

## ITEM No ...4.....

**REPORT TO:** PLANNING COMMITTEE – 13 AUGUST 2018  
**REPORT ON:** PERFORMANCE OF THE PLANNING SERVICE  
**REPORT BY:** EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CITY DEVELOPMENT  
**REPORT NO:** 242-2018

### **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Committee of the Planning Service's performance for the financial year 2017-2018. The report also includes a link to the Planning Performance Framework 2017-2018 that was submitted to the Scottish Government on the 27 July 2018.
- 1.2 Copies of the Planning Performance Framework 2017-2018 have been circulated to the Lord Provost and all Group Leaders.

### **2 RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee notes the content of the Planning Service's performance.

### **3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 There are no financial implications for the Council in terms of this report.

### **4 BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 The Planning Performance Framework (PPF) is submitted every year to the Scottish Government detailing how the planning authority has delivered its service over the previous year and how it has embedded a culture of continuous improvement. Whilst the speed of decision-making is an important factor, the outputs from projects and service improvements are also a major focus of the framework.
- 4.2 The PPF sets out a mix of quantitative and qualitative measures of performance covering the period between April 2017 and March 2018. This is the 7th PPF that has been prepared.
- 4.3 Planning Performance Framework
- a The Planning Performance Framework for 2017-18 can be found on the following web link:  
[https://www.dundee.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/cd\\_planning\\_performance\\_framework\\_2017-18.pdf](https://www.dundee.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/cd_planning_performance_framework_2017-18.pdf)
- b The PPF report is made of 7 parts, as detailed below:
- Part 1: Qualitative Narrative and Case Studies;
  - Part 2: Supporting Evidence;
  - Part 3: Service Improvements;
  - Part 4: National Headline Indicators (NHI);
  - Part 5: Official Statistics;
  - Part 6: Workforce Information; and
  - Part 7: Planning Committee Information.

- c The Performance Markers Report for the PPF report 2016-2017 can be found at the following link:

[https://www.dundee.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/cd\\_scottish\\_government\\_performance\\_markers\\_report\\_2016-17.pdf](https://www.dundee.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/cd_scottish_government_performance_markers_report_2016-17.pdf).

This is the Scottish Government's assessment of Dundee City Council's performance in relation to 15 key markers. As in previous years, this is based on a traffic light system. The Planning Service has utilised this feedback to further build on the high quality of Service provided.

#### 4.4 Development Planning

- a The Planning Service over the past year has continued the review of the Dundee Local Development Plan. The Proposed Plan was submitted to the Scottish Government Directorate for Planning and Environmental Appeals in February 2018. The examination process is progressing and it is anticipated that the new plan will be adopted at the end of 2018;
- b The anticipated adoption of the new LDP2 is in accordance with the timescale set out in the Development Plan Scheme. The Planning Service has worked closely and engaged with services across the Council, key agencies, developers, landowners and consultants.
- c The figures in the National Headline Indicators demonstrate that Dundee City Council continues to have available a healthy and effective supply of housing and employment land of varying size, in a diversity of locations available within the city. The housing land supply exceeds the minimum 5 year requirement.
- d The established housing land supply for 2017-18 is 5,236 units with an effective housing land supply of 5.5 years. Housing completions over the last 5 years are up from 1,264 units (2012-2017) to 1,318 units (2013-2018).
- e Marketable employment land supply is just over 127ha. Allocating a healthy supply of employment land provides a focus that facilitates the delivery of jobs to support Dundee's population and wider economy. Local Development Plan Policies encourage existing and new businesses to invest with confidence in the city.

#### 4.5 Development Management

- a The Planning Service has committed to encouraging pre-application discussions. Providing advice to applicants at an early stage continues to be a priority as this gives applicants further clarity through the identification of issues early in the process. The percentage of applications subject to pre-application advice has increased from 33.2% (2016-2017) to 37% (2017-2018).
- b The approval rate for planning applications has remained high at 92.7% which reflects the Council's aim to achieve a positive outcome for every application. In addition the level of delegation rate has remained high at 95.3% and this has assisted the speed of decision making.
- c The decision making timescales for major developments have improved and reduced to 19.8 weeks, down from 22.3 weeks. This reduction in timescales has been assisted through the use of project management techniques and a commitment to continued improvement and development of Officers.
- d The timescales for decision making of householder developments have maintained a strong performance of 7.3 weeks which is below the statutory 8 week time period.
- e The PPF contains a number of case studies that evidence a high quality planning service over the previous year.

- 4.6 The Planning Service has completed its “Committed Improvements and Actions” with the previous year's PPF (2016-2017). The PPF 2017-2018 has further developed a number of Improvement Actions for the 2018-2019 period, including continuing with the “Reflections” series. The “Reflections” series is a management tool to assist with the review of previously approved developments, in order to help ensure a high standard of quality place making and a culture of continued learning within the Planning Service. A number of developments are selected and workshops arranged to discuss the positive and negative aspects in order to learn from previous approvals.
- 4.7 The PPF framework has been utilised for seven years and has continually developed and adopted to change. While the Planning (Scotland) Bill will in future mean planning performance reporting may change format, it is clear that a robust framework of report performance will continue to drive the delivery of a high quality planning service.

## **5 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 This Report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management. There are no major issues.

## **6 CONSULTATIONS**

- 6.1 All members of the Council Management Team have been consulted and are in agreement with the contents of this report.

## **7 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 7.1 There are no background papers of relevance to this report.

Mike Galloway  
Executive Director of City Development

Gregor Hamilton  
Head of Planning and Economic Development

GH/GK/KM

1 August 2018

Dundee City Council  
Dundee House  
Dundee