

# **Corporate Services Policy and Performance Board**

## **Topic: Asset transfer to the third sector**

**Officer Lead: P. Searing (Property Services Dept - Tel Ext 2227)**

**Planned start date: June 2008**

**Target PPB meeting February 2009**

### **Topic description and scope**

To examine whether the Council should have an Asset Transfer Policy, how that policy should operate, the criteria to be applied when considering Council assets for transfer, post transfer monitoring and Council step in arrangements if the transfer fails to deliver agreed outcomes

### **Why this topic was chosen**

Asset Transfer is a means whereby the Council transfers a property asset to the voluntary sector to deliver a service to the Council at a more advantageous cost thus providing better value.

The Quirke review produced by the Chief Executive of Lewisham Council concluded in May last year that there are no substantive barriers to the transfer of Council owned assets to the voluntary sector, that risks can be managed and that when done properly, the benefits outweigh the risks.

The Government has accepted the Quirk recommendations and provided capital funding from the Communities Fund to assist such asset transfers to the voluntary sector.

The Council needs to assess the full implications of these developments for HBC, its voluntary sector partners and the residents of the borough.

### **Key outputs and outcomes sought**

A clear policy for submitting to full Council for implementation and subsequent incorporation into the corporate Asset Management Plan

### **Which of Halton's strategic priorities this topic addresses and the key objectives and improvement targets it will help to achieve**

Most voluntary sector bodies contribute to one or more of the Councils Priorities, examples including:

- **Urban Renewal** by putting to full use, buildings which may otherwise become derelict, perhaps with necessary repairs being funded from sources to which only the voluntary sector has access.

- **Employment** in providing direct employment or training for employment.
- **Health** in providing venues that can provide services to improve the health of the residents
- **Children and Young People** by providing places to meet and activities to enjoy that may otherwise be unavailable because of a lack of mainstream Council funding.
- **A Safer Halton** by providing venues which may encourage people to take part in community focused and personal development activities.
- **Improving Corporate Effectiveness and Business Efficiency** by facilitating the provision of additional new or supplementary low cost voluntary sector services to the public.

**Nature of expected/desired PPB input**

To participate in consultation with key stakeholders and contribute to the preparation of a new Asset Transfer Policy.

**Preferred mode of operation**

Working group overseeing consultation with HBC departments, voluntary sector representatives etc and research on the asset transfer experiences of other local authorities.

**Media/communication implications**

The approved Asset Transfer Policy and available surplus assets could be published to promote and encourage the provision of additional new or supplementary low cost voluntary sector services to the public.

**Agreed and signed by:**

**PPB Chair** ..... **Officer** .....

**Date:** ..... **Date:**.....