

ANNUAL REPORT

SECTION 95 COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 2015

INTRODUCTION

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 introduces a right for community bodies to make requests to all local authorities, Scottish Ministers and a wide-ranging list of public bodies, for any land or buildings they feel they could make better use of. Community bodies can request ownership, lease or other rights, as they wish through a process known as Community Asset Transfer (CAT). The Act requires those public authorities to assess requests transparently against specific criteria, and to agree the request unless there are reasonable grounds for refusal.

Section 95 of the Act requires the Council to publish an Annual Report setting out the number of asset transfer requests received and their outcomes and anything the relevant authority has done to promote the use of asset transfer and support community transfer bodies to make requests.

COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER ACTIVITY DURING 2017/18

Table 1 provides information on Community Asset Transfer activity for 2017/18, reported in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

PROMOTION AND REPORT ACTIVITY DURING 2017/18

The following activities to promote and support CAT by community bodies have been undertaken:

- A dedicated Community Asset Transfer team has been established
- The Council's website has been developed to incorporate CAT pages which include guidance, forms and other information.
- The website provides links to the Scottish Government guidance.
- Council guidance signposts community groups to organisations that can provide assistance and advice with community asset transfer
- A list of Council assets is available on the website
- Presentations have been made to elected members and senior officials
- Support has been provided to community bodies at pre-enquiry stage and throughout the CAT process
- Established links and good working relationship with COSS

TABLE 1 COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER ACTIVITY - 23 January 2017 to 31 March 2018

How many asset transfer requests were received	1
How many requests were:	
agreed to	1
refused	0
For requests agreed to, whether they resulted in transfer of ownership, lease or conferral of other rights	Not Applicable
For appeals relating to requests made to the relevant authority, how many have been allowed, dismissed, or have resulted in any part of the authority's decision being reversed or changed	Not Applicable
Where decisions made by the authority have been reviewed, how many have been confirmed, modified or substituted by a different decision.	Not Applicable