

# Protecting the Public Purse

## Fraud Briefing 2013

### Thurrock Council



# Agenda

- Introduction and purpose of your Fraud Briefing
- *Protecting the Public Purse (PPP) 2013* report – national picture
- Interpreting fraud detection results
- The local picture
- Questions?

## *And do not forget*

- *Checklist for those charged with governance (Appendix 2 of PPP 2013)*
- *Questions councillors may want to ask/consider (Appendix 3 of PPP 2013)*

# Introduction

- Fraud costs local government in England over £2 billion per year (*source: National Fraud Authority*)
- Fraud is never a victimless crime
- Councillors have an important role in the fight against fraud



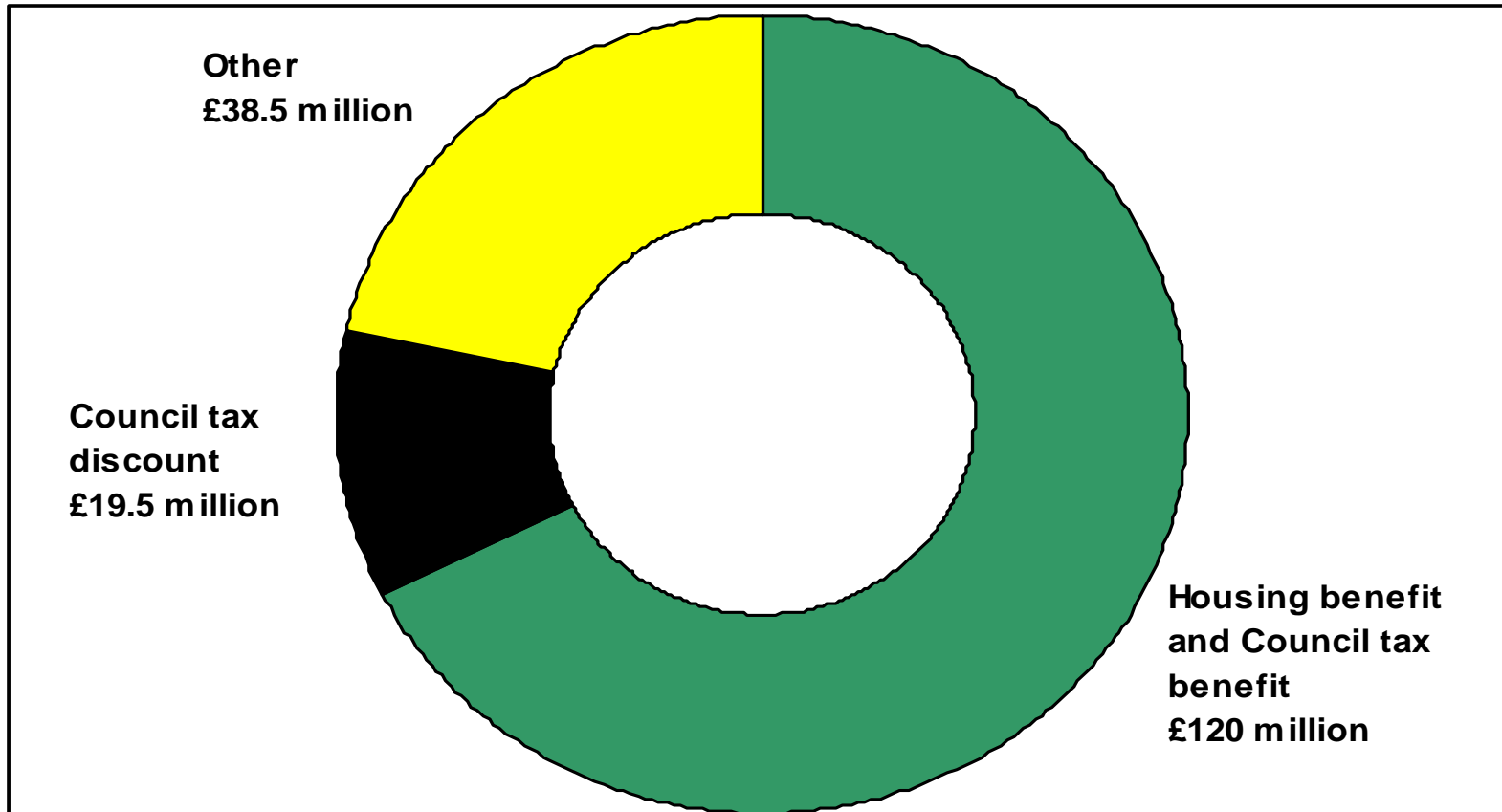
# Purpose of Fraud Briefing at your council

- Opportunity for councillors to consider fraud detection performance, compared to similar local authorities
- Reviews current counter fraud strategy and priorities
- Discuss local and national fraud risks
- Reflect local priorities in a proportionate response to those risks

*Your council is compared with the metropolitan districts and unitary authorities of the west midlands, east midlands and east of England regions*

# National Picture 2012/13

**Total cases detected 107,000, with a value of £178 million (excluding social housing fraud)**



***Nationally, the number of detected frauds has fallen by 14% since 2011/12 and the value by less than 1%***

# Interpreting fraud detection results

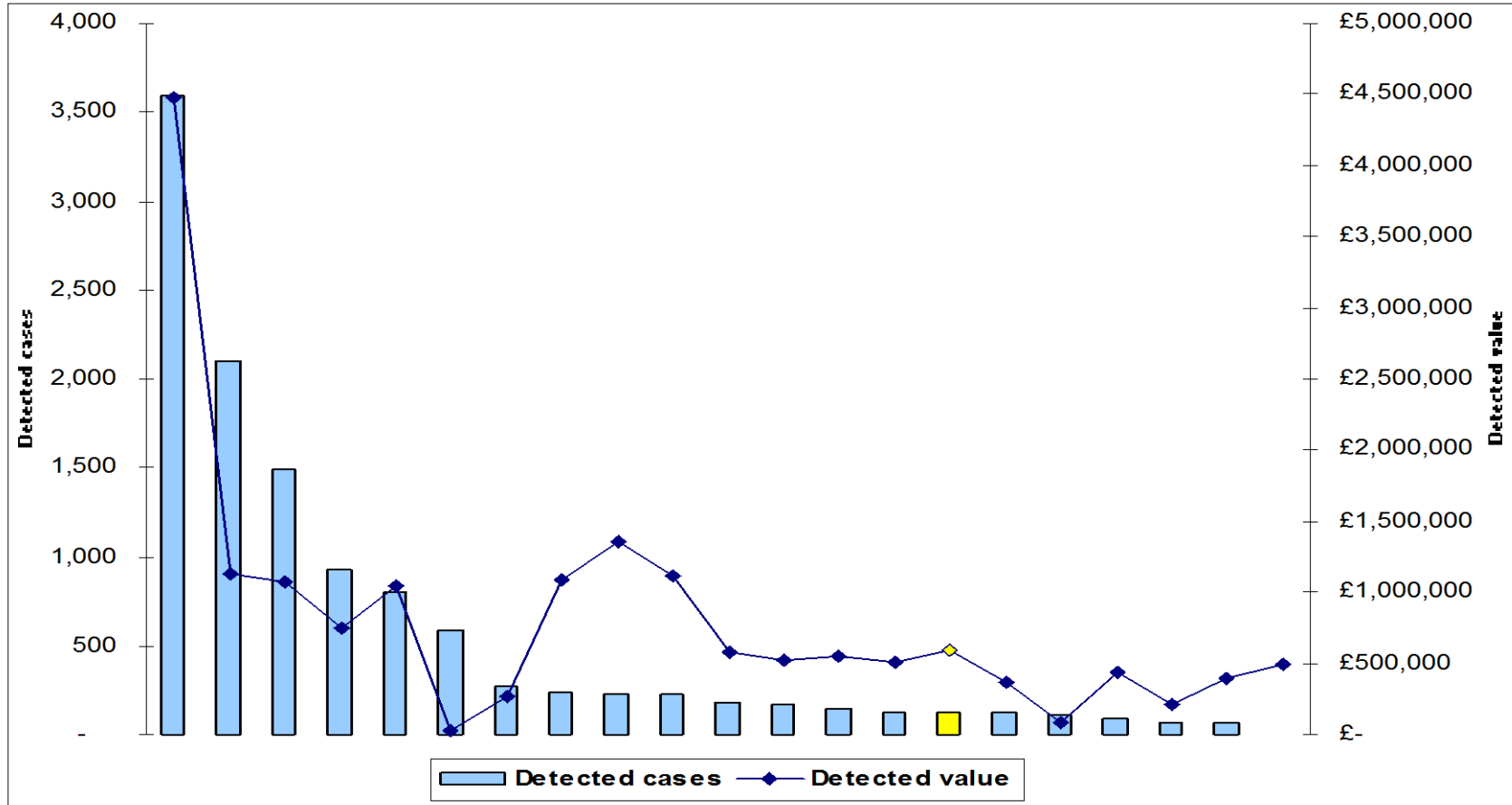
- Contextual and comparative information needed to interpret results
- Detected fraud is indicative, not definitive, of counter fraud performance (Prevention and deterrence should not be overlooked)
- No fraud detected does not mean no fraud committed (Fraud will always be attempted and even with the best prevention measures some will succeed)
- Councils who look for fraud, and look in the right way, will find fraud (There is no such thing as a small fraud, just a fraud that has been detected early)

*Your council is highlighted in yellow in the graphs that follow*

# The local picture

## How your council compares to other Midlands and East of England metropolitan districts and unitary authorities

### Total detected cases and value 2012/13 (excluding social housing fraud)



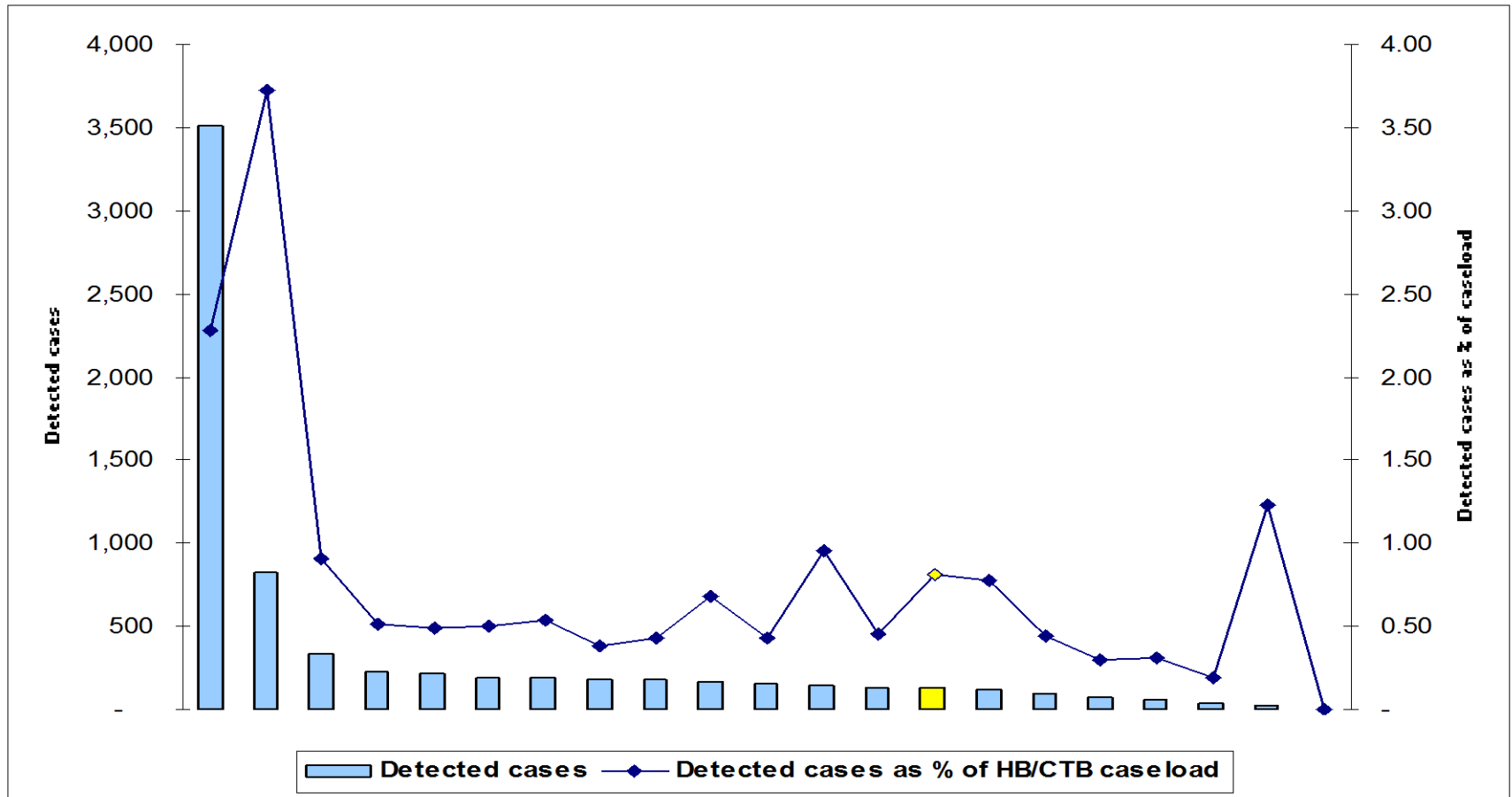
Thurrock detected: 128 cases, valued at £590,468



# Midlands and East of England metropolitan districts and unitary authorities 2012/13

## Housing benefit (HB) and Council tax benefit (CTB) fraud

### Detected cases and detected cases as a percentage of HB/CTB caseload



Thurrock detected: 127 cases, valued at £564,468

Midlands and East of England average:

332 cases, valued at £698,296

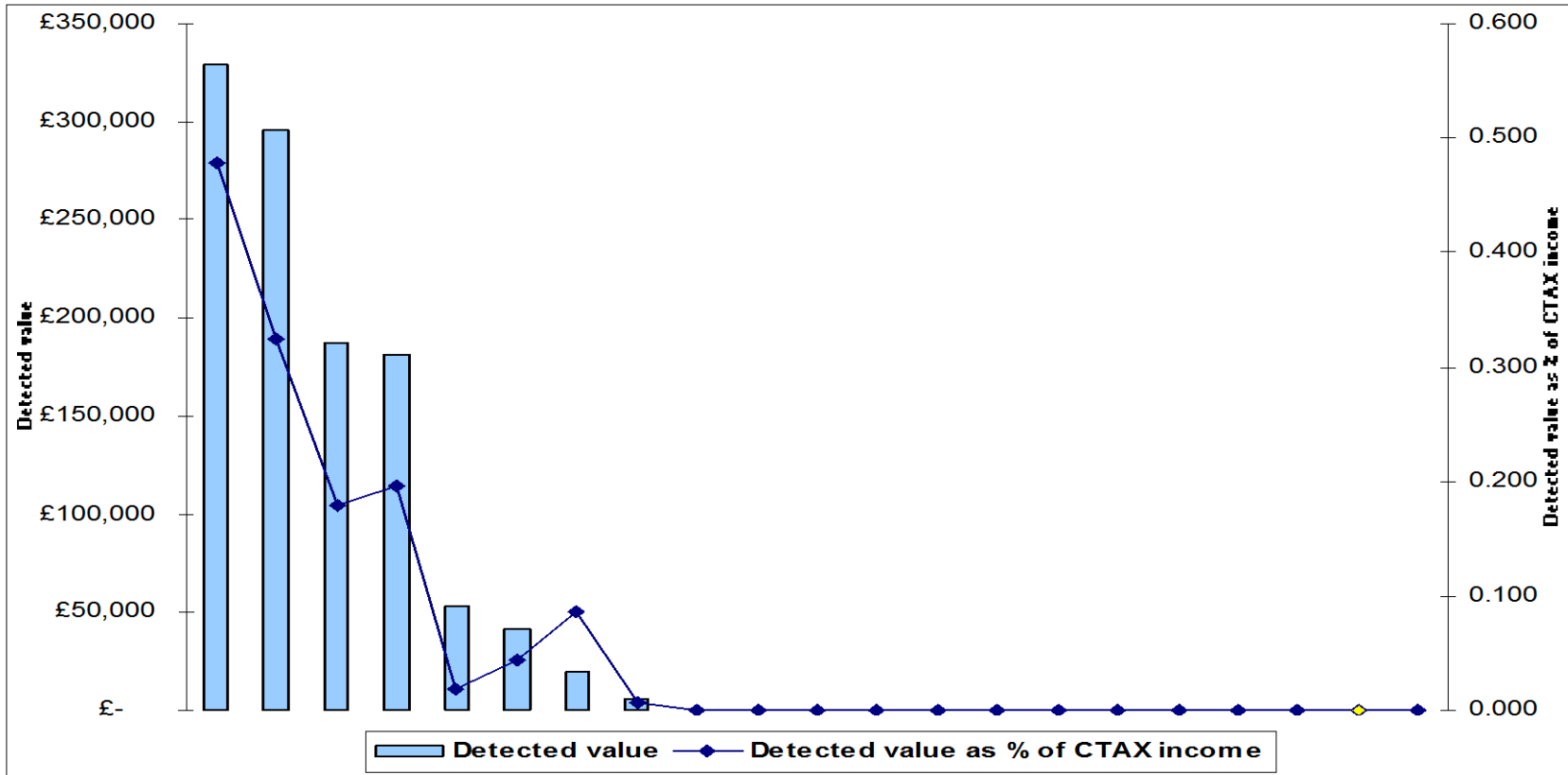




# Midlands and East of England metropolitan districts and unitary authorities 2012/13

## Council tax (CTAX) discount fraud

### Detected value and detected value as a percentage of council tax income



Thurrock detected: not recorded

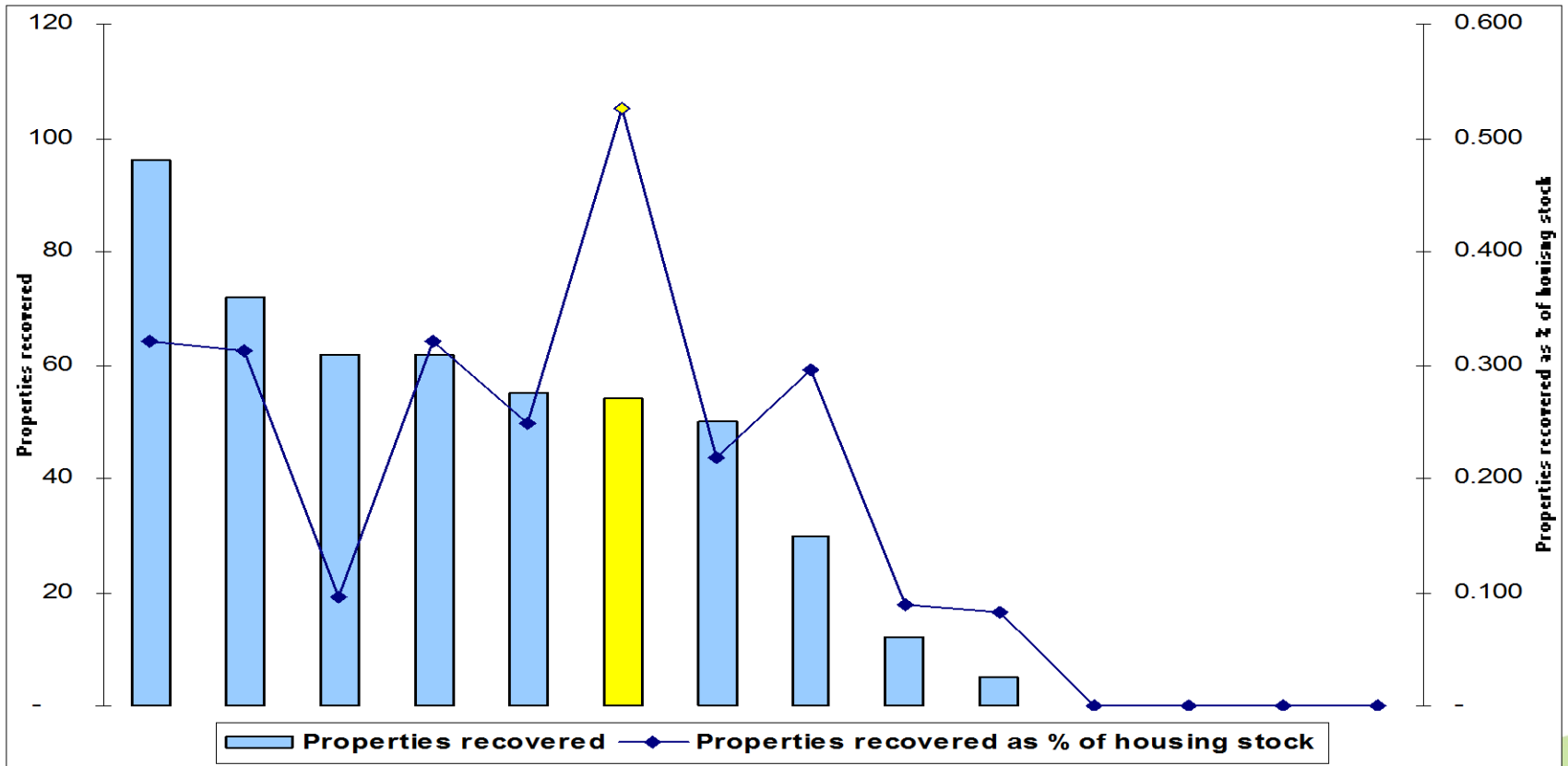
Midlands and East of England average:

188 cases, valued at £53,054

# Midlands and East of England metropolitan districts and unitary authorities with housing stock 2012/13

## Social housing fraud

### Properties recovered and properties recovered as a percentage of housing stock



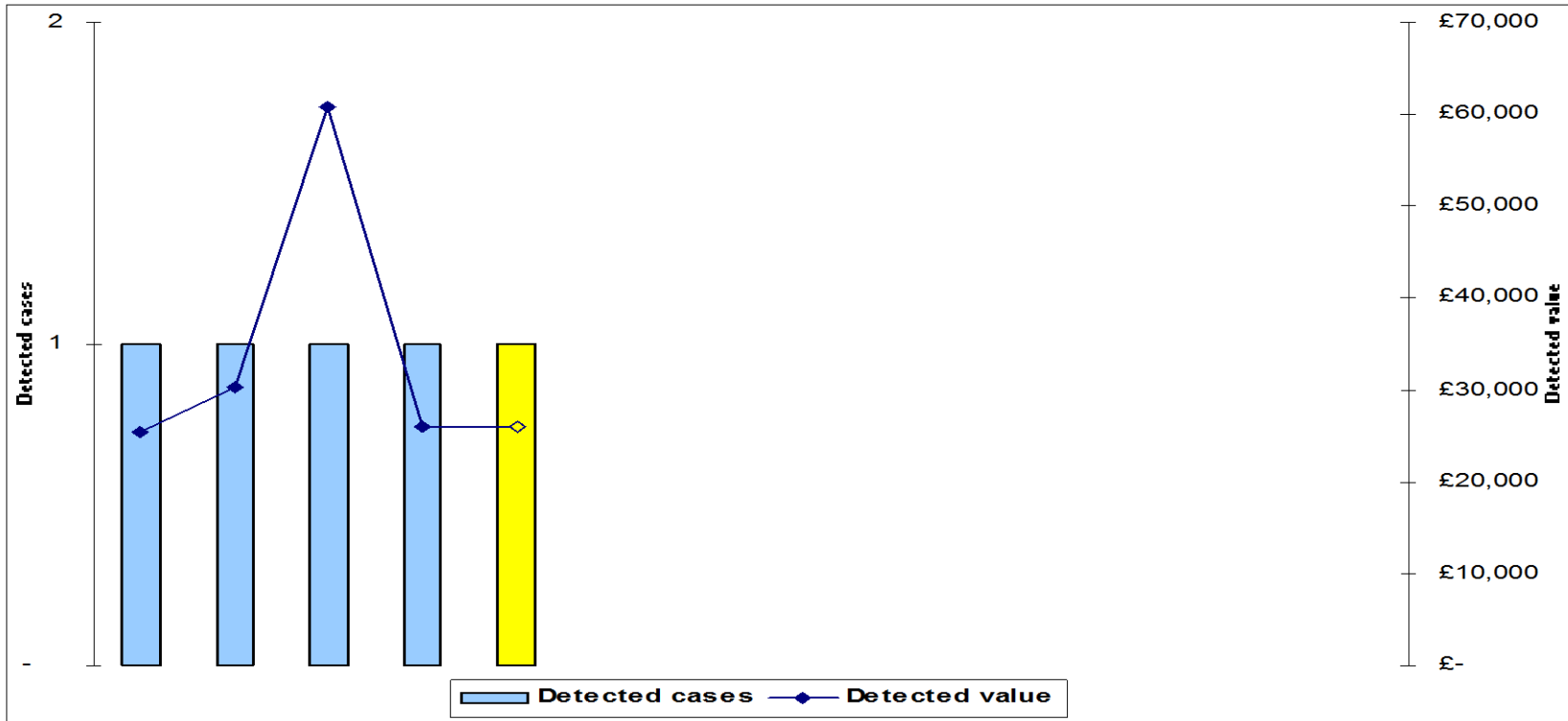
Thurrock recovered: 54 properties

Midlands and East of England average: 36 properties

# Midlands and East of England metropolitan districts and unitary authorities with housing stock 2012/13

## Right to buy fraud

### Detected cases and detected value



Thurrock detected: 1 case, valued at £26,000

Midlands and East of England metropolitan districts and unitary authorities combined only detected a total of 5 cases, with a total value of £168,590

# Midlands and East of England metropolitan districts and unitary authorities 2012/13

## Disabled parking (Blue Badge) fraud

### Detected cases



Thurrock detected: no cases

Midlands and East of England average: 18 cases

# Thurrock Council

## Other frauds

- Procurement: no cases  
*(Ave per Midlands and East of England Met & UA: 5 cases, valued at £963)*
- Insurance: no cases  
*(Total Midlands and East of England Met & UA: 3 cases reported, valued at £53,500)*
- Social care: no cases  
*(Total Midlands and East of England Met & UA: 5 cases, valued at £140,874)*
- Economic & Third sector: no cases  
*(Total Midlands and East of England Met & UA: 1 case, valued at £34,730)*
- Internal fraud: no cases  
*(Ave per Midlands and East of England Met & UA: 6 cases valued at £17,791)*

*Correctly recording fraud levels is a central element in assessing fraud risk  
It is best practice to record the financial value of each detected case*

# Any questions?

