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Roderick Burns
Chief Executive
Moray Council

11 February 2020

Dear Roderick,

PLANNING PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK FEEDBACK 2018-19

I am pleased to enclose feedback on your authority's 8th PPF Report for the period April 2018 to March 2019.

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.

We are now pressing ahead with our programme of reform. In September 2019 we published "Transforming Planning in Practice" our work programme for implementing the provisions of the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 and wider planning improvements. We have also just launched our www.transformingplanning.scot website where you can keep up to date and involved with Scotland's fourth National Planning Framework (NPF4), Digital Planning and the Planning Reform programme.

This is an exciting time for the planning system in Scotland with the preparation of NPF4 underway and the changes to the development planning and management systems to follow. We really value the input of your staff as expert users of the system and welcome their continued support in developing and implementing the planning system that we all want to see.

One of the first things I'm keen to address is planning resources, which is why we are consulting on increasing planning fees, moving them towards covering the full cost of determining applications and extending the range of services which authorities can charge for in exercising their planning functions. The consultation is due to close on 14th February and I hope that you will submit your views. I know applicants will expect to see continued improvement in performance and those increased fees invested in the planning service. This is why we are also consulting on how we measure and monitor the performance of the planning system at the same time.

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

Kind Regards



KEVIN STEWART

CC: Jim Grant

PERFORMANCE MARKERS REPORT 2018-19

Name of planning authority: **Moray 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]	Green	<p>Major Applications Your timescales of 8.9 weeks are faster than the previous year and are faster than the Scottish average of 32.5 weeks. RAG = Green</p> <p>Local (Non-Householder) Applications Your timescales of 6.5 weeks are faster than the previous year and are faster than the Scottish average of 10.7 weeks. RAG = Green</p> <p>Householder Applications Your timescales of 5.3 weeks are the same as the previous year and remain faster than the Scottish average of 7.2 weeks. RAG = Green</p> <p>Overall RAG = Green</p>
2	Processing agreements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> offer to all prospective applicants for major development planning applications; and availability publicised on website 	Green	<p>You encourage processing agreements to applicants. RAG = Green</p> <p>Processing agreement information is available through your website. RAG = Green</p> <p>Overall RAG = Green</p>
3	Early collaboration with applicants and consultees <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 provide a pre-application advice service which is promoted through the website. RAG = Green</p> <p>Your case studies and stated processes demonstrate a commitment to keeping requests for supporting information proportionate and how they lead to improved applications 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 timescales for determining applications with legal agreements are faster than last year and the Scottish average.

5	Enforcement charter updated / re-published within last 2 years	Green	Your enforcement charter was 16 months old at the end of the reporting year.
6	Continuous improvement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • progress/improvement in relation to PPF National Headline Indicators; and • progress ambitious and relevant service improvement commitments identified through PPF report 	Green	Your decision making timescales are faster than last year and your LDP and enforcement charter are both up-to-date. Elsewhere, you have determined 1 legacy case with 1 case remaining to be determined.. RAG = Green You have completed 12 out of 18 of your improvement commitments with the remaining to be continued over the next reporting year. You have identified a good range of improvement commitments for the coming. RAG = Amber Overall RAG = Green
7	Local development plan less than 5 years since adoption	Green	Your LDP was 4 years old at the end of the reporting period.
8	Development plan scheme – next LDP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • on course for adoption within 5 years of current plan(s) adoption; and • project planned and expected to be delivered to planned timescale 	Green	LDP2 is on track for adoption within the five year cycle. RAG = Green Your LDP2 is managed through regular project meetings which sets deadlines for various parts of the project. RAG = Green Overall RAG = Green
9	Elected members engaged early (pre-MIR) in development plan preparation – <i>if plan has been at pre-MIR stage during reporting year</i>	N/A	
10	Cross sector stakeholders* engaged early (pre-MIR) in development plan preparation – <i>if plan has been at pre-MIR stage during reporting year</i>	N/A	
11	Regular and proportionate policy advice produced on information required to support applications.	Green	You have produced a number of masterplans and your case studies indicate your proportionate response to producing policy advice.
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 have provided some good examples of working across council departments and with other key stakeholders. This has included working on areas such as community planning, infrastructure and placemaking.
13	Sharing good practice, skills and knowledge between authorities	Green	You participate in HOPS sub committees, the national developer obligations forum, and meetings with neighbouring authorities to discuss rural housing issues and design. You also participate in benchmarking.
14	Stalled sites / legacy cases: conclusion or withdrawal of old planning applications and reducing number of live applications more than one year old	Green	You have cleared 1 cases during the reporting year, with 1 cases still awaiting conclusion. Based on this and last year's figures, only 1 site reached legacy status during the reporting year.
15	Developer contributions: clear and proportionate expectations	Green	Developer Contributions policy is set out in your LDP and is supported by supplementary guidance.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • set out in development plan (and/or emerging plan); and • in pre-application discussions 		<p>RAG = Green</p> <p>Expectations for developer contributions are clarified in your pre-application discussions.</p> <p>RAG = Green</p> <p>Overall RAG = Green</p>
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MORAY COUNCIL

Performance against Key Markers

Marker		2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
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	Elected members engaged early (pre-MIR)		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A
10	Stakeholders engaged early (pre-MIR)		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	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