

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL FORUM

11 JANUARY 2016

JOINT REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR RESOURCES AND CORPORATE DIRECTOR COMMUNITIES

COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER UPDATE

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update to Town and Community Councils on Community Asset Transfer (CAT).

2 Connection to Corporate Improvement Plan and other Corporate Priority

- 2.1 Helping people to be more self-reliant: Taking early steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services.
- 2.2 Supporting a successful economy: Showing any links to sustainable jobs and growth.
- 2.3 Smarter use of resources: Ensuring that all our resources (financial, physical, human and technological) are used as effectively and as efficiently as possible and supporting the development of resources throughout the community that can help deliver our aims.

3 Background

- 3.1 In July 2015 Cabinet approved a proposal to improve the pace and extend the number of Community Asset Transfers within the County. This was further supported by the refreshing of the Asset Management Plan 2021, in line with the Welsh Government Best Practice Guide. The CAT priorities will be based on the agreed current Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) proposals and also on what is deemed to be likely to result from future MTFS proposals for 2017/18 onwards as outlined in the table below.

Priority	Asset type
Priority 1	Public toilets Parks pavilions Bus shelters Community centres
Priority 2	Playgrounds Playing fields (excl school fields) Bowling green
Priority 3	Miscellaneous assets

- 3.2 In October 2015 two letters were sent out to Town and Community Councils which outlined the Council's intentions to accelerate the pace of Community Asset Transfer and set out the process for community organisations and Town and Community Councils to follow.
- 3.3 Since 2nd November 2015, a CAT Officer has been in post to act as project manager for CAT in Bridgend, to help support the process and act as a single point of contact for local organisations wishing to pursue asset transfer.

4 Current Situation

- 4.1 Up to December 11th 2015, the CAT Officer been approached by 26 organisations regarding 30 assets.
- 4.2 Five formal Expressions of Interest (EOI) to date have been received (all from Bridgend Town Council). However, more are anticipated within the forthcoming weeks, as organisations gather additional information to inform whether they wish to pursue CAT.
- 4.3 Predominantly the majority of interest at present is coming from sports clubs and associations in relation to transfer of pavilions and playing fields – 50% of the enquiries (13) have been from sports clubs.
- 4.4 Enquiries from Town and Community Councils concern various amenities including public toilets, pavilions, bus shelters and community centres.

5 Effect upon Policy Framework and Procedure Rules

None

6. Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

- 6.1 An EIA for individual asset transfers will be prepared as appropriate.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1 There are no immediate financial implications as a result of this report.
- 7.2 The Council is forecasting a significant reduction in resources over the Medium Term Financial Strategy period and therefore Community Asset Transfer will be important to safeguard community facilities which the Council may not be able to maintain in future.

8 Recommendations

- 8.1 That the Town and Community Council Forum note the progress on Community Asset Transfer as outlined in the report

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January 2016

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Background documents:

Cabinet report entitled 'Community Asset Transfer' dated 14th July 2015