

Edinburgh receives funding for affordable housing for the next five years

The Scottish Government announced today that council areas in Scotland will share more than £3.2 billion in grant funding in the next five years to deliver more affordable homes.

Edinburgh's share of that funding is £233.8 million which will help the city address the needs of the housing market where more affordable homes are needed to accommodate the growing population.

Housing Secretary Shona Robison said: "We have already delivered more than 102,000 affordable homes since 2007. Building on this, our aim is to deliver 100,000 affordable homes by 2032, with at least 70% of these for social rent.

"Meeting this ambition will require continued collaboration across the private and public sectors. I'm pleased to be increasing significantly the available affordable housing grant funding for council areas to help with this important work.

"The five-year allocations will provide the certainty and assurance the housing sector needs to deliver the ambitious affordable homes target set out in our Housing to 2040 strategy."

City of Edinburgh Council's Convener for Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work, Councillor Kate Campbell said: "This announcement of £233.8m funding for housing in Edinburgh from the Scottish Government over the next five years is hugely welcome. Having certainty over future funding puts us in a strong position to continue building that pipeline of social and affordable homes that we so desperately need.

"This will allow us to plan ahead and acquire sites, design and develop new homes and appoint contractors. And not only do we have certainty, we also have an increase of almost £44m from our baseline allocation over the last five years.

"Having recently met with the Cabinet Secretary to set out the challenges in Edinburgh, and the further investment we need, this is a positive response.

"We've also consistently received in-year allocations of extra funding when other local authorities have had underspends in their grant. Over the last five years this has amounted to about £40m. Our aim is to continue making the case for any future underspends to come to Edinburgh by making sure that we continue our strong track record on delivery of homes.

"And, because the need for permanent, secure and affordable housing in our city is so great, we'll also continue to make the case for additional funding for Edinburgh from the national housing budget. But having certainty for the next five years, and an increase in funding, puts us in a fantastic position just now, and gives us a really strong platform to build from."

Vice Convener for Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work, Councillor Mandy Watt, said: "We have ambitious plans to grow the number of homes we own, which we'll do by purchasing homes and by building homes through our own housing development programme.

"Alongside this, we've got to find ways to deliver more

affordable housing through our planning policies. Currently, the minimum amount of land for affordable homes is 25% of any major development. We are proposing that the minimum allocation is increased to 35%.

“As a Council, we’re committed to ending poverty and becoming more sustainable. Our house building programme will make a major contribution towards achieving that.”



Proposed flats at Fountainbridge where regeneration is planned