

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

Margo Williamson  
Chief Executive  
Angus Council

17 December 2020

Dear Margo,

## **PLANNING PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK FEEDBACK 2019-20**

I am pleased to enclose feedback on your authority's ninth Planning Performance Framework (PPF) Report, for the period April 2019 to March 2020.

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your staff for enabling planning services to continue to operate during the Covid-19 pandemic. This has been a difficult year for so many, and our planning system has a vital role to play in Scotland's green recovery. The impact which the pandemic has had, has demonstrated how valuable planning is from ensuring that businesses can operate flexibly to the contribution that it can make to the Places that are so important for our communities in terms of having access to the services they need, to greenspace and other areas where families can walk, wheel and cycle safely.

Turning to the 2019-20 PPF reporting year, I believe that good progress continues to be made by Scotland's planning authorities. Overall, there has been an increase in the number of green ratings awarded this year, with a subsequent reduction in red ratings, however, there remains some variation across some authorities and markers. I have been particularly pleased to see improvements in the speed of determination of major planning applications in some authorities.

When I wrote about performance reporting last year, I indicated that a consultation on Planning Performance and Fees was underway, including preparations for the new performance arrangements being introduced through the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019; with our intention at that time being that the proposed changes would be implemented in Summer 2020. However, the Covid-19 pandemic has required a rethink about the timing and a wider reprioritisation of our work programme.

I would like to reassure you that, while we have paused the changes to the fees and performance legislation, I am committed to ensuring that planning authorities are properly resourced and that planning fee levels are proportionate. We will pick this up again when the timing is more appropriate.

Finally, although the Covid-19 pandemic will have impacted on the tail end of the 2019-20 reporting year, I appreciate the impacts on service delivery will show through more in the 2020-21 reporting year. The Planning statistics for the first 6 months of the reporting year are due to be published in January, which will provide the first indications of how the pandemic has affected the ability of authorities to determine applications. I would like to reassure you that I will consider, in liaison with the High Level Group on Planning Performance, how next year's reports will be assessed, so that authorities are not unfairly criticised due to circumstances outwith their control. It could also provide an opportunity to recognise the vital actions taken by planning authorities to maintain the planning system and its contribution to recovery.

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.

Yours sincerely



**KEVIN STEWART**

**CC: Kate Cowey**

## PERFORMANCE MARKERS REPORT 2019-20

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 14.7 weeks are slower than the previous year and are faster than the Scottish average of 33.5 weeks and the statutory timescale. <b>RAG = Green</b></p> <p><b>Local (Non-Householder) Applications</b> Your timescales of 7.3 weeks are faster than the previous year and faster than the Scottish average of 10.9 weeks. <b>RAG = Green</b></p> <p><b>Householder Applications</b> Your timescales of 6.1 weeks are slower than the previous year but are faster than the Scottish average of 7.3 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>	Green	<p>You encourage processing agreements to applications where necessary. <b>RAG = Green</b></p> <p>The report not make clear that processing agreements are publicised on the website. <b>RAG = Green</b></p> <p><b>Overall RAG = Green</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 and have developed a system for the online submission of pre-application enquiries. <b>RAG = Green</b></p> <p>Your LDP and SPG is available online and is referenced in pre-app discussions and advice setting out where and what supporting information is required for development proposals. You also provide detailed conservation advice online and produced topic specific planning advice notes and technical guidance. <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 slower than last year however they are faster than the Scottish average. You have developed a model planning obligation to speed up the drafting process and have specific processes in place for affordable housing provision.
5	<b>Enforcement charter</b> updated / re-published within last 2 years	Green	Enforcement charter was 12 months old 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 3 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 in 2021. <b>RAG = Green</b>  Your project plan for the replacement of the development plan is set out in the Development Plan Scheme. <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>	Green	You have undertaken some engagement on your replacement LDP and it is noted that COVID has impacted that. It is also noted that following passage of the Planning Act 2019 you have decided to prepare a new style plan.
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>	Green	You have engaged with a variety of stakeholders using an interactive online engagement hub. You have engaged with young people in schools, SNH and rural stakeholders.
11	<b>Regular and proportionate policy advice</b> produced on information required to support applications.	Green	Your LDP and SPG is available online setting out where and what supporting information is required for development proposals. You also provide detailed conservation advice online and produced topic specific planning advice notes and technical guidance.
12	<b>Corporate working across services</b> to improve outputs and services for customer benefit (for example: protocols; joined-up services; single contact	Green	You have multi-disciplinary pre-application meetings and a protocol in place with the Roads Dept.  Your case studies demonstrate how these are leading to the delivery improved developments. The case studies also demonstrate the other work you are doing working with other

	arrangements; joint pre-application advice)		council services such as on the Tayside Local Biodiversity Action Plan.
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 the Tayside Local Biodiversity Action Plan which involves Perth and Kinross.
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	Green	You have cleared 3 cases during the reporting year, with 5 cases still awaiting conclusion. Each of these has a processing agreement that sets out the key steps to progress the application. This shows a commitment to reducing the number of stalled sites in your area.
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	You have supplementary Guidance on Affordable Housing and Developer Contributions with the commuted sum regularly reviewed and updated. <b>RAG = Green</b>  Expectations for developer contributions are clarified in your pre-application discussions. <b>RAG = Green</b>  <b>Overall RAG = Green</b>

## ANGUS COUNCIL

### Performance against Key Markers

Marker		12-13	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20
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
<b>2019-20</b>	0	0	15

### Decision Making Timescales (weeks)

	12-13	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	2019-20 Scottish Average
Major Development	40.2	30.1	34.1	22.0	20.0	12.4	10.3	14.7	33.5
Local (Non-Householder) Development	12.9	9.7	10.9	11.1	8.4	7.4	7.5	9.3	10.9
Householder Development	6.9	6.4	6.9	6.7	7.2	5.6	5.9	6.1	7.3