

A very Happy New Year to you and best wishes for 2019 from everyone at ETF. Please share this newsletter with others in your organisation who may be interested.

City of Edinburgh Council Draft Tenant Participation Strategy

Would you like to play your part in helping to shape future housing services in Edinburgh? The City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) will shortly be consulting on its Tenant Participation Strategy and this is an ideal opportunity to have your say on aspects such as:

- How can CEC encourage more people to become involved locally?
- How are tenants able to take part, if they want to, and influence decisions that affect them?
- What support and resources do tenants need to take part?
- How are tenants able to help to develop quality services?
- What works well and what doesn't?

If you have any thoughts or would like to play your part in helping to formulate ETF's response to the draft Tenant Participation Strategy, please contact Mark Henry by emailing mark@edinburghtenants.org.uk or phone 0131 475 2509 by **Monday 14th January 2019**. A copy of CEC's draft Tenant Participation Strategy can be downloaded at the Federation's website at <http://www.edinburghtenants.org.uk/draft-city-of-edinburgh-council-tenant-participation-strategy/>.

Rents

In October 2018, ETF submitted a response to CEC's Rent Consultation and will shortly be making plans to present a deputation to Councillors concerning tenants' rents. In order to present our deputation, ETF would like to know. **What cuts would you make to Edinburgh's budget?** If you have any key messages that you wish ETF to make to elected members or would like to help in presenting to elected members on behalf of ETF, please contact Mark Henry by emailing mark@edinburghtenants.org.uk or phone 0131 475 2509. A copy of ETF's response to the Rent Consultation can be downloaded at the Federation's website at <http://www.edinburghtenants.org.uk/etf-response-to-city-of-edinburgh-council-rent-consultation/>

ETF Repairs Group Meeting, Wednesday 30th January 2019, 7.00pm-9.00pm, Norton Park Conference Centre, Norton Park Conference Centre, 57 Albion Road

Our next ETF Repairs Group Meeting will take place on **Wednesday 30th January 2019, 7.00pm-9.00pm, Norton Park Conference Centre, 57 Albion Road, EH7 5QY**. The guest speaker will be Willie Crawford, Operations Manager, Housing Property, City of Edinburgh Council and he will be giving an update on the issues that were discussed at the last meeting held in September. There will also be an opportunity to give an update on what is happening in your local area. Bookings can be made via our website www.edinburghtenants.org.uk or email info@edinburghtenants.org.uk.

Tenants Voice: Call for Articles

The deadline for material for the next issue is **Monday 28th January 2019**, so if there's anything you'd like to say, please speak up! Articles and letters for publication should be sent into the Federation office at Norton Park, 57 Albion Road, Edinburgh EH7 5QY, or emailed to info@edinburghtenants.org.uk. Alternatively, give the Federation office a call on 0131 475 2509 if you'd like help to pull an article together.

Edinburgh Registered Social Landlords Residents Network

Are you a tenant of a Registered Social Landlord (RSL) living in Edinburgh and do any of the following apply to you?

- I have some spare time;
- I am interested in carrying out some volunteer work;
- I am interested in social housing in Edinburgh;
- I want to help make a difference in people's lives.

The Edinburgh RSL Residents Network was set up in April 2015 to improve social housing standards in Edinburgh. The Network is run wholly by tenants/residents of RSLs in Edinburgh. At present we are looking for volunteers to join our committee and to help us achieve our goals. If this is something you are interested in or would simply like more information, please contact the Network's Secretary, Terry Kirby by emailing t_kirby2005@yahoo.co.uk or phone 07806 818857.

Democracy Matters Community Engagement Fund

Democracy Matters' Tenants groups can have a funded conversation about democracy. You can get up to £500 to hold a local event for people and it's not taxing to apply for. The Scottish Government Democracy Matters Community Engagement Fund provides grants of up to £300 (in exceptional circumstances up to £500) to small voluntary organisations and community groups in Scotland to help them run an event with a group of five or more people to discuss what matters to them in relation to democracy. To apply and find out more please visit the website <https://www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk/funding-and-support/democracy-matters-communityengagement-fund>.

Diary Dates

Here are the dates of upcoming events that may be of interest to you. Please pass them onto other members of your organisation.

January 2019

28th January Deadline for *Tenants Voice* articles
30th January ETF Repairs Group Meeting, 7.00pm-9.00pm, Norton
Park Conference Centre, 57 Albion Road, Norton Park Conference
Centre, EH7 5QY

February 2019

20th February Federation Meeting, 7.00pm-9.00pm, venue to be confirmed
21st February ETF deputation to full Council

March 2019

4th March ETF High Flats Group Meeting, 7.00pm-9.00pm, Birnies Court
Community Room

Contact the Federation office on 0131 475 2509 for more information. Don't forget that Federation Matters and other Federation publications can be downloaded from our website at www.edinburghtenants.org.uk. That's all for this month - do get in touch if you need any more information from us about anything mentioned here.

Edinburgh Tenants Federation is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) SC048236, regulated by the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR)