

COMMUNITY ASSETS TRANSFER PROGRAMME UPDATE

BACKGROUND

The Council agreed a programme of potential Community Asset Transfers in 2013/2014 to help communities tackle the local issues of importance to them and achieve some or all of the following benefits:

- i. **Better community outcomes-** by releasing an organisation from its liabilities to the Council it can grow its work in the community. The Quirk Review noted that the crucial driver for asset transfer is not the disposal of assets per se but the empowerment of communities; any approach to community assets must therefore be seen in the context of the Council's aim to be an open and engaging Council that empowers communities and works in partnership with a range of public, private and voluntary organisations.
- ii. **Better Value for Money** – cutting costs through new, localised ways of working and involvement of volunteers as well as drawing in more resources, for example from parish councils.
- iii. **Greater support for our voluntary and community sector-** with opportunities for long-term planning by the community organisation involved in the building, including the ability to draw down external investment as well as greater freedom to tailor services to need. This support for local community organisations is urgent in the current climate and can make a real difference to long-run viability.

UPDATE ON PROGRAMME DELIVERY

Detailed work has been undertaken to assess the issues relating to each of the proposed Community Asset Transfers and ensure appropriate clauses are in place that are appropriate to protect the use of the land or building for the relevant community purpose. The update position in respect of the programme of transfers proposed for 2015/6 is as follows:

Completed

- Beacon Hall - transferred to Peasedown Parish Council
- Chapel Arts Centre, St James Memorial Hall, Bath

Subject to Final Approval by SMD

- 97/101 Walcot St to Genesis Trust, Bath
- South Wansdyke Leisure Centre to Writhlington Sports Trust
- Alexandra Bowls Club
- Bath Canoe Club

Approved and solicitors instructed

- Land North of Kelston Road – transfer to Bath Scouting Association
- WHISTY Hall, Radstock – transfer to WHISTY Community Association
- Former Midsomer Norton Railway Station, Silver Street, Midsomer Norton – transfer to Somerset and Dorset Railway Heritage Trust
- Midsomer Norton Town Hall and Other Land – transfer to Midsomer Norton Town Council/Town Trust

Approved and subject to further negotiation

- Percy Community Centre, Bath – transfer to Percy Community Association.

Subject to On-going Discussion and Consideration

- Fairfield House, Bath
- YMCA Broad St, Bath
- Timber Drying Shed, Spring Gardens Road to River Regeneration Trust
- 4 Abbey St to 44AD
- Batheaston Gardens, car park and PC block to Batheaston Parish Council
- Saltford Brass Mill to Saltford Parish Council

FURTHER POTENTIAL COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFERS

It is proposed that following additional areas are considered for the Community Asset Transfer programme during 2015/16 subject to the process now established to safeguard appropriate use of the land or building for the relevant community purpose:-

- Cleveland Pools

RECOMMENDATION

The programme for this work will continue in accordance with the agreed approach for 2013/2014 and the Council is asked to note this position.