

Written submission from Dundee City Council

Disposal of Local Authority Assets

Thank you for your letter of 16 December 2014 regarding the above and respond to your questions as follows.

- **Does your authority have arrangements in place to hold some or all local authority asset in a separate land holding?**

No, Dundee City Council holds the asset until it is transferred through the Community

Asset Transfer process.

- **When disposing of, or transferring assets how are those assets valued. To what degree is this purely a financial valuation?**

When an asset is deemed suitable for Community Asset Transfer, a market value of the asset will be calculated. If the Voluntary and Community Organisation (VCO) seeking transfer of the asset can demonstrate to the Council how the transfer is likely to contribute to the local community, how the transfer may help to promote or improve the economic, social or environmental wellbeing of the area and how it relates to health and regeneration then a reduced price may be acceptable. In order to allow transfers to take place at a lower price the Council has to be satisfied that these terms can be appropriately met. In such cases, and subject to the Disposal of Land by Local Authorities (Scotland) Regulations 2010, the level of discount to be applied will be determined by a range of factors including the costs to the Council of holding the asset, the strength of the VCO's business case, the potential benefits to the community, access to funding and the risks involved. This is assessed during the Community Asset Transfer application process.

- **What is the attitude of the authority to the disposal of assets? Does your authority have a policy to encourage the disposal of assets to community groups?**

Dundee City Council's Community Asset Transfer Strategy was approved at the Policy and Resources Committee on 19th August 2013. The aim of the strategy is to set out a transparent, positive and proactive framework that enables and manages the transfer of assets from Dundee City Council to VCO's in order to bring about long term social, economic and environmental benefits to the community.

- **What is your experience of disposal and what difficulties has the authority encountered?**

There can be challenges regarding the support levels that are required to help groups to evidence need and consult within their communities, and the support role of others to help them go through the process, acquire an asset and sustain it.