



CABINET – 28TH OCTOBER 2020

SUBJECT: COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER – DRAFT POLICY AND PROCESS

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION AND CORPORATE SERVICES

- 1.1 The report was considered by the Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee on 11th February 2020 and the Community Council Liaison Sub Committee on the 11th March 2020 as part of the consultation process.
- 1.2 The Liaison Sub Committee noted the comments of the Scrutiny Committee and its recommendation to Cabinet that the sentence *“Those assets which have the potential to generate significant capital receipts are not likely to be considered as suitable for transfer”* as set out in the “Guiding Principles used by the Local Authority” section of the draft Policy, the Community Asset Transfer – Policy and Process be removed.
- 1.3 Members expressed their concern that asset transfers would only be considered for the least desirable assets, those which the Council wanted to dispose of or could no longer afford to run. Assurances were provided that this was not a route to surplus asset disposal but a mechanism that would enable a community to retain something that has a community value, whether that was to continue an existing service provision or provide a new service to the community.
- 1.4 Members also expressed concern that Town and Community Councils had with reluctance taken on assets, like public toilets, rather than lose them and saw this as a way for the Council to make further budget cuts and would provide additional pressures to Town and Community Councils. The Officer advised that the policy would provide a common understanding with regard to community asset transfers, which could be easily understood, transparent and robust and confirmed that this document was based on Welsh Government guidance and addressed the need for Caerphilly County Borough Council to have a policy in place. The policy was not related to any budgetary considerations and sought only to provide options that would allow community asset transfers to take place.
- 1.5 Cabinet are asked to consider the recommendation from the Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee and the comments of the Community Council Liaison Sub Committee and subject to the aforementioned amendment endorse the draft Community Asset Transfer Policy and Process.

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Appendices:

Appendix 1 Covering Report to Community Council Liaison Sub-Committee 11th March 2020 and Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee Report 11th February 2020.