

AGENDA ITEM 12

APPENDIX I

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT FEEDBACK ON CNPA PLANNING PLANNING PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK 2017-18

T: 0300 244 4000
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Mr Grant Moir
Chief Executive
Cairngorms National Park Authority
10 January 2019

Dear Mr Moir

PLANNING PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK FEEDBACK 2017-18

I am pleased to enclose feedback on your authority's 7th PPF Report for the period April 2017 to March 2018. Considerable progress has been made since the introduction of the Planning Performance Framework and key markers, although performance still remains variable over some authorities and markers.

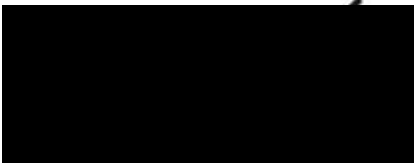
As you may be aware, the Planning Bill has recently passed through the second stage of parliamentary consideration, during which the Local Government and Communities Committee voted to remove the proposed provisions on planning performance, provisions to make training for elected members mandatory, and the existing penalty clause provisions. We expect Stage 3 of the bill process to begin in the new year.

Whatever the outcome of the Planning Bill, I believe now is the time to look again at how we measure the performance of the planning system. The High Level Group on Planning Performance recently met to discuss performance measurement and other improvements. I very much hope that we can continue to support ongoing improvements in our planning service and further demonstrate the value which the planning system can add to people's lives. Ministers see an important connection between performance and fees and I am aware that any proposals to increase fees will raise applicants' expectations of an efficient and effective service.

We need to be able to measure performance to provide that crucial evidence to support any increases in fees, to help ensure that authorities are appropriately resourced to deliver on our ambitions. With this in mind, we will continue to liaise with COSLA, SOLACE and Heads of Planning Scotland on matters of the Bill's implementation and planning performance measures going forward.

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: Gavin Miles, Head of Planning

PERFORMANCE MARKERS REPORT 2017-18

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>Major Applications You determined no applications for major developments in 2017-18.</p> <p>Local (Non-Householder) Applications Your timescales of 13.1 weeks are faster than the previous year but is slower than the Scottish average of 10.7 weeks. RAG = Amber</p> <p>Householder Applications You determined no applications for householder developments in 2017-18.</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>Your report notes that processing agreements are offered on all applications called-in, and that the rate of uptake continues to increase. RAG = Green</p> <p>Processing agreement information is publicised on your website. RAG = Green</p> <p>Overall Rating = 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>You provide a pre-application advice service which is promoted through the website and by staff engaging with prospective applicants. The number of applications subject to pre-application advice has increased. RAG = Green</p> <p>Your report states that guidance on supporting information is designed to be clear and that information required is proportionate to the development in question. This ensures a consistent approach by the service. 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	<p>No applications were subject to a legal agreement during the reporting year. You state that where possible you look to remove the need for a legal agreement to be put in place. You partially completed an improvement action to standardise legal agreements.</p>

5	Enforcement charter updated / re-published within last 2 years	Green	Your enforcement charter was 23 months old at the time of reporting.
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 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 have improved from last year but are slower than the Scottish average. RAG = Green You have completed 8 out of 11 of your improvement commitments with the remaining to be continued over the next reporting year. You have identified a range of tangible improvement commitments for the coming year informed by stakeholder feedback. RAG = Green Overall RAG = Green
7	Local development plan less than 5 years since adoption	Green	Your development plan was 3 years old at the time of reporting.
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	Your report states that your next LDP is on course for adoption within 5 years of the current plan's adoption. RAG = Green Your report details pre-MIR engagement undertaken and work being done to update the development plan scheme and preparation of the next LDP. Slippage has been identified and submitted to the Scottish Minister. This will be mitigated through an improved management system. 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>	Green	You state pre-MIR engagement was undertaken with Planning Committee Members. This employed some innovative means of engagement, including a 'Community Council Walk Around' event.
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> <i>*including industry, agencies and Scottish Government</i>	Green	A programme of engagement undertaken is outlined, which started early 2017, and which engaged with a variety of groups including community councils and businesses. Further engagement is outlined in the development plan scheme.
11	Regular and proportionate policy advice 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. The case study on developer contributions is an excellent example of this.
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	Following improvements to customer feedback, you made service improvements including standardising planning conditions and improving the Planning Committee training programme. Your report highlights the broadened role of the Head of Planning which allows for closer links between the LDP and other strategies and plans which are produced by the authority.
13	Sharing good practice, skills and knowledge 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, as is engagement with the

			North of Scotland Development Plan Forum. These led to a range of service improvements for the next reporting year.
14	Stalled sites / legacy cases: conclusion or withdrawal of old planning applications and reducing number of live applications more than one year old	Amber	You have cleared 3 cases during the reporting year, with 2 cases still awaiting conclusion. Based on this and last year's figures, only 5 reached legacy status during the reporting year. Despite the increase in cases remaining, you have maintained low numbers of stalled sites in your area despite an increase in new cases.
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	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. RAG = Green You state that developer contributions are defined in pre-application discussion, where relevant. RAG = Green Overall RAG = Green

CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY
Performance against Key Markers

Marker		2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
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		
10	Stakeholders engaged early	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)

	Red	Amber	Green
2012-13	4	4	5
2013-14	3	5	5
2014-15	0	6	7
2015-16	0	1	12
2016-17	2	3	10
2017-18	0	2	13

Decision Making Timescales (weeks)

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2017-18 Scottish Average
Major Development	190.6	251.0	130.9	-	-	-	33.6
Local (Non-Householder) Development	18.5	19.4	22.2	14.6	70.8	13.1	10.7
Householder Development	9.0	-	-	-	-	-	7.3