

These are the Rules  
of

Loretto Housing Association Limited

Based upon  
SFHA Charitable Model Rules (Scotland) 2020

Registered under the  
Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014  
and the Housing (Scotland) Act 2010

**Published by**  
**the Scottish Federation of Housing Associations**  
**in co-operation with The Scottish Housing Regulator**

3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Sutherland House,  
149 St Vincent Street,  
Glasgow, G2 5NW  
Tel: 0141 332 8113  
Fax: 0141 332 9684

## **Further guidance**

### **Further Advice**

A separate document is also available from the SFHA Rules Service, which gives guidance on the use of these rules and the options. Advice is also available from staff at The Scottish Housing Regulator.

Advice on the procedural aspects of making a Rule registration application or Rule Amendment application is also available from the SFHA Rules Service.

# CONTENTS PAGE

ITEM	PAGE NO	ITEM	PAGE NO
Introduction:	1	The Secretary and Officer Bearers	18
- Name		- Role of the Chair	
- Objects		Financial Guarantees for Officers	20
Membership	1	The Board's Minutes, Seal,	
- Applying for membership		Registers and Books	20
Ending your membership	3	- Minutes	
Representing the Parent	3	- Execution of Documents and Seal	
Share Capital	4	- Registers	
- Shares		- Registered Name	
- Transferring shares		- Documentation	
Borrowing Powers	4	Accounts	22
General Meetings	5	The Auditor	22
- Annual General Meeting		Annual Returns and Balance Sheet	23
- Special General Meeting		Surpluses and Donations	23
- Notice of Meetings		Investments	23
- Procedure at General Meetings		Inspecting the Register	24
- Proxies/Representatives		Disputes	24
- Voting		Statutory Applications to the Financial	
- Proceedings at General Meetings		Conduct Authority	24
The Board of Management	10	Copies of Rules	24
- Composition of the Board		Closing Down the Association	25
- Interests		Changing the Rules	25
Appointing Board Members	12	Interpreting these Rules	26
- Co-optees		Appendices:	29
- Eligibility for the Board		- Appendix 1: Proxy form	
Powers of the Board of		- Appendix 2: Cancellation of Proxy	
Management	15	Signatures of Board Members	31
Board Procedure	16		
- Special Board Meetings			
- Sub-committees			

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **Name**

- 1 The name of the Society shall be Loretto Housing Association Limited (hereinafter referred to as "the Association").

### **Objects**

- 2 The objects of the Association are:
  - 2.1 to provide for the relief of those in need by reason of age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage through the provision, construction, improvement and management of land and accommodation and the provision of care; and
  - 2.2 any other purpose or object permitted under Section 24 of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2010 which is charitable both for the purposes of Section 7 of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and also in relation to the application of the Taxes Acts.
- 3 The permitted activities and powers of the Association will include anything which is necessary or expedient to help the Association achieve these objects.
- 4.1 The Association shall not trade for profit and any profits shall only be applied for the purpose of furthering the Association's objects and/or in accordance with these Rules.
- 4.2 Nothing shall be paid or transferred by way of profit to Members.
- 5 The registered office of the Association is at Wheatley House, 25 Cochrane Street, Glasgow, G1 1HL.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

- 6 The Members of the Association shall be: (a) those persons who hold a share in the Association and whose names are entered in the Register of Members; and (b) the Parent.

### **Applying for Membership**

- 7.1 The Board shall set, review and publish its membership policy for admitting new Members. Subject to the provisions of Rule 7.2, the following shall be eligible to become Members:
  - 7.1.1 tenants of the Association;
  - 7.1.2 any person who is a Board Member and who is not a tenant or a Parent Appointee; and
  - 7.1.3 the Parent.

- 7.2 If you are applying for membership you must send a completed and signed application form and the sum of one pound (which will be returned to you if the application is not approved) to the Association's registered office. Whilst it is the Association's intention to encourage membership, the Board has absolute discretion in deciding on applications for membership and the following shall constitute grounds for refusal of an application for membership:
- 7.2.1 where membership would be contrary to the Association's Rules or policies;
  - 7.2.2 where a conflict of interest may exist which, even allowing for the disclosure of such an interest, may adversely affect the work of the Association; and/or
  - 7.2.3 where the Board considers that accepting the application would not be in the best interests of the Association.
- 7.3 Your application shall be considered by the Board as soon as reasonably practicable after its receipt by the Association. An application for membership will not be considered by the Board within the period of 14 days before the date of a general meeting. The Board has the power in its absolute discretion to accept or reject the application.
- 7.4 If the Board approves your application, you will immediately become a Member and your name and other necessary particulars will be included in the Register of Members within seven working days. You will then be issued one share in the Association.
- 7.5 Subject to Rule 37.5, the Board shall have deemed to have admitted a person as a Member from the date on which he/she was appointed as a Board Member under these Rules and his/her name and other necessary particulars will be included in the Register of Members within seven working days. The Board Member will then be issued with one share in the Association.
- 7.6 The Parent shall be a Member and shall have one share to the value of one pound in the Association.
- 7.7 The Parent and the Association, together with all other organisations in the Group will document, formally and in terms that are transparent and understandable, their constitutional and financial relationships through the Group Agreement or similar document. The role of the Association and its relationship with other organisations in the Group must be undertaken in a manner consistent with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005.
- 7.8 Notwithstanding the other provisions of this Rule 7, the Parent may in its absolute discretion admit or remove any person or organisation as a Member.
- 8 You can apply for membership of the Association from the age of 16.
- 9 No Member can hold more than one share in the Association.
- 10 If you change your address, you must let the Association know by writing to the Secretary at the registered office or by electronic communication within three months. This requirement does not apply (a) to the Parent; or (b) if you are a tenant of the Association and have moved home by transferring your tenancy to another property owned and managed by the Association.

## **ENDING YOUR MEMBERSHIP**

- 11.1 Your membership of the Association will end and the Board will cancel your share and record the ending of your membership in the Register of Members if:
  - 11.1.1 you resign your membership giving seven days' notice in writing to the Secretary at the Association's registered office;
  - 11.1.2 except in the case of the Parent, the Board reasonably believes that you have failed to tell the Association of a change of address as required by Rule 10;
  - 11.1.3 except in the case of a Tenant Board Member and the Parent, the Board is satisfied that you are no longer a serving Board Member following:
    - 11.1.3.1 retirement pursuant to Rule 39.2;
    - 11.1.3.2 removal or disqualification pursuant to Rule 44; or
    - 11.1.3.3 resignation of the Chairperson pursuant to Rule 59;
  - 11.1.4 for five annual general meetings in a row you have not attended or appointed a representative to attend and vote on your behalf by proxy;
  - 11.1.5 except in the case of the Parent, the Association receives a complaint about your behaviour and two-thirds of the Members voting at a special general meeting agree to end your membership. The following conditions apply to this procedure:
    - 11.1.5.1 the complaint must be in writing and must relate to behaviour which could harm the interests of the Association;
    - 11.1.5.2 the Secretary must notify the Member of the complaint in writing not less than one calendar month before the meeting takes place;
    - 11.1.5.3 the notice for the special general meeting will give details of the business for which the meeting is being called;
    - 11.1.5.4 you will be called to answer the complaint at the meeting. The Members present will consider the evidence supporting the complaint and any evidence you decide to introduce;
    - 11.1.5.5 the Members can vote in person or through a representative by proxy; and
    - 11.1.5.6 if you receive proper notice but do not go to the meeting without providing a good reason, the meeting will go ahead without you and the Members will be entitled to vote to end your membership.
- 11.2 If your membership is ended in accordance with Rule 11.1.5, you will immediately cease to be a Member from the date that the resolution to end your membership was passed and any further application for membership by you will need to be approved by two-thirds of the Members voting at a general meeting.

## **REPRESENTING THE PARENT**

- 12.1 The Parent is free to nominate any person it considers suitable as its representative to the Association. That person will represent all of the Parent's rights and powers at general meetings.
- 12.2 The Parent will confirm the identity of a representative by issuing a notice to the Association in writing or by electronic communication on behalf of a Director, Secretary or Authorised Signatory of the Parent.

- 12.3 The Parent can change the identity of the person entitled to represent the Parent at any time by confirming the identity of the new representative in terms of Rule 12.2 and withdrawing the authority of the original representative.
- 12.4 A representative of the Parent in terms of Rule 12.2 cannot be a Member as an individual. If the representative is already a Member as an individual when they start to represent the Parent, the Association will suspend the representative's membership as an individual, until such time as they are no longer the representative of the Parent.

## **SHARE CAPITAL**

### **Shares**

- 13 The share capital of the Association will be raised by issuing one-pound shares to Members. Shares cannot be held jointly. Joint tenants of the Association may each become individual Members.
- 14 There is no interest, dividend or bonus payable on shares.

### **Transferring Shares**

- 15 You shall not be entitled to any property of the Association in your capacity as a Member and your share is not withdrawable or transferable save in the circumstances set out in Rules 16 and 17.
- 16 If you die, the Board will cancel your share (except in those circumstances outlined in Rule 17) and the value of the share will then belong to the Association.
- 17 Prior to your death, you can nominate the person to whom the Association must transfer your share in the Association when you die, as long as the person that you nominate is eligible for membership under these Rules and in terms of the Association's membership policies. On being notified of your death, the Board shall transfer or pay the full value of your share to the person you have identified. Your nomination must be in the terms required by the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014. If the person you nominate is not eligible for membership or your nomination is not in the said terms required, then following your death the Board will cancel your share.

## **BORROWING POWERS**

- 18.1 The Association can borrow money as long as the total borrowing at any time is not more than £100 million or such larger sum as the Association, with the prior written consent of the Parent, determines from time to time in general meeting. The Association can enter into any Guarantee in respect of or to secure by heritable security, mortgage, charge, floating charge, lien or other security which the Association is permitted by law to grant, upon the whole or any part of the Association's property or assets, the obligations and liabilities of any Subsidiary; or of any joint venture established by the Association (or by a Subsidiary) with any entity or entities. The foregoing power is valid notwithstanding, and is in no way limited by, any limits on the borrowing or lending powers of the Association (including the foregoing limits) contained in these Rules or otherwise.

- 18.2 In respect of any proposed borrowing for the purposes of Rule 18.1, the amount remaining undischarged of any index-linked loan previously borrowed by the Association or any deep discounted security shall be deemed to be the amount needed to repay such borrowing in full if the pre-existing borrowing became repayable in full at the time of the proposed borrowing.
- 18.3 For the purposes of Rule 18.1 in respect of any proposed borrowing intended to be index-linked or on any deep discounted security, the amount of borrowings shall be deemed to be the proceeds of such proposed borrowings that would be receivable by the Association at the time of the proposed borrowing.
- 18.4 The Association will not pay more than the rate of interest which the Board considers to be the then market rate of interest on any money borrowed, having regard to the terms of the loan on any money borrowed.
- 18.5 The Association will not accept money on deposit.
- 18.6 Subject to the provisions of Rule 19, the Association can, with the prior written approval of the Parent, lend money to any person or organisation including, without limitation, the Parent; any Subsidiary; any joint venture established by the Association or by the Parent or by any Subsidiary, with another entity or entities on terms which the Board deems appropriate at the time of entering into the transaction. Where the Association is using a loan facility to on lend it must comply with the Regulatory Framework and Regulatory Guidance issued by The Scottish Housing Regulator from time to time.
- 18.7 The Association may borrow money from such lawful sources as is permitted by its Treasury Management Policy subject always to the requirement that the Association will comply with the Regulatory Framework and Regulatory Guidance issued by The Scottish Housing Regulator from time to time.
- 18.8 Subject to the foregoing provisions of this Rule 18, the Board can, with the prior written approval of the Parent, determine and change the conditions under which the Association borrows or lends money.
- 19 With the exception of the Parent, the Association shall not lend money to Members.

## **GENERAL MEETINGS**

### **Annual General Meeting**

- 20 The Association will hold a general meeting known as the annual general meeting within six months of the end of each financial year of the Association. The functions of the annual general meeting are to:
- 20.1 present the Chairperson's report on the Association's activities for the previous year;
- 20.2 present the accounts, balance sheet and auditor's report;
- 20.3 appoint the auditor for the following year; and
- 20.4 consider any other general business included in the notice calling the meeting.



## **Special General Meeting**

- 21.1 All general meetings other than annual general meetings are known as special general meetings. The Secretary will call a special general meeting if:
  - 21.1.1 the Board requests one;
  - 21.1.2 the Parent requests one in writing; or
  - 21.1.3 at least four Members other than the Parent request one in writing. If there are more than 40 Members, at least one tenth of all the Members must ask for the meeting.
- 21.2 Whoever asks for the meeting must give the Secretary details of the business to be discussed at the meeting.
- 21.3 If a special general meeting is requested, the Secretary must within 10 days of having received the request give all Members notice calling the meeting. The meeting must take place within 28 days of the Secretary receiving the request. The Secretary should decide on a time, date and place for the meeting in consultation with the Board or the Chairperson, but if such consultation is not practicable the Secretary can on his/her own decide the time, date and place for the meeting.
- 21.4 If the Secretary fails to call the meeting within 10 days, the Board or the Members who requested the meeting can arrange the meeting themselves.
- 21.5 A special general meeting must not discuss any business other than the business mentioned in the notice calling the meeting.

## **Notice for Meetings**

- 22.1 The Secretary will call all general meetings by written notice posted or sent by electronic communication to every Member (which must include the Parent) at the address or email address given in the Register of Members at least 14 clear days before the date of the meeting. This notice will give details of:
  - 22.1.1 the time, date and place of the meeting;
  - 22.1.2 whether the meeting is an annual or special general meeting;
  - 22.1.3 the business for which the meeting is being called.
- 22.2 The Board may ask the Secretary to include with the letter or send separately to the Members any relevant papers or accounts. If a Member, other than the Parent, does not receive notice of a meeting or papers relating to the meeting, this will not stop the meeting going ahead as planned. If the Parent does not receive notice of a meeting or papers relating to the meeting, the meeting cannot go ahead as planned. Each communication sent to a Member by post, addressed to his/her registered address, shall be deemed to have arrived 48 hours after being posted. Each electronic communication sent to a Member shall be deemed to have arrived on the day it is sent.
- 23 The proceedings of a meeting shall not be invalidated by the inadvertent failure of the Association to send a notice calling the meeting to any Member, other than the Parent. Failure of the Association to send a notice calling the meeting to the Parent will invalidate the proceedings of that meeting.

## **Procedure at General Meetings**

- 24.1 For a meeting to take place the Parent and at least seven other Members must either be present at the meeting or represented by a representative approved in terms of Rule 27.1.
- 24.2 If the Parent is not present in person or by representative and/or not enough other Members are present in person or by representative within half an hour of the time the meeting was scheduled to start, the meeting shall be rescheduled to the same day the following week at the same time and at such place as may be fixed by the chairperson of the meeting and announced at the meeting. There is no need to give notice to Members of the rescheduled meeting with the exception of the Parent, who must receive such notice if it was not present in person or represented at the meeting to be rescheduled. If at that meeting there are not enough Members present in person or by representative at the scheduled starting time the meeting can still go ahead.
- 24.3 The Parent shall be deemed to be present in person at any general meeting if it is represented in person by an individual (who need not be a Member) who is appointed to act as such by or on behalf of the Parent in accordance with Rule 12.
- 24.4 The Board shall determine the manner in which general meetings of the Association are held, subject to the prior approval of the Parent.
- 25 If a majority of Members present agree, the chairperson of a meeting can adjourn the meeting. No business can be discussed at the adjourned meeting other than the business not reached or left unfinished at the original meeting. There is no need to give notice to Members of the adjourned meeting.
- 26.1 The Chairperson of the Board will be chairperson at all meetings of the Association. If there is no Chairperson or he/she is not present or willing to act, a Board Member will be chairperson of the meeting. If no Board Members are present, the Members present must elect a Member to be chairperson of the meeting.
- 26.2 If the Chairperson arrives later, after the meeting has commenced, he/she will take over as chairperson of the meeting as soon as the current agenda item is concluded.

## **Proxies/Representatives**

- 27.1 To appoint a representative to vote on your behalf by proxy, you must let the Association have a properly completed document in the form shown in Appendix 1, which may be submitted by electronic communication. Your representative does not need to be a Member. The document must reach the Association at least five days before the meeting at which you want to be represented.
- 27.2 If there is any doubt about whether your representative has authority to vote, the Chairperson will decide and his/her decision will be final.
- 27.3 The maximum number of proxy votes that may be cast by any one person is 10.
- 27.4 To reverse your appointment of a representative, you must let the Association have a properly completed document in the form shown in Appendix 2, which may be submitted by electronic communication. The document must be presented to the Association before the meeting at which you no longer want to be represented

convenes. Alternatively, if you declare yourself present before the meeting convenes, the appointment of a representative to vote on your behalf will automatically fall.

- 27.5 The Chairperson will report to the meeting the details of any documents seeking to appoint a representative received but which are not valid.

## Voting

- 28 If a decision of a meeting is put to the vote, the outcome will be determined by the majority of those Members voting. Voting will be by a show of hands except where a poll is requested or required. Votes cannot be taken on resolutions which conflict with any provisions of these Rules or the law.

- 29.1 Where a vote is by a show of hands every Member, including the Parent, present in person has one vote (subject in the case of the Parent to the provisions of Rule 29.2). Where a vote is by a poll every Member, including the Parent, present in person or who has appointed a representative has one vote. Where an appointed proxy is present, and he/she advises the Chairperson, the Chairperson shall direct that the vote is by a poll.

- 29.2 The Parent shall be allocated and shall be entitled to cast three quarters of the votes available to be cast:

- 29.2.1 at any special general meeting called by the Secretary in accordance with these Rules for the purpose of considering and, if appropriate, approving:

- 29.2.1.1 any amendments, additions or deletions to any of these Rules; and/or  
29.2.1.2 any change of name of the Association; and

- 29.2.2 at any annual general meeting, but only for the specific purpose of approving the appointment of the auditors for the following year,

and the other Members of the Association (collectively the "Other Members") shall among them be entitled to cast one quarter of the votes available to be cast at the relevant special general meeting or in relation to the appointment of auditors at an annual general meeting. Votes exercisable by the Other Members in terms of this Rule 29.2 shall be counted for and against the relevant resolution(s) in the proportions for and against actually cast by each of the Other Members who are present and voting at the meeting in person or by proxy respectively. The Secretary shall make arrangements for such Other Members to vote on the resolution(s) separately and shall count the number of votes in favour and against the resolution(s) and shall notify the special general meeting or annual general meeting of the totals and accordingly the manner in which the one quarter of votes available to be cast at the relevant special general meeting or annual general meeting and exercisable by the Other Members have been cast. The Secretary shall notify the meeting of the decision of the vote having regard to the votes cast by the Parent.

- 30 Except where a resolution is passed in accordance with the provisions of Rule 29.2, if there is an equal number of votes for and against a resolution, the Chairperson will have a second and deciding vote. The Chairperson's announcement of the decision of a vote will be final and conclusive. The decision is then recorded in the minutes of the meeting. There is no need to record the number of votes for or against the decision.

- 31.1 A poll can be required before or immediately after a vote by a show of hands, if at least one-tenth of the Members present at the meeting (in person or by proxy through a representative appointed in accordance with Rule 27.1) request this.
- 31.2 A poll must take place as soon as the Chairperson has agreed to it, in line with the Chairperson's instructions. The result of the poll will stand as the decision of the meeting.

## **Proceedings at General Meetings**

- 32 All speakers must direct their words to the Chairperson. All Members must remain quiet and orderly while this is happening.
- 33 You will not be allowed to speak more than once on any individual matter unless it is to explain something or ask for an explanation until every other Member has had the chance to speak. You will then have the opportunity to speak a second time on a matter but only if the Chairperson agrees. Where the Chairperson raised the matter for discussion initially, he/she shall be permitted to make a final reply on the matter.
- 34.1 The Chairperson will decide how long each speaker is allowed to speak, allowing equal time to each speaker.
- 34.2 If any point arises which is not covered in these Rules, the Chairperson will give his/her ruling.
- 35 Meetings must not last longer than two hours unless at least two-thirds of the Members present agree after the end of that time to continue the meeting.
- 36.1 A person is able to exercise the right to speak at a general meeting when that person is in a position to communicate to all those attending the meeting, during the meeting, any information or opinions which that person has on the business of the meeting.
- 36.2 A Member is able to exercise the right to vote at a general meeting when:
  - 36.2.1 that Member is able to vote, during the meeting, on resolutions put to the vote at the meeting; and
  - 36.2.2 that Member's vote can be taken into account in determining whether or not such resolutions are passed at the same time as the votes of all the other persons attending the meeting.
- 36.3 The Board may make whatever arrangements it considers appropriate to enable those attending a general meeting to exercise their rights to speak or vote at it.
- 36.4 In determining attendance at a general meeting, it is immaterial whether any two or more Members attending it are in the same place as each other.
- 36.5 Two or more persons who are not in the same place as each other attend a general meeting if their circumstances are such that if they have (or were to have) rights to speak and vote at that meeting, they are (or would be) able to exercise them.

## THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

### Composition of the Board

- 37.1 The Association shall have a Board which shall have a minimum of seven and a maximum (including co-optees) of 11 persons of whom:
- 37.1.1 up to eight Board Members shall be Independent Board Members;
  - 37.1.2 up to two Board Members shall be Tenant Board Members; and
  - 37.1.3 if appointed, one Board Member shall be the Parent Appointee (as defined in Rule 37.7).
- 37.2 The Association shall keep up to date a register of the names of the Board Members which shall be made available to any person at no cost. The names of Board Members will also be published by the Association on its website, and in its annual reports and other similar documentation.
- 37.3 A person must be aged 18 or over and a Member to become a Tenant Board Member. A person must be aged 18 or over but need not be a Member to become a co-optee, a person appointed by The Scottish Housing Regulator or the Parent Appointee (as defined in Rule 37.6).
- 37.4 With the exception of the Parent Appointee (as defined in Rule 37.6), an employee of the Association or, unless otherwise approved by the Parent, a Close Relative of an employee, may not be a Board Member.
- 37.5 No Board Member may take office until they have agreed to and signed the Association's code of conduct for Board Members and their appointment has been ratified by the Parent.
- 37.6 The Parent may from time to time and at any time by written notice to the registered office of the Association appoint up to one person as a Board Member (a "Parent Appointee") and by like notice remove or replace the Parent Appointee and in each case, such appointment or removal shall take effect upon the date of lodgement of such written notice at the registered office of the Association or such later date as may be specified in the notice.
- 37.7 Notwithstanding any other provision of these Rules:
- 37.7.1 the Parent is the parent body of the Association and shall be entitled to appoint any number of Board Members and remove from office any and all Board Members as it may in its sole discretion determine;
  - 37.7.2 any appointments and removals from office in terms of Rule 37.7.1 may be made from time to time and at any time by notice in writing or by electronic communication on behalf of the Parent and, in each case, shall take effect upon the date of receipt of the notice by the Association or such later date as may be specified in the notice; and
  - 37.7.3 all candidates for appointment or re-appointment as Board Members in terms of these Rules shall first be approved in writing or by electronic communication by the Parent and any such appointment or re-appointment of a Board Member shall not take effect unless and until such approval has been given.

- 37.8 Each of the Board Members shall, in exercising his/her role as a Board Member, act in the best interests of the Association, its tenants and service users and will not place any personal or other interests ahead of his/her primary duty to the Association; and, in particular, must:
- 37.8.1 seek, in good faith, to ensure that the Association acts in a manner which is in accordance with its objects;
  - 37.8.2 act with the care and diligence which it is reasonable to expect of a person who is managing the affairs of another person;
  - 37.8.3 in circumstances giving rise to the possibility of a conflict of interest between the Association and any other party:
    - 37.8.3.1 put the interests of the Association before that of the other party, in taking decisions as a Board Member; and
    - 37.8.3.2 where any other duty prevents him/her from doing so, disclose the conflicting interest to the Association and refrain from participating in any discussions or decisions involving the other Board Members with regard to the matter in question; and
  - 37.8.4 ensure that the Association complies with any direction, requirement, notice or duty imposed on it by the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005.
- 37.9 The Board can require that a Board Member who is being investigated for a potential breach of the Association's Code of Conduct for Board Members take leave of absence and not attend any meeting in his/her capacity as Board Member until the Board has completed its consideration of the potential breach. When on such leave of absence, the Board Member will not be entitled to receive minutes and/or documents in his/her capacity as a Board Member relating to the business of the Association.

## Interests

- 38.1 The Board shall set and periodically review its policy on payments and benefits. If a person is a Member, employee of the Association or serves on the Board or any sub-committee he/she must not receive any payment or benefit unless it is permitted by the policy. In making any payment or conferring any benefit the Association shall act at all times with transparency, honesty and propriety.
- 38.2 If a person serves on the Board or any sub-committee he/she must declare any personal or other external interests on an annual basis in accordance with the Association's Code of Conduct for Board Members. If while serving on the Board that person has any conflict of interest in any contract or other matter about to be discussed at a meeting, he/she must tell the Board. He/she will be required to leave the meeting while the matter is discussed and will not be allowed to vote on the matter or to stay in the meeting while any vote on the matter is being held. If that person is inadvertently allowed to stay in the meeting and vote on the matter, his/her vote will not be counted. If no quorum exists for the purpose of voting on a matter only because of the operation of this Rule 38.2, provided that there are at least three remaining Board Members who are entitled to remain in terms of this Rule 38.2, such remaining Board Members are deemed to constitute a quorum for the purposes of voting and may proceed to make a decision as a quorate Board.

- 38.3 If a person serves on the Board or any sub-committee he/she must not receive any payment or benefit unless it is permitted by the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and as set out in the Association's policy referred to in Rule 38.1. He/she shall also comply with the requirements of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 in respect of any conflict of interest that might arise.

## **APPOINTING BOARD MEMBERS**

- 39.1 Each Board Member appointed under these Rules shall be appointed for a fixed term of office expiring at the conclusion of three years (a "fixed term"), unless the Board has set a lower number of years for the relevant Board Member on their appointment. No fixed term shall be set which would cause the relevant Board Member to serve for more than a period of nine years (whether continuous or in aggregate), unless otherwise approved by the Parent in accordance with Rule 39.5.
- 39.2 Each Board Member who has served their fixed term shall retire from office at the Board Meeting held immediately after expiry of their fixed term. Any Board Member who retires from office under this Rule 39.2 shall be eligible for re-appointment subject to the following:
- 39.2.1 where any Board Member retiring under this Rule 39.2 has only served one fixed term, that Board Member can be re-appointed by the Board;
  - 39.2.2 where any Board Member retiring under this Rule 39.2 has served two fixed terms, that Board Member shall be eligible for re-appointment for one further fixed term, but only with the prior approval of the Parent; and
  - 39.2.3 where any Board Member has nine years' service on the Board, that Board Member shall automatically retire at the end of their ninth year and shall not be eligible for re-appointment, unless otherwise approved by the Parent in accordance with Rule 39.5.
- 39.3 Board Members must also retire if they have been co-opted onto the Board under Rule 42.1.
- 39.4 If a Board Member leaves the Board for any reason other than by virtue of Rule 39.2, that Board Member will not be eligible for re-appointment or to be co-opted on to the Board until the expiry of five years following the date on which they left the Board, unless otherwise approved by the Parent.
- 39.5 Other than the Parent Appointee (if appointed) no Board Member shall serve more than nine years' service in total on the Board, whether continuously or in aggregate, unless otherwise approved by the Parent. The Parent shall be entitled to approve a longer fixed term for any Board Member following the expiry of nine years' service where the Parent is satisfied that a Board Member is able to demonstrate his/her continued effectiveness as a Board Member. Where the Parent approves the re-appointment of a Board Member in terms of this Rule 39.5, the Parent shall review that Board Member's appointment on an annual basis.
- 39.6 If a Board Member retires from the Board in terms of these Rules and is re-appointed, subject to Rule 39.4, any time previously served on the Board shall count towards their period of service for the purposes of Rule 39.5.
- 39.7 The other terms of this Rule 39 shall not apply to the Parent Appointee (if appointed) who shall not be required to retire at any Board Meeting.

- 40.1 The Board shall determine the appointment process for Board Members from time to time, subject to the approval of the Parent.
- 40.2 An application for appointment to the Board can be rejected by a decision by not fewer than three quarters of the Board Members on one or more of the following grounds:
- 40.2.1 where appointment to the Board would be contrary to the Association's Rules or policies;
  - 40.2.2 where a conflict of interest may exist which, even allowing for the disclosure of such an interest may adversely affect the work of the Association; or
  - 40.2.3 where there is clear evidence of relevant circumstances from which it is concluded that appointment to the Board would not be in the best interests of the Association.
- 41 The rejection of an application for appointment to the Board shall be notified to the person concerned in writing following the relevant Board Meeting.

## **Co-optees**

- 42.1 Subject to approval by the Parent, the Board can co-opt to the Board or to a sub-committee anyone it considers is suitable to become a Board Member or member of a sub-committee. Co-optees do not need to be Members, but they can only serve as co-optees on the Board or sub-committee for a period of up to one year or until removed by the Board. A person co-opted to the Board can also serve on any sub-committees.
- 42.2 A person appointed as a co-optee shall undertake the role of Board Member or member of a sub-committee and accordingly will be subject to the duties and responsibilities of a Board Member. Co-optees can take part in discussions at the Board or any sub-committees and vote at Board and sub-committee meetings on all matters except those which directly affect these Rules, the membership of the Association or the election of the Association's Office Bearers. Co-optees may not stand for election, nor be elected as one of the Office Bearers of the Board.
- 42.3 Board Members co-opted in this way must not make up more than one-third of the total number of the Board or sub-committee members at any one time. The presence of co-optees at Board Meetings will not be counted when establishing whether the minimum number of Board Members are present to allow the meeting to take place as required by Rule 48 and the presence of co-optees will not count towards the quorum for sub-committee meetings.

## **Eligibility for the Board**

- 43.1 A person will not be eligible to be a Board Member and cannot be appointed as such if:
- 43.1.1 he/she is an undischarged bankrupt, has granted a trust deed which has not been discharged or is in a current Debt Payment Plan under the Debt Arrangement Scheme;
  - 43.1.2 he/she has been convicted of an offence involving dishonesty which is not spent by virtue of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 or an offence under the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005;



- 43.1.3 he/she is a party to any legal proceedings in any Court of Law by or against the Association;
  - 43.1.4 he/she is or will be unable to attend the Board Meetings for a period of 12 months;
  - 43.1.5 he/she has been removed from the board of another registered social landlord within the previous five years;
  - 43.1.6 he/she has resigned from the Board in the previous five years in circumstances where the resignation was submitted after the date of his/her receipt of notice of a special Board Meeting convened to consider a resolution for his/her removal from the Board in terms of Rule 44.5;
  - 43.1.7 he/she has been removed from the Board in terms of Rules 44.4 or 44.5 within the previous five years;
  - 43.1.8 he/she has been removed, disqualified or suspended from a position of management or control of a charity under the provisions of the Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Scotland) Act 1990 or the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005;
  - 43.1.9 he/she has been removed from the office of charity trustee or trustee for a charity by an order made by the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales or by Her Majesty's High Court of Justice in England on the grounds of any misconduct in the administration of the charity for which he/she were responsible or to which he/she were privy, or which his/her conduct contributed to or facilitated;
  - 43.1.10 a disqualification order or disqualification undertaking has been made against that person under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986 or the Company Directors Disqualification (Northern Ireland) Order 2002 (which relate to the power of a Court to prevent someone from being a director, liquidator or administrator of a company or a receiver or manager of company property or being involved in the promotion, formation or management of a company);
  - 43.1.11 his/her application for appointment to the Board has been rejected in accordance with Rule 40.2;
  - 43.1.12 he/she has been removed from the governing body of any other member of the Group; or
  - 43.1.13 he/she has left the Board and a period of five years has not expired since his/her departure for the purposes of Rule 39.4 and the Parent has not approved his/her return within that period.
- 43.2 A person cannot be re-appointed as a Board Member if the Board is not satisfied under Rule 37.6 of the individual's continued effectiveness as a Board Member. In these circumstances the Board must not allow the individual to stand for re-appointment.
- 44 A Board Member will cease to be a Board Member if:
- 44.1 he/she resigns his/her position as a Board Member in writing;

- 44.2 he/she ceases to be a Member unless he/she is a co-optee in terms of Rule 42.1 or an appointee of The Scottish Housing Regulator;
- 44.3 he/she misses four Board Meetings in a row without special leave of absence previously being granted by the Board either at his/her request or by exercise of the Board's discretion;
- 44.4 except in the case of the Parent Appointee, the majority of Members voting at a general meeting decide this;
- 44.5 except in the case of the Parent Appointee, the majority of those remaining Board Members present and voting at a special meeting of the Board convened for the purpose decide to remove him/her as a Board Member. The resolution to remove him/her as a Board Member must relate to one of the following issues:
  - 44.5.1 failure to perform to the published standards laid down by The Scottish Housing Regulator adopted and operated by the Association;
  - 44.5.2 failure to sign or failure to comply with the Association's Code of Conduct for Board Members; or
  - 44.5.3 a breach of the Association's Rules, standing orders or other policy requirements;
- 44.6 he/she becomes ineligible as a Board Member in terms of Rule 43;
- 44.7 he/she is a co-optee whose period of office is ended in accordance with Rules 39.3 or 42.1;
- 44.8 he/she is a Board Member retiring in accordance with Rule 39.2; or
- 44.9 he/she is the Parent Appointee and the Parent subsequently removes him/her from the Board.

## **POWERS OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT**

- 45 The Board is responsible for directing the affairs of the Association and its business and may do anything lawful which is necessary or expedient to achieve the objects of the Association. The Board is not permitted to exercise any powers which are reserved to the Association in general meetings either by these Rules or by statute. The Board is responsible for the leadership, strategic direction and control of the Association with the aim of achieving good outcomes for its tenants and other service users in accordance with Regulatory Standards and Guidance issued by The Scottish Housing Regulator from time to time. The Board is responsible for ensuring that the Association can demonstrate its governance and financial arrangements are such as to allow The Scottish Housing Regulator to regulate effectively and exercise its full regulatory powers.
- 46 The Board acts in the name of the Association in everything it does. A third party acting in good faith and without prior notice does not need to check if the powers of the Board have been restricted, unless they are already aware that such a restriction may exist.
- 47 Amongst its most important powers, the Board can:
  - 47.1 buy, sell, build upon, lease or exchange any land and accept responsibility for any related contracts and expenses;

- 47.2 agree the terms of engagement and remuneration of anyone employed in connection with the business of the Association and act as employer for anyone employed by the Association;
- 47.3 grant heritable securities over land owned by the Association and floating charges over all or any part of property and assets both present and in future owned by the Association. This includes accepting responsibility for any related expenses;
- 47.4 decide, monitor and vary the terms and conditions under which property owned by the Association is to be let, managed, used or disposed of;
- 47.5 appoint and remove solicitors, surveyors, consultants, managing agents and employees, as required by the Association's business;
- 47.6 refund any necessary expenses as are wholly necessary incurred by Board Members and sub-committee members in connection with their duties;
- 47.7 compromise, settle, conduct, enforce or resist either in a Court of Law or by arbitration any suit, debt, liability or claim by or against the Association; and
- 47.8 accept donations in support of the activities of the Association.

## **BOARD PROCEDURE**

- 48 It is up to the Board to decide when and where to hold its ordinary meetings, but it must meet at least six times per calendar year. There must be at least four Board Members present for the meeting to take place including (if appointed) the Parent Appointee (unless the Parent Appointee has presented their apologies in advance of the meeting).
- 49 The Board will continue to act while it has vacancies for Board Members. However, if at any time the number of Board Members falls below seven, the Board can continue to act only for another two months. If at the end of that period the Board has not found new Board Members to bring the number of Board Members up to seven, the only power it will have is to act to bring the number of Board Members up to seven.
- 50 Board Members must be sent written notice of Board meetings posted, or delivered, by hand or sent by electronic communication to the last such address for such communications given to the Secretary at least seven days before the date of the meeting, unless the Chairperson determines, in relation to specific proposed Board Meeting, that a shorter period is required. The accidental failure to give notice to a Board Member or the failure of the Board Member (other than the Parent Appointee) to receive such notice shall not invalidate the proceeding of the relevant meeting.
- 51 Meetings of the Board can take place in any manner which permits those attending to hear and comment on the proceedings. A Board Member may participate in a Board Meeting by means of conference telephone, video conferencing facility or similar communications equipment whereby all the Board Members participating in the Board Meeting can communicate with each other. A Board Member participating in a Board Meeting in this manner shall be deemed to be present in person at the Board Meeting.

- 52.1 All speakers must direct their words to the Chairperson. All Board Members must remain quiet and maintain order while this is happening. The Chairperson will decide who can speak and for how long.
- 52.2 If any point arises which is not covered in these Rules, the Chairperson will give his/her ruling which will be final.
- 53 All acts done in good faith as a result of a Board Meeting or sub-committee meeting will be valid even if it is discovered afterwards that a Board Member was not entitled to be on the Board.
- 54 A written resolution agreed in writing or by electronic communication by not fewer than three quarters of the Board Members or three quarters of the members of a sub-committee will be as valid as if it had been passed at a Board Meeting or sub-committee meeting duly called and constituted.
- 55 Subject to these Rules, the Board may agree any arrangements which it thinks fit about how it takes decisions, and about how such arrangements are to be recorded or communicated to Board Members, subject to the prior approval of the Parent.

## **Special Board Meetings**

- 56.1 The Chairperson, the Parent or two Board Members can request a special meeting of the Board by writing to the Secretary with details of the business to be discussed. The Secretary will send a copy of the request to all Board Members and to the Parent within three working days of receiving it. The meeting will take place at a place mutually convenient for the majority of Board Members, normally the usual place where Board Meetings are held, between 10 and 14 days after the Secretary receives the request.
- 56.2 No other business may be discussed at the meeting other than the business for which the meeting has been called.
- 56.3 If the Secretary does not call the special meeting as set out above, the Chairperson or the Board Members who requested the meeting can call the meeting. In this case, they must write to all Board Members at least seven days before the date of the meeting.
- 57 If a Board Member (other than the Parent Appointee) does not receive notice of the meeting, this will not prevent the meeting going ahead.

## **Sub-committees**

- 58.1 The Board can delegate its powers to sub-committees or to staff or to Office Bearers. The Board will establish the terms of reference for such delegation, which will be set down in writing and communicated to the recipient of the delegated powers. Such delegation will be set out down in writing in standing orders, schemes of delegated authority or other appropriate documentation. In the case of a sub-committee such delegation shall include the purposes of the sub-committee, its composition and quorum for meetings. A minimum number of members for a sub-committee shall be three. There must be at least three of the members of a sub-committee present for the meeting to take place. The Board shall be responsible for the on-going monitoring and evaluation of the use of delegated powers.

- 58.2 The meetings and procedures of sub-committees or otherwise must comply with the relevant terms of reference.
- 58.3 Any decision made by sub-committee must be reported to the next Board Meeting.
- 58.4 The Board can establish and delegate powers to sub-committees, designated as Area Committees, to take decisions relating to the management and maintenance of properties within a particular geographical area. The Board will determine the membership and delegated responsibility of an Area Committee in its terms of reference. An Area Committee shall exercise such delegated powers notwithstanding the provisions of Rules 42.1 and 42.3 which provisions shall not apply to Area Committees.
- 58.5 The creation of any new sub-committees by the Board is subject to the prior approval of the Parent.

## **THE SECRETARY AND OFFICE BEARERS**

- 59.1 The Association must have a Secretary, a Chairperson and any other Office Bearers the Board considers necessary. The Office Bearers, except for the Secretary, must be Board Members but cannot be co-optees. An employee of the Association, the Parent or any other member of the Group may hold the office of Secretary although shall not be a Board Member. The Board will appoint these Office Bearers. If the Secretary cannot carry out his/her duties, the Board, or in an emergency the Chairperson, can ask another Office Bearer or employee to carry out the Secretary's duties until the Secretary returns. The appointment of an Office Bearer in terms of these Rules is subject to the prior written approval of the Parent.
- 59.2 The Secretary and the other Office Bearers will be controlled, supervised and instructed by the Board in respect of performance of their respective duties (which duties, in the case of the Secretary, are those set out in Rule 59.3).
- 59.3 The Secretary's duties include the following (these duties can be delegated to an appropriate employee with the Secretary assuming responsibility for ensuring that they are carried out in an effective manner):
- 59.3.1 calling and going to all meetings of the Association and all the Board Meetings;
  - 59.3.2 keeping the minutes for all meetings of the Association and Board;
  - 59.3.3 sending out letters, notices calling meetings and relevant documents to Members before a meeting;
  - 59.3.4 preparing and sending all the necessary reports to the Financial Conduct Authority and The Scottish Housing Regulator;
  - 59.3.5 ensuring compliance with these Rules;
  - 59.3.6 keeping the Register of Members and other registers required under these Rules; and
  - 59.3.7 supervision of the Association's seal.
- 59.4 The Secretary must produce or give up all the Association's books, registers, documents and property whenever requested by a resolution of the Board, or of a general meeting.
- 59.5 The Chairperson will be appointed in accordance with Rule 59.7 and shall hold office for a period which shall commence on the date of the Chairperson's appointment and shall expire immediately prior to the next scheduled Board

Meeting held after the expiry of three years from the date of appointment (the "office term"), subject always to the provisions of Rule 39.

## **Role of the Chair**

- 59.6 The Chairperson is responsible for the leadership of the Board and ensuring its effectiveness in all aspects of the Board's role and to ensure that the Board properly discharges its responsibilities as required by law, the Rules and the standing orders of the Association. The Chairperson will be delegated such powers as is required to allow the Chairperson to properly discharge the responsibilities of the office. Among the responsibilities of the Chairperson are that:
- 59.6.1 the Board works effectively with the senior staff;
  - 59.6.2 an overview of business of the Association is maintained;
  - 59.6.3 the Agenda for each meeting is set;
  - 59.6.4 meetings are conducted effectively;
  - 59.6.5 minutes are approved and decisions and actions arising from meetings are implemented;
  - 59.6.6 the standing orders, code of conduct for Board Members and other relevant policies and procedures affecting the governance of the Association are complied with;
  - 59.6.7 where necessary, decisions are made under delegated authority for the effective operation of the Association between meetings;
  - 59.6.8 the Board monitors the use of delegated powers;
  - 59.6.9 the Board receives professional advice when it is needed;
  - 59.6.10 the Association is represented at external events appropriately;
  - 59.6.11 appraisal of the performance of Board Members is undertaken, and that the senior staff officer's appraisal is carried out in accordance with the agreed policies and procedures of the Association; and
  - 59.6.12 the training requirements of Board Members, and the recruitment and induction of new Board Members is undertaken.
- 59.7 The Chairperson must be elected from the Board Members (excluding co-optees) which election must be approved by the Parent. The Chairperson must be prepared to act as Chairperson until the end of their office term (unless he/she resigns the post). The Chairperson can only be required to resign if a majority of the remaining Board Members present at a special meeting agree to this.
- 59.8 If the Chairperson is not present at a Board Meeting or is not willing to act, the Board Members present will elect another Board Member to be chairperson for the Board Meeting. If the Chairperson arrives at the meeting late, he/she will take over as chairperson of the Board Meeting as soon as the current agenda item is concluded.
- 59.9 If the votes of the Board Members are divided equally for and against an issue, the Chairperson will have a second and deciding vote.
- 59.10 The Chairperson can resign his/her office in writing to the Secretary and must resign if he/she leaves the Board or is prevented from being appointed to the Board under Rule 43. The Board will then elect another Board Member as Chairperson.
- 59.11 The Chairperson can be re-elected upon expiry of their office term for a further maximum of two years and must not hold office continuously for more than five years, unless otherwise approved by the Parent, subject always to the provisions of Rule 39.

- 59.12 Upon expiry of their period of service as Chairperson, the Chairperson must resign as a Board Member and leave the Board. If the Chairperson resigns under Rule 59.7 or 59.10 then they shall also be deemed to have resigned as a Board Member, regardless of the length of their period of service as Chairperson.

## **FINANCIAL GUARANTEES FOR OFFICERS**

- 60.1 The Board shall take out fidelity guarantee insurance to cover all Office Bearers and employees who receive or are responsible for the Association's money, or, these office bearers and employees must be covered by a bond as set out in Schedule 1 of the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014, or a guarantee under which they promise to account for and repay money due to the Association accurately.
- 60.2 The Board shall have the power to purchase and maintain indemnity insurance for, or for the benefit of, persons who are, or were at any time, Board Members, officers or employees of the Association. A Board Member may form part of a quorum and vote at a meeting where such insurance is under consideration notwithstanding the terms of Rules 38.1 and 38.2.
- 61 Office Bearers and employees will not be responsible for the Association's loss while they are carrying out their duties unless there has been gross negligence or dishonesty. If an Office Bearer or employee is dishonest, the Association will try to recover any loss that it has suffered and may alert the police or other relevant authority.

## **THE BOARD'S MINUTES, SEAL, REGISTERS AND BOOKS**

### **Minutes**

- 62 Minutes of every general meeting, Board Meeting and sub-committee meeting must be kept. Those minutes must be presented at the next appropriate meeting and if accepted as a true record, signed by the chairperson of the meeting at which they are presented. All minutes signed by the chairperson of the meeting shall be conclusive evidence that the minutes are a true record of the proceedings at the relevant meeting.

### **Execution of Documents and Seal**

- 63 The Association shall execute deeds and documents in accordance with the provisions of the Requirements of Writing (Scotland) Act 1995 and record the execution in the register. The use of a common seal is not required. The Association may have a seal which the Secretary must keep in a secure place unless the Board decides that someone else should look after it. The seal must only be used if the Board decides this. When the seal is used, the deed or document must be signed by the Secretary or a Board Member or another person duly authorised to subscribe the deed or document on the Association's behalf and recorded in the register.

## Registers

- 64 The Association must keep at its registered office a Register containing:
  - 64.1 the names and addresses of the Members and where provided for the purposes of electronic communication, fax numbers and email addresses;
  - 64.2 a statement of the share held by each Member and the amount each Member paid for it;
  - 64.3 the date each person was entered in the Register as a Member and the date at which any person ceased to be a Member of the Association;
  - 64.4 a statement of other property in the Association, whether in loans or loan stock held by each Member; and
  - 64.5 the names and addresses of the Office Bearers of the Association, their positions and the dates they took and left office.
- 65.1 The Association must also keep at its registered office:
  - 65.1.1 a second copy of the Register showing the same details as above but not the statements of shares and property. This second register must be used to confirm the information recorded in the main Register;
  - 65.1.2 a register of loans and to whom they are made; and
  - 65.1.3 a register showing details of all loans and charges on the Association's land.
- 65.2 The inclusion or omission of the name of any person from the original Register of Members shall, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, be conclusive that the person is or is not a Member of the Association.

## Registered Name

- 66 The registered name of the Association must be clearly shown on the outside of every office or place where the Association's business is carried out. The name must also be engraved clearly on the Association's seal and printed on all its business letters, notices, adverts, official publications, website and legal and financial documents.

## Documentation

- 67 The Association's books of account, registers, securities and other documents must be kept at the Association's registered office or any other place the Board decides is secure.
- 68 At the last Board Meeting before the annual general meeting, the Secretary must confirm in writing or by electronic communication to the Board that Rules 62 to 67 have been followed or, if they have not been followed, the reasons for this. The Secretary's confirmation or report must be recorded in the minutes of the Board Meeting.



## **ACCOUNTS**

- 69 The Association must keep proper books of accounts to cover its income, expenditure transactions and its assets, liabilities and reserves in line with Part 7 of the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014. It must also set up and maintain a suitable system for controlling its books of accounts, its cash and its receipts and invoices.
- 70 The Board must send the Association's accounts and balance sheet to the Association's auditor. The auditor must then report to the Association on the accounts it has examined. In doing this, the auditor must follow the conditions set out in Part 7 of the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014 and Part 6 of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2010.
- 71 The Association must provide The Scottish Housing Regulator and the Financial Conduct Authority with a copy of its accounts and the auditor's report within six months of the end of the period to which they relate or such other period as may be permitted by the applicable regulatory authority from time to time.

## **THE AUDITOR**

- 72.1 Each year the Association must appoint, at a general meeting of the Association, a qualified auditor to audit the Association's accounts and balance sheet. In this Rule "qualified auditor" means someone who is a qualified auditor under Section 91 of the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014.
- 72.2 None of the following can act as auditor to the Association:
- 72.2.1 a Board Member or employee of the Association;
  - 72.2.2 a person who is a partner of, or an employee or employer of a Board Member or employee of the Association;
  - 72.2.3 an organisation which is a Member of the Association.
- 73 The Board may appoint an auditor to fill in a casual vacancy occurring between general meetings of the Association. The Board shall take such steps as it considers necessary to ensure the continuing independence of the Association's auditor including the periodic review of the need for audit rotation. The Association must send a copy of its accounts and the auditor's report to The Scottish Housing Regulator within six months of the end of the period to which they relate or such other period as may be permitted by The Scottish Housing Regulator from time to time.
- 74.1 An auditor appointed to act for the Association one year will be re-appointed for the following year unless:
- 74.1.1 a decision has been made at a general meeting to appoint someone else or specifically not to appoint them again;
  - 74.1.2 they have given the Association notice in writing that they do not want to be re-appointed;
  - 74.1.3 they are not a qualified auditor or are excluded under Rule 72.2;
  - 74.1.4 they are no longer capable of acting as Auditor to the Association; or
  - 74.1.5 notice to appoint another Auditor has been given.

- 74.2 To prevent an auditor being re-appointed or to appoint another person as auditor, not less than 28 days' notice must be given to the Association that the matter requires to be discussed at the next meeting of the Association.
- 74.3 The Association shall give notice to the auditor who is to be asked to step down that the matter will be discussed at the next meeting of the Association. If possible the Association will also give proper notice of this matter to the Members but if this is not possible, the Association can give notice by advertising in the local newspaper at least 14 days before the meeting.
- 74.4 The retiring auditor may make representations to the Association or give notice that he/she intends to make representations at the meeting and the Association must tell the Members of any representations made by the auditor under Section 95 of the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014.

## **ANNUAL RETURNS AND BALANCE SHEET**

- 75.1 Every year, within the time allowed by the law, the Secretary shall send to the Financial Conduct Authority the annual return in the form required by the Financial Conduct Authority.
- 75.2 The Secretary must also send:
- 75.2.1 a copy of the auditor's report on the Association's accounts for the period covered by the return; and
  - 75.2.2 a copy of each balance sheet made during that period and of the auditor's report on that balance sheet.
- 76 If requested, the Association must provide a free copy of the latest annual return and auditor's reports to Members or people with a financial interest in the Association.
- 77 The Association must always keep a copy of the latest balance sheet and auditor's report publicly displayed at its registered office.
- 78 The Association must comply with the requests of The Scottish Housing Regulator for annual returns.

## **SURPLUSES AND DONATIONS**

- 79.1 The Association must not distribute its surpluses to Members.
- 79.2 The Board shall set and review periodically its policy for the donation of funds to charities. Such donations must further the objects of the Association and the Board shall report to the Members on such donations.

## **INVESTMENTS**

- 80 The Association's funds may be invested by the Board in such manner as is permitted by its investment policy subject always to the requirement that the Association will comply with the Regulatory Framework and Regulatory Guidance issued by The Scottish Housing Regulator from time to time.

## **INSPECTING THE REGISTER**

- 81 Any Member or person having a financial interest in the Association can inspect their own account. They may also inspect the second copy of the Register of Members which shall be made available to them for inspection within 7 days of the request of a Member or eligible person. The books must be available for inspection at the place they are kept at all reasonable hours. The Board may set conditions for inspecting the books.

## **DISPUTES**

- 82 Every dispute between the Association or the Board and:
- 82.1 a Member;
- 82.2 a person aggrieved who has ceased to be a Member within the previous six months; or
- 82.3 a person claiming under the Rules of the Association,
- shall be dealt with in accordance with these Rules and any procedures determined by the Board from time to time but without prejudice to all rights which any person may have to raise an action on the matter in any court with competent jurisdiction, including without prejudice the Sheriff Court in the Sheriffdom in which the Association's registered office is located.

## **STATUTORY APPLICATIONS TO THE FINANCIAL CONDUCT AUTHORITY**

- 83 Any 10 Members of the Association who have been Members for at least the 12 previous months can apply to the Financial Conduct Authority to appoint an accountant or actuary to inspect and report on the Association's books on payment to the Financial Conduct Authority of the costs required.
- 84.1 One-tenth of the Members can apply to the Financial Conduct Authority to:
- 84.1.1 appoint an inspector to examine and report on the affairs of the Association; or
- 84.1.2 call a special general meeting of the Association.
- 84.2 If there are more than 1000 Members in the Association, only 100 Members need to apply to the Financial Conduct Authority in terms of Rule 84.1.

## **COPIES OF RULES**

- 85 The Secretary shall, on demand, provide a copy of the Rules of the Association free of charge to any Member who has not previously been given a copy and, upon payment of such fee as the Association may require, not exceeding the amount specified by law, to any other person.

## **CLOSING DOWN THE ASSOCIATION**

- 86.1 The Association may be closed down in either of the following ways:
- 86.1.1 by an order or resolution to wind up the Association as set out in the Insolvency Act 1986; or
  - 86.1.2 in accordance with Section 119 of the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014, by an instrument of dissolution to which not less than three-fourths of the Members have given their consent testified by their signatures to the instrument.
- 86.2 The prior approval of the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator is required before the Association can be dissolved. The Association must submit its application for approval to the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator not less than 42 days before the date on which the Association intends to dissolve.
- 87 If any property remains after the Association has paid its debts, this property will be transferred to such other charitable registered social landlord as determined by The Scottish Housing Regulator.

## **CHANGING THE RULES**

- 88.1 Any changes to these Rules shall require the prior written approval of the Parent and, subject to such consent, these Rules can be changed or deleted and new Rules can be introduced if three-quarters of the votes at a special general meeting are in favour of the change(s).
- 88.2 Where an amendment of these Rules affects the purposes of the Association the prior approval of the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator is required. The Association must submit its application for approval to the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator not less than 42 days before the date on which the Association intends to amend its purposes. Any other amendment of these Rules requires to be notified to them within three months of the change having been made.
- 88.3 The Association must apply to the Financial Conduct Authority to register every rule change as set out in treasury regulations. Each Member must receive a copy of the change. No change is valid until it has been registered by the Financial Conduct Authority. The Association must notify The Scottish Housing Regulator within 28 days of the change or amendment being made.
- 88.4 The Association can change its name if:
- 88.4.1 three-quarters of the votes at a special general meeting are in favour of the change;
  - 88.4.2 the Financial Conduct Authority approves the change in writing;
  - 88.4.3 the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator has given its prior approval. The Association must submit its application for approval to the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator not less than 42 days before the date on which the Association intends to change its name; and
  - 88.4.4 the Parent approves the change in writing.
- 88.5 If the Association changes its name in terms of Rule 88.4 it must notify The Scottish Housing Regulator in writing within 28 days of the change being made.

- 88.6 The Association can change its registered office but must:
- 88.6.1 notify The Scottish Housing Regulator of the change in registered office within 28 days of the decision having been made;
  - 88.6.2 notify the Financial Conduct Authority as soon as possible after the change in registered office has been made;
  - 88.6.3 notify the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator within three months of the change having been made; and
  - 88.6.4 obtain the prior written approval from the Parent.

## **INTERPRETING THESE RULES**

- 89 In these Rules, the following words and phrases have the meanings given below:
- 89.1 "A person claiming through a Member": includes an heir executor assignee or nominee. This heading would be used in connection with disputes about the transfer of a Member's share after his death. It would also cover executors of a former Member.
  - 89.2 "Association" means the registered social landlord referred to in Rule 1 whose Rules these are.
  - 89.3 "Board" means the Board of Management (or such other term that is used by the Association to denote the governing body of the Association) referred to in Rule 37.1.
  - 89.4 "Board Meeting" means a meeting of the Board.
  - 89.5 "Board Member" means a member of the Board.
  - 89.6 "Chairperson" means the Chairperson of the Association (or such other term that is used by the Association to denote the holder of this office) referred to in Rule 59.1.
  - 89.7 "charitable" means both charitable under section 7 of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and also in relation to the application of the Taxes Acts.
  - 89.8 "clear days" excludes, in relation to the period of a notice, the day after the notice is posted (or, in the case of a notice sent by electronic communication, the day after it was sent) and also the day of the meeting.
  - 89.9 "Close Relative" means someone who is the spouse or civil partner of a person, or (being either of the same or different sex) who cohabits with that person, or is that person's parent, grandparent, child, stepchild, grandchild, brother or sister.
  - 89.10 "electronic communication" has the meaning given in the Electronic Communications Act 2000.
  - 89.11 "Financial Conduct Authority" means the registering authority for societies registered under the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014 and the Credit Unions Act 1979 set up in terms of the Financial Services Act 2012 or its successor body.
  - 89.12 "Group" means the Parent, the Association and any Subsidiary from time to time.

- 89.13 "Group Agreement" means the written agreement from time to time between the Association and the Parent in relation to the objectives and operation of the Group.
- 89.14 "Guarantee" means any guarantee and includes any obligation (including as primary obligor), including a contract of indemnity or suretyship, however described, to pay, satisfy, provide funds for the payment or satisfaction of (including, without limitation, by advance of money, purchase of or subscription for securities and purchase of assets or services), indemnify against the consequences of default in the payment of, or otherwise be responsible for, any indebtedness of any Subsidiary or any other person.
- 89.15 "Independent Board Member" means a Board Member who is neither a Tenant Board Member nor the Parent Appointee.
- 89.16 "Meeting" means a general meeting of the Association, whether special, general or annual referred to in Rules 20-23.
- 89.17 "Member" means a member of the Association whose name is entered in the Register of Members.
- 89.18 "Office Bearer" means the Chairperson, Secretary, and such other Officer Bearer appointed under Rule 59.1.
- 89.19 "Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator" means the body set up under the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 to regulate charities in Scotland.
- 89.20 "organisation" means a legal body which exists separately and distinctly from its members and includes companies, building societies, community benefit societies, local authorities and so on and also for the purposes of these Rules includes unincorporated organisations such as social clubs, branches of political parties or trade unions and other voluntary bodies.
- 89.21 "Parent" means Wheatley Housing Group Limited, a company incorporated in Scotland (company number SC426094), a registered social landlord (registration number 363) and having its registered office at Wheatley House, 25 Cochrane Street, Glasgow, G1 1HL.
- 89.22 "property" includes everything which can be passed on by inheritance (including loans, certificates, books and papers).
- 89.23 "Register of Members" means the register of members referred to in Rule 64.
- 89.24 "Rules" means the registered Rules of the Association.
- 89.25 "The Scottish Housing Regulator" means The Scottish Housing Regulator as established pursuant to Section 1 of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2010.
- 89.26 "Secretary" means the Office Bearer appointed by the Board to be the Secretary of the Association or anyone authorised by the Board to stand in for the Secretary.
- 89.27 "Subsidiary" means an organisation which is a subsidiary of either the Association or the Parent within the meaning of Section 164 of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2010.

- 89.28 "Taxes Acts" means Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 as read with Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and any statute or statutory provision which amends, extends, consolidates or replaces the same.
- 89.29 "Tenant Board Member" means a Board Member who is appointed to the Board pursuant to these Rules and is a residential tenant of the Association from time to time occupying a residential property let by the Association under a Scottish secure tenancy or a short Scottish secure tenancy.
- 89.30 Words in the singular also include the plural. Words in the plural also include the singular.
- 89.31 A reference to law or statute is a reference to that law or statute as re-enacted, amended or replaced.

## APPENDIX 1

### PROXY FORM

You must use the wording shown below to appoint a representative to vote at a meeting for you. Please see Rule 27.1 for more details.

I (insert name) am a member of (insert name) \_\_\_\_\_ Limited.

My address is: (please insert).

I hereby appoint (insert name) who lives at (insert address) to be my representative and vote for me at the Association's meeting on (insert date) and any other dates that meeting continues on.

Your name \_\_\_\_\_

Your signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



## APPENDIX 2

### CANCELLATION OF PROXY

You must use the wording shown below to reverse your application to send a representative to vote at a meeting for you. Please see Rule 27.4 for more details.

I (insert name) am a member of (insert name) \_\_\_\_\_ Limited.

My address is: (please insert).

I hereby revoke the appointment of (insert name) as my representative to vote for me at the Association's meeting on (insert date) made by me on the (insert date).

I no longer authorise the person referred to above to represent me at the meeting referred to above.

Your name \_\_\_\_\_

Your signature \_\_\_\_\_

## SIGNATURE OF BOARD MEMBERS

Date

29/9/20

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

Members

Secretary