



EDINBURGH TENANTS
FEDERATION

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Edinburgh's Federation of Tenants' and Residents' Associations

ETF's response to Scottish Government Building Community Wealth Consultation

1.0	Background
	Edinburgh Tenants Federation (ETF) is the umbrella organisation for tenants' and residents' groups in the city of Edinburgh and a Registered Tenant Organisation (RTO).
	ETF's overall aim is to represent tenants throughout Edinburgh, ensuring tenant influence in housing policy and service decisions with the City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) and the Scottish Government. ETF's primary objective is to improve housing conditions and standards, along with the quality of life of all CEC tenants.
2.0	ETF's member's comments
2.1	The Scottish Government is proposing a duty to advance Community Wealth Building. Which form do you think this duty should take <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Option A – A duty requiring Scottish Ministers and prescribed public sector bodies to embed the CWB model of economic development into their corporate plans and wider strategies.➤ Option B - A duty requiring those public sector bodies statutorily obliged to be involved in community planning to produce a collective Community Wealth Building (CWB) place-based strategy and action plan which contains specific actions across the five CWB pillars to advance the CWB model of economic development in their local authority area.➤ Option C - A combined option – featuring a union of both options set out above➤ Other➤ No duty <p>ETF are in favour of option C) as Scottish Ministers and prescribed public sector bodies should embed the Community Wealth Building model of economic development into their plans and strategies. ETF believes that this approach should also be taken forward at regional level between local authorities and their community planning partners.</p>

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	<p>ETF would like to see community groups, including Registered Tenant Organisations (RTOs) and Community Councils work alongside community planning partners and agencies such as the National Health Service (NHS). It should be a 'bottom up' rather than a 'top-down' approach. It will be important to produce action plans and local strategies that are monitored and evaluated on a regular basis. Community groups should have the opportunity and means to make a meaningful contribution.</p>
<p>2.2</p>	<p>One way the Scottish Government could support the implementation of the proposed Community Wealth Building duty is to provide statutory or non-statutory guidance.</p> <p>Would this be helpful to partners in meeting the proposed duty?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <u>Yes</u> ➤ No ➤ Don't Know <p>ETF believes it would be helpful to provide statutory guidance as it is helpful to be decided or controlled by law. Examples such as the Housing Scotland Act and the Community Empowerment Act are embedded in law and ensure that tenants are at the heart of decisions made.</p> <p>Non-statutory guidance would not have any legal means and therefore it may be quite restricted in its duty. Therefore, ETF backs statutory guidance provided by the Scottish Government.</p>
<p>2.3</p>	<p>Are there other non-legislative measures that you believe are required to accelerate the implementation of the Community Wealth Building approach in Scotland?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Yes ➤ <u>No</u> ➤ Don't Know <p>Community groups should be at the forefront of decisions that will be made and it should be a 'bottom-up' approach. However, it is important that community groups have the information and resources to be able to take part and make a difference. This means that information will need to be given to them in plain English and training provided in order to increase their knowledge. Research has highlighted that the level of people with literacy and numeracy difficulties in Scotland is estimated to be in the region of 33%. ETF considers additional support and resources are required to address this serious issue to support tenants in understanding their rights and responsibilities.</p>
<p>2.4</p>	<p>Are there specific actions required to advance delivery of the items contained within the Shared Policy Programme?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <u>Yes</u> ➤ No ➤ Don't Know

	<p>Schoolchildren of all ages should never be excluded from having a healthy meal when they're at school. By eating healthy and having a balanced diet, it will improve their mental health wellbeing and they will be able to take part in physical exercises.</p> <p>It will be important to begin educating children at primary school level right through to secondary school, so the relevant agencies, including education and the NHS need to work in partnership to agree the right approach.</p> <p>Many areas don't have their own local sources, including allotments and places to grow their own food. Therefore, it is imperative that the Scottish Government, Housing Associations and local authorities give funds to local projects and initiatives in order to help them make a difference in their local communities.</p>
2.5	<p>Are there ways in which the law can be changed to advance the spending pillar of Community Wealth Building?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ye ➤ <u>No</u> ➤ Don't Know <p>ETF supports, in principle, the suggestions of the Key Stakeholders. However, we would like more information on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How will the review be carried out? • Who will be involved in the development of the annual procurement strategies? • How will the spending pillar be put into practice?
2.6	<p>Employment law is reserved to the UK Parliament. Are there other devolved areas where the law could be changed to advance the workforce pillar of Community Wealth Building?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Yes ➤ No ➤ <u>Don't Know</u> <p>ETF representatives feel they are unable to answer this question, due to our lack of understanding of law in great detail. However, we believe that the following should be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fair work practices should be embedded in all aspects of the workforce pillar. This includes all organisations implementing the Real Living Wage and not issuing zero-hour contracts • Employers should be more aware if employees are struggling as a result of family bereavements and the necessary steps should be put in place if some families need assistance • The Scottish and UK Governments should continue to work together on issues of common interests if it benefits local people and communities.

2.7	<p>Are there ways in which the Law could be changed which are not already covered in the proposals for the Land Reform Bill to advance the land and property pillar of Community Wealth Building?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Yes ➤ <u>No</u> ➤ Don't Know <p>ETF supports these proposals in principle. However, it would be good to have more clarity on the process of how builders can appeal to the Scottish Government if their proposals have not been approved by local authorities as it's quite unclear.</p> <p>It is important to protect green spaces and build on brownfield sites.</p>
2.8	<p>Are there ways in which the Law could be changed to advance the inclusive ownership pillar of Community Wealth Building?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Yes ➤ <u>No</u> ➤ Don't Know <p>ETF supports the proposals in principle. However, it will be important to look at the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is important to provide support to local businesses, particularly as a result of the recent pandemic and cost-of-living crisis • More support is needed for local businesses in town centres across Scotland. Many town centres are full of empty premises and local authorities should be investing more in the regeneration of local communities. • Local social enterprises should also be complementing local businesses where possible.
2.9	<p>Are there ways in which the Law could be changed to advance the finance pillar of Community Wealth Building?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Yes ➤ <u>No</u> ➤ Don't Know
	<p>ETF supports the proposals in principle. However, it is important that wealth is not concentrated among selected people and communities and it should be spread evenly. It will be important for Credit Unions and local banks to play their part in terms of funding opportunities and business support to local communities.</p>
3.0	<p>Conclusion</p>
	<p>ETF welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the Scottish Government's Building Community Wealth Consultation. This paper will be shared with the Federation's Executive Committee and the delegates who attended the meeting to contribute</p>

	to ETF's response. ETF looks forward to working with Scottish Government Ministers and representatives to address the issues raised in the paper.
	<p data-bbox="1273 607 1444 674">Mark Henry April 2022</p>