

North Lanarkshire Council Report

Communities Committee

Does this report require to be approved? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Ref SP/LP/GS

Date 18/08/25

Community Asset Transfer and Participation Requests: Annual Report for 2024/25

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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.

These important areas of business are recognised as a vital mechanism for community engagement and improvement within public services. Our work has helped us foster collaboration, empower communities and to enable community and voluntary sector organisation to deliver important outcomes for residents and communities.

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.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Communities Committee:

- (1) Recognise 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) Acknowledge 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; and
- (3) Be aware of the advance data regarding anticipated CAT applications for 2025/26 period as outlined in Appendix 2 – Section H.
- (4) Approve the official annual return (2024/25) for submission to the Scottish Government.
- (5) Authorise that this report and the annual government return is made publicly available to meet 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
Programme of Work	Resilient People

1. Background

- 1.1 The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 was enacted in July 2015; this legislation requires Local Authorities to collaborate with communities and the voluntary sector to deliver effective services that address local needs. Community Asset Transfer (CAT) is governed by Part 5 of the Act, while Participation Requests (PR) fall under Part 3. Together, these powers support communities to take a more active role in the ownership, management and use of local assets and services.
- 1.2 Within North Lanarkshire Council, the Corporate Community Assets Working Group (CCAWG) oversees the development and implementation of processes relating to community ownership and management of assets. This officer group sets priorities, provides strategic guidance and ensures consistency of practice across council services. Membership of the group is detailed in Appendix 1.
- 1.3 During 2024/25, the working group has delivered significant improvements and actions aligned with the Community Ownership and Management of Council Owned Assets Policy, which was approved in June 2024. These actions have strengthened the Council's commitment to supporting community bodies and maximising community benefit from local assets. Key areas of focus included:
 - Empowering community bodies to secure ownership or leases of land and buildings, giving them a stronger voice and a stake in local decision-making.
 - Improving community participation and planning through clearer processes, early engagement, and better information sharing.
 - Reviewing and updating the Council's CAT and PR policies to align with The Plan for North Lanarkshire (TPFNL) and national best practice.
- 1.4 To support this, the working group has overseen a range of practical improvements, Highlights include:
 - Updating the Council's public information, website and application materials to ensure that community groups have access to clear, relevant and consistent guidance.
 - Introducing a 'lighter touch' application and assessment process for lease agreements and short-term management arrangements, ensuring proportionality and reducing administrative burden for smaller or lower-risk requests. The lighter touch focuses on the applicant organisations preparing a community proposal rather than a full business plan, and simpler scoring and assessment process for use by officers.
 - Finalising new guidance for the Capital Community Asset Fund, which supports capital improvements to buildings where ownership or lease requests are successful.
 - Developing updated process flowcharts and agreed internal procedures so that all service enquiries from community organisations are captured, logged and progressed through a single, coordinated point of contact.
 - Establishing a refreshed approach to asset lists, ensuring that surplus assets suitable for community ownership are clearly identified and discussed at an early stage with community partners.
 - Recruiting two dedicated Community Partnership Officers to increase capacity within communities, support groups through the application process, and deliver awareness-raising and training sessions for community organisations, council staff and elected members.

- Introducing improved arrangements for monitoring, risk assessment and reporting, including regular progress updates to the Leadership Group and Communities Committee, alongside the statutory annual report to the Scottish Government.
- 1.5 While the report's primary focus is on the statutory CAT and PR processes, the Council recognises that alternative mechanisms, such as negotiated leases and management agreements, may often provide the best route for community use. The recent policy updates and strengthened governance structures will ensure that these opportunities continue to grow and deliver lasting benefits for communities across North Lanarkshire.

2. Report

Community Asset Transfer update

- 2.1 Between the 1 April 2024 and the 31 March 2025 there has been a total of 42 new enquires relating to CAT. Combined with 37 ongoing enquiries from the previous year; has meant officers involved in the CAT process have been engaging and supporting 79 organisations and groups, each 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 1 April 2024 - 31 March 2025

Classification	Number
Ongoing enquiries from previous years	37
Number of new enquires received within reporting period (telephone / email or web enquiries)	42
Total number of ongoing / new enquiries	79

- 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. A detailed breakdown of the CAT activity is provided in Appendix 2 of this report.
- 2.4 Table 2 below, provides key statistics for the reporting period:

Table 2 Community Asset Transfer enquiries/submissions 1 April 2024 - 31 March 2025

Enquiries leading to formal CAT applications being submitted	2
<i>Further breakdowns</i>	
Number of successful CAT applications determined	1 (Fir Park Corner Football Club)
Number of unsuccessful CAT applications determined	1 (Cumbernauld Cottage Trust)
Unsuccessful CAT applications that went to authority appeal or ministerial review	01 (Cumbernauld Cottage Trust)
Number of CAT applications yet to be determined	0
Enquiries resulting in other ownership or management options	6

CAT - Key Highlights for 2024/25

2.5 Key highlights from the last reporting period include:

- Continued year-on-year increase in the number of Community Asset Transfer enquiries, reflecting strong community interest and awareness of the opportunities available.
- Successful implementation and embedding of the one-point-of-contact system, ensuring all CAT and related requests are logged and managed consistently through a single channel.
- Greater officer time invested in early-stage support, with clear guidance provided upfront to organisations about the CAT process, eligibility criteria and available funding or technical advice.
- Ongoing strong demand from sports clubs and associations, particularly in relation to sports pitches, community centres indicating the importance of local assets for sports participation and community wellbeing.
- Increased referrals to Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire for tailored advice on governance and funding advice
- Sustained collaboration with the Community Ownership Support Service (COSS), operated by Development Trust Association Scotland, to draw on national best practice and advisory resources.
- Continued roll-out of the CAT Support Fund, supported through UK Shared Prosperity Fund, enabling organisations to undertake essential preparatory work such as business planning, valuations, surveys and feasibility studies.
- Preparation for the launch of a new NLC-led capacity building programme, coordinated by two newly recruited Community Partnership Officers, which will deliver dedicated training, awareness-raising sessions and tailored support for groups interested in asset transfer or other community ownership models.
- Enhanced focus on benchmarking and continuous improvement of the Council's CAT assessment and scoring framework, including reviewing criteria to ensure transparency, fairness and alignment with national guidance.
- The updated policy reinforces the Council's commitment to maximising community benefit from its assets, ensuring fairness, consistency and transparency in how requests are assessed, and safeguarding assets where appropriate. The policy confirms that each request is assessed against robust criteria covering organisational capacity, community benefit, alignment with TPFNL, financial sustainability, and risk. Where appropriate, discounted leases and other flexible options may be agreed to enable community groups to deliver tangible local outcomes.
- Strengthened cross-service coordination and early-stage discussions to explore all feasible options with groups, helping to manage expectations and ensure sustainable outcomes for communities and the Council alike.
- The most recent batch of CAT applications were processed, assessed and scored and presented to committee in record time. Cutting the normal allocated 6-month timeline by 50%. It is our hope to continue at this pace. Supported by two additional temporary Community Partnership Officer posts and through the continued process improvements being designed and implemented by the (CCAWG). This in turn will strengthen our ability to manage community assets effectively, deliver sustainable local improvements and contribute meaningfully to the Council's wider community empowerment objectives.

Participation Requests (2024/25)

- 2.6** Participation Requests are a formal way for community bodies to help shape and improve public services that matter to them. This right is provided under Part 3 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, which aims to give communities more influence over how local services are planned and delivered.

- 2.7 A Participation Request can be made by any community body, voluntary group, or organisation to open discussions with the Council about how a particular service could be improved. Requests can range from straightforward discussions on local issues to more detailed negotiations, where community bodies might help design, deliver, or take on responsibility for aspects of a service or improvement project within their community.
- 2.8 The Council, as a public service authority, has a legal duty to consider every Participation Request received. It must agree to the request unless there is a clear and reasonable justification to refuse. If agreed, the community body is invited to join an Outcome Improvement Process, which sets out exactly how they will be involved and what improvements are expected.
- 2.9 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. The purpose of an Outcome Improvement Process is to deliver real benefits; either by improving how services are run or by securing better results for communities and local people. This can include joint working, shared delivery, or agreed community-led actions which add local insight and capacity.
- 2.10 Participation Requests continue to be an important tool for building stronger partnerships between the Council and the community and voluntary sector (CVS). While the overall number of Participation Request enquiries in North Lanarkshire has decreased this year, the nature of the requests has evolved. Recent enquiries are more advanced and often involve more complex discussions; and involving partnership working between council services and local CVS organisations. This trend matches the national picture where the total number of formal Participation Requests remains modest, but requests increasingly focus on co-designing services and tackling more strategic local issues.
- 2.11 Nationally, from April 2017 to March 2024, 96 Participation Requests were submitted to local authorities across Scotland. North Lanarkshire's local figures reflect this steady but low national usage. In terms of total number of live Participation Requests we are higher than the national average.
- 2.12 Table 3 below summarises the enquiries/discussion and submissions received between 1st April 2024 and 31st March 2025.

Table 3 Participation Request enquiries/discussions and submissions up to 31 March 2025

Classification	Number
Ongoing enquiries from previous periods	2
Number of new participation request enquiries 2024/25	2
Total number of ongoing PR enquiries / discussions	4
Total number of live PR case operating within NLC	2

Capacity Building Support for CAT & PR requests

- 2.13 While the number of community organisations submitting formal Community Asset Transfer (CAT) and Participation Request (PR) applications remains relatively modest at this stage, the Council continues to provide comprehensive pre-application support to the majority of groups who express an early interest or submit an initial enquiry.
- 2.14 This early-stage support is essential to ensure that community organisations fully understand the statutory processes set out within the Community Empowerment

(Scotland) Act 2015. It also helps them to access accurate and timely information, tailored guidance and practical advice at the earliest opportunity.

- 2.15 In many cases, organisations benefit from ongoing, more intensive capacity-building support delivered by the Community Partnership Team. This support goes beyond simple signposting and frequently includes bespoke advice on organisational planning, financial management, governance arrangements, volunteer and staffing requirements, policies and procedures, marketing and communications, project planning, community engagement and consultation approaches, and the collation of supporting evidence required to strengthen formal applications.
- 2.16 The Council recognises that this tailored support can be resource-intensive, placing significant demands on staff time and expertise. However, this investment is necessary and proportionate to ensure that responsibilities for property, land and local service improvements are not transferred to organisations that may lack the long-term capacity or resilience to deliver and sustain community benefits. This approach directly supports the Council's commitment to responsible community empowerment and robust local governance and is delivered by the two new Community Partnership Officers.
- 2.17 As projected in the previous annual report, requests for pre-application support have increased in line with the overall rise in initial enquiries received. This reflects both an increase in community interest and the proactive promotion of CAT and PR opportunities by officers and Elected Members. Officers have facilitated additional community conversations, awareness-raising sessions and one-to-one briefings to encourage informed local participation.
- 2.18 During the current reporting period, overall enquiries relating to Community Asset Transfers have increased by approximately 145%, with enquiries relating to Participation Requests decreasing by 60% compared to the previous period. These figures demonstrate the continued and growing appetite among local communities to play an active role in the ownership, management and improvement of assets and services.

Promotions and Awareness Raising

- 2.19 The Council remains committed to strengthening the visibility and understanding of both Community Asset Transfers (CAT) and Participation Requests (PR) within North Lanarkshire. Building on the actions highlighted in the previous annual report, officers will continue to develop, test and embed a range of practical measures over the next three years.
- 2.20 These measures will include refreshed communications materials, tailored community information sessions and roadshows, highlight success stories and the provision of technical advice surgeries along with the continued integration of CAT and PR awareness within wider community engagement and partnership activity. Officers will also review opportunities to work more closely with local anchor organisations, Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire (VANL), and other key intermediaries such as Community Ownership Support Service, and the Scottish Land Fund.
- 2.21 By enhancing the way information is shared, providing clearer guidance and support, and promoting local examples of success, the Council aims to enable more individuals and community bodies to participate meaningfully in decision-making processes and take an active role in shaping local services and assets.

Future Priorities

- 2.22 In the year ahead, further improvement actions outlined in the CCAWG implementation plan will be implemented. This will include: -

- Review and refresh of the CAT application form
 - Review and update the assessment and scoring process
 - Introduce a suite of documents to be used by the CCAWG members as part of the assessment process
- 2.23 Widening the reach of CAT opportunities to ensure that seldom-heard groups are fully aware of the rights offered by the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.
- 2.24 Investigate the availability of external funding to use for the continuation of the Community Asset Transfer support fund (once the UK Shared Prosperity Fund ends)
- 2.25 Utilising Community Empowerment NL funding (from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund) to deliver three events by end of March 2026 which focuses on showcasing Community Empowerment in Action and Empowerment in practice through Community Asset Transfer.

Annual data return for the Scottish Government

- 2.26 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.
- 2.27 Appendix 4 contains the completed template for North Lanarkshire Council and contains key data for the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025. 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.
- 2.28 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 general 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 Assets Working Group membership.
- 4.2 Appendix 2 Community Asset Transfer Activity Log for 2024/25.
- 4.3 Appendix 3 Participation Request Activity Log for 2024/25.
- 4.4 Appendix 4 Participation Requests Reporting Template 2024/25 for Public Service Authority.
- 4.5 Link to NLC – [CAT & PR website pages](#)

Stephen Penman
Chief Officer, (Strategy and Engagement)

5. Impacts

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 ☐ No ☒ 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 ☐ No ☐
5.2	Financial impact Does the report contain any financial impacts? Yes ☒ No ☐ If Yes, have all relevant financial impacts been discussed and agreed with Finance? Yes ☒ No ☐ 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 ☐ No ☒ If Yes, have all relevant HR impacts been discussed and agreed with People Resources? Yes ☐ No ☐ 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 ☒ No ☐ If Yes, have all relevant legal impacts been discussed and agreed with Legal and Democratic? Yes ☒ No ☐ 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 ☒ No ☐ If Yes, is the processing of this personal data likely to result in a high risk to the data subject? Yes ☐ No ☒ If Yes, has a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) been carried out and e-mailed to dataprotection@northlan.gov.uk Yes ☐ No ☐
5.6	Technology / Digital impact

	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? Yes ☐ No ☒ If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact? 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)? Yes ☐ No ☒
5.7	Environmental / Carbon impact Does the report / project / practice contain information that has an impact on any environmental or carbon matters? Yes ☒ No ☐ If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact? 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
5.8	Communications impact Does the report contain any information that has an impact on the council's communications activities? Yes ☒ No ☐ If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact? 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. Details of promotions and communications for CAT and PR have also been outlined within the report.
5.9	Risk impact Is there a risk impact? Yes ☒ No ☐ 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? Reputational risk to the council if CATs and PRs do not have a positive outcome for the applicants. Ongoing consideration of risk as part of the corporate risk management approach linked to the implementation of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015
5.10	Armed Forces Covenant Duty 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)? Yes ☐ No ☒ 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 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 members 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 2024/25

a) Ongoing enquiries (37):

	Organisation/group	Asset	Enquiry
1.	Villa Park Football Club	Calder Park football pitches (Motherwell)	Lease or ownership
2.	Lanarkshire Deaf Hub	Former Daisy Park Community Centre	Lease or ownership
3.	Lanarkshire Muslim Welfare Society	Holytown Community Centre	Lease or ownership
4.	North Lanarkshire Muslim Women and Family Alliance	Janet Hamilton Centre & Coatbridge Outdoor Sports Centre and land	Ownership
5.	Airdrie & Coatbridge Harriers	Coatbridge Outdoor Centre site and facilities, Coatbridge	Ownership
6.	African Collaborative	Jerviston Community Centre, Motherwell	Ownership
7.	Shotts Bon Accord Academy Clubs	Football Pitches, Kirk Road, Shotts	Lease or ownership
8.	Airdrie & Coatbridge (AC) Rovers football club	Pitches in Thrashbush & Golfhill areas, Airdrie	Lease or ownership
9.	Rivals Foundation	Netherton Community Centre, Wishaw	Ownership
10.	VIP Pass	Fallside School / Birkenshaw Sports Barn / Fallside Community Centre and Holytown Community Centre	Ownership
11.	Holytown Colts Football Club	Keir Hardie sports Centre and Windsor sports fields and pavilion (Holytown)	Lease or ownership
12.	Strathkelvin Community Woodlands Association	Former sports pitch, Moodiesburn	Ownership
13.	Cumbernauld Cottage Trust	Former Cumbernauld Theatre building and car park	Ownership
14.	9th Airdrie Scouts Group	Rochsoles Community Centre	Lease or ownership
15.	Bannan Fitness	Shawhead Community Centre	Lease
16.	Shining Stars ASN Theatre School	Former Whifflet Community Centre / Shawhead Centre, Coatbridge	Ownership
17.	Viewpark Conservation Group	Banyan Sports Pitch (Lancaster Field), Viewpark	Ownership
18.	Kanokwai Judo Club	Janet Hamilton Centre, Coatbridge	Lease
19.	Pawsitive Lives	Land search	Lease or ownership

20.	Plains Food Bank and Community Group	Plains Community Centre	Ownership
21.	Coatbridge Football Club	Coatbridge Outdoor sports Centre or Grass pitch of local high schools	Lease or ownership
22.	SNAPS NL	Various community facilities in Kilsyth and Cumbernauld	Lease or ownership
23.	Release the Fire	Old Cumbernauld theatre	Lease
24.	West of Scotland Football Academy	Kilsyth Playing Fields and pavilion	Lease or ownership
25.	Holytown Karate Club	Holytown Community Centre	Ownership
26.	Newmains Community Trust (NCT)	Land adjacent to community facility	Lease or ownership
27.	Veterans Community (Lanarkshire) SCIO	Former Regeneration Centre, Craigneuk	Ownership
28.	Flag Football Club	Various sport pitches across North Lanarkshire	Lease or ownership
29.	Fir Park Corner FC	Overtown Sports Pitch & Pavilion	Ownership
30.	Palm Church	Rochsoles Community Centre	Ownership
31.	Bellshill Athletic	Rockburn pitches and pavilion	Ownership or lease
32.	Pather Football Club	Pather pitch and pavilion	Lease
33.	Bannan Fitness (second enquiry)	Janet Hamilton Centre	Lease
34.	Newarthill Amateur Boxing Club	New Stevenson CC or Holytown CC	Lease or ownership
35.	Lanarkshire Deaf Services	Shawhead Community Centre	Ownership
36.	Chapelhall Community Development Group	Site of former Chapelhall Senior Citizens Centre	Ownership
37.	Tony's Safe Place	Village Community Hall	Lease or Ownership

b) Number of new enquiries for 2024/25: (42)

	Organisation/group	Asset	Enquiry
1	9th Airdrie Scouts Group (second enquiry)	Airdrie Community Centres	Lease or ownership
2	A-Jabs Boxing Club	Viewpark Pitch Changing Rooms (next to Viewpark Gardens)	Lease or ownership
3	Fighting for Freedom	Mount Pleasant, Chapelhall	Lease or ownership
4	Cumbernauld Indoor Bowling Club	Cumbernauld Indoor Bowling Centre	Ownership
5	Keir Hardie ABC	John Doyle Centre, Holytown	Ownership
6	2nd Clyde (Moodiesburn) Scout Group	Iain Nicolson Centre	Ownership
7	Tick Tock Martial Arts (TTMA)	Birkenshaw Sports Barn	Lease or ownership
8	68 Fitness Community	Iain Nicolson Centre	Lease or ownership
9	Cobra Martial Arts Scotland – Airdrie Martial Arts Centre	Glenmavis Community Centre	Lease or ownership

10	Airdrie Community School Uniform Bank	Glenmavis Community Centre	Lease or ownership
11	Lanarkshire Music Collaborative CIC	Glenmavis Community Centre and Springfield Community Centre	Lease
12	Tumble Time Gymnastics Academy	Burnhead Community Centre	Lease
13	Allanton Miners Charitable Society	Land at front of their building, 187 Allanton Road, Allanton, ML7 5AX	Ownership
14	Well Society	Motherwell and Surrounding area (Women and Girls football)	Lease or ownership
15	Bridges Bar Football Club	Hamilton Place Football Pitch and Pavilion (Holytown)	Lease or ownership
16	Nextgen Golf	Antonine Hub Croy	Lease
17	Glenmavis Community Group	Glenmavis Community Centre	Lease or ownership
18	Sea Cadets Airdrie and Coatbridge	Glenmavis Community Centre / Hall leased from NLC	Lease or ownership
19	Recycled Bikes Scotland	Glenmavis Community Centre	Lease or ownership
20	Local sports-based business	Birkenshaw Sports Barn or other suitable community hub	Lease or ownership
21	Holytown Amateur Football Club	Windsor Park and pavilion	Lease or ownership
22	St Patricks Sports Academy	Bothwellhaugh Playing Pitches, Strathclyde Park, Motherwell, Watling Road Pitches, North Motherwell, Burnhead/Gala day Pitches, Viewpark	Lease or ownership
23	New Craig Community Church	John McCormack Centre	Ownership
24	Airdrie Community Trust	Football Pitches adjacent to the main Albert Barlett Stadium, Airdrie	Lease or ownership
25	Sporting Chances Alba	Auchinloch Community Hall and Car Park	Lease or ownership
26	Motherwell Wishaw CAB	Unknown - have requested list of sites	Lease or ownership
27	Wishaw High School Former Pupils FC	Various football pitches (Motherwell & Wishaw)	Lease
28	Asian Business Centre	Request for list of properties available for CAT	Lease or ownership
29	Plains Amateur Football Club	Grass Football Pitch - Plains Park	Lease or ownership
30	Sapphire Gymnastic Academy	Community Hall - Coatbridge/Airdrie	Lease or ownership
31	Bellshill Amateur FC	Birkenshaw Pitch or Mossend pitches	Lease or ownership
32	RCCG Zoe Parish Church Paisley	Council owned assets in Cumbernauld	Lease

33	Shakespeare Kids	Unknown- Cumbernauld	Lease
34	North Lanarkshire Ethnic Minorities Association	Council owned assets in Cumbernauld, Coatbridge or Airdrie	Lease
35	Thorniewood Community Council	Various in Bellshill	Lease or ownership
36	Cumbernauld Colts	Ravenswood, Dowanfield Road, Earls Hill Park, Balloch, G68 9BZ	Lease
37	Lowland Reserve Forces' & Cadets Association (Army Cadets)	Glenmavis Community Centre	Lease or ownership
38	Shire Amateur Boxing Club	Waterloo Community Centre, Wishaw	Lease or ownership
39	Burnhead Bowling Club	Land at side of Bowling Club (previous site of tennis greens)	Lease
40	Motherwell Phoenix Football Club	Muirhouse Parks and Pavilion	Lease
41	Cardowan Community Meadow	Various land sites within Village	Lease or ownership
42	Caledonian Football Club	Disused ash pitch at Lomond Grove, Disused ash pitch at Ravenswood, Disused ash pitch at Morar Drive (Cumbernauld)	Lease or ownership

Status logs for 2024/25:

c) Enquiries leading to formal CAT applications being submitted: (2)

	Organisation/group	Asset	Enquiry	Outcome
1	Cumbernauld Cottage Trust	Former Cumbernauld Theatre building and car park	Ownership	Application refused
2	Fir Park Corner Football Club	Overtown Football Pitch and Pavilion	Ownership	Application approved

d) Enquiries resulting in other ownership or management outcomes: (06)

	Organisation/group	Asset	Outcome
1	Newarthill Boxing Club	Community facilities, Newarthill / New Stevenson areas	Commercial lease of premises in Merry Street, Motherwell
2	Shire Amateur Boxing Club	Waterloo Community Centre, Wishaw	Commercial lease

3	Burnhead Bowling Club	Land at side of Bowling Club (previous site of tennis greens)	Extension of commercial lease to include extra land
4	Motherwell Phoenix Football Club	Muirhouse Parks and Pavilion	The club have an annual let in place with A&CC and are exploring a licence to use.
5	Bellshill Athletic	Rockburn pitches and pavilion	Long-term commercial lease confirmed
6	Pather Football Club	Pather pitch and pavilion	General Terms of Agreement for use of pavilion has been agreed by A&CC

e) Enquiries withdrawn from ongoing enquiry list from previous periods: (16)

	Organisation/group	Asset	Note / update
1	Bannan Fitness	Janet Hamilton Centre, Coatbridge	Centre demolished due to fire. Application withdrawn
2	Shining Stars ASN Theatre School	Former Whifflet Community Centre / Shawhead Centre, Coatbridge	Application selected not to proceed with formal application
3	Viewpark Conservation Group	Banyan Sports Pitch (Lancaster Field), Viewpark	No contact from organisation in over a year
4	Kanokwai Judo Club	Janet Hamilton Centre, Coatbridge	No contact from organisation in over a year
5	Pawsitive Lives	Land search	No contact from organisation in over a year
6	Plains Food Bank and Community Group	Plains Community Centre	No contact from organisation in over a year
7	Coatbridge Football Club	Coatbridge Outdoor sports Centre or Grass pitch of local high schools	No contact from organisation in over a year
8	SNAPS NL	Various community facilities in Kilsyth and Cumbernauld	No contact from organisation in over a year. Asset requested deemed unsuitable
9	Release the Fire	Old Cumbernauld theatre	No contact from organisation in over a year
10	West of Scotland Football Academy	Kilsyth Playing Fields and pavilion	No contact from organisation in over a year
11	Holytown Karate Club	Holytown Community Centre	No contact from organisation in over a year
12	Newmains Community Trust (NCT)	Land adjacent to community facility	Land unavailable (subject to commercial sale)
13	Veterans Community (Lanarkshire) SCIO	Former Regeneration Centre, Craigneuk	No contact from organisation in over a year

14	Flag Football Club	Various sport pitches across North Lanarkshire	No contact from organisation in over a year
15	9th Airdrie Scouts Group	Rochsoles Community Centre	Centre no longer available
16	Bannan Fitness	Shawhead Community Centre	Applicant decided to focus on another site
17	Tony's Safe Place	The Village community Hall, Cumbernauld	Withdrawn by request of the applicant

f) Enquiries withdrawn from new enquiries list for 2024/25: (11)

	Organisation/group	Asset	Note / update
1	A-Jabs Boxing Club	Viewpark Pitch Changing Rooms (next to Viewpark Gardens)	Lease or ownership
2	Tick Tock Martial Arts (TTMA)	Birkenshaw Sports Barn	Sole trader – not eligible for CAT
3	Lanarkshire Music Collaborative CIC	Glenmavis Community Centre and Springfield Community Centre	CIC – not eligible for CAT. Organisation will consider a partnership with other interested parties
4	Bridges Bar Football Club	Hamilton Place Football Pitch and Pavilion (Holytown)	Organisation have withdrawn their enquiry
5	Recycled Bikes Scotland	Glenmavis Community Centre	Company – not eligible for CAT using current structure. Applicant withdrew their enquiry
6	Local sports-based business	Birkenshaw Sports Barn or other suitable community hub	Not eligible for CAT
7	Airdrie Community Trust	Football Pitches adjacent to the main Albert Barlett Stadium, Airdrie	Land requested is a common good site
8	Motherwell Wishaw CAB	Wishaw Town Centre sites	Land requested is owned by North Lanarkshire Properties and is not available for CAT
9	Wishaw High School Former Pupils FC	Various football pitches (Motherwell & Wishaw)	Land requested are common good sites
10	North Lanarkshire Ethnic Minorities Association	Council owned assets in Cumbernauld, Coatbridge or Airdrie	The organisation is not eligible for, and the timescales requested unachievable

11	Thorniewood Community Council	Various in Bellshill	Community Council are not eligible for CAT
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g) Enquiries with limited or no further updates to report: (18)

1	Cardowan Community Meadow	Various land sites, Cardowan	No update in the last 6 months
2	Holytown Colts Football Club	Keir Hardie sports Centre and Windsor sports fields and pavilion (Holytown)	The club committee are reviewing their position and plan to start preparatory work soon.
3	Strathkelvin Community Woodlands Association	Former sports pitch, Moodiesburn	Ongoing preparatory work is underway.
4	9th Airdrie Scouts Group	Airdrie Community Centres	The group management committee are reviewing options for premises, and are working with NLC- Facilities for alternative letting options
5	Fighting for Freedom	Mount Pleasant, Chapelhall	The organisation is planning to convert to SCIO and are exploring funding options
6	Cumbernauld Indoor Bowling Club	Cumbernauld Indoor Bowling Centre	No update in the last 6 months
7	Keir Hardie ABC	John Doyle Centre, Holytown	No update in the last 6 months
8	Allanton Miners Charitable Society	Land at front of their building, 187 Allanton Road, Allanton	No response from enquirer
9	Well Society	Motherwell and Surrounding area (Women and Girls football)	No response from enquirer
10	Sporting Chances Alba	Auchinloch Community Hall and Car Park	No update in the last 6 months
11	Asian Business Centre	Request for list of properties available for CAT	No update in the last 6 months
12	Plains Amateur Football Club	Grass Football Pitch - Plains Park	The football club are working to set a SCIO and are investigating funding options. No recent contact from club.
13	Sapphire Gymnastic Academy	Community Hall - Coatbridge/Airdrie	No response from enquirer
14	Bellshill Amateur FC	Birkenshaw Pitch or Mossend pitches	No update in the last 6 months
15	RCCG Zoe Parish Church Paisley	Council owned assets in Cumbernauld	Enquiry logged, awaiting asset information from organisation
16	Shakespeare Kids	Unknown- Cumbernauld	No update in last 6 months
17	Cumbernauld Colts	Ravenswood, Dowanfield Road, Earls Hill Park, Balloch	The club are currently investigating options and planning to liaise with the SFA.

18	Lanarkshire Deaf Hub	Former Daisy Park Community Centre	The organisation currently operates a tacit arrangement with A&CC. Alternative options may be required. The Hub have indicated a willingness to explore alternative premises.
19	Caledonia Football Club	Disused ash pitch at Lomond Grove, Disused ash pitch at Ravenswood, Disused ash pitch at Morar Drive (Cumbernauld)	No update in last 6 months

h) Active/Progressing Enquiries within reporting period (24)

	Organisation/group	Asset	Notes / updates
1.	Villa Park Football Club	Calder Park football pitches (Motherwell)	The organisation has completed a commercial valuation of the land and are now working towards a project proposal/ feasibility study with costings and looking at fundraising.
2.	Lanarkshire Muslim Welfare Society	Holytown Community Centre	The organisation has now completed a commercial valuation and reviewing their options. The organisation has enquired about the possibility of licence to occupy to test out the practicalities of a longer-term arrangement.
3.	North Lanarkshire Muslim Women and Family Alliance	Janet Hamilton Centre & Coatbridge Outdoor Sports Centre and land	Formal CAT application received within reporting year but considered by committee in the 2025. Application was unsuccessful. The organisation has submitted a request for an internal review.
4.	Airdrie & Coatbridge Harriers	Coatbridge Outdoor Centre site and facilities, Coatbridge	Formal CAT application received within reporting year but considered by committee in the 2025. Application was unsuccessful. The organisation has submitted a request for an internal review.
5.	African Collaboration	Jerviston Community Centre, Motherwell	Contact with the organisation has been limited. However multi-agency

			support has been offered. Formal CAT application pending.
6.	Shotts Bon Accord Academy Clubs	Football Pitches, Kirk Road, Shotts	The organisation are planning to convert to a SCIO, and are currently exploring an amalgamation with Shotts Bon Accord Football Club
7.	Airdrie & Coatbridge (AC) Rover's football club	Pitches in Thrashbush & Golfhill areas, Airdrie	
8.	Rivals Foundation	Netherton Community Centre, Wishaw	The organisation intends to submit a formal CAT application by May 2025. They have now completed a commercial valuation for the building.
9.	VIP Pass	Fallside School / Birkenshaw Sports Barn / Fallside Community Centre and Holytown Community Centre	The charity have withdrawn their interest for Fallside school due to the amount of funds required to improve the facility. Due to this, they have decided to focus on a new application for their existing leased facility and also Birkenshaw Sports Barn
10.	2nd Clyde (Moodiesburn) Scout Group	Iain Nicolson Centre	The organisations continues to develop plans behind the scenes and they have completed a commercial valuation and conditions survey
11.	68 Fitness Community	Iain Nicolson Centre	
12.	Cobra Martial Arts Scotland – Airdrie Martial Arts Centre	Glenmavis Community Centre	The organisation has applied for their SCIO status and sought advice on having a CAT ready constitution.
13.	Airdrie Community School Uniform Bank	Glenmavis Community Centre	Airdrie Community School Uniform Bank submitted an enquiry for Glenmavis Community Centre on in Jan 2025, with initial support being provided by CPT
14.	Tumble Time Gymnastics Academy	Burnhead Community Centre	The organisation is not the correct governance type for CAT but have attended meetings with officers and continue to express an interest in ownership of a site, whether that is Birkenshaw or another. They have

			been working on SCIO submission and also actively seeking alternative premises.
15.	Nextgen Golf	Antonine Hub Croy	The organisation has met with officers to discuss eligibility. Currently operating under a business model but are exploring the possibility of becoming a SCIO. Follow up guidance and supporting documents has been sent.
16.	Glenmavis Community Group	Glenmavis Community Centre	Glenmavis Community Council has initiated steps toward a Community Asset Transfer for the local community centre, forming a new community group, submitting an expression of interest, and receiving detailed guidance regarding eligibility. The group have advised that they have applied to the charity regulator to become a SCIO.
17.	Sea Cadets Airdrie and Coatbridge	Glenmavis Community Centre	Initial enquiry regarding available assets including Glenmavis Community Centre. Information and advice have been issued
18.	Holytown Amateur Football Club	Windsor Park and pavilion	
19.	Lowland Reserve Forces' & Cadets Association (Army Cadets)	Glenmavis Community Centre	Advice has been provided to the senior managers regarding CAT eligibility. This is currently being investigated. The cadet's force is keen to work alongside other interested parties and have been actively discussing a partnership with Glenmavis Community Group
20.	St Patricks Sports Academy	Bothwellhaugh Playing Pitches, Strathclyde Park, Motherwell, Watling Road Pitches, North Motherwell, Burnhead/Gala day Pitches, Viewpark	The football club have presented a two-phase proposal for the assets outlined. Initial meetings have taken place and information, and guidance issued. A follow up meeting is currently being planned between the club and A&CC

21.	New Craig Community Church	John McCormack Centre	The organisation has been fundraising towards the purchase of an asset and only require small governance changes to be eligible for CAT. Their next steps will be to complete a commercial valuation and condition survey of the asset.
22.	Lanarkshire Deaf Services	Shawhead Community Centre	Application received within the reporting period. Approved during the 2025/26 year and will be officially counted next year.
23.	Chapelhall Community Development Group	Chapelhall Senior Citizens Centre site	Application received within the reporting period. Approved during the 2025/26 year and will be officially counted next year.
24.	Palm Church Airdrie	Rochsoles Community Centre	Application received within the reporting period. Approved during the 2025/26 year and will be officially counted next year.

22. Pending formal CAT applications expected in 2025/26:

	Organisation/group	Asset	Enquiry	Note / update
1	Rivals / Tumble Time Gymnastics / VIP Pass /	Birkenshaw Sports Barn	Ownership	Deadline set for end of August 2025
2	Rural Rest (light-touch community proposal)	Land within Cecil Street Park, Coatbridge	Lease	Expected between July and August 2025
3	St Patrick's Football Club (phase 1)	Bothwellhaugh Hybrid Pitch	Lease / Ownership	December 2025
4	Airdrie Uniform Bank / COBRA / Glenmavis Community Group / Lowland Army Cadets	Glenmavis Community Centre	Lease / Ownership	December 2025
5	Airdrie Community Club	Katherine Park (blaes pitch)	Ownership	March 2026

Participation Request Activity Log for 2024/25

a) Ongoing enquiries from 2023/24 period: (02)

	Organisation/group	Details
1	ML2 Action Sports Group (Social Track)	Considering proposal to work with NLC (various services) to work in partnership to deliver a new destination pump track in vacant land within Wishawhill and/or to further develop the existing pump track site.
2	Abronhill Regeneration Forum	The organisation has been working on an updated participation request and is expected to submit this soon. The proposal remains the same, to: - Install and maintain sensory / streetscene features at various locations throughout Abronhill. (All sites are owned by NLC and operated by NLC – Land Management

b) Number of new participation request enquiries and discussions for 2024/25: (02)

	Organisation/group	Details
1	The Village Community Council	The community council and other organisations who use the Village Community Centre are considering a participation request proposal to work alongside NLC Facilities to improve the availability and usage of the local village hall.
2	Croy Community Hub	Initial discussion about the potential use of PR to safeguard the continued community use of Antonine Community Sports Hub

c) Total number of new / ongoing enquiries or discussions: (04)

d) Enquiries / discussions leading to formal Participation Request applications: (00)

e) Number of participation requests with successful outcome improvement plan: (00)

f) Enquiries / discussions leading to other formal outcomes	0
g) Number of unsuccessful participation requests determined	0
h) Number of withdrawn enquiries	0
i) Number of applications pending determination	0
j) Total number of live PR cases operating within NLC <i>Active – Gartcosh Tenants and Residents Association (Village Square)</i> <i>Active - Cardowan Community Meadow (Active Travel Hub)</i> <i>Note – Stepps Community Development Trust has now dissolved, and the agreed improvement plan has now ended.</i>	2

Annual Report to Scottish Government 2024/25**Participation Requests Reporting Template 2024/25 for Public Service Authorities**

Section 32 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 requires Public Service Authorities to produce an annual report on Participation Request activity and publish this no later than 30 June each year. This template has been created to gather Participation Request data for the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025. 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 is for each Public Service Authority to make their own annual report publicly available by 30 June each year, whether using this template or not.

Please provide information in the sections below and email the completed template by 30 June 2025 or as soon as possible thereafter to community.empowerment@gov.scot.

Section One – Public Service Authority Information

Organisation: North Lanarkshire Council

Completed by:

Gary Stark

Role:

Assistant Community Partnership Manager

Email:

starkga@northlan.gov.uk

Telephone:

07793 314527

Date of completion:

28 June 2025

Are you the Participation Request Lead Contact for the organisation? (Yes):

If not please provide the name, job title and email address for the lead contact for any queries:

Section 2: Participation Request Data for 2024/25

Please complete following overview table:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
Outstanding applications received prior to 2024/25 and still to be determined at 31 March 2025	Applications received prior to 2024/25 and decided on in 2024/25	Applications received prior to 2024/25 and accepted in 2024/25	Applications received prior to 2024/25 and refused in 2024/25	Total new applications received in 2024/25	Number of applications received in 2024/25 which were decided on in 2024/25	Number of applications received in 2024/25 which were accepted in 2024/25	Number of applications received in 2024/25 which were refused in 2024/25	Number of applications received in 2024/25 which are yet to be decided on
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

2.1 Where you were unable to accept a Participation Request, how did you address the community group’s needs/ support them?

We had one PR request in 2023/24 in which the participation body was unable to start the outcome improvement plan in the agreed timeline. By consensus, the PR was paused and we are working with the participation body to resubmit later this year.

2.2 Please provide details of participatory activities with community groups you have agreed/ undertaken during 2024/25. This can include Participation Requests and also any informal arrangements you have agreed that doesn't involve using Participation Request legislation that has led to improved local outcomes:

- We have been liaising with three organisations interested in submitting more complex participation requests.
- No informal arrangements have been agreed.
- A part of our core community funding for CVS organisations. We have improved our application process to capture how funded organisations will contribute to local outcome improvement plan priorities and outcomes. From the April 2026, there will be extra data and intelligence to demonstrate success in this regard.
- Two outcome improvement plans remain operational. These relate to low level environmental / street scape initiatives.

2.3 The recent [Community Empowerment \(Scotland\) Act 2015 -Part 3 Participation Requests Findings Report](#) which was published on 31 March 2025 showed that many Public Service Authorities believe that Participation Requests should only be used when informal engagement has failed and therefore do not proactively promote them.

In the report some Public Service Authorities highlighted alternative community engagement processes used which avoids the need for a Participation Request. Please provide information on your local community engagement strategies and your approaches to working collaboratively with your communities:

Here is a link to our Community Matters – [A Framework for Working with Communities](#)

2.4 We are looking to gather Participation Request case study examples with a particular focus on the outcome improvement process. Please include a link to any examples or provide information here:

No case studies currently available

Completed by: Gary Stark Role: Assistant Community Partnership Manager

Email: starkga@northlan.gov.uk Tel: 07793 314527

Date of completion: 28 June 2025

Please email the completed template to community.empowerment@gov.scot

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

Community Empowerment Team, Scottish Government