

To: Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board

On: 16 March 2021

Report by: Chief Executive

**Heading: Renfrewshire Planning Performance Framework Feedback
2019/20**

1. Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Board of the Feedback Report from the Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning in relation to Renfrewshire's Planning Performance Framework 2019/20 as set out in appendix 1.
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2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Board:
- (i) notes the Feedback Report for Renfrewshire's Planning Performance Framework 2019/20.
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3. Background

- 3.1 A system of performance management has been established between local authorities and the Scottish Government, whereby every planning authority is asked to produce an annual Planning Performance Framework.
- 3.2 The framework, developed by the Heads of Planning Scotland, aims to capture and highlight a balanced measurement of planning performance focusing on the following areas:
- Speed of decision making;
 - Providing certainty through timescales, process and advice;
 - Delivery of good quality development;
 - Project management;
 - Communication and engagement;
 - An overall 'open for business' attitude.

4. **Feedback Report for Renfrewshire Planning Performance Framework 2019/20**

- 4.1 Overall the Feedback Report for Renfrewshire's Planning Performance Framework is positive, an improvement from last year's scorecard with 10 out of the 15 performance markers indicating green, only 2 amber ratings and 1 red rating. Two performance markers are not applicable to Renfrewshire due to the advanced stage in the preparation of the next Renfrewshire Local Development Plan.
- 4.2 In considering the red marker, this is due to the Renfrewshire Local Development Plan being more than 5 years old. It should be noted that the report into the examination of the Plan has taken over a year to be fully examined by the Department for Planning and Environmental Appeal (DPEA). Members will recall that the Proposed Renfrewshire Local Development Plan was approved by the Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board in March 2019.
- 4.3 In terms of the amber markers, one of the markers again is in relation to the timetable outlined in the Development Plan Scheme which highlights that the Renfrewshire Local Development Plan being more than 5 years old.
- 4.4 The other amber marker is in relation to the delay in implementing the new Planning Digital Platform – Uniform. However, with this new system to be implemented in Spring 2021 then this will assist in improving and enhancing the online systems, improving customer experience, streamlining processes and ensuring better customer interactions.

5. **Next Steps**

- 5.1 Planning will work with members, other Council Services and stakeholders in the preparation and shaping of the next Renfrewshire Council's Planning Performance Framework 2020 – 2021 which is anticipated will be reported to the Board in August 2021.

Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** - None
2. **HR & Organisational Development** - None
3. **Community/Council Planning** – None
4. **Legal** - None
5. **Property/Assets** - None
6. **Information Technology** - None

7. **Equality & Human Rights -**
 - (a) The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.
 8. **Health & Safety - None**
 9. **Procurement - None**
 10. **Risk - None**
 11. **Privacy Impact – None**
 12. **COSLA Policy Position - None.**
 13. **Climate Risk - N/A.**
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Appendix 1

Feedback Report from the Scottish Government on Renfrewshire Planning Performance 2019/20.

The contact officer within the service is Sharon Marklow, Strategy and Place Manager, 0141 618 7835, email: Sharon.marklow@renfrewshire.gov.uk

*Author: Sharon Marklow, Strategy and Place Manager, 0141 618 7835,
email: Sharon.marklow@renfrewshire.gov.uk*

PERFORMANCE MARKERS REPORT 2019-20

Name of planning authority: **Renfrewshire Council**

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]	Green	<p>Major Applications Your average timescale of 13.3 weeks is faster than the previous year and faster than the Scottish average of 33.5 weeks. RAG = Green</p> <p>Local (Non-Householder) Applications Your average timescale of 7.4 weeks is faster than the previous year and are faster than the Scottish average of 10.9 weeks. RAG = Green</p> <p>Householder Applications Your average timescale of 6.1 weeks is faster than last year and faster than the Scottish average of 7.3 weeks. RAG = Green</p> <p>Overall RAG = Green</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>You encourage processing agreements for major applications and you have provided examples of where they have been used. RAG = Green</p> <p>Processing agreements are advertised on your website. RAG = Green</p> <p>Overall 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>You provide a free pre-application advice service for prospective applicants. RAG = Green</p> <p>You ensure that all relevant parties are involved so that when applications are submitted all the relevant information is there to enable neighbours to understand the proposals. 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	No applications with a legal agreement were determined in 2019-20
5	Enforcement charter updated / re-published within last 2 years	Green	Your enforcement charter was 7 months old at the end of the reporting year.
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 	Amber	Your LDP is out of date however, your enforcement charter was replaced during the reporting year. Clear timescales exist for adopting the next LDP. Your decision-making timescales are faster than last year, and you have a low number of legacy cases. RAG = Green You have completed 3 out of 7 of your improvement commitments with 3 to be continued over the next reporting year and the other one abandoned. Elsewhere, you have identified a range of tangible improvement commitments for the coming year. RAG = Amber Overall RAG = Amber
7	Local development plan less than 5 years since adoption	Red	Your LDP was 5 years 7 months of at the end of the reporting year.
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 	Amber	Your report notes that the next LDP is not on course for adoption within 5 years of the current plan's adoption. RAG = Red Your LDP Project Management group continued to oversee the production of your replacement LDP. This involved weekly meetings to review progress and discuss representations and the council response. RAG = Green Overall RAG = Amber
9	Elected members engaged early (pre-MIR) in development plan preparation – <i>if plan has been at pre-MIR stage during reporting year</i>	N/A	
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>	N/A	
11	Regular and proportionate policy advice produced on information required to support applications.	Green	Your case studies indicate a commitment to ensuring policy information is kept proportionate to the needs of stakeholders. A good example of this is the Affordable Housing Design Guide which provides good practice and promotion of well-designed affordable homes which meet the current and future needs of tenants and residents.

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	You have provided evidence of a joined-up approach being taken across the authority in the preparation of your LDP, guidance and your pre-application service. Case studies including Netherton Square show how your collaboration with other services ensured good cycling and pedestrian connections were included in the development.
13	Sharing good practice, skills and knowledge between authorities	Green	You have provided a number of examples which demonstrate how you are sharing good practice such as the DM Forum. You also participate in the West of Scotland Benchmarking Group which meets quarterly. Discussion has involved a wide variety of subjects from Pre-application discussions to Masterplanning.
14	Stalled sites / legacy cases: conclusion or withdrawal of old planning applications and reducing number of live applications more than one year old	Green	You cleared 0 cases during the reporting year, with 2 case still awaiting conclusion. Based on this and last year's figures, 1 case reached legacy status during the reporting year.
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 proposed plan and associated guidance sets out where developer contributions may be appropriate. RAG = Green You seek to discuss and investigate any potential measures to facilitate development early in the process with applicants and other stakeholders. RAG = Green Overall RAG = Green

RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL
Performance against Key Markers

Marker		12-13	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20
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	N/A
10	Stakeholders engaged early (pre-MIR)	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)

2012-13	6	5	2
2013-14	1	9	3
2014-15	0	2	13
2015-16	0	3	12
2016-17	0	6	9
2017-18	0	3	10
2018-19	1	4	8
2019-20	1	2	10

Decision Making Timescales (weeks)

	12-13	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	2019-20 Scottish Average
Major Development	36.6	12.0	10.1	13.1	20.0	18.6	35.4	13.3	33.5
Local (Non-Householder) Development	11.2	8.7	8.3	9.4	9.8	10	8.9	7.4	10.9
Householder Development	7.8	6.9	7.2	7.9	7.6	7.6	6.9	6.1	7.3