



**REPORT TO: PLANNING AND REGULATORY SERVICES COMMITTEE ON
26 JANUARY 2021**

SUBJECT: PLANNING PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK 2019/20

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

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Committee the Planning Performance Framework (PPF) for 2019/2020 was submitted to the Scottish Government (SG) on 30 July 2020, covering the period from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020. This report provides a summary of feedback received from the Scottish Government on 17 December 2020 with specific reference to the Performance Markers Report and Red, Amber, Green (RAG) ratings for the 2019/2020 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 2020 (Appendix 1);**
- (ii) note the feedback report received from the Scottish Government on 17 December 2020 (Appendix 2);**
- (iii) authorise the Head of Economic Growth & Development to submit the Planning Performance Framework for 2020/2021 to the Scottish Government by the end of July 2021 (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**

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	3	6	6
2013-14	2	5	6
2014-15	1	4	8
2015-16	1	3	9
2016-17	0	1	12
2017-18	0	1	14
2018-19	0	0	13
2019-20	0	0	13

Decision Making Timescales (weeks)

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2019-20 Scottish Average
Major Development	55.7	98.2	13.1	20.0	16.9	16.5	8.9	10.3	33.5
Local (Non-Householder) Development	20.0	13.5	8.5	7.5	7.2	6.6	6.5	6.5	10.9
Householder Development	10.1	7.1	5.8	6.3	5.7	5.3	5.3	5.7	7.3

4 FEEDBACK FROM SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT – PPF 2019/20

- 4.1 Written feedback was received on 17 December 2020 from the Minister for Local Government and Housing to the Council’s Chief Executive, enclosing a Planning Performance Feedback report on the fifteen ‘Performance Markers’.
- 4.2 The letter state “I believe that good progress continues to be made by Scotland’s planning authorities. Overall, there has been an increase in the number of green ratings awarded this year, with a subsequent reduction in red ratings, however, there remains some variation across some authorities and markers. I have been particularly pleased to see improvements in the speed of determination of major planning applications in some authorities”. Specific reference is also made to resources “While we have paused the changes to the fees and performance legislation, I am committed to ensuring that

planning authorities are properly resourced and that planning fee levels are proportionate”.

- 4.3 The Performance Markers Report 2019/20 sets out the fifteen performance markers, each one receiving either a red, amber or green RAG rating. Thirteen markers have been given a green rating and two are not applicable as they relate to engagement on LDP Main Issues Report. This is the second time that all markers that have been given a green award.
- 4.4 One of the key markers relating 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 increased slightly to an average of 5.7 weeks from 5.3 weeks; Local applications (non-householders) have maintained at 6.5 weeks and major application average timescales has also increased slightly to 10.3 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 MLDP 2020 was adopted within the 5 years of adopting the MLDP 2015 and within the target dates in the Scheme, despite challenges relating to a prolonged Examination process and remote working.

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) Consultations

Head of Economic Growth and Development, Strategic Planning and Development Manager, the Legal Services Manager, Lissa Rowan (Committee Services Officer), Equal Opportunities Officer, Paul Connor (Principal Accountant), 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 2019/20 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.

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Background Papers:

Ref: