

**CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL**  
**POLICY AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE**

**Item No 3**

**11 June 2020**

**DEPUTATION REQUESTS**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Deputation</b>
<b>3.1 In relation to Item 6.11 on the agenda - Scottish Government Town Centre Fund Update and Regeneration Capital Grant Fund Applications</b>	Muirhouse & Salvesen Community Council
<b>3.1 In relation to Item 6.11 on the agenda - Scottish Government Town Centre Fund Update and Regeneration Capital Grant Fund Applications</b>	North Edinburgh Arts
<b>3.1 In relation to Item 8.1 on the agenda - Motion by Councillor Day - Living Wage for Health &amp; Social Care Staff</b>	UNITE Edinburgh Not For Profit Branch

Muirhouse & Salvesen Community Council



**Muirhouse & Salvesen Community Council**  
*putting our community First!!*

10.06.2020

City of Edinburgh Council

**CEC Policy and Sustainability Committee**

Chambers Street

Edinburgh

Muirhouse and Salvesen Community Council

Dear Councillors,

Item 6.11 at the CEC Policy and Sustainability Committee

On behalf of the Community Councillor of Muirhouse and Salvesen Community Council have not been consulted on item 6.11 and the Council have not consulted the community on their proposals for the final phase for McMillan Square for at least a year, if not longer.

We are aware of NEA proposal for the last phase at McMillan Square has had extensive consultation and their proposal has wide community support. Therefore; Muirhouse and Salvesen community support NEA Community Asset Transfer bid and their exciting plans for the regeneration of McMillan Square. This will ensure visibility for NEA and Library, a good quality building which will attract people to visit the McMillan Square

As a member of the Policy and Sustainability Committee our Community Council would ask you support NEA bid for Scottish Government Capital Grant Fund to be included in the Council's bids to the Scottish Government. This fund is a key part of NEA Business Plan and the withdrawal of support from the Council would be retrospective step for the Council to take.

We look forward to hearing from the Committee on this matter ASAP.

Yours sincerely,  
*Roy Douglas*

Roy Douglas  
Office bearer.  
On behalf of Muirhouse & Salvesen Community Council

10<sup>th</sup> June 2020

To all Elected Representatives:

**RE Community Asset Transfer & Scottish Government Capital Grant Fund for development of North Edinburgh Arts/Pennywell Creative and Learning Hub**

As you will be aware North Edinburgh Arts is at stage 2 of both a Community Asset Transfer bid, and related Scottish Land Fund bid to allow us to bring North Edinburgh Arts fully into community ownership, and to enable the organisation to lead on the development of a creative and community hub; much needed by the local community pre-Covid, arguably more in the period to follow, post pandemic.

**NEA proposal has an advanced case for their bid to Scottish Government Regeneration Capital Grant, which was submitted to officers in early February, this year. Our timetable for this project was submitted late 2019.**

This aspiration on behalf of our community has garnered wide support with 96% of local residents consulted fully supporting the plans, alongside cross-party support from local, Scottish and UK Government members following briefings early this year and a full business case is available via this link: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/jij3wbodr28waa0/Scottish%20Land%20Fund%20Stage%202%20application%20final%20draft%2009.06.20.docx?dl=0>

A timetable of background correspondence between NEA and the Council relating to this matter is detailed below.

The Chair of North Edinburgh Arts, Lesley Hinds, has asked for the following amendment to be agreed at the CEC Policy and Sustainability Committee being on the 11th June 2020:

*Policy and Sustainability Committee Thursday 11th June 2020 10amItem: 6.11 Scottish Government Capital Grant Fund Applications. Agree 1.1.1 and 1.1.3 and amended 1.1.2*

*1.1.2: Approve the projects to go forward into the Regeneration Capital Grant Fund (RCGF) application process at stage 1. Following information from North Edinburgh Arts regarding the NEA Culture and Learning Centre, at McMiilan Square, add this project to the list to be submitted to the RCGF.*

Proceeding with a Scottish Government Regeneration Capital Grant Fund at this time is essential, acting as it does as a key pillar of this proposal and of the business plan. Proceeding in this manner, at this time, is also essential to ensure the success of other time bound elements of the plan, namely support from the Scottish Land Fund, and for attracting the other funds required to build a first class facility.

This is an ambitious, exciting plan for the North Edinburgh community. NEA is willing and able to build on its successes across the last decade, and latterly as a key Community Anchor during the Covid 19 pandemic, to ensure our community has the best resources to hand whilst we all build back better.

Kate Wimpress, Director, North Edinburgh Arts

### **Timeline and Key Correspondence:**

**23rd February 2020:** NEA responded to action points. No response from Council, on their action points, despite e-mails, asking for responses. NEA e-mailed:

*Following our meeting below are notes of our discussion. Also a list of actions to be taken by the Council and NEA. Do you agree that this is a true reflection of our discussion and actions to be taken?*

*Lesley (NEA Chair)*

- *Lesley outlined NEA's proposal for community space, phase 4 at McMillan Square.*
- *The Community Asset Transfer Panel will meet on 17th February 2020 to discuss NEA's application.*
- *The previously circulated draft NEA Business Case, to be submitted to Scottish Land Fund, was discussed.*
- *The issue of Early Years proposal and planning permission timetable was discussed. They will submit a detailed planning application before Summer 2020 with an estimated construction start in early 2021. The Early Years Centre would be open in early 2022. This timetable had slipped and a joint planning application for the whole site could be submitted.*
- *The allocation of £200,000 (Town Centre Funding) was discussed. NEA were unaware of the funding perhaps being re-allocated to another project. NEA stated this allocation could be legally committed before April 2020.*
- *The possibility of combining Early Years, Library, extension of NEA to one planning application and builder.*

*NEA to:*

- *Give a breakdown of £200,000 (Town Centre Funding)*
- *Gather information: current size of Muirhouse Library, plans for temporary library in NEA and Council proposal.*

*Council to:*

- *Investigate if £200,000 (Town Centre Funding), previously allocated to Pennywell Town Centre, is available.*
- *Investigate the issues regarding planning and tendering the building contract for all three projects.*
- *To organise a round table meeting, as soon as possible, with all interested parties.*

**13th February 2020** meeting with Paul Lawrence and Councillor Donald Wilson and Councillor Cammy Day

**5th February 2020:** NEA sent draft Business Case to Paul Lawrence

**4th February 2020** from Council: Regeneration Team

*Elaine Watson from C&F and I will be able to talk this through with you tomorrow. The intention is to have one building that all joins up as a hub. We need to align programmes and funding to see how we can best make this happen.*

*As per my email below, we are progressing with the design of the EY facility as standalone to allow NEA to further explore funding streams and work towards a business case. I think it would be advantage for the Council and NEA to approach funders together to show collaborative working. Once we have engaged funders and assessed potential support, we can look at timescales and pull together a programme for taking the various elements of the project forward.*

**30th January 2020** Met Council officers and agreed Planning Application to be submitted by June 2020, for both projects and start date January 2021. Email from Council Regeneration Team

*We are progressing with the design of the EY as standalone at the moment with the intention that this will in time be connected to both the arts centre and the library. There are cost implications with taking this forward in a phased manner as EY has shared spaces with the library and I have agreed to fund these upfront with the intention of realising this spend when the library is built.*

*On this front, next steps are to work alongside NEA to engage with potential funders over the next couple of months to seek further clarity on the funding streams identified by NEA to date, to assess whether they will deliver an extended facility 'hub'.*

*I am also aware that you are looking to seek clarity on the town centre funding and hope to have this by the time we meet.*

**22nd January 2020** Council Regeneration Team

*I am working on getting approvals as discussed. Taking the projects forward as two separate phases has introduced additional costs and risk to the Council that we are working through at the moment. I will get back to you very soon*

**17th January 2020** NEA to Regeneration Team

*Thanks for the update on Wednesday regarding new community spaces in North Edinburgh. Following the meeting with the Council last year, we submitted our proposal which was to be considered by Council officers, for decision to proceed with Council/NEA Project in McMillan Square. The Board of North Edinburgh Arts are keen to progress things as quickly as possible. We are organising briefing sessions, in the next couple of weeks, with local Councillors, MPs, MSPs and relevant Council Conveners/Vice Conveners. It would be helpful to have the go ahead before the briefings. We are happy to speak to any Council officers if they need any further details on this project to help ensure we can jointly make the most of this opportunity*

**15th December 2019** Council and NEA agreed the timetable and presentation to be submitted to Senior Management Team Agreed start date for NEA January 2021. Council email from Michelle Fraser:

*Can you please review and let me know if you want any changes or I will put this into the presentation as the final version*

**On 9th December 2019** NEA to Council, Marion Weatherly

*Many thanks for your template. Lesley and I had the opportunity to discuss this in detail on Friday and I have also had input from Douglas Westwater, Community Enterprise. All the funders listed will have a 6 to 9 month turnaround with that path made much smoother if the commitment from the City of Edinburgh Council is in place to proceed and support this programme of work. Following our*

*discussion on Friday Lesley and I would propose the following timetable, working towards a build of January 2021 to January 2022:*

*1. End of December 2019 CEC agreement to allocate £200,000 to enabling works - Library demolish/detailed plans/temporary library service in NEA as per slides – plus commitment to start build fund with funds in hand and receipts from*

*Community Asset Transfer*

*2. Project board established January 2020 – CEC/NEA/Library/Childcare/Architects to meet monthly, or more regularly if required.*

*3. Planning Application submitted February/April 2020 – work on procurement, technical design, building warrants starts*

*4. 2nd formal application to CEC for Community Asset Transfer submitted by end December 2019 for approval by March 2020*

*5. Scottish Land Fund Stage 2 application submitted for approval by May 2020*

*6. Once point 1. Is agreed grant applications are submitted from January to March 2020 with outcomes expected July to September 2020*

*If we can get this all lined up then the funding case becomes very compelling, particularly as a unique partnership in a targeted regeneration area with links to the wider Waterfront development*

**5th December 2020** Council email Regeneration Team

*I've put together a template with some timings to help you with the programme - attached. It's really important that we have the dates for the funding included in the proposal as this will have a huge impact on the delivery of the project. What would also be helpful is if you could put a red/amber/green status next to the potential funders indicating the likelihood of the funds being secured, green being secured/practically secured and red not yet approached for an indication*

**4th November 2019** Council email Regeneration Team

*There are currently 3 options on the table that need to be whittled down to a preferred option. This will be done through further feasibility/ viability assessment aligning with agreed joint outcomes to allow for a preferred option to go forward for AMSC application asap so that the nursery can be operational by 2021*

**22nd November 2019** Council email Regeneration Team

*I have spoken with colleagues following our discussion this morning and have put forward the potential to have the TC funding legally committed by March 2020 to carry out enabling works for block 4 which would include demo of the library, re-provision of the library in NEA and design fees for the new hub. The library demo I can include within Scape, can you have a think about the other 2 aspects, how you see these being carried out and if March 2020 for legal commitment is achievable. We can include details of this within the presentation to senior management*

**McMillan Square: Block 4 'New Community Hub'**

**City of Edinburgh Council/North Edinburgh Arts**

**Wednesday 23 October 2019 meeting @ Waverley Court**

In attendance: Lesley Hinds (NEA), Kate Wimpres (NEA), Bill Black (Richard Murphy Architects); Euan Revell (Barton Wilmore Architects), Elaine Watson (C&F CEC), Sherina Peek (D&R CEC) and Michelle Fraser (D&R CEC)

Key Outcomes:

CEC agreed the following outcomes put forward by NEA for block 4:

- 1 Three buildings working together, for the community as a hub with shared integrated facilities
- 2 Visibility for NEA and Library
- 3 A good quality building which attracts people to visit the McMillan Square
- 4 The proposals have community support
- 5 AMSC Application planning to be submitted, by the end of the year

## **City of Edinburgh Council - Policy and Sustainability Committee meeting - 11th June 2020.**

### **Statement from the UNITE Edinburgh Not For Profit Branch**

My branch organises 1240 members in the Edinburgh Not For Profit sector. We do not organise in the private sector so that we do not have members in private sector care homes. We do have members who work as social care workers in the not for for profit sector. We therefore have an interest in the implementation of the promised Scottish Living Wage increase. Some of our members would have benefited from the increase that was supposed to take place at the beginning of April 2020.

We were aware that politicians, including the Health Secretary, Jeane Freeman announced earlier this year that social care workers who earned less than the Scottish Living Wage would get their hourly rate increased to £9.30 at the beginning of April. This did not happen so we made enquiries to find out why it did not happen. We found out that the Scottish Government was not going to meet the estimated bill for the City Council to pay the increase. We understand that the City Council officials estimated that they needed an additional £5 million to pay the increase. We understand that to date the Scottish Government has only offered another £1.1 million though negotiations are continuing.

We do not understand why the Scottish Government can make a public promise and not ensure that it can be honoured. Our members, at this point time do not know when they will get the promised increase. They are not sure that the increase will be backdated to the beginning of April as it should be. We wish to get an assurance from the Council that the promised increase will be paid and backdated, and when. We want to know what will happen if agreement cannot be reached with the Scottish Government. Will the increase still be paid?

We had always understood that social care employers will be compelled to pay the increase having received money from the Council. We are aware that some Council officials think that employers cannot be compelled even if they have been given money. However, we understand from Scottish Government guidelines that the EIJB can seek undertakings from employers that they will pay the increase. If they do not give the undertakings then they do not get the money. In addition, the EIJB has the right to check



that the employers have honoured their promise including the backdating of the increase to the beginning of April.

We hope that current negotiations are successful but if not we will lobby the Scottish Government strongly to honour its promises.

Des Loughney

Secretary

UNITE Edinburgh Not For Profit Branch

10th June 2020