

AFFORDABLE WARMTH SCHEME – UPDATE	1st August 2017
TO: ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE	
FOR INFORMATION	

Linkage to Council Strategy (2015-19)	
Strategic Theme	Resilient Health & Engaged Communities
Outcome	Improved Home Delivery Energy Efficiency
Lead Officer	Head of Health & Built Environment
Cost: (If applicable)	Funded by DFC

Background

Previous report items indicated that Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council were successful in meeting their annual target in 2016/2017. Please see included a breakdown of DEA and Ward for each of these referrals.

Members will be aware that going into this financial year there was uncertainty as to whether funding would be available for the scheme and if so, at what level.

After a meeting of Senior Officers and the Department of Communities the Department clarified the budget position and referral total for 2017/2018.

The Department have advised that for this financial year each Council is to submit a maximum of 405 referrals to the Northern Ireland Housing Executive. The Department have indicated that for each referral submitted they have agreed a unit cost of £181 with the total funding received by Councils this financial year being £73,305. Please see correspondence from the Department of Communities included. In 2016/2017 Councils were funded £107,250 to complete 506 referrals, averaging at £211.96 per referral.

In real terms, this has meant a significant reduction of staff available for Affordable Warmth and has resulted in relying on the good nature of staff from other teams to ensure these targets are met. Senior officers have expressed their concern regarding the level of funding with the Department and will update Members when more information becomes available.

A welcome change has been that Councils are now permitted to relax the 20% rule for 2017/18 and may make additional referrals over and above the 20% from non-targeted addresses currently sitting on waiting lists. Any new requests from non-targeted properties may only be referred if they are deemed to be a priority case.

The Scheme has been a great success, particularly in relation to the identification of the most vulnerable households therefore enabling tailored support to be provided to those most in need within the Borough. Council officers will continue to liaise with our partners to ensure that Constituents within our Borough receive the energy efficiency measures they require to live warmer, healthier lives.

This Department would like to express their sincere thanks to Council's Digital Services Manager Nial McSorley for his assistance when determining the DEA and Ward of each of 2016/2017's referrals.

Breakdown of DEA & Ward of 2016/2017 referrals

DEA	Ward	Total
Ballymoney	Ballymoney East	8
	Ballymoney North	8
	Ballymoney South	11
	Clogh Mills	9
	Dunloy	22
	Rasharkin	15
	Route	16
		89

DEA	Ward	Total
Bann	Aghadowey	10
	Castlerock	14
	Garvagh	11
	Kilrea	18
	Macosquin	4
		57

DEA	Ward	Total
Benbradagh	Altahullion	11
	Ballykelly	3
	Dungiven	15
	Feeny	18
	Greysteel	8
		55

DEA	Ward	Total
Causeway	Atlantic	15
	Dervock	18
	Dundooan	12
	Giant's Causeway	14
	Hopefield	6
	Portrush and Dunluce	15
	Portstewart	7
		87

DEA	Ward	Total
Coleraine	Churchland	6
	Mountsandel	16
	Quarry	7
	University	15
	Waterside	14
	Windyhall	11
		69

DEA	Ward	Total
Limavady	Coolessan	16
	Drumsumn	9
	Greystone	9
	Magilligan	3
	Roeside	6
		43

DEA	Ward	Total
The Glens	Ballycastle	21
	Kinbane	32
	Loughguille and Stranocum	21
	Lurigethan	13
	Torr Head and Raithlin	20
		107



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21 June 2017

AFFORDABLE WARMTH SCHEME FUNDING 2017/2018

Dear Senior Officials,

Department for Communities officials met with senior council officers on 8 June and discussed an indicative budget for the Affordable Warmth Scheme for 2017/2018. In anticipation of an increase to the Affordable Warmth Scheme budget through future monitoring rounds we will require councils to make the following pattern of referrals to Housing Executive Grant Offices over the year. The budget available to the Scheme may increase further as the year progresses. It is important to record with householders that acceptance of a referral does not represent a commitment to approve their application, and is subject to the required level of funding being available.

Period	Number of Referrals	Total Referrals
April to June	25 per month	75
July to September	40 per month	120
October to December	40 per month	120
January to March	30 per month	90
Total		405

This translates into a payment to councils of £73,305 for 405 referrals over the year based on a unit cost of £181 per referral. I hope this is helpful in allowing you to plan and manage the Scheme over the year.

Yours sincerely,

Martin McDermott (Head of Fuel Poverty & Private Sector Grants)