

COMMUNITY & SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

14TH NOVEMBER 2012

REPORT OF HEAD OF REGULATORY SERVICES

WARM HOMES GRANT FUNDING 2013

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members that following a successful bid for grant funding from the Department of Health in 2012 of £195k for making homes warm in the private sector, another bid (for £235k) has been submitted for funding in 2013.
- 1.2 To gain approval to spend the approved grant for this purpose, including the appointment of a temporary Technical Officer from this fund to roll out the programme.
- 1.3 To confirm that a condition of the grant is that the funding is to be spent before April 2013.

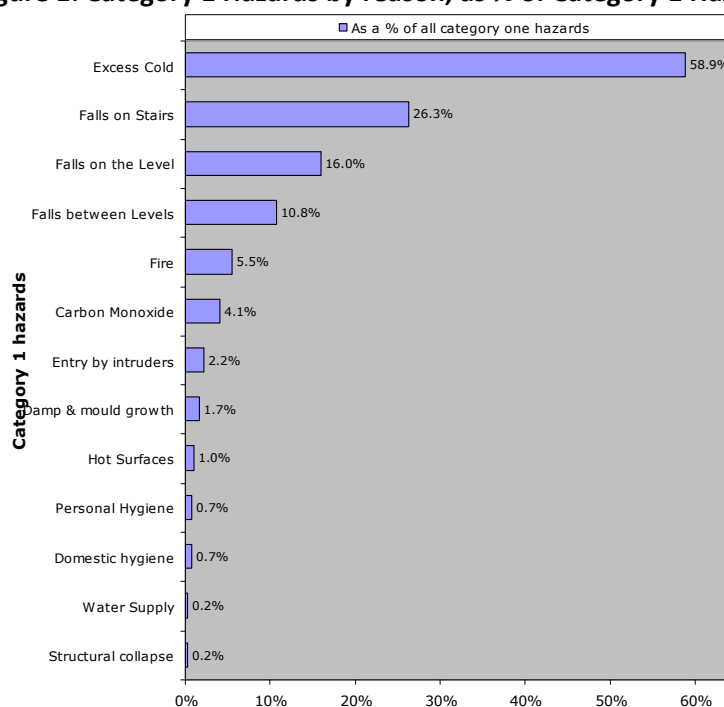
2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the project mandate and business case attached be approved, the business case is submitted to PFA (Policy, Finance and Administration) Committee, and approval is given that this scheme and funding of £235k is brought into the Capital Programme for 2012-13 (para. 5.2 refers) and;
- 2.2 That approval is given to appointing a temporary Technical Officer from this fund to roll out the programme (para. 5.2 refers).

3.0 KEY ISSUES

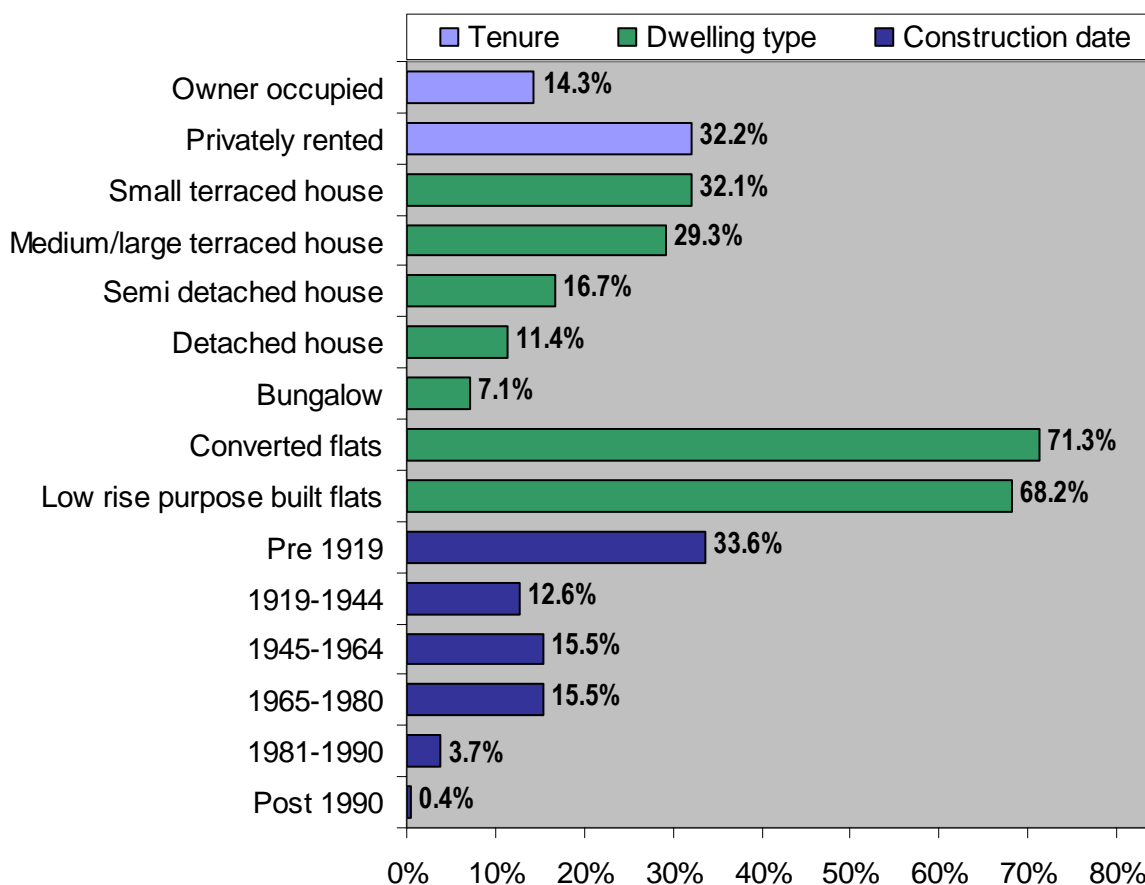
- 3.1 The 2010 private sector house condition survey for Melton Borough Council identified excess cold as the main reason for failure of the Decent Homes Standard in the Borough of Melton.

Figure 1: Category 1 Hazards by reason, as % of Category 1 Hazards



3.2 In more detail these failures mainly relate to pre-1919 properties, mainly flats and terraced properties more often privately rented.

Figure 2: Thermal comfort failure by general characteristics



3.3 In 2011, the Department of Health (DoH) offered the opportunity to bid for grants for Warm Homes. These were offered to County Councils. Leicestershire County Council (LCC) was successful in obtaining a grant for £120k; a portion of this should benefit the Borough of Melton. Melton Borough Council approached the DOH in acknowledgement of the above facts and they determined that we could submit a separate bid through LCC.

3.4 Melton Borough Council was successful in obtaining £195k for measures to improve warmth in private sector homes in Melton. This has funded 50 new central heating systems and levered in another £88k contribution by landlords, who had to match fund any approved works. In addition there were 400 insulation measures installed.

This has been a successful approach in the past to try and improve the living conditions of some of our more vulnerable (see project mandate for more specifics on the eligible works).

3.5 Approval is required to spend any funding as it needs to be progressed by April 2013.

4.0 POLICY AND CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Increasing the number of Decent Homes is a Corporate Priority. These works will enable us to exceed our performance targets for the current financial year.

4.2 It enables partnership working with the Voluntary sector who will refer into the system.

10.0 **CLIMATE CHANGE**

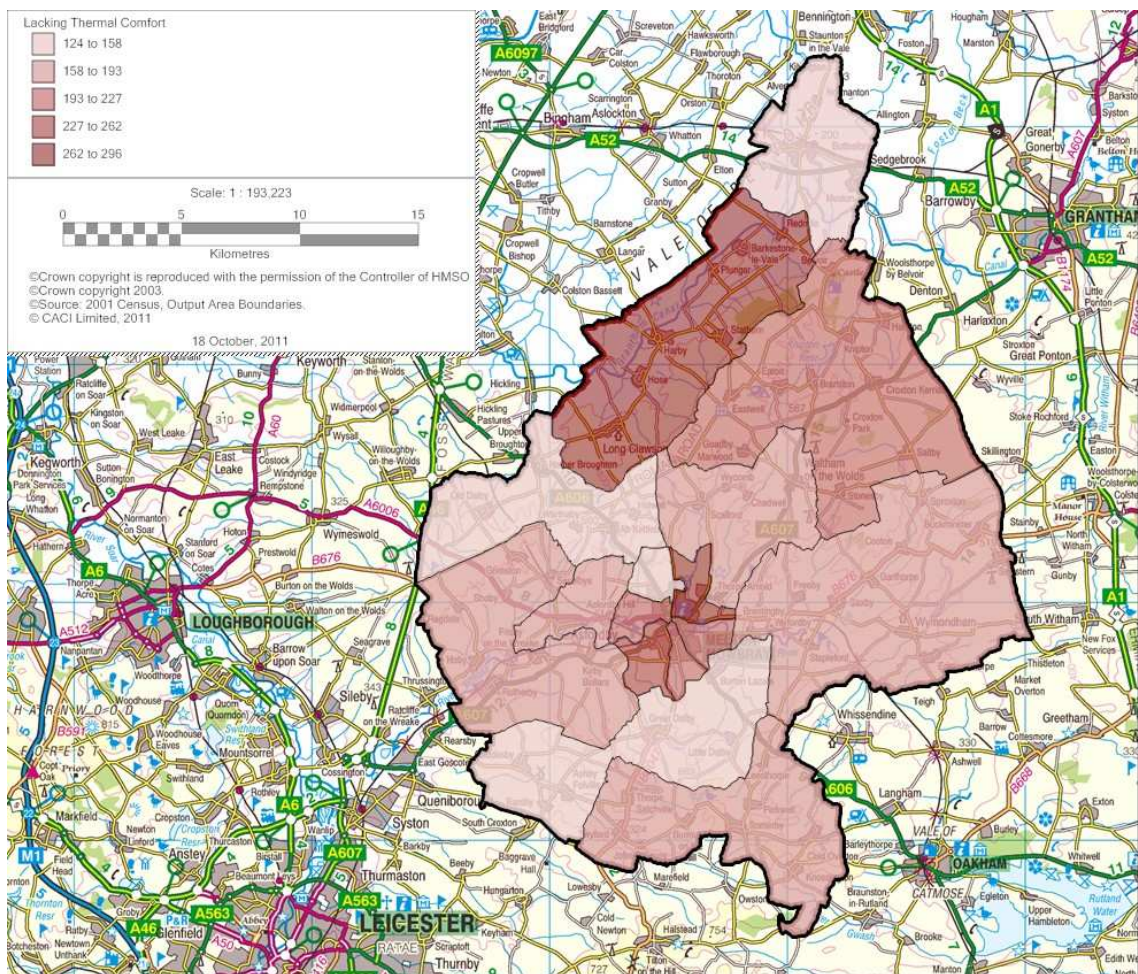
10.1 Insulation measures will also be fitted and the boilers installed will be energy efficient (and better efficiency than any existing that is replaced).

11.0 **CONSULTATION**

11.1 There has been liaison with Charity and voluntary organisations to assist in this project.

12.0 **WARDS AFFECTED**

12.1 Potentially any ward may benefit from these works, although some are more likely than others (see table below)



2010 House Condition survey – properties lacking thermal comfort.

Contact Officer: Victoria Clarke

Date: 1/11/12

Appendices : Project Mandate
Business Case
Equalities Impact Assessment

Background Papers: Grant Application Form

Reference : C'tees, Council & Sub-C'tees/CSA/2012-13/14-11-12/Warm Homes Grant Funding 2013