



1.0 INTRODUCTION

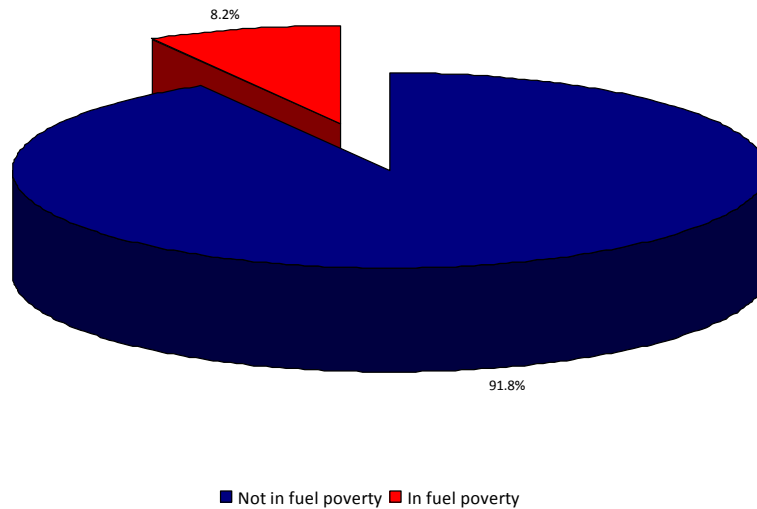
- 1.1 Fuel poverty is usually defined by an annual expenditure on fuel in excess of 10% of annual household income to maintain adequate warmth for health and comfort. There are three main factors leading to fuel poverty:
- the level of household income;
 - energy prices; and
 - the energy efficiency of a home.
- 1.2 The UK Fuel Poverty Strategy 6th Annual Progress Report, released by defra and BERR on 2nd October 2008, estimated that fuel poverty in England affected 2.4 million households in 2006 (around 11.5%) and projected an increase to 3.1 million households (approximately 14.8%) in 2007. By region, the North East during 2006 had a higher level with just over 16% of all households classified as being in fuel poverty (www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/uk/household/fuelpoverty/pdf/fuel-poverty-6th-report.pdf).
- 1.3 National Energy Action (NEA), which is a fuel poverty charity, suggests that given the time-lag between collection of data and publication of the annual report the current scale of fuel poverty is greatly underestimated. NEA estimates that currently some 4 million (or 18.2%) of English households cannot afford sufficient warmth to maintain a warm and healthy living environment (www.nea.org.uk/government-fuel-poverty-progress-report-2-steps-back).

2.0 FUEL POVERTY IN YORK

- 2.1 Linking information on annual fuel costs from the energy survey to household income profiles provides an indicative pattern of fuel poverty among private sector households in the City. Using the definition outlined above, 5976 households, 8.2% are in fuel poverty.



FIGURE 1: FUEL POVERTY



2.2 Variations in fuel poverty by housing sector and household type are interesting and are illustrated in Tables 1 and 2. These indicate higher relative levels of fuel poverty in:

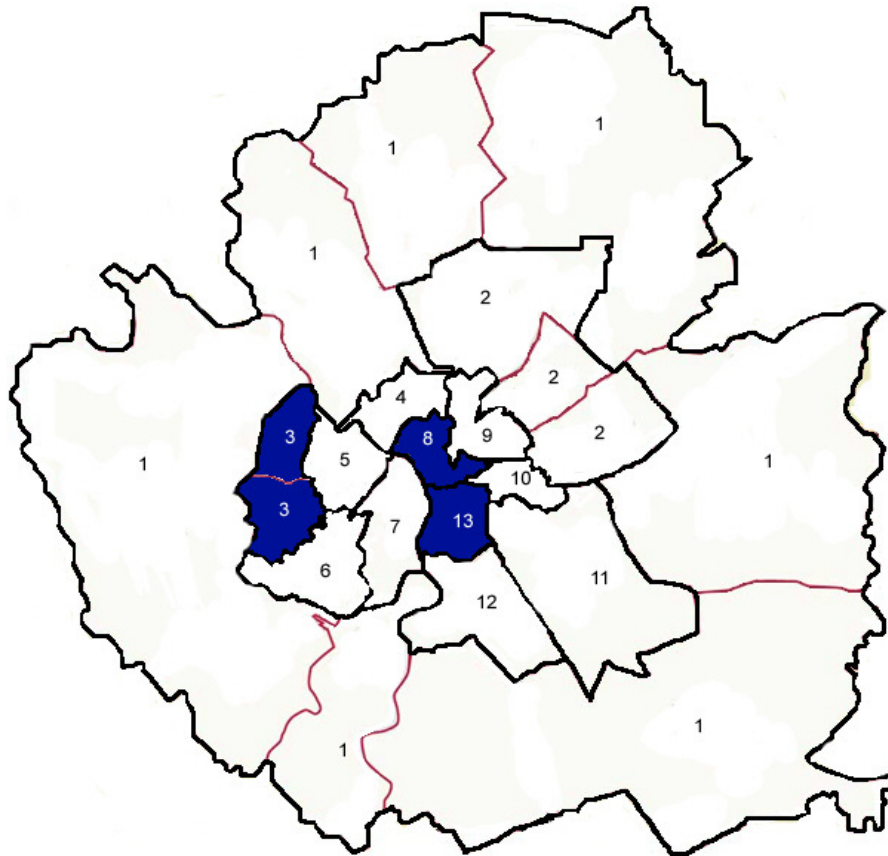
- ***Acomb, Westfield (21.2%);***
- ***Fishergate (27.3%);***
- ***Guildhall (19.8%);***
- ***Private-rented sector (16.4%);***
- ***Converted flats (19.1%);***
- ***Single Parent Families (20.9%);***
- ***Elderly Households (12.4%);***
- ***Young Single Households (15.5%);***
- ***Vulnerable Households (17.3%).***



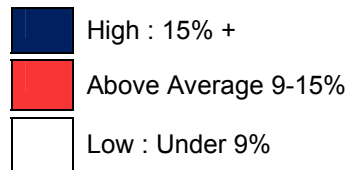
TABLE 1: FUEL POVERTY BY AREA AND HOUSING SECTOR						
	FUEL POVERTY FULL INCOME MODEL				Table Total	
	not in fuel poverty		in fuel poverty		hholds	%
	hholds	%	hholds	%		
SURVEY AREA						
Outer City	20943	94.2	1282	5.8	22225	100.0
Huntington,Heworth Without,Osballdwick	6741	92.4	554	7.6	7295	100.0
Acomb,Westfield	5373	78.8	1443	21.2	6816	100.0
Clifton	5894	94.3	354	5.7	6249	100.0
Holgate	5082	97.8	112	2.2	5194	100.0
Dringhouses and Woodthorpe	4076	99.3	30	0.7	4106	100.0
Micklegate	5266	96.3	201	3.7	5467	100.0
Guildhall	2221	80.2	548	19.8	2769	100.0
Heworth	3753	96.5	138	3.5	3891	100.0
Hull Road	2807	95.2	143	4.8	2949	100.0
Heslington	741	100.0	0	0.0	741	100.0
Fulford	845	94.4	50	5.6	895	100.0
Fishergate	2988	72.7	1120	27.3	4108	100.0
TENURE						
owner occupied	51978	94.4	3077	5.6	55055	100.0
private rented	14751	83.6	2899	16.4	17651	100.0
DWELLING TYPE						
house	51311	92.9	3937	7.1	55248	100.0
bungalow	6828	88.7	874	11.3	7701	100.0
purpose built flat	7391	89.7	852	10.3	8243	100.0
flat in converted building	1042	80.9	246	19.1	1288	100.0
non-res with flats	92	57.6	68	42.4	160	100.0
house/mixed use	65	100.0	0	0.0	65	100.0
DWELLING CONFIGURATION						
mid terrace	14321	92.4	1178	7.6	15499	100.0
end terrace	8276	96.1	333	3.9	8610	100.0
semi detached	22431	89.9	2510	10.1	24941	100.0
detached	13110	94.3	790	5.7	13900	100.0
not applicable	8591	88.1	1166	11.9	9756	100.0
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION						
pre-1919	11727	91.7	1067	8.3	12794	100.0
1919-1944	11650	87.7	1632	12.3	13282	100.0
1945-1964	10444	90.4	1108	9.6	11551	100.0
1965-1974	8696	93.1	646	6.9	9342	100.0
1975-1981	4161	86.8	632	13.2	4793	100.0
post-1981	20051	95.7	892	4.3	20943	100.0
TABLE TOTAL	66729	91.8	5976	8.2	72706	100.0



FIGURE 2: RATES OF FUEL POVERTY



- 1. Outer City
- 2. Huntington, Heworth Without, Osbaldwick
- 3. Acomb, Westfield
- 4. Clifton
- 5. Holgate
- 6. Dringhouses and Woodthorpe
- 7. Micklegate
- 8. Guildhall
- 9. Heworth
- 10. Hull Road
- 11. Heslington
- 12. Fulford
- 13. Fishergate



2.3 Variations in fuel poverty across the City would appear to be driven more by household circumstances than significant variations in energy efficiency. The three areas exhibiting high rates of fuel poverty do not vary significantly from the City average in terms of SAP ratings. Average household incomes are however significantly lower than the City



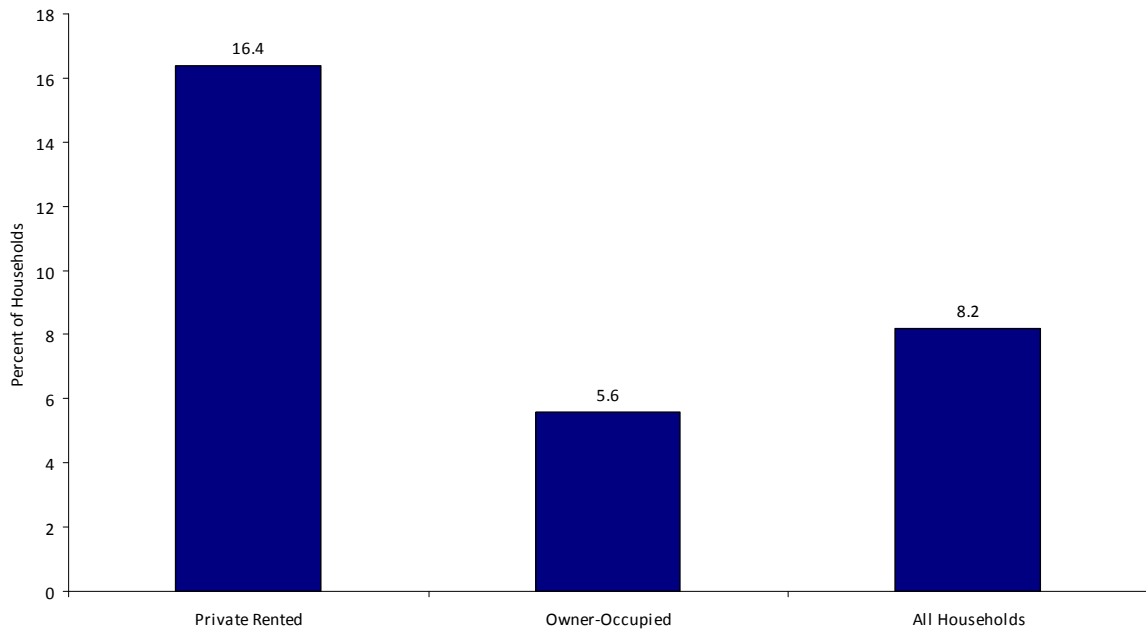
average. Household structures in these areas also differ with an above average elderly household structure in Acomb/Westfield and an above average concentration of younger single households in Fishergate and Guildhall. This finding is not surprising and reflects the national picture. The UK Fuel Poverty Strategy 6th Annual Progress Report notes that “the most influential factor affecting the number of fuel poor households over the period is rising incomes. The second largest factor, which partly offsets the effect of incomes, is fuel prices. In comparison, aggregate energy efficiencies of dwellings have a relatively small effect”.

TABLE 2: FUEL POVERTY BY HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS						
	FUEL POVERTY FULL INCOME MODEL				Table Total	
	not in fuel poverty		in fuel poverty		hholds	%
	hholds	%	hholds	%		
AGE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD						
under 25 years	3603	82.2	778	17.8	4380	100.0
25 - 34 years	10081	96.1	413	3.9	10494	100.0
35 - 44 years	15894	94.0	1006	6.0	16900	100.0
45 - 54 years	9319	92.7	733	7.3	10051	100.0
55 - 64 years	10127	96.2	400	3.8	10527	100.0
65 years and over	15996	85.9	2622	14.1	18618	100.0
unrecorded	1709	98.5	25	1.5	1735	100.0
HOUSEHOLD TYPE						
single person non pensioner	9544	84.5	1751	15.5	11295	100.0
single parent family	2080	79.1	549	20.9	2629	100.0
two person adult non pensioner	14501	98.5	219	1.5	14720	100.0
small family	16055	97.2	466	2.8	16520	100.0
large family	1969	97.2	56	2.8	2025	100.0
large adult	752	93.8	50	6.2	801	100.0
elderly	20285	87.6	2861	12.4	23146	100.0
unobtainable	1544	98.4	25	1.6	1570	100.0
ECONOMIC STATUS OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD						
full-time work	38397	96.7	1325	3.3	39723	100.0
part-time work	2397	93.2	174	6.8	2571	100.0
unemployed-available for work	859	69.9	369	30.1	1228	100.0
permanently sick/disabled	1108	69.5	485	30.5	1593	100.0
housewife	615	73.8	218	26.2	833	100.0
wholly retired	18473	87.1	2739	12.9	21212	100.0
student	3277	83.7	640	16.3	3918	100.0
unob.	1603	98.4	25	1.6	1629	100.0
ECONOMIC VULNERABILITY						
non economically vulnerable	51130	95.0	2708	5.0	53838	100.0
economically vulnerable	15599	82.7	3269	17.3	18868	100.0
TABLE TOTAL	66729	91.8	5976	8.2	72706	100.0



2.4 Higher levels of socio-economic disadvantage in the private-rented sector contribute towards higher levels of fuel poverty even though variations in energy efficiency between tenures are minimal. 2899 private-rented households are in fuel poverty representing 16.4% of all households in the private-rented sector. This compares with 5.6% of owner-occupied households in fuel poverty and 8.2% of all households.

FIGURE 3: FUEL POVERTY IN THE PRIVATE RENTED SECTOR



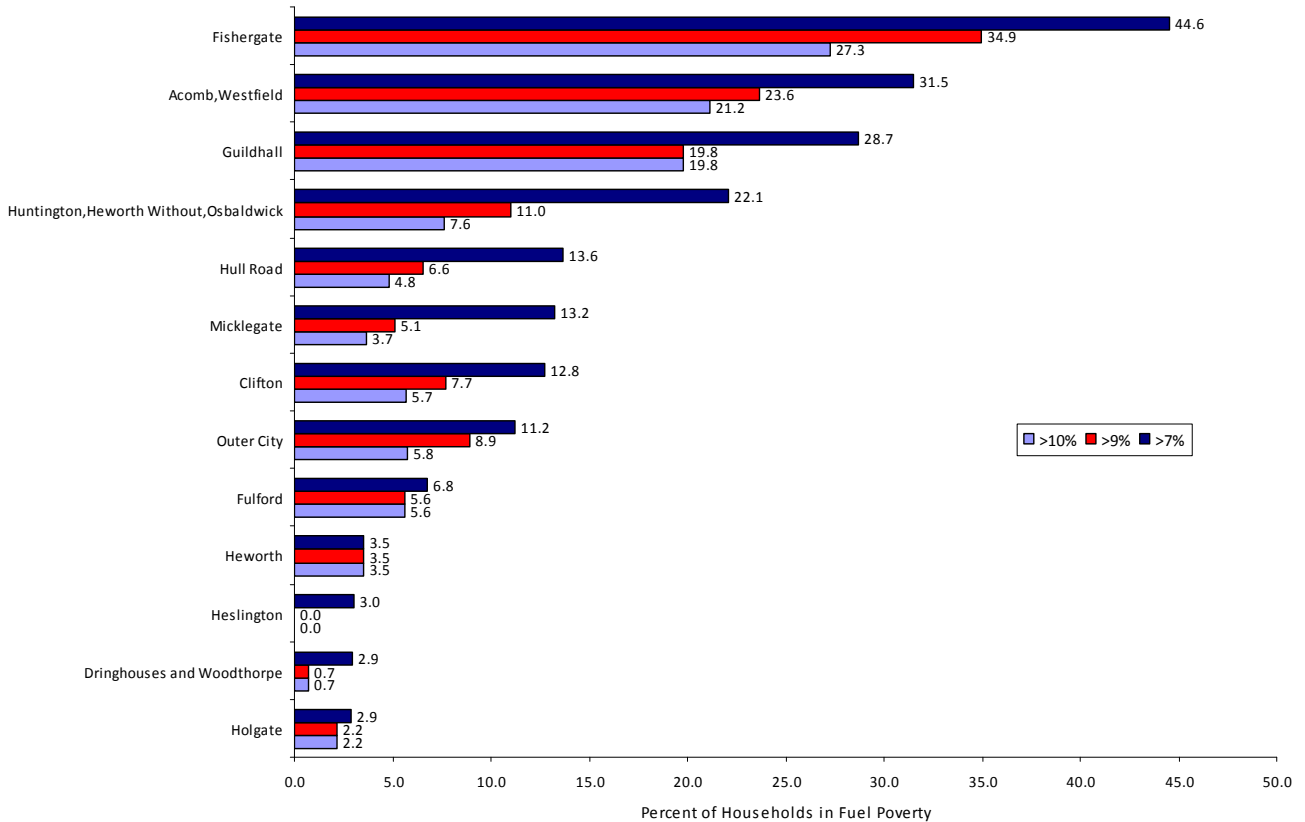
3.0 ALTERNATIVE SCENARIOS

3.1 To indicate possible future levels of fuel poverty in the City of York alternative definitions of fuel poverty have been modelled. In particular, the proportion of household income required to maintain adequate warmth for health and comfort has been altered such that any household required to spend more than a) 9% and b) 7% of household income have been defined as being in fuel poverty.

3.2 Assuming more than 9% of annual household income is required to adequately heat a property increases the number of private sector households in fuel poverty to 7668 or 10.5%. Changing the level of income to 7% redefines another 3623 households indicating a total of 11291 households (15.5%) in fuel poverty.



FIGURE 4: HOUSEHOLDS IN FUEL POVERTY



3.3 Figure 4 illustrates the rates of fuel poverty by survey area based upon the current definition, and the two alternative scenarios. The move from 10% to 9% has the biggest impact in Fishergate, Huntington, Heworth Without, Osbaldwick and the Outer City areas increasing the percent of households in fuel poverty by 7.7%, 3.4% and 3.2% respectively.

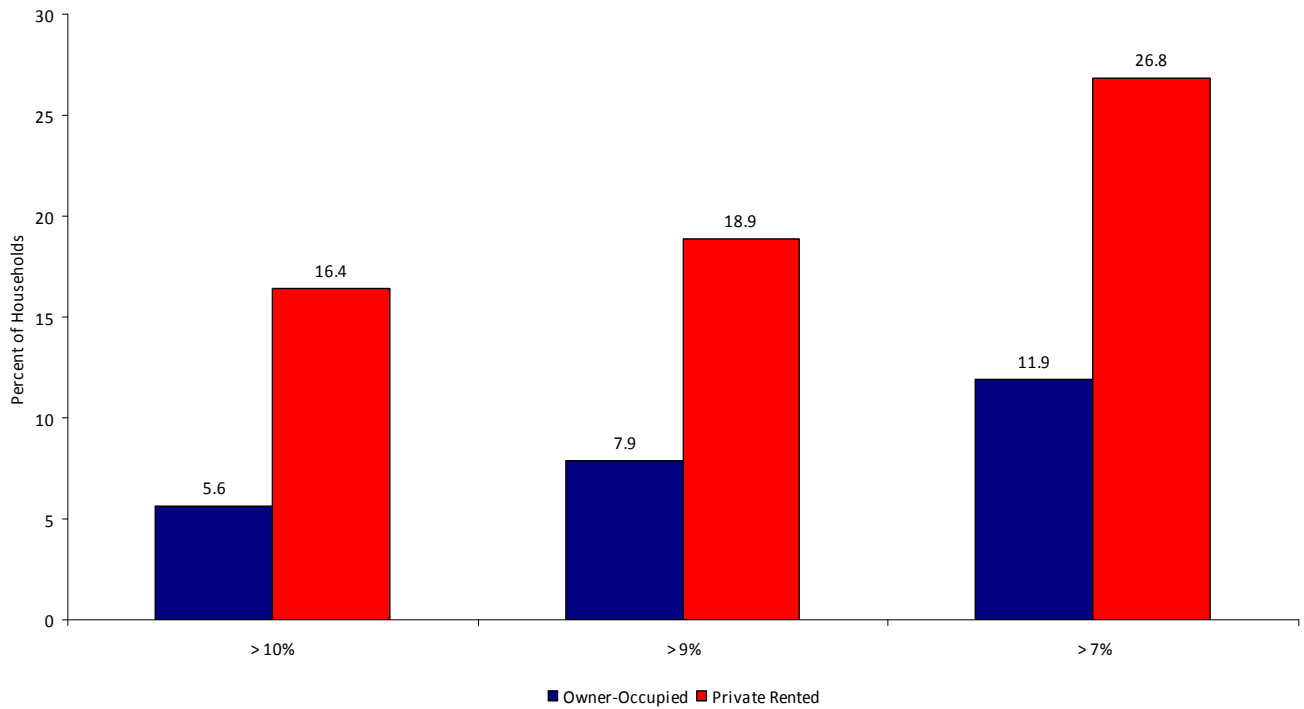
3.4 Fishergate and Huntington, Heworth Without, Osbaldwick are the two areas most affected by a move from 10% to 7% with an additional 17.3% and 14.5% households in fuel poverty. Acomb, Westfield witnesses an additional 10.3% of households in fuel poverty under this scenario indicating an overall rate of 31.5%.

3.5 The impact of a change in the fuel poverty definition from 10% of annual household income to 9% affects the owner-occupied and private rented sectors in almost equal



proportions. A change to 7% however, adversely impacts upon the private rented sector, increasing the percentage of households in this sector in fuel poverty to 26.8%.

FIGURE 5: FUEL POVERTY BY TENURE



STRATEGY GUIDELINES

8.2% of households in the City are in fuel poverty. Three areas within the City exhibit above average levels of fuel poverty with variations driven by household circumstances rather than physical differences in energy efficiency. The three areas concerned - Acomb/Westfield, Fishergate and Guidhall - all exhibit below average household incomes. In Fishergate and Guidhall the proportion of younger single households is above average. In Acomb/Westfield the proportion of elderly households is above average.