



Doncaster Council

Report

Date: 23rd January 2023

To the Chair and Members of the Communities and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel

COMMUNITIES AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY: COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER REVIEW

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Wards Affected	Key Decision
Councillor Joe Blackham - Highways, Infrastructure and Enforcement	All	No

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report presents the outcomes and recommendations resulting from the Communities and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel review, which considered the Council's Community Asset Transfer process. Community Asset Transfer (CAT) is a process that allows a community organisation to take over publicly owned land or buildings in a way that recognises the public benefits that the transfer will bring. During the review period, the Panel also considered the proposed Strategic Asset Management Strategy 2023-2030, scheduled for consideration by Cabinet on the 1st February 2023.
2. The Panel held a number of meetings to engage and seek the views of Officers, a National Membership Network supporting local community organisations and looked at the process and practice in another Local Authority. The Panel also looked at a range of case studies and heard the views of Members who had worked with groups involved in the process.
3. Once agreed the Panel's recommendations will be formally submitted to the Mayor and Cabinet for consideration.

EXEMPT REPORT

4. This report is not exempt.

RECOMMENDATIONS

5. That the Panel agree the following recommendations as included in Appendix A.
6. That the recommendations (incorporating the feedback provided on the proposed Strategic Asset Management Strategy 2023-2030) and a report outlining the findings of the review be forwarded to the Executive for consideration.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

7. This review identifies recommendations that seek to support and improve the Community Asset Transfer Process for the benefit of the communities and the Council.







BACKGROUND



8. As part of its developing work plan for 2022/23, the Communities and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel agreed to undertake a review to look at the Community Asset Transfer process within the Council, and provide observations and develop recommendations that could improve the process.
9. In order to develop its recommendations the Panel;
 - Held meetings with officers from the Assets Team and Stronger Communities Team.
 - Received a number of case studies providing examples of Community Asset Transfers in Doncaster and from another Local Authority.
 - Reviewed areas of best practice and the process undertaken by another Local Authority identified through the work of Locality organisation.
 - Considered research and insight provided by Locality organisation, a National Membership Network supporting local community organisations.
 - Heard from Panel Members who had experienced Community Asset Transfers through their own ward.
 - Considered and provided feedback on the proposed Strategic Asset Management Strategy 2023-2030, prior to Cabinet on the 1st February 2023.
10. The agreed recommendations will be sent as part of an outcome report that will set out the findings from the review and these have been set out in Appendix A.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

11. The Panel undertook a number of meetings and considered a range of information to consider the current Community Asset Transfer process and how this can be improved taking into account resources available to the Council.

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

Great 8 Priority	Positive Overall	Mix of Positive & Negative	Trade-offs to consider – Negative overall	Neutral or No implications
 Tackling Climate Change				✓
Comments:				
 Developing the skills to thrive in life and in work				✓
Comments:				
 Making Doncaster the best place to do business and create good jobs				✓
Comments:				
 Building opportunities for healthier, happier and longer lives for all				✓
Comments:				
 Creating safer, stronger, greener and cleaner communities where everyone belongs				✓
Comments:				
 Nurturing a child and family-friendly borough				✓

Comments:				
	Building and connections fit for the future	Transport digital		✓
Comments:				
	Promoting the borough and its cultural, sporting, and heritage opportunities			✓
Comments:				
	Fair & Inclusive			✓
Comments:				

Legal Implications

12. No Legal Implications have been sought for this report. Further specific advice can be provided in relation to any issues raised by the Panel.

Financial Implications

13. No Financial Implications have been sought for this report. Further specific advice can be provided in relation to any issues raised by the Panel.

Human Resources Implications

14. No Human Resources Implications have been sought for this report. Further specific advice can be provided in relation to any issues raised by the Panel.

Technology Implications

15. No Legal Implications have been sought for this report. Further specific advice can be provided in relation to any issues raised by the Panel.

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

16. The recommendations proposed within this review need to be considered by the Executive before they are implemented.

CONSULTATION

17. During the review consultation with Elected Members and officers was undertaken.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

18. None

GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

- CAT – Community Asset Transfer

REPORT AUTHOR & CONTRIBUTORS

Caroline Martin, Senior Governance Officer
01302 734941 caroline.martin@doncaster.gov.uk

Andrew Sercombe, Governance & Member Services Manager
01302 734354 andrew.sercombe@doncaster.gov.uk

Name & Title of Lead Officer

Scott Fawcus
Assistant Director - Legal & Democratic Services