

Equality Impact Assessment – Community Asset Transfer

The Equality Act 2010 includes a general duty which requires public authorities, in the exercise of their functions, to have due regard to the need to:

- **Eliminate discrimination**, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act.
- **Advance equality of opportunity** between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and people who do not share it.
- **Foster good relations** between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not

In order to comply with the general duty authorities must assess the impact on equality of decisions, policies and practices. These duties do not prevent the authority from reducing services where necessary, but they offer a way of developing proposals that consider the impacts on all members of the community.

Authorities which fail to carry out equality impact assessments risk making poor and unfair decisions which may discriminate against particular groups and worsen inequality.

Introduction

Community Asset Transfer is the transfer of management and /or ownership of public land and buildings from its owner (in this case the local authority) to a community organisation (such as a Charitable Organisation, a Community Interest Company or Social Enterprise) to achieve a local social, economic or environmental benefit.

The Council could expect to be seeking the following benefits from community asset transfers:

- Neighbourhoods that support wellbeing and reduce social isolation
- Area wide benefits for the residents of Exeter City Council
- A sustainable voluntary and community sector
- Economic development and social enterprise
- Improvements to local services
- Value for money
- Delivery of Corporate Plan priorities

Stakeholders: Community and Voluntary Sector

Main beneficiaries of the new programme are:

- Benefits to the local community: these can arise from: building confidence and capacity; attracting new investment and reinvigorating the local economy; and securing stronger, more cohesive and sustainable communities.
- Benefits to the Council and other public sector service providers: these can arise from the creation of a new partner able to tap into additional resources; the ability to engage with a more cohesive local community; new service provision complementing and augmenting statutory services
- Benefits to the organisations taking management: these can include: financial security; increased recognition; power; management capacity and organisational development, and through having a secure base opportunities to expand and diversify.

Consultation

A survey will be promoted on the council website with targeted information to community groups across the city. No specific activities will be targeted at people with protected characteristic within the consultation programme but a wide range of community and voluntary organisations will be invited to participate in the online questions made available through council website and social media channels.

For each of the areas below, an assessment has been made on whether the policy has a **positive, negative or neutral impact**, and brief details of why this decision was made and notes of any mitigation are included. Where the impact is negative, a **high, medium or low assessment** is given. The assessment rates the impact of the policy based on the current situation (i.e. disregarding any actions planned to be carried out in future).

High impact – a significant potential impact, risk of exposure, history of complaints, no mitigating measures in place etc.

Medium impact – some potential impact exists, some mitigating measures are in place, poor evidence

Low impact – almost no relevancy to the process, e.g. an area that is very much legislation led and where the Council has very little discretion

Protected characteristic/ area of interest		Impact
Race and ethnicity (including Gypsies and Travellers; migrant workers asylum seekers etc.)	The proposals for a more open, transparent and more accessible process will open up opportunities for these organisations to benefit from Community Asset Transfer where appropriate in the future.	Positive
Disability (as defined by the Equality Act - a person has a disability if they have a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term	The proposals for a more open, transparent and more accessible process will open up opportunities for these organisations to benefit from Community Asset Transfer where appropriate in the future.	High

<p>adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. This can include mental health conditions, long term illnesses such as cancer and HIV, cognitive issues, learning disabilities and sensory impairments)</p>		
<p>Sex/Gender</p>	<p>The proposals for a more open, transparent and more accessible process will open up opportunities for these organisations to benefit from Community Asset Transfer where appropriate in the future.</p>	<p>High</p>
<p>Gender reassignment</p>	<p>The council does not currently provide any grant to organisations that specifically work with, provide services for people or are led by people who have undergone gender reassignment. The proposals for a more open, transparent and more accessible process will open up opportunities for these organisations to benefit from Community Asset Transfer where appropriate in the future.</p>	<p>Positive</p>
<p>Religion and belief (includes no belief, some philosophical beliefs such as Buddhism and sects within religions)</p>	<p>The council cannot provide resources for specific religion or beliefs, however the proposals for a more open, transparent and more accessible process will open up opportunities for these organisations to benefit from Community Asset Transfer where appropriate in the future.</p>	<p>Positive</p>
<p>Sexual orientation (including heterosexual, lesbian, gay, bisexual)</p>	<p>The proposals for a more open, transparent and more accessible process will open up opportunities for these organisations to benefit from Community Asset Transfer where appropriate in the future.</p>	<p>Positive</p>
<p>Age (children and young people aged 0 – 24, adults aged 25 – 50, younger older people aged 51 – 75/80; older people 81+; frail older people; people living with age related conditions. The age categories are for illustration only as overriding consideration should be given to needs).</p>	<p>The proposals for a more open, transparent and more accessible process will open up opportunities for these organisations to benefit from Community Asset Transfer where appropriate in the future.</p>	<p>Positive</p>
<p>Community relations</p>		

Human Rights		
Action	By when	
On line survey with community groups in the city	June 2021	

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