



To: Chief Planning Officers in Wales

25 February 2015

Dear Colleague,

PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS

I wrote to you on 3 November 2014, setting out details of the Welsh Government's Planning Performance Framework, and the steps that we would take to assist you in reporting on this. This letter explains how some of the information required will be collected and reported upon, as well providing an update on the Sustainable Development Indicators.

Revisions to the Development Management Quarterly Survey

The letter explained that new fields would be introduced into the Development Management Quarterly Survey to collect some of the Performance Framework data. Following internal testing, the survey form has been revised to include new fields for the additional data.

We anticipate that linked additional work may need to be undertaken to collect information for these new fields, and you may wish to undertake early discussions to identify whether this data can be sourced using in-house skills or knowledge, for example by adapting or copying existing queries in your back office systems. For some local planning authorities submitting full datasets for the new statistics may be difficult and we intend to use a phased approach for implementation.

- **Phase 1** – optional collection and reporting of the new statistics for reporting quarter 4 (October-December) 2014, in order to impact test
- **Phase 2** – benchmarking and analysis of statistical returns reporting quarters 1 (January-March) and 4 (October-December) 2015
- **Phase 3** – **submission of full datasets will be required from all local planning authorities for reporting quarter 1 (January-March) 2016**

For full technical details of the new indicators introduced into the Quarterly Survey, please refer to the "release notes" tab in the survey form. For any further information regarding the Performance Framework please contact Kris Hawkins, via email at kris.hawkins@wales.gsi.gov.uk.



Submission of Sustainable Development Indicators Information

I would like to thank all the local planning authorities who have provided data for the Sustainable Development Indicators. While we have received data from the majority of local planning authorities, a small number have not provided returns or have only provided partial data.

As part of the ongoing evaluation of this exercise it would be helpful to understand the issues associated with collecting the information and whether your IT supplier has updated your back office system to aid the collection. We assume that, unless indicated otherwise, the data you have provided is complete.

For local planning authorities who have not provided data or have provided partial returns, in light of the changes to the 1-APP form set out below, you should now provide complete quarterly returns. Please provide an update on your authority's implementation of the Sustainable Development Indicators to Max Hampton (max.hampton@wales.gsi.gov.uk) by 11 March.

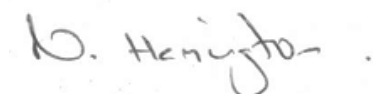
1-APP Planning Application Form

We previously gave a commitment to amend the 1-APP standard planning application form, to introduce new fields to collect information relating to the Sustainable Development Indicators. I am pleased to inform you that after testing the changes were published to the 1-APP form on Wednesday 25 February. This should make collection of data for the Sustainable Development Indicators easier in the future.

Following our commitment to undertake this work in June 2013, and again as the project neared implementation in the Planning Portal testing environment in February 2014, you were encouraged to discuss these forthcoming changes with your IT suppliers. You should therefore be aware of what steps your IT suppliers are taking to facilitate collection and reporting of this data. Please note that if your IT supplier has not made changes to your IT system in order to collect the information from the new fields, then you will need to download and view the complete application form to view and report upon the new data.

It should be noted that the changes to the 1-APP form will record information for the application as submitted, and that changes or revisions to the application will need to be taken into account by the local planning authority when reporting on permissions granted.

Yours sincerely,



Neil Hemington
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Planning Directorate
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