


Business Bulletin

Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 3 October 2023

Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee

Convener:	Members:	Contact:
<p>Convener: Councillor Jane Meagher</p> 	<p>Councillor Graeme Bruce Councillor Jack Caldwell Councillor Kate Campbell Councillor Stuart Dobbin Councillor Pauline Flannery Councillor Simita Kumar Councillor Ben Parker Councillor Susan Rae Councillor Mandy Watt Councillor Iain Whyte</p>	<p>Andrew Henderson Committee Officer 0131 529 7056</p> <p>Jacqueline Boyle Committee Officer</p>

Recent News

Background

Energy Efficiency in Homes – Introduction of Long-term Domestic Standards – Motion by Councillor Dalglish

On 22 June 2023, the Council [approved](#) an adjusted motion by Councillor Dalglish on the above.

The Council agreed that the Council Leader should write to relevant Ministers to request a meeting to discuss the challenges in residential properties. The discussion should include, but not be limited to:

- Properties within conservation areas and those where were listed buildings faced with looking to adapt or alter homes to achieve an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of at least equivalent to EPC C;
- Request further clarification on whether the adaptations required in the context of being technically feasible, legally feasible and cost-effective apply as exemptions to the regulations;
- Anticipated financial support mechanisms available to support building owners and specifically how these would support the principles of a just transition and ensure that those on the lowest incomes were given the most support and support for those in listed buildings and conservation areas; and
- Operation of the exemptions register.

A request for a meeting was sent to Patrick Harvie, Minister for Zero Carbon Buildings, Active Travel and Tenants' Rights on 16 August 2023. Following the meeting, an update on the discussion will be provided to Committee.

Contact: [Alan Irvine](#), Senior Executive Officer

Accessible Housing update

The Accessible Housing Sounding Board met for a third time at the end of August. The focus at this meeting was on turnover and demand for social rented homes across the city, with information provided by the Home Accessibility and Referral Team on their work and the housing needs of households who currently have Gold

Contact: [Gillian Donohoe](#), Senior Housing Development Officer

Recent News

Background

or Urgent Gold Priority. This area of work will continue to be developed through the EdIndex Board.

[Living Streets](#) have received confirmation of funding for another year through the Social Housing Partnership Fund with Cycling Scotland. Council officers from the Housing and Homelessness service and the 20-Minute Neighbourhood Team are liaising with Living Streets to help identify social housing projects/areas that would benefit from pedestrian conditions assessments and further support from Living Streets through this funding in 2023/24.

Other accessible housing workstream activities include:

- Responding to the Scottish Government consultation on [Enhancing the accessibility, adaptability, and usability of Scotland's homes](#), which is a largely technical consultation. Responses to the proposed changes in Part 1 of Housing for Varying Needs guidance will inform Scottish Government proposals for a new accessible housing standard across tenures, which could be introduced from 2025/26. The aim is to mainstream a higher standard of accessibility and adaptability across new homes through changes to building standards and guidance.
- Continuing discussions on housing-related topics (including accessibility) within the Edinburgh Design Guidance, as part of a review by Planning officers.

UK Shared Prosperity Fund

Since the approval of funding to be reallocated (using the underspend in funding for Multiply) towards activities under the People and Skills priority, funding agreements have now been issued and partners have commenced delivery.

A website has been established, <https://helix.scot/edinburgh-ukspf/>, with information about projects being funded from the UK Shared Prosperity Funding.

Contact: [Elin Williamson](#),
Head of Business Growth and
Inclusion

Recent News

The website also features a blog with short updates on project progress and case studies. It is particularly exciting to be able to share news about the projects' achievements and milestones, as well as learning and reflections, in this way. Users can subscribe to blog posts for updates.

The next progress report is due to the UK Government at the start of November and will be included in an update to Committee in December.

Background