



THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

Proposal for Housing Partnership Establishment

3 September 2024

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report follows on from the Edinburgh Partnership Board agreement on 11 June 2024 to establish a new Housing Partnership. It sets out proposals for the Partnership's establishment for agreement by the Board.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Board is recommended to agree the proposals for the establishment of a Housing Partnership as set out in the report.

3. Main Report

- 3.1 The City of Edinburgh Council declared a Housing Emergency on the 2 November 2023, agreeing a Housing Emergency Action Plan on the 27 February 2024. A Housing summit convened by Professor Lesley McAra on the 28 February 2024 brought together key figures from local and national organisations to examine the drivers of the emergency and identify partnership solutions. Correspondence has been exchanged with the Housing Minister since that event and a further meeting convened by Professor McAra is planned for the end of September 2024.
- 3.2 At their meeting on the 11 June 2024 the Edinburgh Partnership Board (EP) agreed to establish a strategic Housing Partnership, to ensure a citywide community planning focus on the housing and homelessness issues facing the city. The EP Housing Partnership is designed to be a strategic group with members drawn from across organisations and affiliate groups focussing on housing and homelessness as a public health issue, and collectively benefitting from the Edinburgh Partnership brand.
- 3.3 It is suggested that membership of the EP Housing Partnership be agreed as follows:

Chair: Lynn McMath, University of Edinburgh

Members: Flora Ogilvie, NHS Lothian

Derek McGowan, City of Edinburgh Council
Sean Smith, University of Edinburgh
Beth Watts-Cobbe, I-Sphere
Pat Togher, Edinburgh H&SCP
Amanda Hatton, City of Edinburgh Council

One representative from each of the following:

EVOC
SHAPE
Edinburgh Affordable Housing Partnership
NHS Lothian
Police Scotland
Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
Higher and further education sector in Edinburgh
Social Security Scotland
Department for Work and Pensions
Skills Development Scotland
Homes for Scotland

- 3.4 With the next Ministerial meeting being held in late September, the proposal is to use that meeting as the initial meeting of the EP Housing Partnership, with all members attending. This would be chaired by Professor McAra before being handed over to Lynn McMath, ensuring continuity of the convening power of the University. To demonstrate a true partnership approach, it is considered important that the Partnership is chaired by an organisation not as closely connected with housing and homelessness.
- 3.5 This Partnership will examine strategic issues in housing and homelessness, providing a single city voice through the Edinburgh Partnership benefitting from Senior Leadership across the public sector.
- 3.6 Meetings will be quarterly, in line with Edinburgh Partnership meetings with reporting to be agreed as part of the transformation and improvement programme. A representative of the Housing Partnership would also sit on the EP Management Group if this proposition is agreed. Subject to the Board approval the planned meeting will be convened in September and work carried out to develop the terms of reference and role of members to align with the final model for community planning for the city.

4. Contact

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