

10.00am, Thursday, 24 August 2017

Urgent Decision

Tenant Participation and Engagement Services

Item number	8.4
Report number	
Executive/routine	Routine
Wards	All

Executive Summary

Council are asked to note an urgent decision taken by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Lord Provost and Group Leaders, under paragraph A4 of the Council's committee terms of reference and delegated functions, to extend the funding for Edinburgh Tenants' Federation and the Neighbourhood Alliance to 31 March 2018.

Urgent Decision

Tenant Participation and Engagement Services

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 To note that the Chief Executive in consultation with the Lord Provost and Group Leaders, under paragraph A4 of the Council's committee terms of reference and delegated functions, agreed to extend the funding for Edinburgh Tenants' Federation and the Neighbourhood Alliance for a further six months to 31 March 2018.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Council has a statutory duty to have a Tenant Participation Strategy. The current strategy was approved by the Health, Social Care and Housing Committee on [21 April 2015](#). Discussions on approaches to supporting its implementation have been ongoing since then with a particular focus on the co-production and the future approach to the provision of tenant participation and engagement services.
- 2.2 The current service providers are Edinburgh Tenants' Federation (ETF) and the Neighbourhood Alliance (NA), both historically funded to provide these types of services, are led by voluntary management committees. ETF have a city wide role and NA operate solely in the North East Locality.
- 2.3 A high level service specification for a participation and engagement service was approved by the Finance and Resources Committee on [29 September 2016](#). Committee at that time agreed to extend ETF and NA funding to 30 September 2017 to enable further consultation on the approach to the independent tenant representative function.

3. Main Report

- 3.1 A report on the outcome of the consultation on the tenant representative function was due to be presented to the first meeting of the new Executive Committee with responsibility for housing.
- 3.2 As no Executive Committees met in May or June, a decision was taken under delegated authority by the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Lord Provost

and Group Leaders, to extend the funding for ETF and NA for a further six months (to 31 March 2018) to allow the new Executive Committee (Housing and Economy) to consider the proposals for future tenant participation.

4. Measures of Success

- 4.1 High levels of tenant satisfaction on ways to become involved will be maintained. 81% of tenants are satisfied with opportunities to participate in decision-making, well above the last comparative Scottish Local Authority average of 69%.

5. Financial Impact

- 5.1 ETF and NA receive funding from the Council of £308,000 per annum (ETF £241,000 and CNA £67,000).
- 5.2 The cost of extending the current agreements with ETF and the NA is included within the Housing Revenue Account budget for 2017/18.

6. Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

- 6.1 This early decision was required to allow time for the Council to carefully consider the proposals for future engagement with tenants, as part of its statutory duties.
- 6.2 ETF are playing a key role in working with the Council and residents to ensure safety within the Council's tower blocks and delaying a decision on future funding could have impacted on their ability to engage on such matters.
- 6.3 There would have been a financial impact to both ETF and NA if a decision to extend funding for a further six months was not taken by the end of June 2017.

7. Equalities Impact

- 7.1 The current Tenant Participation Strategy and the work ongoing on the new approach for participation and engagement services is to continuously improve services and standards by actively encouraging tenants to participate and engage in Council decision-making.

8. Sustainability Impact

There are no environmental implications arising from the decision to extend funding to ETF and NA for a further six months.

9. Consultation and Engagement

- 9.1 Stakeholders and the services directly affected continue to be fully involved to ensure continuity of support for tenants is maintained and tenants views are taken into account in the development of future tenant participation and engagement services.

10. Background Information

Tenant Participation and Engagement Services Update – 13 September 2016

Implication for Co-production and Procurement, Finance and Resources Committee - 9 June 2016

Tenant Participation and Engagement Services, Health, Social Care and Housing Committee - 19 April 2016

Procuring Tenant Participation Services, Health, Social Care and Housing Committee - 26 January 2016

Review of Tenant Participation Service Procurement Options – referral from the Health, Social Care and Housing Committee, Finance and Resources Committee - 24 September 2015

Review of Tenant Participation Service Procurement Options, Health, Social Care and Housing Committee - 8 September 2015

Tenant Participation Strategy 2015-18, Health, Social Care and Housing Committee - 21 April 2015

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