



**Information Governance Team**

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26 February 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)**

**Request ID: FOI677114795**

Thank you for your request for information relating to Community Asset Transfer for Bosnian Community in Coventry. We apologise for the delay in responding to your request.

You have requested the following information:

**We are interested in exploring the possibility of obtaining a property through a Community Asset Transfer or other relevant schemes that the council may offer. Our vision is to establish a dedicated space that would serve multiple purposes:**

- **Providing support and activities for elderly members of the community to combat isolation and promote wellbeing.**
- **Offering resources, mentorship, and programs for disadvantaged youth to empower them and help them achieve their potential.**
- **Preserving and celebrating Bosnian heritage, fostering greater cultural understanding and integration within Coventry.**

**We would greatly appreciate it if you could provide us with the following information:**

- 1. The process and requirements for a Community Asset Transfer or similar initiatives.**
- 2. Details of any available council properties that may be suitable for our purposes.**
- 3. Guidance on any additional resources, grants, or support that may be available to community organizations like ours.**

Thank you for your enquiry on behalf of the Bosnian Community in Coventry and your communities desire to acquire a property through a community Asset Transfer or other appropriate scheme.

Attached is a link to a publication which may assist your understanding, background, legislation and process which is required for such asset transfers:

<https://mycommunity.org.uk/files/downloads/Download-Understanding-Community-Asset-Transfer.pdf>

If a community identifies a local authority or privately owned land and buildings which has some existing community benefit and wish to see the property retained for community use, there is a process, as outlined in the above publication, whereby the community can apply to the Local Planning Authority to seek to allocate the property as a Community Asset. There are several tests which would be applied but if eligible, then this property would be registered as a community asset. This means that if became surplus and available to purchase then the community would be provided a period of time whereby they would have the ability to raise the capital required to purchase the property before it is placed on the wider open market.

Currently the Council is not looking to dispose of any of its community centres or has any properties it is looking to dispose of which would, in our opinion, make suitable community buildings.

Should such a property become available the property team, working with our colleagues in the Council's Community Resilience team would look to put of an Expression of Interest document which would outline the opportunity and seek applications from the various community led groups, who like you, are looking for a building they can call home, putting forward based on a range of criteria what they are looking to do with the property how they would benefit their own community but also provide a wider community involvement.

Local government bodies are currently really struggling for funding and as such from a property perspective, we are not aware of any grants or additional resources which may be available to your organisation. However to assist, if you are not already in contact with officers in the Community Resilience Team, then please make contact with the following as they may be able to discuss these matters further. Contact details are:

[sharon.thomas@coventry.org.uk](mailto:sharon.thomas@coventry.org.uk)

[jon.roy-gardner@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:jon.roy-gardner@coventry.gov.uk)

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For information, we publish a variety of information such as: [FOI/EIR Disclosure Log](#), [Publication Scheme](#), [Facts about Coventry](#) and [Open Data](#) that you may find of useful if you are looking for information in the future.

If you are unhappy with the handling of your request, you can ask us to review our response. Requests for reviews should be submitted within 40 days of the date of receipt of our response to your original request – email: [infogov@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:infogov@coventry.gov.uk)

If you are unhappy with the outcome of our review, you can write to the Information Commissioner,

who can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or email [icocasework@ico.org.uk](mailto:icocasework@ico.org.uk).

Please remember to quote the reference number above in your response.

Yours faithfully

**Information Governance**