



**REPORT TO: PLANNING AND REGULATORY SERVICES COMMITTEE ON
25 FEBRUARY 2020**

SUBJECT: PLANNING PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK 2018/19

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

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Committee the Planning Performance Framework (PPF) for 2018/2019 was submitted to the Scottish Government (SG) on 31 July 2019, covering the period from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019. This report provides a summary of feedback received from the Scottish Government on 12 February 2020 with specific reference to the Performance Markers Report and Red, Amber, Green (RAG) ratings for the 2018/2019 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 31 July 2019 (Appendix 1);**
- (ii) note the feedback report received from the Scottish Government on 12 February 2020 (Appendix 2);**
- (iii) authorise the Head of Economic Growth & Development to submit the Planning Performance Framework for 2019/2020 to the Scottish Government by the end of July 2020 (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 2018/19 will be circulated to all developers, stakeholders and internal services**

	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

Decision Making Timescales (weeks)

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2018-19 Scottish Average
Major Development	55.7	98.2	13.1	20.0	16.9	16.5	8.9	32.5
Local (Non-Householder) Development	20.0	13.5	8.5	7.5	7.2	6.6	6.5	10.7
Householder Development	10.1	7.1	5.8	6.3	5.7	5.3	5.3	7.2

4. FEEDBACK FROM SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT – PPF 2018/19

- 4.1 Written feedback was received on 12 February 2020 from the Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning to the Council’s Chief Executive, enclosing a feedback report fifteen ‘Performance Markers’.
- 4.2 The letters states “I believe that good progress continues to be made by authorities. Although there has been a small drop in the number of green ratings awarded this year and there remains some variation across some authorities and markers. I have been particularly impressed by the speed of determination of major applications in some authorities. This is an exciting time for the planning system in Scotland with the preparation of the National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) underway and the changes to the development planning and management systems to follow”.
- 4.3 The Performance Markers Report 2018/19 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.

This is the first time all markers that have been scored have been given a green award.

- 4.4 One of the key markers relates to decision-making that requires Local Planning Authorities to demonstrate continuous reduction in average timescales for all development categories and is worthy of noting its green status. Householder applications remained at an average of 5.3 weeks; Local applications (non-householders) have reduced from 6.6 weeks to 6.5 weeks and major application average timescales has reduced to 8.9 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.
- 4.5 One of the other key markers worthy of highlighting relates to the Development plan scheme which is on track for adoption within the five year cycle and is managed through the use of regular project meetings with deadlines set. 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) Consultations

Head of Economic Growth & Development, Strategic Planning & Development Manager, the Legal Services Manager, Lissa Rowan (Committee Services Officer), Equal Opportunities Officer, Paul Connor (Principal Accountant), the Senior Engineer transport Development and Environmental Health & 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 2018/19 and the associated feedback received demonstrates that continuous improvements have been made in decision making timescales (below the Scottish National Average), the Local Development Plan is on track for adoption 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:

Beverly Smith
Development Management & Building Standards
Manager

Background Papers:

Ref: Appendix 1
Appendix 2

Planning Performance Framework 2018/2019
Feedback letter dated 11 February 2020 from Scottish
Government