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Ms Margo Williamson
Chief Executive
Angus Council

21 December 2017

Dear Ms Williamson

PLANNING PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK FEEDBACK 2016/17

Please find attached feedback on your planning performance framework report for the period April 2016 to March 2017.

You will be aware that we recently introduced the Planning Bill to the Scottish Parliament. The Bill aims to support effective performance across a range of planning functions. It includes specific provisions to strengthen and improve performance monitoring; to appoint a national performance co-ordinator to provide advice and recommendations; and powers to conduct assessments and if necessary require improvements to be made. This structured approach is essential to improving the reputation of the system across the country. It aims to provide better support to authorities, whilst recognising that other factors and stakeholders, impact on your performance.

I appreciate that resourcing is a critical issue for you, and the Bill includes provisions for discretionary charging to allow greater local flexibility. Following the Bill, we will consult on revising the fee regime to better reflect the developments which are being brought forward.

We will continue to liaise with COSLA, SOLACE and Heads of Planning Scotland as the Bill progresses through the Parliamentary process. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage you all to actively engage - this is a fantastic opportunity to make our system work better to enable planners to deliver the high-quality development our communities need, and it is important that voices from all viewpoints are heard. You can monitor the progress of the Bill on the Parliament website at: www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/106768.aspx

Kind Regards



KEVIN STEWART

CC: Kate Cowey, Head of Planning

PERFORMANCE MARKERS REPORT 2016/17

Name of planning authority: **Angus Council**

The High Level Group on Performance agreed a set of performance markers. We have assessed your report against those markers to give an indication of priority areas for improvement action. The high level group will monitor and evaluate how the key markers have been reported and the value which they have added.

The Red, Amber, Green ratings are based on the evidence provided within the PPF reports. Where no information or insufficient evidence has been provided, a 'red' marking has been allocated.

No.	Performance Marker	RAG rating	Comments
1	Decision-making: continuous reduction of average timescales for all development categories [Q1 - Q4]	Green	<p>Major Applications Your timescales of 20 weeks has improved since the previous year and are faster than the Scottish average of 37.1 weeks. RAG = Green</p> <p>Local (Non-Householder) Applications Your timescales of 8.4 weeks have improved since the previous year and are faster than the Scottish average of 11.1 weeks. RAG = Green</p> <p>Householder Applications Your timescales of 7.2 weeks are slower than the previous year but are faster than the Scottish average of 7.3 weeks. RAG = Amber</p> <p>Overall RAG = Green</p>
2	<p>Processing agreements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> offer to all prospective applicants for major development planning applications; and availability publicised on website 	Green	<p>You have 61 applications which were subject to a processing agreement during the period with 3 of those for major applications. They are offered for all major planning applications and more complex local ones. RAG = Green</p> <p>Processing agreements available and explained on website. RAG = Green</p> <p>Overall RAG = Green</p>
3	<p>Early collaboration with applicants and consultees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> availability and promotion of pre-application discussions for all prospective applications; and clear and proportionate requests for supporting information 	Green	<p>Pre-application advice is available and your website makes it clear this is available for all types of application. You also hold 'surgeries' to increase accessibility to discussions. RAG = Green</p> <p>Where processing agreements are used these also set additional information requirements. You also convene multi-disciplinary working groups to aid consideration of proposals. RAG = Green</p> <p>Overall RAG = Green</p>

4	Legal agreements: conclude (or reconsider) applications after resolving to grant permission reducing number of live applications more than 6 months after resolution to grant (from last reporting period)	Green	The time taken to deal with major applications with legal agreements has almost halved and at 22.5 weeks is much faster than the national average of 55.4 weeks. Local applications with legal agreements have also improved with a 12.5 week average timescale, which is faster than the national average.
5	Enforcement charter updated / re-published within last 2 years	Green	Enforcement Charter published in March 2017 and was less than a month old at the end of the reporting period.
6	Continuous improvement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • progress/improvement in relation to PPF National Headline Indicators; and • progress ambitious and relevant service improvement commitments identified through PPF report 	Green	Major and local timescales have improved however householder ones have lengthened. All remain quicker than the national average. You have an up to date LDP and enforcement charter. RAG = Green You have completed some of your committed service improvements from last year, however some are still in progress and the reasons for this have been explained. You have identified a wide range of commitments and improvements for next year, some of which are core business but others which are service improvement focused. RAG = Green Overall RAG = Green
7	Local development plan less than 5 years since adoption	Green	Your LDP was 6 months old at the end of the reporting period.
8	Development plan scheme – next LDP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • on course for adoption within 5 years of current plan(s) adoption; and • project planned and expected to be delivered to planned timescale 	Green	Your LDP is only 6 months old. RAG = Green Evidence provided of how the current LDP was project managed through to adoption. RAG = Green Overall RAG = Green
9	Elected members engaged early (pre-MIR) in development plan preparation – <i>if plan has been at pre-MIR stage during reporting year</i>	N/A	
10	Cross sector stakeholders* engaged early (pre-MIR) in development plan preparation – <i>if plan has been at pre-MIR stage during reporting year</i> <i>*including industry, agencies and Scottish Government</i>	N/A	
11	Regular and proportionate policy advice produced on information required to support applications.	Amber	You have a wide range of supplementary planning guidance currently being developed but the report says little about what is in place at present.
12	Corporate working across services to improve outputs and services for customer benefit (for example: protocols; joined-up services; single contact arrangements; joint pre-application advice)	Green	Strong evidence provided of working across local authority disciplines and with external organisations such as the RTPi, HOPS and the Scottish Government Your joint working with Perth and Kinross through The Tayside Biodiversity Partnership is a particularly good example. You have established protocols with Historic Environment Scotland on conservation protocols for Council buildings and input into locality plan groups.

13	Sharing good practice, skills and knowledge between authorities	Green	You continue to contribute to the HOPS DM and DP subgroups sharing knowledge and experience amongst other officers and authorities. Again the work you have done with Perth and Kinross contributes to this too.
14	Stalled sites / legacy cases: conclusion or withdrawal of old planning applications and reducing number of live applications more than one year old	Green	You cleared 5 legacy cases during the reporting year and now have 4 remaining. We note 2 have been created and that you will look to clear this and the other 2 relate to a called-in application.
15	Developer contributions: clear and proportionate expectations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • set out in development plan (and/or emerging plan); and • in pre-application discussions 	Amber	<p>Expectations are outlined in the development plan and detailed supplementary guidance was adopted in November 2016 and this sets out clearly how they will be calculated. RAG = Green</p> <p>You have held 2 forums to explain to stakeholders your policy on developer contributions. However you have not provided evidence of how they set out in pre-application discussions. RAG = Amber</p> <p>Overall RAG = Amber</p>

ANGUS COUNCIL
Performance against Key Markers

Marker		2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
1	Decision making timescales					
2	Processing agreements					
3	Early collaboration					
4	Legal agreements					
5	Enforcement charter					
6	Continuous improvement					
7	Local development plan					
8	Development plan scheme					
9	Elected members engaged early (pre-MIR)		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
10	Stakeholders engaged early (pre-MIR)		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
11	Regular and proportionate advice to support applications					
12	Corporate working across services					
13	Sharing good practice, skills and knowledge					
14	Stalled sites/legacy cases					
15	Developer contributions					

Overall Markings (total numbers for red, amber and green)

	Red	Amber	Green
2012-13	3	8	4
2013-14	2	4	7
2014-15	3	2	8
2015-16	2	3	8
2016-17	0	2	11

Decision Making Timescales (weeks)

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2016-17 Scottish Average
Major Development	40.2	30.1	34.1	22.0	20.0	38.8
Local (Non-Householder) Development	12.9	9.7	10.9	11.1	8.4	12.3
Householder Development	6.9	6.4	6.9	6.7	7.2	7.5