

Minister for Local Government Empowerment and
Planning
Ministear airson Cumhachdachadh is Dealbhachadh
Riaghaltas Ionadail
Joe FitzPatrick MSP
Joe Mac Giolla Phádraig BPA



Thomas Glen
Chief Executive
Perth and Kinross Council

20 October 2023

Dear Thomas Glen,

I am pleased to enclose feedback on your authority's twelfth Planning Performance Framework (PPF) Report, for the period April 2022 to March 2023.

Across the country, performance against the key markers continues to be stable and there has been little variation in the overall total of green, amber and red markings awarded this reporting period compared with previous periods. It is clear that each of you continue to put in considerable effort to ensuring our planning system continues to run efficiently. I have been particularly pleased to see there has been a marked improvement on speed of determination for major applications across some authorities.

Resourcing remains a key priority which I will continue to discuss with the High Level Group on Planning Performance, which I jointly chair with COSLA. I also have asked officials to bring different parties together to talk about resourcing in the autumn, to identify practical solutions. We need options that work for all sectors, and I think it would be really beneficial to discuss a variety of issues including full cost recovery, the local setting of fees, charges for additional services and approaches which could enable authorities to access the skills and expertise at the time they require.

Finally, I am delighted that we have recently announced the appointment of the National Planning Improvement Champion (NPIC), Craig McLaren, who took up this new post in early September. Craig will play a pivotal role in supporting improvement and will also be looking at how we can improve the way we measure and assess the performance of the planning system in the future.


If you would like to discuss any of the markings awarded below, please contact us at chief.planner@gov.scot and a member of the team will be happy to discuss them with you.

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JOE FITZPATRICK

CC: David Littlejohn, Head of Planning and Development

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PERFORMANCE MARKERS REPORT 2022-23

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 is 48.3 weeks which is slower than the previous year and slower than the Scottish average of 39.5 weeks. RAG = Red</p> <p>Local (Non-Householder) Applications Your average timescale is 10.1 weeks which is slower than the previous year but faster than the Scottish average of 14.4 weeks. RAG = Amber</p> <p>Householder Applications Your average timescale is 8.3 weeks which is slower than the previous year but faster than the Scottish average of 8.9 weeks. RAG = Amber</p> <p>Overall RAG = Amber</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 all major and local pre-application enquiries which is included as a standard part of your response. RAG = Green</p> <p>You promote the use of processing agreements on your website, however you note that there is not much willingness to enter into such agreement. 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 continue to offer pre-application enquiries alongside pre-validation checks for all prospective applications. RAG = Green</p> <p>You have set out that guidance is available on your website in relation to what supporting information is required as well as trying to ensure that applicants receive early guidance during discussions. 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 timescale for applications with legal agreement is 39.7 weeks which is slower than the previous year but faster than the Scottish average of 41.1 weeks. You have noted that you have a procedure in place to help work with developers to bring forward as many permissions within the target timescales.

5	Enforcement charter updated / re-published within last 2 years	Red	Your enforcement charter was last updated in January 2021 which is not within the last 2 years. It is noted that the review of the enforcement charter has been deferred until later in 2023 due to capacity issues.
6	Continuous improvement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> progress ambitious and relevant service improvement commitments identified through PPF report 	Green	You have completed the majority of improvement commitments identified during the previous reporting period. You have identified 9 commitments for the coming year with some carried over from the previous period.
7	Local development plan less than 5 years since adoption	Green	Your LDP was 2 years and 4 months old at the end of the reporting period which is within 5 years since adoption.
8	Development plan scheme – next LDP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> project planned and expected to be delivered to planned timescale 	Green	You are progressing work in line with the indicative timescales set out in the Development Plan Schemes.
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	You have undertaken work in early data gathering relating to your next LDP including a programme of place based engagement to help towards producing the evidence report.
11	Regular and proportionate policy advice produced on information required to support applications.	Green	You have produced new guidance on Gypsy / Traveller Site Standards as well as continuing to undertake bi-yearly sessions of policy review to ensure policies within NPF4 are interpreted accurately.
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 continue to liaise closely with other services including Building Standards, particularly in relation to Dangerous Buildings. You also provided cross-service advice in relation to responding to pre-application requests.
13	Sharing good practice, skills and knowledge between authorities	Green	You have worked closely with the City of Edinburgh Council to share good practice in the application and review of Housing Land Audit production. You have also shared knowledge with other authorities in relation to 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	Amber	You have cleared 17 cases during the reporting period, slightly less than the 20 cleared during the previous reporting period. The number of cases remaining has risen slightly from 20 to 21.
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 set out developer contribution expectations in your current LDP. You also have adopted Developer Contributions and Affordable Housing Supplementary Guidance. RAG = Green You have set out that developer contributions are referred, where relevant, during 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	21-22	22-23
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)

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
2022-23	1	2	11

Decision Making Timescales (weeks)

	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23	2022-23 Scottish Average
Major Development	55.4	42.2	23.7	20.9	18.5	31	28.2	24.1	35.1	48.3	39.5
Local (Non-Householder) Development	12.5	11.8	11.3	8.1	8.4	8.3	8.1	8.5	8.5	10.1	14.4
Householder Development	7.8	6.8	6.3	6.5	6.8	6.9	7.3	6.9	6.9	8.3	8.9