



Community Asset Transfer

A Community Asset Transfer (CAT) is, broadly, the change of ownership or management from a statutory authority to a voluntary sector organisation for the benefit of a community. There are a number of drivers from a statutory perspective to develop CAT processes, reductions in public sector funds, meeting government 'localism' agenda and supporting a vibrant voluntary sector.

Manchester City Council has supported this type of activity for many years albeit not within a formal CAT strategy.

Increasingly with a number of vacant buildings and a need to explore alternative approaches to the management of public assets such as parks the council has a need to support groups and agencies interested in managing their own asset and wants to ensure any solution is sustainable and beneficial to the group, wider community and the council.



Nationally there has been work undertaken to develop CAT processes and up to March 2015 a series of £10,000 grants were made available to individual groups seeking asset transfers through Social Investment Business and most recently a national pilot called COMA sought to pilot new approaches to CAT.

Against this background an informal partnership was developed between Manchester City Council, Macc, 4CT and Steve Conway to pilot a new approach for Manchester. One of the aims was to try and devise a clear process for community groups who were considering taking on an asset. This work is ongoing.

If you have an asset in mind and would like to enquire about its availability you can contact Steve Higgins - Community Asset Transfer Manager at the city council, on 0161 234 3199, or email: s.higgins2@manchester.gov.uk.

Or, if you do not have an asset in mind but you are interested in exploring asset transfer for your community group, you can contact Macc on 0333 321 3021 or email: info@mcrcommunitycentral.org.