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Kevin Stewart MSP



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Ms Margo Williamson
Chief Executive
Angus Council

10 January 2019

Dear Ms Williamson,

PLANNING PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK FEEDBACK 2017/18

I am pleased to enclose feedback on your authority's 7th PPF Report for the period April 2017 to March 2018. Considerable progress has been made since the introduction of the Planning Performance Framework and key markers, although performance still remains variable over some authorities and markers.

As you may be aware, the Planning Bill has recently passed through the second stage of parliamentary consideration, during which the Local Government and Communities Committee voted to remove the proposed provisions on planning performance, provisions to make training for elected members mandatory, and the existing penalty clause provisions. We expect Stage 3 of the bill process to begin in the new year.

Whatever the outcome of the Planning Bill, I believe now is the time to look again at how we measure the performance of the planning system. The High Level Group on Planning Performance recently met to discuss performance measurement and other improvements. I very much hope that we can continue to support ongoing improvements in our planning service and further demonstrate the value which the planning system can add to people's lives. Ministers see an important connection between performance and fees and I am aware that any proposals to increase fees will raise applicants' expectations of an efficient and effective service.

We need to be able to measure performance to provide that crucial evidence to support any increases in fees, to help ensure that authorities are appropriately resourced to deliver on our ambitions. With this in mind, we will continue to liaise with COSLA, SOLACE and Heads of Planning Scotland on matters of the Bill's implementation and planning performance measures going forward.

If you would like to discuss any of the markings awarded below, please email chief.planner@gov.scot and a member of the team will be happy to discuss these with you.

Kind Regards

KEVIN STEWART

CC: Kate Cowey, Head of Planning

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PERFORMANCE MARKERS REPORT 2017-18

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 12.4 weeks are faster than the previous year but are faster than the Scottish average of 33.6 weeks. RAG = Green</p> <p>Local (Non-Householder) Applications Your timescales of 7.4 weeks are faster than the previous year and are faster than the Scottish average of 10.7 weeks. RAG = Green</p> <p>Householder Applications Your timescales of 5.6 weeks are faster than the previous year and are faster than the Scottish average of 7.3 weeks. RAG = Green</p> <p>Overall RAG = Green</p>
2	Processing agreements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> offer to all prospective applicants for major development planning applications; and availability publicised on website 	Amber	<p>You encourage processing agreements to applications where necessary. Three applications were subject to a major processing agreement this reporting year. RAG = Green</p> <p>The report does not make clear whether processing agreements are publicised on the website. RAG = Amber</p> <p>Overall RAG = Amber</p>
3	Early collaboration with applicants and consultees <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>You encourage free pre-application advice to all development proposals. Free weekly surgeries are offered across the local authority to applicants and those considering an application. These surgeries are advertised on your website. RAG = Green</p> <p>Your case study of Carnoustie Golf Centre demonstrates the proportionate approach you take to supporting information discussions at pre-application advice level and how this assists in identifying issues prior to the application being submitted. 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	Your average timescales for determining local applications with legal agreements is faster than last year and the Scottish average. You have not had any major development applications in this year.
5	Enforcement charter updated / re-published within last 2 years	Green	Enforcement Charter was 12 months 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	<p>Your LDP and enforcement charter are up to date. Clear timescales exist for adopting the next LDP and you have made progress of your stalled sites. Your major, local and householder decision making timescales are faster than last years and this years' Scottish average.</p> <p>RAG = Green</p> <p>You have completed 10 out of 15 of your improvement commitments with the remaining to be continued over the next reporting year. You have identified a range of tangible improvement commitments for the coming year informed by stakeholder feedback.</p> <p>RAG = Green</p> <p>Overall RAG = Green</p>
7	Local development plan less than 5 years since adoption	Green	Your LDP was 1 year and 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	<p>Your development plan scheme is on track for adoption of the current plan by September 2021.</p> <p>RAG = Green</p> <p>Your project plan for the replacement of the development plan is set out in the Development Plan Scheme, published in March. You are using a range of measures, such as interactive mapping, to improve engagement with the development plan process.</p> <p>RAG = Green</p> <p>Overall RAG = Green</p>
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> *including industry, agencies and Scottish Government	N/A	
11	Regular and proportionate policy advice produced on information required to support applications.	Green	You indicate that policy matters are assessed by several internal committees including the council itself. This year you have released a supplementary guidance document relating to renewable energy development following feedback on the LDP.
12	Corporate working across services to improve outputs and services for customer benefit (for	Green	You held a management review to improve efficiency and you were involved in the development of the council and directorate plan to ensure joined-up service delivery.

	example: protocols; joined-up services; single contact arrangements; joint pre-application advice)		Elsewhere customer experience mapping, based on feedback surveys, is underway. All of which indicate a commitment to improving delivery of the service for customer benefit.
13	Sharing good practice, skills and knowledge between authorities	Green	You have been active participants in the Tayside Biodiversity partnership and share Aberdeen's Archaeological Service. Furthermore, you meet quarterly with other Tayside authorities and attended information sharing meetings with other local authorities.
14	Stalled sites / legacy cases: conclusion or withdrawal of old planning applications and reducing number of live applications more than one year old	Amber	You have cleared 2 cases during the reporting year, with 7 cases still awaiting conclusion. Based on this and last year's figures, only 5 reached legacy status during the reporting year. This shows a commitment to reducing the number of stalled sites in your area. Though the number of legacy cases has increased slightly, you have clearly undertaken steps to address this.
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 	Green	<p>You introduced a revised developer contributions guidance in the previous year which clarified expectations and criteria for affordable housing and housing in the countryside.</p> <p>RAG = Green</p> <p>Expectations for developer contributions are clarified in your pre-application discussions.</p> <p>RAG = Green</p> <p>Overall RAG = Green</p>

ANGUS COUNCIL

Performance against Key Markers

Marker		2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
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	N/A
10	Stakeholders engaged early (pre-MIR)		N/A	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)

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

Decision Making Timescales (weeks)

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2017-18 Scottish Average
Major Development	40.2	30.1	34.1	22.0	20.0	12.4	33.6
Local (Non-Householder) Development	12.9	9.7	10.9	11.1	8.4	7.4	10.7
Householder Development	6.9	6.4	6.9	6.7	7.2	5.6	7.3