

Notice of meeting and agenda

Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee

10.00 am Tuesday, 3rd October, 2023

Dean of Guild Court Room - City Chambers

This is a public meeting and members of the public are welcome to attend.

The law allows the Council to consider some issues in private. Any items under “Private Business” will not be published, although the decisions will be recorded in the minute.

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1. Order of Business

- 1.1 Including any notices of motion and any other items of business submitted as urgent for consideration at the meeting.

2. Declaration of Interests

- 2.1 Members should declare any financial and non-financial interests they have in the items of business for consideration, identifying the relevant agenda item and the nature of their interest.

3. Deputations

- 3.1 If any.

4. Minutes

- 4.1 Minute of the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee of 8 August 2023 – submitted for approval as a correct record 9 - 22

5. Forward Planning

- 5.1 Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee Work Programme 23 - 28
- 5.2 Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee Rolling Actions Log 29 - 72

6. Business Bulletin

- 6.1 Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee Business Bulletin 73 - 78

7. Executive Decisions

7.1	Whole House Retrofit – Report by the Executive Director of Place	79 - 90
7.2	Retrofitting Strategy – response to motion by Councillor Watt – Report by the Executive Director of Place	91 - 98
7.3	HRA Account Budget Strategy 2024/25 – Report by the Executive Director of Place	99 - 116
7.4	Tenant Participation and Community Engagement 2024/27 – Report by the Executive Director of Place	117 - 126
7.5	Door entry systems in minority owned tenements – Report by the Executive Director of Place	127 - 132
7.6	Damp, mould and condensation in Council homes update – Report by the Executive Director of Place	133 - 162
7.7	Housing Service Repairs - Benchmarking Report – Report by the Executive Director of Place	163 - 186

8. Routine Decisions

8.1	Capital City Partnership Progress Update – Report by the Executive Director of Place	187 - 214
8.2	Housing and Homelessness and Business Growth and Inclusion: Revenue Budget Monitoring 2023/24 – Month Three position – Report by the Executive Director of Place	215 - 226
8.3	Housing Service Improvement Plan – Six-monthly Update – Report by the Executive Director of Place	227 - 242
8.4	Family Household Support Service – Report by the Executive Director of Place	243 - 280
8.5	Homelessness Statutory Returns – Report by the Executive Director of Place	281 - 288

9. Motions

9.1 By Councillor Flannery – Student Homelessness Response

“Committee Notes

- 1) The productive meeting, as requested in Paragraph 5 of in 8.2 Student Homelessness Crisis on 7 September on Student Homelessness and Housing at the City Chambers between representatives from Council, Student Union, Housing Co-Op, Slurp and the four Edinburgh Universities to foster a strong partnership to tackle this.
- 2) The positive actions from this meeting including an urgent request to the Scottish Government to publish the PBSA Findings Review, previously agreed also at the City of Edinburgh Council on 22 of June 2023.
- 3) Welcomes the University of Edinburgh’s guarantee for accommodation for first year, one-year post-graduate students, but believes this should extend to Post-Graduate Research Students, also. Also requests publication of student numbers for Years 2, 3, 4, who could be at risk from homelessness.
- 4) To endorse Slurp’s Request to Universities for an emergency guarantee against Student Homelessness; that still needs to tackle potential student homelessness in years two, three and four, and that this guarantee, as above, should apply equally to Post-Graduate Research Students.

Requests therefore

- 5) The Convenor to write to stakeholders from this meeting to agree a partnership-direction and timeframe to support communication, data access, and early interventions to mitigate homelessness potential in the student population.
- 6) Officers review edinburgh.gov.uk and particularly the ‘Report It’ page journey to ensure adequate signposting is

available to report homelessness or concerns with an HMO property.”

9.2 By Councillor Parker - Temporary accommodation for asylum seekers and 'hotel maximisation' policy change

“Committee:

1. Condemns the UK government’s “hotel maximisation policy” which will mean that unrelated, asylum-seeking adults will be forced to room share in temporary accommodation and notes that, in Edinburgh, this will be in place at the Learmonth and Piries Hotels
2. Notes the significant safeguarding concerns associated with this policy as well as the serious negative impact it will have on the welfare of people seeking asylum
3. Notes with significant concern the likely impact the policy will have on health and social care services, including the NHS, and condemns the UK government for failing to work with local authority partners to prepare for this before implementing this policy change
4. Further notes the likely impact of the policy on homelessness services, with a likely increase in the number of homelessness presentations resulting from this
5. Considers the latest policy to be yet another example of a morally bankrupt UK government demonstrating total disregard for the rights and welfare of refugees and asylum seekers, and condemns in the strongest possible terms actions by politicians and the far-right to create a “hostile environment” and stoke a culture war against migrants, refugees and asylum seekers

Therefore, requests that the Convener and Council Leader:

6. Write to the UK Government outlining opposition to the “hotel maximisation policy” and set out the challenges the local authority will face when implementing it
7. Write to the relevant Scottish Government ministers seeking funding to mitigate the impact of the changes and

raise through the appropriate channels at CoSLA

Finally:

8. Requests that officers provide routine updates about the impact of the policy change via the usual reporting schedules for this Committee, and to consider – in consultation with Councillors - if additional reporting about these changes and the wider provision of housing and support for refugees and asylum seekers in the city, including those with no recourse to public funds, is appropriate.”

Nick Smith

Service Director – Legal and Assurance

Committee Members

Councillor Jane Meagher (Convener), Councillor Graeme Bruce, Councillor Jack Caldwell, Councillor Stuart Dobbin, Councillor Pauline Flannery, Councillor Euan Hyslop, Councillor David Key, Councillor Ben Parker, Councillor Tim Pogson, Councillor Susan Rae and Councillor Iain Whyte

Information about the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee

The Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee consists of 11 Councillors and is appointed by the City of Edinburgh Council. The Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee usually meets in the Dean of Guild Court Room in the City Chambers on the High Street in Edinburgh. There is a seated public gallery and the meeting is open to all members of the public.

Further information

If you have any questions about the agenda or meeting arrangements, please contact Jamie Macrae, Committee Services, City of Edinburgh Council, Business Centre 2.1, Waverley Court, 4 East Market Street, Edinburgh EH8 8BG, Tel 0131 553 8242, email jamie.macrae@edinburgh.gov.uk / andrew.henderson@edinburgh.gov.uk / jacqueline.boyle@edinburgh.gov.uk

A copy of the agenda and papers for this meeting will be available for inspection prior to the meeting at the main reception office, City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh.

The agenda, minutes and public reports for this meeting and all the main Council committees can be viewed online by going to <https://democracy.edinburgh.gov.uk/>.

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