

COMMUNITY & SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

18th SEPTEMBER 2013

REPORT OF HEAD OF REGULATORY SERVICES & THE HEAD OF COMMUNITIES & NEIGHBOURHOODS

FUEL POVERTY & GREEN DEAL FUNDING FROM DECC

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To update Members on the Department of Energy & Climate Change (DECC) funding for the Leicestershire Authorities to funding to roll out Fuel Poverty initiatives and Green Deal.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee note the progress made on the use of the funding and the impact on addressing fuel poverty.

3.0 KEY ISSUES

3.1 The total funding for Leicestershire was approximately £3m, with £2.4m for fuel poverty and £0.6m on Green Deal (see appendix 1). Melton Borough Council allocation was up to £387,000 of which £98,000 was administered by MBC, the remainder was managed by Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council.

Initially DECC indicated that the funding all had to be spent by end of March 2013. As time progressed they agreed that the funding should be allocated and spent only on what was in the successful bid. Households in fuel poverty were targeted for assistance as outlined below.

In deciding where to target resources use was made of the data we purchased from The Energy Savings Trust (EST) through the consultants 'Flourish' and the report they provided. Maps were produced to enable this, see the example at Figure 2 below.

3.2 Solar Panels

The greatest amount of funding was for installation of solar panels (also known as Photo Voltaic or Solar PV). There were 52 properties installed with solar panels in the Borough of Melton (more than any of the other authorities in Leicestershire) at a cost of just over £250,000. Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council retained the funding for this element and paid the contactor directly.



Figure 1: Example of Solar Panel Installations



Figure 2: Location of Solar Panel Installation

3.3 Central Heating and other Measures

There have been five full gas central heating systems installed where the occupiers were previously on electric. A further five have received new boilers; SEDBUK A efficiency rated heating boilers have replaced the existing boiler which were SEDBUK rated F/G.

Band	SEDBUK Range
A	90+%
B	86% - 90%
C	82% - 86%
D	78% - 82%
E	74% - 78%
F	70% - 74%
G	60% - 70%

Figure 3: SEDBUK energy efficiency range

Twelve properties have had thermostatic radiator valves (TRVs) and powerflushing to make existing heating systems more efficient. A further twenty three properties are being fitted with smaller improvements like loft insulation, hot water cylinder tank insulation and draft proofing.

3.4 Rural Fuel Deliveries

There were seventeen rural properties that received an oil heating delivery and one received a coal delivery.

3.5 Other Households

Properties which were not in fuel poverty could have a free Green Deal Assessment carried out. The property is assessed for energy efficiency and an energy performance certificate is provided.

These can cost up to £100. In addition guidance is given as to the best options to improve energy efficiency for that property. We advertised in the Melton Times twice, information was put on the website and we hosted open sessions in the foyer of Parkside, but we still have not used all of our allocation.

3.6 Show Home

A family with small children who were in fuel poverty were living in a solid walled property with electric storage heating. They also had single glazed windows but they were due to have double glazed units installed. It was expensive to try and keep their home warm.

A Green Deal assessment was carried out and it was determined that the property should have external wall insulation (EWI), full gas central heating and solar panels installed. This has been installed through the funding from DECC and the occupiers are already feeling the difference.

In order to facilitate the best finish on the external wall insulation, the adjoining semi detached property also had EWI installed. The insulation is approximately 125mm thick and would sit proud of the adjoining house if only one is done.



Figure 4: Before Works



Figure 5: After External Wall Insulation



Figure 6: With 6 Solar Panels



Figure 7: Gas central heating installed

3.7 Next Steps

10.0 CLIMATE CHANGE

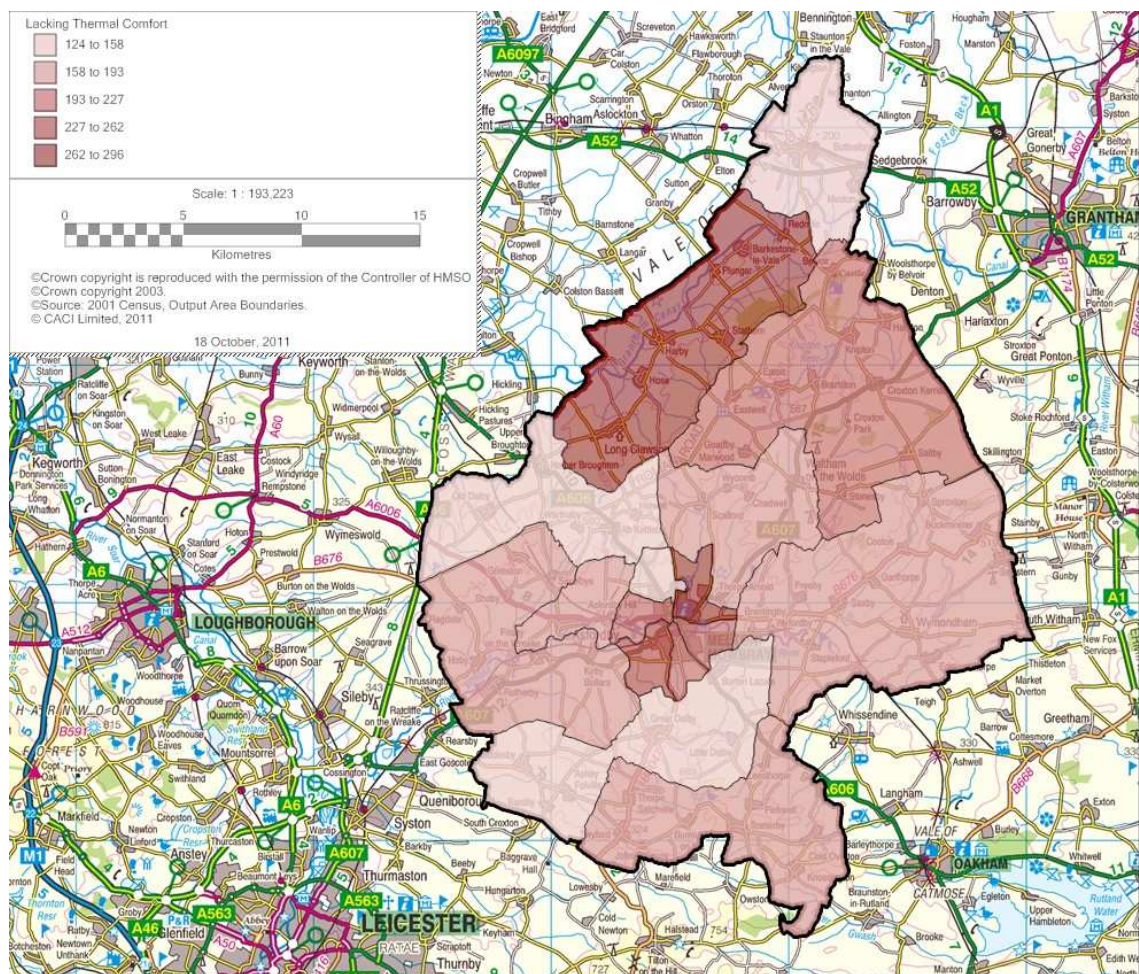
Insulation measures will also be fitted and the boilers installed will be energy efficient (and better efficiency than any existing that is replaced).

11.0 CONSULTATION

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

12.0 WARDS AFFECTED

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: 22/08/13
Appendices: 1. DECC Proposal summary
Reference: C'tees, Council & Sub-C'tees/CSA/2013-14/