

ANNUAL REPORT 2019/2020

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 use to better effect. 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 2019/20

Table 1 provides information on Community Asset Transfer activity for 2019/20, reported in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

PROMOTION AND ACTIVITY DURING 2019/20

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

- A dedicated Community Asset Transfer team continues to deal with enquiries
- The Council's website has a bespoke CAT section which include guidance, forms, details of current applications and other information.
- The website provides links to the Scottish Government guidance.
- A list of Council assets is available on the website
- The webpage has been redesigned to provide an improved user experience
- Presentations have been made to community groups and other interested parties
- Support provided to community bodies at pre-enquiry stage and throughout CAT process
- Established links and continuing good working relationship with Community Ownership Support Service, Scottish Land Fund and other interested bodies

TABLE 1 COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER ACTIVITY – 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020

How many asset transfer requests were received	4
How many requests were:	
agreed to	2
refused	0
For requests agreed to, whether they resulted in transfer of ownership, lease or conferral of other rights	0
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