



Title of Report:	AFFORDABLE WARMTH SCHEME FUNDING 2019/2020
Committee Report Submitted To:	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
Date of Meeting:	4th June 2019
For Decision or For Information	FOR INFORMATION

Linkage to Council Strategy (2019-23)	
Strategic Theme	Resilient Healthy & Engaged Communities
Outcome	Continued delivery of the Affordable Warmth Scheme
Lead Officer	Head of Health & Built Environment

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	£41,256.00
Included in Current Year Estimates	YES
Capital/Revenue	Revenue
Code	
Staffing Costs	£41,256.00

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	N/A	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	N/A	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	N/A	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	N/A	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	N/A	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	N/A	Date:

1.0 Purpose of Report

The purpose of the report is to advise members with respect to the current position regarding the Department of Communities Affordable Warmth Scheme.

2.0 Background

The Department for Communities (DfC) by letter dated 4th April 2019 confirmed that the overall capital budget for the current year is £12M reducing from £15M the previous year. The average spend per household has now risen to £4500.00

The reduced budget and the higher average spend has resulted in the acceptance of fewer referrals from Councils in the current year. As a consequence a total of 216 referrals are requested over the 12 month period equating to a total funding being paid of £41,256.00. Staffing levels have been reduced to reflect the decrease in funding received.

In addition, the DfC have advised that they have asked the NIHE to temporarily delay the issuing of approvals for applications to the scheme. This delay will affect all applications across Northern Ireland (approximately 900) received since 31st December 2018 and an additional 400 received prior to this date. The reason for the delay is a scheme approval issue which prevents expenditure against the schemes available budget.

NIHE are continuing to make payments for approvals already issued on completion of the work. The NIHE are to contact all those that have outstanding applications to update them on the latest position and apologise on behalf of the DfC.

On the 16th May 2019 correspondence was received from DfC advising that it has now received approval for progressing extremely urgent cases only.

These are defined as–

1. applications received from those with a disability or serious illness and without an operating central heating system; or
2. applications from those who are frail elderly (aged over 85) and without an operating central heating system.

We are further advised that NIHE will now begin issuing approvals for applications received that meet the criteria as above. A request has been submitted to DfC as to the impact this change in criteria will have on referrals already made, together with those from this date forward. Further information will be provided when this is available.