

Proposed assurance statement: -

The Board of Management confirms that we have reviewed and assessed a comprehensive bank of evidence to support this statement that Thenue Housing Association, to the best of our knowledge, there is substantive evidence that the Association is compliant with: -

- All relevant regulatory requirements as set out in Section 3 of the Regulatory Framework.
- The Regulatory Standards of Governance and Financial Management.
- The relevant standards and outcomes of the Scottish Social Housing Charter.
- Our statutory obligations in respect of tenant and resident safety, housing and homelessness and equalities and human rights.

In assessing the evidence, we have identified a small number of new and emerging future areas that lend themselves to an improvement focus during 2023. Operationally, our performance for reactive repairs has not been at the expected levels whilst our main contractor adapts to the changing financial environment. We are now seeing improvements to this area of service and have secured alternatives to support the delivery if needed in the future.

As reported in the latest ARC submission, the number of completed EICRs fell due to access during Covid and the capacity of our contractor to complete the required numbers. As a result, an alternative contractor has now been procured and are currently working through the programme to ensure the association is delivering in this key compliance area by March 2023.

Following our FYFP submission in May 2022, the Association notified the Regulator that our underspend on Major repairs for 2021/22 had the potential to breach covenant without discussion with our lenders on the carry over. We submitted a revised FYFP in June 2022 and can confirm that our lenders have been accommodating of the carry over to ensure no breach takes place. This has enabled the major repair work delayed due to Covid restrictions to commence on site. New experienced appointments to our Senior and Management Teams give further assurance regarding our financial planning for the future.

An equality policy considers a diverse range of equality issues throughout Association services. We now have in place a new Equality Policy to ensure that it is central to our governance system and is used to mainstream equality policy objectives into practice. Our equality procedures include an equality impact assessment (EIAs) that we use to promote equality objectives throughout our organisational policies, procedures and other documentation. This will also take account of human rights issues, too, as human rights are pivotal to the equality mainstreaming process. The staff are receiving full training on the new policies and procedures in this area.

We continue to work hard on supporting our tenants during these ongoing difficult times, particularly with the cost of living and rise in energy prices. It is vital that we are able to provide quality services that represent value for money at this testing time for many. Having reviewed the identified actions we are satisfied that none are material to our current compliance with the Framework.

This statement, signed by the association's Chair, was authorised by the Board of Management at its meeting held on 11th October 2022.

Pauline Casey
Chair