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**Winter
2020**

Season's greetings from all at Abertay

**Hello and welcome to
Abertay Housing Association's
final thoughts of 2020.**

I know that every single one of us reading this have all been impacted in some way by the Coronavirus pandemic, whether that has been adjusting to working at home, home-schooling children, caring for elderly relatives or just simply dealing with the anxiety the virus has brought. I am very proud of how all of Abertay's staff have responded to the crisis, their excellent work and comradeship in unprecedented and truly exceptional times has been very much appreciated by the Association.

In a very short period of time we went from thinking that this was a virus that

had affected parts of Asia to knowing that it has affected the whole world.

With restrictions continuing, we still haven't been able to open our office to our tenants yet, but our staff are working hard to limit the effect on our services for all of you.

Stay safe this winter, have a lovely Christmas and we look forward to a more positive 2021.

Barry Moore, Chief Executive



Owners' Management Fees

At their Committee Meeting on Wednesday 25 November 2020 Abertay Housing Association's Management Committee, in its capacity as the Association's governing body, unanimously decided that the Association will not be applying a rent increase this coming financial year. Therefore, tenants will not be subject to a rent increase on 1 April 2021.

The Management Committee also decided to freeze Retirement Housing Service Charges and Owners' Management Fees.

A spokesperson for the Management Committee said:

In reaching our decision the Management Committee were obviously very mindful of the truly unprecedented serious health and financial implications the coronavirus pandemic has presented to the world. The Management Committee were also very mindful that the full financial impact of the pandemic has yet to be felt and that next year will be another very difficult year. The Association is absolutely committed and determined to assist its residents throughout the pandemic in every reasonable way possible.

Abertay and Hillcrest Administer £175k COVID-19 Lifeline to Dundee Community

Grant funding of £175K secured by Hillcrest Homes and Abertay Housing Association has been used to provide a vital lifeline for the Dundee community, funding a wide range of valuable support for those struggling as a result of COVID-19.

The money, which came from the Supporting Communities Fund, has supported thousands in the community who are struggling with isolation, household energy bills, physical and mental disabilities, as well as funding food parcels and domestic abuse support.



Connecting Scotland

The Connecting Scotland programme aims to reduce digital exclusion and we're delighted to be a part of the movement having received 100 devices to support people in our community! **Find out more about the programme** by browsing the Connecting Scotland website or by contacting either Linzi on 07746 979136 or Clare on 07752 141110



connecting.scot

Goodie Bags

Abertay staff delivered 'afternoon tea' goodie bags to our retirement residents in Dura Street earlier this year at the height of the pandemic.

The bags, contained cake, tea bags, milk/sugar and a book all made up by Boomerang in conjunction with Caledonia Housing, with a few additional goodies from Abertay. 'It was just a small gesture to let residents know we were thinking of them at this time' said Neil Ellis of Boomerang based in Kemback Street, he also added he is 'looking to expand on this, working with ourselves and other Housing Associations throughout Dundee in the future.' We look forward to this and had great feedback from our residents.



As always at this time of year, the Residents of Dryburgh Gardens along with staff at Abertay have been busy giving Santa a helping hand by donating gifts to the Mission Christmas appeal.



Energy Redress Scheme

Emergency Top Up Vouchers

Abertay were successful in securing funding through the Energy Redress Covid-19 Relief Fund. To date, we have provided over 14k in fuel vouchers since March, issuing 275 vouchers to those people with top up gas and electric meters (PAYG), who were experiencing fuel poverty.

Christmas & New Year opening hours

The office still remains closed to the public. However we can be contacted on Tel No 01382 903545 during the dates/times below.

Monday 21st December - 08.30-16.30

Tuesday 22nd December - 08.30-16.30

Wednesday 23rd December - 08.30-16.30

Thursday 24th December

CLOSED – Public holiday

Friday 25th December

CLOSED – Public holiday

Monday 28th December

CLOSED – Public holiday

Tuesday 29th December - 08.30-16.30

Wednesday 30th December - 08.30-16.30

Thursday 31st December

CLOSED – Public holiday

Friday 1st January

CLOSED – Public holiday

Monday 4th January

CLOSED – Public holiday

Tuesday 5th January - 08.30-16.30

If you have an emergency repair when the office is closed please phone Abertay on **01382 903545** and listen to the recorded message. You can choose the option for transferring your call to our Contractors.

STAY WARM AND CLAIM YOUR £140 WARM HOME DISCOUNT

Would you like a £140 credit on your Electricity bill?

You could be entitled to receive the **£140 Warm Home Discount** as a credit on your electricity bill if you receive the **Guarantee Credit element of Pension Credit** or are on a **Low Income**.

If you are on a low income you can apply for the £140 Warm Home Discount now, remember to get your application in as soon as possible as they are awarded on a first come first serve basis.

If you are in receipt of Guarantee Credit element of Pension Credit your energy provider will write to you about the Warm Home Discount.

Contact your energy provider as soon as possible to check your entitlement to the Warm Home Discount.

We are always on the lookout for contributions to our Newsletters. If you have any interesting articles or want to tell us something that is happening in your local area, please let us know and we will include it in a future newsletter.

Scottish Charity No. SC 030152

Getting In Touch

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