

# **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**AOB**

## **PLANNING PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK 2018-19**



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Grant Moir  
Chief Executive  
Cairngorms National Park Authority

11 February 2020

Dear Grant,

## **PLANNING PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK FEEDBACK 2018-19**

I am pleased to enclose feedback on your authority's 8<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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.

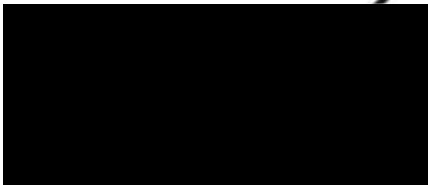
This is an exciting time for the planning system in Scotland with the preparation of NPF4 underway and the changes to the development planning and management systems to follow. We really value the input of your staff as expert users of the system and welcome their continued support in developing and 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:chief.planner@gov.scot) and a member of the team will be happy to discuss these with you.

Kind Regards



**KEVIN STEWART**

**CC: Gavin Miles**

## PERFORMANCE MARKERS REPORT 2018-19

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	<b>Decision-making:</b> continuous reduction of average timescales for all development categories [Q1 - Q4]	Red	<p><b>Major Applications</b> You determined no applications for major developments in 2018-19. <b>RAG = n/a</b></p> <p><b>Local (Non-Householder) Applications</b> Your timescales of 18.6 weeks is slower than the previous year and is slower than the Scottish average of 10.7 weeks. <b>RAG = Red</b></p> <p><b>Householder Applications</b> You determined no applications for householder developments in 2018-19. <b>RAG = n/a</b></p> <p><b>Overall RAG = Red</b></p>
2	<p><b>Processing agreements:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>offer to all prospective applicants for major development planning applications; and</li> <li>availability publicised on website</li> </ul>	Green	<p>Your report notes that processing agreements are offered on all applications called-in, and that the rate of uptake continues to increase. <b>RAG = Green</b></p> <p>Processing agreement information is publicised on your website. <b>RAG = Green</b></p> <p><b>Overall Rating = Green</b></p>
3	<p><b>Early collaboration</b> with applicants and consultees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>availability and promotion of pre-application discussions for all prospective applications; and</li> <li>clear and proportionate requests for supporting information</li> </ul>	Green	<p>You provide a pre-application advice service which is promoted through an advice note on the. <b>RAG = Green</b></p> <p>Your report states that your advice note helps to provide clarity on the service provided and is shared with the constituent authorities. Planning guidance also provides clarity on information required to support applications. <b>RAG = Green</b></p> <p><b>Overall RAG = Green</b></p>
4	<b>Legal agreements:</b> conclude (or reconsider) applications after resolving to grant permission reducing number of live applications more than 6 months	Green	No applications were subject to a legal agreement during the reporting year.

	after resolution to grant (from last reporting period)		
5	<b>Enforcement charter</b> updated / re-published within last 2 years	Green	Your enforcement charter was 9 months old at the time of reporting.
6	<b>Continuous improvement:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• progress/improvement in relation to PPF National Headline Indicators; and</li> <li>• progress ambitious and relevant service improvement commitments identified through PPF report</li> </ul>	Green	Your LDP and enforcement charter are up to date. Clear timescales exist for adopting the next LDP and you have made progress on your legacy cases. Decision making timescales are now slower than last year and are slower than the Scottish average. <b>RAG = Amber</b>  You have completed 3 out of 6 of your improvement commitments with the remaining to be continued over the next reporting year. You have identified a range of improvement commitments for the coming. <b>RAG = Green</b>  <b>Overall RAG = Green</b>
7	<b>Local development plan</b> less than 5 years since adoption	Green	Your development plan was 4 years old at the time of reporting.
8	<b>Development plan scheme</b> – next LDP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• on course for adoption within 5 years of current plan(s) adoption; and</li> <li>• project planned and expected to be delivered to planned timescale</li> </ul>	Green	Your report states that your next LDP is on course for adoption within 5 years of the current plan's adoption. <b>RAG = Green</b>  There has been no further slippage identified . <b>RAG = Green</b>  <b>Overall RAG = Green</b>
9	<b>Elected members engaged early</b> (pre-MIR) in development plan preparation – <i>if plan has been at pre-MIR stage during reporting year</i>	N/A	
10	<b>Cross sector stakeholders* engaged early</b> (pre-MIR) in development plan preparation – <i>if plan has been at pre-MIR stage during reporting year</i> <i>*including industry, agencies and Scottish Government</i>	N/A	
11	<b>Regular and proportionate policy advice</b> produced on information required to support applications.	Green	Your report notes that guidance and policy produced are specifically designed to be proportionate, and a number of improvements have been made to policy to ensure this proportionality.
12	<b>Corporate working across services</b> to improve outputs and services for customer benefit (for example: protocols; joined-up services; single contact arrangements; joint pre-application advice)	Green	Your report highlights the broadened role of the Head of Planning which allows for closer links between the LDP and other strategies and plans such as the Economic Strategy and Community Action Plans which are produced by the authority.
13	<b>Sharing good practice, skills and knowledge</b> between authorities	Green	You share best practice with the North of Scotland development forum. Engagement with the HoPS development planning and development management subcommittees is discussed.
14	<b>Stalled sites / legacy cases:</b> conclusion or withdrawal of old planning applications and reducing	Green	You have cleared 2 cases during the reporting year, with 2 cases still awaiting conclusion. Based on this and last year's figures, only 1 reached legacy status during the reporting year. Despite the increase in cases remaining, you have

	number of live applications more than one year old		maintained low numbers of stalled sites in your area despite an increase in new cases.
15	<p><b>Developer contributions:</b> clear and proportionate expectations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• set out in development plan (and/or emerging plan); and</li> <li>• in pre-application discussions</li> </ul>	Green	<p>Your report notes that your LDP and supplementary guidance both set out information on developer contributions. This has been updated this year to ensure its proportionality. <b>RAG = Green</b></p> <p>You state that developer contributions are defined in pre-application discussion, where relevant. <b>RAG = Green</b></p> <p><b>Overall RAG = Green</b></p>

**CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**  
**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	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A			N/A
10	Stakeholders engaged early	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)**

<b>2012-13</b>	4	4	5
<b>2013-14</b>	3	5	5
<b>2014-15</b>	0	6	7
<b>2015-16</b>	0	1	12
<b>2016-17</b>	2	3	10
<b>2017-18</b>	0	2	13
<b>2018-19</b>	1	0	12

**Decision Making Timescales (weeks)**

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2018-19 Scottish Average
Major Development	190.6	251.0	130.9	-	-	-	-	32.5
Local (Non-Householder) Development	18.5	19.4	22.2	14.6	70.8	13.1	18.6	10.7
Householder Development	9.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	7.2