

ASSET TRANSFER

South Tyneside Council

South Tyneside Community Asset Transfer

South Tyneside Council is the midst of a major programme of community asset transfer which is empowering communities and charity groups to take over the running of local public assets.

Local authorities across the country have faced difficult decisions and have been challenged to find effective and efficient solutions to the continued delivery of valued local services. Proactively embracing the values and models of a Cooperative Council, South Tyneside has taken steps to prioritise community partnership initiatives and cooperative models of working, including developing a new Cabinet Portfolio for the Voluntary Sector, Partnerships and Cooperatives.

Councillors and officers are determined to ensure that, in the face of immense financial and efficiency challenges, much-loved South Tyneside community spaces and services are not simply closed, dismantled and sold off to the highest bidder. Instead, the Council has worked to ensure these resources are retained within the community and used as a vehicle to grow community capacity and engagement.

This year has seen an acceleration of the cooperative agenda, with 12 formerly Council-run community associations currently being supported to draw up business plans and begin the process of being transferred directly into the hands of the local people who use them.

The process is being managed with care, with a focus on ensuring that community management is both financially sustainable and empowering and worthwhile to the individuals involved.

Business delivery plans, drawn up with Council support, identify new opportunities for commercial initiatives and routes to accessing new sources of charitable funding, with the aim of ensuring future financial independence and sustainability.

South Tyneside Council has long recognised the value of cooperating with community partners and service users to deliver services effectively. The current community asset transfer programme goes further, empowering communities with these assets, and equipping them with the skills and support needed for them to manage and set priorities for the delivery of their own spaces and activities.

For further information contact:

Mike Conlon

Operations Director – South Tyneside Council

Mike.Conlon@SouthTyneside.gov.uk | Tel: 0191 424 7765