



INSTRUMENT NAME: 2.1 COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER

Pondscape-specific definition: Local or national governments can transfer community organisations the ownership or management of public assets (e.g., land) at less than market value (low or no cost). The government can require that in return the community group manages the assets in line with some restrictions or objectives. By doing so, they can transfer the costs of managing that land (and delivering societal objectives, such as implementing and managing ponds) to community groups.

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| CATEGORY | Contracting approach | | | |
| ALSO-KNOWN-AS | | | | |
| RELATED INSTRUMENTS | Public private partnership | | | |
| APPROPRIATE FOR: Who can use this type of financing instrument? | Pondscape developer | NGOs and non-profits | Local/city/regional govt. and agencies | National govt. and public agencies |
| SOURCE OF FINANCE: Who provides the finance? | Community organisation | | | |
| PAYMENT FORM: What form is the payment? | Reduction of costs (due to the transfer of assets). Cash payment for the asset (generally at below market value). | | | |
| IN RETURN FOR WHAT? What is the NBS project obliged to deliver in return? | The organisation that receives the community asset commits to managing the asset in line with societal objectives, e.g., they could be required to create and maintain ponds and public access. | | | |
| RECIPIENT REQUIREMENTS: What requirements must recipients meet to receive finance? | The local/city/regional or national government must have assets that they can transfer. | | | |
| PROJECT REQUIREMENTS: What requirements must the pondscape project meet? | The recipient must commit to managing the community asset in line with societal objectives (e.g., management of ponds). | | | |
| OTHER REQUIREMENTS: What additional requirements are attached to the financing? | -There must be willing and capable community organisations to take on the assets. - There must be a regulatory framework that allows community asset transfer at below market value (in some countries, this may be restricted by national legislation). | | | |
| SPEED: How quickly do recipients receive money? | Fast (<4months) – Medium(5-12months) – Slow (12months+) | | | |
| FUNDING TIMELINE: When does the recipient receive the funding? | One-off payment for transfer of the asset (generally low, below market value) Ongoing reduction in management costs. | | | |
| NBS TYPE: What types of NBS is the financing for? | Pondscape <u>creation</u> | Pondscape <u>restoration</u> | | Pondscape <u>management</u> |
| SCALES: What scale of financing? | Small (<€10k) | Medium (€10k-€99k) | Large (€100k-€999k) | Very large (€1million+) |
| COMPLEXITY: How complex is applying for the finance | Simple | Medium | Complex | |
| EXIST NOW IN EU? | Yes | | No | |
| REFERENCES: | Locality (2018) Understanding Community Asset Transfer: A guide for community organisations. Power to Change. https://www.powertochange.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Understanding-CAT-Guide-for-Community-Organisations.pdf | | | |



Instrument: 2.1 Community asset transfer example

Example name: 2.1.1 Chapman's Pond Community Interest Company

Example description: Chapman's Pond is an urban pond that provides a habitat for local biodiversity, while serving as site for educational and recreational activities such as fishing, volunteering, or school excursions. The management of the lake was transferred from the City of York Council to the community organisation 'Chapman's Pond Community Interest Company,' which aims to maintain and enhance the value of site for the public and the natural environment. This community asset transfer is in the form of a ten-year lease at below market rates.

| NBS DESCRIPTION | |
|--------------------------|---|
| LOCATION | York, UK |
| NBS TYPE | Creation Restoration Management |
| ECOSYSTEM TYPE | Pondscape |
| NBS BENEFITS | Habitats for insects and plants; Conservation value; Education and research; Recreation and well-being |
| NBS DESCRIPTION | The site is a designated public open space located in a residential urban setting, where the pond and its surrounding natural environment is valued as a site for fishing, dog walking, relaxing, picnics, etc. Although there is no exhaustive up to date species survey, volunteers are engaged in providing and enhancing habitats for the local flora and fauna, which provides further opportunities for environmental education. |
| SCALE (SIZE) | 2.6 ha, with 1/3 covered by the lake and 2/3 being woodland and meadow |
| NBS PERFORMANCE CRITERIA | The management plan 2021-25 lists measures to manage the landscape, the fisheries, and the public usage and is considered to be successful if the pond <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is maintained to the satisfaction of the stakeholders and the wider community, • provides a safe, attractive public open space for in-/formal recreation, • provides a haven for wildlife and development increases its biodiversity, • provides a safe venue for informal and formal educational opportunities, • obtains and then preserves its Green Flag status. |
| NBS PERFORMANCE | Not reported |
| FINANCING DESCRIPTION | |
| SOURCE OF FINANCING | The Chapman's Pond Community Interest Company, a not-for-profit community organisation run by local volunteers and few part-time employees. |
| RECIPIENT | The City of York Council |
| SCALE (FINANCING) | Not reported; the council reduces its costs by transferring pond management to The Chapman's Pond Community Interest Company |
| TIMELINE | The current lease is for 10 years and might be ongoing or one-off |
| FINANCING REQUIREMENTS | The asset transfer had to be formally assessed as very-low-risk by a public authority. The community management of the site was first tested for a period of three years, during which it demonstrated desirable outcomes such as a restored fish population and improved landscapes. |
| FINANCING PERFORMANCE | The Chapman's Pond Community Interest Company can sustain the management of the NbS and afford the below market value lease by issuing annual fishing permits (free for under 12's; £10.00 for juniors aged 12-16; £30.00 for adults). Together with the work of volunteers, this model is regarded to be responsible for substantially better outcomes than public management and funds were able to achieve in the past. |
| TRANSACTION COSTS | Community hearings were held and a formal report assessed the potential risks and opportunities of an asset transfer as very low. Monetary costs for this report or the community consultations are not reported. The community organisation had to be fully constituted, formally registered, and insured. |
| REFERENCE | chapmanspondyork.org Chapman's Pond Community Interest Company (2021) Chapman's Pond Management plan 2021 – 2025. Available here: https://www.chapmanspondyork.org/management-plan |





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