



PLANNING AND ACCESS COMMITTEE

MEETING: Monday 25th January 2016

SUBMITTED BY:	Head of Planning and Rural Development
SUBJECT:	Planning Performance Framework and Review of Planning Update

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1 SUMMARY AND REASON FOR PRESENTATION

- 1.1 This paper provides Members with an update on two areas – the Scottish Government’s feedback on our 4th annual Planning Performance Framework Report and the Authority’s submission to the Government’s current Review of Planning.

2 RECOMMENDATION

That Members:

- 1. Note the content of this report.**

3 BACKGROUND

Planning Performance Framework

- 3.1 The 4th Planning Performance Framework for the National Park was submitted in June and was reported to the Planning & Access Committee at its August meeting – see Appendix 1. The Scottish Government’s feedback provides a commentary on the National Park’s planning service during the 2014-15 period and is a key external review.

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Review of Planning

3.2 In September 2015, Alex Neil MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Communities and Pensioners’ Rights announced that he had appointed an independent panel to undertake a review of the Scottish planning system. The Panel invited written submissions and the Authority’s response was submitted on the 1st December.

4 PLANNING PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK (PPF) 4 FEEDBACK

4.1 Scottish Government provides feedback individually to each local authority on their PPF report each year, this year it focuses on 15 key performance markers, with wider more qualitative informal feedback being provided through ‘benchmarking’ groups of planning authorities.

Appendix 2 includes the feedback report, which follows a ‘Red Amber Green’ style. The figure below is an extract of a summary of the status.

Performance against Key Markers

Marker		2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
1	Decision making timescales	Red	Green	Red
2	Processing agreements	Green	Yellow	Green
3	Early collaboration	Green	Green	Green
4	Legal agreements	Green	Green	Yellow
5	Enforcement charter	Green	Green	Green
6	Continuous improvement	Yellow	Green	Green
7	Local development plan	Green	Green	Green
8	Development plan scheme	Green	Yellow	Green
9	Elected members engaged early (pre-MIR)	N/A	Red	N/A
10	Stakeholders engaged early (pre-MIR)	N/A	Green	N/A
11	Regular and proportionate advice to support applications	Green	Yellow	Green
12	Corporate working across services	Green	Yellow	Green
13	Sharing good practise, skills and knowledge	Green	Green	Green
14	Stalled sites/legacy cases	Yellow	Green	Green
15	Developer contributions	Red	Yellow	Yellow

4.2 Members will recall that in our PPF Report the focus for the year was on the preparation of the Local Development Plan and a heavy level of run of river hydro scheme planning application caseload. This resulted in a slight increase in determination periods for Local and Householder Planning Applications and this is the reason for the red status. This was acknowledged in our Report and steps have been put in place to seek to address this.

4.3 This feedback must be seen in the context of recognised excellent performance in terms of e-planning, handling of run of river hydro applications and an exemplar new Local Development Plan set against our wider work with communities and on our Built Heritage. Members are already aware of the two awards we received for our hydro casework and Local Development Plan engagement. The Government’s National Planning Performance Report published in November highlights the significant progress made in the last three years across Scotland. The following extract from the conclusion of this report is particularly relevant, recognising the challenge authorities face:

“We are encouraged to see the improvement in performance reporting over the past 3 years. We have seen the number of red markings decrease by

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69%, the number of amber markings decrease by 41% and the number of green ratings awarded increase by 185%. In real terms reds have decreased from 117 to 35, amber from 174 to 103 and greens increased from 171 to 317.

We have been impressed with authorities' commitment to continuous improvement, however, we note that in some circumstances we are reaching a plateau, for example in decision making timescales and we will work with Heads of Planning Scotland to resolve this issue so that high performing authorities are not penalised for small increases in timescales."

5 SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT'S REVIEW OF PLANNING

5.1 The purpose of the appointed Review Panel is to provide Scottish Ministers with a strategic perspective of planning and will be open to 'gamechanging' views and ideas. There are a number of ways in which the panel is gathering evidence; from written submissions to online discussion forums and oral evidence from invited speakers. The review is focusing on 6 key issues:

- Development planning;
- Housing delivery;
- Planning for infrastructure;
- Further improvements to development management;
- Leadership, resourcing and skills; and
- Community engagement.

5.2 The Authority's response is included in full as Appendix 3 to this report. The focus for the response is to reflect our experience, successful approaches and suggestions of matters which should be considered for Development Planning, Development Management, Leadership/resourcing/skills and community engagement. The Authority has also been invited to provide oral evidence in February.

The independent panel is due to produce its report in Spring 2016. Thereafter Scottish Ministers will respond to its recommendations with a programme of work to take forward further improvements to the planning system.

6 CONCLUSION

6.1 Members are asked to note the content of this report, with further updates this year as the review progresses and our 5th annual performance submission is completed.

List of Appendices:

- Appendix 1 Planning Performance Framework 4**
- Appendix 2 Scottish Government Feedback on Planning Performance Framework 4**
- Appendix 3 National Park Response to SG Review of Planning**