



Q&A: Community Asset Transfer

1. What is Community Asset Transfer (CAT)?

Community Asset Transfer involves the transfer of the responsibility for an asset from the Council to a community group or voluntary organisation. This can be done through either a transfer of management responsibility, short or long term lease, or through the transfer of outright ownership. Consideration will also be given to a phased transfer of responsibility dependent on the nature of the proposal. Community Asset Transfer has been successfully applied elsewhere in Scotland.

Visit <http://www.dtascot.org.uk/content/asset-transfer> for examples of successful CAT applications.

2. Who can apply for CAT?

Community and voluntary groups, such as community associations, community trusts and user groups can all apply. In general, a group will:

- be formally constituted
- have sound, long-term management and governance arrangements
- have its own decision-making system and accountability to independent trustees, members or constituents
- be non-political
- involve volunteers
- have Charitable Status
- not be for private profit i.e. it does not distribute any surplus to owners or members but applies it to serving its basic purposes

Applications from newly formed groups may also be considered if they can demonstrate that they have the necessary expertise and experience to manage the asset and have a sound business plan in place. We can help you to set up a new group.

3. What facilities are being considered for Community Asset Transfer?

The full list of properties being considered is listed in Appendix 1. These properties have all been assessed for suitability, taking account of legal title, condition of the building, if the facility is linked to an existing building or if it is required for service provision.

4. I'm interested in a facility in my community – what do I need to do?

You should lodge an expression of interest in the first instance and we will assess this to determine if your application can proceed to the next stage in the process. Full details on the application process can be found online at <http://cat.eac.eu/>.

Alternatively, please call Caroline Gray, Project Support Worker, Vibrant Communities – CAT team, Civic Centre South, John Dickie Street, Kilmarnock KA1 1HW. Telephone 01563 578189. E-mail: cat@east-ayrshire.gov.uk

5. How long will the process take?

Every case will be different, depending on the nature of the application and the level of expertise within the group making the application. However, we estimate that from the original expression of interest, detailed assessment through to actual transfer of an asset could take around 14 months.

6. I am interested but I will need some assistance with the application – can you help?

Yes – extensive support and assistance will be available to anyone who needs it. We have a dedicated team leading this project and help is available in the form of legal and planning expertise, business planning preparation and advice on alternative funding streams.

7. What information will be available to help groups make a decision about applying for CAT?

To assist with your application we will provide details of usage, running costs and information relating to the physical condition of the property.

8. If there is a lot of interest from different parties in one particular property, how will this be determined?

Organisations which progress to Stage 2 of the application process (Detailed Application Stage) will be required to submit a business plan. Wherever possible, organisations will be encouraged to work together for the benefit of the wider community. Applications will be assessed against a range of criteria, and ultimately this will determine how the assets will be transferred – and to whom.

The application process is explained in detail online at <http://cat.eac.eu/eoi.aspx>. This also includes a template for the Business Plan.

9. If there is no interest from within the community for a particular facility, what happens next?

East Ayrshire Council's Cabinet will ultimately determine what will happen to these facilities, following recommendations from the Leisure Trust. Closure will be the last resort and will not be considered until every feasible option has been explored. We will continue to seek further expressions of interest, even in the latter stages of the process, before any final decisions are made.

An audit of all non-Council community facilities (e.g. church halls, scout halls and bowling clubs) has been undertaken, to identify other premises which are also being used by groups and individuals for a range of purposes and activities. It is possible that many of these facilities can meet the needs of local communities.

10. Is financial assistance available to help with the Community Asset Transfer?

Some financial assistance may be available in the short term if this requirement is demonstrated within the business plan. Groups would be expected to be independently financially sustainable in the medium to long term. Each case will be assessed individually and advice will be offered in relation to external funding opportunities.

11. What will happen to existing employees in these facilities – for example centre supervisors and cleaners?

The Council has a range of workforce planning arrangements in place to deal with the staffing implications of Community Asset Transfer. Staff will be kept fully informed through their established team meetings.

12. What decisions have already been made?

No decisions have been taken - this is only the start of the process and we want to talk to communities about opportunities for running/owning facilities.

Other questions about changes to Council services

1. What's happening with local offices?

The current network of local offices will be reduced and five new local community hubs will be created in Stewarton, Galston, Kilmarnock, Dalmellington and Cumnock.

Every hub will feature a range of high quality accessible amenities including, as a minimum, a sports facility, full service library, local office and a community facility.

The payment network will be extended to allow customers to make payments to the Council at any of the five hub offices, any Post Office or at any Paypoint facility. There will be more payment outlets available with extended opening hours.

Local offices will be closed as part of a phased programme – but not before the alternative arrangements are finalised and are in place. More information will be available in the near future.

2. What will future library service provision look like in East Ayrshire?

East Ayrshire Leisure Trust is now responsible for delivering library services across East Ayrshire.

Several libraries have recently been relocated to new premises, co-located wherever possible and equipped with modern computer learning suites. The way people access books and library lending services is changing and alternative services are being considered, including:

- E-book lending service, linked to Kindles and other similar devices allowing readers to borrow e-books for a pre-determined period
- Improved mobile services, enhancing the provision of mobile library services into communities not serviced by a permanent library
- Book points – provision of pick up/drop off points for borrowed books linked to an improved book reservation system

APPENDIX 1: Facilities being considered for Community Asset Transfer

	<i>Community centre facilities</i>	<i>Sports facilities</i>	<i>Libraries</i>	<i>Culture and countryside facilities</i>	<i>Pitches and pavilions</i>
CUMNOCK / AUCHINLECK	<p>Netherthird Community Centre</p> <p>Barrhill Community Centre</p> <p>Barshare Community Wing</p> <p>Tower Street cabin</p> <p>Logan Day Centre</p> <p>Mauchline Community Centre</p> <p>Muirkirk Day Centre</p> <p>Catrine Community Centre</p> <p>Ochiltree Community Centre</p> <p>New Cumnock Library</p>	<p>Mauchline Games Hall</p> <p>Muirkirk Games Hall</p> <p>Catrine Games Hall</p> <p>New Cumnock Games Hall</p>	<p>Mauchline Library</p> <p>Muirkirk Library</p> <p>Catrine Library</p> <p>New Cumnock Library</p> <p>Ochiltree Library</p>		<p>Mason Avenue pitch and pavilion, New Cumnock</p> <p>Beechgrove Terrace pitch and pavilion, Mauchline</p> <p>Park Terrace pitch and pavilion, Muirkirk</p> <p>Kay Park pitch and pavilion, Ochiltree</p> <p>Riverside Park pitch and pavilion, Catrine</p> <p>Park Terrace pitch and pavilion, Lugar/Logan</p> <p>Netherthird pitch and pavilion, Cumnock</p> <p>Merlin Park pitch and pavilion, Auchinleck</p>
PATNA / DALMELLINGTON	<p>Dalmellington Community Centre</p> <p>Bellsbank IFE wing</p> <p>Drongan Community Centre</p> <p>Patna Day Centre</p> <p>Rankinston Community Centre</p> <p>Dalrymple Community Centre/ Day Centre/Youth Centre</p>	<p>Doon Valley golf course/ clubhouse</p> <p>Patna Games Hall</p> <p>Drongan Games Hall</p>	<p>Dalmellington Library</p> <p>Dalrymple Library</p> <p>Drongan Library</p>	<p>Doon Valley Museum</p>	<p>Dalmellington pitch and pavilion</p> <p>Carnshalloch Ave pitch and pavilion, Patna</p> <p>Drongan pitch and pavilion</p> <p>Dalrymple pitch and pavilion</p>

GALSTON	<p>Newmilns cabin</p> <p>Gavin Hamilton Sports Centre, Darvel (link to pitch and pavilion review)</p> <p>Fenwick Fulton Hall</p> <p>Hareshaw Community Centre, Waterside</p>	Gavin Hamilton Sports Centre Darvel	Newmilns Library Darvel Library		<p>St Mary's Holm pitch and pavilion, Galston</p> <p>Western Road pitch and pavilion, Galston</p> <p>Barrmill Road pitch and pavilion, Galston</p> <p>Jamieson Road pitch and pavilion, Newmilns (should form part of hub review due to community use)</p> <p>Fenwick pitch and pavilion</p> <p>Gavin Hamiton Sports Centre and pitch, Darvel</p>
KILMARNOCK	<p>Bellfield Community Centre</p> <p>Gateway Community Centre</p> <p>Onthank Community Centre</p> <p>Riccarton Community Centre</p> <p>Bonnyton Community Centre</p> <p>Gatehead Community Centre</p> <p>Witch Road cabin, Kilmarnock</p> <p>Hurlford Community Centre</p> <p>Crookedholm Community Centre</p> <p>Crosshouse Community Centre</p>	<p>Caprington golf course and facilities</p> <p>Annanhill golf course</p>	<p>Bellfield Library</p> <p>Crosshouse Library</p> <p>Hurlford Library</p>		<p>New Farm Loch pitch and pavilion, Kilmarnock</p> <p>Knockentiber pitch and pavilion</p> <p>Bellfield pitch only, Kilmarnock</p> <p>Lindsay Park pitch and pavilion, Crosshouse</p> <p>Newlands Drive pitch and pavilion, Kilmarnock</p> <p>Riccarton pitch and pavilion, Kilmarnock</p> <p>Richardson Park pitch and pavilion, Hurlford</p> <p>Crookedholm pitch and pavilion</p>
STEWARTON	<p>Annick Centre, Stewarton</p> <p>Kilmaurs Community Centre</p>		Kilmaurs Library		<p>Cockelbie pitch and pavilion, Stewarton</p> <p>Dunlop pitch and pavilion</p> <p>Kilmaurs pitch and pavilion</p>