

PERFORMANCE & CORPORATE SERVICES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

17 APRIL 2026

Community Asset Transfer and Community Leasing Policies

Report by Vic Kurzeja, Director of Property and Assets

RECOMMENDATION

1. **The Committee is RECOMMENDED to**
 - i.) NOTE the Cabinet report, and
 - ii.) AGREE any recommendations it wishes to make to Cabinet

Executive Summary

2. This report seeks the Scrutiny Committee's views on the Community Asset Transfer (Annex B) and Community Leasing (Annex C) policies. These policies are scheduled to go to Cabinet on 21 April 2026.
3. The Community Asset Transfer (CAT) Policy (Annex 1) replaces the 2019 version and distinguishes asset transfer from community leasing. It sets out the council's approach to transferring ownership of council assets to community organisations at below market value to achieve public benefit. It aims to empower local communities, ensure assets that are no longer needed by the council are used for social good.
4. The Community Leasing Policy (Annex 2) establishes a framework for leasing council-owned assets - such as buildings and land - to community organisations at below-best value to generate public benefit. Community leasing is only available to appropriately constituted community organisations and charities that can demonstrate clear social, economic or environmental benefits for local communities. The policy aims to maximise community value while safeguarding council interests and strategic objectives.

Key Points for Cabinet Decision

5. The Cabinet report attached as Annex A identifies that Cabinet are asked to approve the CAT and Community Leasing policies. As part of these policies, this will also entail the establishment of the Community Asset Transfer and Community Leasing Working Group, which will be responsible for assessing applications as well as maintaining a list of properties available for CAT and Community Leasing.

Corporate Policies and Priorities

6. These policies support the Council's Strategic Plan 2025-28, Marmot Place projects and Property and Assets Strategy 2022. See Annex A (the Cabinet Report) for an expanded breakdown of these.

Financial Implications

7. All financial implications are included within Annex A (the Cabinet report).

Comments checked by:

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Legal Implications

8. All legal implications are included within Annex A (the Cabinet report).

Comments checked by:

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Staff Implications

9. These policies are procedural and do not require any new or additional staffing resources. The only changes they may make would be possible extra responsibilities for officers sitting on the working group.

Equality & Inclusion Implications

10. An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed for these policies (Annex D). This assessment does not identify negative impacts. Outcomes will be dependent on which VCS groups apply for a CAT or Community Lease.

Sustainability Implications

11. A Climate Impact Assessment has been completed for these policies (Annex E). This assessment identifies a positive impact.

