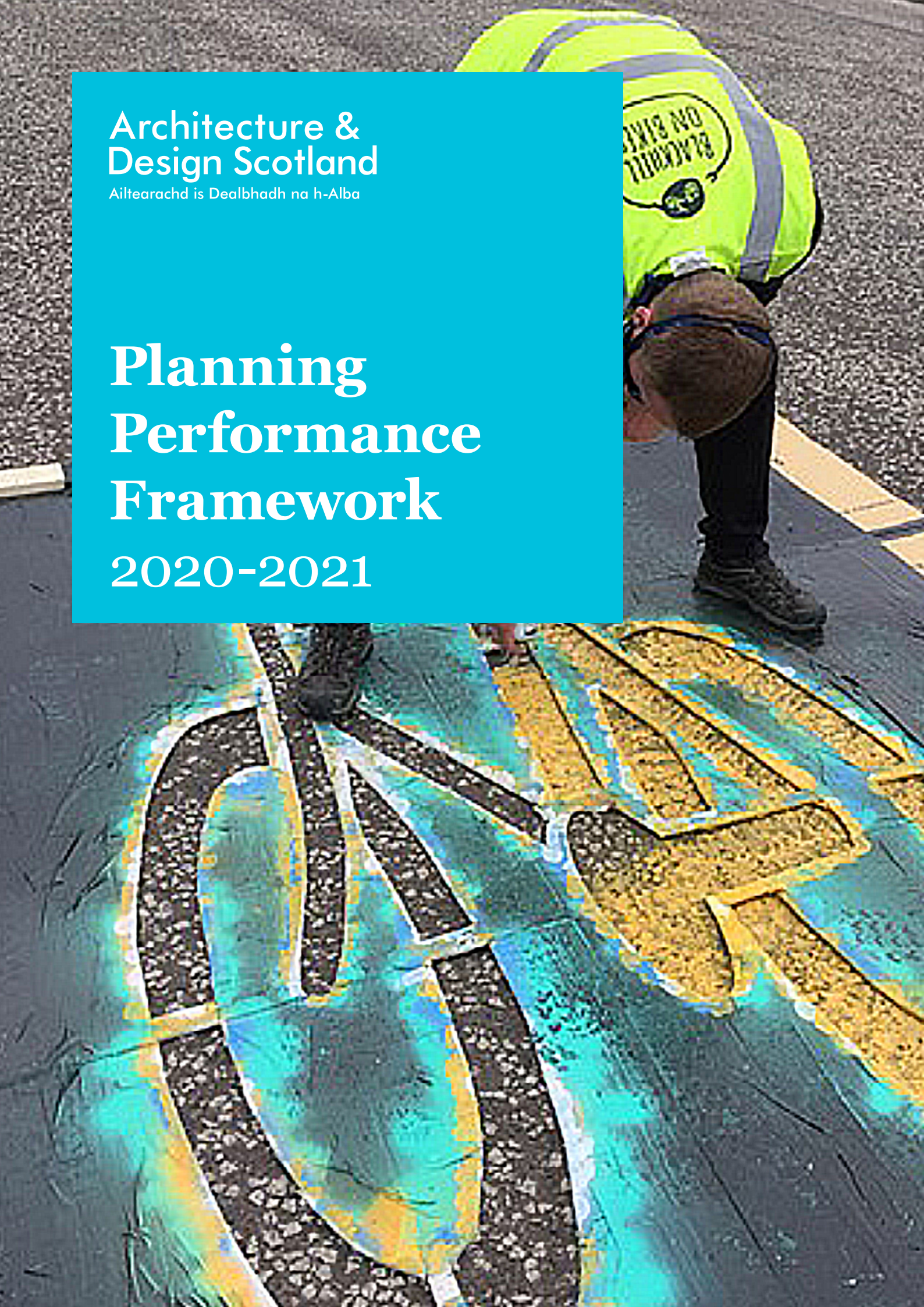


Architecture &
Design Scotland

Ailtearachd is Dealbhadh na h-Alba

Planning Performance Framework 2020-2021



Front: Temporary bike lane being installed at Provanmill, Glasgow, a community-led initiative showcased at our [event on community engagement during lockdown](#).

Contents

What is a Planning Performance Framework?

[Planning Performance Frameworks \(PPF\)](#) were developed by Local Planning Authorities, Strategic Development Planning Authorities, Key Agencies and the Scottish Government as a way of measuring the value added by an authority or organisation. Typically, the reports compiled use a mix of qualitative and quantitative measures to give a snapshot of measures. These measures are agreed through the [Key Agency Group](#) and the [Scottish Government](#). Each Key Agency prepares a PPF report annually, as well as a joint statement on their activities undertaken.

Credits & Acknowledgements

Produced by Architecture and Design Scotland

Image Credits: All images were provided by Architecture and Design Scotland, except the following:

Front Cover, Installation of temporary bike lane in Glasgow: St Paul's Youth Forum.

Page 4, Woodland View Entrance, East Ayrshire: IBI Group

Page 6, Bike Lanes and Walkways, Countesswells, Aberdeenshire: Optimized-Environments

Page 7, Illustration of Hagshaw Windfarm, Douglas: Nature Scot

Page 9, Close up of Woodland View Entrance, East Ayrshire: IBI Group

1. Introduction	5
2. Description of Our Service	5
3. Performance Markers 2020-21	6
Placemaking	6
a) Strategic Planning	6
b) Local Development Plan Engagement	8
c) Pre-Application Collaboration	9
Case Study: KAG Green Recovery Offer	6
Case Study: Hagshaw Windfarm	7
Case Study: Designing for a Changing Climate	8
Case Study: Design Advice Health	9
Case Study: Public Sector Client Forum	10
Capacity Building	10
d) Sharing Good Practice	10
Events and Workshops	10
Case Studies and Reports	10
e) Data Sharing	10
Service	11
f) Customer Satisfaction	11
g) Service-Statement & Joint Working Agreements (JWAs)	11
h) Contribution to Improvement	11
Case study: Community Engagement during Lockdown	11
4. Changes to meet this year's improvement priorities	12
Supporting Evidence	13



“Our Vision: a Scotland whose places are healthy, sustainable and thriving; and where everyone works together to shape their future.”

Architecture and Design Scotland's [Corporate Strategy 2021-31](#)



1. Introduction

Architecture & Design Scotland (A&DS) is an Executive Non-Departmental Public Body that supports the delivery of Scottish Government's objectives and outcomes.

In early 2021 we launched our [new corporate strategy to 2031](#), which sets out how we 'will provide leadership on the spatial aspects of the Place Principle to stimulate a step-change in how Scotland's places are planned, designed, delivered and sustained. Our new approach is:

- We connect people and organisations to create thriving places.
- We provide advice on projects, bringing a wide range of skills.
- We champion good design and collaboration.
- We share insight from our work to grow capacity across Scotland.

Unified around a whole-place collaborative approach to places, we support these key Scottish Government policy themes are: economy & regeneration, climate change & zero carbon, 20 minute neighbourhoods, biodiversity & ecosystem services, health & wellbeing, active travel & mobility, infrastructure investment; and housing to 2040.

2. Description of Our Service

As Scotland's design champion, we are involved in providing advice and collaboration within the planning system and are committed to working with others to improve Scotland's places. Our role, as set out in [Creating Places](#), is to support and promote Scottish Ministers' policies and objectives for the built and natural environment.

This role is intended to improve the quality of development in Scotland and to support and promote excellence in the delivery of good architecture, successful places and efficient processes. This role also requires us to work with other organisations to develop an effective focus on place, architecture and design across policies and working practices.

In the context of the planning system, we fulfil our purpose by providing advice on the extent to which plans, policies and development proposals support successful placemaking. As a key agency, we contribute to local development plans and other national and regional spatial plans.

We are not a statutory consultee and we do not determine planning applications or other development consents. Those who do so take account of our advice as they make decisions about development proposals on the basis of relevant plans and policies. In 2020-21 we contributed to the planning system in the following ways:

- Strategic/Development Planning: Place-Based Briefing, [Place Standard](#), [Town Centre Living](#), [Place Planning for Decarbonisation](#), [Making Places](#)
- Development Management: Pre-Application Design Advice; [Rural Tourist Infrastructure Fund](#), Green Infrastructure in Social Housing
- Support/Capacity Building: [Skills Development](#), [Public Sector Client Forum](#), [Local Design Panels](#), [Case Studies](#), [Making Places](#), [Key Agencies Group](#).

This work is delivered as part of our core service by our architects, landscape architects, planners, and urban designers working in multi-disciplinary project teams.

3. Performance Markers 2020-21

Hagshaw Hill Windfarm, Douglas South Lanarkshire, where we helped to progress their latest improvements.

▶ View of the bike lanes and pedestrian walkways in Countesswells, highlighted in our [Skills Development learning module on housing, published this year.](#)

Between April 2020 and March 2021, A&DS delivered support and advice on design. As Scotland's design champion, our service supports placemaking and capacity-building in the planning system. With the Key Agency Group, we set out the performance markers below to monitor our contributions towards the planning system.

Placemaking

a) Strategic Planning

A&DS provided support to **three** strategic spatial strategies and **seven** strategic placemaking initiatives as follows:

- Ayrshire Growth Deal: Held workshops and supported the development of masterplanning for a number of key sites.
- [Climate Ready Clyde](#): We continue to support the delivery of the initiative through collaborating on the action plan and providing advice for engagement with key stakeholders.
- East Lothian Council: Supporting the development of their Learning Estates Strategy through a series of facilitated discussions and with the housing development at Blindwells through a series of workshops with stakeholders.
- Highland Council: Supporting the Skye and Raasay Investment Plan through a number of online workshops and surveys. Elsewhere we worked to establish decarbonisation place priorities and brief development with Highland and Islands Enterprise.
- Moray Council: held workshops on a design brief for Elgin town centre as part of Moray Growth Deal investment.
- Transport Scotland: Collaborating and continuing to provide design advice on the duelling of the A96.
- Support to Scottish Government on the development of Regional Spatial Strategies (IRSS), and joint position statements with KAG on NPF4, the Draft Infrastructure Investment Plan 2021-22 to 2025 and other policy matters.

Case Study: KAG Green Recovery Offer

Through the [Key Agencies Group](#), in 2020-2021 we extended our placemaking pilot work into an expanded 'Green Recovery Offer' of support to local planning authorities across Scotland for significant or complex projects.



Since July 2020, we have worked with 8 local authorities on key projects. This ranged from design briefs for complex sites to advising on the development of Local Development Plans.

“A&DS went to great lengths to ensure that our workshop went smoothly and were extremely helpful in ensuring this was the case. The current Covid-19 restrictions meant that our workshop was held online which presented some technical issues but with perseverance and great effort, the workshop went smoothly and everyone in attendance was able to participate effectively where necessary.”

Participant in design advice workshop

Case Study: Hagshaw Windfarm

This year we worked with NatureScot, East Ayrshire, South Lanarkshire and LUC to pilot a new development framework for a cluster of windfarms at Hagshaw Hill.



This year we expanded a pilot project in partnership with the [Scottish Government Climate Change Division's](#) commitment to tackle climate change and achieve a target of net-zero carbon by 2045. We published the results of the four Local Authorities low carbon pilot projects, and wrote '[Designing for a Changing Climate: Planning Reform Report](#)' which seeks to inform thinking on how NPF4 and Local Development Plans can support a whole place approach for a changing climate.

Our continued involvement in [KAG's Green Recovery offer](#) initiative has built collective alignment and capacity to assist planning authority stakeholders. Building on last years' initial phase of 3 pilot projects, this year we led the development of a collective approach to 8 major projects.

Thinking holistically and taking a place-based approach, we worked on virtual online exhibitions, workshops and engagements with stakeholders to pilot a new approach that maximises environmental and social benefits to the local area and its economy. As a result the new developments planned are moving forward within the intentions of the agreed framework.

“I’ve enjoyed the A&DS sessions (other than juggling my self isolating baby!) and they have been very well organised and worked well on Teams!”

Participant in an online advice session, Glasgow Urban Design Framework Workshops

Woodland View Entrance, which we showcased in our [case study](#) published in late 2020.



Workshop in early March, with Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Authority, on creating Carbon Conscious Places for Strathard.



b) Local Development Plan Engagement

A&DS supported **six** planning authorities in the preparation of **seven** effective spatial strategies. This included:

- Clackmannanshire Council: support with design advice on a housing brief based on principles in ‘The Caring Place’ report for Glentana Mill, Alva
- East Ayrshire Council: Held workshops for the design brief for the regeneration of Stewarton Town Centre and a scoping exercise for Green and Blue infrastructure at Kilmarnock.
- Fife Council: Provided support on a place based approach to early stage Local Development Plan preparation as part of KAG’s Green Recovery offer.
- Glasgow City Council: support with testing of locating concepts with the authority’s decarbonisation plan through a pilot project on the Glasgow South Urban Development Frameworks.
- Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park: Support with a pilot project to support the authority’s decarbonisation plan including the rollout of their Rural Development Frameworks (RDF) to Strathard.
- North Lanarkshire Council: Support with workshops related to [Town Centre Hub project](#), including communities such as Newmains and Annan.
- Perth and Kinross Council: Informing the preparation of key sites through high level design policy advice as part of the LDP process.

On behalf of the KAG, A&DS led working group outputs on the [Scope and Content of Local Development Plans](#) to inform Scottish Government’s drafting of new regulations on Local Development Plans.

Case Study: Designing for a Changing Climate

Since our report into the four pilot projects, and our further report setting out Planning Reform needed for a whole place approach, the work was expanded to a further five local authority projects.



At Strathard, Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park, we held workshops and consultations to progress their Rural Development Frameworks, a key planning tool for the park authority based around Local Place Plans. In 2021-22, our new Climate Action Towns project will build on this approach to designing for a changing climate.

c) Pre-Application Collaboration

Over the year, A&DS provided design advice to **44** projects at pre-application stage, including **24** health developments, the **Blindwells masterplan**, East Lothian, and improvements **to 55 km of footpaths and cycleways**. Based on recent stakeholder feedback, **91%** of the projects we were involved in have improved due to our input.

Design advice for schools and hospitals remained an important strand of our service. We supported **four** schools and **24** health developments at pre-application stage. Our advice on public investment has focused on health and education. All NHS projects submitted to Scottish Government are subject to collaborative design assessment process with input from A&DS. Through that NHSScotland Design Assessment Process (NDAP), some **£825million** worth of public investment has received design advice, across **24** NHS projects nationwide. 100% of projects demonstrated design improvements ranging from response to setting and landscape to the internal patient and staff environment.

From our Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund support, we advised **20** community-led developments on rural infrastructure projects, with 50% receiving additional support to progress their projects. While our capacity to support was affected by lockdown towards the end of the year, A&DS is implementing good practice in remote-consultations (see service improvements [p.12](#)).

Case Study: Design Advice Health

Despite the ongoing lockdown under Covid-19, through our work with NHSScotland Design Assessment Process (NDAP) we supported 16 projects for 11 health boards across Scotland with a total value of circa £825m.



We work with stakeholders to develop a Design Statement which helps to establish a strategic brief and provides a basis on which to assess a project as it moves through the business case stages. Our report at the Outline Business Case (OBC) stage is developed pre-planning submission and will incorporate any concerns of the relevant planning authority. We are then usually asked by the planners to provide a consultee response on the application once it is submitted.

Community-built cycle lanes at Provonmill, Glasgow, discussed at a recent event on community engagement under lockdown.

An illustration from our first online Public Sector Client Forum: Designing for a Changing Climate, in June, 2020.

Capacity Building

d) Sharing Good Practice

Through our programme of events, reports, promotion and capacity building, we shared good practice with our stakeholders on the planning system. Towards the end of the business year, we began to adapt our processes to cope with the outbreak of Coronavirus. Since March, we committed to adapting our service in line with social distancing measures (improvement priorities page. [12](#)).

Events and Workshops

Over 2020-21, A&DS delivered of **18** capacity building or practice sharing events to the public for an estimated **7** target groups. The event topics included Housing Delivery, Local Design Panels, Engaging Communities, Street Design and Caring Places.

A&DS collaborated with partners on the planning system to share best practice. This year we sat on **10** working groups including SG LDP Scope and Content Group; SG Connected Scotland National Advisory Group.

Case Studies and Reports

Good practice learnt from the service and in others has fed into **9** case studies covering good practice in the built environment. These included case studies covering [good practice in place making](#), community-led regeneration and [school design](#).

Our events and resources are underpinned by regular newsletters, social media and other forms of promotion. We published **83** articles on our website, which was visited an estimated **140,000** times this year – an estimated **55,000** users. Our social media collectively grew by **2,018** followers with our tweets garnering over **591,484** impressions.

Case Study: Public Sector Client Forum

In June 2020 A&DS held its first online Public Sector Client Forum. Originally put online in response to lockdown, the event was watched by a record 130 attendees from Dubai to Shetland, the event highlighted



our work on carbon conscious places and was a chance to showcase best practice around Scotland in 'Designing for a Changing Climate.' Learning from this event, we hope to maintain the online element moving forward to expand our reach across Scotland.

e) Data Sharing

We do not hold datasets on the built environment relevant to the Key Agency Group's objectives and do not share data through digital platforms. Our performance is not measured by data-sharing.

“The event was great both in content and how it was delivered, something different which is going to provoke a range of reactions and discussion – look at the progress being made and how far we have come.”

Participant, Public Sector Client Forum

Service

As we are not a regulatory decision maker nor a statutory consultee, we do not hold statistics on our performance against decision-making timescales.

f) Customer Satisfaction

We monitor customer satisfaction through regular feedback surveys to partners, stakeholders and participants. These give a consistently positive picture of the value we add through providing skills, advice and collaboration support.

g) Service-Statement & Joint Working Agreements (JWAs)

During the year 2020-21, we worked to services statements - [published in 2019](#) - which describe what we can offer across the range of support we provide for service users. Towards the end of the year, we adopted a new corporate strategy and plan. A&DS are in the process of updating our service statements.

In 2019, we completed a Memorandum of Understanding with Scottish Futures Trust (SFT) to help build capacity on a pathfinder project around design advice for urban centres. Though delayed by the impact of Coronavirus, we supported a number of housing briefs as part of our support to local development plans.

h) Contribution to Improvement

See table on [page 12](#).

Case study: Community Engagement during Lockdown

With restrictions on in-person events, we moved our regular programme of sharing good practice around design online. This included, assessing the emerging approaches taken by community engagement practitioners to consultations online during lockdown.



[Our event in July, 2020, focussed on 4 key case studies](#) across Scotland of the use of digital platform methods, planning education and surveying communities. Here, we reached 350 people through a mix of an online virtual event and the subsequent publishing of presentations given. We continue to hold events this way and have spread good practice with traditionally more hard to reach practitioners.

4. Changes to meet this year's improvement priorities

In 2020, A&DS committed to **five** new service improvements and actions, including the delivery of **three** new commitments (From [A&DS PPF, 2020-21](#)). We have achieved all of our committed service improvements and set three new commitments.

In 2020-21 we committed to improving:	Performance Marker	Evidence	Completed
Continue the delivery of new projects on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skills Low Carbon Places Community Placemaking 	Strategic Planning, Local Development Plan Engagement, Sharing Good Practice, Skills and Knowledge, Customer Satisfaction.	The three new projects launched in 2019 and are ongoing as of March, 2021.	Ongoing
Design in resilience, responsiveness and capacity to respond in the wake of COVID, and deliver new online aspects for all key projects.	Strategic Planning, Local Development Plan Engagement, Pre-Application Collaboration, Sharing Good Practice, Customer Satisfaction, Contribution to Improvement.	Our response met with the change in focus and led to our sharing of good practice at our Community Engagement Under Lockdown Event.	Completed
Complete and implement our Corporate Strategy, reviewing all services with our renewed vision.	Customer Satisfaction, Service-Statement and JWAs, Contribution to Improvement.	The corporate strategy has since launched and is being enacted.	Completed
Develop KAG's collaborative pre-application engagement approach through the Green Recovery Offer .	Local Development Plan Engagement, Pre-Application Collaboration.	8 major projects engaged with since launch of initiative.	Completed
In 2021-22, we will commit to improving:		Key Performance Marker	
Expand our reach across scales (from LPP to the NPF) and needs to implement the Place Principle for better outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued support to KAG Green Recovery Support community resilience in our Climate Action Towns project Support to learning places, health care setting, housing and other key infrastructure through, involving stakeholder collaboration 		Strategic Planning, Local Development Plan Engagement, Sharing Good Practice, Skills and Knowledge Customer Satisfaction.	
Progress our blended approach to service delivery, sharing good practice based on learning from 2020/21		Customer Satisfaction, Sharing Good Practice, Skills and Knowledge.	
Develop our digital presence to improve communication renewed service statements, resources strategic aim and vision.		Local Development Plan Engagement, Pre-Application Collaboration, Contribution to Improvement.	

Supporting Evidence

Key Agency Performance Marker	Evidence
Strategic Planning	Housing to 2040: Case Studies and Reports Page 6.
Local Development Plan Engagement	Place Planning for Decarbonisation Service 'The Caring Place' report Page 7.
Pre-Application Collaboration	Service: Health Design Advice Service: Design Advice for Schools Service: Design Advice on Housing Page 8.
Sharing Good Practice, Skills and Knowledge	Public Sector Client Forum (PSCF) Local Design Review Panels List of Case Studies. Page 10.
Data Sharing	N/A - A&DS does not hold quantitative statistics on the planning system.
Decision-Making Timescales	N/A - A&DS is not a statutory consultee nor a regulatory decision maker.
Customer Satisfaction	Annual Review 2020 Page 11
Service-Statement and JWAs	Service Statements. Corporate Plan 2021-31 Page 11
Contribution to Improvement	See Opposite.

Find out more:

www.ads.org.uk
@ArcDesSco
T: 0131 556 6699
E: info@ads.org.uk

Bakehouse Close,
146 Canongate,
Edinburgh EH8 8DD

**Architecture &
Design Scotland**
Ailtearachd is Dealbhadh na h-Alba