



Section 95 - Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015
Part 5 – Asset Transfer Requests
Annual Report 23 January 2019 – 31 March 2020

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 Section 95 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 requires the Council to publish an asset transfer report for each reporting year. This Annual Report covers the period from 1 April 2019 through to 31 March 2020.

2. ASSET TRANSFER REQUESTS

- 2.1 Between 1 April 2019 and 31 March 2020 the Council received one (1) validated Asset Transfer Request relating to the transfer of ownership of land and 17 informal Expressions of Interest.
- 2.2 The Council did not receive any asset transfer requests during the reporting period which resulted in:
- The transfer of ownership of land to a community transfer body;
 - A lease of land to a community transfer body; or
 - Rights in respect of that land being conferred on a community transfer body.

3. REVIEWS

- 3.1 There were 2 requests for a review in respect of a decision taken by the Council in relation to an asset transfer request during the reporting period.
- 3.2 One review was subsequently withdrawn and the other is still ongoing however due to the current Covid19 restrictions an extension to the deadline for making a decision has been agreed to 30 September 2020.

4. APPEALS

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

5. PROMOTION OF THE USE OF ASSET TRANSFER REQUESTS

5.1 The Council's Social Enterprise Officer takes an active role in engaging and working pro-actively with community groups to ensure they receive the support that they need to overcome any challenges they face in submitting an asset transfer request.

5.2 The Council's Community Asset Transfer webpages promote the use of asset transfers online which are available here:

<https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/assettransfer-support>.

5.3 Moreover, in order to raise awareness of the Asset Transfer Request process within the community and to help the public access the information and support, SET participate in community meetings and events to present information, signposting to the website and / or provide advice on the Asset Transfer Request process to community groups considering making an asset transfer request, including:

- Community Right to buy event – 1st October 2019.

6. SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY TRANSFER BODIES MAKING A REQUEST

6.1 The Councils Social Enterprise Officer provides ongoing support to any community transfer body making an asset transfer request, or considering making an asset transfer request.

6.2 This includes a pre-application stage where community groups are encouraged to discuss their proposals 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.

6.3 The Council have developed Community 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.

6.4 The Councils Social Enterprise Officer is the single point of contact for any group who has submitted a formal Asset Transfer Request or the informal Expression of Interest enquiry. 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.