

**Annual Assurance Statement by the Management Committee
of Govanhill Housing Association**

1) This document is Govanhill Housing Association's 2020 Annual Assurance Statement. We are required to submit the Statement to the Scottish Housing Regulator (SHR) by the end of November 2020.

2) The Management Committee has concluded that it has appropriate assurance that **the Association complies with the regulatory requirements set out in Chapter 3 of the Regulatory Framework, with no areas of material non-compliance.**

Our Statement applies to:

- The Regulatory Requirements set out in Chapter 3 of the Regulatory Framework
- The Standards of Governance and Financial Management
- The Scottish Social Housing Charter.

3) The Management Committee has taken reasonable and proportionate steps in reaching its conclusions.

As noted in public statements by SHR, it is not possible for governing body members to have absolute knowledge of all aspects of their organisation's compliance with every regulatory requirement and standard.

Accordingly, we have adopted SHR's suggested principle that the Management Committee should have "enough assurance" to sign the Annual Assurance Statement, on the terms outlined above.

4) In overseeing and then approving the Annual Assurance Statement, the Management Committee has reviewed the level of assurance it has about the Association's compliance with each of the regulatory requirements noted at 2) above. To this end, the Association has carried out detailed compliance and assurance reviews for all of the regulatory requirements that apply to us.

5) The Management Committee has scrutinised the review documents and has sought additional information and assurance where necessary. As a result, the

Management Committee is satisfied that it has sufficient assurance to submit the Annual Assurance Statement on the terms we have described in paragraph 2.

- 6) Our self-assurance reviews have identified areas for improvement, but none that the Management Committee considers would represent material non-compliance with regulatory requirements. In considering material non-compliance, the Association has:
 - Adopted the definition of materiality provided in SHR's statutory guidance on Annual Assurance Statements.
 - Considered the risks and potential impact of non-compliance.
- 7) For those areas where there is a need for improvement, the Management Committee has considered and approved an Action Plan to manage and report on the actions needed. In accordance with the SHR guidance, we have not included the Action Plan in our Assurance Statement. The Management Committee will monitor progress in the targeted areas, to make sure that the Action Plan is implemented effectively.
- 8) 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 have complied/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.
- 9) 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.
- 10) The principle concern resulting from Covid-19 has been the health and safety of tenants. The adverse effect of this is that we were unable to complete 82 gas safety checks by their anniversary date due to the tenant(s) not providing access because of Lockdown requirements, fears about potential transmission of coronavirus to a vulnerable member of their household or being required to self-isolate. All of these

checks were completed as soon as access was afforded with no further checks outstanding, or any new failures being recorded, since August 2020.

11) 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.

12) The Association will make this Assurance Statement available to tenants. We will also advise SHR of any material changes to the level of assurance reported in the Assurance Statement, as described in SHR's guidance.

This Assurance Statement was approved by the Management Committee at its meeting on 18 November 2020.

Signed on behalf of the Management Committee:

**Annie Macfarlane
Chairperson
Govanhill Housing Association
18th November 2020**