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Karen Reid  
Chief Executive  
Perth and Kinross Council

11 February 2020

Dear Karen,

## **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: David Littlejohn**

## PERFORMANCE MARKERS REPORT 2018-19

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	<b>Decision-making:</b> continuous reduction of average timescales for all development categories [Q1 - Q4]	Green	<p><b>Major Applications</b> Your timescales of 31 weeks are slower than the previous year but faster than the Scottish average of 32.5 weeks. <b>RAG = Amber</b></p> <p><b>Local (Non-Householder) Applications</b> Your timescales of 8.3 weeks are faster than the previous year and faster than the Scottish average of 10.7 weeks. <b>RAG = Green</b></p> <p><b>Householder Applications</b> Your timescales of 6.9 weeks are slower than the previous year but faster than the Scottish average of 7.2 weeks and 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>We note your offer of processing agreements to prospective applicants for major and complex local developments. <b>RAG = Green</b></p> <p>Your processing agreements information is available on your 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 offer pre-application support to prospective applicants. <b>RAG = Green</b></p> <p>Your case study on St Paul's Church provides a good example of how pre-application advice is leading to better applications. <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)	Amber	Your average timescales for determining applications with legal agreements are slower than last year but faster than the Scottish average.

5	<b>Enforcement charter</b> updated / re-published within last 2 years	Green	Your enforcement charter was 2 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>	Amber	<p>Timescales for major and householder applications were slower than last year but timescales for non - householder applications were faster than last year and the national average. Your enforcement charter is up-to-date but your LDP was over 5 years old at the end of the reporting year. The number of legacy cases has increased.</p> <p><b>RAG = Red</b></p> <p>You completed all of your commitments last year and have identified an ambitious set of commitments for the next reporting year.</p> <p><b>RAG = Green</b></p> <p><b>Overall RAG = Amber</b></p>
7	<b>Local development plan</b> less than 5 years since adoption	Red	Your LDP was 5 years and 4 months old at the end of the reporting year.
8	<b>Development plan scheme – next LDP:</b> <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>	Amber	<p>At the end of the reporting year, your replacement LDP was not on course for adoption within the required 5 year timescale.</p> <p><b>RAG = Red</b></p> <p>LDP was adopted in November 2019.</p> <p><b>RAG = Green</b></p> <p><b>Overall RAG = Amber</b></p>
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	Case studies demonstrate how policy support is given in a proportionate manner.
12	<b>Corporate working across services</b> to improve outputs and services for customer benefit (for example: protocols; joined-up services; single contact arrangements; joint pre-application advice)	Green	You provide a number of case studies and information which demonstrate how you are working across services on several key projects and policy areas.
13	<b>Sharing good practice, skills and knowledge</b> between authorities	Green	Case studies provide good examples of you learning and sharing good practice with stakeholders and other authorities.
14	<b>Stalled sites / legacy cases:</b> conclusion or withdrawal of old planning applications and reducing	Amber	You have cleared 11 cases during the reporting year, with 17 cases still awaiting conclusion. Based on this and last year's figures, 17 reached legacy status during the reporting year.

	number of live applications more than one year old		
15	<p><b>Developer contributions:</b> clear and proportionate expectations</p> <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 have a clear developer contributions policy. <b>RAG = Green</b></p> <p>Developer contributions form part of your pre-application discussions. <b>RAG = Green</b></p> <p><b>Overall RAG = Green</b></p>

**PERTH AND KINROSS 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
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)**

<b>2012-13</b>	4	7	2
<b>2013-14</b>	1	5	7
<b>2014-15</b>	1	0	14
<b>2015-16</b>	0	1	14
<b>2016-17</b>	0	6	7
<b>2017-18</b>	0	4	9
<b>2018-19</b>	1	4	8

**Decision Making Timescales (weeks)**

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2018-19 Scottish Average
Major Development	37.5	55.4	42.2	23.7	20.9	18.5	31	32.5
Local (Non-Householder) Development	12.0	12.5	11.8	11.3	8.1	8.4	8.3	10.7
Householder Development	8.1	7.8	6.8	6.3	6.5	6.8	6.9	7.2