

Our Annual Assurance Statement

The Board of Trustees, having reviewed evidence and documentation made available to us throughout the year, made reasonable enquires of Senior Officers and relevant external agencies, and through our own experience and knowledge, confirm that Berwickshire Housing Association complies with the regulatory requirements set out in Chapter 3 of the Scottish Housing Regulator's Regulatory Framework, which include;

- All relevant standards and outcomes in the Scottish Social Housing Charter for tenants, people who are homeless and others who use our services;
- Complying with our legal obligations relating to housing and homelessness, equality and human rights, and tenant and resident safety; and
- The Standards of Governance and Financial Management for RSLs.

In reviewing compliance, we have adopted an improvement focus and have identified several improvements which tie in with various milestones within our business plan objectives, to be delivered over the coming years. As such the implementation of these improvements will be monitored as part of the delivery of our business plan objectives.

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

In reviewing our compliance with the Regulatory Framework, we are assured that we are working towards having appropriate systems in place for the collection of equalities data. We are assured that we are working towards using this data to take account of equality and human rights issues in our decisions, policy-making and day-to-day service delivery.

Covid-19

In considering our compliance with our legal and regulatory requirements in 2021, we have taken account of the ongoing impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and consequent business, economic and social disruption. We continue to comply fully with the temporary changes to legislation and continue to follow national and local policy and requirements e.g. in respect of health and safety, physical distancing, travel, office opening, use of PPE, application of Test and Protect requirements and indoor gatherings.

We are confident that the measures that we have put in place and the contingency planning that we have implemented have ensured that we are able to continue to meet our responsibilities to our tenants, service users, regulators and funders. Where we have adopted revised standards of service delivery, we have communicated changes clearly to our tenants and are maintaining the necessary records to ensure a smooth resumption of normal service levels when possible.

As Chair, I was authorised by the Board at a meeting held on 17th August 2021 to sign and submit this Assurance Statement to the Scottish Housing Regulator.

Jim McDevitt, Chair