

## **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 our 2019 assurance statement we identified three areas where we believed improvement could be made and can confirm the necessary steps have been taken to implement the required changes. No further areas for improvement have been identified during the current year.

### **Covid-19**

In considering our compliance with our legal and regulatory requirements in 2020, we have taken account of the considerable 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.

We continue to monitor our business plan, budget and financial assumptions in the context of the ongoing emergency situation and associated business interruption. Our Business Plan reflects the regulatory guidance that was current at the time of its preparation and we will take account of updated regulatory advice as we monitor and review our Business Plan in the context of the changed situation.

This assurance statement was reviewed and approved by the Board of Trustees at their meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2020, and is signed for and on their behalf by the Convener:

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*Jim McDevitt, Chair*