

Five things you need to know today

✘ **Edinburgh Council to build**

Proposed public toilet closures

Pentland Beacon

Fiveways Junction

Election Hustings

The council's Health Social Care and Housing committee meets this morning under the leadership of Councillor Ricky Henderson.

One of the matters under discussion is the new initiative which will allow the council to further accelerate house building in the capital, but this time as a private landlord. The council will undertake to become a 'guaranteed buyer' of homes to rent and it is hoped that this will encourage private developers to build more houses.

There are 39,000 registered landlords in Edinburgh who own 52,000 private rented homes, but the demand for rented accommodation is also growing due to the lack of mortgages and the high cost of buying your own home.

If there are not enough rented houses available in Edinburgh then rents will also go up and rented accommodation could become less attainable for many.

Following a model from Manchester the council aims to set up joint ventures with residential housing companies.

The meeting will be live webcast on the council website [here](#).

The City of Edinburgh Council recently took a step back from reducing the public conveniences budget by £600,000 which would have meant that the majority of Edinburgh's public toilets would need to be closed.

However, the Council still needs to make a £300,000 saving in 2015/16 following a budget decision made in 2011. This means that around ten toilets will need to be closed.

You are invited to complete the Council's [online survey](#) about public toilets and provide your thoughts on how closure of certain public toilets might affect you and your local community; or the people to whom you provide services. This survey is live for a further five weeks.

The Pentland Beacon is produced by the Pentland Hills Regional Park Service and designed and printed by the City of Edinburgh Council.

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If you're a cyclist who uses the cycle paths in North Edinburgh you will already be aware of the improvements made to the Fiveways Junction, but now you are invited along to celebrate the fact.



Hustings being held in Edinburgh South West. You can watch the candidates we have met up with from this constituency [here](#) in our earlier article where we have conducted interviews with the contenders.



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