

Agenda item 7f

Port of Leith Housing Association Supporting Communities Fund

Port of Leith Housing Association (POLHA) recently received money from the Scottish Government's Supporting Communities Fund for distribution to local organisations that are delivering responses to the coronavirus (COVID-19) epidemic. This funding is specifically aimed at supporting tenants who live in the North Edinburgh and Leith areas.

According to the most recent ETF members' survey, more than 80% of our member groups are not online. The outbreak of COVID-19 has only increased the need for tenants to increase their digital skills to overcome loneliness, isolation and improve their mental health. ETF applied to POLHA for funding to buy digital equipment, including kindles and smartphones and we received £547, which is great news. As you are all aware digital work is a key theme for ETF as we realise the need to support tenants to get online, particularly as a result of COVID-19. Zoom has allowed the EC to keep in touch, hold meetings and continue to communicate. The funding will enable tenants to communicate better in ETF activities and discussions. It will also increase their social capacity, i.e chat with friends and family online and via social media. They will be able to carry out such tasks as shopping or reporting repairs online.

The EC is asked to discuss and decide how the funds should be spent. Please note that all funds received should be spent by the end of September 2020.

Mark Henry
10th July 2020