

T: 0300 244 4000  
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Margo Williamson  
Chief Executive  
Angus Council

11 February 2020

Dear Margo,

## **PLANNING PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK FEEDBACK 2018-19**

I am pleased to enclose feedback on your authority's 8<sup>th</sup> PPF Report for the period April 2018 to March 2019.

I believe that good progress continues to be made by authorities. Although there has been a small drop in the number of green ratings awarded this year and there remains some variation across some authorities and markers. I have been particularly impressed by the speed of determination of major applications in some authorities.

We are now pressing ahead with our programme of reform. In September 2019 we published "Transforming Planning in Practice" our work programme for implementing the provisions of the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 and wider planning improvements. We have also just launched our [www.transformingplanning.scot](http://www.transformingplanning.scot) website where you can keep up to date and involved with Scotland's fourth National Planning Framework (NPF4), Digital Planning and the Planning Reform programme.

This is an exciting time for the planning system in Scotland with the preparation of NPF4 underway and the changes to the development planning and management systems to follow. We really value the input of your staff as expert users of the system and welcome their continued support in developing and implementing the planning system that we all want to see.

One of the first things I'm keen to address is planning resources, which is why we are consulting on increasing planning fees, moving them towards covering the full cost of determining applications and extending the range of services which authorities can charge for in exercising their planning functions. The consultation is due to close on 14<sup>th</sup> February and I hope that you will submit your views. I know applicants will expect to see continued improvement in performance and those increased fees invested in the planning service. This is why we are also consulting on how we measure and monitor the performance of the planning system at the same time.

If you would like to discuss any of the markings awarded below, please email [chief.planner@gov.scot](mailto: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**

## PERFORMANCE MARKERS REPORT 2018-19

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	<b>Decision-making:</b> continuous reduction of average timescales for all development categories [Q1 - Q4]	Green	<p><b>Major Applications</b> Your timescales of 10.3 weeks are faster than the previous year and are faster than the Scottish average of 32.5 weeks. <b>RAG = Green</b></p> <p><b>Local (Non-Householder) Applications</b> Your timescales of 7.5 weeks are slower than the previous year but faster than the Scottish average of 10.7 weeks and faster than the statutory timescale. <b>RAG = Green</b></p> <p><b>Householder Applications</b> Your timescales of 5.9 weeks are slower than the previous year but are faster than the Scottish average of 7.2 weeks and faster than the statutory timescale. <b>RAG = Green</b></p> <p><b>Overall RAG = Green</b></p>
2	<p><b>Processing agreements:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>offer to all prospective applicants for major development planning applications; and</li> <li>availability publicised on website</li> </ul>	Amber	<p>You encourage processing agreements to applications where necessary. <b>RAG = Green</b></p> <p>The report does not make clear whether processing agreements are publicised on the website. <b>RAG = Red</b></p> <p><b>Overall RAG = Amber</b></p>
3	<p><b>Early collaboration</b> with applicants and consultees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>availability and promotion of pre-application discussions for all prospective applications; and</li> <li>clear and proportionate requests for supporting information</li> </ul>	Green	<p>You encourage free pre-application advice to all development proposals which includes other council services and statutory consultees. <b>RAG = Green</b></p> <p>Your case study of demonstrates the proportionate approach you take to supporting information discussions at pre-application advice stage and how this assists in identifying issues prior to the application being submitted. <b>RAG = Green</b></p> <p><b>Overall RAG = Green</b></p>

4	<b>Legal agreements:</b> 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 are faster than last year and the Scottish average. You have not had any major development applications in this year.
5	<b>Enforcement charter</b> updated / re-published within last 2 years	Green	Enforcement charter was replaced at the end of the reporting year.
6	<b>Continuous improvement:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• progress/improvement in relation to PPF National Headline Indicators; and</li> <li>• progress ambitious and relevant service improvement commitments identified through PPF report</li> </ul>	Green	Your LDP and enforcement charter are up to date. Clear timescales exist for adopting the next LDP and you have made progress on stalled sites. Your major, local and householder decision making timescales are faster than last years and this years' Scottish average. <b>RAG = Green</b>  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. <b>RAG = Green</b>  <b>Overall RAG = Green</b>
7	<b>Local development plan</b> less than 5 years since adoption	Green	Your LDP was 2 year and 6 months old at the end of the reporting period.
8	<b>Development plan scheme</b> – next LDP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• on course for adoption within 5 years of current plan(s) adoption; and</li> <li>• project planned and expected to be delivered to planned timescale</li> </ul>	Green	Your development plan scheme is on track for adoption of the current plan by September 2021. <b>RAG = Green</b>  Your project plan for the replacement of the development plan is set out in the Development Plan Scheme and it is noted that there has been some slippage to the timescales. <b>RAG = Green</b>  <b>Overall RAG = Green</b>
9	<b>Elected members engaged early</b> (pre-MIR) in development plan preparation – <i>if plan has been at pre-MIR stage during reporting year</i>	N/A	
10	<b>Cross sector stakeholders* engaged early</b> (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	<b>Regular and proportionate policy advice</b> produced on information required to support applications.	Green	You indicate that you have an up-to-date policy framework which includes the LDP, the Design Quality and Placemaking Supplementary Guidance which was adopted in October 2018 with the Developer Contribution and Affordable Housing SG updated at the same time.
12	<b>Corporate working across services</b> to improve outputs and services for customer benefit (for example: protocols; joined-up services; single contact	Green	Your case study on the early years expansion programme demonstrates your approach to corporate working as well as your approach to providing pre-application advice.

	arrangements; joint pre-application advice)		
13	<b>Sharing good practice, skills and knowledge</b> between authorities	Green	You have provided some good examples of sharing good practice and skills beyond the standard PPF peer review and HOPS committee attendance which has included events on carbon sequestration, reforestation and natural flood management.
14	<b>Stalled sites / legacy cases:</b> conclusion or withdrawal of old planning applications and reducing number of live applications more than one year old	Amber	You have cleared 3 cases during the reporting year, with 5 cases still awaiting conclusion. This shows a commitment to reducing the number of stalled sites in your area and you expect to clear these in the current reporting period.
15	<b>Developer contributions:</b> clear and proportionate expectations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• set out in development plan (and/or emerging plan); and</li> <li>• in pre-application discussions</li> </ul>	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.  <b>RAG = Green</b></p> <p>Expectations for developer contributions are clarified in your pre-application discussions.  <b>RAG = Green</b></p> <p><b>Overall RAG = Green</b></p>

## ANGUS COUNCIL

### Performance against Key Markers

Marker		2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
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	N/A
10	Stakeholders engaged early (pre-MIR)		N/A	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)

	Red	Amber	Green
<b>2012-13</b>	3	8	4
<b>2013-14</b>	2	4	7
<b>2014-15</b>	3	2	8
<b>2015-16</b>	2	3	8
<b>2016-17</b>	0	2	11
<b>2017-18</b>	0	2	11
<b>2018-19</b>	0	2	11

### Decision Making Timescales (weeks)

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2018-19 Scottish Average
Major Development	40.2	30.1	34.1	22.0	20.0	12.4	10.3	32.5
Local (Non-Householder) Development	12.9	9.7	10.9	11.1	8.4	7.4	7.5	10.7
Householder Development	6.9	6.4	6.9	6.7	7.2	5.6	5.9	7.2