



## Economy, Residents, Communities and Governance Scrutiny Committee

### Scrutiny Observations to Cabinet on: 24.03.2020

The Economy, Residents, Communities and Governance Scrutiny Committee met on 24 February 2020 and considered the following documents:

- Declaration of a Revised Powys Eco Flex 'Statement of Intent'

The Economy, Residents, Communities and Governance Scrutiny Committee thank the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, Housing and Regulatory Services and the Head of Housing and Community Development and officers for attending scrutiny.

#### Scrutiny make the following observations:

- The Committee is pleased that the criticisms from the Powys Plumbing Group on the previous scheme have been accommodated into the new scheme i.e. local supply chain not being used, no financial income cap on applicants and that applications were assessed externally.
- The Committee noted the clarification that the new scheme was not for boiler replacement but to provide better insulation in properties.
- The Cabinet must ensure that a fit for purpose vetting scheme is established, as recommended by the SWAP review of ECO2, so that a sample of applications assessed by Warm Wales are reviewed to ensure:
  - that the company is delivering what is required on the Council's behalf;
  - that the correct information is being provided on applications regarding the eligibility of applicants.
- Officers should clarify whether income from investments is taken into account when undertaking an assessment of an applicant's income.
- The Cabinet should be assured that checks are undertaken regarding the standard and safety of works undertaken under the scheme as it is the understanding that such checks are not undertaken by regulators.
- The Cabinet should consider a time limited, insurance backed guarantee for the works undertaken to protect customers in the event that works undertaken do not meet required standards.
- The Cabinet needs to ensure that it continues to undertake "Meet the Buyer" events with Warm Wales to promote and support local businesses in engaging with the new scheme.

Scrutiny's Recommendation	Accept (plus Action and timescale)	Partially Accept (plus Rationale and Action and timescale)	Reject (plus Rationale)
<b>1 That the Cabinet ensures that a fit for purpose vetting</b>	Accept - An audited fit for purpose vetting scheme agreed.		

<b>scheme is established;</b>	Timescale - Warm Wales to deliver from launch.		
<b>2 That officers be asked to clarify whether income from investments is taken into account when assessing an applicant's income</b>	To clarify - Interest from investments to be considered but capital sum disregarded. Timescale - Warm Wales to deliver from launch.		
<b>3 That the Cabinet should be assured that checks are undertaken regarding the standard and safety of works carried out under the scheme</b>	Accept - To comply with PAS2035 (a requirement for all installers) checks and warranties required to satisfy OFGEM / BEIS requirements & secure funding from energy providers. Timescale - from launch by accreditation bodies.		
<b>4 The Cabinet should consider a time limited, insurance backed guarantee for the works undertaken to protect customers</b>	Accept - This is a new requirement placed on installers as part of the PAS2035 registration process. Timescale - from launch by all installers.		
<b>5 The Cabinet needs to ensure that it continues to undertake "Meet the Buyer" events with Warm Wales to promote and support local businesses in engaging with the new scheme</b>	Accept - To be undertaken throughout the county ensuring local businesses are encouraged to engage with the scheme. Support & advice also provided to promote PAS2035, required by installers working on this national scheme. Timescale - Warm Wales & ECO provider to deliver from launch.		

In accordance with Rule 7.27.2 the Cabinet is asked to provide a written response to the scrutiny report, including an action plan where appropriate, as soon as possible or at the latest within 2 months of the date of the Cabinet meeting i.e. by 24.04.2020

Membership of the Economy, residents, Communities and Governance Scrutiny Group / Committee on 24.02.2020:

County Councillors:

M Dorrance, K Curry, D Evans, EM Jones, G Jones, I McIntosh, J Pugh, D Selby.