

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2023/2024**

### **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 2023/24**

Table 1 provides information on Community Asset Transfer activity for 2023/24, reported in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

#### **PROMOTION AND ACTIVITY DURING 2023/24**

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 and other useful resources.
- A list of Council assets is provided on the website
- Support provided to community bodies at pre-enquiry stage and throughout CAT process

**TABLE 1 COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER ACTIVITY – 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024**

How many asset transfer requests were received	3
How many requests were:	
agreed to	3
refused	0
Applications withdrawn by applicant	0
For requests agreed to, whether they resulted in transfer of ownership, lease or conferral of other rights	3
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