## EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER ANNUAL REPORT 2021/ 2022



The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, gives eligible community and voluntary organisations the opportunity to request to take over the responsibility of ownership or management of a publicly owned property asset (Land or Buildings). The transfer could be through full ownership, short or long term lease, at a discounted rate from the market value for the asset.

Section 95 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 requires relevant authorities to produce an annual report on Asset Transfer Request activity.

## **Relevant Authority Information**

East Renfrewshire Council
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## **Asset Transfer Data in 2021/22**

| Total<br>Applications<br>Received | Number of successful applications determined | Number of<br>unsuccessful<br>applications<br>determined | Number received<br>and yet to be<br>determined | Number received prior to 2019/20 and yet to be determined |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|--|---|
| 0                                 | 0  | 0   | 0  | 1   |

## Promotion and Support of the Asset Transfer Request Process

In line with legislation, the Council has a dedicated Community Asset Transfer webpage providing information about the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 and Community Asset Transfer which is available at www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/article/4277/Community-asset-transfer.

The website provides links to the Scottish Government guidance, details of current applications and a list of Council assets. This is supplemented by a dedicated mailbox for Asset Transfer enquiries- communityassettransfer@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk.

In January 2022, East Renfrewshire Council approved an amended Asset Transfer Policy to enhance the transparency of the Council's process and provide aids to help facilitate an asset transfer. Splitting the process into clear stages has ensured community groups understand the eligibility criteria, the information and supporting evidence required, and how the Council will assess any application. To help engage and assist communities, the Council has identified key persons whom work directly with the community, to ascertain the group's requirements and provide guidance for preparing the supporting documentation or formulating an eligible community transfer body.

Within the council we have a dedicated Community Learning and Development team who actively work with local organisations on many fronts. The community and economic development teams work directly with communities particularly in disadvantaged areas to identify challenges the groups face and try navigate them to relevant support sources. Regular contact with community groups to ensure open communication channels has been fundamental in establishing where support is needed.

To further educate Council officers on the benefits of asset transfer and be best placed to support our communities, a number of officers have attended Asset Transfer training held by the Community Ownership Support Service and regularly attend RA Quarterly Group, with a view to sharing information and learning from good practice across local authorities.