

## PERFORMANCE MARKERS REPORT 2014-15

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 Developments</b></p> <p>At 28.5 weeks you have improved against last year's average timescale of 44.9. You remain significantly quicker than the national average of 46.4 weeks.</p> <p>RAG = Green</p> <p><b>Local (Non-Householder) Developments</b></p> <p>Timescales have increased this year from 10.5 weeks to 12.3 weeks. However this remains quicker than the national average of 12.9 weeks.</p> <p>RAG = Amber</p> <p><b>Householder Developments</b></p> <p>At 7.1 weeks you have improved on your 2013/14 average timescale of 7.8 weeks. Your decision making timescales are now faster than the national average of 7.5 weeks.</p> <p>RAG = Green</p> <p><b>TOTAL RAG = Green</b></p>
2	<p><b>Processing agreements:</b></p> <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>Officers are required to offer processing agreements to all major applications.</p> <p>Website contains details on the availability of processing agreements.</p>

3	<p><b>Early collaboration</b> with applicants and consultees</p> <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>The availability of pre-application advice is clearly evidenced. At 52% the number of applications subject to pre-application advice has remained steady.</p> <p>The use of multi-agency pre-application meetings for more complex cases should provide clarity to developers on what will be required as part of their application.</p>
4	<p><b>Legal agreements:</b> conclude (or reconsider) applications after resolving to grant permission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reducing number of live applications more than 6 months after resolution to grant (from last reporting period)</li> </ul>	Green	<p>Only one major application with a legal agreement attached was concluded this year at a total of 45.9 weeks.</p> <p>You should consider ways in which you can reduce this timescale in future years.</p>
5	<p><b>Enforcement charter</b> updated / re-published within last 2 years</p>	Green	<p>Updated in February 2014</p>
6	<p><b>Continuous improvement:</b></p> <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>You have an up-to-date development plan and your DPS remains on track.</p> <p>Your decision making timescales remain much better than the national average.</p> <p>You have an up-to-date enforcement charter.</p> <p>You have made good progress on the commitments you identified in last year's report. Your SIP commitments for the coming year are fairly brief, but they are focussed and reflect a couple of the issues raised within the report.</p>
7	<p><b>Local development plan</b> less than 5 years since adoption</p>	Green	<p>At just over 2 years old you have an up-to-date development plan in place.</p>
8	<p><b>Development plan scheme</b> – next LDP:</p> <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 DPS remains on track for adoption within the 5 year timescale.</p> <p>The replacement plan scheme remains on time and the project plan remains unaltered during this reporting period.</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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>information required to support applications; and</li> <li>expected developer contributions</li> </ul>	Green	Information requirements are clear and concise and provided in a number of different ways through contact with officers, pre-application meetings and in SPG.  RAG = Green  You have a clear and proportionate policy on when these are expected and these are contained in specific SPG.  RAG = Green
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	Strong evidence provided on multi-agency meetings as part of pre-application discussions. The service is customer focussed and the implementation of new feedback procedures will allow you to identify areas of good practice.  Your work with the MOD on trying to resolve wind farm applications is noted.
13	<b>Sharing good practice, skills and knowledge</b> between authorities	Green	You attend benchmarking groups and the HOPS development planning and development management sub-committees. Your attendance at the local authority aquaculture group and the Conservation Area advice service you provide is also noted.
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	Green	We are pleased that you have, through a concerted effort concluded all your previous legacy cases.  However, the information on legacy cases was not included within the NHI table. Please use the HOPS template in future reports.

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>You note that in terms of developer contributions you only require them in specific circumstances. The report is clear that any requirement for these are set out in SPG (Policies 2 and 21).</p> <p>RAG = Green</p> <p>As noted earlier your pre-application meetings and advice provide a clear mechanism for identifying the need for contributions and what this might entail.</p> <p>RAG = Green</p>
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**COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR COUNCIL**  
**Performance against Key Markers**

Marker		2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
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
10	Stakeholders engaged early (pre-MIR)	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
<b>2012-13</b>	3	4	6
<b>2013-14</b>	0	5	8
<b>2014-15</b>	0	0	13

**Decision Making Timescales (weeks)**

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2014-15 Scottish Average
Major Development	-	44.9	28.5	46.4
Local Householder Development (Non-)	11.3	10.5	12.3	12.9
Householder Development	8.2	7.8	7.1	7.5