

Our Annual Assurance Statement

The Board of Trustees, having reviewed evidence and documentation made available to us throughout the year, made reasonable enquires of Senior Officers and relevant external agencies, and through our own experience and knowledge, confirm that Berwickshire Housing Association overall complies with the regulatory requirements as set out in Chapter 3 of the Scottish Housing Regulator's Regulatory Framework, which include;

- All relevant standards and outcomes in the Scottish Social Housing Charter for tenants, people who are homeless and others who use our services;
- Complying with our legal obligations relating to housing and homelessness, equality and human rights, and tenant and resident safety; and
- The Standards of Governance and Financial Management for RSLs.

In reviewing our compliance with the Regulatory Framework, we are satisfied that we are continuing our work towards having appropriate systems in place for the collection of equalities data. We utilise customer insight data collected in 2022, including anonymised protected characteristics information, to take account of equality and human rights issues in our decisions, policy-making and day-to-day service delivery.

We confirm that we overall meet our duties in relation to tenant and resident safety, and that we have obtained appropriate assurance about our compliance with all relevant safety requirements including:

- Gas safety
- Electrical safety
- Water safety
- Fire safety
- Asbestos
- Damp and Mould
- Lift safety

In reviewing compliance, we adopt an improvement focus and have identified some improvement actions which are incorporated in our Business Plan priorities and separate action plans. Progress in achieving agreed actions is monitored by our Executive Team and Board.

We recognise that we are required to notify the SHR of any changes in our compliance during the year and are satisfied that we have effective arrangements in place to enable us to do so. As Chair, I was authorised by the Board at a meeting held on 8th August 2023 to sign and submit this Assurance Statement to the Scottish Housing Regulator.

Jim McDevitt, Chair