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agus Beartas Còimhearsnachd
Minister for Public Finance, Planning and Community
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Thomas Glen
Chief Executive
Perth and Kinross Council

22 December 2022

Dear Thomas Glen

I am pleased to enclose feedback on your authority's eleventh Planning Performance Framework (PPF) Report, for the period April 2021 to March 2022.

The reporting period which these reports cover has continued to present challenges for people working within planning, in the development sector and across Scotland's communities.

Ensuring the system is appropriately resourced is key to improving the performance of planning, which is why in April I implemented the biggest change to planning fees in 8 years, with fees for most types of development increasing by between 25% and 50%. At the time I said I would expect to see this additional money invested in delivering improvements in Planning Services. It is too early to know whether that has occurred, however, I have heard positive feedback from some authorities who have managed to recruit or retain staff as a result of the additional income. I also committed to working with Heads of Planning and COSLA to identify how we could move planning fees closer to covering the full cost of their determination. That work is ongoing and I expect to receive some conclusions/recommendations early in the new year.

I am also encouraged to see the fees for applications made under the Electricity Act also increasing on 13th December and the voluntary contribution of 50% of the fee, for certain types of application, being passed to planning authorities being maintained.

However, I recognise that resourcing is about more than just money and having a pipeline of knowledgeable and skilled planners is essential to delivering on our ambitions set out in NPF4. This is why I supported the RTP1 and Heads of Planning Scotland's Future Planners Project which looked at proposals to help increase the numbers of people entering the planning profession. We recognise the importance of delivering on this vision and the resourcing and skills challenges for planning authorities, which we are taking steps to address.

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Work is also progressing on

- the introduction of mandatory training for elected members in the planning system;
- the implementation of statutory annual reports by planning authorities; and
- the appointment of a Planning Improvement Coordinator for Scotland.

Turning to the 2021-22 PPF reporting year, although, as expected, there have been some minor 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 challenging 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.



TOM ARTHUR

CC: David Littlejohn, Head of Planning and Development

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PERFORMANCE MARKERS REPORT 2021-22

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]	Amber	<p>Major Applications Your average timescale of 35.1 weeks is slower than the previous year but faster than the Scottish average of 44.6 weeks. RAG = Amber</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 13.5 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 8.7 weeks and statutory timescale. 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. You mention there has been a continued rise in processing agreements for local complex applications, however the uptake for major applications is relatively low at 25%. 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. The number of applications subject to pre-application advice has remained relatively stable. RAG = Green</p> <p>Your report outlines that you have comprehensive guidance available for supporting information on your website which can be further enhanced via the pre-application service. 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 slightly slower than last year at 20.6 weeks but faster than the Scottish average of 33.2 weeks. 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 1 year and 2 months old at the end of the reporting year.
6	Continuous improvement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> progress ambitious and relevant service improvement commitments identified through PPF report 	Amber	You completed 1 of your 6 commitments with another 4 on target and 1 still progressing. You have identified a good range of service improvements for 22/23 and have set them out into a three-year improvement programme.
7	Local development plan less than 5 years since adoption	Green	Your LDP was 2 year and 4 months old at the end of the reporting year.
8	Development plan scheme – next LDP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> project planned and expected to be delivered to planned timescale 	Green	You have an updated DPS which shows work is progressing on the next LDP3 in line with the indicative timeline set out
9 & 10	LDP Engagement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> stakeholders including Elected Members, industry, agencies, the public and Scottish Government are engaged appropriately through all key stages of development plan preparation. 	Green	Work has continued on further engagement with stakeholders including re-instatement of the House Builder Liaison meetings to help cover matters including economy, housing market expectations, draft NPF4 and evidence gathering for the LDP.
11	Regular and proportionate policy advice produced on information required to support applications.	Green	You have produced new Supplementary Guidance on Food Growing Strategy which sets out the approach to find food growing sites by identifying settlements. Other statutory guidance also produced included Ancillary and Annex Accommodation proposals as well as additional non-statutory guidance with regards to Nature Guidance and Loch Leven.
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 Active Travel Work and the digital work which has been undertaken incorporating corporate working across GIS team and the Community.
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 cross-authority collaboration on a new Housing Needs and Demand Assessment. Work has also been shared across different authorities on early discussions regarding 20-minute neighbourhoods.
14	Stalled sites / legacy cases: conclusion or withdrawal of old planning applications and reducing number of live applications more than one year old	Green	You have cleared 20 cases during the reporting year, with 20 cases still awaiting conclusion. The number of legacy cases remaining has dropped from 30 to 20.

15	<p>Developer contributions: clear and proportionate expectations</p> <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 which has been updated. RAG = Green</p> <p>Developer contributions form part of your pre-application discussions. RAG = Green</p> <p>Overall RAG = Green</p>
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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	21-22
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 & 10	LDP Early Engagement	N/A			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
2021-22	0	2	12

Decision Making Timescales (weeks)

	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	2021-22 Scottish Average
Major Development	55.4	42.2	23.7	20.9	18.5	31	28.2	24.1	35.1	44.6
Local (Non-Householder) Development	12.5	11.8	11.3	8.1	8.4	8.3	8.1	8.5	8.5	13.5
Householder Development	7.8	6.8	6.3	6.5	6.8	6.9	7.3	6.9	6.9	8.7