



**Asset Transfer Request
Reporting Template 2021/22 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 2021 to 31 March 2022. 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 2022, whether using this template or not.

Please provide information in the sections below and email the completed template by 30 June 2022 to community.empowerment@gov.scot.

Section One – Relevant Authority Information

Organisation: Midlothian Council

Address: Midlothian House, 40 – 46 Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith EH22 1DN

Completed by: Kevin Anderson

Role: Executive Director - Place

Email: kevin.anderson@midlothian.gov.uk

Telephone: 0131 271 3102

Date of completion: 17.06.22

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 2021/22

2.1 Please complete the following table for the 2021/22 reporting period :

Total Applications Received	Number of successful applications determined	Number of unsuccessful applications determined	Number received -and yet to be determined	Number received prior to 2019/20 and yet to be determined
1	1	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 2021/22:

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.
St David's Brass Band SCIO	20/10/21	24/02/22	TBC	<p>The transfer of ownership of Vogrie Hall and surrounding land for renovation and refurbishment will allow the establishment of an expressive arts centre for Midlothian.</p> <p>The Council has demonstrated their support of the CAT application through a letter of support which was submitted as part of their successful bid to the UK Government Community Ownership Fund.</p> <p>Negotiations are progressing regarding the sale contract.</p>

2.3 Please provide details of Asset Transfer Requests that went to a relevant authority appeal or review which were concluded in 2021/22:

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>
N/A		

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>

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.

Midlothian Council work closely with Midlothian Voluntary Action (MVA) to support organisations going through, or considering going through, the CAT process. MVA will ensure the CTBs governance documents and organisation structure are in line with the requirements of the Act.

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

Information and support is available to all communities.

Section Four – Additional Information

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

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.

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

The legislation provides a process for community transfer bodies to follow but it is a very involved and lengthy process. In recognition of the complexity of the CAT process and the pressure that this has on community groups the council is submitting a proposal to adopt a Voluntary CAT process in addition to the existing statutory practice to be considered at the Council meeting on 23 August 2022. This would further aid community groups to progress community ownership of relevant assets, reflecting the aims of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.

As each CAT request we have dealt with so far has been different we continue to learn and refine our processes. Having an expression of interest stage prior to formal application allows us to engage with the CTB at the earliest possible stage and put supports in place.

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

Providing step by step examples of good practice CATs across the country, particularly those that have been for sought after assets or have had multiple applications for the same asset.

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.

The COSS DTAS CPD sessions have been helpful, especially focussing in on certain parts of the process. Our Legal Team are part of our Community Management Assessment Group and provide clarification when required and ensure we are following the terms of the Act.

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

Please email the completed template by 30 June 2022 to community.empowerment@gov.scot

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

Thank you!

Community Empowerment Team
Scottish Government