

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), each of the regulatory requirements have been considered. It has been determined that the Council is complying with all requirements and outcomes for tenants, people who are homeless and others who use our services, as set out in the Regulatory Framework, the Scottish Social Housing Charter and relevant legislative duties, apart from full compliance in the areas of Certification of Electrical Safety and collection of equalities information and the adoption of a human rights approach in our work.

- **Electrical Installation Condition Reports (EICR’s)** – The Council has made excellent progress in this area; all tenants have been contacted by the Council and arrangements were made to undertake the required safety check. Access has been gained to most properties to carry out the electrical safety check. As at 31 August 2022, 97% of the council’s lettable housing stock is complying with the standard, the remaining 3% (220 properties) are where tenants have not provided access or where it was not possible to complete the safety test at the time of the visit. Officers are continuing to contact households. This work is ongoing and where required consideration will be given to using the provisions of the tenancy agreement to gain entry to properties to complete this essential work.
- **Fire and Carbon Monoxide Detector Standard** – The Council has achieved excellent progress in this area, 99% of the Council’s housing stock is meeting the fire and carbon monoxide detector standard. The Housing Asset Management Team are continuing to engage with the remaining 1% (87 properties) to achieve access to properties to complete surveys and any necessary compliance work.
- **Equalities and Human Rights** - processes are 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 gathered and there are established processes and demonstrable good practice in place to support the Council’s approach to equalities and human rights. However, the collection of equalities data will be 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. Discussions are taking place on the scope of data collection, the most effective ways to gather this information and the controls needed. In taking forward the approach, advice and support will be provided 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 adopted a Trauma Informed Approach and work is underway to raise awareness and develop this approach across services. Taking account of current and proposed guidance and briefing notes, the Council will continue to develop its' approach in relation to human rights.

The Cabinet of 27 September 2022 has seen and considered the appropriate evidence to support the level of assurance against each of the requirements.

Councillor Martin Dowey
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