

EX69. Scottish Housing Regulatory Annual Assurance Statement

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services which provided an Annual Assurance Statement on the activities of the Council's Housing Service for approval.

In preparation of the Annual Assurance Statement the Service considered: the required level of assurance; sources of assurance and the evidence to support, and the need for independent assurance from Internal Audit.

Despite the challenge of the pandemic, the service met the majority of the regulatory requirements and statutory responsibilities. However, the full regulatory requirements were not met for Quality of Housing and Repairs. This was due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Details of the standards/outcomes reported as not fully compliant could be viewed in the Scottish Social Housing Charter under outcomes/standards 4 & 5. Further information on the challenges and the Services' response could be found at appendix 2 to the report. As restrictions eased, the aim was to be fully compliant again in 2022.

The Annual Assurance Statement complemented a number of 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. Performance was also reported to the Scrutiny Committee.

Decision

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