

Gordon Macdonald MSP

April 2025 Newsletter



Negotiations To Purchase Dreghorn Properties



Gordon has received an update from the Chief Executive of Edinburgh Council confirming that negotiations with the MoD DIO (Defence Infrastructure Organisation) are underway regarding the prospective purchase of 38 homes.

Following several enquiries from concerned constituents in the Dreghorn area who received letters outlining the plans to sell 38 properties Gordon has liaised with the MoD, Scottish Government and Edinburgh Council in a bid to find a solution which would allow current tenants to remain as sitting tenants of Edinburgh Council, should the Council be in a position to purchase the properties. The update from Edinburgh Council has been positive and does indicate there is a will to follow this course of action.

The letter from City Of Edinburgh Chief Executive read 'Officers have been exploring potential options to try to help resolve this situation to the benefit of the remaining tenants. This includes the option to purchase homes with sitting tenants and the option to leveraging in grant funding. Councillors have been briefed on the options and negotiations have begun with the DIO. Should we be able to reach an agreement timeously, then Committee approval would be sought at the end of April and ratified at full Council in May.'

Gordon said "I very much welcome the discussions taking place to allow the Council to purchase these properties and allow current tenants to remain in their homes. This has been a stressful time for all the families during a housing crisis when the last thing we want to see is more people made homeless. I hope the Council and DIO conclude negotiations quickly and with a satisfactory resolution for all involved."

Clovenstone Community Pantry Visit

Gordon met with members of the Sunflower Pantry based at Clovenstone Community Centre, which opened in November 2022.

The community pantry invites local residents to join for just £4.50 a week and allows access to a range of benefits, guaranteeing 10 items a week from a huge variety of groceries, fresh fruit and vegetables - saving over £780 on your food bill each year.

Members highlighted how important it is for them to access affordable and healthy food, helping their families stay nourished while building a stronger, more resilient community.

The visit also provided an opportunity for Gordon to discuss housing issues with constituents which he was keen to be able to follow up on. Gordon also intends to write a letter of support for an application to the Third Sector Resilience Fund as he remains keen to do what he can to support the work of the community pantry.



Gordon To Retire

Gordon has announced his plans to leave the Scottish Parliament after 15 years as he plans to begin his retirement after the election next year.

He said "The Boundary Commission has decided to retire the name of the constituency in May 2026; this will coincide with reaching my own retirement age which I believe is the right time for me to step down from the Scottish Parliament at the forthcoming election.

"I have during my time in office tried to serve you diligently and I am deeply thankful for the trust and support you have extended to me over the years."

You can read Gordon's full statement at www.gordonmacdonaldmsp.info/single-post/gordon-to-retire-at-next-election.



Tram-train Proposal

On Friday 7th March Gordon met with a team of civil engineering master's students from Heriot-Watt University who visited the Scottish Parliament to launch an exciting new proposal to reopen the South Suburban railway route in Edinburgh using hybrid tram-trains.



The plan offers practical and cost-effective solution to long-standing transport challenges, moving services off congested streets and onto an existing railway line. Linking Murrayfield to Portobello, it would provide a vital link between the Bio Quarter and the West Edinburgh Business Park, with stops including Craiglockhart, Morningside, Newington, and Craigmillar.

The students have already secured over 2,500 signatures on an online petition in just three weeks showing strong public support for the project. Gordon applauds the work of the students thus far and looks forward to seeing the plan develop.

Prospect purchases fifteen new properties at Clovenstone Close



Gordon welcomed the news from Prospect Community Housing on their purchase of fifteen two-bedroom flats for social rent from J Smart and Co. (Contractors) PLC. The purchase, in the Clovenstone area of South West Edinburgh, has

been supported by a grant of £2.4m from the City of Edinburgh Council, via the Scottish Government's National Acquisitions Programme.

This funding is for purchase of completed homes and will allow immediate access for fifteen households to move into permanent settled housing from temporary accommodation.

Brendan Fowler, Director at Prospect, said "We are delighted to have been able to work with The City of Edinburgh Council and Scottish Government to buy these new flats. There is a massive need for our properties, and we are aware that, due to lack of supply and limited funding, there can be a long wait for an affordable home in Edinburgh. We're helping people and families here, and the wait is over; they can now move into their new home."

Emergency Third Sector Fund Launched

Charities due to lose funding from the Edinburgh Integration Joint Board (EIJB) will be able to apply for emergency support from the City of Edinburgh Council.



A one-off Third Sector Resilience Fund launched on Friday 28 March and will remain open for two weeks. It will only be open to organisations in Edinburgh directly impacted by the closure of the EIJB's third sector grants programme and applications must be made by 12 noon on Friday 11 April.

This package of support will include a funded programme worth £1m to allow third sector advice providers to continue to offer income maximisation, debt, and welfare advice services previously funded by the EIJB grants programme. Please email policyandinsight@edinburgh.gov.uk for the full criteria for the fund and to apply.

Increased Support For Council Tax Debt

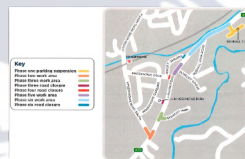


People struggling with Council Tax arrears will have access to enhanced advice through the expansion of a Citizens Advice Scotland project.

Backed by an additional £2.2 million in Scottish Government funding, the project provides tailored support to affected households and works with local authorities to support good practice in Council Tax debt collection.

The project has already been delivered in nine local authority areas, supporting more than 1,600 people with advice on Council Tax issues. This additional funding will allow the project to be extended across the whole country. Advice and support is available by visiting <https://costofliving.campaign.gov.scot/debt-and/money>.

Gas Network Upgrade On Lanark Road



Scottish Gas Network (SGN) will be replacing old metal gas mains and services with new plastic pipes, commencing Monday 24th March and finishing in around 7 weeks.


There shouldn't be any interruption to gas supply and the project will be carried out in phases. Engineers will visit customers on the Priority Service Register to offer support such as free electric heaters and hot plates. If you have elderly or vulnerable neighbours who need support please call SGN on 0800 975 1818 or email customer@sgn.co.uk.


Contact Gordon Macdonald MSP

gordon.macdonald.msp@parliament.scot

 The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP

 Gordon Macdonald MSP

 @GMacdonaldMSP

 0131 443 0595

Gordon holds open weekly surgeries for constituents every Friday at 10am.

The locations for these can be found at: <https://www.gordonmacdonaldmsp.info/surgery>

