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Malcolm Burr  
Chief Executive  
Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar

11 February 2020

Dear Malcolm,

## **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: Morag Ferguson**

## PERFORMANCE MARKERS REPORT 2017-18

Name of planning authority: **Comhairle nan Eilean Siar**

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]	Green	<p><b>Major Applications</b> You determined no applications for major developments during the reporting year. <b>RAG = n/a</b></p> <p><b>Local (Non-Householder) Applications</b> Your timescales of 8.3 weeks are faster than the previous year and are faster than the Scottish average of 10.7 weeks. <b>RAG = Green</b></p> <p><b>Householder Applications</b> Your timescales of 5.8 weeks are faster than the previous year and are faster than the Scottish average of 7.2 weeks. <b>RAG = Green</b></p> <p><b>Overall RAG = Green</b></p>
2	<b>Processing agreements:</b> <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>Processing agreements are offered to prospective applicants. <b>RAG = Green</b></p> <p>You advertise the availability of processing agreements on your website. <b>RAG = Green</b></p> <p><b>Overall RAG = Green</b></p>
3	<b>Early collaboration</b> with applicants and consultees <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 free pre-application advice service. <b>RAG = Green</b></p> <p>The case studies you provide demonstrate how your approach to requesting supporting information is clear and proportionate. <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 after resolution to grant (from last reporting period)	Green	You did not determine any applications which were subject to a legal agreement during the reporting period.
5	<b>Enforcement charter</b> updated / re-published within last 2 years	Green	Your enforcement charter was 11 months old at the end of the reporting period.

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	<p>Your LDP and enforcement charter are up-to-date and your LDP is on track for replacement. There has been some improvement with regards to your decision making timescales, however, some legacy cases remain unresolved. <b>RAG = Green</b></p> <p>You completed 5 out of your 6 improvement commitments with the other 1 ongoing. You have identified a good range of improvement projects for the year ahead. <b>RAG = Green</b></p> <p><b>Overall RAG = Green</b></p>
7	<b>Local development plan</b> less than 5 years since adoption	Green	Your LDP was 4 months old at the end of the reporting period.
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	<p>Your LDP is scheduled to be replaced within the required 5 year timescale. <b>RAG = Green</b></p> <p>Your Development Plan Scheme sets out the timescales and approach you are taking to replace your LDP. <b>RAG = Green</b></p> <p><b>Overall RAG = Green</b></p>
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 LDP sets a clear policy framework with supplementary guidance brought forward where relevant.
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	You have an internal planning application consultation protocol and your case study provides a good example of working with other council services.
13	<b>Sharing good practice, skills and knowledge</b> between authorities	Green	You provide some examples of sharing good practice including through benchmarking and HOPS. You also work with the SG Aquaculture Planning Policy team and the Scottish Salmon Producers Organisation on aquaculture matters.
14	<b>Stalled sites / legacy cases:</b> conclusion or withdrawal of old planning applications and reducing number of live applications more than one year old	Amber	The 2 legacy cases reported as being unresolved last year are still unresolved.

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>Policy on developer contributions is set out in your LDP with standalone policy for wind farms also in place.  <b>RAG = Green</b></p> <p>Your reports sets out how developer contributions are discussed during pre-application discussions.  <b>RAG = Green</b></p> <p><b>Overall RAG = Green</b></p>
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## COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR COUNCIL

### 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 (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)

<b>2012-13</b>	3	4	6
<b>2013-14</b>	0	5	8
<b>2014-15</b>	0	0	13
<b>2015-16</b>	0	0	15
<b>2016-17</b>	0	1	14
<b>2017-18</b>	4	5	4
<b>2018-19</b>	0	1	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	-	44.9	28.5	-	-	36.9	-	32.5
Local (Non-Householder) Development	11.3	10.5	12.3	8.9	8.1	9.7	8.3	10.7
Householder Development	8.2	7.8	7.1	7.1	6.1	7.5	5.8	7.2

