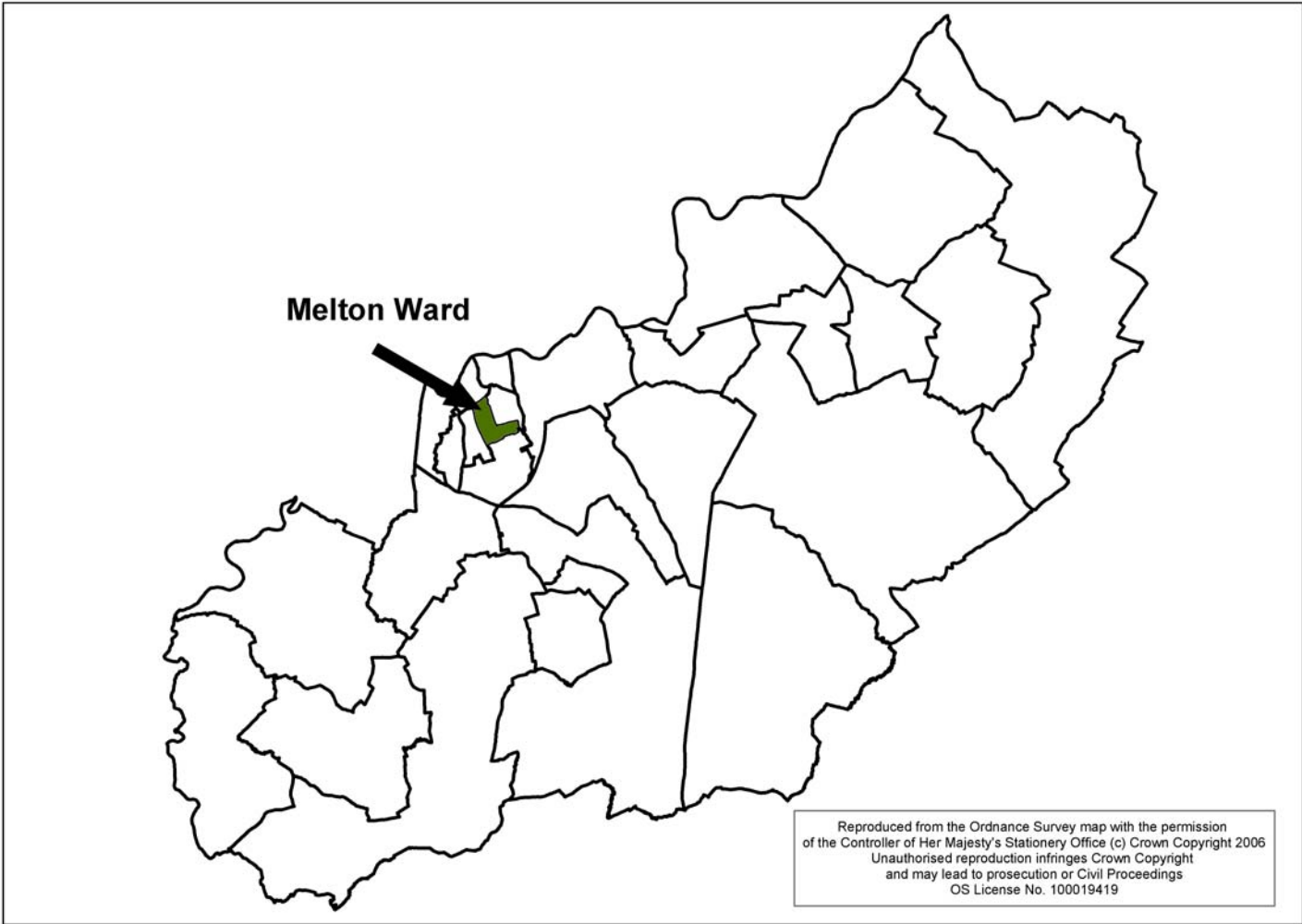


# Melton Ward Area Profile



## 1. Foreword

The Borough of Rushcliffe is located immediately South of the City of Nottingham and has a population of over 100,000 residents. Characterised by attractive villages, rich farmland and rolling countryside the area is perceived to be affluent. However, the affordability of housing is a critical issue for the Borough Council, and this is reflected in the priorities of the Corporate and Housing Strategies and the significant financial investment that the Council is making in the provision of new affordable housing in the Borough.

There is a high level of demand for affordable housing in Rushcliffe due to the following factors:

- Steep house prices, with the average over £70,000 higher than the average for Nottinghamshire at the end of February 2009
- Soaring land prices
- Low levels of affordable housing
- Low turnovers for the existing affordable housing stock
- Buoyant owner occupier sector

The high house prices mean that many people who would elsewhere be in a position to buy property are unable to do so in the Borough, leading to increasing numbers of residents finding themselves in housing need.

The Housing Strategy 2004-07 ([http://www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/upload/public/attachments/235/RBC\\_Housing\\_Strategy\\_0407\\_FINAL.doc](http://www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/upload/public/attachments/235/RBC_Housing_Strategy_0407_FINAL.doc)) (which achieved 'Fit For Purpose' in May 2006) also highlights the significant challenges the Borough Council is faced with in relation to the high levels of housing need and the problems with trying to develop new affordable housing. Through careful consideration of previous housing needs research and comparing with 'Best Value Near Neighbours' and local neighbours in Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire, the Borough Council set a new affordable housing requirement in 2005, following Cabinet approval.

The Borough Council now seeks an affordable housing requirement of 30% on developments of 15 or more dwellings or 0.5 hectares or more. The Council has taken the view that 30% will be achievable by all developers, whilst not proving such a burden as to discourage housing investment in the Borough in favour of other areas.

The Nottingham Core Strategic Housing Market Assessment, published May 2007, ([http://www.blinehousing.info/NottCore\\_HMA/Nottingham\\_CORE\\_SHMA-16-5-07.pdf](http://www.blinehousing.info/NottCore_HMA/Nottingham_CORE_SHMA-16-5-07.pdf)) detailed, by analysing current data, the affordable housing challenges the Borough currently faces. Through examining the current housing market in terms of the characteristic of the existing supply alongside rental and purchase prices the report concluded that there was a need for an affordable housing requirement of 60% and of this 13% should be intermediate. A viability

assessment of these figures is due to be completed by the end of May to determine whether the affordable housing requirement for the Borough can be increased.

The range of information available in this ward profile is supplementary evidence to the larger Housing Market Assessments, focusing on very localised needs at ward levels.

## 2. Introduction

Melton ward is one of the eight wards that encompass the West Bridgford urban area (part of the Principal Urban Area of Nottingham but separated from the City by the River Trent). It forms part of the central area of West Bridgford and covers an area of 85 hectares.

The ward benefits from a number of amenities, including a butchers, fishmongers, greengrocers and fruit sellers. There is a Post Office in the ward and a further six within a two miles radius.

There is a GP surgery and three Dental practices in the ward. Melton ward also benefits from a close proximity to Nottingham City and access to the local hospitals, Queens Medical Centre and Nottingham City Hospital are within a five miles radius. The NHS Walk in Centre is only two miles away.

There is a primary school in the ward, West Bridgford Junior, situated on Exchange Road. There are no nursery, infant or comprehensive schools in the ward, however, the catchment area extends to other areas of West Bridgford.

There are a number of transport companies who operate regular bus services through the ward providing access to West Bridgford shopping area, Nottingham City and various other locations throughout the Borough. Nottingham train station and coach station are within a two mile distance and East Midlands airport is less than eleven miles away from the ward.

There are no leisure centres within the ward, however, Rushcliffe Leisure Centre is under a mile away located in nearby Musters ward. There are a number of pubs, bars and restaurants.

## 3. Population

Melton ward has a resident population of 4232 people, as measured in the 2001 Census (4% of the Boroughs population).

## Age

**Table 1: Age of population**

<b>Ages</b>	<b>Melton</b>	<b>Rushcliffe</b>	<b>Melton %</b>	<b>Rushcliffe %</b>
<b>All ages</b>	<b>4232</b>	<b>105599</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>0-4</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>5915</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>5.6</b>
<b>5-15</b>	<b>566</b>	<b>14618</b>	<b>13.4</b>	<b>13.8</b>
<b>16-19</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>4598</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>4.4</b>
<b>20-44</b>	<b>1744</b>	<b>36257</b>	<b>41.2</b>	<b>34.3</b>
<b>45-64</b>	<b>912</b>	<b>27091</b>	<b>21.6</b>	<b>25.7</b>
<b>65+</b>	<b>582</b>	<b>17120</b>	<b>13.8</b>	<b>16.2</b>

Source: National Statistics website [www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk)

The average age of Melton wards population is 35.85 compared to an average of 39.58 for the Borough of Rushcliffe. Nearly one fifth of the wards population are under 16 years of age and over 13% are aged 65 or over.

## Ethnicity

The table below shows the number and percentage of Melton and Rushcliffe residents by ethnic category according to the 2001 Census. 93.88% of Melton wards population is White British, White Irish or White other, which is roughly 2% lower than the proportion for the Borough as a whole. This leaves a Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) population for the ward of 6.12% which is lower than the proportion of BME residents for Rushcliffe as a whole (4.1%).

The largest BME population are Asian and Asian British which make up 3.33% of the ward population (2.1% of which are Asian and Asian British: Indian). 1.66% of the wards population are of Mixed Heritage; 0.57% is Black or Black British and 0.56% is either Chinese or from another Ethnic group.

The needs of BME communities will need to be considered alongside other groups in terms of property type and design to reflect cultural and religious diversities.

**Table 2: Ethnicity of population**

<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>Melton</b>	<b>Rushcliffe</b>	<b>Melton %</b>	<b>Rushcliffe %</b>
<b>White: British</b>	<b>3805</b>	<b>98486</b>	<b>89.95</b>	<b>93.26</b>
<b>White: Irish</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>942</b>	<b>1.61</b>	<b>0.89</b>
<b>White: Other</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>1844</b>	<b>2.32</b>	<b>1.75</b>
<b>Mixed: White and Black Caribbean</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>0.64</b>	<b>0.41</b>
<b>Mixed: White and Black African</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>0.07</b>	<b>0.08</b>
<b>Mixed: White and Asian</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>0.57</b>	<b>0.29</b>
<b>Mixed: Other Mixed</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>0.38</b>	<b>0.24</b>
<b>Asian or Asian British: Indian</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>1494</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>1.41</b>
<b>Asian or Asian British: Pakistani</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>553</b>	<b>0.85</b>	<b>0.52</b>
<b>Asian or Asian British: Bangladeshi</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>0.12</b>	<b>0.04</b>
<b>Asian or Asian British: Other Asian</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>0.26</b>	<b>0.15</b>
<b>Black or Black British: Caribbean</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>0.33</b>	<b>0.3</b>
<b>Black or Black British: African</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>0.24</b>	<b>0.12</b>
<b>Black or Black British: Other Black</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.03</b>
<b>Chinese:</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>0.35</b>	<b>0.25</b>
<b>Other ethnic group:</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>0.21</b>	<b>0.24</b>

Source: National Statistics website [www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk)

## Religion

As measured by the 2001 Census, 63.7% of Melton wards population is Christian, over 8% lower than the proportion of Rushcliffe residents as a whole. People from other faith groups comprise 4.6% of the ward population which is higher than the proportion of all Rushcliffe residents (3.1%). Over 23% of the ward population stated that they had no religion, over 5% higher than for Rushcliffe as a whole.

**Table 4: Religion of population**

Religion	Melton	Rushcliffe	Melton %	Rushcliffe %
Christian	2697	75855	63.7	71.8
Buddhist	10	232	0.2	0.2
Hindu	20	653	0.5	0.6
Jewish	37	395	0.9	0.4
Muslim	56	960	1.3	0.9
Sikh	48	718	1.1	0.7
Other religions	24	261	0.6	0.3
No religion	993	18999	23.5	18.0
Religion not stated	347	7526	8.2	7.1

Source: National Statistics website [www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk)

## 4. Housing

### Prices for Properties for Sale

The table and chart below show that between January and February 2009 the average house price for all types of properties in the Melton ward was £227,500 the 10<sup>th</sup> highest in the Borough based on 7 sales. This figure is over £20,000 higher than the average for all properties in Rushcliffe and is nearly £74,000 higher than the average for England and Wales.

However, entry level prices for terraced houses (£146,000) in the Melton ward is lower than the average of terraced houses in Rushcliffe (£154,767) as a whole suggesting that first time buyers and single income households may be attracted to the area.

**Table 5: Average price of properties for sale**

Accommodation Type	Melton	Rushcliffe	England and Wales
All properties	£227,500	£207,269	£153,512
Detached	£295,000	£270,009	£236,384
Semi detached	£187,167	£175,449	£145,290
Terraced	£146,000	£154,767	£118,728
Flats	N/A	£92,318	£142,406

Source: Land Registry website [www.landreg.gov.uk](http://www.landreg.gov.uk)

**Chart 1**



Source: Land Registry website [www.landreg.gov.uk](http://www.landreg.gov.uk)

### Properties for Rent

The table below indicates the average prices for rented accommodation in the ward and Rushcliffe as a whole in March 2009. The average rental prices for all available property types is more expensive here than the averages for Rushcliffe as a whole.

**Table 6: Average price of properties for rent**

Accommodation Type	Melton	Rushcliffe
1 bed flat, bedsit, maisonette	£469	£410
2 bed flat or maisonette	£563	£547
2 bed house	£623	£540
3 bed house	£765	£712
4 bed house	N/A	£915
5 bed house	£2750	£1509

Source: Rightmove website [www.rightmove.co.uk](http://www.rightmove.co.uk)

There are usually high deficits between the cost of the rent and the amount that Local Housing Allowance will award with many local reference rents several hundred pounds lower than the average price of rent in this ward. These deficits are indicative of why families on a low income struggle to afford the private sector and why new affordable housing is in such high demand in the Borough.

## Tenure

The table and chart below shows tenure by households taken from the 2001 Census.

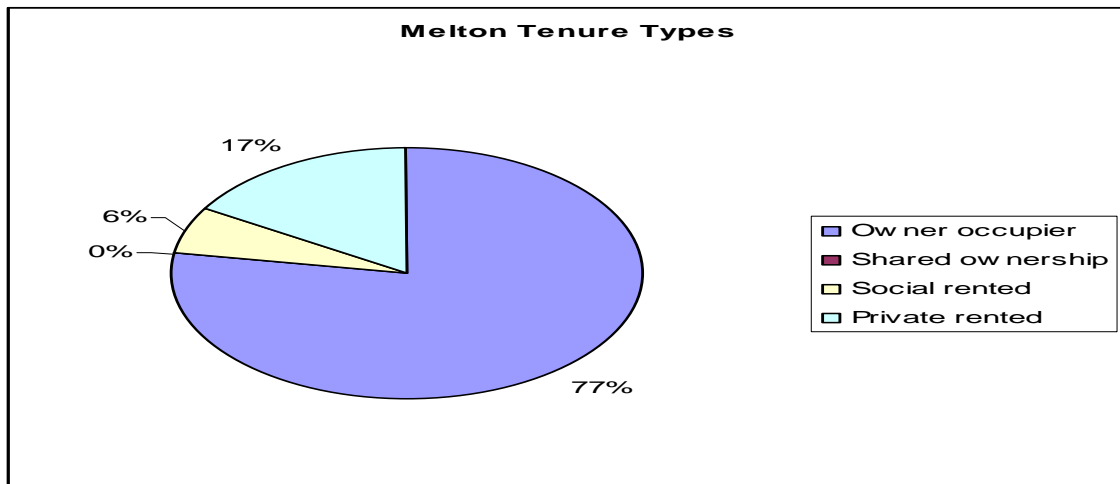
**Table 8: Tenure of households**

	Melton	Rushcliffe	Melton %	Rushcliffe %
<b>All households</b>	<b>1829</b>	<b>43,670</b>		<b>100</b>
<b>Owner occupier</b>	<b>1415</b>	<b>34,064</b>	<b>77.4</b>	<b>78.0</b>
<b>Shared ownership (HomeBuy)</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.9</b>
<b>Social rented</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>4311</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>9.9</b>
<b>Private tenant</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>4898</b>	<b>16.5</b>	<b>11.2</b>

Source: National Statistics website [www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk)

The Council's housing stock was transferred by Large Scale Voluntary Transfer (LSVT) in January 2003, so there has been a significant shift in tenure in the Borough with the transfer of council rented accommodation increasing the percentage of the Registered Social Landlord (RSL) tenure.

**Chart 2**



Source: National Statistics website [www.statisitcs.gov.uk](http://www.statisitcs.gov.uk)

According to 2001 Census data, the proportion of owner occupiers in Melton (77.4%) is higher than the national average (68.7%) but is slightly lower than the Rushcliffe average (78.9%). The proportion of private rented properties (16.5%) is considerably higher than both the national and Rushcliffe average levels of around 10%. The proportion of social rented housing (6%) is significantly lower than both the national (19.3%) and the Rushcliffe average (9.9%).

The number of socially rented and HomeBuy (formerly shared ownership) may be lower than when recorded in the 2001 Census due to the right to buy and staircasing, therefore there is more up to date information on the number of

socially rented and HomeBuy properties in the Borough which can be found in Section 6: Housing Need.

### Accommodation Types

The table below shows that Melton ward has a higher proportion of terraced properties (24.5%) which is higher than the proportion of the Boroughs levels (11.3%) but still lower than the national average (31.7%) by over 7 per cent. By contrast the ward has lower levels of detached properties (31.9%) than we find in the rest of Rushcliffe (6.1%).

**Table 9: Accommodation type of properties**

Accommodation Type	Melton	Rushcliffe	Melton %	Rushcliffe %
<b>All household spaces</b>	<b>1881</b>	<b>44877</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>House or bungalow: Detached</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>20910</b>	<b>31.9</b>	<b>46.6</b>
<b>House or bungalow: Semi detached:</b>	<b>566</b>	<b>13956</b>	<b>30.1</b>	<b>31.1</b>
<b>House or bungalow: Terraced</b>	<b>461</b>	<b>5090</b>	<b>24.5</b>	<b>11.3</b>
<b>Flat, maisonette or apartment</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>2715</b>	<b>13.5</b>	<b>6.1</b>
<b>Caravan or other mobile or temporary structure</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.9</b>

Source: National Statistics website: [www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk)

The above table needs to be considered alongside tenure of households within the ward which indicates that a high proportion of accommodation within the ward is in the owner occupied sector. The more prevalent property types i.e. family accommodation, therefore, is likely to mask the availability of this type of accommodation, particularly for households who are not able to access the owner occupied sector.

### Household composition

Of the 1829 households in the Melton ward during the 2001 Census, 1093 of these were one family households and 603 are single person households. The highest proportion of households in the Melton ward is couples under retirement age (19.5%) which is higher than the proportion for Rushcliffe as a whole (15.8%).

**Table 10: Household composition**

Household Composition	Melton	Rushcliffe	Melton %	Rushcliffe %
All Households	1829	43670	4.2	100
Single (Male over 65, Female over 60)	248	5778	13.6	13.2
Single (Male under 65, Female under 60)	355	6145	19.4	14.1
Couple (Male over 65, Female over 60)	127	4396	6.9	10.0
Couple (Male under 65, Female under 60)	356	6916	19.5	15.8
Family plus one dependent child	200	4891	10.9	11.2
Family plus two or more dependent children	305	7853	16.7	18.0
Family with children 18+	105	3671	5.7	8.4
Other households: All students	24	245	1.3	0.6
Other households: All pensioner	5	135	0.3	0.3
Other households: Other	104	1280	5.7	2.9

Source: National Statistics website: [www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk)

## 5. Income & Deprivation

### Household Income

The table below shows the income distribution of Melton ward residents from CACI Paycheck data 2008. The mean<sup>1</sup> household income for the ward is £44,162 compared to £34,382 in the United Kingdom, suggesting that the area is relatively affluent. However it must be noted that higher income households often mask pockets of deprivation and households on lower incomes, thereby distorting the overall average household income in the ward.

<sup>1</sup> The mean is calculated by adding up the numbers in a sample and dividing that answer by the sample size. It is the most commonly used average and is the only one that takes into account all the numbers in the sample.

**Table 11: Income of households**

Income Bracket	Melton	Rushcliffe	Melton %	Rushcliffe %
All households	2125	46909	4.5	100
£0-£5k	22	662	1.0	1.4
£5-£10k	70	1988	3.3	4.2
£10-£15k	128	3495	6.0	7.5
£15-£20k	169	4426	8.0	9.4
£20-£25k	190	4744	8.9	10.1
£25-£30k	195	4634	9.2	9.9
£30-£35k	188	4274	8.8	9.1
£35-£40k	174	3793	8.2	8.1
£40-£45k	155	3278	7.3	7.0
£45-£50k	136	2780	6.4	5.9
£50-£55k	117	2326	5.5	5.0
£55-£60k	99	1926	4.7	4.1
£60-£65k	84	1584	4.0	3.4
£65-£70k	70	1297	3.3	2.8
£70-£75k	58	1057	2.7	2.3
£75-£80k	48	860	2.3	1.8
£80-£85k	39	699	1.8	1.5
£85-£90k	32	567	1.5	1.2
£90-£95k	27	460	1.3	1.0
£95-£100k	22	374	1.0	0.8
£100k plus	102	1680	4.8	3.6

Source: CACI Paycheck data 2008

In relation to other wards within Rushcliffe the Melton ward has the 9<sup>th</sup> highest mean income and the highest proportion of households (9.2%) earning between £25-30,000 per annum, lower than Rushcliffe as a whole (9.9%).

**Table 12: Average income of households**

Mean Income	£44,162
Mode Income	£25-30k
Median Income	£35-40k

Source CACI Paycheck data 2008

Based on the average mean income for the ward of £44,162 and the average entry level terraced property price of £146,000 a first time buyer would have to be earning 3 times their salary. This sum has been calculated by using an average first time deposit of 10% as recommended in the Nottingham Core Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA). The SHMA also recommends using guidance from a mortgage multiplier that an affordable mortgage should not be

more than 3.5 times income. This suggests that first time buyers may be able to afford to buy in the ward. However, if the distortion principle is taken into consideration, the 3 ratio of salary is likely to further exacerbate affordability issues for those on lower incomes within the ward. Although there is evidence to suggest that higher income ratios have been used nationally, it is also accepted that with this comes the additional risk of households getting into financial difficulty should outgoings increase leaving limited disposable income to act as a cushion for unexpected household costs.

### Economic Activity and Deprivation

The incomes of the resident's economically inactive and claiming benefits will form part of the 'masked' incomes distorted by the high earners in the ward. In 2001 Melton had a slightly lower proportion of economically inactive residents (18.7%) compared to Rushcliffe as a whole (19.7%) as demonstrated in the table below.

**Table 13: Economically inactive residents**

<b>Economically Inactive</b>	<b>Melton</b>	<b>Rushcliffe</b>	<b>Melton %</b>	<b>Rushcliffe %</b>
<b>All People</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>12877</b>	<b>18.7</b>	<b>19.7</b>
<b>Retired</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>1961</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>3.0</b>
<b>Student</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>3530</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>5.4</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>7386</b>	<b>11.3</b>	<b>11.3</b>

Source: Official Labour Market Statistics: [www.nomisweb.co.uk](http://www.nomisweb.co.uk)

In August 2008 the proportion of welfare benefit claimants was lower in the Melton ward (5.9%) compared to Rushcliffe as a whole (7.4%) suggesting that the ward is less deprived than other areas, as demonstrated in the table below. Of those claiming benefits nearly half (44.4%) were claiming incapacity benefit and over 13% claiming job seekers allowance.

**Table 14: Benefit claimants**

<b>Benefit Claimants</b>	<b>Melton</b>	<b>Rushcliffe</b>	<b>Melton %</b>	<b>Rushcliffe %</b>
<b>Total Claimants</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>4970</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>7.4</b>
<b>Carers Allowance</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.6</b>
<b>Disability Living Allowance</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>540</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>0.8</b>
<b>Incapacity Benefit</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>2430</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>3.6</b>
<b>Job Seekers Allowance</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>790</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>1.2</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>770</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.2</b>

Source: Official Labour Market Statistics: [www.nomisweb.co.uk](http://www.nomisweb.co.uk)

When examining the Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2007 scores for the whole of the Borough on a variety of factors including: crime and disorder, education and

skills, employment, income, health deprivation, barriers to housing and living environment, Melton ward is the 9<sup>th</sup> least deprived area.

## 6. Housing Need

Over the years, the number of affordable rented and HomeBuy homes available in the Borough has reduced because of the Right to Buy initiative (649 properties sold between 1995 and 31 March 2005) and the “staircasing” of HomeBuy properties (224) up to full ownership (between 1995 and 31 March 2005).

There is no local authority owned stock in the ward following Rushcliffe Borough Councils LSVT of its housing stock. However a number of RSLs manage stock in the Borough:

- Accent Nene
- Anchor Housing Trust
- De Montfort Housing Society
- Derwent Living
- East Midlands Housing Association
- English Rural Housing
- Family First
- FCH Housing and Care
- Leicester Housing Association
- Nottingham Community Housing Association
- Places for People
- Spirita
- Tuntum Housing Association

Spirita (formerly Rushcliffe Homes) are the largest provider of social rented homes in the Borough, both for general needs accommodation (89%) and sheltered housing (86.7%), followed by De Montfort Housing Society with 6.6% general needs and 8.3% sheltered housing. The remainder of the social rented stock is distributed fairly evenly between the other RSLs listed above.

### Supply and Demand

Rushcliffe has a low level of traditional social rented housing through RSLs when compared with the national average and other rural boroughs. The number of people in need far outweighs the very limited available supply, exacerbated further by a significant shortage of social rented housing. People on relatively high incomes may still experience affordability issues and therefore may need to consider the option of renting through RSLs as they are not able to buy a house locally since most properties are priced beyond the reach of those without significant incomes, savings or existing equity resources. The Council is exploring a range of intermediate products to assist households who may not be able to purchase outright, or whose circumstances require more temporary solutions, but may face indefinite waiting times for social rented accommodation.

## Demand: General Needs

There is high demand for general needs accommodation at the end of March 2009 in the West Bridgford urban area (the data is not available on a smaller scale due to the way it is collated and also includes the Gamston area of the Borough), as demonstrated in the table below. It is difficult to establish the exact demand for each area in the Borough as the numbers identify where applicants would be prepared to live in the Borough, with applicants often choosing more than one area. This may in some cases distort overall demand, however, given that the housing needs data is updated on a regular basis this is still considered to provide a general indication of localised needs.

Furthermore, the data provided does not take into account demand from households in urgent housing need due to homelessness or the threat of homelessness who are currently residing in temporary accommodation. In these instances, permanent offers of accommodation may be made outside the applicants preferred area of choice due to the lack of suitable available accommodation in their preferred area.

**Table 15: Waiting list figures for general needs accommodation**

Waiting List Figures	Melton	Rushcliffe	Melton %	Rushcliffe %
<b>Total on waiting list</b>	<b>424</b>	<b>606</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>1 bed flat</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>54.2</b>	<b>45.5</b>
<b>1 bed bungalow</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.3</b>
<b>2 bed flat</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>10.6</b>
<b>2 bed house</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>22.2</b>	<b>26.2</b>
<b>2 bed bungalow</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.7</b>
<b>3 bed house</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>12.2</b>
<b>4 bed house</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>4.1</b>

**Source: Spirita waiting list figures at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009**

In terms of accommodation types, some variance in demand for certain types of property may occur due to some households requesting more than one property type in more than one area. To reduce any potential distortion, where households have requested the following property types, adjustments to the waiting list figures have been made to take account of households preferred options only:

- Demand for 1 bedroom flat: Discount demand for bed-sit and upper floor accommodation. Demand based on waiting list figures for 1 bed ground floor accommodation only.

- Demand for 2 bedroom flat: Discount demand for upper floor accommodation. Demand based on waiting list figures for 2 bed ground floor accommodation only for households not eligible for 2 bed house.
- Demand for 1 bedroom bungalow: Accurate indication of demand.
- Demand for 2 bedroom bungalows: Discount demand for 1 bedroom bungalows.
- Demand for 2 bedroom houses: Accurate indication of demand.
- Demand for 3 bedroom houses: Accurate indication of demand.
- Demand for 4 bedroom houses: Accurate indication of demand.

### Supply: General Needs

The table below shows the existing supply of general needs social rented properties in the Melton ward. The supply of social rented stock is 0.4%, ranking 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest in terms of overall supply of general needs stock in the Borough, however, this is still significantly below current demand.

**Table 16: Supply of social rented general needs accommodation**

Accommodation Types	Melton	Rushcliffe	Melton %	Rushcliffe %
All general needs social rented properties	13	3664	0.4	100
1 bed flat, bedsit and maisonettes	10	725	76.9	19.8
1 bed bungalow	0	132	0	3.6
2 bed house	0	411	0	11.2
2 bed flat and maisonettes	3	524	23.1	14.3
2 bed bungalow	0	451	0	12.3
3 bed house	0	1322	0	36.1
3 bed flat and maisonette	0	5	0	0.1
3 bed bungalow	0	1	0	0.02
4 bed house	0	93	0	2.5

Source: Rushcliffe Affordable Housing Directory 2009

There is a larger proportion of 1 (76.9%) and 2 (23.1%) bedroom flats and maisonettes in Melton compared to the proportion in the rest of the Borough as a whole. In comparison there is no family accommodation, 2, 3 or 4 bedroom houses in the ward, thereby identifying a greater need for this.

### Demand: Sheltered Housing

There is only one warden assisted scheme in Melton ward and this is Church Croft situated on Byron Road in West Bridgford. The turnover for this scheme is

'medium' suggesting that the scheme is popular with residents and this is evidenced further by the waiting list figures in the table below.

**Table 17: Waiting list figures for sheltered accommodation**

Waiting List Figures	Melton	Rushcliffe	Melton %	Rushcliffe %
Total on waiting list	323	751	100	100
1 bed flat	135	292	41.8	38.9
1 bed bungalow	141	320	43.7	42.6
2 bed flat	22	65	6.8	8.7
2 bed bungalow	25	74	7.7	9.9

Source: Spirita waiting list figures at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009

It is also accepted that some sheltered housing schemes have high turnovers and low demand due to the lack of facilities available (no lifts, outdoor space and no local amenities within a close proximity).

#### Supply: Sheltered

The table below shows the existing supply of sheltered housing social rented properties in the Melton ward. The supply of social rented stock is 7%, the 6<sup>th</sup> highest figure of the total supply of sheltered stock in the Borough.

**Table 18: Supply of social rented sheltered housing accommodation**

Accommodation Types	Melton	Rushcliffe	Melton %	Rushcliffe %
All sheltered accommodation for older people	72	1030	7.0	100
1 bed flat and bedsit	48	568	66.7	55.1
1 bed bungalow	0	104	0	10.1
2 bed flat	24	199	33.3	19.3
2 bed bungalow	0	159	0	15.4

Source: Rushcliffe Affordable Housing Directory 2009

#### Demand: HomeBuy

Due to the high entry level property prices and lack of social rented units there is also a demand for HomeBuy properties in the Borough.

The Council is keen to provide a range of intermediate affordable housing types for those households 'whose needs are not met by the market'.<sup>2</sup> The Council considers that the provision of New Build HomeBuy properties for households

<sup>2</sup> PPS3 (Planning Policy Statement)

with income levels which enable them to purchase open market re-sale homes does not meet target households. In order to achieve a more effective alignment between those households and target groups who are genuinely unable to afford home ownership a greater emphasis is placed on HomeBuy products which enable households to purchase a 25% equity share, particularly given the high property values within Rushcliffe.

During March 2009 there were 50 households who had registered an interest with Spirita (who work alongside East Midlands HomeBuy, the regional 'Zone Agent' for New Build HomeBuy properties) for New Build HomeBuy and shared ownership resale properties in the Borough.

### Supply: HomeBuy

The table below shows the existing supply of HomeBuy properties in the Melton ward. There are twelve HomeBuy properties comprising of 4.1%, ranking the joint 8th highest in the Borough as a whole.

**Table 19: Supply of New Build HomeBuy properties**

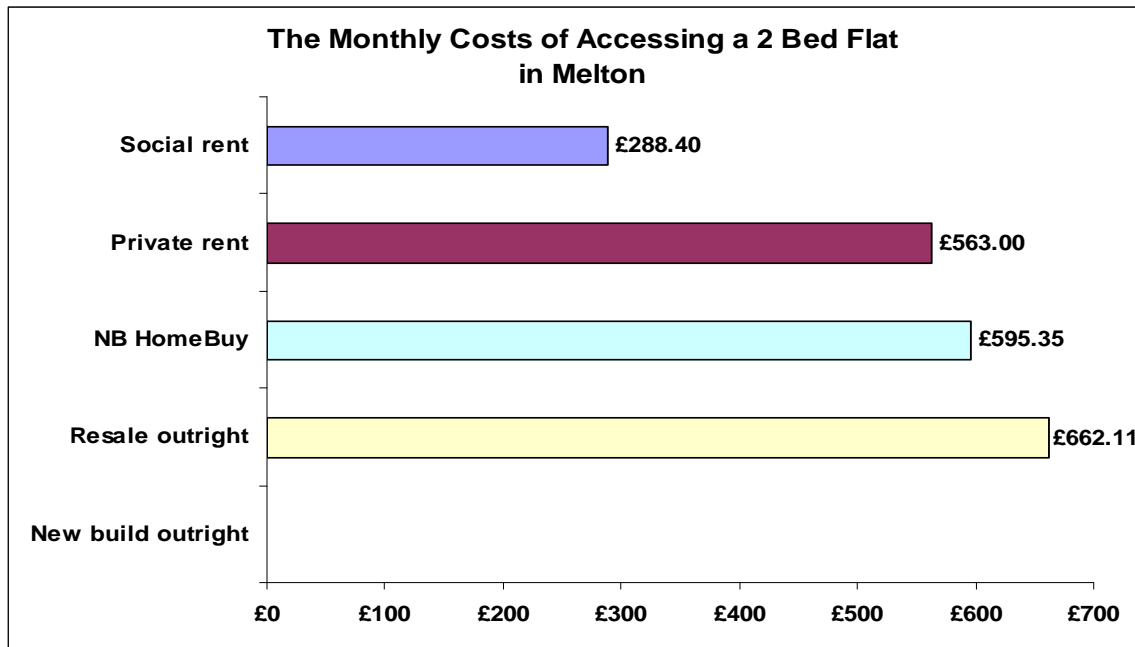
Accommodation Types	Melton	Rushcliffe	Melton %	Rushcliffe %
All New Build HomeBuy properties	12	296	4.1	100
1 bed flat, bedsit and maisonette	0	0	0	0
2 bed flat and maisonette	12	50	100	16.9
2 bed house	0	105	0	35.5
2 bed bungalow	0	107	0	36.1
3 bed house	0	34	0	11.5

**Source: Rushcliffe Affordable Housing Directory 2009**

### Housing Cost Model: HomeBuy Affordability

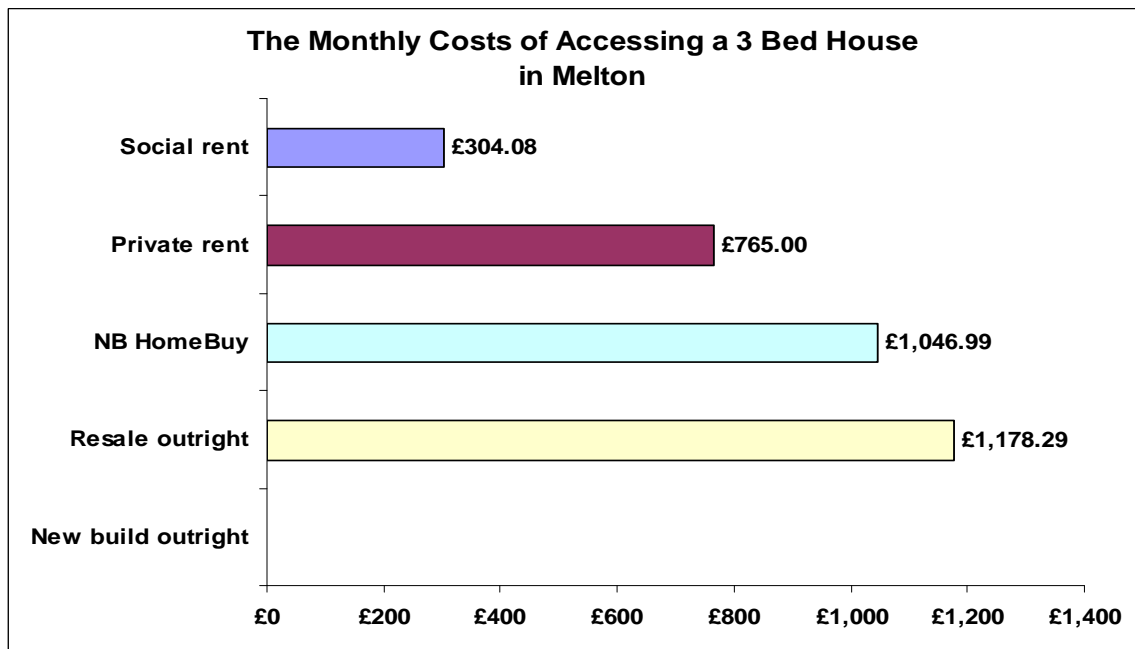
Using data from an analysis of local rents and values (Registered Social Landlord, Private Rented, New Build HomeBuy, Resale Open Market and New Build Open Market) the Housing Cost Model identifies the cost of accessing two archetypes: 2 bedroom flat and a 3 bedroom house in the Melton area in March 2009, as demonstrated in the charts below.

Chart 3



Source: Rightmove website [www.rightmove.co.uk](http://www.rightmove.co.uk) and raw data from EMHomeBuy

Chart 4



Source: Rightmove website [www.rightmove.co.uk](http://www.rightmove.co.uk) and raw data from EMHomeBuy

As demonstrated in the above scenarios the average monthly costs of accessing either a 50% share in a 2 bed flat or 3 bed house in the area is cheaper than buying on the open market. However, this is still considered to be unaffordable for those in the income target group set by the Homes and Communities Agency

of £19,000 a year or less,<sup>3</sup> suggesting that a range of percentages should be provided throughout the Borough.

## 7. Conclusion

Melton ward benefits from a number of amenities including various shops, a Doctors and Dentist practice and a school. It forms part of the West Bridgford urban area and has good transport links to other areas of the Borough and Nottingham City. These factors indicate that the ward is in a sustainable location for future development and would support the Governments' initiative of 'creating and maintaining sustainable communities'.

The ward has a resident population of 4232 people, measuring 4% of the total of the Borough's population. There are higher numbers of residents under 16 (19.3%) in the ward compared to the Borough as a whole (18.2%) suggesting that if these young people wish to remain in the locality affordable starter homes will be in high demand in a few years time. There are also higher numbers of couples under retirement age (19.5%) compared to the whole of Rushcliffe (15.8%) suggesting that a mix of accommodation will need to be considered.

The proportion of Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) residents in this area (6.1%) is higher in comparison to the Borough as a whole (4.1%). The largest BME population are Asian and Asian British comprising of 3.3% of the wards residents. The needs of BME communities will need to be considered alongside other groups in terms of property type and design to reflect cultural and religious diversities.

The average house price in Melton at the end of February 2009 (£227,500) is the 10<sup>th</sup> highest average price in the Borough. It is higher than the average for the same period in Rushcliffe (£207,269) and England and Wales (£153,512). In comparison entry level prices in the ward are lower here than in the Borough as a whole, indicating that first time buyers and single income households may be attracted to the area. The average rental prices in the ward in March 2009 also indicated that the area has an affordability problem, with deficits between the rent and the amounts that Local Housing Allowance covers.

There are slightly lower levels of owner occupiers (77.4%) in comparison to the Rushcliffe levels (78%) and extremely low numbers of general needs socially rented properties within the ward at 0.4%, (13 out of 3664 Borough wide). There are relatively high numbers of sheltered socially rented properties, 7% (72 out of 1030 Borough wide). Church Croft sheltered scheme is located within the ward and there are currently 323 households on Spirita's waiting list for this sheltered

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<sup>3</sup> 'Low Cost Home Ownership and the Intermediate Housing Market in the East Midlands Region', Housing Vision, 2008

housing scheme, suggesting that the provision of suitable accommodation for older people needs to be considered. There are few HomeBuy properties in the ward, 4.1% of the total for the Borough (12 out of 296 Borough wide). The Housing Cost Model also reinforces affordability issues.

The ward is relatively affluent when we examine the CACI Paycheck data 2008 with the average earning slightly higher than the average for England and Wales as a whole. However, it must be noted that higher income households usually mask those on lower incomes, distorting the average for the ward and thereby making it appear wealthier and more affluent than it actually is. When comparing the average entry level price for terraced properties with the average mean income, the figures suggest that a person would have to get a mortgage for 3 times their salary in addition to a 10% deposit. This figure is slightly lower than the mortgage, income ratio guidance level of 3.5 times an annual salary, suggesting that first time buyers may be attracted to the ward, suggesting that first time buyers may be able to access the market, however caution needs to be noted especially when taking account of the distorted lower incomes within the ward.

There are high numbers on the largest RSL waiting list in the area for general needs accommodation, 147 households for houses, 273 for flats and 4 for bungalows, compared to a low number of socially rented general needs stock, 4.4% of the Boroughs total. Demand for affordable housing, specifically rented accommodation, is in high demand across the whole of the Borough, although West Bridgford is nearly always applicants preferred choice.

Overall, the ward is in a sustainable location, the house and rental prices are extremely high and the demand for affordable housing is immense despite affordable housing completions within the Borough. This is a result of significant backlog of housing need and a falling stock of affordable homes through Right to Buy and HomeBuy stair- casing, coupled with rising house prices. There needs to be a continued emphasis on a range of solutions in line with the SHMA which suggest that 47% of the 60% affordable housing proposed should be social rent and 13% for intermediate housing (equivalent of 80% social rent, 20% intermediate on individual sites having regard to local circumstances) which will assist in meeting need and balancing the local housing market.