**FEEDBACK FOR THE WORLD CAFÉ EVENT ON ASSET TRANSFER**

Facilitators were Nicky Donald, DTAS and Carole Jenkins, Community Empowerment Officer.

1. All three groups highlighted the need for training regarding all aspects of the Community Empowerment Act but particularly the skills that CLD Workers are going to need to help groups not only go through the process but also build capacity so they can achieve their aspirations. It was recognised that training will need to take place in partnership with other agencies but in particular specific training for community workers. Staff want to get a much greater understanding so that they can recognise the potential opportunities for groups.

Nicky Donald has offered to run a training day as this can be co-ordinated and the Scottish Land Fund, Claire Martin, agreed that she could attend to assist where required.

1. Scottish Land Fund provide funding for acquisition/ownership. This funding comes in two stages, firstly work around feasibility and business planning so groups should consider what they need to know. The second stage funding is for the acquisition of an asset. Scottish Land Fund work with geographical communities and not communities of interest. Claire confirmed that they can assist with issues to do with finding out who owns the land and title, however, it was recognised that this was a problem for groups all over Scotland.
2. Staff particularly wanted good examples of business plans and to be able to highlight agencies that could help people. Examples so far are Social Enterprise Networks, Wise Group and Business Gateway. Third sector interfaces were discussed as they offer levels of support. However, there was very little consistency across Scotland and it would be useful to do a complete mapping exercise of support and provision in Dundee. Carole confirmed that this will be part of her new role.

Claire Martin said that the Scottish Land Fund had a very useful series of questions and important links for groups about what they should consider in relation to a business plan. Templates can be misleading and it is sometimes better for groups to focus on a series of questions/points rather than an actual template.

1. Nicky Donald from DTAS highlighted that sometimes staff in public authorities didn’t always have the skills to assess community group applications and it was important that staff highlight training needs and senior managers are aware of any gaps. This was also confirmed by Alistair McKinley as it would be very difficult to work on the community empowerment agenda if the relevant skill sets were not in place.
2. Fife Council highlighted the great opportunities afforded by the empowerment legislation, however, felt that there was a skills gap for their community workers who were more generic capacity building officers. They would like to see upskilling and a Community Asset Transfer Team who could be sent out to help local groups and organisations.
3. Most participants felt the event was too general and had hoped for more detailed information about Asset Transfer and Participation Requests.
4. Finally, as well as training staff it is also important to bring community groups together for training. There are good examples from all areas of community groups who have been successful and who could pass their skills and knowledge on to other groups.