

SCRUTINY REFERRALS TO CABINET, CABINET MEMBER(S) & OTHER SCRUTINY COMMITTEES	
Scrutiny Committee making the referral	Communities, Homes and Regeneration
Date of meeting where referral was agreed and minute No.	29th June 2023 Minute Number 5 (CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISALS – UPDATE)
Details of the referral. (What is Scrutiny asking for?)	<p>The Committee is being requested to look at the broader issue of energy efficiency and the generation of energy in relation to the historic housing stock of the County.</p> <p><u>Committee resolution:</u> “UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Council do not now approach the Welsh Government (as resolved in minute 4 of the meeting of the Committee held on the 5th April 2023) but that the Place, Sustainability and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee be requested to look at the broader issue of energy efficiency and generation of energy in relation to the County’s historic housing stock.</p>

Scrutiny Procedure Rule 23 (SPR23) – Referrals category: -		
a	Is the Committee recommending that existing policy should be amended?	NO
b	Is the Committee recommending that a new policy is introduced?	NO
c	Is the Committee drawing attention to new areas of risk?	NO
Provide further information to support the referral: -		
<u>Minute 5 of the Communities Homes and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee 29th June 2023</u>		
<p>The Committee was reminded that at its meeting held on the 5th April 2023 (Minute 4 refers) it had considered a report on the extension of 10 Conservation Areas within Carmarthenshire and had resolved to approach the Welsh Government on the issue of restricting the installation of Solar Panels on the front elevation of roofs in Conservation Areas. Subsequent thereto, a meeting had been held on the 15th June between the Chair of the Communities, Homes and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee met with the Local Authority’s Built Heritage team, Rhodri Griffiths, Head of Place and Sustainability, Councillor Aled Vaughan Owen, Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability, and Councillor Russel Sparkes to discuss the above issues and how it could be ensured old housing stock was better adapted to help the Council meet its Zero Carbon targets, which, included installing Solar panels on protected buildings.</p>		

*Delete as appropriate

Following that discussion, it was proposed the Council do not now approach the Welsh Government on this issue, contrary to the Committees earlier recommendation, but that the Place, Sustainability and Climate Change Scrutiny committee be requested to look at the broader issue of energy efficiency and generation of energy in relation to the historic housing stock of the county.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Council do not now approach the Welsh Government (as resolved in minute 4 of the meeting of the Committee held on the 5th April 2023) but that the Place, Sustainability and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee be requested to look at the broader issue of energy efficiency and generation of energy in relation to the County’s historic housing stock.

Does the referral comply with SPR 23? If not, what outcome does Scrutiny hope to achieve?	NO*
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Provide further information to support the request and how this can be achieved within existing resources?

The Communities, Homes and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee recognised that current Welsh Government Policies on Conservation Areas conflicted with its target of achieving zero carbon emissions, which could impact adversely on residents within conservation areas who wished to install solar panels on their properties. While it noted solar panel installation was one option available to home owners to reduce their carbon footprint, with other options being available such as insulation or new windows, it felt the broader issue of energy efficiency and the generation of energy in relation to the historic housing stock of the county required examination by the Place, Sustainability and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee.

Relevant Implications: -		
a	Policy & Equalities	YES
b	Legal and Risk Management	NO
c	Finance, Procurement, ICT and Physical Assets	NO
d	Staffing/HR	NO

Provide further information: -
Policy and Equalities – None at this stage. However, any decision arising from the Committees consideration may result in the need for a review to be undertaken of any relevant planning policies and/or Supplementary Planning Guidance

*Delete as appropriate

Is the Scrutiny Chair prepared to present further evidence in support, at request?	YES
Relevant Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder	Councillor Aled Vaughan Owen
Scrutiny Support Officer/Departmental Support	Kevin Thomas

Detailed report attached?	No	
Any appendices attached to the report?	Yes	<p>Appendix A – Minutes of the Communities, Homes and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee 29th June 2023.</p> <p>Appendix B - Appendix B – Minutes of the Communities, Homes and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee 5th April 2023</p>
List of background papers used in the preparation of this report <small>(Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information)</small>	Title of document	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection