

Item: 10

Policy and Resources Committee: 19 June 2018.

Participation Requests and Community Asset Transfer Requests.

Report by Executive Director of Corporate Services.

1. Purpose of Report

To consider the Council's statutory annual report on Participation Requests and Community Asset Transfer Requests.

2. Recommendations

The Committee is invited to note:

2.1.

That the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 places new duties on specified Scottish public bodies with regard to facilitation of Participation Requests and Asset Transfer Requests, commonly known as Community Asset Transfer.

2.2.

That, in terms of the Act, local authorities are required to publish online, by the end of June each year, an annual report which quantifies and describes the level and type of activity experienced by the authority in Participation Requests and Community Asset Transfer Requests during the previous financial year.

It is recommended:

2.3.

That the annual report for Council activity in Participation Requests and Community Asset Transfer Requests, for the period 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018, attached as Annex 1 to this report, be approved for publication on the Council website.

3. Annual Report

3.1.

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 places new duties on specified Scottish public bodies with regard to facilitation of Participation Requests and Asset Transfer Requests.

3.2.

In terms of Sections 32 and 95 respectively of the Act, the Council is required to publish annual reports on participation requests and asset transfer requests.

3.3.

A draft Annual Report for 2017 to 2018 in respect of both participation requests and community asset transfer requests is attached to this report at Annex 1.

3.4.

As noted in the draft Annual Report, the Council did not receive any participation requests in the year to 31 March 2018. While one asset transfer request was received, it was withdrawn before it had been validated.

3.5.

Training has been organised and delivered by Voluntary Action Orkney for community bodies, and by the Council for Council staff, to raise awareness of the new opportunities which are presented by community asset transfer and participation requests, and to help facilitate any requests which may be received.

4. Corporate Governance

This report relates to governance and procedural issues and therefore does not directly support and contribute to improved outcomes for communities as outlined in the Council Plan and the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan.

5. Financial Implications

5.1.

There are no financial implications directly associated with this report.

5.2.

Community Asset Transfer requests, and to a lesser extent participation requests, could potentially have significant financial implications for the Council. Any requests which fall outside delegated authority will be submitted to the relevant Committee for consideration.

6. Legal Aspects

The draft annual report appended to this report complies with the requirements of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 referenced at section 3.2 above.

7. Contact Officers

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8. Annex

Annex 1: Participation Requests and Community Asset Transfer Requests – Draft Annual Report for 2017 to 2018.