



Section 95 - Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015
Part 5 – Asset Transfer Requests
Annual Report 23 January 2017 – 31 March 2018

Summary

This is Argyll and Bute Council's first Annual Report 2017-2018 as required by Section 95 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 which sets out the relevant information to be included in the report in relation to asset transfer requests received during the reporting period.

The first Annual Report on asset transfer requests covers the period from the introduction of the legislation on 23 January 2017 through to March 2018.

Asset Transfer Requests

Argyll and Bute Council received 1 (one) validated asset transfer request during the reporting period. That asset transfer request was agreed to by the Council.

The asset transfer request received and agreed to by the Council relates to a lease of land by the community transfer body. However, this has not yet resulted in an executed lease as the asset transfer process is still ongoing.

No asset transfer requests were refused by the Council during the reporting period.

The Council did not receive any asset transfer requests during the reporting period which resulted in the transfer of ownership of land, or resulted in other rights in respect of that land being conferred on a community transfer body.

Reviews

There were no reviews in respect of a decision taken by the Council in relation to an asset transfer request during the reporting period.

Appeals

There were no appeals in respect of a decision taken by the Council in relation to an asset transfer request during the reporting period.

Promotion of the use of Asset Transfer Requests

The Council's Social Enterprise Team participated in the following meetings or events to present information and / or provide advice on the asset transfer process to 3rd parties:

- 11 March 2017 – Argyll and Bute's Community Planning Partnership's community empowerment event in Arrochar;
- 10 June 2017 - COSS – Asset Transfer Seminar in Glasgow
- 10 October 2017 – presentation on the asset transfer process to the board of Fyne Futures; and
- 10 November 2017 – Business Gateway and Highlands and Islands Enterprise– Leading Communities to Success event in Arrochar.

Generally, there has been an effort to raise awareness throughout all Council Services about the asset transfer process, and to encourage those Services to signpost community groups to that process where appropriate.

Support for Community Transfer Bodies making an Asset Transfer Request

The Council's Social Enterprise Team provide ongoing support to any community group making an asset transfer request, or considering making an asset transfer request.

This includes a pre-application stage where community groups are encouraged to discuss their ideas with the Council at an early stage, in order to help them understand how to make an effective asset transfer request, and provide guidance in relation to what is required in terms of the legislation.

The Council have developed Asset Transfer webpages which provide advice and guidance, a list of the Council's assets, contact details, the relevant forms and documents required to make a request, an Expression of Interest form (to facilitate early informal discussions between organisations and officers) and contact details for a single point of contact for enquiries.

The Social Enterprise Team are the single point of contact for any group who has submitted a formal asset transfer request. They ensure effective lines of communication are open throughout the assessment and determination of the asset transfer request, and advise community groups of the progress of any steps which require to be taken in order for a decision to be made.