

**ANGUS COUNCIL  
INFORMATION REPORT  
FOR THE PERIOD APRIL TO MARCH 2022  
REPORT BY AUDREY MICHIE, SERVICE LEAD - VIBRANT COMMUNITIES**

**ABSTRACT**

This report provides information to members with regard to services in the Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth Directorate, albeit that a decision is not required in terms of the current Scheme of Delegation to Officers and the Order of Reference of Committees.

**1. BACKGROUND**

Angus Council, at a special meeting on 19 November 2013 took a number of decisions which changed the way the Council conducted its committee business. Fundamental to this was the streamlining of processes with a focus on key strategy and policy matters.

One element of this was the production of "Information Reports". These information reports summarise information that would in the past have gone to a council committee for "noting".

The information schedules are in accordance with that principle.

**2. SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION – SCHEDULES**

There is one schedule which contains key background information related to services delivered in the Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth directorate for the period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022. These are accessed via the Council's internet page.

Where there are references to other documents (eg: consultation documents/audit reports) that are associated with the relevant schedule a link to that document has also been included.

**3. REPORT AUTHOR**

This report and associated schedules has been compiled by AUDREY MICHIE – SERVICE LEAD, VIBRANT COMMUNITIES who can be contacted by emailing [MichieA@angus.gov.uk](mailto:MichieA@angus.gov.uk)

List of Appendices:

Schedule 1 – Community Asset Transfer: Summary of Activity

**ANGUS COUNCIL**  
**COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER – 2021/22 ANNUAL REPORT**

**ABSTRACT**

This report presents the Angus Council Annual Report on Community Asset Transfer activities in Angus covering the 2021/22 financial year.

**1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1. The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 introduces a right for community bodies to make requests to all local authorities, Scottish Ministers and a wide-ranging list of public bodies, for any land or buildings they feel they could make better use of. Community bodies can request ownership, lease, or other rights, as they wish through a process known as Community Asset Transfer (CAT). The Act requires those public authorities to assess requests transparently against specific criteria, and to agree the request unless there are reasonable grounds for refusal.
- 1.2. Section 95 of the Act requires every relevant authority to publish an Annual Report setting out the numbers of asset transfer requests received and their outcomes and anything the relevant authority has done to promote the use of asset transfer and support community transfer bodies to make requests.

**2. ACTIVITY DURING 2021/22**

- 2.1 Audrey Michie, Service Lead – Vibrant Communities was named as Chair of the CAT Group in January 2022.
- 2.2 Appendix 1 provides information on CAT activity in Angus for 2021/22 in accordance with the requirements of the Act. This is mostly statistical information on the number of applications received and what has happened to them.

Whilst Angus Council only received one full CAT application during the financial year 2021/22 there is still a substantial amount of resource and time required to assist groups making pre-application enquiries and process those applications received under part 5 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 and out with this timeframe.

**3. SUPPORT & PROMOTION**

- 3.1 The Council has a range of proactive measures in place to promote and assist groups through the process. The following activities to promote and support community bodies across Angus are worthy of note: -
  - Officers attended further learning session with East Ayrshire Council to share experiences.
  - Detailed Guidance available on [www.angus.gov.uk](http://www.angus.gov.uk)
  - Working procedures are regularly updated considering learning from previous applications and experiences
  - The CAT Group continues to meet 6/8 weekly
  - Throughout COVID19 restrictions groups have continued to be actively involved in online meetings and discussions regarding potential CATs
  - A list of Council assets eligible for CAT applications is available on the Council [website](#) in several downloadable formats and this is updated at least quarterly
- 3.2 Angus Council has a single point of contact for CAT queries and applications are assessed by the CAT Group made up of representatives from council services. There is no dedicated department or budget at their disposal to assist groups however all groups undertaking a CAT have a dedicated community officer who can offer support to build capacity and skills needed to manage the asset and access to a funding officer to explore options and make a full CAT application.
- 3.3 All enquiries and applications continue to be dealt with in accordance with timescales set out by Part 5 of the Community Empowerment Act and community bodies have been, and continue to be, supported through local vibrant communities officers.

#### **4.NEXT STEPS**

- 4.1 To ensure communities are ready for the CAT process when buildings become available, work is underway to develop a Community Development Programme to ensure our community groups have the capacity to undertake community ownership. This programme will include training and development, information on different organisational bodies, webinars which will invite guest speakers to showcase similar projects in other areas.
- 4.2 Work is also underway to look at more simplified process for CAT transfers and work with other council areas will continue to learn best practice.
- 4.3 The website highlighting the information on Community Development and Community Asset Transfers will be updated and community groups will be encouraged to work with the Vibrant Communities team in advance to ensure the group has a valid business plan, the project is sustainable, they have a funding package in place and have the capacity to take the project forward.

## SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY : 1 APRIL 2021 TO 31 MARCH 2022

No	Statistic	Number	Comments
1	Number of Pre-application enquiries received	1	Acknowledged and discussed at CAT Group
2	Number of asset transfer applications requests received	1	EVIS, Lyndsay Place, Edzell
3	Number of such requests which the Council agreed to by 31 March 2022	0	
4	Number of such requests which the Council refused by 31 March 2022	0	
5	Number of such requests still being processed / awaiting a decision as at 31 March 2022	1	EVIS application (meetings / discussions with group resulted in 2 <sup>nd</sup> extension being requested & agreed to allow the group to fully prepare application)
6	Number of CAT applications received in the year which have not been validated		
7	Number of such CAT requests made to the Council which resulted in:-		
	• a transfer of ownership of land to a community transfer body	0	
	• a lease of land to such a body	0	
	• rights in respect of land being conferred to such a body	0	
8	Number of appeals under section 85 relating to such requests made to the Council that have :-		
	• been allowed	0	
	• been dismissed	0	
	• resulted in any part of the decision of the authority being varied or reversed	0	
9	In relation to a decision of the relevant authority reviewed under Section 86 or 87 the number of decisions that have :-		
	• been confirmed	0	
	• been modified	0	
	• Substituted by a different decision	0	

**2021 / 22 Details of CAT Applications Received and in Process Prior to Being Tabled at Committee in Summary Above**

Asset	Community Body	Type of Transfer	Price Offered	Comments
Lyndsay Place, Edzell	Edzell Village Improvement Society (EVIS)	Ownership	£850 / year	CAT Application validated on 28/4/21 and assessed by CATG – following CATG recommendation for refusal the group requested a further 2 extensions to allow time to address the reasons for this and enhance their application.
Units 14, 16 & 17 Arbroath Business Centre	Arbroath Men's Shed	Ownership	n/a	The group currently lease the asset from Angus Council and wish to secure a permanent home as the units are on the market for sale. Officers are working with the group to progress plans following pre-application enquiry.