

North Lanarkshire Council Report

Communities Committee

Does this report require to be approved?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Ref SP/LP/GS

Date

21/08/23

Community Asset Transfer and Participation Requests: Annual Report for 2022/23

From Stephen Penman, Chief Officer – Strategic Communication and Engagement

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Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide the Communities Committee with the annual progress report regarding Community Asset Transfer (CAT) and Participation Requests (PR) in North Lanarkshire. The report has been prepared in line with the legislative requirements set out in Parts 3 and 5 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, requiring relevant authorities to publish an annual report setting out the number of requests received and the outcome of these. A summary of this report will be published and made available online to communities.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Communities Committee:

- (1) Endorse the progress made in implementing the North Lanarkshire Community Asset Transfer (CAT) and Participation Request approach and the level of support being provided to groups and organisations engaged in the process;
- (2) Note the number of Community Asset Transfer requests agreed or refused, whether they resulted in transfer of ownership, lease or conferral of other rights, number of appeals, and number of decisions made by the Council that have been reviewed and the level of capacity building support being provided to groups and organisations engaged in the process;
- (3) Approve the official annual return for submission to the Scottish Government, and;
- (4) Authorise that this report and the annual government return is made publicly available to meet our requirements under Section 95 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 to produce and publish an annual report on Asset Transfer Request activity.

The Plan for North Lanarkshire

Priority All priorities

Ambition statement (19) Improve engagement with communities and develop their capacity to help themselves

1. Background

- 1.1 The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 came into force in July 2015. The Act requires local authorities to engage with communities and the voluntary sector to deliver effective services in partnership to meet local need. Community Asset Transfer is covered under part 5 of the Act and Participation Request requests are covered under Part 3 of the Act.
- 1.2 The Council's Corporate Community Ownership and Management Working Group oversees delivery of the processes and for setting implementation priorities for this part of council business. (Refer to Appendix 1 for working group membership.)
- 1.3 To date there has been a focus on ensuring that the Council's processes reflect the requirement to: -
- empower community bodies through the ownership of land and buildings and strengthening their voices in the decisions that matter to them;
 - focus on achieving outcomes and improving the process of community planning through community participation;
 - implement, and continue to review, the CAT and PR policy and process approved by the Community Empowerment Committee in April 2020 reflecting The Plan for North Lanarkshire (TPFNL) and other national review and guidance.

2. Report

Community Asset Transfer Update

- 2.1 Between the 1 April 2022 and the 31 March 2023 there has been a total of 16 new enquires relating to CAT. Combined with 9 ongoing enquiries from the previous year; has meant officers involved in the CAT process have been engaging and supporting 25 organisations and groups all at different stages of the CAT process.
- 2.2 Table 1 below summarises the enquiries/submissions received within the reporting period.

Table 1 Community Asset Transfer enquiries/submissions up to 31 March 2023

| Classification | Number |
|--|--------|
| Ongoing enquiries from previous years | 9 |
| Number of new enquires received with reporting period (telephone / email or web enquiries) | 16 |
| Total number of ongoing / new enquiries | 25 |
| Enquiries leading to formal CAT applications being submitted | 1 |
| <i>Further breakdowns</i> | |
| Number of successful CAT applications determined | 0 |
| Number of unsuccessful CAT applications determined | 0 |
| Unsuccessful CAT applications that went to authority appeal or ministerial review | 0 |
| Number of applications withdrawn | 0 |

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Number of CAT applications yet to be determined | 1 |
| Enquiries resulting in other ownership or management options | 2 |
| Enquiries withdrawn | 1 |
| Number of ongoing enquiries | 21 |
| Anticipated / applications pending | 5 |
| Enquiries with limited or early progress to report | 12 |
| Enquiries with no progress to report | 5 |

2.3 The focus for all enquiries is to secure the best outcome for all parties. It is important to note, that some enquiries will be withdrawn, some will lead to formal CAT applications being submitted and some enquiries will be resolved through other means such as, commercial leases, alternative management agreements etc.

2.4 A detailed breakdown of the CAT activity is provided in Appendix 2 of this report.

CAT - Key highlights for 2022/23:

2.5 Key highlights from the last reporting year include:

- Ongoing work and negotiations in respects of CAT – leases agreed during 2021/22 for Viewpark Gardens Trust and Palacerigg Community Trust.
- During the reporting period, enquiries and expressions of interests have been received from seven community board areas. The awareness of the CAT process is increasing, with more organisations are making early contact for advice, guidance, and support.
- A significant number of enquiries have been received from Community and Amateur Sports Organisations and Clubs this reporting period. Enquiries from football clubs and academies, boxing clubs, a basketball team, a community fitness organisation and a running club. Opportunities arising from the new sports pitch strategy currently being developed may offer potential solutions for some of these enquiries / expressions of interest.
- Many organisations have received developmental support, guidance or advice from the Community Partnership Team to assess their capacity and to agree the best outcome for them in line with their organisational aspirations. Organisations continue to be appreciative of this initial offer of support.
- Delivery of CAT briefing sessions for Elected Members was completed.

Participation Requests

2.6 Participation requests are a way for people to have their say about what improvements they would like to see made to public services they use. This is outlined in Part 3 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act (2015). By making a participation request, a community body, or a group of people can start a discussion with the council about how to improve services. This may be as simple as a focused discussion or may be about negotiating and agreeing for the community body to assume responsibility for making improvements within their local community. The council must agree to the request or give a good reason why not. If the request is granted, the community body will be invited to participate in an outcome improvement process. This formal process will determine the finer details of any involvement or improvement work. It is envisaged that the outcome improvement process will lead to an improvement in the way a service is delivered or to improved outcomes for local communities and for local people.

- 2.7 There have been a total of two participation request enquiries. Both enquires resulted in the two community bodies submitting formal participation requests. A detailed breakdown of the participation requests is included in Appendix 3.
- 2.8 Table 2 below summarises the enquiries/submissions received between 1st April 2022 and 31st March 2023.

Table 2 Participation Request enquiries/submissions up to 31 March 2023

| Classification | Number |
|--|---------------|
| Ongoing enquiries from previous periods | 0 |
| Number of new participation request enquiries 2022-23 | 2 |
| Total number of PR enquiries | 2 |
| Enquiries leading to formal Participation Request applications | 2 |
| Number of participation requests with successful outcomes agreed | 2 |
| Number of unsuccessful participation requests determined | 0 |
| Number of enquiries withdrawn | 0 |
| Number of applications yet to be determined | 0 |
| Number of PR requests pending | 0 |
| Total number of live PR case operating within NLC | 4 |

Requests - Key highlights for 2022/23:

- 2.9 Key updates for 2022/23 include:

- The two latest successful participation requests (as with the two from 2020-22 reporting periods), relate to community organisations supporting North Lanarkshire Council by taking responsibility for local green environmentally friendly initiatives and open space / streetscape improvements.
- All four community organisations have been successful in applications for funding support from various council grant funding programmes including Recover NL Environmental Funding, Campsies Grant Award Programme, Grant Award Programme (GAP) and the Local Development Programme (LDP).
- This partnership approach to environmental improvement work and pursuing greener lifestyles demonstrates the motivation of local organisations and residents to prioritise and take actions to improve the environment.

Capacity Building Support for CAT & PR requests

- 2.10 While the number of organisations submitting formal CAT and PR applications is relatively low, pre-application support is being provided to most organisations following their early expression of interest/enquiry. This initial support ensures that the organisations understand the empowerment focussed processes and enables them to access vital information, guidance, and advice at the same time. Many organisations are also receiving extended support from the Community Partnership Team to further develop their capacity and to enable them to develop important supporting evidence for their CAT and PR requests. This often includes advice on planning, finances, staffing /volunteers, policies and procedures, promotions, project management, community engagement and consultation. This can be resource intensive, however

the council is committed to ensuring that it does not transfer the burden of property or land, or delivery of local improvements to organisations who do not have the capacity and/or resources to sustain the important work within communities.

- 2.11 It is likely that requests for support will match the levels of enquiries received each year. The provision of support is very important and enables organisations to submit more rounded, well considered applications and to improve their own capacity to manage community assets and improve local outcomes.
- 2.12 The council's approach to asset rationalisation can impact on the number of community organisations considering CAT and PR applications on behalf of communities. Additional support and capacity building may need to be offered to such organisations.

Promotions and Awareness Raising

- 2.13 Work will continue to better promote and raise awareness of the various participation and empowerment tools and approaches linked to CAT and PR, and will include: -
- Ensuring our web pages are kept up to date with new learning, advice, and support options.
 - Refresher briefings for council officers on the Community Empowerment Act
 - Briefings/training for community organisations
 - CAT and Participation Request briefings will continue to form part of the Development Programme for Community Boards
 - PR briefing sessions for Elected Members and Senior Officers involved in the Corporate Community Ownership and Management Working Group.

Future Priorities

- 2.14 Building on the progress to date in implementing the Community Asset Transfer and Participation Requests policy, a key area of focus is ensuring that the process moves at an appropriate pace. To achieve this, the current action plan for the Corporate Community Ownership and Management of Assets working group will be reviewed and updated. The key priorities for the next action plan include: -
- Continuing to develop and manage Community Asset Transfer and Participation Request processes in line with the Community Empowerment Act.
 - Review and benchmark our processes and research other options that could be considered in a widened spectrum of solutions to support the CAT aspirations of communities.
 - Implement one point of contact for all property requests/CAT applications/lease enquiries etc, submitted by community organisations.
 - Continue to research and develop a corporate approach to enable the council to agree appropriate discounted leasing agreements with organisations with charitable aims where it is mutually beneficial to agree outwith the CAT process.
 - Development of capacity building support offer for community organisations and groups.

Annual data return for the Scottish Government

- 2.15 All relevant authorities concerned with asset transfer under schedule 3 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 are required to submit an annual return to the Scottish Government. The Scottish Government provides a template to use for this purpose.

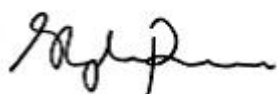
- 2.16 Appendix 4 contains the completed template for North Lanarkshire Council and contains key data for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023. The information provided in the template will help inform policy and practice at a local and national level. The data will be collated and shared by the Scottish Government's Community Empowerment Team.
- 2.17 This annual report, and the return for the Scottish Government contained within it, will be made publicly available to meet our requirements for reporting updates and progress to the public.

3. Measures of success

- 3.1 Performance measures in respect of Community Asset Transfer and Participation Requests have now been included in the Plan for North Lanarkshire – Strategic Performance Framework. The performance measures cover the following: -
- number of successful Participation and CAT requests
 - number of community groups engaged in Participation and CAT requests;
 - support provided to community groups and organisations as a result of initial CAT or PR enquiries; and
 - positive outcomes or referrals as a result of initial CAT or PR enquiries.

4. Supporting documentation

- 4.1 Appendix 1: Corporate Community Ownership and Management Working Membership
- 4.2 Appendix 2: Community Asset Transfer Activity Log for 2022/23
- 4.3 Appendix 3: Participation Request Activity Log for 2022/23
- 4.4 Appendix 4: Annual Return to Scottish Government for 2022/23
- 4.5 Link to NLC – [Community Asset Transfer Policy](#)
- 4.6 Link to NLC – [CAT & PR website pages](#)



Stephen Penman
Chief Officer – Strategic Communication and Engagement

5. Impacts

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|--|
| 5.1 Public Sector Equality Duty and Fairer Scotland Duty |
| Does the report contain information that has an impact as a result of the Public Sector Equality Duty and/or Fairer Scotland Duty? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact? |
| If Yes, has an assessment been carried out and published on the council's website? https://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/your-community/equalities/equality-and-fairer-scotland-duty-impact-assessments Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5.2 Financial impact |
| Does the report contain any financial impacts? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| If Yes, have all relevant financial impacts been discussed and agreed with Finance? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact? |
| Successful CAT requests may impact on the Council's income in terms of revenue income and capital receipt. The implications of this could be both negative and positive and will be considered alongside risk and community benefit to contribute to determining the outcome of a CAT request. |
| 5.3 HR policy impact |
| Does the report contain any HR policy or procedure impacts? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| If Yes, have all relevant HR impacts been discussed and agreed with People Resources? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact? |
| 5.4 Legal impact |
| Does the report contain any legal impacts (such as general legal matters, statutory considerations (including employment law considerations), or new legislation)? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| If Yes, have all relevant legal impacts been discussed and agreed with Legal and Democratic? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact? |
| The Community Asset Transfer and Participation requests process has been implemented and reviewed, in accordance with the Council's statutory duties as outlined in the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 and the Asset Transfer under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 Guidance for Relevant Authorities. |
| 5.5 Data protection impact |
| Does the report / project / practice contain or involve the processing of personal data? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| If Yes, is the processing of this personal data likely to result in a high risk to the data subject? |

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| | <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If Yes, has a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) been carried out and e-mailed to dataprotection@northlan.gov.uk</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> |
| <p>5.6</p> | <p>Technology / Digital impact</p> <p>Does the report contain information that has an impact on either technology, digital transformation, service redesign / business change processes, data management, or connectivity / broadband / Wi-Fi?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?</p> <p>Where the impact identifies a requirement for significant technology change, has an assessment been carried out (or is scheduled to be carried out) by the Enterprise Architecture Governance Group (EAGG)?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> |
| <p>5.7</p> | <p>Environmental / Carbon impact</p> <p>Does the report / project / practice contain information that has an impact on any environmental or carbon matters?</p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?</p> <p>Several of the projects will have a positive effect on the local environment as the result of improvements to community amenities. Some of the CAT proposals will involve facility upgrades which will include consideration of environmentally friendly heating sources and other options. Two participation requests focus on environmental improvement and another supporting the active travel agenda.</p> |
| <p>5.8</p> | <p>Communications impact</p> <p>Does the report contain any information that has an impact on the council's communications activities?</p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?</p> <p>The Participation Request and CAT process supports the Council's framework for engagement with local communities and is supportive of building the capacity of local communities and of the community empowerment agenda.</p> |
| <p>5.9</p> | <p>Risk impact</p> <p>Is there a risk impact?</p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the key risks and potential impacts, highlighting where the risk(s) are assessed and recorded (e.g. Corporate or Service or Project Risk Registers), and how they are managed?</p> <p>Ongoing consideration of risk as part of the corporate risk management approach linked to the implementation of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015</p> |
| <p>5.10</p> | <p>Armed Forces Covenant Duty</p> <p>Does the report require to take due regard of the Armed Forces Covenant Duty (i.e. does it relate to healthcare, housing, or education services for in-Service or ex-Service personnel, or their families, or widow(er)s)?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the provision which has been made to ensure there has been appropriate consideration of the particular needs of the</p> |

Armed Forces community to make sure that they do not face disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public services.

5.11 Children's rights and wellbeing impact

Does the report contain any information regarding any council activity, service delivery, policy, or plan that has an impact on children and young people up to the age of 18, or on a specific group of these?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact and the provision that has been made to ensure there has been appropriate consideration of the relevant Articles from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

If Yes, has a Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment (CRWIA) been carried out?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Corporate Community Ownership and Management Working Group

The following services are represented of the working group:

| |
|--|
| Community Partnership Team |
| Active & Creative Communities |
| Financial Solutions (Corporate Finance) |
| Legal Services |
| Roads and Land Maintenance (Environmental) |
| Growth/Planning & Regeneration |
| Risk and Insurance |
| Asset & Procurement Solutions (Forward Planning and Specification Team) |
| Business and Digital (Business Solutions) |
| Asset & Procurement Solutions (Estates) |
| Asset & Procurement Solutions (Operational Property) |
| Asset & Procurement Solutions (Community Facilities) |
| Business Development & Support |
| Greenspace |
| Planning |
| NL Properties |

Community Asset Transfer Activity Log for 2022/23

a) Ongoing enquiries from previous periods: (09)

| | Organisation/group | Asset |
|---|------------------------------------|---|
| 1 | Villa Park Football Club | Calder Park football pitches (Motherwell) |
| 2 | Chapelhall Resilience | Chapelhall Senior Citizens Centre / Chapelhall Library |
| 3 | Cumbernauld Cottage Trust | Former Cumbernauld Theatre buildings and land |
| 4 | Fir Park Corner Football Club | Overtown Football Pitch and Pavilion |
| 5 | Harthill Village Hall Group | Former Harthill Senior Citizens Centre |
| 6 | Palm Church Airdrie | Rochsoles Community Centre |
| 7 | Lanarkshire Deaf Club | Former Daisy Park Community Centre |
| 8 | Airdrie Citizens Advice Bureau | Various town centre locations for office space and shared community hub |
| 9 | Lanarkshire Muslim Welfare Society | Holytown Community Centre |

b) Number of new enquiries for 2022-23: (16)

| | Organisation/group | Asset | Enquiry |
|---|--|---|-------------------|
| 1 | North Lanarkshire Muslim Women and Family Alliance | Janet Hamilton Centre & Coatbridge Outdoor Sports Centre and land | Ownership |
| 2 | Bannan Fitness | Janet Hamilton Centre, Coatbridge | Lease |
| 3 | Airdrie & Coatbridge Harriers | Coatbridge Outdoor Centre site and facilities, Coatbridge | Lease / Ownership |
| 4 | North Lanarkshire Titans | Land or facility for Basketball games and training | Lease / Ownership |
| 5 | Airdrie Foodbank | NLC premises - Anderson Street, Airdrie | Lease |
| 6 | The Miracle Foundation | Community Centres, Motherwell area | Lease / Ownership |
| 7 | Burnhead Bowling Club | Land at side of Bowling Club (previous site of tennis greens) | Lease / Ownership |
| 8 | A-Jabs Community Boxing Club | Birkenshaw Sports Barn | Lease / Ownership |
| 9 | Shire Amateur Boxing Club | Community Centres, Wishaw area | |

| | | | |
|-----|----------------------------------|---|-------------------|
| 10 | Newarthill Boxing Club | Community facilities, Newarthill / New Stevenson areas | Lease / Ownership |
| 11 | Viewpark Conservation Group | Banyan Sports Pitch (Lancaster Field), Viewpark | Ownership |
| 12 | African Collaborative | Jerviston Community Centre, Motherwell | Ownership |
| 13 | Shotts Bon Accord Academy Clubs | Football Pitches, Kirk Road, Shotts | Lease / Ownership |
| 14 | Burnbank Football Club | Whifflet Park - football pitches and former ground maintenance site | Lease |
| 15 | Calderbraes Football Club | Football Pitch, Viewpark | Lease |
| 16. | Shining Stars ASN Theatre School | Former Whifflet Community Centre, Coatbridge | Ownership |

Status logs for 2022-23:

c) Enquiries leading to formal CAT applications being submitted: (01)

| | Organisation/group | Asset | Enquiry | Outcome |
|---|---------------------------|--|-----------|---|
| 1 | Cumbernauld Cottage Trust | Former Cumbernauld Theatre building and car park | Ownership | Decision not made within reporting period. However, please note that committee decision was made in May 2023 to refuse the application. |

d) Enquiries resulting in other ownership or management options: (02)

| | Organisation/group | Asset | Outcome |
|---|-----------------------------|--|---|
| 1 | Burnbank Football Club | Former ground maintenance site at side of bowling club | Commercial lease (long-term) is being progressed |
| 2 | Harthill Village Hall Group | Village Hall, former Senior Citizens Centre, Harthill | Commercial lease being changed from annual lease agreement to long-term lease |

e) Enquiries withdrawn: (01)

| | | |
|---|----------------------------------|---|
| 1 | Shining Stars ASN Theatre School | Site of interest - former Whifflet Community Centre, Coatbridge |
|---|----------------------------------|---|

f) Expected formal CAT applications: (05)

| | Organisation/group | Asset | Enquiry |
|---|--|---|-------------------|
| 1 | Palm Church, Airdrie | Rochsoles Community Centre, Airdrie | Ownership |
| 2 | North Lanarkshire Muslim Women & Family Alliance | Janet Hamilton Centre / Coatbridge Outdoor Sports site and facility | Ownership / Lease |
| 3 | Bannan Fitness | Janet Hamilton Centre, Coatbridge | Lease |
| 4 | Airdrie & Coatbridge Harriers | Coatbridge Outdoor Sports Centre site and facilities | Ownership / Lease |
| 5 | African Collaborative | Jerviston Community Centre, Motherwell | Ownership |

g) Enquiries with limited or early progress to report: (11)

| | Organisation/group | Asset | Notes / update |
|---|-------------------------------|--|---|
| 1 | Villa Park Football Club | Calder Park football pitches (Motherwell) | The site has been de-classified as a common good property and the organisation are now at the early preparatory stages for a CAT. They remain interested in a long-term commercial lease if the site is declared surplus as part of the sports pitch strategy |
| 2 | Chapelhall Resilience | Chapelhall Senior Citizens Centre / Chapelhall Library | The community steering group has now set up a new organisation to progress CAT ambitions. The organisation is currently working towards becoming a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) |
| 3 | Fir Park Corner Football Club | Overtown Football Pitch and Pavilion | The organisation is interested in a lease option for the site should it be declared surplus as part of the sports pitch strategy. They are willing to consider a CAT application in the longer term for the site and pavilion. |
| 4 | Lanarkshire Deaf Club | Former Daisy Park Community Centre | NLC – Estates and Legal are exploring matters pertaining to the land ownership. The organisation have expressed an interest in a long- |

| | | | |
|----|------------------------------------|---|---|
| | | | term lease or CAT to enable them to secure external funding for facility improvement works. |
| 5 | Airdrie Citizens Advice Bureau | Various town centre locations for office space and shared community hub | The organisation is continuing to explore potential options within the town centre and have also being looking at alternative rental options. |
| 6 | North Lanarkshire Titans | Land or facility for basketball games and training | The organisation continues to explore potential options and is also engaging with Ravenscraig LTD |
| 7 | The Miracle Foundation | Community Centres, Motherwell area | The organisation continues to search for suitable facilities within Motherwell and surrounding areas. |
| 8 | Newarthill Boxing Club | Community facilities, Newarthill / New Stevenson areas | The organisation has exhausted research into CAT options within Newarthill and surrounding areas and are now considering options for a modular build on land leased from NLC at Mosshall Street, Newarthill. Potential CAT ownership being considered for the land. |
| 9 | Lanarkshire Muslim Welfare Society | Holytown Community Centre | Organisations is reviewing funding options for initial survey and feasibility work. Interest paused at this time. |
| 10 | Airdrie Foodbank | NLC premises - Anderson Street, Airdrie | Premises unavailable at this time. The organisation has been exploring alternative options. |
| 11 | Shire Amateur Boxing Club | Community Centres, Wishaw area | The organisation is working towards being CAT ready and are planning to apply to become a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) |

h) Enquiries with no further updates to report: (05)

| | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|---|--|
| 1 | Burnhead Bowling Club | Land at side of Bowling Club (previous site of tennis greens) | Pending community discussions and feedback from elected member |
| 2 | A-Jabs Community Boxing Club | Birkenshaw Sports Barn | Organisation has temporarily paused work on this |
| 3 | Viewpark Conservation Group | Banyan Sports Pitch (Lancaster Field), Viewpark | Work as paused, awaiting feedback from sports pitch strategy |
| 4 | Shotts Bon Accord Academy Clubs | Football Pitches, Kirk Road, Shotts | No further contact from organisation |
| 5 | Calderbraes Football Club | Football Pitch, Viewpark | No further contact from organisation |

Participation Request Activity Log for 2022/23

- a) Ongoing enquiries from 2021-22 period: (00)
 b) Number of new participation request enquiries for 2022-23: (02)

| | Organisation/group |
|---|-------------------------------|
| 1 | Cardowan Community Meadows |
| 2 | Abronshill Regeneration Forum |

- c) Enquiries leading to formal Participation Request applications (02)

| | Organisation/group | Details |
|---|-------------------------------|---|
| 1 | Cardowan Community Meadows | Using land owned by NLC, install, and operate an Active Travel Hub for the local community of Cardowan |
| 2 | Abronshill Regeneration Forum | Installation and maintenance of sensory / streetscene features at various locations throughout Abronshill. (All sites are owned by NLC and operated by NLC – Land Management) |

- d) Number of participation requests with successful outcome: (02)

As per section C above

- e) Number of unsuccessful participation requests determined: (00)

- f) Number of withdrawn enquiries: (00)

- g) Number of applications pending determination: (00)

- h) Total number of live PR cases operating within NLC: (04)

As per section C above plus Gartcosh Tenants and Residents Association from 2020/21 period and Stepps Community Development Trust from 2021/22 period.

Asset Transfer Request Reporting Template 2022/23 for Relevant Authorities

Section 95 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 requires relevant authorities to produce an annual report on Asset Transfer Request activity and publish this no later than 30 June each year.

Following stakeholder feedback and in response to asset transfer evaluations, this template has been created to help gather asset transfer data for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023. Information provided will help inform policy and practice at local and national level as the data will be collated and shared by the Scottish Government's Community Empowerment Team. However, it will be for each relevant authority to make their own annual report publicly available by 30 June 2023, whether using this template or not.

Please provide information in sections below and email completed template by 30 June 2023 to community.empowerment@gov.scot

Section One – Relevant Authority Information

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>Organisation:</p> <p>North Lanarkshire Council</p> <p>Completed by:</p> <p>Gary Stark</p> <p>Email:</p> <p>starkga@northlan.gov.uk</p> <p>Date of completion:</p> <p>16 June 2023</p> <p>Are you the Asset Transfer Lead Contact for the organisation:</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>If not please provide the name, job title and email address for the lead contact for any queries:</p> | <p>Address:</p> <p>Civic Centre, Windmillhill Street, Motherwell, ML1 1AB</p> <p>Role:</p> <p>Assistant Community Partnership Manager</p> <p>Telephone:</p> <p>07793 314527</p> |
|---|--|

Section 2: Asset Transfer Data in 2022/23

2.1 Please complete the following table for the 2022/23 reporting period :

| Total Applications Received | Number of successful applications determined | Number of unsuccessful applications determined | Number received and yet to be determined | Number received prior to 2022/23 and yet to be determined |
|-----------------------------|--|--|--|---|
| 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |

2.2 Please provide details of Asset Transfer Requests received which resulted in transfer of ownership, lease, or rights from your relevant authority to a community transfer body in 2022/23: **N/A**

2.3 Please provide details of Asset Transfer Requests that went to a relevant authority appeal or review which were concluded in 2022/23: **N/A**

| Name of Community Transfer Body | Was the Asset Transfer Appeal/Review accepted? (Y/N) | Why was the Appeal/Review accepted/refused? <i>Please provide details of the asset transfer request and reasons for your decision.</i> |
|---------------------------------|--|--|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

2.4 Please use this space to provide any further comments relating to the above data:

Details of other successful outcomes / community ownership arrangements out with the Asset Transfer legislative process:

1. Long-term (low cost) commercial lease secured for Burnbank Football Club in respect to the former Whifflet Park bowling club site and extended land area to the side of the facility.
2. Long-term (low cost) commercial lease secured for Harthill Village Hall Group in respect to the former Harthill Senior Citizens Centre and associated grounds.

Section Three – Promotion and Equality

3.1 Please provide information on any action you have taken to promote the benefits of asset transfer or any support provided for communities to engage with the Asset Transfer Request process.

During the past year North Lanarkshire Council has continued to distribute informational leaflets and other literature about Community Asset Transfers and this has been used to promote and raise awareness of benefits of the process. Additionally, a briefing session was run for elected members during the reporting period.

As part of a review of our internal procedures, an early meeting with interested community bodies and organisations now takes place to provide initial process advice, guidance, and support. Following this, community bodies are encouraged to submit an enquiry providing details about their organisation and the asset they are interested in. On receipt, a follow-up meeting is arranged with the organisation to discuss process matters and to answer any other questions they may have. Likewise potential support options available from the council are considered. This normally consists of capacity building, organisational development, and community engagement processes.

3.2 In particular what action has been taken to support disadvantaged communities to engage with the asset transfer process?

North Lanarkshire Council has a dedicated team of officers who within their remit have responsibility for supporting and promoting community asset transfers. Our officers cover all communities within North Lanarkshire and will support organisations operating within disadvantaged communities. Priority communities have also been identified as part of our local outcome improvement plans and these communities also benefit from extended support from other community planning partners operating within that area.

Section Four – Additional Information

4.1 Please use this space to provide any further feedback not covered in the above sections.

Thinking to the year head, North Lanarkshire Council officers responsible for the community asset transfer process have identified several key actions: -

- Continuing to develop and manage Community Asset Transfer and Participation Request processes in line with the Community Empowerment Act
- Review and benchmark our processes and research other options that could be considered in a widened spectrum of solutions to support the CAT aspirations of our communities.
- Implement one point of contact for all property requests / CAT applications / lease enquiries etc, submitted by community organisations.
- Continue to research and develop a corporate approach to enable the council to agree discounted leasing agreements with organisations with charitable aims where it is mutually beneficial to agree out with the CAT process.
- Refine and develop our capacity building support offer for community organisations and groups.

Section 5 – Community Empowerment Act Review

The following questions relate to the Scottish Government review of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. We would value your feedback as a relevant authority concerned with part 5 (asset transfers) of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. Please note, any feedback offered in Section 5 would only be used for the purposes of the review, and all comments would be anonymised.

5.1 Has the legislation made things easier or more difficult to work with communities on asset transfers? Please provide some comments on your experiences as a relevant authority engaging with this legislation.

The legislation enables us to take a consistent approach to community asset transfer matters across all of our communities. By the nature of the process and the length of time involved for various stages, it can be viewed by community bodies and organisations as overly bureaucratic. The expectations of a quick turnaround of an asset transfer can be a challenge, especially for organisations who want to move fast but may not be in a position to do so.

5.2 Where can things be further improved, and what needs to change?

As awareness increases about the opportunities for community asset transfers, so does the requirement to provide organisations and groups with relevant and timely guidance, advice, and support. North Lanarkshire Council and our community planning partners understand the importance of this support and remain committed to providing it, but it can lead to resourcing pressures. To ease the burden, it would be useful to consider solutions to mitigate this for relevant authorities.

The CAT process can seem intensive and intimidating for many smaller organisations interested in a community asset transfer. In spite of the available support, some organisations back off or slow down their efforts. Consideration of additional support and resources for smaller organisations, especially those operating within priority communities would be beneficial.

5.3 Are you aware of what support is available to you when engaging with this legislation, and how you can access this?

Yes – there is a general awareness of the support available. North Lanarkshire Council on occasions has sought guidance and clarification from the Community Ownership Support Service. However, it would be useful if all of the specific support for relevant authorities could be highlighted and promoted.

5.4 What would you like to see now, to further empower Scotland's communities?

Empowerment is a long-term process, and it would be useful to see additional focus on reviewing and developing the tools/methodologies that could be used to support organisations and groups.

Increased resources to allow for additional grassroots community development work and activity, including community capacity building and community engagement (especially within disadvantaged and priority communities)

Collective consideration of the barriers experienced by communities in regard to empowerment and community participation and to finding solutions to removing them.

Please email the completed template by 30 June 2023 to community.empowerment@gov.scot

If you have any queries please contact Malcolm Cowie, Asset Transfer Policy Manager at Malcolm.cowie@gov.scot