

CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL

26 SEPTEMBER 2024

DEPUTATION REQUESTS

Subject	Deputation
3.1 In respect of Item 7.3 on the agenda – Regenerative Futures Fund	Funding Organisations (written submission attached)
3.2 In respect of Item 8.14 on the agenda – Motion by Councillor Parker - City of Edinburgh Council Supports Rent Controls	Living Rent (verbal)
3.3 In respect of Item 8.20 on the agenda – Motion by Councillor Mowat – Events in August	Edinburgh Bus Users Group (written submission attached)

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Written Deputation

In support of Regenerative Futures Fund – [Item 7.3 on the Agenda of The City of Edinburgh Council Full Council Meeting on Thursday 26 September 2024](#)

Submitted - 20 September 2024

Dear City of Edinburgh Councillors,

We are a group of funding organisations who in the last financial year provided approx. £14 million of funding to third sector organisations in Edinburgh.

Each of our funding organisations is different in focus and approach, but to illustrate this:

- The Robertson Trust contributed £2.2 million to community organisations in Edinburgh between April 2023 – March 2024.
- The National Lottery Community Fund contributed £5.5 million to community organisations in Edinburgh between April 2023 and March 2024.
- Foundation Scotland between contributed £6.3 million to community organisations in Edinburgh between April 2023 and March 2024.

Esmee Fairbairn Foundation and Turn2us Edinburgh Trust are not included in this figure of £14 million for these reasons:

- Esmee Fairbairn Foundation is a UK wide funder which supports strategic work using collaborative and systems change approaches and funding decisions are based on alignment with the funding strategy not geographic location (please see full statement at the end of this letter*).
- The Turn2us Edinburgh Trust is primarily an individual grant maker and not a funder of community organisations (please see full statement at the end of this letter*).

The majority of funders provide grant giving data which is published open source on [360 Giving](#). Data is searchable by place, date and funder and can be accessed anytime.

We know that the way the third sector is funded needs to transform, and we think Regenerative Futures Fund has the potential to show a new, innovative, more sustainable way of working for Edinburgh.

As outlined in the paper provided to you, we are collectively committed to a combined £4.75m contribution towards Regenerative Futures Fund, but we don't think the programme can work without council investment and leadership because the focus is around local people, local communities and local solutions that are tackling root causes and taking a systemic approach. This will require sustained council leadership to support the people and organisations to be successful.

We also know that the programme will not work if it simply displaces funding that is already coming to Edinburgh.

That's why the contributions we are making to Regenerative Futures Fund are independent of and additional to the funding we already distribute in the city through other grant programmes.

We encourage you to agree the recommendations in the report and look forward to working with you and local communities over the next ten years to learn together and achieve long-lasting transformational change for Edinburgh.

As well as this collective letter there are some points below* that relate to specific contexts of our organisational approach to funding.

Yours sincerely,

(letter co-signed by):

The Robertson Trust – Jim McCormick (CEO), Zoe Ferguson (Head of Insight and Impact) and Russell Gunson (Head of Programmes and Practice)

The Turn2us Edinburgh Trust – Thomas Lawson (CEO), Patrycja Kupiec (Head of Edinburgh Trust) and Sarah MacLoughlin (Director of Programmes and Partnerships)

Foundation Scotland – Giles Ruck (CEO) and Helen Wray (Head of Philanthropy and Quality)

Esmee Fairbairn Foundation – Veda Harrison (Director of Creative Confident Communities) and Gillian Goode (Funding Manager)

The National Lottery Community Fund – Neil Ritch (Director of Scotland), Roddy Byers (Head of Funding for Scotland), Susan Johnstone (Funding Manager)

***Additional statements from each funder**

The Robertson Trust – *“The contribution towards Regenerative Futures Fund comes from a separate budget stream (Programme Awards) than the existing responsive grant-making we do in the city via Our Funds which in last financial year amounted to £2.2m”*

The Turn2us Edinburgh Trust – *“Turn2us Edinburgh Trust is primarily an individual grant maker, the funding for RFF comes from additional funding we have allocated from our investments to fund new approaches to reduce poverty and increase financial security across the city of Edinburgh. The funding for RFF will not have an impact on our other grant programmes which remain open to the residents of Edinburgh”*

The National Lottery Community Fund Scotland – “Our committed funding for RFF is additional to our open programmes which remain available to Edinburgh and all other places in Scotland. Our awards (and those of some other funders) are available on 360 Giving which offers transparency. We can of course produce brief reports of our funding in Edinburgh when or if required”

*Esmee Fairbairn Foundation – “Esmee Fairbairn Foundation is a UK wide funder. The Foundation supports strategic work using collaborative and systems change approaches to i) protect and restore the natural world, ii) to advance social justice for communities experiencing discrimination and marginalisation, and iii) *to develop and share learning from models of community-led, place-based change (*funding for Regenerative Futures Fund comes from the budget for this funding stream). Application to the Foundation is open to organisations that meet standard eligibility criteria and funding decisions are based on alignment with the funding strategy not geographic location. Therefore, there can be significant variation from year to year on where across the UK new funding is awarded”*

Foundation Scotland – “We are committed to supporting Regenerative Futures Fund through hosting the fund and contributing towards the pooled fund. We have never worked in an urban area in this way before and funds we will contribute to RFF comes from a separate budget within our organisation therefore would not affect any existing grantmaking”

City of Edinburgh Council meeting Thursday 26th September, 2024

Written deputation by Edinburgh Bus Users Group in respect of Motion 8.20 by Councillor Mowat

Edinburgh Bus Users Group (EBUG) welcomes motion 8.20 by Councillor Mowat which addresses an issue that will be widely recognised by residents, visitors and those working in Edinburgh over the summer.

EBUG notes that August 2024 saw - yet again - how the palpable pressure on the City's transport infrastructure was accompanied by a flurry of commentary that "something must be done", which is usually forgotten again until the following year.

Point 3 of the Motion offers a way to chart a route out of this cycle.

Additionally, we believe there is a strong case to accelerate the Coach Strategy, which we understand is in development; to address the issues raised by tour buses and non-registered bus/coach services operating in the already stressed city centre.