



**REPORT TO: PLANNING AND REGULATORY SERVICES COMMITTEE ON
18 JANUARY 2022**

SUBJECT: PLANNING PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK 2020/21

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

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Committee that the Planning Performance Framework (PPF) for 2020/21 was submitted to the Scottish Government (SG) on 29 July 2021, covering the period from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021. This report provides a summary of feedback received from the Scottish Government dated 29 November 2021 with specific reference to the Performance Markers Report and Red, Amber, Green (RAG) ratings for the 2020/2021 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 29 July 2021 (Appendix 1);**
- (ii) note the feedback report received from the Scottish Government on 29 November 2021 (Appendix 2);**
- (iii) authorise the Head of Economic Growth and Development to submit the Planning Performance Framework for 2021/2022 to the Scottish Government by the end of July 2022 (or any other date that may be set);**
- (iv) note that the Planning Performance Framework will be reported to the first available Planning and Regulatory Services Committee following receipt of the feedback; and**
- (v) note the Planning Performance Framework 2020/21 will be circulated to all developers, stakeholders and internal 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	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
2020-21	0	0	13

Decision Making Timescales (weeks)

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2020-21 Scottish Average
Major Applications	55.7	98.2	13.1	20.0	16.9	16.5	8.9	10.3	21.3	41.3
Local (Non-Householder) Applications	20.0	13.5	8.5	7.5	7.2	6.6	6.5	6.5	7.1	12.4
Householder Applications	10.1	7.1	5.8	6.3	5.7	5.3	5.3	5.7	6.7	8.1

4. FEEDBACK FROM SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT – PPF 2020/21

- 4.1 Written feedback was received on 29 November 2021 from the Minister for Public Finance, Planning and Community Wealth to the Council's Chief Executive, enclosing a Planning Performance Feedback report on the fifteen 'Performance Markers'.
- 4.2 The letters states "This year has continued to present challenges for people working within planning, in the development sector and across Scotland's communities. We know people are doing the best they can to engage and operate, sometimes in ways and circumstances that may not be ideal, and

with many still predominantly working from home. I appreciate that many of you will have had to make difficult choices in what work is prioritised, in much the same way the Government and Planning and Architecture Division has had to. However, we should all be very proud of how planning has responded to the coronavirus pandemic, adjusting as necessary to keep going and supporting recovery. I want to take this opportunity to thank you and your staff for all work that has been done during the pandemic and to support our ongoing recovery”.

- 4.3 The letter then turns to the 2020-21 PPF reporting year, and states “that performance has remained relatively stable. This is a testament to the hard work and flexibility of authorities during these very difficult times and I believe that overall good progress continues to be made by Scotland’s planning authorities”.
- 4.4 The Performance Markers Report 2020/21 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 third year in a row that all markers that have been given a green award.
- 4.5 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 increased slightly to an average of 8.1 weeks from 6.7 weeks; Local applications (non-householders) have also increased slightly to 7.1 weeks. Major planning application average timescales was recorded at 21.3 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.
- 4.6 One of the other key markers worthy of highlighting relates to the Development plan scheme, which identifies that the LDP 2020 was, adopted within the 5 years of the current plan adoption and within the required the timescale of the scheme. Having an up to date Local Development Plan is essential to Moray’s economy. Work has commenced on identifying what information will be required for the evidence report.

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 transport Development 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 2020/21 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 Planning Performance Framework 2020/21
Appendix 2 Feedback letter dated 29 November 2021
from Minister for Public Finance, Planning and Community
Wealth