



Assurance Statement (2022)

Loreburn H A's Management Committee has been actively involved in the development of our 2022/23 Annual Assurance Statement. A comprehensive evidence bank has been collated to support our assurance statement and regulatory and legal compliance is monitored on a regular and ongoing basis.

After considering the evidence, the Management Committee are confident that we are compliant with the regulatory requirements set out at section three of the Regulatory Framework; the relevant standards and outcomes of the Charter; all relevant statutory and legal requirements; and, the Regulatory Standards of Governance and Financial Management.

In collating and reviewing the evidence and assessing compliance, we have taken account of best practice advice. The evidence which supports our Assurance Statement includes:

- Reports about performance in key areas including finance, service delivery, asset management, health & safety, development and risk and governing body and senior officer appraisals
- Internal and External Audit reports;
- Strategies and Policies
- Advice from external and specialist advisers (including independent governance specialists externally)
- Benchmarking information from the Scottish Housing Regulator and HouseMark
- Reports, advice and information from senior staff
- Reports and Minutes from Management Committee, Sub-Committees, Task and Finish Groups

In considering our compliance with our legal and regulatory requirements, we must acknowledge the challenges we have faced in recent months following a series of investigations into alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct as noted in our Engagement Plan. These matters have been independently investigated by external specialists and have included thorough reviews of our governance arrangements and practices.

No weaknesses in our current arrangements were identified, the issues have been around the behaviours of those no longer on the committee. As a learning organisation we are taking ongoing steps to strengthen further our governance arrangements and that includes the role of the Management Committee. We are currently working with a non-executive recruitment specialist on an active campaign to target identified skills gaps and look forward to welcoming new members on board shortly. We are working within Rule 49 and are actively updating the Regulator regarding our recruitment activities.

In 2021/22 we have focussed on equality and human rights through training for senior staff on micro-aggression and unconscious bias as well as the adoption of an Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Strategy. We will be collecting data in line with the requirements of the SFHA guidance to enable us to continue to shape and tailor our service delivery. Through the delivery of this strategy we will develop and nurture an environment and culture where everyone is respected and supported to thrive. Equality, diversity and inclusion will become embedded in all that we do and we will take every opportunity to strengthen our approach to deliver the best possible outcomes for all of our customers and our staff.

We continue to monitor our business plan, budget and financial assumptions in the context of the cost of living crisis, the risks posed by uncertainty in the financial market and the impact of a rent freeze or rent cap beyond March 2023. Our business plan, which was reviewed in line with the FYFP submission, 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 changing situation.

The Management Committee and the Executive Team continue to adopt an improvement focus through the progression of our Assurance Improvement Plan with a sustained focus on governance, training, equality and human rights as well as a governance review of the subsidiary company which is being supported by our legal advisors. The Management Committee will continue to monitor the progress of the Improvement Plan throughout 2022/23. The Management Committee are satisfied that the actions identified in the plan are intended to deliver effective improvement and that none are material to our current compliance with the Framework.

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.

This statement was considered and approved by the Management Committee at our meeting on 25th October 2022.

Russell Brown

Loreburn H A Convener on behalf of the Management Committee