

Wiltshire Council

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

21 September 2021

Service devolution and asset transfer

Purpose of the report

1. To present the outcome of the current service devolution and asset transfer policy, seek comments on the policy development and outline the timetable for the policy review.

Background

2. The service devolution and asset transfer policy was first agreed by Council in November 2017.
3. Since that date asset transfers have been completed on following basis;

Town/ Parish	Assets transferred	Capital value	Annual revenue saving
Towns transfer complete	113	£ 5.732m	£ 1.345m
Town pending transfer	22	£0.784m	£0.127m
Parish transfer complete	2		
Parish transfer pending	23		
Public conveniences transferred	23		£ 0.195m
Total	183	£ 6.516m	£ 1.667m

4. There were savings generated from transfer of play areas which are not shown in table above.
5. It should be noted that there was significant additional officer resource required to enable the transfers to complete. The Council's response to the pandemic understandably led to a pause in the implementation of the policy and programme.
6. It is now timely to review the policy and programme. Policy objectives that could be explored with Town and parish councils are;-
 - How to enable towns and parishes to invest in services in their areas over and above the services that Wiltshire council provides without linking to asset transfer.

- How to streamline small scale asset transfers
 - Expanding the range of Wiltshire Council assets that could be transferred if part of a wider regeneration/ sustainability plan.
7. Policy objectives will be subject to consultation with Town and parish councils. It is anticipated that the consultation will take place over November 2021. Subject to consultation responses its is intended to report to Cabinet in early 2022 to reset the policy and programme taking into account resource requirements and appetite and engagement from the Town and parish councils.

Councillor Phil Alford, Cabinet Member for Housing, Strategic Assets, Asset Transfer
