

## Annual Assurance Statement

Using available guidance and taking account of the guidance entitled ‘Collecting Equality Information: National Guidance for Scottish Social Landlords’ (revised June 2022) and the Self Assurance Toolkit (updated June 2023), each of the regulatory requirements have been considered. It has been determined that the Council is complying with relevant obligations in relation to tenant and resident safety and with all regulatory requirements and outcomes, apart from full compliance in the areas of collection of equalities information and the adoption of a human rights approach in our work.

***Equalities and Human Rights*** - processes remain in place to implement an effective approach to the collection of equalities information and to consider how a human rights approach can be adopted. Elements of equalities data are currently gathered and there are established processes and demonstrable good practice in place to support the Council’s current approach to equalities and human rights. However, the collection of equalities data is being further developed as part of the introduction of ‘Housing Online’ within our NEC Housing software system. This online functionality will allow housing applicants, homeless people, tenants, and other customers to update equalities data. The scope of data collection, the most effective ways to gather this information and the controls needed have been considered. This will be introduced as part of the implementation of ‘Housing Online’ module, and the approach will take account of all relevant advice and support from Information Governance and Housing Policy & Strategy.

In terms of the Council’s approach to Human Rights, work already takes place across a range of activities including:- ensuring that accommodation is provided to homeless households when needed, joint work takes place with Health and Social Care to ensure that care experienced young people are appropriately accommodated and supported, standards of council owned accommodation are maintained and the Council is working to the standards outlined in the Scottish Housing Quality Standard, housing support services are provided to homeless households and council tenants to help sustain tenancies, there is a dedicated travelling persons site to meet the needs of Gypsy/Travellers in the council area and the Council delivers adaptations to properties to make them more accessible for households with disabilities. In addition, the Council has established a Trauma Informed Approach and work is taking place on an ongoing basis to raise awareness across services.

Work will continue over the next year to further develop the processes and systems to collect equalities information and to outline the Council’s approach in relation to human rights.

The Cabinet of 26 September 2023 has seen and considered the appropriate evidence to support the level of assurance against each of the requirements.

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**Councillor Martin Dowey**  
**Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Corporate and Strategic**

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**Councillor Martin Kilbride**  
**Portfolio Holder for Buildings, Housing and Environment**

**26 September 2023**