



East Lothian Housing Association

Assurance Statement, 3 October 2019

We have now completed our assessment of compliance with the Regulatory Framework and the Regulatory Standards of Governance and Financial Management.

In undertaking our assessment, we established a Governance Standards Working Group in May 2019, which has now met on three occasions, and reports directly to the Management Committee.

In gaining assurance, the Working Group has overseen the development of an Evidence Bank, using the Toolkit produced by the Scottish Federation of Housing Associations (SFHA) to assist the process. The Evidence Bank combines reports, policies, advice and information which the Management Committee monitors and oversees on an ongoing basis throughout the year to provide continuous assurance that we remain compliant. Additionally, the Evidence Bank incorporates relevant documents and information that contribute to our assurance and which form the structure of our business and governance activities.

Using our cloud-based IT infrastructure, we have given secure access to the Evidence Bank, including access to all linked documents within it, to all the members of our Governance Standards Working Group. We have also provided training to Working Group members about how to use the Evidence Bank. This means that all members of the Working Group can access every document within the Evidence Bank at any time of day, and from any location.

In reviewing the evidence and assessing compliance, we have taken account of good practice advice. We have also obtained external support from Linda Ewart of Ask Linda Ewart consultancy to provide us with additional assurance that our approach is effective and robust. Linda reported to the Management Committee as follows:

I have reviewed the contents of this Report and am able to confirm that the process described accords with the recommendations contained in the Assurance Toolkit which was published by SFHA in July 2019. The process mapped out in the Toolkit emphasises the importance of a collaborative approach being adopted between officers and members of the Management Committee and so the establishment of a Social Landlord Working Group (SLWG) is an effective approach.

The production of an Evidence Bank which can be both interrogated and maintained by regular updating is also good practice and should make the ongoing process of demonstrating and confirming assurance effective and manageable. It is important that the Evidence Bank is regularly updated.

Accordingly, the Management Committee confirms that having reviewed and assessed a comprehensive bank of evidence to support this Statement that, to the best of our knowledge, East Lothian Housing Association is compliant with the Regulatory Standards of Governance and Financial Management and the requirements of Chapter Three of the Regulatory Framework.

We recognise that we are required to notify the Scottish Housing Regulator 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.

As Chair, I was authorised by the Management Committee at a meeting held on 26 September 2019 to sign and submit this Assurance Statement to the Scottish Housing Regulator. I confirm that this Assurance Statement is being published on our website, elha.com, on the same date that it is submitted to the Scottish Housing Regulator.

Peter Ewart, Chair