

Portmoak Community Council

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25th February 2019

Mr Kevin Stewart MSP
Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning
St Andrew's House
Regent Road,
Edinburgh EH1 3DG

Dear Mr Stewart

Planning Performance Framework Feedback 2017/18

Our Community Council was pleased to receive from Perth and Kinross Council your letter of 10th January providing feedback on the Council's performance in planning for the year 2017/18.

We recognise the significant progress made in developing the current Planning Performance Framework and that it has provided an informed scorecard approach to performance across all Scotland's local authorities. We note that the framework aims to involve a mix of qualitative and quantitative measures and that it can be informed by customer feedback. We note that the scope of the performance feedback focuses primarily on "management development planning" and much less on the "long term planning process" that sustains the Local Development Plan.

With that in mind we observed in the recent Perth and Kinross Council Feedback:

- a major reliance on measuring achievement through a limited list of quantitative performance markers;
- that measures relied on self-evaluation with apparently no evidence of independent evaluations;
- there is little evidence of performance measuring the quality of the decision making process;

- there are no meaningful measures of effective community engagement in the planning process and hence to reflect developing community empowerment. To put it simply it can send a powerful message if the planning performance framework does not involve evaluation of consultation methods from a community perspective; and
- in such a quantitative-based evaluation system, it is noteworthy that the numbers of complaints upheld on planning matters made to the local authority have not been recorded.

I hope that any future evaluation of the Council's performance in planning will be amended to cover the above points. It is essential that some consideration is given to the quality of performance as well as quantity.

Yours sincerely

Malcolm Strang Steel,
Chairman

Cc

Ms Karen Reid, CEO, Perth and Kinross Council

WCIlr Roz McCall, Convenor, Planning and Development Management Committee

Michael Barnacle, Callum Purves, Willie Robertson and Richard Watters, Ward Councillors
(Perth and Kinross Council)

Members of Portmoak Community Council