

COMMUNITY & REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
13TH NOVEMBER 2020

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON HOMES AND SAFER COMMUNITIES

To consider and comment on the following issues:

1. The Homes and Safer Communities Division's response to COVID

Reasons:

To take stock of the impact of the pandemic on the Homes and Safer Communities Division from a Community Scrutiny perspective.

To be referred to the Executive Board / Council for decision: NO

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:-

Cllr. Linda Evans (Housing Portfolio Holder)

Directorate
Communities

Jake Morgan

Report Author
Jonathan Morgan

Designations:

Director of Communities

Head of Homes and Safer
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
COMMUNITY & REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
13TH NOVEMBER 2020

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON HOMES & SAFER COMMUNITIES

BRIEF SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT

This document is an assessment of the Covid-19 pandemic's impact on the Council's Homes and Safer Communities Division from a Community Scrutiny perspective.

This assessment will inform how we reset and further improve the delivery of services in the future.

To consider and comment on

- 1. The Homes and Safer Communities Division's response to COVID**

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

Yes

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :

Signed: Jonathan Morgan Head of Homes and Safer Communities

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
YES	NONE	YES	YES	NONE	YES	YES

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

1. We must make sure that we learn from this unprecedented experience as we reintroduce our services and re-set our strategic and operational priorities. We must identify our key learning points at a service and organisational level.
2. We will also need to reset our Homes and Safer Communities vision and align it to the revised corporate '*Moving Forward in Carmarthenshire 5 Year Plan*', *Corporate Strategy and Well-being Objectives*.
3. The COVID-19 pandemic has led to inevitable widespread changes to the way in which services are delivered by local authorities. This means that it is even more critical that Local Authorities respect the needs of all service users and equalities.
4. We will need to reprioritise services and our resources in budget setting.

3. Finance

We are in an unprecedented position due to increased costs due to COVID-19 activity, particularly in relation to homelessness and its prevention. This may cause funding pressures if WG hardship funding cannot be accessed post March 2021.

4 ICT

Significant shift to online/digital service provision in the future.

5. Staffing Implications

A new learning and development plan for staff will be created, taking account of the flexibility and adaptability that has been shown during this period. It will also need to develop opportunities to enable staff to further develop their learning and experiences.

6. Physical Assets

Significant future investing in building new council homes and improving existing homes.

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: Jonathan Morgan Head of Homes and Safer Communities

1. Local Member(s)- N/A
2. Community / Town Council – N/A
3. Relevant Partners – N/A
4. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations – Monthly meetings with trade unions ongoing. Corporate staff surveys informing service. Regular team meetings and briefing ongoing via Teams online.

**EXECUTIVE BOARD PORTFOLIO
HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED:**

YES

“The last eight months have been immensely challenging for the department. The report provides clear information on impact, actions and changes taken as a result of the COVID pandemic and implications moving forward. I take the opportunity to thank all members of staff that have adjusted to the huge increase in demand and ways of working”.

Cllr. Linda Evans, Executive Board Member for Housing

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information

List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

Title of Document	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Impact of COVID-19 on Carmarthenshire Executive Board Report 19 th October 2020	CCC website