

## **CABINET MEMBER FOR PROPERTY, CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICES – 11 JULY 2016**

### **REVISED ASSET TRANSFER POLICY**

Report by Deputy Director for Environment & Economy (Commercial)

#### **Introduction**

1. The Asset Transfer Policy was last reviewed in February 2012 in light of lessons learnt following asset transfers under the Big Society initiative.
2. The Councils Asset Transfer Policy has been reviewed in light of lessons learnt regarding the last wave of asset transfers arising under Big Society. They have also been reviewed in preparation for the community initiatives coming forward under the Children, Education & Families Transformation Programme. A copy of the proposed updated policy is attached at Annex 1.

#### **Revisions**

3. The principal revisions of the policy are:
  - Making it clear that any subsidy, other than via community rent, shall be through direct grant funding rather than indirect premises support due to:
    - (a) a need to ensure transparency regarding levels of subsidy;
    - (b) a need to ensure community groups are motivated to reduce their premises costs;
    - (c) an ability to reduce subsidy over time where appropriate.
  - That subletting of premises at rates higher than those applied under the head lease are controlled to ensure that:
    - (d) community groups are not demotivated from making best use of assets;
    - (e) shared income can be gained by OCC where appropriate.

#### **Financial Implications**

4. There is no overall financial effect to the County Council regarding the principals within the report. Individual circumstances regarding income generation or subsidy will be reviewed on a case by case basis.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

5. The Cabinet Member for Property, Cultural and Community Services is RECOMMENDED to approve the revised Asset Transfer Policy.

MARK KEMP  
Deputy Director for Environment and Economy (Commercial)

Background papers  
Contact Officer

None  
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