
REPORT TO:	Housing and Community Services Committee	AGENDA ITEM: 9
DATE OF MEETING:	29th November 2012	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	Director of Operations	OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	Bob Ledger 5975 bob.ledger@south-derbys.gov.uk	DOC:
SUBJECT: WARD(S) AFFECTED:	Fire Sprinklers ALL	REF: TERMS OF REFERENCE: HCSO1

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 Members approve that the sum of £20,000 from Housing Revenue Account responsive repairs budget be committed to match fund £20,000 from the Fire Service.
- 1.2 Members approve that the combined budget of £40,000 be utilised to install, in around 8 properties, fire sprinkler systems into the homes of assessed vulnerable households.

2. Purpose of Report

- 2.1 To seek approval for a pilot project to install a limited number of fire sprinkler systems utilising match funding from the Fire Service.

3. Detail

- 3.1 The Housing Service and the Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service have an ongoing relationship. Since January 2011 Housing Officers have been trained by Fire Service personnel to carry out basic fire home safety assessments. This enables those Housing staff to make householders aware of basic fire risks within their home. The Housing staff also have the option of referring the household (with their permission) to the Fire Service for a fuller or more detailed assessment if required.
- 3.2 In the Summer of 2012 the Fire service approached ourselves and the other 9 District/Borough/County/City main housing providers in the County asking whether they would be interested in partnering in a pilot project to retrofit sprinkler systems to existing homes.
- 3.3 In South Derbyshire, housing officers expressed an interest in exploring the proposal further and criteria was provided by the Fire Service on assessing which households may benefit most. In brief, tenants with poor mobility who are smokers and/or are using tanked oxygen to aid breathing are most at risk.
- 3.4 Housing Officers have met with fire service colleagues over the last few months and a shortlist of potential beneficiaries from within the Council housing stock has been agreed.

3.5 The main thrust of the Fire Service's campaign regarding the fitting of sprinklers is the potential to save lives and money through the relatively early extinguishing of fire. The costs of fitting sprinklers into properties as they are constructed are more economically advantageous than retrofitting. Although no-one can put a value on any one life saved, the costs of retrofitting the whole of the country's stock are simply not viable. Therefore a process of targeting the more vulnerable householders seeks to put available resources to best effect.

4. Financial Implications

4.1 The £20,000 match funding required is proposed to be met from the current year's responsive repairs budget i.e. the costs will be contained within current agreed spending levels.

5. Corporate and community implications

5.1 Providing services that makes homes safe and secure delivers on a key aim of the Corporate Plan.