

North Ayrshire Council Annual Assurance Statement 2020/21



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

North Ayrshire Council complies with the requirements set out in Chapter 3 of the Regulatory Framework. North Ayrshire Council is assured that we:

- ✓ Adhere to relevant guidance and the requirements of other regulators;
- ✓ Meet our statutory duties to prevent and alleviate homelessness;
- ✓ Adhere to statutory guidance from the Scottish Housing Regulator;
- ✓ Take account of regulatory advice from the Scottish Housing Regulator and from other regulators; and
- ✓ Comply with all regulatory requirements, encompassing:
 - Assurance and notification
 - Tenant and service user redress
 - Whistleblowing
 - Equalities and human rights
 - Scottish Social Housing Charter Performance.

We did not meet our legal obligations around tenant and resident safety as we did not comply with gas safety legislation for 1,228 properties during 2020/21. Our contractor initially ceased works due to concerns around the safety of their employees and their interpretation of the Scottish Government guidance. Following negotiation, safe working practices were put in place to minimise risk to tenants and employees. Notwithstanding this, there was an ongoing reluctance by some tenants to grant access to their property due to their concerns about risk of COVID-19 transmission. As this was fully attributable to the COVID-19 pandemic and all efforts were made to ensure compliance at the earliest opportunity and appropriate records were kept, we have not considered this a material non-compliance. We did, however, notify the Scottish Housing Regulator of the difficulties we were experiencing in carrying out these checks in April 2020.

As a landlord, we collect data relating to protected characteristics for existing tenants, new tenants, people on waiting lists, governing body members, staff, people who apply to us as homeless and service users on our Gypsy/Traveller site. We are currently undergoing a system review and have incorporated equalities data into the brief to further develop our approach. We have also begun to consider how we can adopt a human rights approach in our work. We await guidance from the Scottish Housing Regulator to inform this further.

North Ayrshire Council's Audit and Scrutiny Committee has considered sufficient evidence to give this assurance. The Annual Assurance Statement was approved by Audit and Scrutiny Committee on 14 September 2021.

Authorised by: _____
Chairperson of the Committee

Printed name: _____

Date: _____