

PKC BENCHMARKING GROUPS

Chief Executive's Service	
Corporate Design: Creative exchange	Creative Exchange act as a forum for Scottish local authority designers, allowing them to share best practice, stay up to date on the latest equipment and production techniques. They run an annual awards scheme.
Corporate Communications: National communications advisory group	The objectives of the group are to provide support and share information within communications services across Scottish Local Authorities. The group meets quarterly to discuss any items of interest and share best practice and hold an annual conference
Committee Services: Scottish members services development network	The objectives of the group is to provide support, share information and best practice within Members' Services teams. The group meets quarterly and all Scottish Councils are now affiliated.
Committee Services: Solar administrative services best practice working group	The group meets quarterly to discuss any items of interest and share best practice. There is a library of information which enables members to communicate, training days are available and the group have developed best practice guides on a number of Committee Services areas.
Legal: Solar best practice working group	A group consisting of Heads of Legal Services across Scottish Local Authorities has been set up to benchmark on the provision of legal advice and support to local authorities using qualitative and quantitative information.
HR: SPDS and the Improvement Service Joint Working Group	HR is pursuing value for money indicators which are being developed across all Scottish Local Authorities through the Society of Personnel & Development Scotland (SPDS). We are also focusing on benchmarking policies, processes, working practices both within the public and private sector as part of our continuous improvement. For example, Job Families and skills assessment.
Education & Children's Service	
Education: Comparator authorities: ScotXed Programme and HMI	Benchmarking takes place across five comparator local authorities used for the INEA inspections carried out by HMI – Argyll and Bute, Stirling, Borders, Aberdeenshire and Highland – through the exchange of data provided by HMI and the ScotXed programme.
Education: Comparator schools: ScotXed Programme	The ScotXed Programme has created sets of 20 comparator schools across Scotland for each Secondary School. Detailed analysis of these school clusters is carried out annually following the release of SQA results in August via STACs (Standard Tables and Charts). We also commission further in depth analysis of the school attainment data.
Children's Services: The Benchmarking Task Group	Social Work Scotland website enabling comparisons against comparator group and other local authorities. Further children and families statistical returns to the Scottish Government enable benchmarking to be carried out based on the national publications. The Benchmarking Task Group takes forward developments in benchmarking at a national level.
Libraries: ABC benchmarking group	The ABC Benchmarking Partnership facilitates service improvement by sharing and comparing data, processes and innovative solutions in a structured manner. The membership comprises eight local authorities comparable in terms of population and socio-economic profile.
Council website: SOCITM benchmarking club	We remain committed members of the SOCITM and are involved in a number of activities with them, including workshops and fora, covering a diverse range of

	<p>topics. SOCITM works with organisations across the public and third sectors and carries out a range of benchmarking activity between its members, including Better Connected annual review of the website, Biennial service user satisfaction measurement and ICT service provision questionnaire.</p>
<p>Housing & community care</p>	
<p>Housing: The Scottish Housing Best Value Network</p>	<p>We are members of the Scottish Housing Best Value Network (SHBVN). The SHBVN provides and co-ordinates a benchmarking service for local authorities and at present 31 of Scotland's 32 councils are members along with Glasgow Housing Association. Practice Exchange Forums are events where practitioners meet regularly to share practice and learn from each other.</p>
<p>The Environment Service</p>	
<p>Environmental Services: Association for public sector excellence (APSE)</p>	<p>APSE works with over 300 councils throughout the UK. It promotes excellence in public services and is a specialist in local authority front line services, hosting a benchmarking network for front line service providers in areas such as waste and refuse collection, parks and environmental services and building maintenance.</p>
<p>Roads and Transport: SCOTS Performance Management Working Group</p>	<p>The Society of Chief Officers of Transportation in Scotland (SCOTS) group aims to improve access to benchmarking information for all Councils and maintains an overview of all performance indicators. Activity includes monitoring key messages coming from the Audits of Best Value/ LGBF performance information / Single Outcome Agreements.</p>
<p>Roads and Transport: Association of transport co-ordinating officers (ATCO)</p>	<p>The Association of Transport Co-ordinating Officers (ATCO) undertake two annual UK wide benchmarking exercises covering local bus, education transport, social work transport, information and infrastructure, price, expenditure and competition surveys.</p>
<p>Building Standards: Local authority building standards Scotland</p>	<p>Local Authority Building Standards Scotland (LABSS) is a network of local authority Building Standards practitioners from Scotland's 32 Local Authority areas. The objectives of LABSS are wide ranging including: to provide a forum for member authorities to discuss matters of mutual interest; promote uniformity of interpretation; promote a culture of continuous improvement; to engage in partnership working with related regulatory and technical bodies.</p>
<p>Property: National best value benchmarking scheme</p>	<p>We participate in the National Best Value Benchmarking Scheme which has developed a set of PI's related to Property Asset Management. The PIs focussed on are spend; stock (condition & required maintenance); sustainability; suitability; and sufficiency. We have been involved as keen participants since the beginning (2005). Membership has grown and there are currently 20 Scottish Councils subscribing.</p>
<p>Economic Development Scottish local authority economic development group</p>	<p>The Scottish Local Authority Economic Development (SLAED) is a network of economic development practitioners from Scotland's 32 Local Authority areas. The remit of the main SLAED group is to provide a forum for member practitioners to discuss and share examples of best practice. Aside from the main SLAED group, there are also a number of sub groups with the remit of looking at those specialist areas which fall under the heading of economic development including; tourism; rural; business development; and International trade.</p>