**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

**ASSET TRANSFER REQUESTS**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To provide a report on asset transfer requests received under part 5 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 activity in East Ayrshire during 2017/18.

**Background**

1. In accordance with the terms of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, each public service authority is required to publish an annual report which sets out how many asset transfer requests they received, and the number of request appeals and decisions that have resulted in different outcomes, over the reporting year. The annual report must also include narrative information about action taken by the relevant authority.
2. Annual Reports for the reporting year to 31 March require to be published by 30 June each year. This report relates to the period 23 January 2017 to 31 March 2018, the first year of implementation.

**Asset Transfer Requests Received**

1. During the reporting period, **no** part 5 asset transfer requests were received by East Ayrshire Council.
2. Whilst no asset transfer requests have been received under the Act, we continue to receive requests under our recently updated Community Asset Transfer (CAT) Framework. In the same period we received 20 initial expressions of interest and approved 4 asset transfers.

**Activity to Promote Asset Transfer**

1. When part 5 asset transfer requests were introduced, East Ayrshire already had in place a well-established CAT Policy to facilitate community groups who wish to take on land or property. Part 5 asset transfer requests offered an additional route for communities to make requests and work took place to ensure that our new framework and procedures could accommodate part 5 asset transfer requests and to support community transfer bodies to make requests.
2. Asset Transfer requests were introduced with effect from 23 January 2017. In advance of this date, officers within Vibrant Communities with community groups wishing to pursue an asset transfer under our existing policy.
3. The opportunity was taken by Vibrant Communities staff through existing community led action plan steering groups, community councils and other local networks to raise awareness of community empowerment including asset transfer requests through events, such as the annual Communities Conference in October 2017.

**Conclusion**

1. Although no part 5 asset transfer requests were received in East Ayrshire during the 2017/18 reporting period, significant asset transfer activity is in progress. Part 5 asset transfer requests were not, however, intended to replace good quality existing processes, rather they were introduced to provide an alternative route for community bodies
2. We believe that communities across East Ayrshire are already actively engaged with the Council in respect of asset transfer and Vibrant Communities staff continue to work closely with communities across the authority area. This may be a key reason why no part 5 asset transfer requests have been received to date.
3. We will continue to make communities aware of part 5 asset transfer requests as one of the many community empowerment mechanisms which are in place in East Ayrshire; and will continue to monitor the level of interest in requests over 2018/19.

June 2018