



## ANNUAL ASSURANCE STATEMENT

As reviewed and approved by the Board of Viewpoint Housing Association – 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021

### Introduction

As a Registered Social Landlord (RSL), Viewpoint Housing Association (VHA) is required to submit its annual Assurance Statement to the Scottish Housing Regulator (SHR) by the 30 November 2020. Registered Social Landlords are permitted to update their Assurance Statements during the year should matters come to the attention of the Governing Body.

This document represents an update to VHA's Assurance Statement and was considered and approved by the Board at its meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

### Review of Assurance Evidence

The Board confirms that it has reviewed and evaluated a comprehensive bank of evidence to support this Assurance Statement.

### Assurance statement

Viewpoint Housing Association is compliant with:

- all relevant regulatory requirements set out in section 3 of the Regulatory Framework;
- all relevant legislative duties; and
- the Standards of Governance and Financial Management,

except as provided below:

#### *Areas of material non-compliance*

Adherence to the provisions of procurement regulations.

Documentation of the evidence of our assurance position in respect of regulatory standards is not complete, though the evidence to support compliance exists.

Over-reliance on the Finance and Assets function to produce budgets has an inherent conflict of interest with affordability.

#### *Plans to improve*

A new policy introduced on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2019 and updated in December 2020 will be rigorously policed for compliance.

A revised approach to compilation and documentation of evidence is being implemented.

The process of removing the conflict of interest began in 2020-21 and will be completely removed for production of the 2022-23 budget.

Whilst the process by which performance management records are maintained is satisfactory from an employment perspective, the systems are insufficient relative to an assurance requirement

Revised processes are under consideration that will facilitate provision of assurance.

We achieve all *but the following* standards and outcomes in the Scottish Social Housing Charter for tenants, people who are homeless and others who use our services:

- Outcome 13 – Value for money  
We are unable to evidence, in respect of one area of Asset Management, that we adequately control supplier costs and demonstrate that we get value out of one contract.

We recognise that we are required to notify the SHR of any changes in our compliance during the course of the year and are assured that we have effective arrangements in place to enable us to do so.

This assurance statement was reviewed and approved by the Viewpoint Board at their meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021, and is signed for and on their behalf by the Chair:

Iain Thompson

Chair