

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: 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: 27.06.23

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 applications determined	Number received and yet to be determined	Number received prior to 2022/23 and yet to be determined
3	0	0	3	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:

None

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? <i>Please provide details of the asset transfer request and reasons for your decision.</i>
None		

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

We have requested additional information from the three live applications to assist with the assessment of the requests.

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 that make an application or are considering making an application for a CAT. 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.

Please note that a previously CAT successfully determined in 2021/2022 did not conclude in 2022/23. Terms and conditions were unable to be agreed. This CAT has now ended and the applicant has now concluded a commercial purchase of the asset.

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 legislation provides a process for community transfer bodies to follow but it is a very involved, staff intensive and lengthy process.

Following a number of CATs since the Act came into effect, we have embarked on a review of our CAT policy and associated processes. This is taking the learning from CATs to date and the feedback from the services directly involved in the process and feedback from applicants during the process. We anticipate this review to be concluded during Q3 2022/23 with a revised policy presented to CAT Committee for adoption.

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.

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 2023 to community.empowerment@gov.scot

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