

AFFORDABLE WARMTH SCHEME – CONSULTATION – CHANGES TO THE AFFORDABLE WARMTH SCHEME	5th December 2017
TO: ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	
FOR DECISION	

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)	N/A

The Department for Communities has published a consultation paper entitled “Changes to the Affordable Warmth Scheme”. The document outlines proposals for changes which were a result of a review of the Scheme following its first full year of operation. The Department has also published an Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) screen of the proposals.

The consultation document and EQIA screen are available at www.communities-ni.gov.uk/consultations/changes-affordable-warmth-scheme. Copies of the consultation pack, including copies in alternative formats (on request) are available by emailing AWSConsultation@communities-ni.gov.uk or telephoning 02890515220.

The consultation period runs from 13 November 2017 to 16 February 2018.

Four changes have been proposed and these are as follows:

- The Department proposes that one installer, managing the installation of all measures to the household, becomes the preferred delivery method.
- The Department proposes to raise the income threshold to £23,000 for households with more than one person and reducing it to £18,000 for all single person households.
- The Department proposes that Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance, Personal Independence Payment and Carer’s Allowance are removed from the calculation of income for the Affordable Warmth Scheme.

- The Department proposes the removal of age-related and disability-related eligibility criteria from the boiler replacement element of the Affordable Warmth Scheme.

The Affordable Warmth team have considered the impact of these changes and have included the proposed response in Appendix 1 for Members consideration.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Consultation response as found at Appendix 1 be submitted on behalf of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council to the Department of Communities.

Appendix 1

Your responses to the Consultation

Name: Bryan Edgar

Organisation: Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council

Position in the organisation: Head of Health and Built Environment

Proposal 1

The Department proposes that one installer, managing the installation of all measures to the household, becomes the preferred delivery method.

How much do you agree with this proposal? (please circle one option)

Strongly agree Agree Disagree Strongly disagree **Don't know**

Comments

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council are in agreement that the installation process should be made as easy as possible for the client.

Proposal 2

The Department proposes to raise the income threshold to £23,000 for households with more than one person and reducing it to £18,000 for all single person households.

How much do you agree with this proposal? (please circle one option)

Strongly agree Agree Disagree Strongly disagree **Don't know**

Comments

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council are in agreement that a household with more than one person should benefit from a higher income threshold.

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council do not agree that the income criteria for a single person household should decrease. This should remain at the current level of £20,000. Council are of the opinion that should the eligibility threshold decrease, this would disadvantage a proportion of people who are relying on one income to pay all household bills and living costs.

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council ask that if a lower tariff is imposed for a single person household that it does not apply to clients whose application has been started by Council but has not been fully completed prior to the date of implementation.

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council ask that a minimum of 3 months' notice is given before changes are implemented.

Proposal 3

The Department proposes that Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance, Personal Independence Payment and Carer's Allowance are removed from the calculation of income for the Affordable Warmth Scheme.

How much do you agree with this proposal? (please circle one option)

Strongly agree Agree Disagree Strongly disagree Don't know

Comments

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council are in agreement that the abovementioned benefits should not be included as income. Council understand that these benefits sit outside Universal credit.

Proposal 4

The Department proposes the removal of age-related and disability-related eligibility criteria from the Affordable Warmth Scheme.

How much do you agree with this proposal? (please circle one option)

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Don't know

Comments

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council are in agreement that age-related and disability-related eligibility criteria should be removed.

Other Comments

Are there any additional comments or suggestions you wish to make on the proposals in the consultation document?

Comments

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council would like to be consulted with in the instance that application forms are revised in light of Consultation findings.