

**Wiltshire Council**

**Cabinet Capital Assets Committee**

**14 September 2011**

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**Subject: Nomination to Wiltshire Community Land Trust Board**

**Cabinet member: Councillor John Thomson  
Adult Care, Communities and Housing**

**Key Decision: No**

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**Executive Summary**

Wiltshire Community Land Trust (CLT) has been recently set up by Wiltshire Rural Housing Association and was officially launched on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011.

Wiltshire CLT is a not for profit organisation aimed at helping local communities and neighbourhoods in towns and villages in Wiltshire and Swindon to meet locally identified needs through community ownership and management of local assets. Wiltshire CLT can help communities to set up local Community Land Trusts to own land for provision of community assets such as affordable homes, local workspace, community facilities such as shops and pubs, play areas and allotments.

Wiltshire CLT is overseen by a voluntary board of management chaired by Trevor Cherrett, former advisor to the Commission for Rural Communities. Other Board members are drawn from Wiltshire Rural Housing Association and Community First. A Board Member is also being invited from both Swindon Borough Council and Wiltshire Council.

**Proposal**

That the Council nominates a Member to represent Wiltshire Council on the Board of Wiltshire Community Land Trust.

**Reason for Proposal**

Wiltshire Community Land Trust has requested the co-option of a Member of the Council to serve as a Member of their Board.

**Graham Hogg  
Service Director of Housing**

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**Nomination to Wiltshire Community Land Trust Board**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To seek nomination of a Member of the Council to serve as a Member of Wiltshire Community Land Trust's Board.

**Background**

2. Wiltshire Community Land Trust is an umbrella body set up to promote and enable community ownership of sustainable assets in Wiltshire and Swindon through the vehicle of a Community Land Trust (CLT).
3. This ensures that the land asset in the community is held in trust for the long term benefit of the community rather than being held by a private owner or organisation.
4. Wiltshire CLT is a not for profit organisation. It has been set up by Wiltshire Rural Housing Association but acts independently. The CLT is overseen by a voluntary Board of Management chaired by Trevor Cherrett, former advisor to the Commission for Rural Communities and an expert on rural regeneration and development and was officially launched on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011.
5. The Board includes Members drawn from Wiltshire Rural Housing Association and Community First and is inviting Members from Swindon Borough Council and Wiltshire Council.

**Main Considerations for the Committee**

6. Wiltshire Community Land Trust's key aims are to;
  - a) Work closely with communities, parish councils, local authorities, community area partnerships and boards to identify need and target action

- b) Create delivery partnerships to deliver projects to meet locally identified needs.
  - c) Provide a development service to local CLTs
  - d) Provide support to community groups seeking to find land or other assets suitable for development and to deliver them through a CLT.
  - e) Hold and steward assets on behalf of communities until they are ready to take them on themselves.
7. These aims fit well with the Council's Business Plan goals, particularly enabling local, open and honest decision making and working with our partners to support Wiltshire's communities.
  8. They also fit well with Wiltshire's Sustainable Communities Strategy Vision which is **working together to create stronger and more sustainable communities**.
  9. Wiltshire CLT will work with local communities to help bring forward opportunities for provision of services and facilities identified as required by those communities. These can include a wide range of services and facilities such as local community-run shops and pubs, play areas, sports facilities, allotments, workspace and affordable housing.
  10. Community Land Trusts promote the retention and creation of jobs, greater social interaction and cohesion, increased confidence in the individuals volunteering within the community and stronger, more sustainable communities.

### **Environmental Impact of the Proposal**

11. There are no environmental impacts as a direct consequence of this report.
12. However, part of the work CLTs can do is to promote sustainable energy provision, locally grown food and other initiatives so support local communities more sustainably.

### **Equalities Impact of the Proposal**

13. There are no direct equalities impacts as a result of this report.
14. The development of Community Land Trusts enables all residents within a community to get actively involved in developing and delivering services and facilities within their community.

### **Risk Assessment**

15. The risk of not nominating a Member to the Board of Wiltshire CLT is that the Council will not have an active link at Member level to ensure close partnership working to help achieve the aims and objectives of both the Council and local communities.

16. There is a risk that active involvement of a Member of the Council on the Board of the CLT will compromise its independence. However, that risk can be mitigated by the Member declaring any interest when any assets, services or facilities of the Council are under discussion.

### **Financial Implications**

17. There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report

### **Legal Implications**

18. The Council is legally able to nominate Members to sit on the Boards of partner organisations.

### **Options Considered**

19. Members are able to consider the option of not nominating a Member to Wiltshire CLT's Board. However, this may mean links at a strategic and directional level are not maintained and the Council will not be able to directly influence the direction of the umbrella Community Land Trust for the benefit of local communities.
20. An alternative option would be to nominate a Senior Officer to the Board of Wiltshire CLT. However, that Officer would have limited decision making ability on behalf of the Council.

### **Conclusions**

21. It would fit with the Council's Business Plan and Wiltshire's Sustainable Community Strategy to become actively involved in the Board of Wiltshire CLT to help shape and drive the organisation forward to achieve the development and promotion of services and facilities by local communities for local communities through the vehicle of a Community Land Trust.

**Graham Hogg**  
**Service Director of Housing**

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Report Author: Janet O'Brien  
Head of New Housing  
Tel. 01249 706550  
Email. [Janet.OBrien@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:Janet.OBrien@wiltshire.gov.uk)

8 August 2011

### **Background Papers**

None

### **Appendices**

None