

EX62. Housing Annual Assurance Statement

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Transformation, Communities & Corporate Services which provided the Annual Assurance Statement on the activities of the Council's Housing Service for approval. The Annual Assurance Statement confirmed that Housing Services complied with most of the requirements set out under Chapter 3 of the Regulatory Framework published by the Scottish Housing Regulator. Where these were not met, there was evidence of practices put in place to work towards full compliance. It was anticipated that there would be a return to full compliance in 2024.

The Scottish Housing Regulator was established as part of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2010. The Regulator had statutory powers to monitor, assess, report and, where they deem appropriate, intervene in the performance of housing activities of social landlords. The Annual Assurance Statement confirmed the extent to which the Housing Service complied with the standards and outcomes in the Scottish Social Housing Charter for tenants, people who were homeless, and others who used the services. Assurance was also provided on compliance with legal obligations relating to housing and homelessness, equalities and human rights, and tenant and resident safety.

The Regulator published guidance on the completion of the Annual Assurance Statement, including a template which the Service then used to develop the Council's submission. There was no requirement to send any supporting evidence with the statement, however, this must be available should the Regulator ask to see it. It was for the Executive to determine whether it had sufficient evidence to be assured.

An assessment of the evidence showed that most regulatory requirements and statutory responsibilities were being met. The full regulatory requirements for repairs, quality of housing and outcomes for those who presented as homeless were not met. The Annual Assurance Statement complemented several internal and external reports that demonstrated the service's commitment to performance reporting and scrutiny. These included the Annual Return to the Charter, which was tenant approved before submission to the Regulator, and had also been subject to both internal and external audit checks.

Decision

The Executive approved the Annual Assurance Statement, prior to its submission to the Scottish Housing Regulator.