

# WIRRAL COUNCIL

CABINET – 4<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2008

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF REGENERATION

## **ADVANCING ASSETS FOR COMMUNITIES**

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### 1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 Wirral has been selected to participate in the Advancing Assets Demonstration programme which is led by the Development Trusts Association (DTA) on behalf of the Government. Members are asked to confirm Wirral's participation in the programme and to agree the details of a support package proposed by the DTA.

### 2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 In May 2007 the Communities and Local Government Department published "Making Assets Work" the report of an independent review led by Barry Quirk. This looked at how to tackle the barriers that can get in the way of local authorities and other public bodies transferring the management or ownership of surplus or disused buildings or land to community organisations.

2.2 In 2007/08 a consortium led by the Development Trusts Association supported partnerships in 20 areas to demonstrate what works in asset transfer and find the best practice. A further 18 pilots which include Wirral have been selected and were announced by the Department of Communities and Local Government on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2008 as part of their launch of a white paper called "Communities in Control: real people, real power".

### 3.0 SCOPING AND SUPPORT PACKAGE

3.1 Wirral's proposal for the pilot was to develop a Wirral wide structure to assist the 20 community centres supported by Wirral Council to:

- identify opportunities for shared resources and partnership working
- make stronger links to national organisations
- share relevant skills such as financial and administrative
- develop sustainable business plans

3.2 Individual centres with established Joint Management Committees would be offered assistance as part of the programme to become self-managing.

3.3 Following a scoping meeting with the D.T.A. a proposed support package has been agreed as set out in Appendix 1. This includes a programme of workshops and seminars involving members, council officers and community representatives.

#### 4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 All the costs of the support package would be met by the DTA.

#### 5.0 STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There would be no additional staffing requirements to undertake the programme set out in Appendix 1.

#### 6.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Community centres provide services to all members of the community.

#### 7.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are none arising from this report.

#### 8.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are none arising from this report.

#### 9.0 PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are none arising from this report.

#### 10.0 ANTI-POVERTY IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are none arising from this report.

#### 11.0 SOCIAL INCLUSION IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are none arising from this report.

#### 12.0 LOCAL MEMBER SUPPORT IMPLICATIONS

12.1 The programme would operate across Wirral.

#### 13.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

13.1 There are no background papers.

#### 14.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

14.1 That Wirral's participation in the pilot programme be confirmed and the proposed support package provided by the Development Trusts Association be accepted.

ALAN STENNARD  
DIRECTOR OF REGENERATION

This report was prepared by Jim Lester who can be contacted on 666-4725.