

ANGUS COUNCIL

COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 26 FEBRUARY 2019

PLANNING PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK

ABSTRACT

This report updates the Committee on the Scottish Government feedback received on the Council's Planning Performance Framework submitted in 2018.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) notes the feedback received from Scottish Government; and
- (ii) notes the timetable for submission of the 2019 Planning Performance Framework.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS LOCAL OUTCOMES IMPROVEMENT PLAN/CORPORATE PLAN

By ensuring an effective and efficient Planning Service, this report contributes to the following local outcomes contained within the Angus Local Outcomes Improvement Plan and Locality Plans:

ECONOMY

- An inclusive and sustainable economy
- Attractive employment opportunities

PEOPLE

- Improved physical, mental and emotional health and well-being

PLACE

- An enhanced, protected and enjoyed natural and built environment
- A reduced carbon footprint
- Safe, secure, vibrant and sustainable communities

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Planning Performance Framework (PPF) is the Planning Authority's annual report on the planning service. The PPF was developed by the Heads of Planning Scotland (HOPS) and the Scottish Government to provide a document with a range of qualitative and quantitative indicators to document planning activities.
- 3.2 The PPF defines and measures how a planning authority is achieving a high-quality planning service. The report begins with a qualitative story of that year's performance supported by case studies. The information and policy that sits behind this performance story is then included prior to the considering of what improvements are desired in the coming year. It then provides more measured information on the authority's work programmes called National Headline Indicators (NHI). This is followed by the Scottish Government Annual Official Statistics for that Authority. It ends with a snapshot of the workforce and planning committee meeting information for that planning authority.
- 3.3 The Council has submitted an annual Planning Performance Framework to the Scottish Government every year since 2012. In recent years the Framework has been submitted in July, with feedback from the Scottish Government provided in the following December / January. The last five years Planning Performance Framework documents and associated feedback are available on the Council's [website](#).

4. CURRENT POSITION

4.1 The 2018 Planning Performance Framework was submitted in July 2018. The document covers the period from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018 and builds on the preceding years documents and the positive feedback received. Within the narrative of the document a number of case studies have been used including:

- Carnoustie Golf Pro Centre (Quality of Outcomes).
- Kirriemuir Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (Quality of Outcomes).
- Baker Hughes General Electric pre-application engagement (Quality of Service and Engagement).
- Affordable Housing Delivery Group (Governance).
- Review of the Pre-application Advice Service (Culture of Continuous Improvement).

4.2 The document presents a significant body of supporting evidence as well as setting out proposed service improvements, performance in relation to National Headline Indicators and official statistics.

4.3 Feedback on the 2018 Framework was received from the Scottish Government on the 10 January 2019. The Framework was assessed against a set of performance markers and red, amber or green ratings are given based on the evidence set out in the submitted Framework.

4.4 The 2018 Angus Planning Performance Framework received eleven green and two amber ratings. Comments are set out against each performance marker in the full assessment (**Appendix 1**). In summary, green markers were given for:

- Decision making
- Early collaboration with applicants and consultees
- Legal agreements
- Enforcement Charter
- Continuous Improvement
- Local Development Plan
- Local Plan Scheme
- Regular and proportionate policy advice
- Corporate working across services
- Sharing good practice, skills and knowledge between authorities and Developer contributions.

The Council received two amber flags for:

- Processing agreements
- Stalled sites / legacy cases

4.5 The feedback is clear that submitted Framework shows evidence that officers encourage processing agreements where necessary. A processing agreement is a project management tool that sets out the key processes involved in determining an application, identifies what information is required and from whom, and sets the timescales for the delivery of various stages of the process. The amber flag was given because the report was not clear whether processing agreements are publicised on the website. Whilst the website currently does not set out that processing agreements are available, this is easily rectified for the submission of the next Planning Performance Framework.

4.6 In relation to legacy cases (those applications that are more than one year old) the feedback is clear that the Council has clearly undertaken steps to address the number of legacy cases. The number of such cases did, however increase over the year 2017/18. There were seven legacy cases at the end of March 2018;

- two of those cases related to a matter called-in for determination by Scottish Ministers. These applications have now been dealt with.
- processing agreements were in place for determination of three cases.
- The Council had engaged with the applicants in relation to the remaining cases in order to agree project plans that will allow early determination.

The feedback also provides time series data on the previous Planning Performance Frameworks submitted. From this, it is clear to see a trend of improvement in the results:

	Red Flag	Amber Flag	Green Flag
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
2017/18	0	2	11

5. CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 The feedback on the Council's 2018 Planning Performance Framework was positive, and the evidence shows the planning service has achieved continuing improvement against the markers set out by the Scottish Government.
- 5.2 Guidance for the 2019 Planning Performance Frameworks will be issued by Heads of Planning Scotland in March 2019 with reports anticipated for submission by local authorities in July 2019. Work will continue to ensure the green flags achieved this year are retained and work has already been undertaken to ensure that the amber flags from 2017/18 are addressed in 2018/19.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

NOTE: No background papers, as detailed by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above report.

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EMAIL DETAILS:

List of Appendices:

Appendix 1: Scottish Government Feedback on Angus Council Planning Performance Framework 2018