

**North East Derbyshire District Council**

**Cabinet**

**18 February 2015**

**North Derbyshire Ambition Housing Project**

**Report No EAH/02/15/AWC of Councillor Mrs E A Hill, Portfolio Holder with Responsibility for Housing Strategy and Social Inclusion (supported by Councillor M Gordon)**

This report is public

**Purpose of the Report**

- To note the success of a funding bid to DCLG under its Single Homelessness funding round for a county wide initiative which has secured £250,000.
- To endorse the role of NEDDC as a subcontractor to Derby City Council to deliver the Ambition Housing Project element. Derby City Council has been identified as the accountable body for the overall DCLG grant.

**1 Report Details**

- 1.1 The bid proposed an integrated approach to addressing the housing needs of a range of homeless and potentially homeless people aged 16 – 25. It adopts a holistic approach with a range of partners to support young people into both housing and to enable them to sustain that housing through support into employment and training and in doing so increase their self-esteem, prevent debt and prevent risk of homelessness and a first night out. The project will run until March 2016.
- 1.2 The Ambition Housing Project will cover the 4 local Authorities to the North of the County including this district, Bolsover, Chesterfield and Derbyshire Dales and will align with the SCR Ambition Project. This will enable the relevant local authorities to work with agencies such as the DWP and money advice groups on sanctions, access debt and advice workers and mental health workers to add further support to the young people concerned, providing a more holistic service.
- 1.3 The DCLG has indicated that this will act as a pilot project with the intention that it can be replicated in the South of the county, if successful.
- 1.4 The key aim of the project is to develop a Pathways approach to housing for young people including creating a single point of access. This will create a system change where the housing needs, employment and training needs, financial inclusion and health needs are addressed via a multi-agency team around the individuals needs.

- 1.5 The need for a Pathways approach for young people has been highlighted by various agencies including Homelessness Link and partner agencies in the Multi Agency Teams, DCC's Children's services and health.
- 1.6 Current housing benefit legislation makes access into suitable, affordable and safe housing for vulnerable young people difficult due to the lack of smaller accommodation locally and the unsuitability of Bed and Breakfast use. This is further compounded by recent announced DCC proposals to cut its Housing Related Support budget for young people's supported housing from £1m to £175k across the county.
- 1.7 A key element of the Project will be to work with young people where possible and where it is safe to do so to stay in the family home rather than moving into unaffordable and inappropriate accommodation. This will include awareness raising work within schools around the realities of housing for young people locally and the associated costs.
- 1.8 Additional funding is currently being sought from The Derbyshire Housing and Health funding pot for an initial £10k to pay for a mediation service for young people and their families.
- 1.9 The Ambition Housing Project will be led and project managed by the NEDDC through the Private Rented Sector and Housing Options Manager with additional fully funded temporary staff recruited who will link into the other projects funded through the DCLG Single Homelessness Grant which include:
  - **No Second Night Out + (NSNO)** –to reduce rough sleeping by 50% in the first year of the project and assist 669 people who are experiencing homelessness, rough sleeping or at risk of rough sleeping over the funding period. This funding is targeted at North Derbyshire and will replicate the work currently being carried out in the Derby City area.
  - **Healthy Futures** – based on the evidence gathered from the Royal Derby Hospital project it was calculated the average cost of rough sleepers prior to the project was £14,000 per client. If successful the saving in the first year of the project to the Health Service could be £2.25 million.
  - **Sanctions+** - Over 26,000 JSA recipients have been sanctioned across Derby City and Derbyshire in the past 12 months. The intention is to assist 1000 households in the benefits process to reduce the impact of sanctions. This will provide detailed data in relation to those affected by sanctions.

## 2 **Conclusions and Reasons for Recommendation**

- 2.1 The Ambition Housing Project will provide the housing element to both the SCR Ambition Project and Talent match and therefore provide a holistic support service to young people in relation to employment, training, housing, financial inclusion and health related issues.

### **3 Consultation and Equality Impact**

- 3.1 The bid to DCLG under the Single Homelessness bidding round included consultation with all the Local Authorities across the county including Derby City Council, Public Health, SCR ambition project and Talent Match, Banardos Leaving Care Project and Derbyshire County Council's Children and Younger Adults Service and Adult Social Care.

### **4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection**

- 4.1 The only option was not to be a part of the Derbyshire wide consortium during the bidding process to the DCLG and this was discounted as Homelessness Link advised that a county wide bid would be looked on more favourably by the DCLG.

### **5 Implications**

#### **5.1 Finance and Risk Implications**

- 5.1.1 The DCLG bid has levered into Derbyshire an additional £250,000 for homelessness support for single people. The north east Derbyshire area will be managing approximately £160,000 of that funding. The project to be lead by NEDDC is fully funded.

#### **5.2 Legal Implications including Data Protection**

- 5.2.1 As Derby City Council is the accountable body it is anticipated that they will establish appropriate protocols and agreements which mitigate delivery and risk.

#### **5.3 Human Resources Implications**

- 5.3.1 The Council's Private Rented Sector and Housing Options Manager (PRSHOM) will be the lead officer for the project. This will allow the project to get up and running very quickly as the project has already had a delayed start, outside of NEDDC's control and so it is important that the team "hit the ground running" .
- 5.3.2 It has been agreed with partner Authorities in Bolsover, Chesterfield and Derbyshire Dales that the council host the scheme due to the existing close links with the SCR Ambition Project. The funding for the project will cover the staffing costs, the structure of which will need to be approved by the partner authorities.

### **6 Recommendations**

That Cabinet:-

- 6.1 Notes the success of the bid submitted to the Department of Communities and Local Government for the Ambition Housing Project.
- 6.2 Notes that the Housing Strategy and Enabling Team will be working to develop a suitable staffing structure to support the delivery of the Ambition Housing Project.

- 6.3 Notes that any proposed staffing structure will be endorsed by partner Local Authorities across the Country, including Derby City Council, who are acting as the accountable body for the DCLG Single Homelessness Grant.
- 6.4 Requests that the Chief Executive following consultation with the Portfolio Members for Housing Strategy and Social Inclusion exercise his delegated authority to implement the agreed staffing structure to deliver the North Derbyshire Ambition Housing Project.
- 6.5 Notes that funding for any staffing for The Ambition Housing Project will be funded via the DCLG Single Homelessness Grant.

## 7 **Decision Information**

<b>Is the decision a Key Decision?</b> (A Key Decision is one which results in income or expenditure to the Council of £50,000 or more or which has a significant impact on two or more District wards)	No
<b>District Wards Affected</b>	All
<b>Links to Corporate Plan priorities or Policy Framework</b>	Increase housing choice Create jobs, Build Skills, Attract Investment Improve people's Health

## 8 **Document Information**

Appendix No	Title
N/A	N/A
<b>Background Papers</b> (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet (NEDDC) or Executive (BDC) you must provide copies of the background papers)	
Report Author	Contact Number
Rebecca Slack, Housing Strategy & Enabling Manager	01246 217289