

**Asset Transfer Request**

**Reporting Template 2022/23 for Relevant Authorities**

Section 95 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 requires relevant authorities to produce an annual report on Asset Transfer Request activity and publish this no later than 30 June each year.

Following stakeholder feedback and in response to asset transfer evaluations, this template has been created to help gather asset transfer data for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023. Information provided will help inform policy and practice at local and national level as the data will be collated and shared by the Scottish Government’s Community Empowerment Team. However, it will be for each relevant authority to make their own annual report publicly available by 30 June 2023, whether using this template or not.

**Please provide information in sections below and email completed template by 30 June 2023 to** **community.empowerment@gov.scot**

**Section One – Relevant Authority Information**

Organisation: East Lothian Council Address: John Muir House, Haddington

Completed by: Caitlin McCorry Role: Service Manager – Connected Communities

Email: cmccorry1@eastlothian.gov.uk Telephone: 01620 827190

Date of completion: 29/06/23

Are you the Asset Transfer Lead Contact for the organisation: Yes

If not please provide the name, job title and email address for the lead contact for any queries:

**Section 2: Asset Transfer Data in 2022/23**

2.1 Please complete the following table for the 2022/23 reporting period :

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Total Applications Received  | Number of successful applications determined | Number of unsuccessful applicationsdetermined | Number received and yet to be determined | Number received prior to 2022/23 and yet to be determined |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

2.2 Please provide details of Asset Transfer Requests received which resulted in transfer of ownership, lease, or rights from your relevant authority to a community transfer body in 2022/23:

2.3 Please provide details of Asset Transfer Requests that went to a relevant authority appeal or review which were concluded in 2022/23:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Name of Community Transfer Body | Was the Asset Transfer Appeal/Review accepted? (Y/N) | Why was the Appeal/Review accepted/refused? *Please provide details of the asset transfer request and reasons for your decision.*  |
|  N/A |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

2.4 Please use this space to provide any further comments relating to the above data:

There were no formal Community Asset Transfer requests submitted to East Lothian Council during 2022/23.

**Section Three – Promotion and Equality**

3.1 Please provide information on any action you have taken to promote the benefits of asset transfer or any support provided for communities to engage with the Asset Transfer Request process.

There is information on ELC’s website about advice available for organisations considering requesting a Community Asset Transfer:

[Community Asset Transfer | Community Asset Transfer | East Lothian Council](https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/info/210625/community_asset_transfer/12252/community_asset_transfer)

3.2 In particular what action has been taken to support disadvantaged communities to engage with the asset transfer process?

Training by COSS has been promoted via the Community Training calendar which is promoted widely amongst our community networks.

**Section Four – Additional Information**

4.1 Please use this space to provide any further feedback not covered in the above sections.

10 initial notifications of interest have been submitted during 2022-23, at pre-CAT application stage. In some cases a lease arrangement has been negotiated with the organisation, rather than undertaking the full statutory CAT process.

**Section 5 – Community Empowerment Act Review***The following questions relate to the Scottish Government review of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. We would value your feedback as a relevant authority concerned with part 5 (asset transfers) of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. Please note, any feedback offered in Section 5 would only be used for the purposes of the review, and all comments would be anonymised.*

5.1 Has the legislation made things easier or more difficult to work with communities on asset transfers? Please provide some comments on your experiences as a relevant authority engaging with this legislation.

The current process as it stands is quite cumbersome and could be streamlined to make it easier and quicker, therefore less daunting for community organisations to consider. The current CAT statutory process is extremely resource heavy for local authorities which are increasingly stretched due to budgetary pressures. There is a competing challenge for LAs to maximise capital receipt income from sales of assets at market value v’s community benefits to be gained from transferring an asset at a lower rate to be managed by community group.

5.2 Where can things be further improved, and what needs to change?

If more capital grant funding was available to community bodies, this would help to incentivise CATs, as many local authority assets have had minimal investment on maintenance due to revenue budget constraints. This means that buildings can require upgrading requiring capital investment, to carry out essential improvement work.

5.3 Are you aware of what support is available to you when engaging with this legislation, and how you can access this? Please provide comments where possible.

Yes, the support and advice provided by COSS is excellent. We are arranging some further training via COSS for our staff in the coming months, to ensure there is a good understanding of the CAT process.

5.4 What would you like to see now, to further empower Scotland’s communities?

There has been discussion between Local Authority staff to establish a network of CAT lead officer to share expertise, knowledge and good practice tips. Promotion of good examples of successful CATs would be helpful to encourage other groups’ requests. Such a network would be helpful for COSS and Sc Govt to link in with to discuss any proposed amendments to the process as part of the review.

**Please email the completed template by 30 June 2023 to** **community.empowerment@gov.scot**

If you have any queries please contact Malcolm Cowie, Asset Transfer Policy Manager at Malcolm.cowie@gov.scot