

COMMUNITY & SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

22nd JANUARY 2013

REPORT OF HEAD OF REGULATORY SERVICES

FUEL POVERTY & GREEN DEAL COMPETITION 2013

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members that there has been a successful competition bid by the Leicestershire Authorities to the Department of Energy & Climate Change (DECC) for funding to roll out Fuel Poverty initiatives and Green Deal. The total for Leicestershire is approximately £3m, with £2.4m for fuel poverty and £0.6m on Green Deal (see appendix 1).
- 1.2 To gain approval to spend the competition funds for these purposes.
- 1.3 To confirm that a condition of the bid is that the funding is to be spent before April 2013.

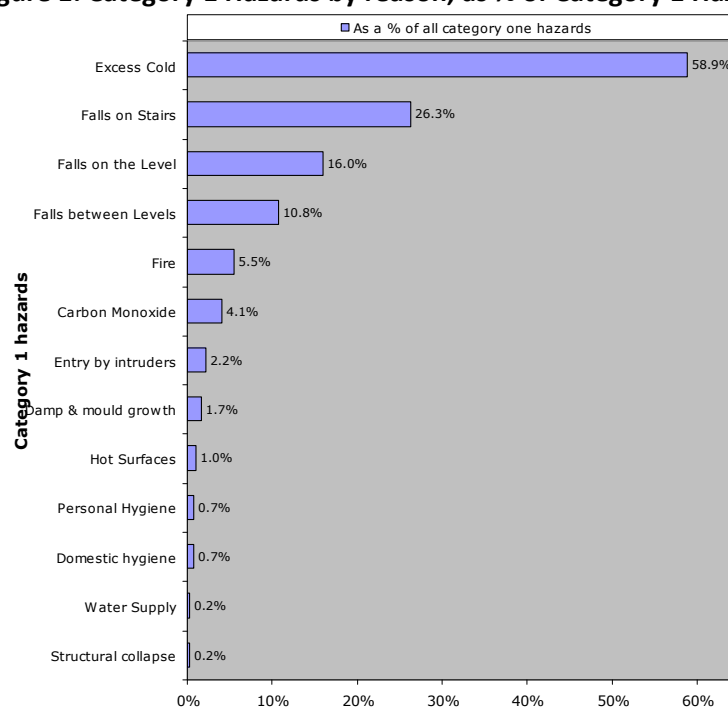
2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 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 up to £387k is brought into the Capital Programme for 2012-13 (para. 5.2 refers).**

3.0 KEY ISSUES

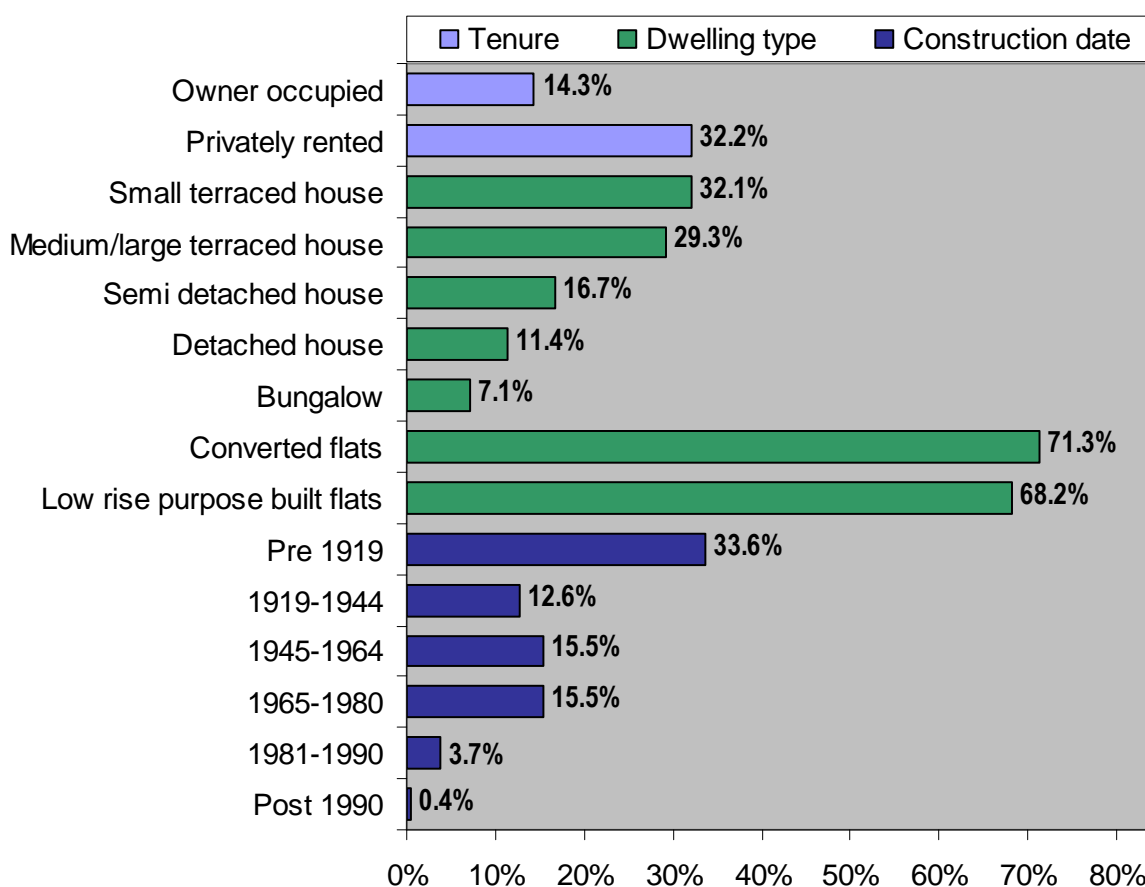
- 3.1 The 2010 private sector house condition survey for Melton Borough Council identified excess cold as the main reason for failure of the Decent Homes Standard in the Borough of Melton.

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 The Leicestershire Authorities have been successful in obtaining approximately £3m to roll out initiatives for fuel poverty and Green deal. The allocation for Melton Borough Council is up to £387k.

3.4 Melton Borough Council intends to use the funding to target vulnerable households and those properties likely to be occupied by vulnerable households, this will include measures such as:

- install central heating systems,
- free gas safety checks,
- free Green Deal Assessments,

See proposal summary at appendix 5.

3.5 Approval is required as work needs to be completed by April 2013 to claim the funding.

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 other authorities and the voluntary sector who can refer into the system.

5.0 FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The scheme operates that MBC will need to fund the works up front and that DECC will reimburse any expenditure.

The completion fund will be in excess of any monies that were expected in this financial year. It is of benefit to Melton Borough Council as it will improve properties in the Borough. It is hoped that the cumulative works will contribute to better results in future house condition surveys and improve the lives of those vulnerable people living in properties with no heating or inadequate heating.

5.2 It is requested that the Committee approve the project mandate and business case attached and include the scheme/funding of £387k within the capital programme for 2012/13 subject to further approval by PFA.

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS/POWERS

6.1 There is a memo of understanding which will need to be signed by participating authorities.

7.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY

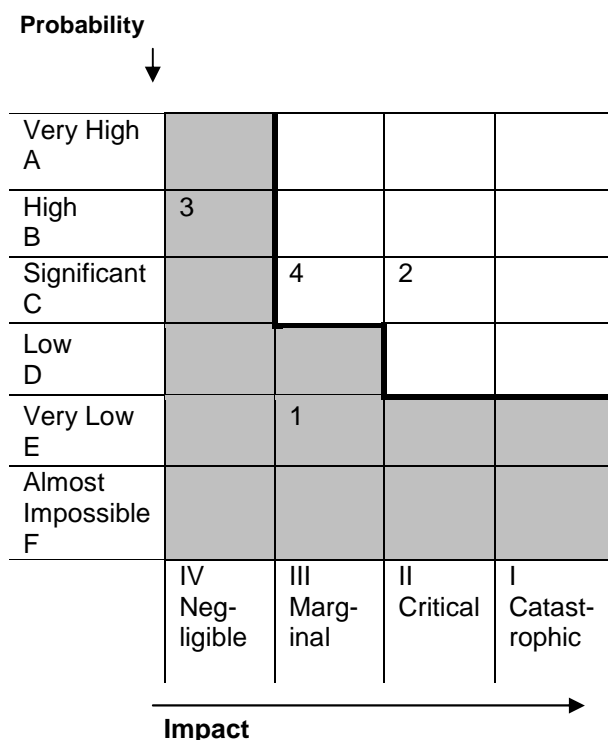
7.1 Warm homes are safer homes, fewer accidents occur in warm homes.

8.0 EQUALITIES

8.1 The work will be targeted toward vulnerable households and those homes likely to be occupied by vulnerable households. It is based on private sector housing knowledge, intelligence and experience. An equalities impact assessment is attached.

9.0 RISKS

9.1



Risk No.	Description
1	Other EH works fall behind whilst there is a focus on this
2	MBC need to fund the scheme and DECC will reimburse, funds have been allocated. DECC may not reimburse all expenditure.
3	Ability to spend allocation within specified time
4	Expectation that these grants will be available in future (there is no guarantee that this will be the case)

10.0 CLIMATE CHANGE

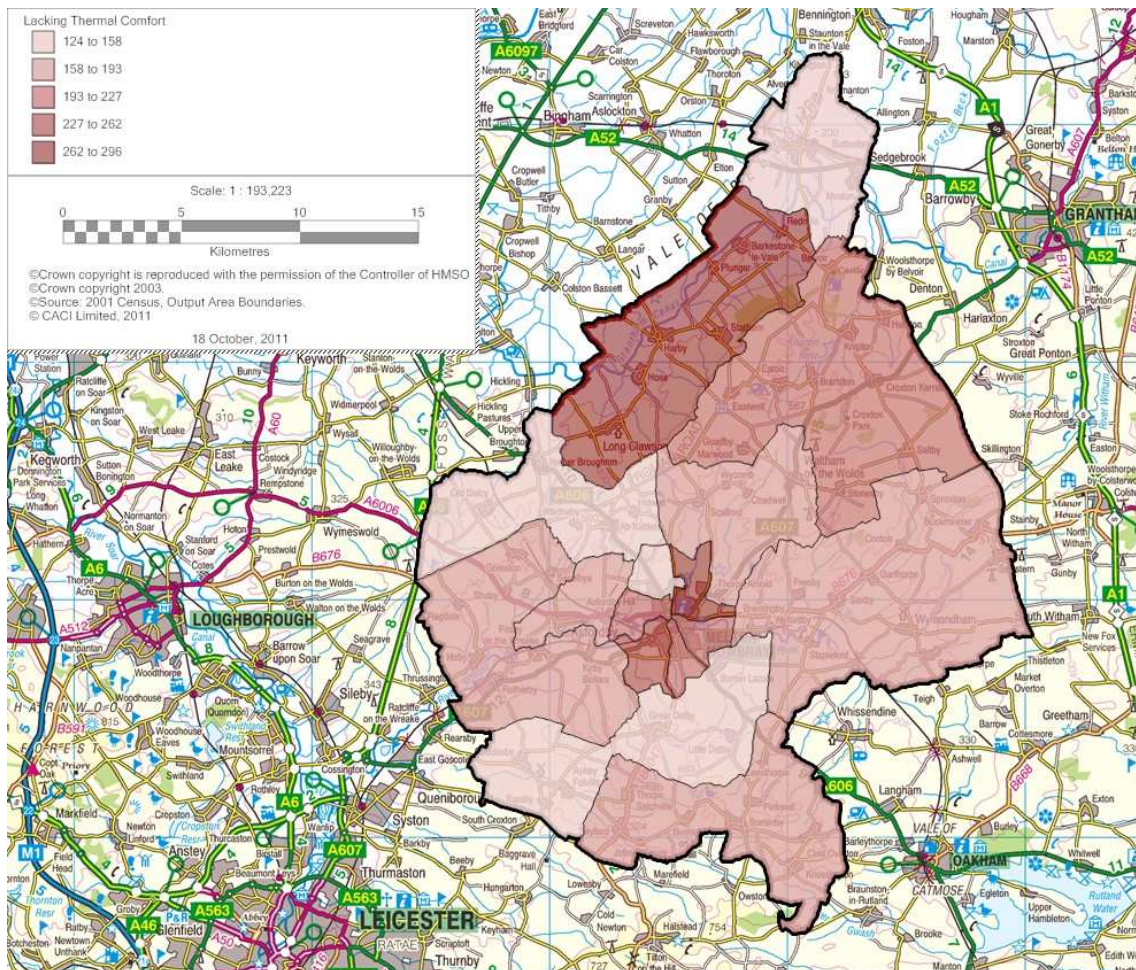
10.1 Insulation measures will also be fitted and the boilers installed will be energy efficient (and better efficiency than any existing that is replaced).

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: 08/01/13

Appendices :
1. DECC competition bid confirmation letter
2. Project Mandate
3. Business Case
4. Equalities Impact Assessment
5. DECC Proposal summary

Background Papers: DECC Confirmation Letter

Reference : C'tees, Council & Sub-C'tees/CSA/2012-13/22-01-13/DECC