

Jane Hutt AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Weinidog a'r Prif Chwip
Deputy Minister and Chief Whip



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref JH-/01249/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair, Petitions Committee

11 January 2021

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter to the Minister for Housing and Local Government dated 16 December and regarding petition P-05-1112: Help Welsh Communities Buy Assets of Community Value. I am responding as community asset transfer falls within my portfolio.

The petition is seeking to bring into force the assets of community value (ACV) measures contained in Part 5 Chapter 3 of the Localism Act 2011. Welsh Ministers decided not to bring these measures into force in Wales at the time but to instead keep the matter under review. A scheme was implemented in England in 2012 with very mixed results.

Each local authority in England has implemented the scheme differently. There is no central source of information on outcomes such as whether assets transferred into community ownership as a result of listing and/or whether successful transfers delivered community benefit. We do know that an ACV scheme would place an additional burden on our local authorities as additional resources would have to be deployed which means additional cost.

In Wales community asset transfers happen regularly although we do know that our local authorities also have differing processes. The landscape is now very different to when the Localism Act was passed. Austerity has meant public bodies are more likely to consider transfers in a more favourable light. We have recently carried out research into the experience of community groups (as well as town and community councils) taking on community assets and the barriers to transfer. This will be published in the spring.

Covid-19 and the continuing crisis has identified how important community support is to the people of Wales, especially the most vulnerable in our communities. I believe that

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

community assets can provide a focus for community action and that they will play a part in a fair and just recovery from Covid-19. The pandemic has also provided us with opportunities to revisit how we approach issues such as the community ownership of assets.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane Hutt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line above the first name.

Jane Hutt AS/MS

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