

# COMMUNITY & REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

## 13<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2020

### IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT SERVICES COVERED BY THE COMMUNITY & REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

#### To consider and comment on the following issues:

The Property and Planning Services Divisions' response to Covid for following areas covered by the Community & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee:

- Housing Services including New Homes, Repairs and Maintenance
- Planning Policy

#### Reasons:

To take stock of the impact of the pandemic on the Environment Department from a Community & Regeneration Scrutiny perspective.

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

#### EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDERS:

**Cllr Hazel Evans (Environment Portfolio Holder)**

**Cllr. Linda Evans (Housing Portfolio Holder)**

**Cllr Mair Stephens (Planning Policy Portfolio Holder)**

Directorate: Environment	Designations:	Tel Nos./ E Mail Addresses:
<b>Report Authors</b>		
Jonathan Fearn	Head of Property	01267 246244 JFearn@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Llinos Quelch	Head of Planning Services	01267 228918 LQuelch@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**  
**COMMUNITY & REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**13<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2020**

**IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THE ENVIRONMENT  
DEPARTMENT**

**BRIEF SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT**

The attached detailed Reports assess the Covid-19 pandemic's impact on the Environment Department from a Community & Regeneration Scrutiny perspective:

- Housing Services: New Homes, Repairs and Maintenance
- Planning Policy

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

**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 Fearn, Head of Property  
Llinos Quelch, Head of Planning Services

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

## 1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

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 in alignment with the revised corporate '*Moving Forward in Carmarthenshire 5 Year Plan*', *Corporate Strategy* and *Well-being Objectives*.

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.

We will need to reprioritise services and our resources in budget setting.

## 2. Finance

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

## 3. Staffing Implications

Many staff have been redeployed during the periods of lockdown and other restrictions, which have deferred a variety of non-essential services compared with original business plan objectives.

## 4. Physical Assets

Significant investment in building new council homes and improving existing homes have had to be deferred during the periods of lockdown and other restrictions. This has resulted in a delay in capital projects and backlog of non-essential maintenance which will be progressed once circumstances permit.

# IMPLICATIONS

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

**Signed:** Jonathan Fearn, Head of Property  
Llinos Quelch, Head of Planning Services

- 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

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

YES

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

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

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