



**Community Asset Transfer Report
East Renfrewshire Council
2020/2021**

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 2020 to 31 March 2021. 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 2021, whether using this template or not.

Please provide information in the four sections below and email the completed template by 30 June 2021 to community.empowerment@gov.scot.

Section One – Relevant Authority Information

Organisation & Address:

East Renfrewshire Council
Eastwood Park
Rouken Glen Road
Giffnock
G46 6UG

Completed by: Emma Stewart BSc(Hons) MSc(Dist) ProfCertCIMA MRICS **Role:** Asset Officer

Email: emma1.stewart@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk

Date of completion: 28th June 2021

Are you the Asset Transfer Lead Contact for the organisation: No

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

Dominique Carlisle-Kitz, Strategic Services Senior Lead, Corporate and Community Services

Dominique.Carlisle-Kitz@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk, Tel: 0141 577 8369

Section 2: Asset Transfer Data in 2020/21

2.1 Please complete the following table for the 2020/21 reporting period:

Total new applications received in 2020/21	Total applications received prior to 1 April 2020 which were still to be determined at 1 April 2020	Number of successful applications agreed in 2020/21	Number of unsuccessful applications refused in 2020/21	Total applications (received in any year) still to be determined as at 31 March 2021.
0	0	0	0	1

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 2020/21:

Name of Community Transfer Body, or community group that will take ownership, lease, or management of the asset.	Date request was accepted	Date decision was agreed to transfer the asset	Date transfer completed	Please provide further details, such as: description of the asset / area transferred / amount paid / discount given/ type of ownership / purpose of the transfer.

2.3 Please provide details of Asset Transfer Requests that went to a relevant authority appeal (internal) and/or review (Scottish Government) which were concluded in 2020/21:

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 How many assets in total have been transferred to community ownership, lease or management by your organisation since the asset transfer legislation came into force in January 2017?

East Renfrewshire Council has only received one asset transfer request since January 2017 which is currently under review.

2.5 Please provide information on any assets transferred to community ownership *outwith* the Asset Transfer legislative process since January 2017.

East Renfrewshire Council have worked closely with a number of local community groups to help facilitate demands on their organisation's operations. The council transfers have been through lease agreements at below market rentals or £1 if asked. One example of such agreement is the James McGuire Building, High Street, Barrhead G78 (Rent £1pa if asked). Leases of a similar nature can be found across the property portfolio.

2.6 Considering asset transfers that have completed since 2017, what do you consider to be the outcomes (benefits/challenges) for the communities that have taken ownership of the assets? Please give examples if you can.

Primarily, the removal of rental obligations and security of tenure in the long run. The organisations have also been able to access grant funding given a long term lease agreement.

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

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 2020/21.

Within the council we have a dedicated Community Learning and Development team who actively work with local organisations on many fronts. In 2020/2021 we identified room for improvement in the service and the Asset Transfer process is currently being refreshed.

3.2 In particular what action has been taken to support disadvantaged communities to engage with the asset transfer process during 2020/21?

The council teams have worked throughout the pandemic to engage with organisations across the authority. This is particularly true for groups within the Levern Valley side of the council. The council officers have worked to try ensure the survival of groups which may have been hit financially or those whom have been vital links to the wider community during lockdown periods.

Due to government restrictions, limited face to face visits have been undertaken.

3.3 Please provide any details of the inclusiveness and involvement of local organisations when determining asset transfer applications.

At the time of this paper, East Renfrewshire Council have not yet reached determination on an Asset Transfer application within the legislation.

Section Four – Additional Information

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

For example, we are interested in your reflections about what has gone well and what has gone less well in relation to Asset Transfers during 2020/21?

Is there any aspect of the process that you intend to adapt or change in the year ahead?

Have you identified any needs for guidance or support that would support the ATR process?

If you have developed any case study material or published new information about Asset Transfer Requests please share links to those with us here.

Over the past year, the council's response to the COVID 19 pandemic has taken priority similar to all local authorities. Engagement has unavoidably slowed in these unprecedented times with changes in the way employees carried out their daily roles but also, with a lot of our community groups closed due to government restrictions. Advice to our organisations has been driven by the options available to them to ensure their survival either by directing them to funding sources or grant aid.

During this time, it has given the council a chance to start a review of the Asset Transfer procedures. A working group has been formed with representatives across the council to seek ways to improve our model. Central to the refreshment has been feedback given from the community groups. It is proposed Council approval will be sought in autumn 2021.

Subject to the pressures of responding during Covid, if possible please email the completed template by 30 June 2021 to community.empowerment@gov.scot

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

Thank you!

Community Empowerment Team
Scottish Government