

Link Group Ltd - Annual Assurance Statement

The Link Group Board submits this Assurance Statement on behalf of Link Group Ltd (the registered parent company) and its four registered partners of Horizon Housing Association Ltd (Horizon), Larkfield Housing Association Ltd (Larkfield), Link Housing Association, and West Highland Housing Association Ltd (West Highland).

In common with many other registered social landlords, we continue to work towards full completion of EICRs. This is a priority action and intend that Link will be fully compliant by August 2024.

The Board confirms that we have reviewed and assessed a comprehensive bank of evidence to support this Statement that Link group is compliant with: All relevant regulatory requirements as set out in Section Three 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

The evidence which supports this Statement includes but is not limited to:

- Reports about performance in key areas including finance, service delivery, asset management, tenant and resident safety, development and risk.
- Internal and External Audit reports
- Advice from external and specialist advisers
- Tenant Scrutiny reports and the outcomes from specific consultation
- Data analysis about our tenants and customers
- Benchmarking
- Reports, advice and information from senior staff

We have appended the process we have followed (24 September 2024 Board Report).

We are satisfied that we meet all of our duties in relation to tenant and resident safety. In particular, we have gained the necessary evidence-based assurance of our compliance in respect of duties relating to gas, electrical, fire, water and lift safety and our obligations relating to asbestos, damp and mould. We have sought specialist advice to monitor our compliance in these areas and to support our assurance.

We have assessed our stock for the presence of RAAC and have identified that 25 properties are affected. We have obtained specialist advice to inform the development of a risk management and mitigation plan which is being implemented. Our established assurance framework is supporting the effective implementation of the plan and management of the identified risks.

In assessing the evidence, we have adopted an improvement focus which has resulted in the creation of an Action Plan which we have begun to implement and will continue to progress during the course of the year. We have reviewed the identified

actions in the improvement action plan and are satisfied that all are intended to deliver effective improvement and that none are material to our current compliance with the Framework.

The Board of Link Group (parent) has overseen the assurance exercise that supports this Statement and is satisfied that it is comprehensive in its scope to include each of the group members. The Boards of each of the subsidiaries have overseen the relevant components of the Group assurance exercise which relate to their RSL and have also, through their representation on the parent Board, contributed to the Group assurance.

We recognise that we are required to notify the SHR of any changes in our compliance during the course of the year and are assured that we have effective arrangements in place to enable us to do so.

This Assurance Statement was reviewed and approved by the Link Group Board at its meeting of 24 September 2024. As Chair, I was authorised by the Board to sign and submit this Assurance Statement to the Scottish Housing Regulator

Name of signatory: Pamela Woodburn

Signature:

Position: Chair of the Link Group Board

Date: 24 September 2024