

**Argyll and Bute Planning Service
Planning Performance Framework – Annual Report 2011-12**

1.0 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report and attachment informs elected members on Argyll and Bute's Planning Service's first submission of a Planning Performance Framework Annual Report for 2011-12 as required by the Scottish Government under the Planning Reform agenda.
- 1.2 This is a new framework (setting out a mix of quantitative and qualitative measures) for measuring and reporting planning performance developed jointly by the Heads of Planning Scotland and the Scottish Government.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Members note the contents of this report and endorse the attached annual report for 2011-12

3.0 DETAIL

- 3.1 Heads of Planning Scotland (HOPS) formally launched the new Planning Performance Framework (PPF) in March of this year. It had been the culmination of an intensive period of discussions and consultations undertaken by HOPS with the Scottish Government, RTPI, COSLA, SOLACE, Improvement Service, Key Agencies and a range of private sector organisations.
- 3.2 For the first time the planning system has a balanced scorecard approach to performance which will enable each local planning authority to demonstrate its achievements, successes, individuality and personality. Speed of decision making will still feature as an important factor but it will be set within a wider supporting context of quality, workloads, resources, organisation and outcomes achieved on the ground.
- 3.3 It is important that the PPF is seen as an integral part of the Council's current performance reporting processes, and not a separate stand alone document.
- 3.4 The key component parts of the Performance Framework consist of:

PART 1 – National Headline Indicators;

PART 2 – The performance assessment across 8 areas of agreed activity – defining and measuring a high quality planning service;

PART 3 – Supporting evidence and links to related reports and studies;

PART 4 – Service improvements and timescales for the delivery of improvements.

- 3.5 The approach outlined in the new PPF is to be welcomed as it will provide for the first time a comprehensive and co-ordinated read across all 34 Local Planning Authorities. It will enable the Scottish Government to formally publish and demonstrate how planning authorities are performing in delivering National and Local outcomes within an improving performance, quality and leadership environment.

4.0 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The attached Annual Report 2011-12 for the Argyll and Bute Planning Service demonstrates that we are on a journey of continuous improvement. It hopefully provides relevant evidence that we are customer and outcome focussed and that we have delivery of sustainable economic growth as a priority objective in all that we do. The report demonstrates that we provide quality planning services meeting Scottish Government targets and objectives for planning and the environment. We are not complacent however and our commitment to improve under Part 4 shows there will always be room for continuous improvement.
- 4.2 It should be noted that the Scottish Government will give these annual reports close scrutiny and they will be used to inform Ministers' consideration of planning fee increases / changes and legislative change under the 'Better Regulation Bill' (considering financial penalties for poor performing authorities).

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

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| 5.1 | Policy | In line with HOPS/SG guidance |
| 5.2 | Financial | None at present. SG currently consulting on a proposal that poorly performing Councils be denied access to any increase in planning fees resulting from the current review of the regulations. |
| 5.3 | Legal | None |
| 5.4 | HR | PPF supports workforce planning – linking resources to performance |
| 5.5 | Equalities | PPF support equalities legislation |

- 5.6 Risk Failure to demonstrate good quality performance through the PPF may result in reputational risk and ultimately financial risk as outlined under 5.2 above.
- 5.7 Customer Service PPF supports improved customer service / engagement

6.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 6.1 Heads of Planning Scotland – Planning Performance Framework

Sandy Mactaggart
Executive Director, Development and Infrastructure Services
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For further information contact:
Angus Gilmour, Head of Planning and Regulatory Services
01546 604288