

Presentation on LG Inform and Performance Management

Purpose of report

For information.

Is this report confidential? No

Summary

At the Councillors Forum, a presentation will inform councillors about the LGA's data programme, and demonstrate LG Inform and how it might help councillors in their role.

LGA Plan Theme: Support for councillors

Recommendation

That members note the presentation.

Contact details

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Presentation on LG Inform and Performance Management

Background

1. LG Inform is the LGA's online data benchmarking service. Launched in 2011, it brings over 11,000 data items about local authorities and their areas into one place, which otherwise would be spread over multiple government and other websites. It includes performance, demographic, financial and outcomes data; and allows councils to compare themselves to other similar councils.
2. LG Inform was designed to help councillors view information about their council easily and quickly. It presents the data using clear charts, and allows the user to select their own comparison group of other authorities. This data is key to monitoring performance and informing decisions and, as such, is used by a wide range of councillors, from those with portfolios to those on scrutiny panels and frontline councillors who simply want to understand more about their authority.
3. Alongside LG Inform, the LGA also runs a data programme to help councils make better use of data. In particular, the performance management workstream has produced a number of resources for councillors and officers. Those for councillors include:
 - Good practice guide to performance management
 - Training course on understanding data for performance management
 - E-learning module on good practice.
4. These are designed either for councillors new to performance management, for those who need a useful reminder of some of the key points to undertaking it effectively, or for those who are not confident about some aspects.

Proposal

5. At the Councillors Forum, a presentation will inform councillors about the policy backdrop against which this work is being delivered, give some more detail about the LGA's data programme, and demonstrate LG Inform and how it might help councillors.

Implications for Wales

6. Some of the performance management resources are published freely online, and therefore available to Welsh authorities. LG Inform does not contain Welsh data, since not only does it differ from English data, but Data Cymru (the Welsh data unit) have their own data service for Welsh authorities.

Financial implications

7. Both LG Inform and the Data Programme are delivered through the grant funding from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC).

Equalities implications

8. LG Inform was reviewed in 2022 and is partially compliant with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines, version 2.1 AA standard. We made a number of improvements to accessibility as part of the review, and the LG Inform [accessibility statement](#) is now available at the bottom of the web page.

Next steps

9. Both LG Inform and the Data Programme will continue this financial year, to support councils to make better use of data.