

From mountain to sea

Asset Transfer Annual Report

1st April 2022—31st March 2023

Aberdeenshire Council has long been committed to a policy of Asset Transfer because it recognises that the community ownership of assets can make an important contribution to a range of innovative solutions which community bodies can develop to address local needs.

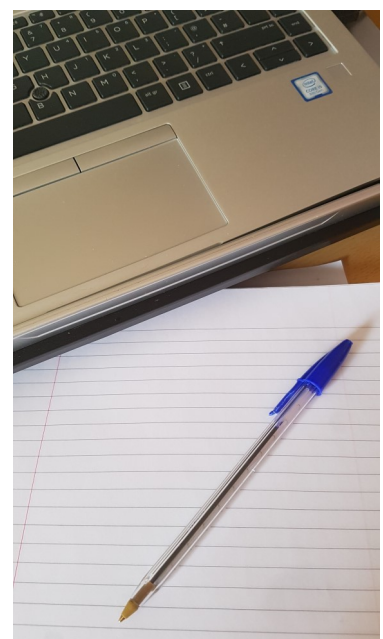
Asset Transfer involves the transfer of responsibility for an asset, either through lease or ownership, from the Council to a community body. In transferring the asset the Council will apply a discount to the commercial lease or market value of the asset in proportion to the calculated community benefits of the transfer.

Section 95 of the Act requires every relevant authority to publish an annual report setting out the numbers of asset transfer requests received and their outcomes. The Annual reports cover each year from 1 April to 31 March and must be published by 30 June.

This report has been produced in compliance with the Act. It is important to note that as the timescale for the Asset Transfer process may take more than 12 months to complete, the number of requests received in one year and the number agreed or refused in that year may not be the same.

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.





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Aberdeenshire Council Asset Transfer Process

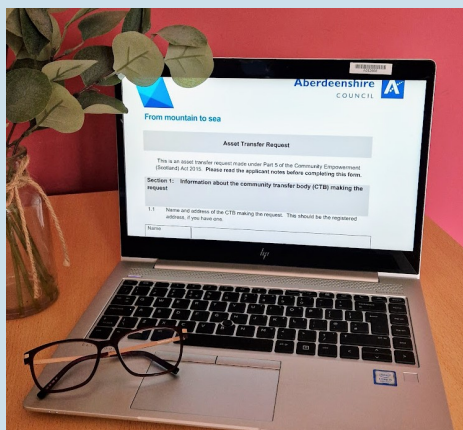
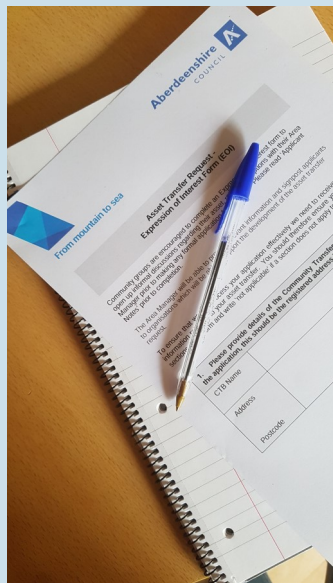
The council is currently reviewing its Asset Transfer policy and process, and has gathered views from elected members, community groups and other council services.

The council is committed to working with community groups to make the asset transfer process as smooth and efficient as possible. The council will continue to provide support and advice to groups throughout the process, and will work with them to ensure that the assets are used in a way that benefits the local community.

Once an application is received it will be assessed on a case-by-case basis and will consider factors such as the group's ability to manage and sustain the asset and the benefits that the asset will bring to the community.

There are a number of benefits to asset transfer, both for community groups and for the wider community. For community groups, asset transfer can provide a number of opportunities, including:
The opportunity to own/ lease and manage their own assets, giving a greater sense of ownership and pride in their community.

The opportunity to develop and use the assets in a way that meets the needs of the local community.
The opportunity to generate income from the assets, which can be used to fund other community activities.

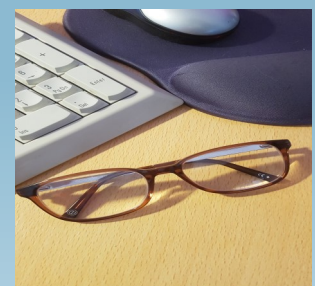


Community Empowerment Legislation

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	01/04/2022
Reporting period - end	31/03/2023
Total number of asset transfer requests received	5
Number agreed	3
Number refused	1
Number resulting in:	
a transfer of ownership of land to a community transfer body	0
a lease of land to such a body	2
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: 5

Banff & Buchan—1

Fraserburgh West End Bowling Club—Bowling Green Fraserburgh

Buchan—1

Strichen Town House SCIO —Strichen Public Toilets

Formartine —1

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

Garioch—1

The Scout Association—Land adjacent to Scout Hall, Bremner Way, Kemnay

Marr—1

Friends of Haughton Park—Area of Haughton Park, Alford

Number of formal Asset Transfer requests agreed: 3

Formartine —1

Ellon Wheels Park Group—Lower Gordon Park, Ellon

Buchan—1

Strichen Town House SCIO—Strichen Public Toilets

Marr—1

Friends of Haughton Park—Area of Haughton Park, Alford

Number of formal Asset Transfer requests refused: 1

Kincardine and Mearns —1

Mackie Rugby Football Club—Forest Park, Stonehaven

Number of Contracts Concluded: 2

Banff and Buchan—2

Friends of Tarlair—Tarlair Pavilion, Tarlair, Macduff—Lease

Banff, Macduff & District Men's Shed—Former Fife Street School—Lease

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Number of Expression of Interest applications received between 1st April 2022 and 31st March 2023:

Buchan – 1	Banff and Buchan—2
Formartine— 7	Garioch—3
Kincardine and Mearns—1	Marr—9

Appeals

During 2022– 2023 no appeals were made to the Council.

During 2022 – 2023 no appeals were made to Scottish Ministers.

Support to the Community

Aberdeenshire Council has supported the community in the asset transfer process in a number of ways, including:

- Providing information and guidance: The council has produced a number of resources to help community groups understand the asset transfer process, including a guide for applicants, a policy statement, and a set of frequently asked questions.
- Providing advice and expertise: The council can provide advice and expertise to community groups on a range of issues related to asset transfer.
- Working in partnership: The council is committed to working in partnership with community groups to ensure that asset transfer is a successful process for everyone involved.

As a result of this support, Aberdeenshire Council has been able to successfully transfer a number of assets. These transfers have helped to strengthen communities, improve local facilities, and create opportunities for people to get involved in their local area.

In June 2022, the Formartine Area Committee approved the asset transfer of land at Lower Gordon Park, Ellon, to the Ellon Wheels Park Group. The land will be used to create a wheeled sports park, which will include facilities for cycling, BMX, scootering and skateboarding. The wheeled sports park is expected to be a popular attraction for people of all ages and abilities. It will provide a safe and fun space for people to participate in wheeled sports, and it will also help to promote physical activity and healthy lifestyles.

In December 2022, Marr Area Committee approved the transfer to the Friends of Houghton Park to create an All abilities cycle and pump track for the leisure and recreational benefit of the community.

Also in December 2022, Buchan Area Committee approved the transfer of the former toilet block at Strichen Town House. The toilet block will be demolished allowing the Strichen Town House trust to work on a plan to restore the townhouse and turn it in to a community facility.

Aberdeenshire Council Area Manager Contacts

Banff and Buchan

Email: banffandbuchanamo@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Tel: 01467 530700

Garioch

Email: garioch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Tel: 01467 539371

Buchan

Email: buchan@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Tel: 01467 537259

Kincardine and Mearns

Email: kincardineandmearns@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Tel: 01467 534684

Formartine

Email: formartineareaoffice@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Tel: 01467 538439

Marr

Email: marr@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Tel: 01467 536421