

## University of Manchester Q-Step Summer Project 2016

### Ref: #36 UoMQStep 2016 Affinity Sutton Housing

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**Organisation Name:** Affinity Sutton

**Team / Department:** Future Foundations Programme

**Address:** 6 More London Place, Tooley Street London, SE1 2DA

**Provisional title for project:** Working with the Future Foundations Programme to better manage housing assets through using data

**100 word abstract on what the project would probably undertake, and any data to be used:**

Affinity Sutton are rethinking how they gather, retain and analyze data. This project helps the asset management team understand the value of data they hold, use to conduct research and define their refurbishment/energy retrofit programmes. It will refine an existing model used to manage assets, combining data on housing conditions, financial performance and social factors. This business relevant opportunity uses data analysis to inform one of the core housing association functions.

Key outcomes:

- Undertake research evaluating the asset team's existing and future data needs
- Devise data specifications
- Help develop the asset model
- Analyse existing data models and data information requests.

**Key words (up to 12)**

Housing asset management, information hierarchies, business analysis, data models, quantitative evidence gathering.

## **Essential and desirable skills/courses that the student would need to have**

### **Essential:**

Punctual, reliable, committed, proactive, good communication skills, ability to work in a team, experience working with small to medium data sets, and data modelling.

### **Desirable:**

Experience of discussing data needs with non specialists. understanding of the challenges that housing associations face, strategic thinking, future proofing. Familiarity with statistical software packages, such as SPSS, Stata or R

**Where the work would be carried out:** This will be based at Affinity Sutton, 6 More London Place, Tooley Street London, SE1 2DA for 8 weeks during the summer. Working hours are 9:00am – 5:00pm Monday to Friday.

### **Preferred selection method (interview or other meeting)**

Interview or other meeting

### **Support and training offered by the organisation:**

Affinity Sutton are working with HACT, to provide support to the intern in the form of a weekly catch-up (phone or face-to-face, depending on location) and in structuring the research project.

### **Any issues of data confidentiality and/or IPR that would need to be resolved**

Successful applicant would need to sign up to Affinity Sutton's standard data handling / confidentiality policies

### **Supporting information: Brief background information on Affinity Sutton**

Housing associations have a long history in building and maintaining low-cost housing, collectively providing 1 in 8 homes in the UK as well as running a variety of projects to address key, economic, and environmental needs in their communities. Affinity Sutton Group, one of the largest Housing Associations in England, work in over 120 local authorities supporting people in over 57,000 homes.

Recent government policies have significantly reduced the public funding for both new building and retrofit. Housing associations are being forced to divert resources and make hard decisions between programmes. Now, more than ever, the challenge is to use robust quantitative evaluation to identify 'what works' and how valuable specific interventions might be to residents, the business and other stakeholders. To this end, Affinity Sutton are engaged in a transformative programme improving planning efficiency and service delivery.

### **Financial assistance offered by the company**

None