



Subject:	Affordable Warmth Service Level Agreement
Date:	9 August 2016
Reporting Officer:	Ian Harper – Building Control Manager
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1.0	Purpose of report
1.1	The Department for Communities (DfC) has written to the council requesting it adopt a revised version of the Affordable Warmth Scheme, Service Level Agreement (SLA) between the two organisations.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Note the contents of the report• Consider the request to adopt the revised Service Level Agreement with DfC for the Affordable Warmth Scheme.
3.0	Main report
3.1	The DfC has written to the council requesting that a revised version of the SLA be endorsed by the council.
3.2	The SLA includes the changes made to the Affordable Warmth Scheme (AWS) for 2016-2017 previously brought to members including: <u>Reduction in funding for the councils</u>
3.3	The funding has been reduced from £153,000 in 2015/16 to a new annual figure of £92,000. Quarter 1 of 2016/17 will be at the same rate as quarter 1 of 2015/16 (i.e. £38,250) to allow transition and subsequently £23,000 per quarter for the remainder of

the year. Council's will receive a total of £107,250 for 2016/17.

Reduction in the targets

- 3.4 The target for completed surveys has also been reduced from 1000 per year to 552 (46 per month).

Confirming ratio of targeted referrals and self-referrals.

- 3.5 The scheme is to remain a targeted scheme and the number of self-referrals included within the monthly target of 46 surveys should not exceed 20%

Formalising the council role in carrying out additional financial checks.

- 3.6 The SLA formalises the additional financial eligibility checks being carried out by the council AW team.

- 3.7 The AW team has reviewed the working arrangements in light of the changes and is providing the required number of surveys per month.

- 3.8 The team is assessing each self-referral on the basis of need and are ensuring that surveys are carried out for those in most need and transferred to the NIHE within the 20% threshold. However, there will continue to be self-referrals that will not be surveyed and avail of the scheme at this time.

- 3.9 At committee in June members agreed to write to the Minister requesting a meeting to discuss fuel poverty issues, including the AWS. Following approval by council a letter was sent on 6th July requesting a meeting. Note that the SLA contains a clause allowing for changes to the number of referrals that can be sent in circumstances where additional funding becomes available.

Financial & Resource Implications

- 3.10 There are no Financial, Human Resources, Assets and other implications in this report. However it is noted that the reduced funding and workloads in 2016/17 resulted in one member of agency staff being released.

3.11	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u> There are no direct Equality implications.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
4.1	Appendix 1 - Service Level Agreement