

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

Ms Bernadette Malone
Chief Executive
Perth & Kinross Council

21 December 2017

Dear Ms Malone

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: Nick Brian, Head of Planning

PERFORMANCE MARKERS REPORT 2016/17

Name of planning authority: **Perth and Kinross 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 20.9 weeks have 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 8.1 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 6.5 are slightly 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 offer processing agreements to applicants for major developments and complex local developments and have seen a significant uptake. RAG = Green</p> <p>Your processing agreements advice is on your website. Future reports should provide a link. 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 	Amber	<p>The number of applications subject to pre-application discussions has reduced, however you put this down to failures in how these are recorded and have identified actions to resolve this issue. RAG = Amber</p> <p>It is not clear from your report how requests for supporting information are clear or proportionate. RAG = Red</p> <p>Overall RAG = Amber</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	Timescales for both major and local applications are reducing and are faster than the Scottish average. You continue to actively manage applications subject to planning obligations.
5	Enforcement charter updated / re-published within last 2 years	Green	Your enforcement charter was 8 months old at the end of the reporting year.
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	You have improved timescales for deciding major and non-householder applications, although householder application decision times are a little slower. However these all are below the Scottish average. Your LDP and enforcement charter are up-to-date. RAG = Green You have completed 3 out of your 5 commitments last year and have identified a good range of commitments for the coming year. RAG = Green Overall RAG = Green
7	Local development plan less than 5 years since adoption	Green	Your LPD was 3 years and 4 months old at the end of the reporting year.
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 	Amber	You have stated that your LDP is still on course for adoption within the required 5 year timescale despite the delays to the adoption of Tayplan 2. RAG = Green You have not set out how your replacement LDP is being project planned to ensure delivery within the required timescale. RAG = Red Overall RAG = Amber
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 consulted on supplementary guidance on Renewables and Low Carbon which includes a spatial strategy and significant progress has been made on placemaking SPG. It is not clear what is in place at the end of the reporting year, and clarification would be useful in future reports.

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)	Amber	You have been awarded a customer service excellence accreditation in 2016 however you have not outlined how you work with other council services to improve outcomes for applicants. Future reports should provide more detailed information.
13	Sharing good practice, skills and knowledge between authorities	Green	You have undertaken study visits to Chapelton of Elsick and Banchory to learn from the experience of the council in helping to deliver these developments. You have also supported the Review of the Planning System by providing a member of staff to undertake a secondment with the Scottish Government to identify the different approaches authorities take to education and housing.
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 5 legacy cases during the reporting year which leaves 11 outstanding. It is not clear from your report what has happened to the 4 other applications which were reported last year.
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	You have a clear developer contribution policy in your existing and replacement LDP. RAG = Green There is not mention within your report that developer contributions are discussed in pre-application discussions. RAG = Amber Overall RAG = Amber

PERTH AND KINROSS 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
10	Stakeholders engaged early (pre-MIR)	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	4	7	2
2013-14	1	5	7
2014-15	1	0	14
2015-16	0	1	14
2016-17	0	6	7

Decision Making Timescales (weeks)

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2016-17 Scottish Average
Major Development	37.5	55.4	42.2	23.7	20.9	37.1
Local (Non-Householder) Development	12.0	12.5	11.8	11.3	8.1	11.1
Householder Development	8.1	7.8	6.8	6.3	6.5	7.3