

Performance in Northern Ireland

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**Update on the
Local
Government
Performance
Improvement
Working Group**



**The picture of
Performance
across Northern
Ireland**



**Future focus of
the Group**



The image features a central graphic where a hand points towards several floating icons representing different types of financial data visualizations. These include line graphs showing trends, bar charts indicating values, candlestick patterns for stock prices, and pie charts for proportions. The entire composition is set against a soft-focus background of a person in professional clothing, creating a sense of active analysis or decision-making in a business context.

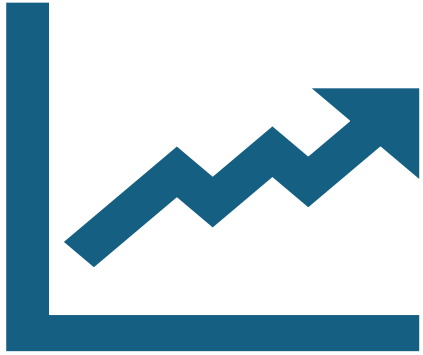
- ❑ Who are we?
- ❑ Working Group of Solace
- ❑ Network for 11 Councils
- ❑ Department of Communities
- ❑ NI Audit Office
- ❑ Terms of Reference

Purpose

- To provide a forum to share knowledge and information around Performance Improvement.

Objectives

- Ongoing audit and assessment arrangements, including the role of the Local Government Auditor.
- Develop and consider Guidance by the Department or NIAO in relation to the performance duty.
- Clarify the status and scope of the Local Government Performance Indicators and Standards Order (NI) 2016.
- Establish relationships, and agree representation, with relevant bodies and organisations.
- Examine the implications of the Performance and Improvement Duty on any emerging strategies.
- Provide a conduit for sharing good practice.



Update on the Local Government Performance Improvement Working Group



Update on the Local Performance Group

- NI focus on legislation and Audit requirements
- NIAO Annual Report for each Council
- NIAO on Local Government Sector
- Performance measurements for reporting and governance purposes to Central Govt
- Digital Strategies developed by individual Councils but **not** focus of the Group

The Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014, there is a duty on each council to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of its functions.

Benefits

- Networking opportunity
- Best practice
- Support across Sector
- Links with Central Government & Audit

Challenges

- Local differences – Role
- Legislation
- Information requests
- Benchmarking



The Picture of Performance across Northern Ireland



Picture of Performance

- Year on year improvements since 2015 across the sector – audited process
- Statutory reporting on KPIs eg Planning, Waste
- APSE Groupings for comparator performance reporting
- Role of APSE is different in the four jurisdictions
- Subgroup looked at meaningful benchmarking KPIs for NI during 2024
- Review of 2024 Work

More than we need reliable data and analysis to help align policies, services, and resources to customer and place needs.

Making the right decisions is vital with evidence to support the commitment of resources.





Future Focus of the Group





Focus of the Group

- Benchmarking
- Subgroup – Review of 2024 work
- Dangers & Benefits of Benchmarking
- How to Evidence Performance Improvements



- The balance of benchmarking across the sector / internal year on year performance improvements
- Danger of creating perceived league tables
- Balance is required

“People need a benchmark to know how they are performing. The catch is to find the right one.”

Performance in NI is Strong

- ✓ Benefits of Working Together
- ✓ Benefits of SOLACE Group Support
- ✓ Benefits of NILGA
- ✓ Benefits of APSE services

