

Planning Committee:

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Item Number: 12

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Solar Panels Guidance Leaflet for Listed Buildings and within Conservation Areas

RECOMMENDATION

Planning Committee are requested to approve the attached document (Appendix A) for the purposes of providing guidance to applicants and informing the Council's development management decision taking.

BACKGROUND

In the past 12 months, the District Council has received a number of planning applications and dealt with a number of enforcement investigations in relation to the erection of solar panels on listed buildings and unlisted buildings within Conservation Areas. It has become apparent through considering these matters that applicant's and property owners were unaware of what approval was required by the Council and what would be an acceptable form of development.

Officers have therefore produced the attached document to provide guidance relating to the erection of solar panels on listed buildings and unlisted buildings within Conservation Areas. Consultation has been undertaken widely, including English Heritage, the Conservation Advisory Forum, the Institute of Historic Building Conservation and internally within the Planning Department (including Building Control). The document has been much modified to encompass the various comments and suggestions tabled, and is put forward to Planning Committee for its endorsement. The Guidance will be used to inform property owners and inform decisions taken by officers and Planning Committee in determining planning applications and deciding whether to take enforcement action.