

Report on	Affordable Warmth Scheme (AWS) – New Service Level Agreement (SLA) and updates on 17/18 Performance and 18/19 funding.
Date of Meeting	2 July 2018
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Is this report restricted for confidential business? If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	Yes	
	No	X

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To seek Members approval to sign a revised Service Level Agreement with the Department for Communities (DfC), dated June 2018 Version 4 for the Affordable Warmth Scheme.
1.2	To update Members on the performance of the Affordable Warmth Scheme in 2017/2018 and on the level of funding confirmed by DfC for Affordable Warmth Scheme for 2018/2019 year.
2.0	Background
2.1	The Affordable Warmth Scheme (AWS) builds on the success of the previous Affordable Warmth Pilots and is one of the Department of Communities tools in tackling fuel poverty. The Scheme is delivered in partnership with local Councils and the Housing Executive.
2.2	The Affordable Warmth Scheme aims to mitigate the effects of fuel poverty in targeted households living in severe or extreme fuel poverty. It is expected to reduce energy consumption in eligible private housing through home energy efficiency interventions.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p><u>SLA</u> DFC have provided a new Service Level Agreement for 2018 (<i>Appendix 1</i>). It will replace the previous Service level Agreement which was approved by Council in February 2018.</p> <p>The SLA sets out the target number of surveys to be completed by Councils in the 2018/2019 year. This year a total of 220 completed surveys are expected to be referred to the local NIHE Grant Office from April 2018 to March 2019, following the profile, which will be set by NIHE. The number of self-referrals included in the total of 220 referrals should not exceed 20%. Additional referrals will not be accepted without prior agreement with DfC and NIHE.</p> <p>The SLA includes the roles and responsibilities of the Council in Section 4. It includes the responsibility to highlight urgent cases to the NIHE Grants Manager at the time of referral. An urgent case is defined as a household with no heating system, or central heating, which is broken down beyond repair.</p>

The SLA also includes the Council's role in carrying out additional duties such as "handholding" of householders and qualitative case studies of homes which have received assistance through the Scheme. (To be agreed following Workshop in June 2018).

3.2 Funding

A Letter of funding from DfC is attached at *Appendix 2* detailing the level of funding confirmed for the 2018/2019 year.

In the letter, DfC have outlined that previous referral volumes coupled with the higher average spend per household have led to a greater budget commitment into 2018/19 from last year therefore less referrals are required during this financial year.

Period	Number of Referrals	Total Referrals
April to May	25 per month	50
June to March	17 per month	170
Total		220

The Department advises that it recognises the need for a minimum level of funding to councils to ensure their participation in the Scheme and propose a unique funding arrangement for one year only.

Each local Council will be paid £68,780 for the 220 referrals over the year and will be requested to undertake additional activities associated with the Affordable Warmth Scheme, which are to be decided at the Senior Official Workshop on 28th June 2018. This arrangement will cover the 2018/19 year only.

3.3 Affordable Warmth Scheme Performance 2017/2018

The report attached at *Appendix 3* details the performance of the Affordable Warmth Scheme for 2017/2018 year and Period 1 of this current financial year.

The report details the performance of the scheme in 2017/2018 across all Council areas and includes

- AWS17/18 overall targets versus actual summary
- Overall Total no. of referrals per month
- Overall Breakdown of scheme performance per year since it began in 2014
- Overall Measure type breakdown
- Breakdowns per Council area – relevant figures from MUDC extracted from report onto table below.

17/18	MUDC	Council average	Regional Total
Referrals	372	385	4230
Cancellations	72	83	912
Approvals issued	444	392	4312
Value of Approvals	£2.1 million	£1.6 million	£16.96 million
Measures completed	626	748	8232
Homes improved	324	377	4148

4.0 Other Considerations

4.1 Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications

Financial: DfC funding as outlined above

	Human: Existing
	Risk Management: N/A
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A
	Rural Needs Implications: N/A
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	That Committee notes the content of this report and approves the Service Level Agreement between the Department for Communities and Mid Ulster District Council as outlined at Appendix 1.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Appendix 1 - Service Level Agreement between Department for Communities and Mid Ulster District Council, dated June 2018, Version 4 for the Affordable Warmth Scheme
6.2	Appendix 2 - Letter of Funding from DfC
6.3	Appendix 3 - Affordable Warmth Scheme 17/18 Final Performance and 18/19 P1 report