

APPENDIX A

“Project Mandate”

Agenda item number:

Date of issue:

Meeting:

Date: 5 June 2014

Report by: R Browne Job title: People & Place Manager

Service : Communities & Neighbourhoods

Status:

Subject: Design, Financial Modelling & Implementation of an Intensive Housing Management Service for Melton Borough Council Housing

1 Purpose of report

To seek approval to undertake a design, financial modelling exercise and the preparation of a business plan to implement a new intensive housing management service due to the removal of the existing ‘Housing Related Support Service’ from 30th September 2015.

2 Recommendations

Approval to undertake the design and financial modelling of a new service that will provide support to our elderly tenants who need support and this assessed as more vulnerable living in Melton Borough Council Housing. That £40,000 be allocated to appoint a fixed term post to operationally develop the scheme as a pilot and to appoint an outside professional consultant to design and lead on the development of the IHMS service from 1st April 2015 (as a first target date). Leicestershire County Council have provisionally support this approach and we are in discussions with them on a 50/50 split to pay for these costs.

3 Background

Melton Borough Council has been informed by Leicestershire County Council that from 30th September 2015 that the current grant provided of £151,000 per annum to provide a Housing Related Support Service to Melton Borough Council tenants will be ceased and no grant support will be provided.

In order to ensure that we can provide a support service to our older tenants and those assessed as vulnerable we will need to design a new service that meets current need. In addition to current need we have an opportunity to design in more independent services that improve the

independence of our tenant's.

There are two other options of doing nothing and that of Melton Borough Council financially funding the existing service from existing resources neither of which is viable currently, either financially or due to a direct conflict with the Council's Corporate Priorities.

4 Legal, financial and IT implications

There will be some slight changes to tenancy agreements that will affect those in the new service and those who decide they need such a service.

There will be financial implications that begin with £20,000 (subject to LCC funding of £20,000) costs to build a business case, consultation and financial modelling. We know there will be financial impact to the HRA but at this stage we are not able to give an exact figure, but these will be developed at the business case stage.

There are no significant direct IT impacts however at billing period in the new financial year there will need to be resources to adjust rent accounts and bills.

5 Initial Assessment of risk

A number of risks have been identified:

- Financial modelling is not affordable
- Tenants through consultation do not support or want new service
- Timescales for implementation are not adequate
- Changes in regulation which affects the financial viability of the model.

6 Equalities and diversity and staffing implications

A full equality impact assessment will need to be carried out as part of the business case that is developed.

Initially discussion with affected staff has been undertaken and this will continue during the development stage throughout.
