

CAT Background and Process

In June 2021, Executive Cabinet approved a Community Asset Transfer ('CAT') policy. This – together with the Council's Disposal Policy which was approved in September 2020 – would allow the Council's property team to progress the potential disposal of a number of assets which previously, have thought to be suitable for transfer to community groups. A copy of the CAT report (and policy) is available for perusal via the following web link:

Community Asset Transfer – Item 7 –

<https://tameside.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=134&MId=5059&Ver=4>

In respect to the subject asset known as the Former Longdendale Children's Centre, the property was declared surplus to the Council's requirements as part of a report presented to Executive Cabinet on 22nd June 2022. Further to the approval of the CAT policy, the Authority would now be free to explore the potential of transferring the former Children's Centre to the most appropriate, interested party.

The CAT policy requires the Council to carry out a number of steps which are largely summarised within Appendix A of the policy. In addition to this, Section 12.1 of the policy provides full detail of what is expected at this initial stage which for ease, has been copied as per the below:

“Stage 1 – Expressions of Interest

- *All applications are to be initially directed to the Estates Team within the Growth Directorate (or successor team).*
- *Interested organisations are asked to complete and return an Expression of Interest form by a specific date outlined in the advertisement. The Expression of Interest form is attached at Appendix B*
- *The Expression of Interest form should outline a summary of how the asset will be used along with a summary of the anticipated benefits to the local community. A number of organisations may be asked to submit a full application for further consideration, this will be assessed further as described below.*
- *All Expressions of Interest will be presented to the Asset Management Working Group for consideration and the VCS organisation(s) will be notified of the outcome.*
- *Should the Asset Management Working Group support an initial application. The organisation(s) will be informed of the next stage.”*

As outlined above, once any expressions of interest have been received, these would be evaluated and reported to the Asset Management Working Group. Any interested parties should therefore look to complete and return the attached expression of interest form by **12 (noon) on Friday 7th October 2022.**

The Council have looked to make available as much information as possible in relation to the property. An open day would also be confirmed in due course when the property will be opened and interested parties would be able to benefit from internal access in order to determine the condition of the property. It would be necessary to contact the Council in advance in order to declare an interest and receive future details of the planned open day.

Following consideration of the Stage 1 expression of interest, any preferred bidders would be contacted following the initial assessment and invited to submit a full Stage 2 CAT Application Form and Business Case for consideration.