**CAT Stage 2 update**

Since Blackhall Community Trust lodged its CAT Stage 2 application with the City of Edinburgh Council in late 2018, there has been considerable progress in the community asset transfer process, despite significant delays caused by the Covid 19 pandemic and most recently by the upholding of a complaint about the Stage 2 process.

BCT therefore proposes to resubmit the original documentation on which the decision to proceed with the asset transfer was based, as this documentation also supported the successful Court of Session process to overturn the inalienable common good status of the land concerned. One adjustment (to the original submission) is proposed.

**Footprint adjustment**

BCT would like to take this opportunity to amend / reduce the footprint of land being requested. As the process to formalise the transfer of ownership of the land progressed, BCT continued to work on designs for a building to replace the current Ravelston Park Pavilion which sits on the land in question. In the process of working up a more detailed design, the BCT board and the architect found that a more compact building layout would work better for a variety of practical reasons and also require a smaller footprint of land than originally requested. This would also mitigate the impact on the grassy area of the park/playing field, which was noted as an area of concern by some community members. The revised layout does not otherwise affect any aspect of the business plan, as the planned functions of the building remain unchanged.

The attached plan shows the original area of land requested (and approved) and the new, reduced area of land which BCT is now requesting as part of the CAT Stage 2 re-submission.

**Progress to date**

After BCT’s first CAT Stage 2 application was approved by the Council in 2019, a Court of Session process was initiated to remove the inalienable common good designation of the land being transferred. After extensive delays, many Covid-related, this process was successfully completed in April 2021. Solicitors were then engaged by CEC and BCT to handle the conveyancing work. Towards the end of 2021, however, just as good progress was being made, the process was halted by CEC because of a technical challenge to the CAT2 process. Hence this re-submission.

In the meantime, BCT has secured Awards for All funding for the professional work required to support a planning application, and Scottish Government Strengthening Communities Programme funding for 3 years to cover the cost of a business development professional to support the move to the next stage of the project, i.e. to apply for planning permission and put together a funding package for a new building.

This new building is desperately needed to help with the number of 1140 hours places available at Blackhall Nursery, to provide a much-needed additional space for community groups to use and for BCT to develop the other community services to which it is committed.