

# LOCAL GOVERNMENT BENCHMARKING FRAMEWORK REPORT.

The Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF) embodies a collaborative commitment by SOLACE (Scotland) and COSLA to enhance measurement techniques and foster comparable data that can effectively target resources and catalyse advancement. Over the past decade, this approach has demonstrated its success by fostering cooperation among all 32 Scottish councils, fostering mutual growth and learning.

The emergence of COVID-19 has fundamentally reshaped the terrain, deeply impacting Local Government services and the well-being of the communities they serve. At the forefront of both initial and ongoing responses, Stirling Council has swiftly pioneered novel services. This endeavour has involved close partnerships with communities, as well as engagement with third-party and private sectors. These combined efforts have been pivotal in safeguarding the vulnerable and upholding community well-being.

The pandemic's influence varied across communities, and the responses of councils to this crisis underscore the significance of tailored solutions to address local needs and challenges. This non-uniformity is a natural expression of local democracy, reflecting the unique priorities and demands of distinct communities. Each council has meticulously crafted structural and service arrangements that best suit their locality, optimizing efficacy and cost-effectiveness in supporting their residents.

While maintaining this localized approach, Stirling Council consistently reports its performance within regionally established public reporting frameworks, which are informed by the comprehensive insights of the LGBF. These insights are accessible to all citizens and users of council services, enabling them to hold local authorities accountable for their achievements and to actively engage with Local Government to foster ongoing improvement.

As we emerge from the pandemic's grip, the imperative for councils to collaborate in evaluating their responses has become more pronounced. This assessment will inform the future configuration, delivery, and scope of services. The bedrock of evidence furnished by the LGBF will play a pivotal role in guiding us as we scrutinize and comprehend the consequences of diverse operational approaches and delivery models. This repository of knowledge will also ensure that the exceptional learning and innovation that have arisen during these challenging times are not lost.

The driving force propelling this undertaking has always been, and will remain, the enhancement of lives within communities across Scotland. We firmly believe that well-executed public services significantly enhance both individual and collective quality of life. The LGBF has evolved into an increasingly essential component of the localized intelligence required to realize this vision. Given the confluence of financial constraints, escalating service demands, and the profound aftershocks of COVID-19, the importance of mutual collaboration and shared learning has never been more critical.

