



Muirhouse Housing Association

Annual Assurance Statement 2021

Over the course of 2020/2021 the Association's Board of Management has undertaken various activities to confirm that it has sought appropriate assurance that the organisation remains compliant with the Scottish Housing Regulator's Regulatory Framework.

To the best of the Board's knowledge and belief, the Association complies with:

- the regulatory requirements as set out in Chapter 3 of the Regulatory Framework
- the standards and outcomes in the Scottish Social Housing Charter
- all relevant legislative duties and statutory obligations
- the standards set out in the Standards of Governance and Financial Management.

Like all RSLs the Association has encountered numerous challenges created by the pandemic which could have directly or indirectly impacted on the Association's ability to meet its organisational obligations. These have included meeting statutory requirements in relation to areas like tenant safety, maintaining appropriate governance arrangements and fulfilling its duty with regards to allocations. The Association has ensured that each of these areas have been managed in line with relevant Scottish Government Guidance and the Board is satisfied that at all times the Association has taken appropriate steps to meet service, legislative, regulatory and governance requirements.

In spring 2021 the Association appointed a Governance and Compliance Manager who has worked closely with the Board and senior officers to further strengthen the Association's Governance. Work in this area has included a revised self-assurance framework, a review of governance policies and reporting methodology. The Association continues to have a focus on improvement and the self-assessment process identified a number of actions to enhance our processes which have been incorporated into an overall action plan for completion during the coming year and regularly reviewed by the Board.

The Board confirms that it has reviewed and assessed appropriate evidence and to the best of its knowledge and belief supports this level of assurance.

Following the recent publication of the 'Collecting Equality Information' the Association is exploring how best to implement this requirement in 2022 in order to take into account Equality and Human Rights issues in its decisions, policy making and day to day service delivery. This includes the development of an Equality, Diversity and Human Rights strategy and liaising with its Data Protection Officer on these activities.

During 2021 the Association (with appropriate external support) refinanced its loans to further strengthen its overall financial position.

Following staffing changes within the Association at a senior level an options appraisal has been undertaken by an external consultant to ensure that the Association considers all available options fully with the outcome of this exercise anticipated prior to the end of this calendar year.

The Association confirms that this Assurance Statement is being published on its website on the same date that it is being submitted to the Scottish Housing Regulator.

The Association recognises that it is required to notify the Scottish Housing Regulator of any changes in its compliance during the year and the Board is assured that there are effective systems in place to enable it to do so.

This Annual Assurance Statement was considered and approved by the Board on Thursday 28th October 2021 and signed by the Chair on behalf of the Board.

Signed by:

Iain Strachan, Chairperson

For and on behalf of the Board of Management of Muirhouse Housing Association

Date: 29th October 2021