

From mountain to sea

Asset Transfer Annual Report

1st April 2023—31st March 2024

Aberdeenshire Council champions Asset Transfer, a program that recognises the power of community ownership. We believe community bodies hold the key to innovative solutions that address local needs.

What is Asset Transfer?

Through Asset Transfer, the Council transfers ownership or lease responsibility for an asset to a community group (referred to as a Community Transfer Body). The Council offers a discount on the market value or lease rate, reflecting the anticipated social benefits the community will gain.

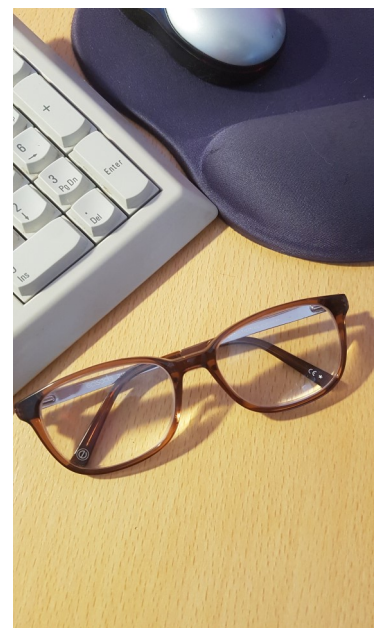
Transparency and Reporting

Following Section 95 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, the Council publishes an annual report detailing the number of Asset Transfer requests received and their outcomes. These reports cover the fiscal year (April 1st to March 31st) and are published by June 30th.

As requests may straddle the reporting period, the number of requests received in a year may not directly correspond to the number of approvals or refusals within that same year.

Section 95 of the Community Empowerment Act requires Aberdeenshire Council to publish an annual report setting out:

- the number of asset transfer requests received.
- the number of such requests which the Aberdeenshire Council has either agreed to or refused.
- the number of agreed requests which have resulted in the transfer of ownership, a lease or conferral of other rights.
- the number of appeals which have been allowed, dismissed or have resulted in any part of the decision of Aberdeenshire Council being varied or reversed.
- any action taken by Aberdeenshire Council to promote the use of asset transfer requests and to support a community transfer body or community organisation in the making of an asset transfer request.



Aberdeenshire Council Asset Transfer Process

Making Our Community Stronger Through Asset Transfer

Aberdeenshire Council is making it easier for community groups to take ownership of public assets! We're currently reviewing our asset transfer policy to ensure a smooth and efficient process for everyone involved.

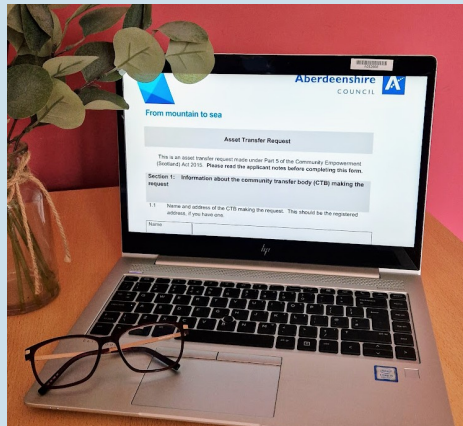
We value collaboration and will work closely with community groups throughout the process. Our support includes offering advice and ensuring transferred assets benefit the local community.

Applications are assessed on a case-by-case basis, considering factors like a group's ability to manage the asset and the positive impact it will bring to the community.

Why Participate in Asset Transfer?

There are significant advantages for both community groups and the wider community:

- **Ownership and Pride:** Groups gain the opportunity to own or lease and manage their own assets, fostering a stronger sense of ownership and community pride.
- **Meeting Local Needs:** Assets can be developed and used in ways that directly address the needs of the local community.
- **Generating Income:** Transferred assets can generate income to support other valuable community activities.



By working together, we can empower communities and create a more vibrant future for everyone.

Community Empowerment Legislation

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 moves forward from a voluntary approach by the public sector, and introduces a right for community bodies to make requests to all local authorities to either own or buy an asset.

A request can be made in relation to any land or building which is owned or leased by the relevant authority.

The Act requires local authorities to transparently assess requests against a specified list of criteria, and to agree the request unless there are reasonable grounds for refusal.

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Summary Information for Annual Report

Reporting period - start	01/04/2023
Reporting period - end	31/03/2024
Total number of asset transfer requests received	4
Number agreed	5
Number refused	0
Number resulting in:	
a transfer of ownership of land to a community transfer body	1
a lease of land to such a body	0
rights in respect of land being conferred on such a body	0
Number of appeals under section 85 relating to such requests made to the relevant authority:	
Allowed	0
Dismissed	0
Resulted in any part of the decision of the authority being varied or reversed	0
In relation to a decision of the relevant authority reviewed under section 86 or 87, the number of such decisions that have been:	
Confirmed	0
Modified	0
Substituted by a different decision	0

Number of formal Asset Transfer requests received: 4

Buchan—1

Bairnessities—Former Buchan Area Office, Nethermuir Road, Maud

Kincardine & Mearns —3

Mill of Benholm Enterprise— Mill of Benholm, Johnshaven, DD10 0HF

K&M Youth Club—Former Sea Cadet building, High Street, Stonehaven

Stonehaven Tolbooth Association—Tolbooth Museum, Stonehaven (originally submitted 2021 but resubmitted 2023)

Number of formal Asset Transfer requests agreed: 5

Banff and Buchan- 1

Fraserburgh West End Bowling Club – Bowling Green

Formartine —1

Turriff Town Pride / Turriff in Bloom Group -Former Depot and Yard at Station Road, Turriff

Kincardine & Mearns—2

K&M Youth Club—Former Sea Cadet building, High Street, Stonehaven
Mill of Benholm Enterprise— Mill of Benholm, Johnshaven, DD10 0HF

Marr—1

Braemar Community Limited-Clunie Woodland Braemar (Pictured)

Number of formal Asset Transfer requests refused: 0

Number of Contracts Concluded: 1

Buchan –1

Strichen Town House SCIO -Strichen Public Toilets



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Number of Expression of Interest applications received between 1st April 2023 and 31st March 2024:

Buchan – 0	Banff and Buchan—0
Formartine—0	Garioch—6
Kincardine and Mearns—3	Marr—4

Appeals

During 2023– 2024 no appeals were made to the Council.

During 2023 – 2024 no appeals were made to Scottish Ministers.

Support to the Community

Aberdeenshire Council is a strong advocate for community ownership! We actively support groups throughout the asset transfer process in several ways:

- **Clear Information:** We offer a comprehensive guide for applicants, a policy statement, and FAQs to ensure everyone understands the process.
- **Expert Guidance:** Our team provides valuable advice and expertise on various asset transfer-related issues.
- **Collaborative Approach:** We believe in working alongside community groups for a successful and mutually beneficial transfer experience.

This dedication has resulted in numerous successful asset transfers across Aberdeenshire. These empowered communities have seen:

- **Stronger Communities:** Asset ownership fosters a deeper sense of belonging and local pride.
- **Improved Facilities:** Communities gain the ability to develop and manage assets that directly address their needs.
- **Increased Engagement:** Asset transfer creates opportunities for residents to actively participate in shaping their local area.

By working together, we can unlock the potential of our communities and build a brighter future for everyone.

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