

South East Regional Housing Board grant for Private Sector Renewal Guidelines

From the SE Regional Housing Strategy 2006

(pp. 77, 79)

We will continue to invest in local authorities with the reported highest number of unfit dwellings in the private sector pending further analysis of need, targeted at properties occupied by vulnerable groups and families with children. These authorities must be prepared to agree an innovative action plan, including an emphasis on loans rather than grants, compulsory purchase and area regeneration proposals. They should also be prepared to disseminate case studies of their work via an annual regional conference, which can showcase innovation.

Private sector renewal programme - we will set aside 5% of the total budget per year for allocation between the 22 local authorities in the region that have more than 2000 unfit private sector dwellings or where the proportion of their unfit stock in the private sector is 7% or greater. Funding should be targeted at vulnerable households including families with children. 3% of funding will be allocated to the 10 authorities with the highest numbers of unfit private sector stock, and 2% will be shared by all 22 authorities. We will expect these local authorities to agree private sector renewal action plans (which focus on both owner occupiers and private sector landlords) and future funding will depend on evidence that the funding has been used to secure real improvements in private sector stock. We would expect authorities to offer a flexible range of grants, loans and other help to bring housing back into habitable condition. The presumption should be that authorities would see their investment repaid over the medium term. It will often be appropriate to use Compulsory Purchase Orders.