

## Members' Library Service Request Form

Date of Document	11/08/20
Originator	Caitlin McCorry
Originator's Ref (if any)	
Document Title	Annual Report for 2019-20 on Community Asset Transfer Requests under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015

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Additional information:

Authorised By	Caitlin Mccorry
Designation	Service Manager - Connected Comm
Date	11/08/20

For Office Use Only:	
Library Reference	90/20
Date Received	12/08/20
Bulletin	Aug20

**REPORT TO:** Members' Library Service

**MEETING DATE:**

**BY:** Head of Communities and Partnerships

**SUBJECT:** Annual Report for 2019-20 on Community Asset Transfer Requests under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015

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## **1 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To present a report on community asset transfer requests for the year ended 31 March 2020.

## **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That the Council note the terms of the report at Appendix A.

## **3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 requires public authorities to publish an annual report about community asset transfer requests. The Scottish Government's pro forma has been completed and is attached at Appendix A.

## **4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 None.

## **5 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 5.1 The subject of this report does not affect the wellbeing of the community or have a significant impact on equality, the environment or economy.

## **6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Financial – none directly arising from this report.  
6.2 Personnel - none arising from this report.

6.3 Other – none arising from this report.

## 7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 None.

Appendix A – pro forma on Community Asset Transfers during 2019-20.

<b>AUTHOR'S NAME</b>	Caitlin McCorry
<b>DESIGNATION</b>	Service Manager – Connected Communities
<b>CONTACT INFO</b>	cmccorry1@eastlothian.gov.uk
<b>DATE</b>	11 August 2020

**Asset Transfer Request  
Reporting Template 2019/20 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 summary evaluations over the last two years (final 3 year evaluation report is due to be published by end of June 2020), this template has been created to help gather asset transfer data for the period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020. 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 2020, whether using this template or not.

**Please provide information in the four sections below and email the completed template by 30 June 2020 to [community.empowerment@gov.scot](mailto:community.empowerment@gov.scot).**

**Section One – Relevant Authority Information**

Organisation: East Lothian Council  
Address: John Muir House, Brewery Park, Haddington EH41 3HA  
Completed by: Caitlin McCorry  
Role: Service Manager – Connected Communities  
Email: [cmccorry1@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:cmccorry1@eastlothian.gov.uk)  
Telephone: 07890 552596  
Date of completion: 27.07.20

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 2019/20**

2.1 Please complete the following table:

Total Applications Received in 2019/20	Number of successful applications	Number of unsuccessful applications	Number received in 2019/20 and yet to be determined	Number received prior to 2019/20 and yet to be determined
1	1	0	0	1

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 2019/20:

Name of Community Transfer Body, or community group that will take ownership, lease, or management of the asset.	Date request was validated	Date decision was agreed to transfer the asset	Date transfer completed	Please provide further details, such as: description of the asset / area transferred / amount paid / discount given/ type of ownership / purpose of the transfer.
The Ridge (CIC)	6/8/19	3/2/20	TBC	Legal negotiations are still underway, as part of the conveyancing process.

2.3 Please provide details of Asset Transfer Requests that were refused in 2019/20 and went to a relevant authority appeal or review including whether they were allowed or dismissed:

Name of Community Transfer Body	Was the Asset Transfer Appeal/Review accepted? (Y/N)	Why was the Appeal/Review accepted/refused? <i>Please provide details of the asset transfer request and reasons for your decision.</i>
North Berwick Development Company	Yes	The 1 <sup>st</sup> stage appeal/review was heard by the Council's Participation & Community Empowerment Review Committee (comprising elected members); in their view the business case was not strong enough to be convincing regarding the long-term sustainability of the proposal. In addition there was insufficient evidence of local community support for the proposal. This appeal/review panel upheld the view of the Council officer decision within the decision notice dated 12/4/19 (see attached for details). The North Berwick Development Company have indicated their intention to refer their appeal to Scottish Ministers for a stage 2 review. <i>This CAT request was to acquire and redevelop a former Council Amenities depot site into an arts centre/hub.</i>

Sustaining Dunbar	No appeal/review has been submitted.	No appeal/review requested. <i>This CAT request was to acquire a former Council housing office to provide co-working space and workshops</i>

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

### **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.

During 2019/20 East Lothian Council organised 2 training sessions for staff and elected members and 3 Community Asset Transfer awareness sessions for community groups, provided by Community Ownership Support Scotland (COSS). Their Development Worker Nicky Donald has been extremely helpful in supporting groups and offering impartial expert advice on proposals. We have also proactively promoted 6 potential Community Asset Transfer opportunities, utilising East Lothian Council owned buildings, surplus to requirements; one of these, Prestonpans Town Hall, is at the early stages of preparing an expression of interest. These discussions have been paused due to COVID as the Community Council members involved have been providing local community volunteer support to local people affected by COVID.

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

The Council's Community Learning and Development staff (now part of the Connected Communities Service) have facilitated the COSS training as part of the Community Capacity Building Calendar. This has involved hosting training sessions in various venues around the county including in our higher SIMD areas, e.g. Prestonpans and Musselburgh. These have been widely promoted via Community Councils, Area Partnerships, the local press, social media and on the Council's website. These sessions have been well-attended and generated some follow-up interest.

## **Section Four – Additional Information**

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

**Subject to the pressures of responding to the Covid-19 emergency situation and recovery – if possible please email the completed template by 30 June 2020 to [community.empowerment@gov.scot](mailto:community.empowerment@gov.scot)**

If you have any queries please contact Malcolm Cowie, Asset Transfer Policy Manager at [Malcolm.cowie@gov.scot](mailto:Malcolm.cowie@gov.scot)

Thank you!

Community Empowerment Team  
Scottish Government