

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL**Enterprise and Infrastructure Committee****11 January 2017****Planning Performance Framework 5****Report by Director (Environment)**

The report presents the fifth annual Planning Performance Framework (PPF5), which was submitted to Scottish Government. The PPF details the service improvements and progress throughout the past year, as well as identifying improvement measures to be delivered in the 2016/17 period. The report also outlines the positive feedback on PPF5 from the Minister for Local Government and Housing.

1. BACKGROUND / MAIN ISSUES

- 1.1 The Scottish Government remain committed to planning authorities striving towards continuous improvements through the Planning Performance Framework. Planning Authorities have submitted their fifth annual Planning Performance Framework (PPF5) reports.
- 1.2 Perth and Kinross Council received feedback on [PPF4](#) (2014/15) which commended many aspects of our work. The Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Communities and Pensioners' Rights, Alex Neil MSP, provided several positive comments, recognising our "*reduction of decision time making timescales*" and "*good evidence of working across services and with other agencies*". The Cabinet Secretary also noted that he was pleased to see that "*a number of groups have been established to help share skills and expertise*", whilst commending our "*broad range of training throughout the past year for both officers and elected officials*".
- 1.3 This feedback was used to build upon these commendations and improve further in the creation of PPF5.

2. PLANNING PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK 5 (2015/16)

- 2.1 PPF5 was submitted to Scottish Government on 31 July 2016 (Appendix 1). The report notes that all the criteria were met, and the highlights are set out below:

National Headline Indicators – Perth and Kinross Council position

- Development Planning is on track and all the commitments set out in the Development Plan Scheme have been met.
- Housing approvals and housing completions have both increased significantly over the past year.

- Project planning within Development Management has seen an increase, with more applications being subject to pre-application advice and six major applications engaging in a processing agreement.
- The application approval rate has remained stable at approximately 90%, as has the delegation rate (96%).
- The average number of weeks for decisions on planning applications have all been reduced, most notably for major developments which have decreased from 42.2 weeks to 23.7 weeks.
- Enforcement statistics have seen an increase in both the number of breaches identified and resolved.

Delivery of Service Improvements 2015/16

2.2 The majority of service improvements identified in PPF4 have either been successfully achieved or considerable progress has been made towards achieving them, as set out below:

- Undertake a review of Conservation Areas – an initial review of the four larger Conservation Areas was undertaken.
- Undertake a review of Buildings at Risk – a meeting has been held with the BARR section at Historic Environment Scotland to progress with this.
- Improve the visualisations of the Local Development Plan – a workshop was held to explore graphic options and ideas were presented at the recent Main Issues Report consultation events.
- Increase social media presence – this has been achieved through the Planning and Development Twitter account and online surgeries were held throughout the Main Issues Report consultation.
- Evaluate Development Management procedures – these were reviewed and updated and subject to an internal audit during February 2016.
- Work towards achieving Customer Service Excellence – Building Standards has now achieved this. It will be rolled out to Development Management and Strategy and Policy during 2017-18.

Service Improvements identified for 2016/17

2.3 For PPF6, we have identified five measurable and achievable action points, as set out below:

- Continue to work towards achieving Customer Service Excellence for the planning teams;
- Continue to review Conservation Areas, concentrating on Perth City;
- Make further improvements in project management in the major applications team;
- Improve the quality of developments on the ground, through use of the Placemaking Guide and Development Briefs;
- Rationalise the webpages and review its content.

3. PPF5 FEEDBACK

- 3.1 On 25 November 2016, the Minister for Local Government and Housing wrote to the Chief Executive providing feedback on PPF5. The Government has assessed the PPF report against an agreed a set of 15 performance markers. A Red, Amber, Green (RAG) ratings is used and based on the evidence provided within the PPF reports, the Council achieved 14 markers rated Green with only one marker noted as Amber. This represents significant progress since the RAG system was introduced. Table 1 below highlights the improved performance in the period 2012-16.

Table 1 Perth & Kinross Council - 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		
10	Stakeholders engaged early (pre-MIR)	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				

- 3.2 The feedback report goes on to compare the Council's Decision Making Timescales against the Scottish average. In all areas, it notes that the Council performs better than the Scottish average.

Table 2 Decision Making Timescales (Weeks)

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2015-16 Scottish Average
Major Development	37.5	55.4	42.2	23.7	38.8
Local (Non-Householder) Development	12.0	12.5	11.8	11.3	12.3
Householder Development	8.1	7.8	6.8	6.3	7.5

- 3.3 The only area where the Council gained an amber rating was related to the early engagement with stakeholders at the pre MIR stage. The feedback noted that the Council “failed to set out clearly how you have engaged with key stakeholders on the preparation of your MIR”. This is rather disappointing as the evidence submitted clearly indicates that the focus of pre MIR Consultation stage ended in March 2015 which was outwith the reporting period.
- 3.4 Overall, the report presents an excellent picture of an improving Planning Service. Maintaining and improving standards at a time of increasing activity in the development sector, combined with resource constraints represents a significant challenge moving forward. The full feedback report is presented in Appendix 2.

4. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 PPF5 has demonstrated how Planning and Development have successfully satisfied the National Headline Indicators along with the service improvements previously set out. A new set of service improvements have been outlined for 2016/17 and are already being progressed. Successful implementation of the Planning Performance Framework will continue to help Planning and Development work towards providing an excellent service for all our of customers.
- 4.2 It is recommended that the Committee:
- (i) Notes the content of the fifth Planning Performance Framework and associated feedback.
 - (ii) Requests the Director (Environment) to bring back a further report on the outcome of the sixth Planning Performance Framework.

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1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Strategic Implications	Yes / None
Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement	Yes
Corporate Plan	Yes
Resource Implications	
Financial	None
Workforce	None
Asset Management (land, property, IST)	None
Assessments	
Equality Impact Assessment	None
Strategic Environmental Assessment	None
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	None
Legal and Governance	None
Risk	None
Consultation	
Internal	Yes
External	None
Communication	
Communications Plan	None

1. Strategic Implications

Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement

1.1 Development throughout Perth and Kinross contributes to the following Perth and Kinross Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement priorities, and the PPF supports these:

- (i) Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens
- (ii) Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy
- (iii) Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives
- (iv) Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations

Corporate Plan

1.2 Development throughout Perth and Kinross and the PPF contributes to the achievement of the following Council's Corporate Plan Priorities:

- (i) Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens;
- (ii) Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy;
- (iii) Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives; and
- (iv) Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations.

2. Resource Implications

Financial

2.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this Report.

Workforce

2.2 None.

Asset Management (land, property, IT)

2.3 None.

3. Assessments

Equality Impact Assessment

3.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, the Council is required to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between equality groups. Carrying out Equality Impact Assessments for plans and policies allows the Council to demonstrate that it is meeting these duties.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

3.2 The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 places a duty on the Council to identify and assess the environmental consequences of its proposals.

3.3 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a legal requirement under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 that applies to all qualifying plans, programmes and strategies, including policies (PPS).

Sustainability

3.4 Under the provisions of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 the Council has to discharge its duties in a way which contributes to the achievement of sustainable development. Under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 the Council also has a duty relating to climate change and, in exercising its functions must act:

- In the way best calculated to delivery of the Act's emissions reduction targets;
- In the way best calculated to deliver any statutory adaptation programmes; and
- In a way that it considers most sustainable.

Legal and Governance

3.5 None.

Risk

3.6 None.

4. Consultation

Internal

4.1 All teams within Planning and Development were consulted on the PPF and fed into the final content.

External

4.2 None.

5. Communication

5.1 None.

2. BACKGROUND PAPERS

2.1 The following background papers were referred to during the preparation of this report:

- PKC Action Programme April 2016
- PKC Housing Land Audit 2016
- PKC Employment Land Audit 2015

3. APPENDICES

3.1 Appendix 1 - Perth and Kinross Council Planning Performance Framework 2015/16.

3.2 Appendix 2 – Planning Performance Framework