

AFFORDABLE WARMTH SCHEME UPDATE	4th October 2016
TO: ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE	
FOR INFORMATION	

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

Further to the queries raised at the last Environmental Services Committee meeting, the total programme budget for 2016-2017 as allocated by the Department for communities is £15.5m. During the period May – August 2016, Council have referred 153 clients to the Northern Ireland Housing Executive. From these clients, 5 were from privately rented properties.

In private rented cases, Landlords are required to contribute to the cost of the works. This has acted as a deterrent in some cases, particularly where the landlord has inherited the property. However, there have been other cases where the landlord has been the first point of contact and has been keen to proceed with the scheme due to potential upgrades being made to the property which in turn will increase its energy efficiency and value. All publicity for the scheme is undertaken by the Department of Communities and is promoted to owner occupiers and private renters.

For landlords who do not wish to proceed with the Affordable Warmth Scheme due to financial constraints, officers signpost the tenant to our energy efficiency advice service where Northern Ireland Sustainable Energy Programme (NISEP) grants are available.

At present the Housing Executive have not received any applications to replace wood pellet boilers. As it is a relatively recent form of fuel, it was not imagined that the boilers would be of an age to be replaced and so wood pellet boilers have not been included in the policy document. The Housing Executive have advised that should there be cases involving wood pellet boilers we can submit them for review and each case will be considered on its own merits.