

Minister for Public Finance, Planning and Community
Wealth
Tom Arthur MSP



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Thomas Glen
Perth and Kinross Council

29 November 2021

Dear Thomas Glen

I am pleased to enclose feedback on your authority's tenth Planning Performance Framework (PPF) Report, for the period April 2020 to March 2021.

This is the first time I have written to you individually in my capacity as Planning Minister since my appointment earlier this year. I am very grateful for the support and welcome I have received and look forward to working with you.

This year has continued to present challenges for people working within planning, in the development sector and across Scotland's communities. We know people are doing the best they can to engage and operate, sometimes in ways and circumstances that may not be ideal, and with many still predominantly working from home. I appreciate that many of you will have had to make difficult choices in what work is prioritised, in much the same way the Government and Planning and Architecture Division has had to. However, we should all be very proud of how planning has responded to the coronavirus pandemic, adjusting as necessary to keep going and supporting recovery. I want to take this opportunity to thank you and your staff for all the work that has been done during the pandemic and to support our ongoing recovery.

When my predecessor wrote to you last year he indicated that the pandemic had required a rethink about the timing and prioritisation of our planning work programme. A number of our workstreams were paused or delayed as a result, including the review of the planning performance and fee regimes, which had been the subject of a detailed consultation that concluded in early 2020. However, in October 2021 we published a revised planning implementation programme (<https://www.gov.scot/publications/transforming-planning-practice-updated-planning->

[reform-implementation-programme/](#)). You will note that we have now recommenced our planning performance and fees review, which reflects the importance Scottish Government attaches to this work. We are currently finalising proposals and intend to lay regulations before the end of the year to introduce increased fees, providing a boost to planning authorities' resources. We also intend to commence the recruitment of the National Planning Improvement Coordinator early in 2022.

Turning to the 2020-21 PPF reporting year, although, as expected, there have been some small changes overall in the markings awarded, the figures indicate that performance has remained relatively stable. This is a testament to the hard work and flexibility of authorities during these very difficult times and I believe that overall good progress continues to be made by Scotland's planning authorities.

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.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Arthur', written in a cursive style.

Tom Arthur

Minister for Public Finance, Planning and Community Wealth

CC: David Littlejohn

PERFORMANCE MARKERS REPORT 2020-21

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 average timescale of 24.1 weeks is faster than the previous year and faster than the Scottish average of 41.3 weeks. RAG = Green</p> <p>Local (Non-Householder) Applications Your average timescale of 8.5 weeks is slower than the previous year but is faster than the Scottish average of 12.4 weeks. RAG = Amber</p> <p>Householder Applications Your average timescale of 6.9 weeks is faster than the previous year and faster than the Scottish average of 8.1 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. These are offered during the application process as well to assist with programming. RAG = Green</p> <p>Your processing agreements information is available on your website. 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 and pre-validation checks support to prospective applicants. RAG = Green</p> <p>Your report outlines that you are working towards a more collaborative approach to pre-app to ensure applicants get early guidance on the approach to their proposal and what barriers require to be overcome. RAG = Green</p> <p>Overall RAG = Green</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	Your average timescales for determining applications with legal agreements is slower than last year but is faster than the Scottish average. You have protocols in place to ensure that any contributions or agreements are concluded swiftly.
5	Enforcement charter updated / re-published within last 2 years	Green	Your enforcement charter was 2 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	Timescales for major and householder applications were faster than last year but timescales for non-householder applications were slower than last year. Your enforcement charter is up-to-date and your LDP is also up-to-date. However, the number of legacy cases has increased. RAG = Amber You completed 2 of your 8 commitments last year and have identified an ambitious set of commitments for the next reporting year. RAG = Amber Overall RAG = Amber
7	Local development plan less than 5 years since adoption	Green	Your LDP was 1 year 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	It is noted that Covid19 has delayed the approval of your DPS.
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	Although you have provided evidence within your PPF in the boxes next to these markers it is not considered that this engagement was to inform your next LDP as the marker indicates.
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	You have produced new Supplementary Guidance on Open Space Provision within new developments. Your LDP an Greenspace teams lead on preparation of the Good Growing Strategy and your Flood Risk SG has been revised to be more up-to-date. You are currently producing guidance on Ancillary an Annex Accommodation proposals and you are reviewing how the policy team respond to pre-app enquiries.

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)	Green	You provide a number of examples where Planning has contributed to projects which are being led by other councils services such as the Food Growing Strategy and Climate Change. This has included establishing an ad-hoc group to support each other to devise and carry out a programme of online events and trial new engagement approaches.
13	Sharing good practice, skills and knowledge between authorities	Green	You regularly engage with other authorities to share experience and good practice. Examples provided in your report include your collaboration with Angus Council to identify nature conservation sites across Tayside. You have also highlighted your work with Zero Waste Scotland and others to develop plans for your Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategies.
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 13 cases during the reporting year, with 30 cases still awaiting conclusion. The number of legacy cases which are undecided has increased from 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 	Green	You have a clear developer contributions policy which has been updated. RAG = Green Developer contributions form part of your pre-application discussions. RAG = Green Overall RAG = Green

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL
Performance against Key Markers

Marker		13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21
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
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
2018-19	1	4	8
2019-20	0	2	11
2020-21	0	2	11

Decision Making Timescales (weeks)

	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	20-21 Scottish Average
Major Development	55.4	42.2	23.7	20.9	18.5	31	28.2	24.1	41.3
Local (Non-Householder) Development	12.5	11.8	11.3	8.1	8.4	8.3	8.1	8.5	12.4
Householder Development	7.8	6.8	6.3	6.5	6.8	6.9	7.3	6.9	8.1