



LOCAL AUTHORITY DEVOLUTION, LOCAL CONTROL & COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER SURVEY RESULTS **2025/26**

SUMMARY

Over the last 2.5 years Callaghan Wright Ltd has developed the DevoCAT™ framework, to provide a governance safe process to remove Local Authority revenue liabilities, reduce estate risk and realise strategic opportunities.

As part of our launch we carried out a review of Devolution, Local Control and Community Asset Transfer activity across the UK.

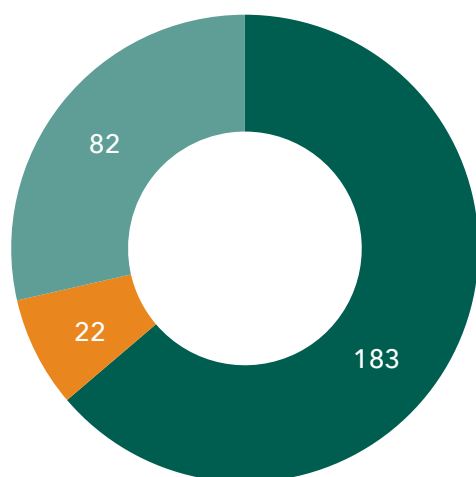
287 Local Authorities replied:

KEY FINDINGS

- Devolution, Local Control and Community Asset Transfer (D-CAT) is widely accepted in principle
- Relatively few authorities operate mature programmes
- Only 260 transfers were completed nationally during 2025/26
- D-CAT activity during 2025/26 was heavily concentrated to a small number of authorities
- Many authorities report limited or no transfer pipeline
- Dedicated D-CAT resource is uncommon
- Transfer activity is highly uneven nationally

In England alone, authorities collectively own approximately 600,000 land and property assets. The survey findings suggest that substantial opportunity exists across the local government estate for strategic review, rationalisation and potential devolution to lower-tier public bodies and community organisations.

AUTHORITIES WITH A CAT POLICY



■ Yes (183)
■ Under Consideration (22)
■ No (82)

OF THE 287 AUTHORITIES RESPONDING:

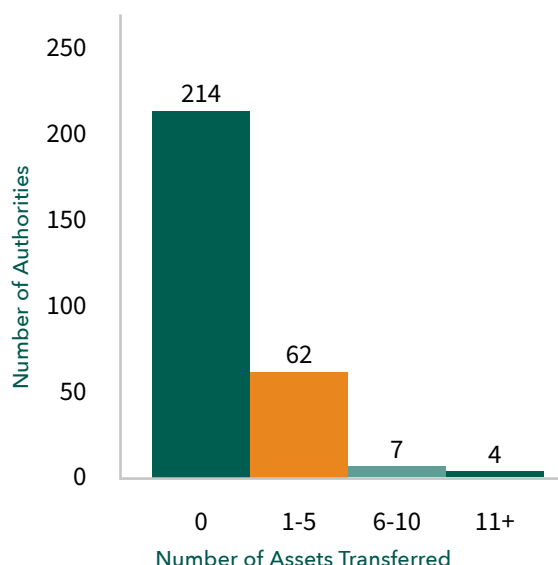
- 104 have no formal D-CAT policy
- 190 have zero identified pipeline
- 214 transferred zero assets
- 13 have identified over 2,500 potential transfer assets
- Only 73 completed D-CAT transfers during 25/26

IDENTIFIED ASSET PIPELINE (BANDED)

0 5 10 25 100+



NUMBER OF TRANSFERS BY AUTHORITIES 2025/26



LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION IMPACT

These findings become increasingly significant in the context of LGR, where:

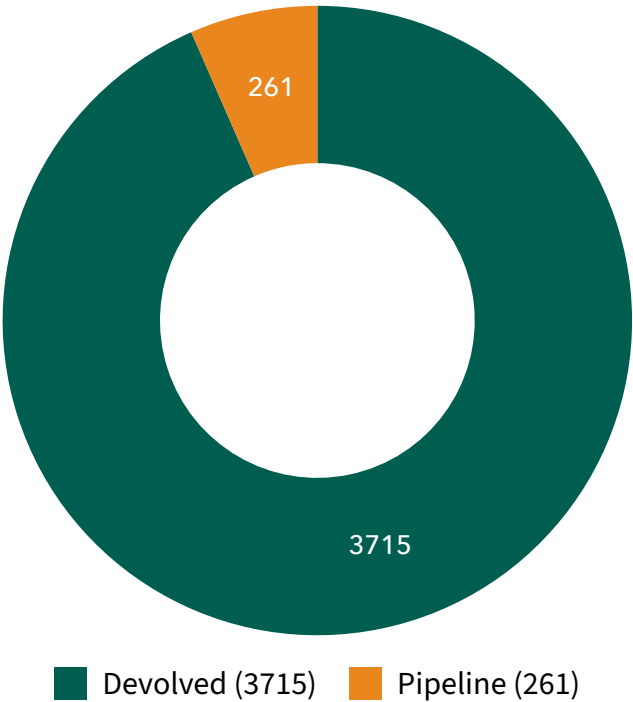
- Larger authorities will become increasingly centralised, so smaller local community assets may receive less strategic attention
- Town and Parish Councils are seeking to take on local assets in order to preserve local accountability, investment and community stewardship.

DevoCAT™ was established by Callaghan Wright Ltd to provide resource and expertise to deliver D-CAT assistance to authorities. If you would like to explore potential savings across your estate you can find us at:
team@devocat.co.uk | 07779 806 903 | www.devocat.co.uk

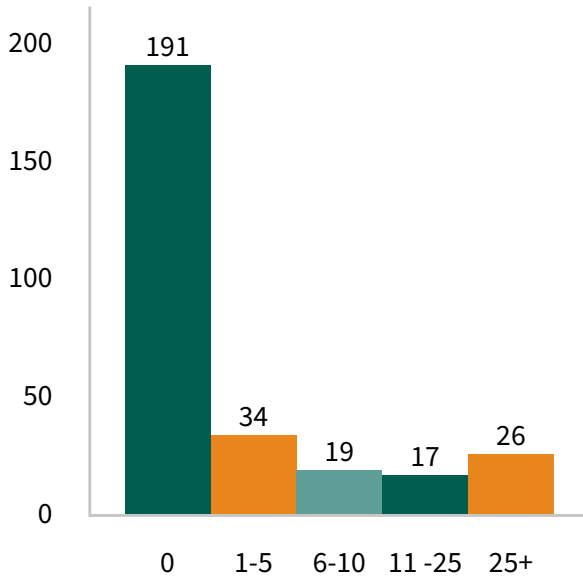
FURTHER FINDINGS



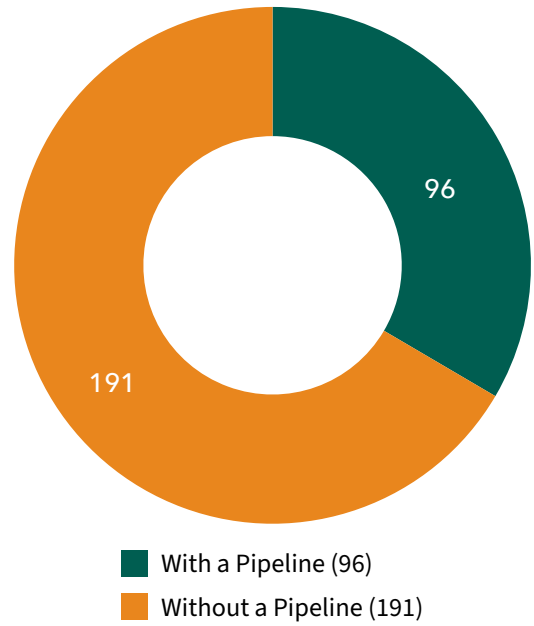
ASSETS DEVOLVED VS IDENTIFIED PIPELINE



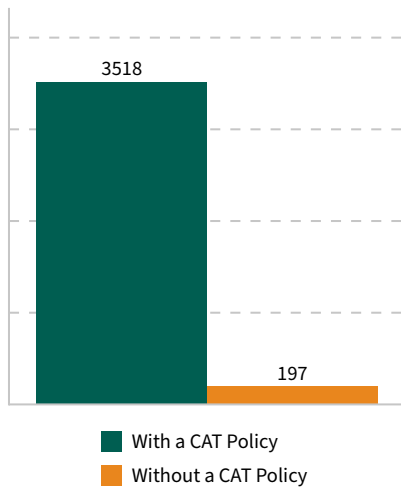
PIPELINE DISTRIBUTION



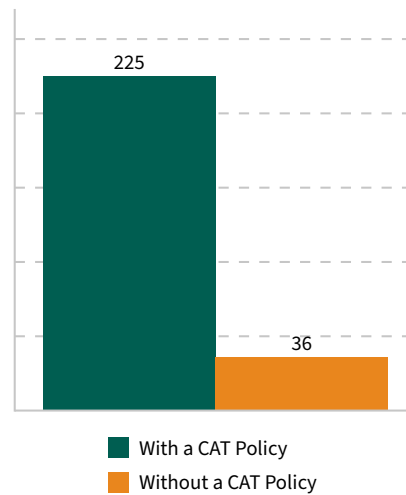
NUMBER OF AUTHORITIES WITH/WITHOUT A PIPELINE



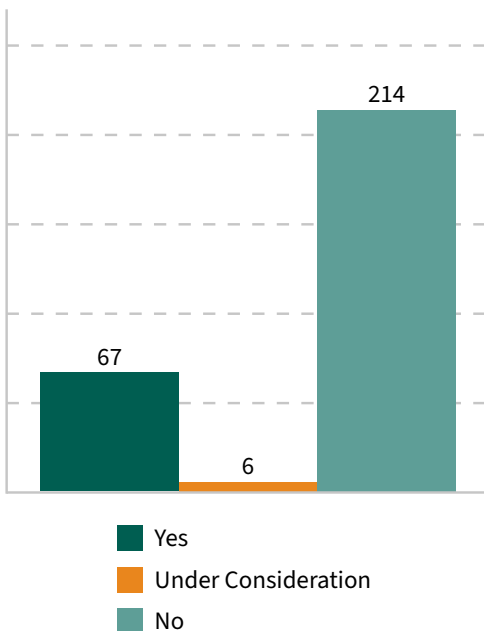
NUMBER OF PIPELINE ASSETS WITH/WITHOUT A CAT POLICY



NUMBER OF ASSETS DEVOLVED WITH/WITHOUT A CAT POLICY



COUNCILS WITH A DEDICATED TEAM



COUNCILS WITH A PROACTIVE APPROACH

