

How to get started. Community Asset Transfer and Lease

Introduction

The Council recognises the vital role that community assets play at the heart of their local communities and the invaluable role they have in achieving the Council's corporate outcomes set out in the [Council Plan](#). We want to work with you to make this happen.

This page is for anyone who is interested in leasing buildings or land from Cheshire West and Chester Council for community benefit. This is known as Community Asset Transfer (CAT) and is defined more fully as:

“the leasehold transfer of a Cheshire West and Chester asset to an organisation with a social purpose and who plan to use the asset for the benefit to the local community”.

There is a guidance that supports this process which outlines how the Council will work with the community to meet the Council's vision to deliver a better integrated public service across the borough by creating efficient and fit for purpose community assets.

Here are some of the principles we agree in Cheshire West best support the transfer of our assets:

Principle 1: Supporting Communities: Ensuring our community assets are well managed and support the needs of our communities

Principle 2: Regeneration: Supporting place based regeneration to deliver the right services in the right location, based upon community need

Principle 3: Partnership: Working with local partners to integrate or co-locate services to provide a better offer or approach to communities, and to maximise income and opportunities

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Principle 4: Releasing: Releasing assets that no longer provide the best value for our communities or meet Council Outcomes

Principle 5: Transferring: Empowering communities to influence the use of assets in their area through transfers

Principle 6: Equality: Supporting equality across the borough, ensuring our assets, where possible, are all-inclusive and accessible

What are the stages?

Before you start - Come and talk to your Communities Team or your local ward Member

Here's who to contact:

Chester

ChesterLocality@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Ellesmere Port

EllesmerePortLocality@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Rural Communities

RuralLocality@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Northwich or Winsford

NorthwichWinsfordLocality@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Here's a list of all Cheshire West Ward Members

[Find my local Ward Councillor](#)

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Then if you then want to move forward your stages are:

Stage 1 - Expression of Interest: This can be made by an individual or community group. This is an online form and can be found on the Community Assets page of the Council's website.

Stage 2 - Business Model Application: This can only be made by a constituted community group and is the formal application stage of this process.

Stage 3 - Completion and Transfer of Asset: The final stage in the process which will be between the Council and an appropriate organisation.