Business bulletin

Finance and Resources Committee

10:00am, 6 December 2019

Dean of Guild Court Room, City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh



Finance and Resources Committee

Members: **Contact:** Convener: Councillor Gordon Veronica MacMillan Convener Councillor Munn Tel: 0131 529 4283 Cllr Alasdair Rankin **Councillor Bruce** Councillor Hutchison Councillor Johnston Councillor Child Councillor Booth **Councillor Corbett Councillor Neil Ross** Vice - Convener Cllr Joan Griffiths

Background Recent news

At the Council meeting of 14 March 2019, the EU Registration motion by Councillor McVey was approved, and requested that expenditure on provision of assistance by Registration Services to citizens making EU Settled Status applications be monitored and reported through the Business Bulletin of the Finance and Resources Committee. Updates were provided to Committee in May, August 2019 and 26 September 2019 (item 6.1).

There has been an increase in customer requests for EUSS application assistance from an average of 6 per day in July, 9 per day in August, 24 per day in September and 28 per day in the period to 18 October 2019. One Saturday session was opened to manage high customer demand. Since the scheme started as a pilot in November 2018 there have been 1,957 appointments held. Around 5% of local applicants are being supported by using our free service. Had a charge of £14 been levied on all appointments this would have equated to £27,398. Council have approved £25,000 from the Priorities Fund to resource this service. Applications for assistance

Robbie Beattie, Senior Manager.

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continue to be received from across the country and amount to around 20% of total appointments.

4 Duncan Place - Community Asset Transfer Update

Finance and Resources Committee on 12 June 2018 (item 7.18) approved, to the transfer of the property to Duncan Place Volunteer Management Committee (DPVMC) subject to the conditions outlined in the report:

Considerable progress has been made since the Committee decision and officials are currently considering a Community Asset Transfer Stage 2 Business Case Submission from DPVMC under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. It is anticipated that the applicants will submit a finalised submission shortly and a report will be provided to Committee in early 2020 for their consideration.

The Council is currently undertaking significant grant funded improvement works to the building, amounting to investment worth in excess of £2m. These works make provision for a full and intrusive programme of refurbishment works including structural alterations and extensive fabric repairs. The scope includes a new services installation, double glazed window units and wall and roof insulation to bring the building up to a modern standard. The contractor is proceeding well on site with a current anticipated completion date of 20 December 2019.

<u>Lindsay Glasgow</u>, Strategic Asset Management Manager

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Forthcoming activities