

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Chief Officer – Regulatory and Regeneration

Planning Committee: 16th February 2022

Subject: Planning Performance Framework 2020-21

1. Purpose

- 1.1** To inform the Committee of the recent comments received from the Scottish Government regarding the Planning Performance Framework submitted by this Council for 2020-21.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1** That the Committee notes the content of this report and the comments received from the Scottish Government.

3. Background

- 3.1** The annual Planning Performance Framework (PPF) was submitted to the Scottish Government at the end of July 2021 and feedback was received in December 2021. The Scottish Government have assessed the Planning Performance Framework against a set of performance markers and it is seen as a measure of continuous improvement. The Performance Markers give an indication of good performance, good practice and help to identify priority areas for improvement action. This year again, no peer review of the reports was undertaken in the SOLACE Groups (Society of Local Authority Chief Executives).

4. Main Issues

- 4.1** The PPF report outlined our performance and demonstrated our achievements, actions and improvements in 2020-21 and is contained in Appendix 1. Planning Performance Framework also included a section of how the Planning Service had reacted to the pandemic situation. The general format of the report remained around defining and measuring a high quality planning service and it was assessed through quality of outcomes, quality of service and engagement, governance and culture of continuous improvement. The report again was based on case studies in order to showcase good performance, good practice and the use of innovative ideas.

- 4.2** The Minister for Public Finance, Planning and Community Wealth Mr Tom Arthur in the feedback report once again thanked planning staff for all the work that has been done during the pandemic, making necessary adjustments and to support the ongoing recovery. On a national level figures indicated that performance has remained relatively stable and this is testament to the hard work and flexibility of authorities during these very difficult times. Overall good progress continues to be made by Scotland's planning authorities.
- 4.3** The assessment of the annual Planning Performance Framework is based on performance markers which are rated green, amber or red. These ratings are based on the evidence provided within the Planning Performance Framework reports. Where no information or insufficient evidence has been provided a 'red' marking has been allocated. This year the Council saw an improvement in the performance markers with 9 green performance markers, 3 amber and 1 red markers compared to the previous year of 8 green performance markers, 3 amber markers and 2 red markers. The feedback report is contained in Appendix 2. Green performance markers were received this year for processing agreements, early collaboration with applicants and consultees, legal agreements, enforcement charter, regular and proportionate policy advice, corporate working across services, the conclusion of legacy cases, developer contributions and sharing good practice, skills and knowledge. Three Amber markings were given for decision making, continuous improvement and the development plan scheme. The timescales for dealing with major applications of 11.2 weeks is faster than the previous year and much faster than the Scottish average of 41.3 weeks. The average timescales of 12.6 weeks for local applications was faster than the previous year but is slightly slower than the Scottish average of 12.4 weeks and the average timescales for householder applications of 9.6 weeks is faster than the previous year but is slower than the Scottish average of 8.1 weeks. A good range of service improvement commitments were identified for the 2021-22 reporting year.
- 4.4** The one red marker was for the Local Development Plan. The current adopted Plan was 11 years old at the end of the Planning Performance Framework reporting period. As reported in the Development Plan Update report to this Committee, the replacement plan (LDP2) has been through Examination and the Committee has taken a decision to adopt that Plan, but officers are still considering a change to the Plan required by a Scottish Ministers Direction, and that has delayed the adoption of a more up-to-date Plan.

5. People Implications

- 5.1** There are no personnel issues associated with this report.

6. Financial and Procurement Implications

- 6.1** None.

7. Risk Analysis

7.1 There are no risk issues.

8. Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)

8.1 It is not considered that the report or recommendations raise any equalities issues.

8.2 None.

9. Consultation

9.1 No consultation was necessary for the preparation of this report.

10. Strategic Assessment

10.1 The content of this report fully supports the Council's Strategic Priorities.

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Date: 16th February 2022

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Appendices: Appendix 1: Planning Performance Framework 2020-21
Appendix 2: Performance Markers Report 2020-21

Background Papers: None

Wards Affected: All