

Notice of meeting and agenda

Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee

10.00 am Tuesday, 27th February, 2024

Dean of Guild Court Room - City Chambers

This is a public meeting and members of the public are welcome to watch the webcast live on the Council's website.

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 Any items under "Private Business" will not be published, although the decisions will be recorded in the minute.

Contacts

Email: jamie.macrae@edinburgh.gov.uk /
joanna.pawlikowska@edinburgh.gov.uk

Tel: 0131 529 4264

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 5 December 2023 – submitted for approval as a correct record 13 - 42

5. Forward Planning

- 5.1 Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee Work Programme 43 - 48
- 5.2 Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee Rolling Actions Log 49 - 108

6. Business Bulletin

6.1	Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee Business Bulletin	109 - 166
------------	---	-----------

7. Executive Decisions

7.1	Capital City Partnership Service Level Agreement – Report by the Executive Director of Place	167 - 180
7.2	UK Shared Prosperity Fund Update – Report by the Executive Director of Place	181 - 188
7.3	Affordable Childcare for Working Parents – Report by the Executive Director of Place	189 - 196
7.4	Parental Employability Support – Report by the Executive Director of Place	197 - 208
7.5	Increasing Affordable Homes Delivery – Report by the Executive Director of Place	209 - 216
7.6	Cyclical assurance on service performance – Report by the Executive Director of Place	217 - 222
7.7	Responding to the Housing Emergency Declaration – Report by the Executive Director of Place	223 - 258

8. Routine Decisions

8.1	The City of Edinburgh Council – Apprenticeship Programme – Report by the Executive Director of Place	259 - 266
8.2	Support for Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Displaced People – Report by the Executive Director of Children, Education and Justice Services	267 - 290

(Note: Councillor Mattos Coelho has been called for this item)

8.3	Housing and Homelessness and Business Growth and Inclusion: Revenue Budget Monitoring 2023/24 – Month Eight position – Report by the Executive Director of Place	291 - 300
8.4	The Noise App – Report by the Executive Director of Place (Note: Councillor Aston has been called for this item)	301 - 306
8.5	Empty Homes Annual Report – Report by the Executive Director of Place	307 - 320
8.6	National Housing Trust (NHT) initiative: winding up NHT Limited Liability Partnerships – Report by the Executive Director of Place	321 - 326
8.7	Edinburgh Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy and Delivery Plan – referral from the Policy and Sustainability Committee	327 - 628
8.8	Internal Audit reports: Management of Ad-hoc Mixed Tenure Works (PL2302), Housing Stock Condition - Tenant Safety, Damp and Mould (PL2303), Repairs Right First Time (PL2306) and service area responses for (PL2303) and (PL2306) – referral from the Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee	629 - 690

9. Motions

9.1 By Councillor Dobbin - Voids Returned for Letting

“Committee:

Notes that the Council having declared a Housing Emergency, urgent action to address the emergency is essential.

Bringing Voids back into service represents an opportunity that sits directly within the Council’s control.

Recognises that not all Voids are suitable or available to return for letting.

Requests the status of Voids be reported in the Business Bulletin in each cycle:

- voids returned to stock for letting.

- new voids added during period.
- balance of voids for re-letting.
- breakdown of voids unable to be let.”

9.2 By Councillor Dobbin - Damp and Mould Cases Clearance Reporting

“Committee:

Welcomes the establishment of the dedicated Damp and Mould Team approved at the May 2023 committee meeting.

Notes that while Edinburgh has declared a Housing Emergency in order to address the extreme shortage of accommodation in the City, also recognises that all accommodation offered by the Council should be free from damp and mould and be a safe, secure living environment.

Requests reporting in each Business Bulletin on progress made to eradicate Damp and Mould as a factor impacting the lives of Council tenants and their families, in line with the approved tenant engagement process:

Reporting to include:

Number of homes by Ward reported as having damp and mould at date of report

Average waiting time for a dampness survey

Number of homes by Ward having been cleared of Damp and Mould since formation of the Dedicated Team (first report) / since last report (ongoing)

- as recorded by the Damp and Mould Team
- as confirmed by Tenant sign off

New Damp and Mould Cases reported since date of last report by Ward.”

9.3 By Councillor Parker - Opportunities for nature on HRA land

“Committee:

1. Notes that the Council declared a Nature Emergency in February 2023 recognising the “inherent value of nature, including its crucial importance as an integral part of culture and society, and for our health, wellbeing, and economy”.
2. Notes a number of existing Council strategies and pledges which focus on improving outcomes for biodiversity, for example the Thriving Greenspaces strategy, Biodiversity Action Plan, Nature Network, Living Landscapes work and Million Tree City pledge.
3. Notes that much of the work under these strategies to date is primarily planned for Parks and Greenspace land, though welcomes discussions to focus on HRA land as part of the next stage of delivery of the Edinburgh Nature Network.
4. Considers that people - as well as birds, bees, butterflies, caterpillars, worms, badgers, foxes, otters, hedgehogs, fungi, lichen, mosses, plants, trees, grasses etc - have no concept of the artificial categorisation of HRA land vs Parks and Greenspace land, and that therefore general strategies which focus on improving outcomes for biodiversity should operate across these boundaries, and that this will require a joined up approach across the Council.

Additionally:

5. Notes that the HRA includes spending on the Neighbourhood Environment Programme – worth £3.5m in 22-23 and £2.3m in 23-24 – to cover funding for projects taking place on HRA land to improve estates, but that:
 - a. There are no specific outcomes or relevant KPIs defined for nature as part of these projects.
 - b. There is no data collected about: i) land converted from greenspace to hardstanding, ii) land converted from hard standing to greenspace or, iii) land converted to that with high biodiversity value, through these projects,

despite these being key aims / indicators as part of the wider Council's nature strategies.

6. Notes that, whilst maintenance standards are consistent between HRA land and Parks and Greenspace land, monitoring of landscape quality is not – for example, Parks and Greenspace land is routinely assessed against Green Flag standards / Parks Quality Assessment (which includes the monitoring of positive outcomes for biodiversity), but this is not applied to HRA land.
7. Recognises that nature has a key role to play in improving health and wellbeing and, in line with a climate justice approach, the opportunity for people to access nature should apply equally across all of the Council's estate, be that on HRA land or Parks & Greenspace land.

Further notes that:

8. Estate-wide changes are taking place within the Parks and Greenspace service to change operations to improve outcomes for biodiversity and that this will impact on how some areas of HRA land are maintained, as well as how the HRA is charged for Parks & Greenspace services.
9. The Housing and Property Framework which contains NEP spending is due for retendering in November 2024.
10. Over the next year the Council will be developing a Local Housing Strategy for Edinburgh (2025-2030).
11. A Living Landscape map is being developed to outline where interventions are being planned as part of that project, and that this will allow for individuals to see the disaggregation of HRA land and Parks and Greenspace land within the project.

Therefore, with the aim of pulling together these different projects, outcomes, and concerns:

12. Requests a report to Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work committee in 2 cycles to set out:
 - a. A timetable and update for the Living Landscape mapping

project concerning HRA land, with specific information about how this output will be integrated into wider workplans within the Housing service.

- b. Recommendations for how resources allocated from the Neighbourhood Environment Programme in 24-25 can be better utilised to support aims for nature, including how these projects can dovetail with other Council strategies working on nature and biodiversity, and what additional data ought to be collected against these projects in order to evidence this going forward.
 - c. Recommendations for what specific outcomes for nature could be included as part of the NEPs programme when it is retendered later this year, including KPIs to be included as part of this.
 - d. Recommendations for how the above actions can be monitored through committee going forward, including a proposed future reporting schedule around “Opportunities for nature on HRA land” / tackling the Nature Emergency on HRA land, cognisant of the possible overlapping of projects and reporting with Culture & Communities committee and suggestions about how this should be managed.
13. Agrees that the Local Housing Strategy will include a specific topic paper focused on improving opportunities for nature as part of it, and that this will be developed in consultation with relevant officers / external groups with expertise on nature and biodiversity.”

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.

This meeting of the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee is being held in the City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh and virtually by Microsoft Teams.

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 529 4264, email jamie.macrae@edinburgh.gov.uk / joanna.pawlikowska@edinburgh.gov.uk.

The agenda, minutes and public reports for this meeting and all the main Council committees can be viewed online by going to the Council's online [Committee Library](#).

Live and archived webcasts for this meeting and all main Council committees can be viewed online by going to the Council's [Webcast Portal](#).

Webcasting of Council meetings

Please note this meeting may be filmed for live and subsequent broadcast via the Council's internet site – at the start of the meeting the Convener will confirm if all or part of the meeting is being filmed.

The Council is a Data Controller under current Data Protection legislation. We broadcast Council meetings to fulfil our public task obligation to enable members of the public to observe the democratic process. Data collected during this webcast will be retained in accordance with the Council's published policy including, but not limited to, for the purpose of keeping historical records and making those records available via the Council's internet site.

Generally the public seating areas will not be filmed. However, by entering the Council Chamber and using the public seating area, individuals may be filmed and images and sound recordings captured of them will be used and stored for the web casting and

training purposes and for the purpose of keeping historical records and making those records available to the public.

Any information presented by individuals to the Council at a meeting, in a deputation or otherwise, in addition to forming part of a webcast that will be held as a historical record, will also be held and used by the Council in connection with the relevant matter until that matter is decided or otherwise resolved (including any potential appeals and other connected processes). Thereafter, that information will continue to be held as part of the historical record in accordance with the paragraphs above.

If you have any queries regarding this, and, in particular, if you believe that use and/or storage of any particular information would cause, or be likely to cause, substantial damage or distress to any individual, please contact Committee Services (committee.services@edinburgh.gov.uk).

