

Written response to: People Scrutiny Panel

Resolution: That the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources circulate a written response to the Panel detailing whether, in the event of the Sustainable Warmth grant funding not being spent, that a bid for the next round of funding may be submitted.

Written response from: Corporate Director of Finance and Resources

Response: The Council received £19.995m in respect of the Sustainable Warmth 2022/23 project funded by BEIS. This is a Cumbria wide project to address fuel poverty, improve energy efficiency and carbon savings, and to help boost the local economy with energy efficiency measures across Cumbria.

The Sustainable Warmth team has had issues with staff recruitment and retention and therefore spend is currently below the agreed spending profile; however, Council Officers are in regular contact with colleagues at BEIS regarding progress made against the revised delivery plan.

The Council will not be submitting a bid for the next round of funding, but any future decision will be a decision for Cumberland Council to make.

Date: 1st November 2022