

The Management Committee of Elderpark Housing is of the opinion that we are 'assured' that we remain **materially compliant** with the Regulatory Standards set out in Chapter 3 of the Regulatory Framework. Over the last twelve month period we have continued our ongoing self-assurance process, sought extensive external validation and support in relation to areas including Governance, Financial Management and Tenant Safety and made decisions based upon good quality information which seeks to achieve our Business Plan Vision and Strategic Objectives.

In undertaking the self-assurance exercise Elderpark Housing has gathered appropriate assurance that:

- We comply with all relevant regulatory requirements set out in Chapter 3 of the Regulatory Framework
- We comply with all relevant standards and outcomes in the Scottish Social Housing Charter
- We comply with all relevant legislative duties
- We comply with the Standards of Governance and Financial Management
- We have obtained external 'substantial assurance' across all key areas in relation to tenant and resident safety which confirms compliance with all relevant safety requirements

Evidence of these sources of assurance gathered include:

- A detailed self-assurance framework which provides a robust evidence bank and is subject to an ongoing review of the Regulatory Requirements
- Detailed professional advice received in the form of reports to the Management Committee from the Chief Executive, Senior Management Team and Governance and Compliance Manager across all business areas including; governance, finance, human resources, asset management, housing management and development which include consideration of risk, relevance to our business plan, regulatory compliance, financial implications, impact on tenants and equalities.
- Consideration of tenant and service user feedback in the form of satisfaction surveys, service user complaints and consultation exercises.
- Reports, advice and information from internal and external auditor, external membership bodies, any appointed external advisers and specialist consultants all of whom provide external independent evaluation, feedback and validation.

The association fully understands the benefit obtained through appropriate external support particularly in relation to complex business areas highlighted within the Standards of Governance and Financial Management. Some of these undertaken over the last twelve months include seeking external support and validation in relation to the Annual Return on the Charter with a comprehensive report provided by the consultant and some non-material changes made to the figures produced.

We also undertook a full review of our thirty year plan taking into account the financial implications of a new build development proposal before determining to proceed with this project. In addition, we also sought the support of an external consultant to assist with the annual review of our business plan to ensure that a robust exercise undertaken and finally we engaged with an external specialist Health and Safety consultant to review and redesign each of our policies and procedures in relation to fire safety, electrical safety, gas safety, lifts, legionella, asbestos and damp and mould to ensure they are 'best in class'.

As part of our ongoing assurance process we continue to identify non-material actions which will enhance our practices, policies and processes and these form the basis of an assurance action plan which is monitored regularly. In addition, there are various action plans created through other areas of work, for example, actions contained within any Internal Audit Programmes and Tenant Safety Audits and the implementation of these actions also form a core part of our work during the year.

The Association recently signed the Housing Professionalism Commitment through the Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH) recognising the importance of our role in ensuring that we have professional, qualified and knowledgeable employees to deliver the complex functions within the association. We have continued to support the undertaking of training, qualifications, volunteer board positions and learning opportunities throughout the year to ensure of management committee and employees have the tools required to deliver their respective roles.

In reviewing our compliance with the Regulatory Framework we are assured that we have established appropriate systems for the collection of large scale equalities data initially carried out through an anonymised survey in February 2023. The association is currently developing a revised Equalities and Human Rights Strategy which will outline how best to use this data, the frequency and methods used to gather equalities data and how it will be used to take account of equality and human rights issues in relation to our decision making, policy development and day to day service delivery.

We are assured that we have the necessary systems, approaches and expertise within the association to identify issues of material non-compliance in relation to our governance and the operation of our business.

As Chair, I was authorised by the Management Committee at a meeting held on 29th October 2024 to sign and submit this Assurance Statement to the Scottish Housing Regulator.

Signed

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Maureen McDonald.

Maureen McDonald, Chairperson