

COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

21 SEPTEMBER 2010

REPORT OF ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE

A QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENT OF THE HOUSING NEEDS AND ASPIRATIONS OF OLDER PEOPLE IN LEICESTERSHIRE

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To present to members the 2010 Qualitative Assessment of the Housing Needs and Aspirations of Older People in Leicestershire commissioned by the Leicester and Leicestershire Housing Market Area Partnership (HMA) comprising of the following local authorities: Blaby District, Charnwood Borough, Harborough and Bosworth Borough, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough, Leicester city, Leicester County, Melton Borough, North West Leicestershire District and Oadby and Wigston Borough.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **Members note the recommendations of the 2010 Qualitative Assessment of the Housing Needs and Aspirations of Older People in Leicestershire.**

3.0 KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 The Qualitative Assessment of the Housing Needs and Aspirations of Older People was commissioned by the Leicester and Leicestershire Housing Market Area Partnership (HMA) to provide an assessment of the future housing needs of older people from across the sub-region to inform the development of strategic services for this section of the population. The study had five explicit aims;

- To understand the aspirations of older people in relation to the size, type, tenure and models of housing;
- To seek older people's views on the potential development of one or more Retirement Villages with particular regard to the key requirements in terms of services and locations;
- To improve understanding of migration issues of older people particularly across Local Authority boundaries or between the key housing sub-market areas and why such decisions are made;
- To investigate what factors would prompt or encourage older people who under-occupy their housing to move to alternative accommodation, including the size, type, tenure and models of housing available; and
- To understand the services and support networks which are important to older people within the area.

- 3.2 The emerging themes and recommendations from the report are set out at Appendix A.. A full copy of the report can be downloaded from the Council's website.

- 3.3 The findings of the Qualitative Assessment of the Housing Needs and Aspirations of Older People in Leicestershire should be used to underpin future commissioning decisions and that the commissioning of care and support services is refocused to specifically target and address the housing needs and aspirations of older people in a more joined-up way for the benefit of all.

4.0 POLICY AND CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Study provides evidence in support of the following corporate objectives:

- Improving the well-being of vulnerable people; and
- Help provide a stock of housing accommodation that meets the needs of the community, including the need for affordable housing

5.0 FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Funding for the study was provided through a grant from the East Midlands Regional Assembly.

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no direct legal implications for Melton Borough Council.

7.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY

7.1 There are no issues related to community safety identified.

8.0 EQUALITIES

8.1 Equality is inextricably linked to the way people live their lives and to the opportunities available to people in the communities in which they live. The Qualitative Assessment of the Housing Needs and Aspirations of Older People in Leicestershire has identified areas where age can lead to inequality and how the needs of older people differ according to the community in which they reside, for example the needs of older persons from the gypsy and traveller community, as well as other groups, need to be considered to ensure equality throughout the elderly population.

9.0 RISKS

9.1 There are no issues related to risks identified.

10.0 CLIMATE CHANGE

10.1 There are no climate change issues directly relating to this report.

11.0 CONSULTATION

11.1 A total of 189 older people were consulted through focus groups for this study. However, it should be noted that these were predominantly women and this may influence the study findings. As part of the Study residents from a sheltered housing scheme and extra-care housing in Melton were consulted.

12.0 WARDS AFFECTED

12.1 All wards are affected,

Contact Officer: Samantha Fern

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Appendices: Section 9: Emerging Themes and Recommendations from Qualitative Assessment of the Housing Needs and Aspirations of Older People in Leicestershire.

Background Papers: Qualitative Assessment of the Housing Needs and Aspirations of Older People in Leicestershire May 2010.