

## Online Conversations with the third sector: beginning your Community Asset Transfer journey? Hear from the experts.

Community Asset Transfer (CAT) has been one of the key emerging themes that has arisen from our Summer Roadshows this year. During our direct engagement work throughout this year, we were often approached with the question of how a community group can acquire a community asset and what is involved in the process.

This Online Conversation tried to answer some of those questions posed by our beneficiaries, by welcoming a panel of guest speakers to discuss the CAT process; Craig Allan, Advisor at the Community Ownership Support Service (COSS) team at Development Trusts Association Scotland; Jeanna Baxter, Community Engagement Officer with Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway; and Mike Steele, local councillor and Director of Nith Valley Leaf Trust.

A community asset transfer refers to the

process through which ownership or management of public assets, such as buildings or land, is transferred from local authorities and public bodies to community-led organisations. This initiative is grounded in the belief that communities are best placed to identify and address their needs. It empowers third sector organisations by providing them with the opportunity to take control of assets, fostering local engagement, and promoting sustainable development, tackling inequalities, and placing the power back to them.

Community asset transfer is crucial for third sector organisations as it enables them to shape their environments, deliver services tailored to local requirements, and enhance community well-being. By placing assets in the hands of those directly affected, this approach fosters a sense of ownership and responsibility, leading to more effective and responsive community development.

### Emerging themes

1. Community Asset Transfers put the power back to communities - As the community takes ownership.
2. Not just council buildings that can be a CAT as there are other public bodies with land and buildings (Relevant Public Bodies)
3. CAT process can take up to 3 years – Start the process as soon as possible.
4. Governance – Ensure that your governing document is CAT ready. Remember it has to be a two-tier structure.
5. Connect to the most appropriate agencies. There is excellent support and advice out there for groups. Community Ownership Support Service, TSDG, Dumfries & Galloway Council CAT Team and Scottish Land Fund etc.



# Takeaway Fact Sheet

## Participation findings: we listen to understand

1

**Zoom poll one focused on gauging participants' comprehension of community asset transfer and assessing the progress participants have made in their respective journeys towards community asset transfer.**

Sixty-seven per cent said that they were somewhat familiar with the concept of community asset transfer.

Twenty-five per cent of participants were not familiar and only two per cent were very familiar.

Half of respondents were not confident and the other half somewhat confident in their understanding of the community asset transfer process. Seventy-five per cent were at the beginning of their community asset transfer journey.

2

**The purpose of the second Zoom poll was to ascertain whether participants were aware of what resources and support were available to them throughout their**

**community asset transfer journey.**

Respondents stated that they were aware of some support and resources available to them.

3

**The third Zoom poll incorporated questions regarding participants' awareness of additional challenges that may arise during the asset transfer process, beyond those related to governance.**

Respondents were not aware of any other challenges faced by community organisations during the asset transfer process. Only 16 per cent were aware of successful examples of asset transfers in their area that have positively impacted the community.

## Event feedback

Thank you,  
really useful.

We will take this  
information forward.

Really  
informative.



THIRD SECTOR  
Dumfries and Galloway

# Takeaway Fact Sheet

## Useful information

### COSS Service Support

<https://dtascommunityownership.org.uk/>

### Scottish Land Fund

<https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/scottish-land-fund>

### Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO)

<https://scvo.scot/>

### Dumfries and Galloway Council

<https://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/16441/>

### Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway

<https://www.tsdg.org.uk/>

### DGLocator:

Download the free DGLocator mobile app for Apple at <https://apple.co/3BbTNs8> and Android at <https://bit.ly/dglocatorandroid>  
Website: <https://dglocator.org.uk/>  
or access using the QR code.



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