

COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

22 JANUARY 2013

REPORT OF HEAD OF COMMUNITIES & NEIGHBOURHOODS

THE EAST MIDLANDS AFFORDABLE HOUSING DECLARATION

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report seeks member's comments on The East Midlands Declaration on Affordable Housing, supported by East Midlands Council, the Homes and Communities Agency and the National Housing Federation with a view for this Council to sign the declaration.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **Members make any comments on the East Midlands Declaration on Affordable Housing.**
- 2.2 **Members approve to sign the East Midlands Declaration on Affordable Housing.**

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In response to recent research by the Smith Institute which highlighted that the East Midlands is missing out on public funding for affordable housing compared with other parts of England, East Midlands Councils launched three initiatives aimed at improving investor confidence in both the public and private sectors. One of which is the Affordable Housing. A letter from East Midlands Councils dated 18 December 2012 was sent to all East Midlands Council leaders and Chief executives (Appendix A) seeking support for the three initiatives, which includes the Affordable Housing Declaration (Appendix B).
- 3.2 The Declaration is aimed at demonstrating high level political commitment by councils to increasing the delivery of affordable housing.

4.0 POLICY AND CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The declaration has direct links to priority 9 of the Council's corporate plan, 'Help provide a stock of housing accommodation that meets the needs of the community' and broader links into the 2011-2014 Melton Housing Strategy with regard to providing suitable affordable housing in the borough.

5.0 FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no financial or other resource implications. Any Schemes that support the commitments within the Declaration will be subject to their own financial appraisal and business case.

6.0 **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS/POWERS**

6.1 No direct legal implications have been identified.

7.0 **COMMUNITY SAFETY**

7.1 There are no direct community safety implications.

8.0 **EQUALITIES**

8.1 Signing of the Declaration does not require an Equalities Impact Assessment, individual schemes and projects will be subject to their own Equalities Analysis if applicable.

9.0 **RISKS**

9.1 No significant risks have been identified regardless of the Council signing or not signing the Declaration.

10.0 **CLIMATE CHANGE**

10.1 No implications have been identified.

11.0 **CONSULTATION**

11.1 Housing Policy and Enablers Officers throughout Leicestershire and Rutland were consulted on the proposed declaration, in consultation with the Leicestershire Rural Partnership and Melton's Chief Executive.

12.0 **WARDS AFFECTED**

12.1 All wards are affected

Contact Officers: H Rai - Head of Communities & Neighbourhoods

Samantha Fern - Housing Policy Officer

Date: 3rd January 2013

Appendices: Appendix A – Letter to Leaders and Chief Executives

Appendix B – The East Midlands Declaration on Affordable Housing

Background Papers: Investing in Opportunity: A prospectus for new affordable housing in the East Midlands

Reference: