![Glasgow and West of Scotland Forum of Housing Associations - GWSF]

GWSF's strategic priorities 2019/20

A) Main priority areas

Priority 1 – The CCHA contribution: To promote the positive contribution which CCHAs make and want to continue making to improving their communities

- We will produce a further report comparing CCHAs' Charter performance with that of other landlords
- We will highlight opportunities to see the role of CCHAs enhanced and expanded, particularly in the context of the community empowerment and 'Democracy Matters' agendas
- We will use our collective strength to offer advice and support to any association or individual committee or staff member who seeks advice about regulatory or other issues being faced
- We will highlight specific threats facing the movement and our communities, including from any organisations which seek to criticise CCHAs unjustly or inappropriately, involving our Campaign Group wherever possible
- We will use the Regeneration Conference and Annual Conference to promote the work CCHAs do in their communities

Priority 2 – Challenges of investing in existing stock: To build on the work we began in 2018-19 to highlight the barriers facing associations in improving and repairing tenements and other mixed tenure stock

- We will publish a new report which includes the findings of our 2018 membership survey and case study examples of both barriers and solutions
- We will continue to use the Scottish Government's 'Housing Beyond 2021' consultative processes to call for a new focus on investment in private housing in communal blocks
- We will continue to highlight the significant benefits of using mainstream housing supply funding to support acquisitions and buy-backs where this gives associations greater or full control over flatted blocks

Priority 3 – Regulation and governance: To continue to influence the regulatory framework to ensure that it serves the sector effectively, fairly and proportionately

- We will liaise closely with members to monitor the implementation of the revised regulatory framework
- This includes a particular focus on the requirement, from October 2019, to produce the first annual assurance statement

- It also includes continuing to raise with SHR any concerns over the way in which it uses its existing intervention powers, and over its annual assessment process for all associations
- We will continue to support members to ensure that community control is strengthened through rigorous standards of governance and financial management

Priority 4 – Investment in new housing: To ensure as far as possible that CCHAs can maximise their contribution to creating new housing supply
- We will continue to monitor the extent to which CCHAs are making the contribution they want to make, in the face of competition from larger regional and national associations
- We will gather feedback from members on other barriers to maximising their development contribution, including the suitability of current subsidy levels in the face of increasingly demanding design standards
- Specifically in Glasgow we will continue to work with the Council and with members to improve the efficiency with which the development programme is administered and the CCHA contribution maximised

Priority 5 – Freedom of Information: To support members to prepare for and implement the extension of FOI to housing associations
- To work with the Information Commissioner for Scotland, SFHA and other bodies to co-ordinate the provision of appropriate support and guidance
- To consider, in conjunction with SFHA, the need for additional, bespoke guidance for members commissioned by the two organisations

Priority 6 – Housing's role in health and social care: To promote the critical contribution CCHAs make to the provision of preventative support, and to work with the integrated health and social care bodies to reinforce the CCHA contribution
- This includes contributing to negotiations over funding for preventative services run by CCHAs and/or their third sector partners

Priority 7 – Community regeneration: To continue to provide a forum for CCHAs to share experience and good practice in community regeneration
- We will continue to administer the Community Regeneration Learning Network, which brings our members together with other associations and third sector bodies
- We will continue to press for maximised funding opportunities, including the Aspiring Communities Fund, which come to CCHAs direct from the Scottish Government rather than through councils or other intermediaries
- We will explore ways in which the role of CCHAs can be enhanced in the context of the community empowerment agenda and the focus on the value of community anchor organisations

Priority 8 – Universal Credit and welfare reform: In conjunction with GWSF's Campaign Group, to monitor the impact of the first stages of rollout of Full Service Universal Credit

- One focus will be on the Scottish Government's UC flexibilities, in particular on practical issues around the implementation of the power to make direct landlord payments and to make twice-monthly payments
- In Glasgow in particular we will seek opportunities for members to liaise with key officials in the City Council's Financial Inclusion Unit and within the new Scottish Social Security Agency

Priority 9 – Homelessness: We will support members in their engagement with local authorities to ensure that the CCHA contribution to preventing and tackling homelessness is as effective as possible

- This includes the renewed focus on housing homeless people as quickly as possible, following preparation of local authorities' Rapid Rehousing Transition Plans at the end of 2018
- Specifically in Glasgow we will continue to work closely with members and with the Council, Health and Social Care Partnership and third sector organisations to bring about improvements in the homelessness service highlighted as necessary by the Scottish Housing Regulator in 2018, and to support CCHAs to respond positively to system changes and improvements

B) Further work areas

In addition to the Forum's main priorities, we will also represent members' interests in a number of other important policy areas, including the following:

- **Access to housing** – allocations, refugee issues, housing for offenders etc., with some of this work being specific to Glasgow
- **Tenancy changes** – ensuring members have appropriate information and guidance on changes to the Scottish Secure Tenancy regime
- **Rents** – including our annual survey of prospective rent increases, and a potential focus on members' experiences of rent harmonisation
- **Fire safety** – including providing opportunities for members to share experiences of implementation plans for new standards
- **Promoting digital inclusion** – including updating/building on our Digital Toolkit.