



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

**Local Government and Regeneration Committee
Kevin Stewart MSP
Convener**

**Colin Mair
Chief Executive
Improvement Service**

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8 March 2016

Dear Colin,

Local Government Benchmarking Framework

On behalf of the Committee I am following up on your recent appearance before the Local Government and Regeneration Committee in relation to the Local Government Benchmarking Framework. The Committee intend to encourage our successors to continue to support the Benchmarking project and to that end would welcome having on record updated information in a number of areas, most of which we touched upon during the meeting.

There were a number of exchanges around developing the indicators; mention was made of work to cover the Community Empowerment Act, the establishment of health and social care joint boards, educational attainment indicators as well as a more general focus on outcomes. We also understand from the Accounts Commission that there is a commitment to develop indicators around older people's outcomes. Many of the exchanges also covered possible future developments to increase focus on identifying improvements to service delivery with a view to learning from those who have been most successful with their interventions. I would be grateful if you would indicate the timeframe for the changes we discussed along with detail of how it is proposed they will be integrated into the current Framework while maintaining a strategic focus.

We also discussed the role of the public and service users generally in the development of the Framework. The Committee has recognised throughout its work this session the necessity for public involvement and the need to avoid systems and

Please contact the Committee clerking team in the first instance.

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solutions being imposed upon them. Again here we would be interested in how it is intended to mirror the public engagement you described in other areas.

During the session there was discussion on the use made of the Scottish Household Survey and we would be interested in understanding the engagement the Improvement Service and SOLACE have had towards improving that data.

Finally we discussed benchmarking of the Improvement Service and we would welcome further detail of how you think that could be successfully undertaken. We will also be writing to the Scottish Government and COSLA in this regard as well as seeking clarification on how the work of the Improvement Service is audited and details around accountability.

It would be helpful if you could respond to the clerk by end April which will allow the information to be available to our successors.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kevin', followed by a large, stylized flourish that extends upwards and to the right.

Kevin Stewart MSP
Convener
Local Government and Regeneration Committee