



RUTHERGLEN & CAMBUSLANG HOUSING ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL ASSURANCE STATEMENT 2024

Gaining Assurance

Over the past 18 months the Association has taken steps to strengthen the level of assurance Management Committee members receive with regards to the Association's compliance with the Regulatory standards. This has included;

- An external review of the Association's self-assessment process
- An independent review of the Association's tenant and residents health and safety compliance and recording processes and related policies and procedures
- Development of an Annual Assurance Action Plan and monthly progress reports
- Updating and extending the Annual Assurance Evidence Bank and reporting bi-monthly to the Management Committee on content of specific sections for further assurance
- Reviewing the content and format of the governance structure and associated performance reports to the Management Committee and Sub-Committees
- An independent review of the asset management function including procurement

In considering the Association's current level of compliance with the Regulatory Standards, the Management Committee has taken into account;

- The findings of the independent reviews and the progress made to date
- The feedback from the meeting with the Scottish Housing Regulator's Annual Assurance verification and thematic study findings
- The Association's performance reports and statutory returns
- Ongoing oversight and scrutiny of the Association's business throughout the year
- Internal and external audits

Level of Compliance

Members of the Management Committee are satisfied that there has been much progress made with the Association's compliance with the requirements for the 'Big 7' areas in relation to tenant and resident health and safety and are confident policy, systems and processes are in place to ensure ongoing compliance.

Whilst the Management Committee are assured that the Association is materially compliant with the regulatory requirements set out in Chapter 3 of the Scottish Housing Regulator's Framework and the relevant standards of governance and financial management, the Committee has identified areas where it believes further work is required to strengthen the level of compliance. These are;

Tenant Engagement – it is acknowledged that the Association still has work to do to meet the level of assurance it wants with regards;

- Involving tenants in the preparation and scrutiny of performance information
- Enhancing customer engagement and feedback systems.

To address this the Association has appointed TPAS Scotland to build robust and meaningful engagement processes with tenants and other customers and develop our staff in this area.

Performance Reporting – the Management Committee has taken into account the SHR’s feedback from the verification visit and its comments and is developing high level performance reports to ensure that all members of the Management Committee are monitoring performance in key indicators.

Equalities Data Collection – the Association continues to develop its systems for collecting and analysing equalities data and its mechanisms for ensuring it is effectively taken into account in the decision-making process. Robust systems are also being developed to give Committee members further assurance that the principles of equality and human rights are being embedded throughout the organisation and in all of its activities.

Assurance Improvement Action Plan

The Management Committee and the senior staff team have developed a robust action plan to enhance and consolidate governance improvement actions and the evidence it can provide to demonstrate its compliance and give further assurance to the Management Committee. This action plan is around 60% complete and will continue to be progressed throughout the coming year.

Monitoring

The Association has a programme for the Management Committee to ensure ongoing review of both the assurance improvement action plan and the Association’s continued compliance with regulatory, statutory and legal standards and requirements. The Association has a continuous improvement focus as noted above and has plans in place to further support an evidence-based approach to assurance and compliance.

Members of the Management Committee are assured that the Association has the necessary arrangements in place to identify any risks to its ongoing compliance and are aware of the requirement to notify the SHR of any identified material changes in its compliance.

Statement of Compliance

The Management Committee of Rutherglen and Cambuslang Housing Association is satisfied that there are no material failures in its level of compliance and that the Association is compliant with the requirements of the Chapter Three of the Regulatory Framework and the Regulatory Standards of Governance and Financial Management.

This Assurance Statement was approved by the members at the meeting on 22nd October 2024 and, as Chair, I have been authorised to sign and submit it on behalf of the Management Committee. I can confirm that the statement will be published on the Association’s website.