

## **Report to AMF on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2019**

### **Community Asset Devolution Policy**

#### **PURPOSE OF REPORT:**

- a) To initiate debate into the development of a Community Asset Devolution Policy that reviews the purpose, use and cost of all assets owned by the council to identify those assets required by the council to discharge its statutory duties, those best owned and managed by the council to deliver the aims of the council plan and those that may deliver greatest community benefit through ownership and management by the communities in which the lie.
- b) For AMF to review the draft Community Asset Transfer Procedure along with appendices A and B and make recommendations on any amendments required.
- c) For AMF to agree next steps bearing in mind the Careful Choices – Public Toilets Review report, in particular the approach to be used for the public consultation around this Community Asset Transfer procedure.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

The draft procedure along with appendices have been supported by SMT subject to a wider consultation.

#### **CURRENT POSITION:**

The Beer Pilot is a pilot project to explore opportunities for asset devolution within a locality. Challenges arose through having no clearly defined procedure, through having limited cost data initially and through creating a sound business case which supported the transfer of assets and worked for all parties. The attached Procedure along with appendices seeks to bring some structure and timetable to the procedure along making clear the fundamental principles and expectations, encouraging towns, parishes and others to come forward but only if there is a credible business case to do so.

There are wide opportunities across the District to consider asset devolution at a local level and many opportunities to EDDC, the transferee and the community of doing just this.

The Asset Transfer Procedure sets out a process for communities to follow, where they wish to initiate asset transfers. Applications must recognise that proposals must be on a broadly balanced basis where an asset with additional revenue earning potential must be balanced against other assets, which may while delivering community value also incur a community cost.

The overall aim of the Community Asset Devolution Policy should be to deliver benefits and opportunities to communities through the transfer of assets. Financial implications for both parties should be cost neutral in year 1, giving revenue earning and cost saving opportunities to communities and financial savings to the council thereafter.

Community asset transfers will not be appropriate in all instances but where they are appropriate this Procedure seeks to bring clarity and structure to the process and clearly sets out expectations and responsibilities.

Once adopted, EDDC intend to actively engage with others where opportunities clearly exist.

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