

Highland Council Community Asset Transfer Annual Report January 2017 to 31 March 2018

Highland Council is committed to supporting a community asset transfer process that supports communities to identify their needs and take control of the assets they feel they require to deliver better outcomes in communities.

We have put in place a clear community asset transfer process that engages with communities and harnesses the expertise of a variety of Council officers and partner agencies to inform our approach and decision-making on asset transfer.

This first Annual Report on Community Asset Transfer covers the period from the introduction of legislation, in January 2017, through to 31 March 2018.

The report outlines:-

- the numbers of requests received
- the level and nature of those requests (full or expression of interest)
- detail of full asset transfer requests received
- status of asset transfer requests
- information on the type of property requested
- the geographical spread of requests across the Highland area.

Highland Council Process

The Council's Community Asset Transfer process was agreed in December 2017.

Details of the process can be found on the Council's website at:

[www.highland.gov.uk/info/198/planning -
long term and area policies/726/community asset transfer/1](http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/198/planning-_long_term_and_area_policies/726/community_asset_transfer/1)

A two stage process was agreed which enables communities to log an expression of interest prior to submitting a full asset transfer request. This supports communities to have a point of contact to support them through the request process, access supporting information they require for their application and signpost them to wider sources of support within the community. A separate process and procedure for any reviews has also been agreed.

A single point of contact has been established for groups to direct enquires, expressions of interest and full asset transfer requests and a map of all Council

properties has been established to support groups to identify whether properties they are interested in belong to the organisation or not.

Community Asset Transfer Summary Information

For the period February 2017 to 31 March 2018:

- 50 expressions of interest have been received
- 11 full community asset transfer requests have been received
- Of the 11 asset transfer requests received:
 - 4 have been agreed
 - 1 has been rejected
 - 5 are under consideration
 - 1 was withdrawn
- For the 1 request refused, a review was initially sought but subsequently withdrawn

Table 1: Status of Requests Received

Feb 17 – May 18		Status Description	
Expressions of interest	50	A simple note of the group, its contact details, the property they are interested in and if they would be seeking ownership or lease	
Full Asset Transfer Requests	11	Formal requests with proposals and supporting documents from community group	
Assessment Stage	5	Formal requests that have been assessed and are to be considered at EDI; or are currently under assessment	
Transfers agreed	4	Agreed	
Rejections	1	Requests that have been considered and rejected	
Withdrawals	1	Expressions of interest or full requests that have been withdrawn by community groups	

Table 2: Requests by Type of Transfer

Feb 17 – May 18	Ownership	Lease	Management	Unsure
EOIs	38	11	0	2
ATRs	6	5	0	0

Total:	44	16	0	0
--------	----	----	---	---

Table 3: Summary of Requests Received

Community Transfer Body	Asset	Requested Basis	Ward	Status
Staffin Community Trust	Storr Woodland	Ownership	Eilean a'Cheo	Rejected; review withdrawn
Kingussie Tennis Club	Tennis courts and pavilion	Lease	Badenoch and Strathspey	Agreed
Wick MS Centre	Wick MS Centre	Ownership	Wick and East Caithness	Agreed
Youth Highland	Old Post Office, Dingwall	Lease	Dingwall and Seaforth	Invalid CAT – lease agreed
Thurso Heritage Society	Thurso Pavilion	Lease	Thurso and North West Caithness	Agreed
Seaboard Memorial Hall	Balintore Harbour Toilets	Ownership	Tain and Easter Ross	Under assessment to be considered at EDI Aug 2018
Dingwall Players	Ross House	Lease	Dingwall and Seaforth	Withdrew interest in building
Caberfeidh Horizons	Former Area Education Office	Lease	Badenoch and Strathspey	Assessment completed to be considered at EDI May 2018
Highland Third Sector Interface	Former Assessors Office	Ownership	Dingwall and Seaforth	Assessed to be considered at EDI committee May 2018
Strathnaver Museum	Bettyhill Visitor Centre	Ownership	North, West and Central Sutherland	Under assessment to be considered at EDI Committee in Aug 2018
Gairloch Area Development Ltd.	Public toilets	Ownership	Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh	Under assessment to be considered at EDI Committee in Aug 2018

Table 4: Type of Property Requested

Property Type	EOI 17-18	ATR 17-18
Harbour/pier	2	
Car Park	4	
Toilets	3	2
Sports area/ground	4	1
Pavilion	4	2
Building	16	6
Land	4	1
Pond/water	1	
Playpark	1	
Storage Unit	1	
Lighthouse	1	
Church	1	
Cemetery	1	
Yard	1	
Bunker	1	

- Total distinct property types: 15
- Numbers may not match number of EOI/ATR as some requests concern two different types for example: “tennis courts and pavilion”

Table 5: Requests Received by Ward

Ward	EOIs Feb 17 - May 18	ATRs Feb 17 - May 18	TOTAL
North, West and Central Sutherland	3	1	4
Thurso and North West Caithness	6	1	7
Wick and East Caithness	6	1	7
East Sutherland and Edderton	4	0	4
Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh	9	1	10
Dingwall and Seaforth	3	3	6
Tain and Easter Ross	3	1	4
Black Isle	0	0	0
Cromarty Firth	0	0	0
Eilean a'Cheo	2	1	3
Inverness Central	0	0	0
Inverness West	1	0	1
Inverness Ness-side	0	0	0

Inverness Millburn	1	0	1
Aird and Loch Ness	3	0	3
Inverness South	0	0	0
Culloden and Ardersier	0	0	0
Nairn and Cawdor	1	0	1
Caol and Mallaig	0	0	0
Fort William and Ardnamurchan	6	0	6
Badenoch and Strathspey	3	2	5