

**Asset Transfer Request  
2024/25 Annual Report**

Section 95 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 requires relevant authorities to produce an annual report on Asset Transfer Request activity and publish this no later than 30 June each year.

**Section One – Relevant Authority Information**

Organisation: Scottish Borders Council

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## **Section 2: Asset Transfer Data in 2024/25**

2.1 Please complete the following table for the 2024/25 reporting period:

Total Applications Received	Number of successful applications determined	Number of unsuccessful applications determined	Number received and yet to be determined	Number received prior to 2024/25 and yet to be determined
1	1	0	1	1

2.2 Please provide details of Asset Transfer Requests received which resulted in transfer of ownership, lease, or rights from your relevant authority to a community transfer body in 2024/25:

The asset transfer request from Peebles Community Trust to purchase East Station Office building in Peebles was agreed in October 2024. The building which is the last link to the former railway in Peebles and served as the office for the goods yard and weighbridge will be restored.

A lease with Hawick FC for the Derek Ramage Pavilion was concluded outwith the Act. This will enable the group to reconfigure the space to suit current requirements.

### 2.3 Additional information

The asset transfer request received was from Peebles Community Trust. This is in respect to the public toilets (closed) on School Brae. The proposed use is to refurbish the building to house the re-use hub which is currently in a building, owned by PCT, planned for future demotion. A decision is due in 2025/26.

It was agreed to extend the deadline for a decision being made on the request from Stow Community Trust to enable the Trust time to work on other elements of the wider project with the aim of bringing different workstreams together at the same time. The land subject to the asset transfer request is a small part of a larger project which is subject to a Community Right to Buy application.

2.4 Please provide details of Asset Transfer Requests that went to a relevant authority appeal or review which were concluded in 2024/25:

None

Name of Community Transfer Body	Was the Asset Transfer Appeal/Review accepted? (Y/N)	Why was the Appeal/Review accepted/refused? <i>Please provide details of the asset transfer request and reasons for your decision.</i>

### **Section Three**

Please provide information on any action you have taken to promote the benefits of asset transfer or any support provided for communities to engage with the Asset Transfer Request process.

Scottish Borders Council continues to promote asset transfer requests through its website and in conversations with both communities and partners. Over the past 12 months information has been further developed and made available on our website to help to address any initial queries potential Community Transfer Bodies may have.

In May 2024 Council approved the process for supporting community bodies seeking to use, lease or purchase assets from SBC as part of the estate rationalisation, optimisation and decarbonisation process agreed in March.

We have attended events hosted by our local TSI – Borders Community Action. These events included representation from the Community Ownership Support Service and provided an opportunity for a range of community groups to discuss all aspects of community asset transfers. We hosted a session for community centre management committees in response to queries about potential asset transfers. This was done in partnership with Borders Community Action, South of Scotland Enterprise and Live Borders (the sports, culture and leisure trust who manage community centres on behalf of Scottish Borders) to provide a range of information.

Local Place Plans for Hawick, Jedburgh and Galashiels, three of the four towns that are part of the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal, were endorsed by Scottish Borders Council 2024/25. As this work progresses, we are actively supporting these communities to explore potential asset transfer options.

Community bodies across the Eildon and Teviot & Liddesdale localities were contacted and invited to submit notes of interest in five sets of (closed) public toilets that SBC is seeking to dispose of. Discussions are taking place in respect to three sets of toilets.

Our Community Engagement Officers continue to support place planning conversations in smaller towns and villages around assets in their areas.