

Item 6.1 - Business Bulletin

Housing and Economy Committee

10.00am, Thursday, 2 November 2017

Dean of Guild Court Room, City Chambers, Edinburgh

Housing and Economy Committee

Convener:	Members:	Contact:
<p data-bbox="188 248 520 320">Councillor Gavin Barrie (Convener)</p>  <p data-bbox="188 797 563 869">Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron (Vice Convener)</p> 	<p data-bbox="624 248 1002 719">Councillor Gavin Barrie (Convener), Councillor Lezley Marion Cameron (Vice Convener), Councillor Kate Campbell, Councillor Jim Campbell, Councillor Neil Gardiner, Councillor Kevin Lang, Councillor John McLellan, Councillor Claire Miller, Councillor Gordon Munro, Councillor Susan Rae, Councillor Cameron Rose.</p>	<p data-bbox="1118 248 1398 353">Stephen Broughton Committee Clerk Tel: 529 4261</p> <p data-bbox="1118 394 1417 539">Paul Lawrence Executive Director of Place Tel: 529 7325</p>

Council Homes Letting Policy Update

On Tuesday 31 January 2017, the Health, Social Care and Housing Committee considered an update report on the [Council Homes Letting Policy](#). The report advised that the Housing (Scotland) Act 2014 will change certain aspects of the law on social housing allocations and management. The implementation timetable is dependent on commencement orders being enacted by the Scottish Parliament.

A Commencement Order is a Statutory Instrument that brings into force all or part of an Act of Parliament at a date later than the date the Act was passed.

The latest update from the Scottish Parliament suggests that the commencement orders for the social housing allocations and management parts of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2014 are now expected during October 2017. Any changes will then be applied from October 2018 following a 12 month consultation period. As a result, the Council's planned consultation with partners and customers, originally expected to take place between February and July 2017, has been postponed.

Any further update on implementation, including any implications or changes required to the Letting Policy, will be provided once the legislation has been brought in to force by the Scottish Parliament and the Council's consultation with partners and customers undertaken.

For more information contact:

[Jennifer Hunter](#), Tenant and Resident Services Manager - Housing and Regulatory Services. Tel: 0131 529 7532.

Tenant Led Inspection of Rent Collection Update

The most recent service to be scrutinised closely by tenants is the City of Edinburgh Council's rent collection process; the sixth service inspection carried out by tenants providing vital customer feedback to help to make sure that services are tailored to tenants' needs and priorities.

All the work involved in the inspections is carried out by tenants on a voluntary basis and the Council would like to take this opportunity to thank the tenant inspectors for their hard work and thoughtful contributions.

The purpose of the inspection was to assess the effectiveness of the various communication methods used by the Council when collecting rent. The tenant inspectors reviewed rent collection related correspondence, interviewed a range of staff, hosted a focus group for tenants and compared Edinburgh's approach with that of two other councils. The methodology was agreed with the Council in advance of the inspection.

The tenant inspectors have made a number of recommendations. These are now being considered and an action plan will be produced, in consultation with tenants, to take forward the agreed recommendations. Implementation of the action plan will then be monitored on a six monthly basis by the tenant inspectors.

Tenant Led Inspections provide an independent, objective and affordable assessment of housing services and assist with increasing the Council's understanding of customer needs. They provide tenants with an opportunity to scrutinise how their landlord is performing, have a direct impact on service provision and develop new skills and confidence.

Edinburgh's tenant inspections have been recognised as good practice by the Scottish Housing Regulator and the Tenants' Information Service.

For more information contact:

[Jennifer Hunter](#), Tenant and Resident Services Manager - Housing and Regulatory Services. Tel: 0131 529 7532.

Coatfield Lane Redevelopment Proposals

Background

There are 21 properties in two blocks at 1-9 (odd numbers) Coatfield Lane and 13-31 (odd numbers) Giles Street. The layout and design of these properties and the surrounding garages and underground car park to the front of Linksvie House, have for a number of years, contributed significantly to a high level of anti-social behaviour in the surrounding area. In [February 2016, the Health, Social Care and Housing Committee](#) agreed to approve the demolition of the area, allowing for the development of a higher number of new sustainable homes.

An initial capacity study was carried out in 2015 to establish the viability of redeveloping this area. Collective Architecture were subsequently appointed in November 2016 to carry out a feasibility study. The study was developed in consultation with relevant stakeholders and the community. The proposed design consists of 43 one and two bedroom homes and five small commercial units which could be contained within the homes as workspaces.

Next Steps

Several local consultation events have been held and two more will be held before a planning application is submitted by the end of December.

In order to take forward development of the site, the Council requires to buy back five homes that are in private ownership. Two purchases have concluded with the remainder in progress.

Subject to the conclusion of all buy backs and the required statutory consents and approvals, this project should commence on site in 2019.

For further information contact:

[Rachel Fraser](#),
Construction Project
Manager, Development
and Regeneration. Tel:
0131 529 2250

Essential Edinburgh, Business Improvement District Formal Notice of Renewal Ballot

Housing and Economy Committee is asked to note the proposal to hold an Essential Edinburgh Renewal Ballot in April 2018. Essential Edinburgh Business Improvement District (BID) was the first BID to be established in 2008 following a successful inaugural BID ballot. The second term of the BID is due to end on 30 June 2018.

The Business Improvement Districts (Scotland) regulations 2007 require a renewal ballot every five years. It is also a requirement of the regulations that the BID provides not less than 98 days notice to the relevant Local Authority prior to calling a renewal ballot. Essential Edinburgh are preparing for a third term which would run from June 2018. The BID has approximately 600 members and raises an annual levy of £1.2m.

Essential Edinburgh's vision is to ensure that Edinburgh city centre excels as a place to work, a place to do business, a place to shop and a place to visit. The BID maintains a key stakeholder relationship with the Council in the management of the public realm in the city centre.

Details of the [draft business plan and the renewal process](#) are available online.

For further information contact

[Jim Galloway](#), Service Manager, 0131 529 3211

[Vivienne Robertson](#), Senior Economic Development Officer, 0131 529 4623

Recent News

Background

Safer and Stronger Communities – Revenue Monitoring 2017-18 – month three position

The Culture and Communities Committee on 12 September 2017 considered [an update](#) on the month three revenue budget monitoring position for Safer and Stronger Communities. A total projected unfunded budget pressure of £8.6m, which was partially offset by mitigations totalling £5.1m, resulting in a net residual unfunded budget pressure of £3.5m was detailed.

The Committee agreed to note the report with concern, and referred the report for information to the Housing and Economy Committee.

For further information:

[Harry Robertson](#),
Community Justice Senior
Manager, 0131 553 8237

[Jane Brown](#), Principal
Accountant - Children and
Families, 0131 469 3196

[Safer and Stronger
Communities – Revenue
Monitoring 2017-18 – month
three position](#)

A Decision was made by the Transport and Environment Committee on [10 August 2017](#) to appoint Councillors Barrie and Cameron to the Central Edinburgh Development Working Group.