

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

We send out an update like this after each formal Management Committee meeting (normally 6 per year).

Members present 01 October 2025

- John Foster
- Brian Kynoch
- Suzanne Lawrence
- Fiona Lettice
- MaryAnn Lewis
- Bruce Pilkington
- John Rodwell
- John White
- Roella Wilson



Clockwise, top left:

Roella Wilson, Brian Kynoch (Chair), Fiona Lettice (Vice-Chair), Mervyn Sandison, John Foster, John Rodwell, Suzanne Lawrence, Bruce Pilkington, MaryAnn Lewis, and John White

ELECTION AND APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

At the first meeting following the AGM each year, we elect a Chair and Vice Chair.

- ◇ Brian Kynoch was re-elected as Chair and Fiona Lettice as Vice Chair of the Management Committee.
- ◇ John White had completed one 3-year term as Chair of the Audit & Risk Management Sub Committee but can be re-appointed for a further 3-year period and, following nomination, remains Chair.
- ◇ Roella Wilson remains Chair of the Performance & Resources Sub Committee.

Membership of the sub-committees and 2 working parties were also agreed. Mhairi Hughes continues in the role of Company Secretary.

We were pleased to welcome new Committee Member, John Foster, and look forward to working with him.

GOVERNANCE MATTERS

Annual Assurance Statement (AAS)

This is the means by which our Management Committee provide assurance to the Scottish Housing Regulator on the Association's performance. Continuous assessment has been ensured by having this as a standing item on every agenda.

Members reviewed all the evidence and felt able to make an informed decision regarding the format and content of their 2025 AAS, which they approved. This sets out that they felt the Association complied with the "Regulatory Requirements & Standards", and will be posted on our website.

Policy Reviews

Members noted outstanding Policy work and approved revisions to the Scheme of Delegations.

Rented Allocations Policy Consultation

This paper set out recommendations for a consultative draft of the Association's Rented Allocations Policy. The revised policy would offer more transparency and the focus would be on targeting applicants with urgent housing needs as fairly and consistently as possible. Members approved a proposed consultation with findings to be reported back to them in January 2026.

Staffing Update

Members received a paper which outlined recent successful recruitment and detailed staff professional training and development qualifications.

2025 Business Planning Programme

The current 3-year Business Plan covers 2025-28 and members agreed to the suggested planning process and timetable for the production of updated appendices for 2026/27 as part of business planning.



Treasury Review

Members received an update on a review of Treasury arrangements which sought approval for the next steps to meet the Association's funding for development.

An independent treasury advisor from Allia C&C presented a detailed review and confirmed the Association was comfortably performing ahead of financial covenants and our Business Plan demonstrated ongoing compliance. Following discussion, members agreed a way forward and lending options will be presented at their next Committee meeting.

Additions to the Approved List of Maintenance Contractors

Members approved two contractors to the Approved List of Maintenance Contractors (subject to receipt of satisfactory references):

- KJL Joinery
- D McLean Building

Cost of Living

This report highlighted the continued direct impact the cost-of-living crisis is having on tenants. Association staff continue to engage, locally and nationally, with support organisations which augments the support offered by Association staff and allows access into funding streams.

Development Update

- ⇒ Walliwall 9A, Kirkwall: work on 8 low cost home ownership properties is underway.
- ⇒ Walliwall 10, Kirkwall: revised plans have been submitted for approval of 41 new homes with a mix of tenure types.
- ⇒ Two properties in Finstown have been purchased and included in rent stock.
- ⇒ Initial design work is moving forward for possible future developments at Toab, Burray and St Mary's.
- ⇒ The Association continues to explore opportunities for land purchase and members will be kept informed of progress.