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Ms Karen Reid
Chief Executive
Perth and Kinross Council

10 January 2019

Dear Ms Reid

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: Mr Nick Brian, Head of Planning



PERFORMANCE MARKERS REPORT 2017-18

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 18.5 weeks is faster than the previous year and is faster than the Scottish average of 33.6 weeks. RAG = Green</p> <p>Local (Non-Householder) Applications Your timescales of 8.4 weeks is slower than the previous year but is faster than the Scottish average of 10.7 weeks. RAG = Amber</p> <p>Householder Applications Your timescales of 6.8 weeks is slower than the previous year but is faster than the Scottish average of 7.3 weeks. However, this is within the statutory timescale of 8 weeks. RAG = Green</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>We note your offer of processing agreements to prospective applicants for major and complex local developments. This is available online and you are developing a strategy to improve uptake. RAG = Green</p> <p>Your processing agreements information is available on your website and you have improved signposting since last report. 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 	Green	<p>You offer pre-application support to prospective applicants. The number of applicants receiving pre-application support has doubled from last year. You note this is due to improved recording processes and that you have promoted your pre-application enquiry services through your website. RAG = Green</p> <p>Improvements to your Pre-Application Enquiry Service, such as the trial of a pre-validation service to give wider assistance to applicants, signals progress from last year's report. Elsewhere your case studies, such as the ESN rollout, makes it clear how you are taking proportionate and proactive approaches to requesting supporting information. RAG = Green</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)	Amber	Your average timescales for determining major applications is faster than last year with legal agreements, however local applications timescales was slower. Both were faster than the Scottish average. Future reports should clarify the process for ensuring legal agreements are concluded within the 6 month time scales.
5	Enforcement charter updated / re-published within last 2 years	Green	Your enforcement charter was 17 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 	Amber	Major application timescales are faster than last year but your timescales for local and householder applications were slower than last year but faster than the national average. Your enforcement charter and LDP are up-to-date. Elsewhere more sites reached legacy case status than were cleared. RAG = Amber You completed all 15 of your commitments last year and have identified an ambitious set of commitments for the next reporting year. RAG = Green Overall RAG = Amber
7	Local development plan less than 5 years since adoption	Green	Your LPD was 4 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 	Green	You stated that LDP is on course for adoption following approval by council. RAG = Green The LDP2 Story Map Case Study gives some indication of the process for preparing your replacement LDP and you have set out your project planning for the LDP in your development plan scheme. RAG = Green Overall RAG = Green
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.	Green	Case studies demonstrate policy support given in a proportionate manner, especially in regards to the implementation of the High Hedges (Scotland) Act 2013.
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	Green	Following last year's report feedback to clarify how you are improving services, you provide a number of case studies which demonstrate how you are working across services on several key projects, standardising protocols for internal consultation and providing conservation area appraisals.

	advice)		
13	Sharing good practice, skills and knowledge between authorities	Amber	You have given evidence at parliament regarding the High Hedges (Scotland) Act 2013. But, except for the benchmarking on the PPF, there is no information about collaborating or sharing with other planning authorities. Future reports should provide further examples of this.
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 9 cases during the reporting year, with 11 cases still awaiting conclusion. Based on this and last year's figures, 9 reached legacy status during the reporting year, the same figure as the figure cleared.
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 have a clear developer contributions policy in the existing and future LDP.</p> <p>RAG = Green</p> <p>Your Bertha Village case study and service improvements statement highlight a commitment to proportionate delivery of developer contributions and as part of your pre-application discussions.</p> <p>RAG = Green</p> <p>Overall RAG = Green</p>

PERTH AND KINROSS 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
10	Stakeholders engaged early (pre-MIR)	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	4	7	2
2013-14	1	5	7
2014-15	1	0	14
2015-16	0	1	14
2016-17	0	6	7
2017-18	0	4	9

Decision Making Timescales (weeks)

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2017-18 Scottish Average
Major Development	37.5	55.4	42.2	23.7	20.9	18.5	33.6
Local (Non-Householder) Development	12.0	12.5	11.8	11.3	8.1	8.4	10.7
Householder Development	8.1	7.8	6.8	6.3	6.5	6.8	7.3