

Edinburgh Association of Community Councils - Financial Support Request.

1. The Edinburgh Association of Community Councils (“EACC”) sits as an engagement hub and communication bridge, connecting Community Councils with one another and, by extension, with the City of Edinburgh Council (“CEC”), members of the Edinburgh Partnership, other public bodies and city residents. (See Appendix 1.)
2. EACC participation spans a core commonality of interest across some 40 currently-active Community Councils in Edinburgh. There is fundamental recognition of the need for strong engagement between Community Councils, CEC and the Edinburgh Partnership. EACC has a place on the Edinburgh Partnership Board. The EACC Chair is the only statutory community representative of Edinburgh residents within the Edinburgh Partnership (as *Representative of Community of Place*).
3. EACC aims to meet some eight-plus times per year, gathering Community Councils’ opinions on issues of the day and inviting presentations from elected Councillors, CEC Officers and representatives of public and private sector bodies. The central objective is to keep an active Community Council finger on the pulse of the city.
4. In the past, the Edinburgh Partnership has provided grant funding to the EACC. This arrangement lapsed some years ago. EACC is without an income stream. EACC lacks the financial assistance needed to provide for the expected service to its Community Council participants and to those with whom it seeks to work in the city community at large. (Individuals elected and working to support their Community Councils and the EACC engage, of course, on a voluntary basis, without remuneration.)
5. EACC has expanded and strengthened its management structure. In order to function at a basic level, to meet in the first instance its current undertakings to city residents, Community Councils, CEC and the Edinburgh Partnership, EACC requires funding to cover:

<u>Recurring Expenses:</u> IT costs, including website, domain name, security and subscriptions such as <i>Teams</i> ; Secretarial costs, including stationery, copying, document distribution and storage.	£450
<u>Provision for Live Meeting Schedule:</u> City-centre venue and equipment hire.	£700
<u>Development Costs:</u> Provision for professional support on website platform transfer and site redevelopment as the current operating system expires later in 2023.	£700
<u>Total:</u>	£1850

6. *EACC requests that grant funding be reinstated by the Edinburgh Partnership Board and that an award of £1850 be approved in respect of financial year April 2023 – March 2024.*

Submitted by:

Ken Robertson, Secretary, EACC, on behalf of:

Steve Kerr, Chair;

Keith Giblett, Vice-Chair;

Judy Wightman, Treasurer.

11 January 2023

Appendix 1 - Extract from EACC Constitution (February 2022)

The Edinburgh Association of Community Councils (EACC) serves to -

- To ascertain the views of Edinburgh Community Councils on all issues which concern them, to provide a forum for discussion of these views, and to communicate them to national and local government, other public bodies, stakeholders, and the public.
- To represent the views of Edinburgh Community Councils through its membership of the Edinburgh Partnership, and to participate in other policy forums.
- To increase the collective influence of Community Councils and to strengthen their identity throughout Edinburgh.
- To facilitate the flow of information between Community Councils and with the City of Edinburgh Council.
- To be as inclusive and participative as possible in its meetings, ordinarily with open attendance to the public. EACC will endeavour to increase and widen Edinburgh residents' understanding of the issues facing the city and its future.