ORGANISATIONAL CHANGE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Monday 25h September 2017
Report Subject	Community Asset Transfer – Review of Progress
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Corporate Management and Assets
Report Author	Chief Officers, Organisational Change
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Community Asset Transfer plan continues with this being the third year of implementation and support.

There have been some key large scale asset transfers notably Connahs Quay Swimming Pool now being run and managed by Cambrian Aquatics and more recently Holywell Leisure Centre, the largest and most complex asset transferred to date

The Council remains committed to supporting its CAT programme and has undertaken a number of year one reviews as part of its commitment to understand their ongoing commitment and contribution to Community Benefits.

RECOMMENDATIONS	
1	That Members of Organisational Change Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the report and comment on and support the work undertaken in relation to the Community Asset Transfer programme of work.
2	Members note the supporting role Community Asset Transfer can play in developing Community Resilience and comment on how this might be developed in the future.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE WORK UNDERTAKEN LAST FINANCIAL YEAR ON COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFERS
1.01	Members will be aware that the Council formally re-launched its Community Asset Transfer (CAT) programme two years ago, since that time there has been significant progress in this area of activity.
1.02	In times of austerity the Council sought alternatives to the risk of wholesale closure of assets and instead sought to offer assets to the community for local communities to manage, run and develop. It is up to the community to consider if they are interested and the Council is fully supportive with Flintshire Local Voluntary Council in supporting groups to develop plans for asset transfer.
1.03	There have been some key large scale asset transfers notably Connahs Quay Swimming Pool now being run and managed by Cambrian Aquatics and more recently Holywell Leisure Centre, the largest and most complex asset transferred to date.
1.04	Other assets which have progressed through legal completion or are in the final stages of legal completion include the following:- - Argoed community centre and library (Café Isa); - Bistre Youth and Community Centre; - Connahs Quay Swimming Pool (Cambrian Aquatics) - Connahs Quay Youth Club; - Connahs Quay Allotments (Mill Lane); - Connahs Quay Scouts Building; - Connahs Quay Cricket Club; - Former Registrar's Office, Holywell; - Greenfield Bowling Club; - Gwernaffield Village Hall, - Hope Library; - Holywell library (Toe to Toe); - Holywell Leisure Centre - Mancot Library; - Maes Pennant Playing Field, Mostyn; - Mold RFC; - Mosytn Bowling Club, - Scout Groups, various; - Trelogan Community Centre;
1.05	The Council remains committed to supporting its CAT programme and has undertaken a number of year one reviews as part of its commitment to understand their ongoing commitment and contribution to Community Benefits. These groups have had a Community Benefit report completed in addition a meeting with the relevant groups has taken place to review progress. Feedback from these group meetings about Community Benefits will form part of a further scrutiny session where it is proposed a number of

	groups attend and speak about their own projects. At this stage no group has identified any major risks around their particular CAT or its ongoing viability.
1.06	In addition to the work detailed above these groups are developing wider skill sets within their local communities which are both transferable and which create community resilience. This is an important concept and adds additional value to the CAT process and community creating more resilient communities which are able to support each other, through developing new skills, confidence and knowledge.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	A capital allocation of £500,000, agreed as part of the Capital Budget setting process, has been set aside for a further two years to enable groups to develop their proposal and draw down funding to undertake relevant building works to the assets that are being transferred.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	Reports have been submitted to Cabinet and Scrutiny at regular intervals, presentation made to interested groups through Flintshire Local Voluntary Council as well as County Forum.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	**Risk** - That an asset transfer is not sustainable in future years and the CAT fails. **Mitigation** – A Community Benefit Agreement meeting is undertaken annually which explores future viability and benefits delivered. In addition to this there is the ability to meet with Officers should need arise to discus concerns around current and future business sustainability. In addition it is important to note that the freehold interest rests with the County Council who would if necessary step in and take the asset back and determine what action it would need to take at that point.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	None.

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	No documents included but note that the Community Asset Transfer Guidance Notes can be found on the Councils website. **Contact Officer:** Neal Cockerton and Ian Bancroft, Chief Officers, Organisational Change **Telephone:** 01352 703169 **E-mail:** neal.cockerton@flintshire.gov.uk, ian.bancroft@flintshire.gov.uk

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	**Community Asset Transfer** A Community Asset Transfer is the leasehold transfer of a Flintshire County Council asset to an organisation with a social purpose and plans to use the asset for the benefit of the local community. It is the transfer of the management and ownership of public assets (buildings or land) through the granting of a lease to a community based organisation who in return commit to providing community benefits via its use.