

AFFORDABLE WARMTH SCHEME - UPDATE	4th April 2017
TO: ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE	
FOR INFORMATION	

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

Members will recall previous updates in relation to the Affordable Warmth Scheme. On the 21st March Council has been advised by the Department of Communities that the budget for 2017/2018 was not approved by the last Executive and in the absence of a NI Assembly, and it has been confirmed that our budget for the months of April, May and June 2017 have been reduced by approximately 50% with the number of referrals also being reduced pro rata. With this reduction in budget, resources will require to be reduced accordingly. Where redeployment opportunities exist within the department officers will be reassigned pending further confirmation from the Department of Communities.

Department Officials have indicated that the Affordable Warmth Scheme will be considered alongside other spending priorities for the Department as part of next year's budget consideration.

The current success of the Affordable Warmth Scheme is a testimony to the good work of all the key partners involved in its delivery particularly Council officers. The scheme has a proven track record for funding and assisting fuel poor households and has invested over £40 million in the first two years of operation. This would suggest that a strong case for continued funding in 2017/18 would be made albeit in a context of competing priorities.