

Orkney Housing Association is governed by a voluntary Management Committee elected at our AGM. The Committee's role is to set and monitor our strategy and performance.

Day to day operational management is carried out by the Leadership Team and services delivered by our excellent staff team.

Some of the Committee's main functions include: approving budgets, reviewing policies, diligent financial management, major decision making, and organisational direction and good governance to ensure statutory and regulatory requirements are met.

An update is issued following each formal Management Committee meeting (normally 6 per year).

Members present 27 January 2021

Via Zoom:

- Wendy Baikie
- Philip Cook
- Dave Dawson
- Linda Forbes
- Fiona Lettice
- John Rodwell
- Jason Taylor
- Bill Wallace
- John White
- Roella Wilson

Our Management Committee



Top: Fiona Lettice, Bill Wallace, Wendy Baikie, Philip Cook, Dave Dawson
Bottom: Linda Forbes, John Rodwell, Jason Taylor, Roella Wilson, John White

GOVERNANCE MATTERS

Annual Assurance Statement (AAS)

We need to submit this to the Scottish Housing Regulator each year as part of meeting their "Regulatory Framework".

This standing item at each meeting evidences continual self assessment against the Regulatory Framework. Members agreed that no material changes were required to be made to the Annual Assurance Statement since its submission, noted that no Notifiable Events have been reported to the SHR, that there were no amendments to the list of Governance related policies, and updated Evidence Bank.

DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Members noted that good progress is being made on another 20 new homes for local people this year. There have been some challenges with contractors getting materials delivered and delays due to BREXIT and COVID.

- ⇒ The Crafty, Kirkwall: work is well underway on the 12 units proposed for this site, with kits being erected.
- ⇒ Kirk Park, Orphir: work is progressing with a retaining wall nearing completion and floor slabs underway.
- ⇒ Walliwall phase 6, Kirkwall: planning application for 14 rented and 6 NSSE properties was submitted and approval awaited.

GOVERNANCE

Annual Committee Meeting Schedule

Following consultation with members regarding availability for meetings, a Committee Meeting Timetable was agreed for the year 2021/22. Members agreed to continue holding their meetings on Wednesday mornings - by Zoom for the foreseeable future.

Performance & Resources Sub-Committee Report

The Report detailed the Quarter 2 (Q2) Performance Report where 10 out of 18 Key Performance Indicators had been met; the Q2 Finance Report showed that turnover remains healthy; Q2 Development Report detailed progress with current developments; and the Q2 Care & Repair Report was presented. They also considered a revised 20/21 Budget.

E-Papers

The COVID-19 pandemic forced the Association to act quickly to put measures in place for working remotely. Committee meetings are held via Zoom with papers sent to members electronically. It was agreed to continue the development of a platform to enable secure, remote access for members to receive papers, access key documents etc.

Policy Reviews

Members received an update on outstanding policy reviews and approved a minor change to the Treasury Management Policy.

Revised Business Plan

Members were updated on progress with the Business Plan. A successful Strategy Day held in December had produced a number of key points which will be incorporated into an updated plan to be presented to members at their March meeting.



Welfare Reform Update

The Association continues to work closely with tenants who may be adversely affected by the COVID pandemic, offering advice and support for anyone in need, as well as assisting tenants to access additional welfare support locally and nationally.

Discussions highlighted several points which would be brought to the next meeting, including:

- ◇ Development programme (challenges/solutions)
- ◇ Scottish Housing Investment Plan
- ◇ Housing demand

Change it up and Zoom with us

As we have all seen, many of the things we were used to doing face to face have moved online due to COVID-19. We could be engaging with a much wider group of tenants by moving our participation activities online.

We would love to know if you are interested in joining a Zoom coffee and catch up. We would also like to know if there are any tenants that would benefit from some help to get online to join in. If this sound like something you might be interested in, drop me an email: suzy.boardman@ohal.org.uk

