

**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

Organisation: Scottish Borders Council

Address: Newtown St Boswells, Melrose TD6 0SA

Completed by: Clare Malster

Role: Participation Officer

Email: cmalster@scotborders.gov.uk

Telephone: 01835 826626

Date of completion:

Are you the Asset Transfer 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: 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	1	0	0	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:

Request from West Linton Village Centre Trust to lease West Linton Village Centre

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

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:

A request from West Linton Village Centre Trust, to lease West Linton Village Centre, was agreed 22 February 2023. The Trust, who attended part of the meeting, was informed of the decision and the formal offer and the decision notice issued. The group has yet to submit their offer (due by 30/08/23). Communication is ongoing with the group who have been running the building on a sort term lease since 2019 (Covid delayed their submission of the formal application).

A lease was agreed, outwith the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, with Hawick Amateur FC and Hawick Colts FC on changing facilities adjacent to the ground they play on.

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.

SBC recognises the value, to groups and the wider community, of community management/ownership. This is reflected in the Council's Plan for 2023/24 with the inclusion of the action to support asset transfers where they are a viable option contributing to the outcome of an empowered, vibrant community.

Updates on asset transfers are a standing item on the agendas of our five, locality based, area partnerships. Asset transfers are also promoted through monthly meetings with community based partners

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

Our locality based Community Engagement Officers take a proactive targeted approach to engaging with disadvantaged communities in the Borders and have developed positive relationships with groups in these areas. The aspirations of the communities are supported and nurtured through close working together.

Section Four – Additional Information

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

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 asset transfer legislation has made community ownership/management more tangible. Knowing that it is possible and that there is a clear route 'in' has helped some to start the conversation in their community where they may have struggled before.

We have found that some groups prefer to pursue asset transfers under the process set out in the Act as it is clear what is expected of who and when.

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

Updated guidance to include case studies for both community transfer bodies and relevant authorities would be helpful.

5.3 Are you aware of what support is available to you when engaging with this legislation, and how you can access this? Please provide comments where possible.

The recent establishment of a local authority led group has been incredibly useful for seeking and sharing information.

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

Additional resources.