



ANNUAL ASSURANCE STATEMENT

The Board confirms that we have reviewed and assessed a comprehensive bank of evidence to support this Statement that East Kilbride Housing Association (EKHA) is compliant with:

- ✓ All relevant regulatory requirements as set out in Section Three of the Regulatory Framework
- ✓ The Regulatory Standards of Governance and Financial Management
- ✓ The relevant standards and outcomes of the Scottish Social Housing Charter
- ✓ Our statutory obligations in respect of tenant and resident safety, housing and homelessness and equalities and human rights

The evidence bank combines reports, policies, advice and information, which the Board monitors and oversees on an ongoing basis to provide continuous assurance that EKHA is compliant. Additionally, the evidence bank incorporates relevant documents and information that contribute to our assurance and which form the structure of EKHA's business and governance activities.

We obtained an external validation audit that provided us with additional assurance that there is an organised and effective governing body assurance reporting framework within EKHA.

Furthermore, we carried out a strategic options appraisal through April-July. This was reported to Board in August 2024 and the Scottish Housing Regulator has seen a copy of this report. The options appraisal process provided us with a valuable deeper level of scrutiny, which reported three recommendations to us. Two of the three recommendations have already been completed and leaves just one to be addressed as follows:

- Asset Management - look to devise a comprehensive and holistic asset management strategy, including the consideration of disposal of inefficient stock.

We plan to implement this recommendation and have added the action to our assurance action plan. While we do not feel it adjusts our assuredness about overall material compliance, we understand the importance of this outstanding recommendation and can report that work on this is already underway.

We value continuous improvement and our 2024/25 Assurance Action Plan includes recommendations and actions identified at assurance working group meetings, validation audit and, this year, the strategic options appraisal process. The Board regularly sees this action plan to ensure progress and successful achievement during the course of the year. This year, we will monitor progress of the outstanding options appraisal recommendation noted above on this action plan at each Board meeting until it is concluded.

We feel assured that we have an effective approach to the collection of equalities information, and we take account of equality and human rights issues in our decisions, policy-making and day-to-day service delivery.

In reviewing our tenant health and safety compliance, we feel assured that our health and safety management systems are fit for purpose and we are audited every two years on this. 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 to safety in relation to gas, electrical, fire and water (we have no lifts) and our obligations relating to asbestos, damp and mould.

In regard to Reinforced Autoclave Aerated Concrete (RAAC) we have been liaising with South Lanarkshire Council (SLC) to assess for RAAC within blocks which SLC are the factor. SLC advised of one block of concern and EKHA identified another and sanctioned a survey of both to ascertain if RAAC was present. A specialist organisation carried out surveys on both and found no RAAC present. We shared those findings with SLC.

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.

We approved this Annual Assurance Statement at the meeting of our Board on 23rd October 2024 and authorised our Chair to sign and submit this statement to the Scottish Housing Regulator.

We confirm that the Statement is published on our website on the same date that it is submitted to the Scottish Housing Regulator.

Signed EKHA Chair

Date 23rd October 2024