



## Annual Assurance Statement

The Governing Board of Barrhead Housing approved a self-assessment process which was implemented to support this Statement. By amalgamating the self-assurance toolkit from SFHA with the governance self-assessment tool from Scotland's Housing Network, a comprehensive resource was created to support the review of compliance with regulatory requirements and to identify areas for improvement. The resource has links to reports, policies and information which the Board monitors and oversees on an ongoing basis throughout the year. The evidence bank includes -

- Performance reports in areas including finance, service delivery, asset management, tenant safety, development and risk
- Advice, reports, analysis and training from internal and external auditors, external and specialist advisers and consultants
- Customer insight reports including surveys, feedback, informal and formal engagement
- Benchmarking information
- Reports and information from senior staff.

Eight governing board members each reviewed and scrutinised an area of the evidence bank in detail. A board workshop then took place for board members to seek additional assurance and identify areas for improvement.

A workshop took place with our Tenant Scrutiny Panel 'Service Improvement Group' to discuss their personal experiences and views on strengths and areas for improvement.

Based on the above process, and ongoing oversight and scrutiny of Barrhead Housing's activities throughout the year, the Governing Board is satisfied that we have seen and considered sufficient evidence to give us assurance that the association complies with the regulatory requirements set out in Chapter Three of the Scottish Housing Regulator's Regulatory Framework, the Regulatory Standards of Governance and Financial Management, and with our legal obligations relating to housing and homelessness, equality and human rights and tenant and resident safety.

We recognise that we are required to notify the SHR of any changes in our compliance during the course of the year and are assured that we have effective arrangements in place to enable us to do so.

We are satisfied that we meet all of our duties in relation to tenant and resident safety. In particular, we have gained the necessary evidence-based assurance of our compliance in

respect of duties relating to gas, electrical, fire, water and lift safety and our obligations relating to asbestos, damp and mould. The Board has obtained this assurance in the following ways -

- The Board considered and approved a Housing Compliance Toolkit which was developed with specialist external advice and support. Implementation of the toolkit is now well embedded.
- The Audit, Risk and Health and Safety Subgroup reviews and scrutinises an Asset Compliance Dashboard quarterly, which provides information on all areas of tenant safety.
- The Board approved and oversees the organisation's performance framework, including monthly reviews of performance by the Executive Team, weekly asset compliance meetings and regular sample checks including specialist external quality assurance.

We have completed our assessment into the potential presence of RAAC in our stock and confirm that none has been identified.

We have established appropriate systems for the collection of equalities data. We used this data to take account of equality and human rights issues in our decisions, policy making and day-to-day service delivery through an Equality Diversity and Inclusion group which reviews data to identify actions, and oversees communication, training and service improvement initiatives.

In undertaking the self-assessment process, we have adopted a continuous improvement focus. A small number of continuous improvement actions were identified, and the Board will maintain oversight of progress against the action plan during the coming year. These actions include development of our communications plan, refinements to the board agenda, and specific training initiatives. We are satisfied that none of the improvement actions are material to our current compliance with the Framework. The Board is committed to maintaining and delivering our Governance Excellence Plan as part of our culture of continuous improvement.

As Chair, I was authorised by the Board at a meeting held on 22 August 2024 to sign and submit this Assurance Statement to the Scottish Housing Regulator. This Assurance Statement will be published on our website.

John Hamilton  
Chair