

Community Right to Challenge and Assets of Community Value

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Community right to challenge

- A legal framework allowing community and employee groups a right to bid for council services.
- Bid has to set out how service will be delivered and the benefits that will accrue.
- Council has to consider and respond formally with the reasoning for its decision.
- Acceptance triggers a competitive procurement.

District service opportunities

- Public open space & grounds maintenance
- Community facilities & their management
- Leisure facilities & their management
- Community development
- Sports development
- Arts development
- Public conveniences & their management
- Customer services
- Emergency planning response
- Litter picking
- Street sweeping (non mechanical)

Practical considerations

- Does proposer have capability (skills, knowledge & experience) and capacity?
- Is proposal a sustainable long term solution?
- Is the residual district council service viable if the bid is for part of a service?
- Does the overall solution add value?
- Is a bid under the legal framework the best approach – is negotiation better?

Assets of community value

- A legal framework providing an opportunity for community organisations to bid to acquire land or property used for community benefit when it is disposed of by its owner.
- Procedure is complex and highly prescribed.
- Listing of asset can be appealed by owner and is limited to 5 years.
- Does not create any obligation on owner to sell to any party if they chose not to.

Potential assets of community value

- Community centres
- Leisure facilities
- Church and village halls
- Places of worship
- Schools and colleges
- Sports clubs & pitches
- Social clubs
- Public open space
- Playgrounds
- Public conveniences
- Local shops
- Public houses
- Filling stations
- Post offices
- Doctors surgeries
- Local hospitals
- Cinemas
- Theatres
- Car parks
- Care homes

Practical considerations

- Are you an eligible nominee? (Parish Councils are!)
- Is the land or property eligible to be listed?
- Can you demonstrate current or recent “community value”?
- Can you actually fund purchase of the asset if the opportunity to acquire it presents?
- Can you afford to maintain and run the facility in the longer term if you buy it?
- Is the asset being used actually the best sustainable solution to meeting your needs?

More information

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