

POLICY AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY PANEL

Thursday, 14 October 2021

CABINET

Thursday, 25 November 2021

ASSET TRANSFER POLICY

Report of the Strategic Planning Manager

Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that

- (1) The Policy and Performance Scrutiny Panel considers and comment on the Asset Transfer Policy at Appendix A.**
 - (2) Cabinet approves the Asset Transfer Policy at Appendix A.**
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Summary

The Council has had a policy of Asset Transfers to town and parish councils since 1994. This document collates various previous related policy documents into a single and up-to-date policy that reflects this approach.

Focus for Scrutiny

To consider the Policy and make any comments ahead of final approval.

Statutory Powers

Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 i.e. the Local Authority's general power of competence, including power to act for the benefit of its area or persons resident or present in its area.

Strategic Implications

2. This Policy relates to taking decisions at the most local level, reflecting the Local First approach in the Corporate Plan 2015-2025.

Introduction

3. The Council has had a policy on Asset Transfers since 1994. This document collates the existing policy approach from previous documents into one document.

Asset Transfer Policy

4. The Council has transferred a large number of assets to parish and town councils over many years, enabling those more local councils to make decisions and manage facilities closer to the people who use and benefit from those assets. The Policy highlights the rationale and benefits of transferring assets.
5. The Policy reflects the existing policy approach to Asset Transfers, so is therefore helpful for new Council staff, as well as parish and town councils, to understand the approach.

Financial Implications

6. There are no implications arising directly from the policy. Work to transfer assets is carried out by services within existing budgets. Changes to asset ownerships are reflected in changes to the special expense element of the Council's Council Tax calculations, and service planning each year.

Risk Assessment

7. An up-to-date single policy document clarifies the approach for Council staff and parish and town councils.

Equality and Diversity Implications

8. The Equality Act is not relevant to the decision in this report because it is a report dealing with internal or procedural matters only.

Climate and Environmental Implications

9. Asset management decisions, including sustainability issues, will be a matter for the owner of any transferred asset (i.e. the parish or town council). The Council will work with parish and town councils to encourage sustainable approaches to assets as part of the Council's net zero carbon target by 2030.

Conclusion

10. The Policy at Appendix A reflects an existing and longstanding Council policy on Asset Transfers to town and parish councils.

DICCON BRIGHT
STRATEGIC PLANNING MANAGER

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Appendices Attached: Appendix A Asset Transfer Policy

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 - SECTION 100D

The following is a list of documents which disclose facts or matters on which this report or an important part of it is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. This list does not include any published works or documents which would disclose exempt or confidential information.

None