

AGENDA ITEM 6

APPENDIX I

PLANNING PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK 2015-16

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Mr Grant Moir
Chief Executive
Cairngorms National Park Authority

25 November 2016

Dear Mr Moir

PLANNING PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK 2015-16

Thank you for submitting your authority's annual Planning Performance Framework (PPF) report covering the period April 2015 to March 2016. Please find enclosed your feedback report, which is based on the evidence provided within your PPF.

I am very pleased that the quality of PPF reporting has again improved with many authorities setting out a very clear story of how the service is operating and detailing their priority actions for improvement. There have been general improvements across most of the categories however, there still remains high levels of inconsistency in planning authority decision making timescales across the country. This was also reflected through the recent publication of the statistics for the first quarter of 2016-17 which shows that certain authorities, and certain cases, are dragging the statistics down considerably. I asked officials to look into the reasons for delay in some of the lengthiest cases and will report on that to the High Level Group on Performance.

Planning performance improvement has come a long way in recent years and the PPF framework provides an excellent opportunity for authorities to set out the details behind their performance and showcase good practice and innovative ideas. I hope we can continue to work positively with authorities to improve monitoring processes and continue our collective commitment to improving services.

This is an exciting time for planning – the momentum of the independent planning review is continuing and we will be publishing a consultation outlining options for change in the winter, to inform the future Planning Bill. The consultation will cover a variety of options to enhance community involvement in planning; help deliver homes and infrastructure; simplify development planning and management processes; and focus on improving the service and reputation of planning. It is a challenging timetable but a fantastic opportunity to deliver real change.

Although there are some things that we need legislation to change, many of the panel's recommendations don't need legislation, they need a change in working practices, a recognition that planning creates the places where people work, live, learn and play. To achieve the outcomes we all want to see, authorities need to reposition planning to ensure that it sits at the very heart of the authority and has the resources available to it to make sure it provides the best service possible to developers, stakeholders and the authority in which it sits. To help achieve this we will shortly be launching a consultation on raising the planning fee maximum in an effort to move towards cost recovery. Following the planning bill we will consult further on potential reform of the fee regime.

I hope that you and your authority will actively participate as we progress, ensuring that we see real change throughout the planning community.



KEVIN STEWART

CC: Gavin Miles, Head of Planning

PERFORMANCE MARKERS REPORT 2015-16

Name of planning authority: **Cairngorms National Park Authority**

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]	Amber	<p>Local Non-Householder Applications</p> <p>At 14.6 weeks your decision making timescales have improved, however this remains slower than the national average of 12.3 weeks.</p> <p>Overall RAG = Amber</p>
2	<p>Processing agreements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> offer to all prospective applicants for major development planning applications; and availability publicised on website 	Green	<p>No major applications last year but processing agreements available online for all applications called in by CNPA, 71% for all applications.</p> <p>RAG = Green</p> <p>Availability highlighted online.</p> <p>RAG = Green</p>
3	<p>Early collaboration with applicants and consultees</p> <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>Slight drop in pre-application advice last year to 61%. Guidance document promoting pre-application advice available on website.</p> <p>RAG = Green</p> <p>Fife Arms case study shows benefit of pre-application discussions with positive outcomes.</p> <p>RAG = Green</p>
4	<p>Legal agreements: conclude (or reconsider) applications after resolving to grant permission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> reducing number of live applications more than 6 months after resolution to grant (from last reporting period) 	Green	<p>No legal agreements used last year.</p> <p>You intend to implement standard legal agreement templates to improve efficiency in the coming year.</p>
5	Enforcement charter updated / re-published within last 2 years	Green	Enforcement charter is 1 ½ years old.

6	<p>Continuous improvement:</p> <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	<p>Timescales for local developments reduced by a third, now slightly higher than national averages. LDP and enforcement charter up to date.</p> <p>RAG = Green</p> <p>Review of specialist services continuing into next year, all other service improvement actions complete. Good range of service improvements identified for coming year.</p> <p>RAG = Green</p>
7	<p>Local development plan less than 5 years since adoption</p>	Green	<p>LDP is 1 year old.</p>
8	<p>Development plan scheme – next LDP:</p> <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	<p>You state commitments were met last year and your DPS shows LDP is on course for adoption within 5 years and your use of project planning.</p>
9	<p>Elected members engaged early (pre-MIR) in development plan preparation – <i>if plan has been at pre-MIR stage during reporting year</i></p>	N/A	
10	<p>Cross sector stakeholders* engaged early (pre-MIR) in development plan preparation – <i>if plan has been at pre-MIR stage during reporting year</i></p> <p><i>*including industry, agencies and Scottish Government</i></p>	N/A	
11	<p>Regular and proportionate policy advice produced on information required to support applications; and</p>	Green	<p>Supplementary guidance available online including development briefs with clear and proportionate advice on housing and design.</p>
12	<p>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)</p>	Green	<p>Undertaking review to simplify and strengthen planning service protocol. Collaborated with local authorities and partners through Planning Delivery Group to prepare and implement LDP Action Programme.</p> <p>Your report would benefit from outlining the Impact and expected outcomes resulting from this approach.</p>

13	Sharing good practice, skills and knowledge between authorities	Green	<p>Collaborated with Aberdeenshire Council and SEPA to develop a fast track process for applications resulting from flooding.</p> <p>You participate in the North of Scotland Development Plans Forum and HOPS benchmarking, specific examples of shared practice, skills and knowledge will improve future reports.</p>
14	Stalled sites / legacy cases: conclusion or withdrawal of old planning applications and reducing number of live applications more than one year old	Green	<p>You have no legacy cases.</p>
15	Developer contributions: clear and proportionate expectations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • set out in development plan (and/or emerging plan); and • in pre-application discussions 	Green	<p>Developer contributions set out in development plan and in published development briefs for certain locations.</p> <p>RAG = Green</p> <p>You state that where relevant developer contributions are highlighted during pre-application discussions.</p> <p>RAG = Green</p>

CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY
Performance against Key Markers

Marker		2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
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
10	Stakeholders engaged early (pre-MIR)	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	4	4	5
2013-14	3	5	5
2014-15	0	6	7
2015-16	0	1	12

Decision Making Timescales (weeks)

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2015-16 Scottish Average
Major Development	190.6	251.0	130.9	-	38.8
Local Householder) Development	18.5	19.4	22.2	14.6	12.3
Householder Development	9.0	-	-	-	7.5