

Report

Report to:	Hamilton Area Committee
Date of Meeting:	8 February 2023
Report by:	Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

Subject:	Community Asset Transfer Update
----------	--

1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ♦ provide Members with an update on the current work related to Community Asset Transfer

2. Recommendation(s)

The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that progress regarding the development of Community Asset Transfer be noted.

3. Background

- 3.1. The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 created several legal obligations aimed at improving the involvement of community members in the design, implementation and delivery of services and activities that impacted them and their fellow residents, 1 of which was the introduction of Community Asset Transfer (CAT).
- 3.2. CAT enables suitably constituted local community organisations to formally apply to lease, purchase or implement managed arrangements for any land or property owned by relevant public bodies where they can evidence that their proposed community benefit is better than the current usage.
- 3.3. As this legislation increasingly impacted upon the work of the authority, a dedicated Community Asset Transfer officer was employed from March 2022 on a 2-year contract. The officer's role was to improve the authority's internal processes, redesign community information (website, documentation and marketing) to improve uptake, support organisations considering the process and to act as a conduit for the flow of information within the Council and externally.

4. Redesign of internal processes

- 4.1. The existing website was basic and contained limited information. This has been upgraded to be more user friendly and provide both members of the public and interested parties with more information on the process. This will go live in early 2023.
- 4.2. An animation has been designed and created and can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=smqE8MHVh1o>.

5. Promotion of CAT Processes Internally

- 5.1. The CAT process can be complicated for colleagues and elected members who may be approached with regards to it. With this in mind, an internal short training package

was produced and is hosted on the Council's Learn-On-Line training platform which provides basic information on the process.

6. External Promotion

- 6.1. The CAT officer has attended a wide number of third sector network events to promote the opportunities that exist using the legislation. Strong links have been developed with key local and national agencies such as Voluntary Action South Lanarkshire (VASLAN) and Community Ownership Support Services, ensuring that where possible, a joined-up approach exists to support interested organisations into and through the progress.
- 6.2. The CAT officer hosted a recent information event in conjunction with South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture (SLLC) and the Scottish Football Association (SFA) to provide information to over 50 individuals representing community football clubs on the CAT process and what it means to them.

7. Progress to Date

- 7.1. South Lanarkshire-wide there has been contact from over 75 organisations during the last financial year. 19 of these organisations were from the Hamilton area.
- 7.2. Of these enquiries the CAT officer is currently in dialogue with 30 organisations who are interested in using the legislation. 5 of these were from the Hamilton area.
- 7.3. Two applications have been submitted and approved, and it is anticipated that a further 5 will be submitted before the end of the year. One of these is from the Hamilton area.

8. Employee Implications

- 8.1. There are no employee implications associated with this report.

9. Financial Implications

- 9.1. There are no financial implications associated with this report.

10. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

- 10.1. There are no implications for climate change, sustainability or the environment in terms of the information contained in this report.

11. Other Implications

- 11.1. There are no risk or sustainability issues associated with the content of this report.

12. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 12.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to existing policy, function or strategy and, therefore, no impact assessment is required.

Paul Manning

Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

10 January 2023

Link to Council Values/Priorities/Outcomes

- ◆ Caring, connected, sustainable communities

Previous References

- ◆ None

List of Background Papers

- ◆ None

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

Iain Mulholland, Community Asset Transfer Officer

Email: Iain.Mulholland@southlanarkshire.gov.uk