

SERVICE UPDATE

<u>Name of Function:</u>	Strategic Place Planning
<u>Date:</u>	22 April 2020
<u>Title of Update:</u>	Planning Performance Framework Report
<u>Report Author:</u>	Claire McArthur
<u>Chief Officer:</u>	Gale Beattie
<u>Contact Details:</u>	Email: cmcarthur@aberdeencity.gov.uk

UPDATE:

This Report briefs Members on the highlights of the Aberdeen City annual Planning Performance Framework (PPF) 2018-19 that the Chief Officer - Strategic Place Planning submitted to the Scottish Government in July 2019. The Report also brings to Members' attention the extremely positive and welcome feedback that was received from Scottish Government on the content of the PPF. This feedback was received in February 2020.

Members are encouraged to read the full PPF 2018-19 report which can be found at: <https://hopscotland.files.wordpress.com/2019/08/planning-performance-framework-2018-19-council-aberdeen-city-report.pdf>, as well as the feedback received from the Scottish Government which is attached as Appendix 1 to this Report.

The PPF demonstrates the impressive breadth and scope of work carried out by the Council's planning service during 2018-19 in delivering improved performance and a high-quality planning service. Some notable highlights covered in the PPF 2018-19 are:

- Countesswells Phase 1 Masterplan awarded a Scottish Award for Quality in Planning by the Scottish Government
- Union Street Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS) Schools' Shopfront Design Project declared a Finalist at the UK-wide Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) Awards in London
- The number of "legacy applications" being considered by the planning authority has halved in the year.
- Project Management of the Schoolhill streetscape improvement project to create a high-quality public realm to compliment the refurbished Aberdeen Art Gallery.

- Planning performance in terms of speed of determination times for applications has improved for the second year running
- A successful collaborative peer review exchange visits with this year's PPF twinning authority, North Lanarkshire Council
- 260 members of the public attended Main Issues Report events at 11 venues across the city as part of the review of the Aberdeen Local Development Plan

The key areas of work and successful projects are showcased throughout the PPF by a number of in-depth case studies.

In February 2020, the Scottish Government published its official feedback on Aberdeen City's planning performance. Our Overall Markings were:

- 13 'Green' indicators (targets met or exceeded/performance improvement),
- 2 'Amber' (targets not fully met) and
- 0 'Red' indicators (targets not met/declining performance).

The 2 'Amber' markings were under the headings "Processing Agreements" and "Development Plan Scheme" and both related to minor administrative tasks that Officers are confident can be fully addressed as part of the next PPF submission.

The Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for planning application determination times were particularly noteworthy (see table below) with all the indicators flagged as 'Green' (continuous improvement achieved) and all timescales equalling or better than the Scottish average for the second year running.

Decision Making Timescales (weeks)	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2018-19 Scottish Average
Major Development	88.6	47.6	24.1	43.9	23.1	19.9	32.5
Local (Non-Householder) Development	15.9	16.6	14.3	13.0	10.2	8.1	10.7
Householder Development	10.0	12.8	12.8	8.7	7.3	6.8	7.2

Work on the next Planning Performance Framework for 2019-20 is currently ongoing and will be submitted to Scottish Government for assessment in July 2020.