

Community Asset Transfer - Guidance for Organisations

Is CAT right for my organisation?

Is your group ready for asset transfer?

Whilst community asset transfer is a process in its own right, much of the work preparing for CAT is about capacity building your organisation in readiness. This means:

- Making sure you have the right people and skills leading and governing the organisation.
- Having the right structure (type of organisation) and protection (legal structure)
- Understanding and managing the risks that come with running a group and managing land and buildings.
- Being able to show how a building will help (and not hinder) your organisation in achieving the positive changes for people which your organisation exists to help.
- Having enough money and having robust plans for continuing to have enough money to run your group, its activities and land/ buildings.
- Having a written, useful plan of all the above

You need to consider whether your organisation has the skills, enthusiasm and person power to own and manage the land or buildings and whether there is strong community support. You will need to look at the finances – what is the likely income, what are the running costs, how will you maintain, repair and refurbish the land or building in the long term.

Groups who are eligible to apply for a CAT:

The Council will consider asset transfer to any community organisation. Appropriate groups may be area-based, around a particular social group or have some other 'community of interest'. The Council will not transfer its assets under this policy to private businesses which distribute profit or to political parties.

Groups must be able to demonstrate good governance and an appropriate legal structure, for example as:

- Town and Parish Councils
- Registered Charities
- Development Trusts
- Community Interest Companies
- Industrial and Provident Companies
- Community Benefit Societies
- Companies Limited by Guarantee
- A Constituted Body

Northumberland County Council hope that by taking on a CAT, the organisation will contribute to the corporate objectives of:

- Achieving Value for Money
- Tackling Inequalities
- Driving Economic Growth

If you would like to apply for a community asset transfer, have a think about how you would:

Gather evidence to show how the community and local people will benefit from the transfer?	
Gather evidence of community support for the transfer?	
Check that you understand Northumberland County Council's Asset Transfer Policy and if there have been other Community Asset Transfers nearby from which you can learn?	
Check that land and buildings in question really are assets and not liabilities – for example, they are liabilities if they cannot generate enough income to fund repairs, maintenance, and ongoing operational costs?	
Consider whether asset transfer is the right option and the best option for your organisation?	
Are you aware of Northumberland County Council's Corporate Priorities Achieving Value for Money, Tackling Inequalities, Driving Economic Growth? How does your proposal fit with these priorities?	

If you would like some help and advice, please contact:
communityassettransfer@northumberland.gov.uk

Additional information can be found here: [LOCALITY ASSET TRANSFER UNDERSTANDING \(mycommunity.org.uk\)](https://mycommunity.org.uk/LOCALITY%20ASSET%20TRANSFER%20UNDERSTANDING)