



<b>Subject:</b>	Response from the Minister for Communities re: Affordable Warmth Scheme Update
<b>Date:</b>	13th April, 2021
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Sara Steele, Democratic Services Officer
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Sara Steele, Democratic Services Officer

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</b>	
<b>After Committee Decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>After Council Decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Sometime in the future</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Never</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Call-in</b>	
<b>Is the decision eligible for Call-in?</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	To consider a response on behalf of the Minister for Communities in relation to the Affordable Warmth Scheme Update.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to note: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the response in relation to the underspend in funding; and</li><li>• that Mr. David Polley, Director of Housing Supply Policy, will be attending the next meeting of the People and Communities Committee to discuss the Affordable Warmth Scheme.</li></ul>

<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
	<p data-bbox="272 226 427 253"><b><u>Key Issues</u></b></p> <p data-bbox="165 275 1485 506">3.1 The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 9th March, it agreed that the Council write to the Communities Minister to request that any underspend in funding for the Affordable Warmth Scheme in 2020-2021 be ring-fenced for the use of the scheme and carried over into the next financial year. A response has now been received on behalf of Minister Hargey, a copy of which is attached.</p> <p data-bbox="165 577 1485 808">3.2 The correspondence advises that, under current budgeting rules, the Department does not have year-end flexibility and therefore any funding not used before the end of March 2020 will be lost to the Department. It goes on to state that the Department will, however, aim to minimise any reduced requirements and seek to use these elsewhere within the Department, where budget rules permitted.</p> <p data-bbox="165 880 1485 1010">3.3 The Committee is further asked to note that Mr. David Polley, Director Housing Supply Policy, will be attending the May meeting of the People and Committees Committee to further discuss the AWS following an invitation extended to him after the February meeting of the Committee.</p> <p data-bbox="165 1066 783 1093"><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p data-bbox="272 1133 699 1160">None associated with this report.</p> <p data-bbox="165 1200 831 1227"><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></b></p> <p data-bbox="272 1267 699 1294">None associated with this report.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices - Documents Attached</b>
	Copy of response from the Minister for Communities.