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**REPORT TO: PLANNING AND REGULATORY SERVICES COMMITTEE ON  
14 MARCH 2023**

**SUBJECT: PLANNING PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK 2021/22**

**BY: DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE (ECONOMY, ENVIRONMENT &  
FINANCE)**

**1. REASON FOR REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform the Committee the Planning Performance Framework (PPF) for 2021/2022 was submitted to the Scottish Government (SG) on 30 July 2022, covering the period from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022. This report provides a summary of feedback received from the Scottish Government on 22 December 2022 with specific reference to the Performance Markers Report and Red, Amber, Green (RAG) ratings for the 2021/2022 submission.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section III E (1) of the Council's Scheme of Administration relating to exercising the statutory functions of the Council as Planning Authority.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

**2.1 It is recommended that the Committee:-**

- (i) note the Planning Performance Framework submitted to the Scottish Government on 30 July 2022 (Appendix 1);**
- (ii) note the feedback report received from the Scottish Government on 22 December 2022 (Appendix 2);**
- (iii) authorise the Head of Economic Growth & Development to submit the Planning Performance Framework for 2022/2023 to the Scottish Government by the end of July 2023 (or any other date that may be set);**
- (iv) note that the Planning Performance Framework will be reported to the first available Planning & Regulatory Services Committee following receipt of the feedback; and**

- (v) **note the Planning Performance Framework 2021/22 will be circulated to all developers, stakeholders and internal services seeking comment/feedback to assist with continuous improvement to be fed back into the PPF for 2022/2023.**

### 3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Council has prepared PPF reports for the last ten years with the latest one covering 2021/22 submitted in July 2022. The main purpose of the PPF is to provide Ministers, Councils and the public with a greater understanding as to how a planning authority is performing and delivering high quality development on the ground.
- 3.2 In 2016/17 the Council received fifteen green awards for the first time.
- 3.3 The PPF submitted for 2021/22 is attached at **Appendix 1** and follows the updated template issued by the SG with a greater emphasis on the use of case studies to illustrate how key performance markers are met in Moray.
- 3.4 As part of the SG's feedback a summary of performance is included covering the last eight years since the PPF was introduced (tables below). This shows how year on year the number of key markers have been changed to green as well as avoiding slipping back into red.

[illegible]

14	Stalled sites/legacy cases									
15	Developer Contributions									

### Overall Markings (total numbers for red, amber and green)

<b>2012-13</b>	3	6	6
<b>2013-14</b>	2	5	6
<b>2014-15</b>	1	4	8
<b>2015-16</b>	1	3	9
<b>2016-17</b>	0	1	12
<b>2017-18</b>	0	1	14
<b>2018-19</b>	0	0	13
<b>2019-20</b>	0	0	13
<b>2020-21</b>	0	0	13
<b>2021-22</b>	0	0	13

### 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	98.2	13.1	20.0	16.9	16.5	8.9	10.3	21.3	15.1	44.6
Local (Non-Householder) Development	13.5	8.5	7.5	7.2	6.6	6.5	6.5	7.1	6.8	13.5
Householder Development	7.1	5.8	6.3	5.7	5.3	5.3	5.7	6.7	6.2	8.7

## 4. FEEDBACK FROM SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT – PPF 2021/22

- 4.1 Written feedback was received on 22 December 2022 from the Minister for Public Finance, Planning and Community to the Council's Chief Executive, enclosing a Planning Performance Feedback report on the fifteen 'Performance Markers'.
- 4.2 The letters states "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 that time I said I would expect to see this additional money invested in delivering improvements in Planning Services." "However I have recognised that resourcing is about more than just money and having a

pipeline of knowledgeable and skilled planners is essential to delivering our ambitions set out in NPF4”.

- 4.3 The Performance Markers Report 2021/22 sets out the fifteen performance markers, each one receiving either a red, amber or green RAG rating. Fourteen markers have been awarded a green rating and one is not applicable. This is the fourth time all markers have been given a green award where applicable.
- 4.4 One of the key markers relates to decision-making refers to continuous reduction of average timescales for all development categories and this marker has been awarded a green status. Householder application determination rates have fallen slightly to an average of 6.2 weeks from 6.7 weeks; Local applications (non-householders) have also fallen slightly to 6.8 weeks from 7.1 weeks and major application average timescales has also fallen from 21.3 weeks to 15.1 weeks. Major applications are important to the Moray economy and the majority are covered by processing agreements which assist in determining them timeously and continue to be the number one priority along with fast tracking development proposals in town centres. All three development types for decision-making timescales are below the Scottish average.
- 4.5 One of the other key markers worthy of highlighting relates to the Development plan scheme, which identifies that the LDP was adopted within the 5 years of the current plan adoption and within the required timescale of the Development Plan Scheme. Having an up to date Local Development Plan is essential to Moray’s economy.

## **5. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

### **(a) Corporate Plan and 10 Year Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP))**

The ten year plan’s top priority is a growing, diverse and sustainable economy. It covers business, employment, infrastructure, public services and developing sustainable communities. The PPF is a vital aspect of supporting and facilitating the Council’s priority for economic growth and supports the Service Plan to deliver service improvements.

### **(b) Policy and Legal**

Preparation of the PPF is a statutory responsibility for all Local Planning Authorities and preparation has to follow a strict template and timescale for submission.

### **(c) Financial implications**

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

### **(d) Risk Implications**

There is a reputational risk if this authority doesn’t continue to demonstrate that continuous improvement is being made in all areas of the planning service.

**(e) Staffing Implications**

No staff implications as a result of this report.

**(f) Property**

None.

**(g) Equalities/Socio Economic Impact**

There are no equalities issues arising from this report.

**(h) Climate Change and Biodiversity Impacts**

None.

**(i) Consultations**

The Head of Economic Growth & Development, the Strategic Planning & Development Manager, the Legal Services Manager, Lissa Rowan (Committee Services Officer), the Equal Opportunities Officer, the Senior Engineer Transportation and Environmental Health and Trading Standards Manager have been consulted and comments received have been incorporated into the report.

**6. CONCLUSION**

**6.1 The Planning Performance Framework submitted to the Scottish Government for 2021/22 and the associated feedback received demonstrates that decision making timescales are below the Scottish National Average, the Moray Local Development Plan has been adopted within the programmed timescale and over the last 12 months continuous improvements have been made improving the quality of the planning service supporting economic growth.**

Author of Report:

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Background Papers:

Ref: Appendix 1  
Appendix 2

Planning Performance Framework 2021/2022  
Feedback letter dated 22 December 2022 from  
Minister for Public Finance, Planning and Community