessments is in place, involving a team from each service assessing how well the service is performing and identify areas for improvement.

3.4 A refreshed PSIF was launched on 22nd November 2023. The framework is reviewed every three years to ensure that it remains up to date and relevant. A number of new statements have been added to ensure a stronger focus on Climate Change, Equalities, the financial climate and employee wellbeing.

3.5 One of the key benefits of the PSIF is that it is mapped to other key frameworks including Best Value: Revised Statutory Guidance 2020; Education Scotland - A Framework for Evaluating the Quality of Services and Organisations and the Customer Service Excellence Standard, which helps to provide a measure of performance against these other national standards.

3.6 Equalities

3.7 As Members will be aware, budget saving proposals are currently being considered as part of the Council's Budget-setting process 2024/26. A number of these proposals have related Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs). These documents, together with a Fairer Scotland Duty Statement on the Council's Revenue Budget 2024/26, an Equalities Statement, and a Child Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment, will available to view on this page of the Council's website in due course:

<https://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/council-and-government/equality-impact-assessments>

3.8 On 21 December 2023, an Elected Members' Briefing took place on the subject of EIAs, with a specific focus of the Council's Budget-setting process. The session covered the background to the requirement to assess proposals, what information should be included in EIAs and an explanation of how EIAs should be considered. A range of case studies was also explored.

3.9 Best Value

3.10 As the Committee is aware, the Accounts Commission's new approach to Best Value includes the introduction of Controller of Audit Best Value Reports, which summarise the main findings on how effectively a Council is delivering Best Value, as set out in the Annual Audit Report. A Controller of Audit Report will be published for eight Councils each year over a four-year period.

3.11 The first of these reports were published at the end of 2023 on South Ayrshire Council and Dundee City Council and can be viewed on the Audit Scotland website:

<https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/publications/search>

Reports on the remaining Councils in year one, i.e. West Dunbartonshire, Clackmannanshire, Falkirk, Orkney Island and Moray Council, are due to be published over the period January 2024 – August 2024.

3.12 Provisional details of the second tranche of Controller of Audit Reports (October 2024 - August 2025) have been released. Subject to final confirmation, Edinburgh; Comhairle nan Eilean Siar; Scottish Borders; Highlands; East Lothian; Fife; Argyll and Bute and East Renfrewshire Councils will be the focus of the next phase.

3.13 LGBF 2022/23 update

3.14 The Improvement Service has published further LGBF data 2022/23 on its interactive dashboard, including data relating to:

- All LGBF cost measures
- Financial Sustainability measures
- Adult Social Care measures
- Senior Phase Educational Attainment (average tariff score)
- Scottish Welfare Fund & Discretionary Housing Payments

3.15 A further data release is due in January 2024 and will include data on Primary Attainment, Pupil Attendance, Public Satisfaction as well as new Corporate Climate Emissions measures, which consist of three new indicators on emissions from (i) Transport per Capita; (ii) Electricity per Capita and (iii) Natural Gas per Capita.

3.16 A report on the Council's LGBF performance 2022/23 for all the above measures will be brought to the next meeting of this Committee. The LGBF interactive dashboard is available here:

<https://www.improvementservice.org.uk/benchmarking/explore-the-data>

4.0 PROPOSAL

4.1 It is proposed that the Committee notes the latest updates relating to the area of Corporate Policy and Performance.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is(are) agreed:

SUBJECT	YES	NO	N/A
Financial		X	
Legal/Risk	X		
Human Resources			X
Strategic (Inverclyde Alliance Partnership Plan 2023/33/Council Plan 2023/28)	X		
Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty			X
Children and Young People's Rights and Wellbeing			X
Environmental and Sustainability			X
Data Protection			X

5.2 Finance

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

Annually Recurring Costs/(Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

5.3 Legal/Risk

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

5.4 Human Resources

There are no direct human resources implications arising from this report.

5.5 Strategic

The matters referred to in this report are of relevance to the following Council Plan 2023/28 Theme:

Theme 3: Performance

- High quality and innovative services are provided, giving value for money.

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 None.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 None.