

## COMMUNITY & SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

25 JANUARY 2011

### REPORT OF HEAD OF COMMUNITIES

#### APPROVAL TO INVESTIGATE VIABILITY OF A HOUSING FOYER SCHEME FOR THE BOROUGH OF MELTON

##### 1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek member approval for officers to investigate with partner agencies the need and viability of a Foyer Housing Scheme (Supported Living for 16-25 year olds) for the Borough of Melton.

##### 2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **The Committee gives the Head of Communities authority to lead on research into the viability of a Foyer Scheme for the Borough and to report back to the Community and Social Affairs committee the outcome of this work.**

##### 3.0 KEY ISSUES

##### 3.1 Background

##### 3.1.1 Local Issues

In the Borough at present figures show that we have a large amount of young people aged 16 – 25 years who are currently are either homeless, living in temporary accommodation or staying with various friends (sofa surfing). Currently Melton Borough Council is experiencing more young people than normal requesting housing assistance (Appendix A).

When young people approach us they not only have a housing need but also have other issues such as unemployment, poor health, drugs and alcohol issues. Housing is the key area to begin with in order to improve on the other issues the young people have. Additionally single, young people do not gain as much assistance on housing registers as families or single parents thus meaning they are more likely to have to fend for themselves.

Melton Borough Council tries to support young people in such situations as best we can but not having specific accommodation in the Borough that helps single, young people with more support than just a tenancy often means we have a higher failure rate of young single people in tenancies than those families/lone parents who receive support.

Melton does have accommodation for housing single, young people in Melton Young Singles Trust housing on Nottingham Road, Melton Mowbray which is run by East Midlands Housing Association. This accommodation gives us valuable accommodation but the programmes that are needed to offer the wider support and life skills are currently not provided.

Currently we do not offer full tenancies to 16-18 year olds and accommodation for this age group is hard to come by thus causing problems with homelessness and the continuation of these young people not being in employment, education and training.

### 3.1.2 Foyer Housing Schemes

Foyer housing schemes are designed to provide supported living for disadvantaged young people aged 16-25 year olds to achieve the transition from dependence to independence. A scheme would also provide as a minimum, affordable accommodation, training, guidance, personal development and job searching facilities.

Further more detailed information is attached in Appendix B. It is believed that developing such an approach in Melton is needed if we are going to prevent underachievement and disadvantage in single, young people.

### 4.0 POLICY AND CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

4.1 At this stage there are no policy implications.

### 5.0 FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1 At this stage there are no direct financial implications but officer time will be needed to determine if a business case is sustainable and Foyer scheme is achievable.

### 6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS/POWERS

6.1 There are no other legal implications directly arising from this report.

### 7.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY

7.1 There are no direct links in this report however if a Foyer scheme is progressed this could have a positive impact on Community Safety.

### 8.0 EQUALITIES

8.1 An initial equalities impact assessment will be completed and taken for scrutiny by the Equalities Steering Group.

### 9.0 RISKS

9.1 The risks are considered in the table below:

| Probability               |  |                       |                      |                |                        |
|---------------------------|--|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------|------------------------|
| Very High<br>A            |  |                       |                      |                |                        |
| High<br>B                 |  |                       |                      |                |                        |
| Significant<br>C          |  | 2                     |                      |                |                        |
| Low<br>D                  |  |                       |                      |                |                        |
| Very Low<br>E             |  | 1                     |                      |                |                        |
| Almost<br>Impossible<br>F |  |                       |                      |                |                        |
|                           |  | IV<br>Neg-<br>ligible | III<br>Marg-<br>inal | II<br>Critical | I<br>Catast-<br>rophic |
|                           |  | → Impact              |                      |                |                        |

| Risk No. | Description   |
|----------|---|
| 1        | There is no or little demand for a Foyer in Melton. |
| 2        | The project is unviable due to a lack of funding.   |
| 3        |   |
| 4        |   |

9.2 We currently are aware we have poor support packages for young people living in Melton which leads to a high failure rate of tenancies and also a number of young people getting into crime etc. However we need more robust qualitative and quantitative data to build a business case for a Foyer scheme in Melton.

#### 10.0 **CLIMATE CHANGE**

10.1 There are no climate change issues directly arising from this report. However introducing such a scheme may encourage more use of public transport.

#### 11.0 **CONSULTATIONS**

11.1 At this stage no formal consultation has taken place but the initiative has been discussed with Jane Horn who is a trustee of Voluntary Action Melton and a retired Magistrate. A visit has taken place to gain further information about work a Foyer carries out in Wisbech, Cambridgeshire.

11.2 We chose the district of Fenland as it has similar challenges to the Borough of Melton with Market Towns and a rural economy.

#### 12.0 **WARDS AFFECTED**

12.1 All wards are affected.

Contact Officers: Keith Aubrey, Harry Rai, Ronan Browne

Date: 04 January 2011

Appendices: Appendix A – Current Housing Need for young people in Melton  
Appendix B – Foyer Schemes Explained

Background Papers: Housing Needs Assessment, Housing Strategy

Reference: X: Committees/CSA/2010-11/25-1-11/Housing Foyer Scheme