

TROWBRIDGE AREA BOARD  
18 SEPTEMBER 2014

---

**COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER**

**The Halve Social Centre, Trowbridge**

**Executive Summary**

This report deals with an application for the transfer of The Halve Social Centre, Trowbridge to be transferred to Wiltshire Youth Marching Band in accordance with Wiltshire Council's Community Asset Transfer Policy.

**Proposal**

The Area Board is asked to consider an application submitted by Wiltshire Youth Marching Band for the transfer of The Halve Social Centre, Trowbridge. The applicants' proposal is set out at Appendix 2.

**Reasons For Proposal**

This proposal supports and implements Wiltshire Council's Community Asset Transfer Policy.

**Recommendation**

To approve the transfer.

**Rachel Efemey**

Trowbridge Community Area Manager

---

**COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER**

**The Halve Social Centre, Trowbridge**

**Purpose of Report**

1. The Area Board is asked to consider an application submitted by Wiltshire Youth Marching Band for the transfer of The Halve Social Centre (see plan attached at Appendix 1). The applicants' proposal is set out at Appendix 2.

**Background**

2. Wiltshire Council is supporting the principle of the transfer of community assets in order to empower and strengthen local communities. The Council believes that transferring appropriate public assets to communities leads to more responsive services that better meet local people's priorities.
3. Transfer of an asset can also provide the opportunity to lever more resources into a community and provide a more accessible and responsive base from which to deliver local services.
4. A community group or organisation can benefit from greater financial stability and build confidence through having ownership (or long term security through a lease) of a physical asset. This financial sustainability can help the organisation become less dependent on grants, provide security for further borrowing and opportunities for further growth.
5. Typically, organisations that would be considered appropriate are Voluntary and Community Groups/Associations, Town or Parish Councils, Trusts or Charities, or Social Enterprise Groups.

**The application before the Area Board**

6. The application from Wiltshire Youth Marching Band is attached at Appendix 2 and relates to the transfer of The Halve Social Centre.
7. The application was submitted in accordance with the Council's application process and meets the requirements for consideration by the Area Board.
8. The Community Area Manager has consulted with Strategic Property Services, who have undertaken appropriate consultation with service departments across the Council. Local consultation has been undertaken

by the applicant in accordance with the application checklist and the outcome of the consultation is included within the application. Councillors Graham Payne & John Knight the local members, has been apprised.

### **The views of Council officers**

9. On behalf of the Council, Strategic Property Services (who have overall responsibility for the Council's estates and property) has provided the following observations to the Area Board.
  - 9.1 The building is currently empty and is becoming a magnet for itinerants and drug users.
  - 9.2 Access to the property is via a narrow footpath from The Halve.
  - 9.3 Due to the nature of the access and the nature of the building the property is of low value. In addition, because of the building's situation and attraction for unauthorised users, security costs are high.

### **Recommendation**

10. To approve the transfer.

**Rachel Efemey**

Trowbridge Community Area Manager

---