

# Equality Impact Assessment Toolkit

## (January 2021)

### Section 1: Your details

**EIA lead Officer:** Simon Carrigan

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**Head of Section:** Shaer Halewood

**Chief Officer:** Paul Satoor

**Directorate:** Resources

**Date:** 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022

### Section 2: What Council proposal is being assessed?

Community Asset Transfer Policy

### Section 2a: Will this EIA be submitted to a Committee meeting?

**Yes / No**

**If 'yes' please state which meeting and what date**  
16<sup>th</sup> March 2022

.....

**Hyperlink to where your EIA is/will be published on the Council's website**  
<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/equality-impact-assessments>

**Section 3:** Does the proposal have the potential to affect..... (please tick relevant boxes)

- ☐ **Services**
- ☐ **The workforce**
- ☒ **Communities**
- ☒ **Other** (please state eg: Partners, Private Sector, Voluntary & Community Sector)

If you have ticked one or more of above, please go to section 4.

- ☐ **None** (please stop here and email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to [engage@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:engage@wirral.gov.uk) for publishing)

**Section 4:**

**Could the proposal have a positive or negative impact on any protected groups (age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation)?**

**You may also want to consider socio-economic status of individuals.**

**Please list in the table below and include actions required to mitigate any potential negative impact.**

<b>Which group(s) of people could be affected</b>	<b>Potential positive or negative impact</b>	<b>Action required to mitigate any potential negative impact</b>	<b>Lead person</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>
All protected groups	The community asset transfer is a mechanism to positively impact all members of the community. The policy encourages the setup of community-based organisations and cooperatives in our local communities and allows ownership of public assets to be run in ways that are beneficial to them and encourages more diverse models of engagement. It promotes wider opportunities for communities to deliver council services that will or have ceased as part of agreed budget setting. Therefore, the CAT policy provides a positive opportunity only.	No negative implications, the CAT process provides an opportunity	Shaer Halewood – CAT Project SRO	The duration of the CAT Process	The assigned budget as set in the 2022/23 budget

All protected groups	Communication to ensure wide and inclusive opportunity and engagement to develop a CAT	CAT communication plan to ensure that information will be provided in appropriate formats and that the CAT opportunity is appropriately communicated to ensure all members of the community are aware and able to express an interest. We will ensure that any communication and engagement plan is as accessible as possible and work with protected groups to offer information in different languages and formats upon request and within a reasonable timeframe.	Gail Mooney	The duration of the CAT Process	The assigned budget as set in the 2022/23 budget
All protected groups	Engagement with community groups	A business support package based on active community group engagement and networking arrangements. We welcome applications from all community groups and will offer any assistance as reasonable during the application and review process	Rose Boylan	The duration of the CAT Process	The assigned budget as set in the 2022/23 budget

#### **Section 4a:     Where and how will the above actions be monitored?**

Sections on equalities will be included within the expressions of interest template and the business planning template for community asset transfer, including requests for policies and or statements. All EOI and business plans will be assessed by Council officers, the mechanism for assessing and scoring an EIO will include the equalities dimension

#### **Section 4b:     If you think there is no negative impact, what is your reasoning behind this?**

Community asset transfer is a mechanism to positively impact all members of the community. The policy encourages the setup of community-based organisations and cooperatives in our local communities and allows ownership of public assets to be run in ways that are beneficial to them and encourages more diverse models of engagement. It promotes wider opportunities for communities to deliver council services that will or have ceased as part of agreed budget setting. Therefore, the CAT policy provides a positive opportunity only

#### **Section 5:       What research / data / information have you used in support of this process?**

The Council has recently approved the Budget for 2022/23 and as part of the that budget process there will be a number of Council assets that the Council will no longer have a requirement to run. These assets are highly symbolic and sensitive within community settings. As part of budget setting, Councillors agreed to provide a community asset transfer (CAT) policy, process and designated funding.

Community Asset Transfer (CAT), is a process by which assets owned by public bodies are transferred into community ownership or management, has been a widely adopted approach to local service delivery at a UK level since the New Labour government of the late 1990s and the subsequent coalition government of 2010- 2015 (Coates et al., 2021).

The national policy context since 2006 that has promoted the community management and ownership of assets (Local Government White Paper - Strong and Prosperous Communities, 2006; 2007 Quirk Review – Community Management and Ownership of Public Assets).

Recognised benefits of community asset transfer include:

1.       Protects community assets from being closed and ensures the long-term future of sport on the site
2.       Produces and develops a more sustainable business model for the site
3.       Enhances relationship between the Local Authority and the local community.

4. Local people are involved in the running and development of the services and assets that they use.
5. Community Groups have more opportunities to secure capital investment to develop the assets

To date Wirral Council has successfully transferred circa 20 community hall assets successfully and all remain open for the benefit of local communities

## **Section 6: Are you intending to carry out any consultation with regard to this Council proposal?**

**Yes / No –** (please delete as appropriate)

**If 'yes' please continue to section 7.**

**If 'no' please state your reason(s) why:**

No public consultation on the revised policy has been undertaken because the proposed policy draws on the current policy to a substantial extent and therefore does not represent any significant change to the way in which the Council manages asset transfers to the community.

(please stop here and email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to [engage@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:engage@wirral.gov.uk) for publishing)

## **Section 7: How will consultation take place and by when?**

Before you complete your consultation, please email your preliminary EIA to [engage@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:engage@wirral.gov.uk) via your Chief Officer in order for the Council to ensure it is meeting it's legal publishing requirements. The EIA will need to be published with a note saying we are awaiting outcomes from a consultation exercise.

Once you have completed your consultation, please review your actions in section 4. Then email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to [engage@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:engage@wirral.gov.uk) for publishing.

**Section 8:**      Have you remembered to:

- a)      **Select appropriate directorate hyperlink to where your EIA is/will be published** (section 2a)
- b)      **Include any potential positive impacts as well as negative impacts?** (section 4)
- c)      **Send this EIA to [engage@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:engage@wirral.gov.uk) via your Chief Officer?**
- d)      **Review section 4 once consultation has taken place and sent your updated EIA to [engage@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:engage@wirral.gov.uk) via your Chief Officer for re-publishing?**