

Prospectus



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AUTUMN EDITION



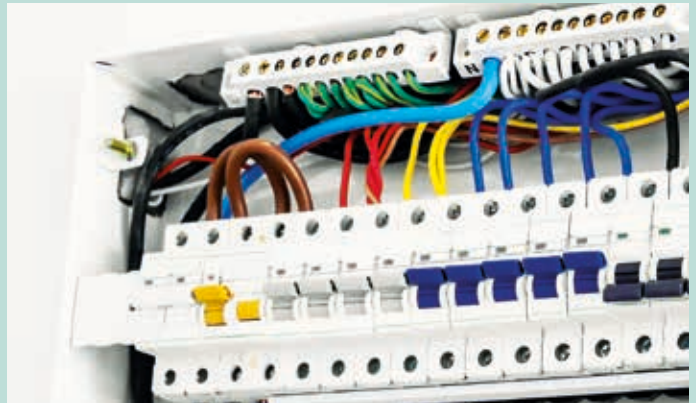
PROSPECT OFFICE OPENS

Following changes in Scottish government Covid guidelines we are pleased to now have a partial opening of our office.

We are now open from 9.30AM- 12.30PM, Monday to Friday, apart from Wednesday which will be 10.30AM-12.30PM. Our phones continue to be answered during our normal office opening hours.

During this initial office opening period only limited staff will be available so you may not be able to see the member of staff who you ask for when dropping in. Advance appointments can be made. Only come to the office if you do not have Covid symptoms and please wear a facemask unless you are exempt and observe our 1 metre social distancing requirements. We also encourage you to use the hand sanitiser provided.

If guidelines allow, we are planning to open fully on Monday 25 October 2021 from 9am until 5pm, apart from Wednesdays when the office will open at 10.30am. Please look out for further announcements on our website, digital newsletter and via social media.



KEEPING YOUR HOME SAFE WITH ELECTRICAL TESTS



To comply with Scottish Government legislation, we are undertaking testing of the fixed wiring in some of our properties.

All our properties require to be tested every five years and we have written to all those affected properties and work has started. We have contracted two companies to carry out this work - Summit Facilities Management and Craig Brown Electrical.

The work required in your home is to test fixed wiring in the property which includes the fuse board itself as well as any socket outlets and lighting circuits. Any minor work required will be undertaken during the visit or more extensive work will be planned for a future date.

As the Scottish Government has deemed this work as mandatory for Housing Associations, please make and keep the appointment with the contractor once you are contacted. Your cooperation and assistance to complete this work is greatly appreciated.

● If you have any queries or questions, please contact our repairs team.

-  **Web:** www.prospectch.org.uk
-  **Email:** enquiries@prospectch.org.uk
-  **Tel:** 0131 458 5480
-  **Text:** 07860 047548
-  **Twitter:** [@prospectch](https://twitter.com/prospectch)
-  **Facebook:** [prospectch](https://facebook.com/prospectch)

Prospect Community Housing
6 Westburn Avenue
Wester Hailes
Edinburgh
EH14 2TH

Prospect Community Housing is a registered charity. No. SC029797





GET A LIFT

TO BUY A PROPERTY

The LIFT (Low-cost Initiative for First-Time Buyers) scheme helps home buyers with Scottish Government support.

"The LIFT scheme helped me to buy my first property. Otherwise, it would have been impossible to buy anything in Edinburgh... I will be forever grateful for the magnificent service of this Scottish Government scheme." – Manuel, LIFT scheme buyer

The Scottish Government contributes between 10% and 40% towards the property price and gets the same percentage back when it is sold. Alternatively, buyers can increase their share if they wish to at any point in future.

You can purchase any size of property if you meet the financial criteria, and the property is large enough to avoid overcrowding. To be eligible, properties must be:

- Advertised for sale publicly e.g., on a website, and
- Priced within the maximum price threshold for the area.



In addition to first-time buyers, LIFT is open to:

- Housing Association or Council tenants
- People with a disability who can demonstrate a housing need
- Members of the armed forces and veterans who have left within the past two years
- Widows, widowers, and other partners of those who have lost their life while serving in the armed forces within the last two years
- People aged over 60 who can demonstrate a housing need

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

visit www.linkhousing.org.uk/lift-tenants or text 'LIFT' to 66777.

Eligibility criteria apply. Always seek independent financial advice.



STAYING SAFE AT HOME

Many of Prospect's properties have gas central heating.

We work with you to ensure that your heating is efficient and that you are safe. Every year our gas contractor, Saltire, will visit to carry out a gas safety check on the boiler. We will let you know when they are coming, please work with us to give

them access. If there is a problem with your gas heating, please contact Saltire directly on **01698 743 609** to arrange a repair appointment.

If you smell gas:

- Open doors and windows to allow fresh air in.
- Turn off the gas at the mains tap, which is usually near the meter. Move the handle a quarter turn until it's at 90 degrees from the pipe to shut off the gas supply.
- Leave the property.
- Phone the National Gas Emergencies number on **0800 111 999**. Only use a mobile phone from outside the property. The number is free and available 24 hours a day.
- Wait outside for a gas engineer to arrive.
- If you are feeling unwell, visit your GP or hospital immediately. Tell them you may have been exposed to a gas leak or carbon monoxide poisoning.

PROSPECT STAIR STANDARD

With bonfire night approaching, it's particularly important to keep the stairs clear. Our aim is to work with you to keep your stair clean and safe.

We expect our tenants to:

- Keep the stairs and landings clear of any items - In the event of a fire, the stair is the escape route for everyone living there.
- Only store items in drying areas which are permitted.
- Report repair issues in the stair to Prospect.
- Replace any lights over your front door and report any other lighting issues to Prospect.
- Keep the communal gardens clean for everyone's use – please pick up after your dog.
- Arrange for an uplift if you have furniture or bulky items to get rid of. You can arrange this with City of Edinburgh Council at www.edinburgh.gov.uk/specialuplift.
- Use the right bin for the right rubbish!



CONTACT OUR WELFARE RIGHTS OFFICER

FIONA MCLUCKIE

(phone/what's app/text **07908951297** or email Fiona.mcluckie@prospectch.org.uk)

if you need help with applying for any of the following:

BACK TO SCHOOL 2021

? HAVE YOU CLAIMED THE BEST START SCHOOL GRANT FOR P1 CHILDREN?

Was your child born between 1 March 2016 and 28 February 2017? If so, you could claim a new £250 payment to help with the costs of starting school.

You can apply for this payment if you receive certain benefits (Universal Credit, Income Support, Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income related Employment and Support Allowance, Pension Credit, Housing Benefit, Child Tax Credit, Working Tax Credit).

Apply on freephone helpline **0800 182 2222**. You can also apply by post or online at <https://www.mygov.scot/best-start-grant-best-start-foods/how-to-apply>

Even if your child did not start school in August you should still apply. The payment will not affect any of your other benefits. You must apply before 28 February 2022. If you apply after this it will be too late and you will miss out on your payment.

? ARE YOU ENTITLED TO FREE SCHOOL MEALS AND A SCHOOL CLOTHING GRANT?

You are eligible for this payment if you receive Universal Credit (monthly income less than £626), Income Support, Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income related Employment and Support Allowance, Pension Credit, Housing Benefit, Child Tax Credit (annual income less than £16,105 and no Working Tax Credit), Child & Working Tax Credit (annual income less than £7500).

If you think you are eligible and have not received an award, you can apply online at <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/food-clothing/free-school-meals-school-clothing-grants/1>

? COULD YOU USE SOME EXTRA MONEY TO HELP COVER THE COST OF LIVING?

There is a local charity, The Edinburgh Trust who provide grants to help with living costs and household or garden items for Edinburgh residents who are in need. Anyone with an income of less than 16K a year can apply.

? ARE YOU STRUGGLING TO PAY YOUR RENT?

Did you know that you can get an additional payment (a Discretionary Housing Payment) from the Council to cover the cost of any spare rooms or (if you are struggling financially) to give you some more money towards your rent? You may be eligible for this if you receive Housing Benefit or Universal Credit.

? ARE YOU GETTING COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION?

● This is a helpful benefit that many people forget to claim. If you are receiving Housing Benefit or Universal Credit or are on a low income, you may be eligible. Check your bill to see if Council Tax Reduction is included (note: this is not the same as Single Occupancy Discount which may also appear on your bill).

DIGITAL SUPPORT SESSIONS

Support is available locally if you have any questions about getting online:

IN PERSON

WHALE arts are running in-person Digital Support Sessions Thursdays, 10.00m – 1.00pm at WHALE Arts, helping people improve their digital skills and support with online job and benefit applications. Spaces are limited to follow social distancing measures. The sessions are split into three one-hour slots open to two participants each. For more information or to book your place for in person support contact **WHALE Arts** on **0131 458 3267** or email info@whalearts.co.uk.

ZOOM

WHALE is also offering Monday online drop-in sessions via Zoom, Mondays, 10.30am – 12.30pm. There's no need to book for these, just drop in.
Meeting ID: 841 6957 5619 Passcode: digital



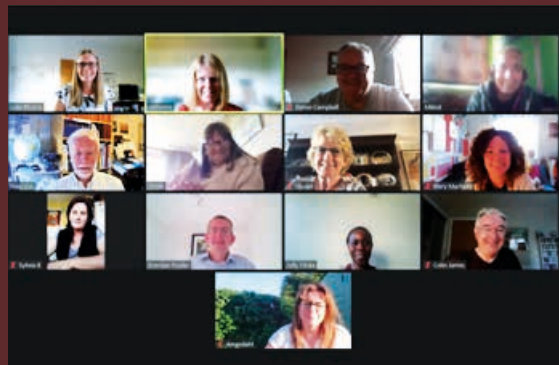


PROSPECT HOLDS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

On 7 September 2021, Prospect's 22nd Annual General Meeting took place on Zoom, a good opportunity to catch up with Prospect members over a screen if not in person yet.

Milind Kolhatkar, Prospect's Chairperson, shared an update on the year's achievements. Although the year was dominated by the impact of the Covid pandemic, Prospect spent just under £1m on repairs and upgrades to properties. He also mentioned the partnership work completed locally as a result of the pandemic, highlighting the good work done to provide digital devices

and support locally. Prospect's Finance manager, Colin James, presented the 2020-21 accounts and confirmed that the organisation is financially secure. Finally, 4 existing committee members were re-elected giving a total of 12 committee members. If you would like to become a Prospect member, let us know and we look forward to seeing you at the next AGM.



CATCH UP WITH PROSPECT

Come along to meet with Housing and Property Staff to look for any issues and answer your questions.

Street	Date	Time
Walkers	Tuesday 2 November	2pm - 3pm
Barn Park Crescent	Thursday 4 November	2pm - 2.30pm
Dumbeg Park	Thursday 4 November	2.30pm - 3pm
Morvenside Close	Thursday 4 November	3pm - 3.30pm
Clovenstone Park, Drive and Gardens (starting at No.12 Clovenstone Park)	Wednesday 10 November	11am - 12.30am
Westburn Village & Morvenside (starting at Prospect's office)	Monday 15 November	10am-11.30am



KEEP PROSPECT UPDATED

ON WHO LIVES IN YOUR HOME

We are sending out an update on the information we hold on who is living with you. Please remember to complete and return it to us, either on the paper form or via the text survey. This is important for you to be able to benefit from all your tenancy rights.

● All replies will be entered into a prize draw to win a £30 Love to Shop Gift card.



FACEBOOK

Prospect is now on Facebook! You can find us at [Facebook/prospectch](https://www.facebook.com/prospectch). There's information, news, and advice for tenants which we hope everyone finds useful.

PROSPECT'S PERFORMANCE REPORT

● Every year we assess our performance against previous years and other local landlords. This year we are publishing the report on our website and are sending it out via email, our Digi Mag, Facebook and Twitter. If you would like a paper copy, please contact us.



OUR VISION:

PROVIDING HOMES AND BUILDING COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

OUR VALUES:

PIONEERING RELIABILITY LISTENING FAIRNESS PARTNERSHIP