

**WILTSHIRE COUNCIL**

**TROWBRIDGE AREA BOARD**

**14 MARCH 2013**

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**COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER**

**Allotment Sites at Trowbridge**

**Executive Summary**

This report deals with an application for the transfer of three allotment sites at Trowbridge to be transferred to Trowbridge Town Council in accordance with Wiltshire Council's Community Asset Transfer Policy.

**Proposal**

The Area Board is asked to consider an application submitted by Trowbridge Town Council for the transfer of three allotment sites in Trowbridge.

**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

**WILTSHIRE COUNCIL**

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**Allotment Sites at Trowbridge**

**Purpose of Report**

1. The Area Board is asked to consider an application submitted by Trowbridge Town Council for the transfer of three allotment sites at Trowbridge. The applicant's proposal is attached at Appendix 1 and the plans at Appendices 2-4.

**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 Trowbridge Town Council relates to the transfer of three allotment sites at Mornington Gardens (edged red on the plan at Appendix 2), Home Farm (edged red on Appendix 3) and Gloucester Road (edged red on Appendix 4), Trowbridge.
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. The local members, have 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 Wiltshire Council manages Mornington Gardens and Home Farm allotments.
  - 9.2 Gloucester Road allotments are subject to an agreement with Gloucester Road Allotment Association. The agreement is for 25 years from 2008.
  - 9.3 Access to Mornington Gardens is over a track which will be retained by Wiltshire Council. This also provides access to the adjacent garages and the playing field at St Augustine's Catholic School. The other sites have direct access from the highway.
  - 9.4 The land is to be transferred on the standard basis. This is that there will be a covenant restricting use of the land to community purposes. If the land should cease to be used for this purpose it will revert to Wiltshire Council.
  - 9.5 The land has no value other than as allotment land and any operational costs and income will be dealt with under service delegation provisions. Therefore, there are no financial implications arising from the transfer.

### **Recommendation**

10. To approve the transfer.

**Rachel Efemey**

Trowbridge Community Area Manager

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