

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING:	Resources Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel
MEETING DATE:	18 th March 2013
TITLE:	Community Assets Task and Finish Group Review
WARD:	ALL
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM	
List of attachments to this report:	
Appendix 1 Community Assets Report	

1 THE ISSUE

The Localism Act 2011 introduced two new duties for local authorities, known as the 'Community Right to Bid' and the 'Community Right to Challenge' which came into force in September 2012¹. This is also linked to a wider challenge facing local government to deliver efficiency savings and demographic changes with an increasing older population.

Prior to coming into force, the Resources Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel received a presentation about the 'Community Asset Transfer' from the Divisional Director of Policy and Partnerships at their meeting on the 16th July 2012².

We were keen to assist in developing the Council's approach to the community asset transfer so appointed a task and finish group at the meeting who would work with service officers to undertake case study visits. The task and finish group would enable us to identify good practice and undertake a policy development role to assist the Cabinet with implementing the requirements of the Localism Act.

Attached is the report of these findings to be delivered to Cabinet

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Resources Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel is asked to:-

- 2.1 Review and discuss the Community Asset review report and recommendations and provide any additional comments and amendments ahead of the report being passed to Cabinet for their response

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

¹ More information about 'Community Right to Bid' and 'Community Right to Challenge': <http://locality.org.uk/movement/policy/community-rights/community-bid/>

² Link to presentation received on 16th July 2012: <http://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/documents/s21939/Community%20Assets.pdf>

3.1 The Panel is being asked to advise Cabinet whether any specific recommendations fit within the objectives of the Council and should be taken forward. A recommendation from the Panel to act upon recommendation's made, does not cause a financial commitment for the Council to include objectives within a Service Delivery Plan. Any decision to include recommendations will be taken by Cabinet and will follow the appropriate democratic process.

4 THE REPORT

Full details of the outcomes of visits is contained within the final report attached

This report should be read in conjunction with the community assets appendix to the budget report considered by Council in February 2013, and the budget savings target also referred to in the 3 year financial plan³.

5 RISK MANAGEMENT

5.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

6 EQUALITIES

An EqIA has been completed. No adverse or other significant issues were found.

7 CONSULTATION

7.1 Select from: *Ward Councillor; Cabinet Member; Parish Council; Town Council; Trades Unions; Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel; Staff; Other B&NES Services; Service Users; Local Residents; Community Interest Groups; Youth Council; Stakeholders/Partners; Other Public Sector Bodies; Charter Trustees of Bath; Section 151 Finance Officer; Chief Executive; Monitoring Officer*

7.2 See Pages 6 and 7 of final report

8 ISSUES TO CONSIDER IN REACHING THE DECISION

8.1 Select from: *Social Inclusion; Customer Focus; Sustainability; Human Resources; Property; Young People; Human Rights; Corporate; Health & Safety; Impact on Staff; Other Legal Considerations*

9 ADVICE SOUGHT

9.1 The Council's Monitoring Officer (Divisional Director – Legal and Democratic Services) and Section 151 Officer (Divisional Director - Finance) have had the opportunity to input to this report and have cleared it for publication.

Contact person	Donna Vercoe
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³ <http://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=272&MId=3217&Ver=4>

Background papers	Resources Panel meeting 16 th July 2012- Community Asset Transfer Presentation 11 th February Resources Panel Community Asset Presentation – Cllr Paul Myers
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	