



Glasgow City Council

**Neighbourhood, Housing and Public Realm Policy
Development Committee**

**Report by Executive Director of Regeneration and the
Economy**

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PLANNING PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK (PPF) 2017-18

Purpose of Report:

To Report on the Planning Performance Framework (PPF), 2017-18.

Recommendations:

- Considers the continued five year trend of improved performance by the planning service, as set out in **Part 5: Official Statistics of PPF 2017-18**. <https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=42379&p=0>
- Considers and supports the Action Plan.
- Considers the planning service commitment to continuous improvement, as demonstrated in PPF 2017-18.

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

Local member(s) advised: Yes No consulted: Yes No

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1. Background

- 1.1 In February 2013, the then Minister for Local Government and Planning and the COSLA Spokesperson on Development, Economy and Sustainability, jointly convened the High Level Group on Planning Performance. The group comprises a member from Heads of Planning Scotland (HOPS) and Administrators in Scotland (SOLAR). The aim of the group is to work together to improve the reputation and performance of the planning service in Scotland.
- 1.2 A specific part of the group's remit was to consider how the planning service might be measured and reported on. The Group drew up and agreed a set of 15 markers which created a baseline of planning authority performance. Authorities were then asked to incorporate these markers into their PPF reports.
- 1.3 Section 55 of the Regulatory Reform (Scotland) Act commenced on 30th June 2014. It provides Scottish Ministers with powers to vary the planning application fee payable to different planning authorities where the functions of a planning authority are not being, or have not been satisfactorily performed.
- 1.4 The High Level Group on Performance has been considering the process which would be used to determine if any authorities have not satisfactorily performed.

2. Planning Performance Framework (PPF) 2017-18

- 2.1 The Planning Performance Framework submitted on 31st July 2018, (<https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=42379&p=0>) is the seventh produced by Glasgow City Council and covers the period from 1st April 2017 until 31st March 2018. It provides a report on the Council's planning performance following the format set out in the Planning Performance Framework Annual Report Guidance Notes issued on 6th April 2018, by Heads of Planning Scotland (HOPS).
- 2.2 PPFs allow the quality of planning decisions and outcomes to be measured as well as the speed of decision making.
- 2.3 A PPF is submitted by each planning authority to the Scottish Government for review. The Annual Report includes the National Headline indicators for key Outcomes on Development Planning (age of Development Plan, effective land supply) and Development Management (planning applications) as well as enforcement activity.
- 2.4 The Report also includes measures as to how we have performed against 15 Performance Markers, which includes how we collaborate with developers, what proposals we are implementing for continuous improvement and what information we provide with regard to developer contributions.
- 2.5 The format of the report includes Case Studies in **Part 1: Defining and Measuring a High Quality Planning Service**. These Case Studies are under the headings of;

- Quality of Outcomes (on the ground development);
- Quality of Service and Engagement;
- Governance; and
- Culture of Continuous Improvement.

2.6 The PPF, includes the following headings:

Part 1 - Defining and measuring a high-quality planning service

- 1.1 Quality of Outcomes (on the ground development);
- 1.2 Quality of Service and Engagement;
- 1.3 Governance; and
- 1.4 Culture of Continuous Improvement.

Part 2 - Supporting Evidence

Part 3 - Service improvements

- 3.1 Service improvements for 2018 – 19
- 3.2 Delivery of Service Improvement Actions in 2017-18

Part 4 - National Headline Indicators (NHIs)

Part 5 - Official Statistics

Part 6/7 - Workforce and Committee Information

Appendix 1 : Performance Markers Checklist

Appendix 2 : Performance Markers Report

2.7 Key headline indicators include in PPF 2017-18;

- 50 **Major** applications received during the year, a 47% increase from last year. This equates to 20% of all majors nationally, based on previous year's figures (2016-17).
- Average weeks to determine **Majors** in 2017-18 was 22.7 weeks compared to 35.7 weeks the year before, showing significant improvement.
- For **Local developments (non-householder)**, average weeks to determine are fractionally up from 2016-17, by the smallest of margins; 0.1 weeks, however, this is still the second lowest figure reported in the last five years which allows the five year trend to demonstrate continuous improvement.
- For **Householder developments**, similar to the Local (Non-householder) figures, with weeks to determine fractionally up from 2016-17, by; 0.2 weeks, however, again this is still the second lowest figure reported in the last five years which allows the five year trend to demonstrate continuous improvement.

3. Scottish Government Feedback

- 3.1 The feedback from the Scottish Government on the Planning Performance Framework (PPF), Annual Report 2017-18, is not expected until December 2018, which will be sent to the Chief Executive. The feedback report will be based on the evidence provided within the PPF.
- 3.2 The Scottish Government only provide feedback on the 15 performance markers, provided in a Performance Markers Report 2016-17.

4. Context, Current and Future Actions

- 4.1 DRS Planning and Building Standards have taken part in a benchmarking Peer Review with Aberdeen City Council this year. One of the bases of PPF is sharing good practice from other local authorities.
- 4.2 We will continually review our commitments under **Delivery of Service Improvement Actions in 2017-18**, as captured in the PPF, to ensure measures are in place to deliver.
- 4.3 We also set out our proposals for improvement projects throughout the coming year in response to the feedback received from the Scottish Government.
- 4.4 The launch of the Council's "Invest to Improve" recruitment drive, has given the planning service the opportunity to plan ahead and position itself as a more resilient service with the skill sets required to support service delivery.

The analysis of the skill sets we require to deliver the work programme and our business plan outputs is essential and a continuous process. We have reviewed the resources at our disposal and the commitments we have given flowing from the Planning Performance Framework (PPF).

- 4.5 An Action Plan is set out below to capture current actions and will be enhanced to address any issues raised from the Performance Markers Report 2017-18, once received from the Scottish Government. See **APPENDIX**.
- 4.6 The Planning Bill is currently finishing Stage 2 amendments consideration, after which it will move to Stage 3, full parliament consideration and approval.

5. Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

Financial: Require to ensure continuous improvement. If not met, decision timescales could result in substantially lower fee income and resources.

Legal: No legal implications.

Personnel: The proposed Action Plan issues will be managed by existing staff resources within the planning service, however, this resource may be affected from the introduction of the penalty clause with resultant loss of fee income.

Procurement: There are no procurement implications

Council Strategic Plan: Specify which theme(s) and outcome(s) the proposal supports

A Thriving Economy: Failure of PPF to demonstrate continuous improvement may affect investment in the city. (Priorities – 1, 2, & 3)

A Vibrant City: Measures allow for continuous service improvement which will facilitate appropriate and timely development and enhance the vibrancy of the city. (Priorities – 13, 19, & 20)

Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:

Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2017-22 n/a

What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report? no significant impact.

Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio economic disadvantage. n/a

Sustainability Impacts:

Environmental: n/a

Social, including Article 19 opportunities: n/a

Economic: n/a

Privacy and Data none
Protection impacts:

6. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee.

- Considers the continued five year trend of improved performance by the planning service, as set out in Part 5: Official Statistics of PPF 2017-18.
- Considers and supports the Action Plan.
- Considers the planning service commitment to continuous improvement, as demonstrated in PPF 2017-18.

APPENDIX

ACTION PLAN

	Description	Intended Action	Timescale
	Performance Markers		
1	Decision-making Major Applications Local Non-Householder Applications Householder Applications	<p>Monthly and Quarterly Performance meetings are held with Planning Managers, Group Leaders and the Head of Service to interrogate all performance stats.</p> <p>Continuing review of the introduction of electronic workflow in collaboration with CBS and Service Development colleagues, to ensure support functions relevant to the processing of applications are streamlined, thus giving Planning Officers more time to determine an application.</p>	<p>Monthly & Quarterly</p> <p>Continuous</p>
	Legacy applications	<p>Data is provided monthly for Planning Managers, for discussion with their teams to ensure effective monitoring.</p> <p>This will also be discussed at Monthly and Quarterly Performance meetings held with Planning Managers, Group Leaders and the Head of Service..</p>	<p>Monthly & Quarterly</p>
	Scottish Government Feedback	Address any issues raised from the Performance Markers Report 2017-18, once received from the Scottish Government.	On receipt