Community Asset Transfers in Kirklees

Cllr Moses Crook Deputy Leader and Housing & Transport Portfolio Holder Kirklees Council



Council Context

- CAT transfer of assets to community
- Financial reality in local government is a driver
- Alternative way to support and enhance community
- Ensure sustainable transfers
- Conflicting motivations and pitfalls

Kirklees CAT Policy

- **Process:** expression of interest; business case development; council assessment; then decision-making process (~18-48 months in total)
- Maintain community benefit: Transfer on long-leasehold with an ongoing requirement for community benefit
- Support at each stage:

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- Advice and triage: Are they eligible? Is an asset transfers right for the group? Is it right for the community?
- Investment: grants for urgent repair, adaptation or accessibility upgrade requirements; match-funding loans for further development (£490k in loans since 2013)
- Business case development: £5k-10k grants to fund independent professional advice (e.g. legal) (£73k since 2013)
- **Running costs:** 15% funded for Year 1, 5% for Year 2

Council benefits

- Preserve and unlock additional community benefits compared to private sale
- CATs can deliver financial savings; since 2013, community asset transfers have enabled:
 - Circa £300k revenue savings
 - Circa £2m capital savings

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 26 assets transferred to communities since 2013; five more in progress

Community benefits

- Community empowerment: local control to meet local community needs (can be built into the transfer agreement)
- Community impact:
 - enabling and expanding community group activities
 - Supporting community engagement by councillors and council services
 - an opportunity for responsive, place-based, community-led services from the council and other partners
- Investment and regeneration: new income and investment sources

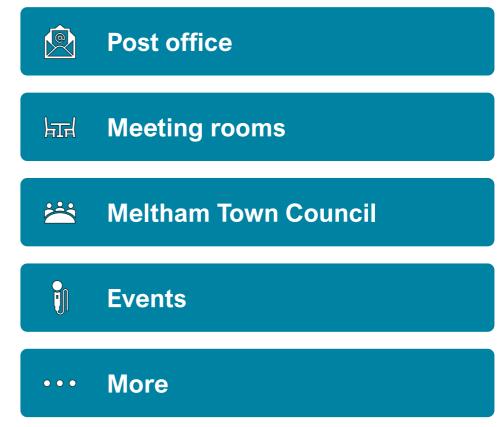


Meltham Carlile Institute

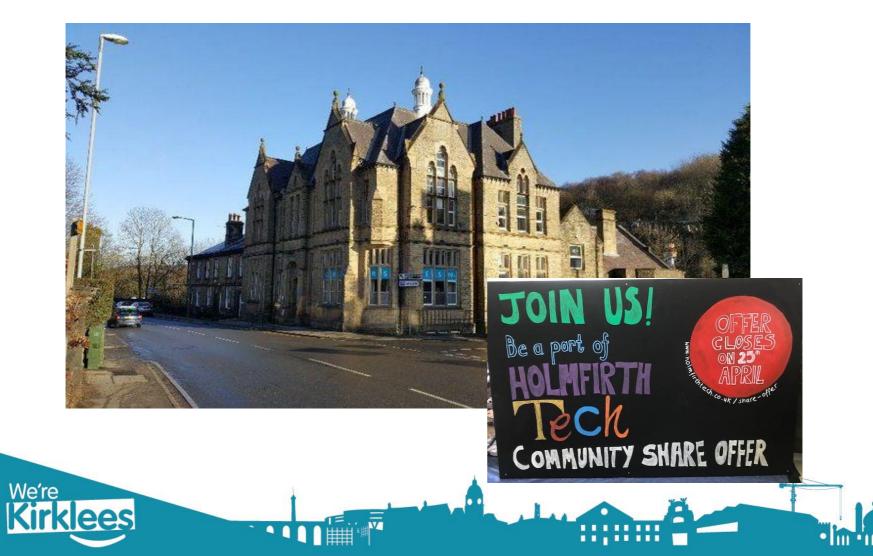


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Thank you!

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