



<b>AFFORDABLE WARMTH SCHEME</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> June 2016</b>
<b>TO: ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE</b>	
<b>FOR INFORMATION</b>	

<b>Linkage to Corporate Plan</b>	
<b>Strategic Priority</b>	Resilient Healthy & Engaged Communities
<b>Objective</b>	Home Reducing Fuel Poverty
<b>Lead Officer</b>	Bryan Edgar
<b>Cost: (If applicable)</b>	Funded by DSD

## 1.0 Background

Member will recall previous committee reports on the Affordable Warmth Scheme funded by the Department of Communities (formerly DSD), and administered in partnership by Council and the Housing Executive.

At the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council had referred a total of 1,549 cases (households) to the Housing Executive. 733 of these referrals (47.3%) failed to proceed. (An explanation has been sought from the N.I.H.E. for not proceeding). Of those 733 cases, 40% were not eligible for the scheme on income grounds (i.e. the household income exceeded the £20,000 threshold) or their property did not require any energy efficiency measures. A further 42% did not proceed of their own volition.

Of the 816 remaining cases, 699 were visited by the Housing Executive. Formal approval for works to commence was issued to 499 homes, amounting to £2.2 million committed expenditure in the Borough. To date, 269 homes have had the energy efficiency measures installed. Throughout the province £21 million has been committed via the Affordable Warmth Scheme to low income households.

One of the major changes to the scheme delivery in Year 1 was local Councils taking on an enhanced role to obtain evidence of the householder's annual income when completing the initial survey. This new role, since mid-December 2015, has improved dramatically the quality of referrals, and has resulted in a much greater percentage of persons / householders availing of the funding.

The Department of Communities expects an allocation of £15.5 million ring fenced to Affordable Warmth measures during the 2016/17 year. Responsibility for delivering the scheme will continue to be divided between Councils and the Housing Executive. Based on an average grant spend per household of £3,900, the Department will expect Council to deliver approximately 400 – 500 completed surveys to the Housing Executive for processing during the 2016/17 period. Based on these figures, it is hoped that Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council will receive grant aid in the region of £107,000 to fund the staffing resource necessary to undertake these duties.

At present the Department of Communities are revising the Service Level Agreements with Councils and the Housing Executive to reflect these changes.

Members approval is sought to commit this organisation's continued participation and involvement in this important scheme that will hopefully reduce the incidence of fuel poverty in our low income households throughout the Borough.