

## **Berneslai Homes Audit & Risk Committee 25 January 2024 – Meeting Summary:**

<b>Corporate assurance activity report</b>
Committee received a report which provided a reasonable assurance opinion for 2023/24 based on the progress and outcomes of the assurance work carried out by the BMBC Corporate Assurance Team. It highlighted the key issues and implications from 4 reviews completed in the quarter.
<b>Repairs approach to investment 2024/25</b>
Committee received a comprehensive presentation which explained the reasons for the backlog of repairs and maintenance works and the plans to clear them by reducing the Barnsley Homes Standard Programme for 2024/25 whilst assurance was given that decency would still be maintained. Committee discussed the key risks and implications, such as increased complaints, disrepair claims, and void rent loss. Committee requested updates on a quarterly basis.
<b>Risk report quarterly update (including RSH Sector Risk Profile)</b>
Committee received and commented on the report which provided a summary of the strategic risks and the level of concern for each one. It also included the annual self-assessment against the RSH Sector Risk Profile, which shows how Berneslai Homes is mitigating the risks identified by the Regulator. Committee requested an update of the sector risk profile mitigations which each quarter update moving forward.
<b>Annual governance report (including KPIs and Register of Interests, Gifts &amp; Hospitality)</b>
Committee received a report which provided an update on the governance indicators, such as attendance, equality monitoring, and registers of interests and gifts. It recommended and Committee agreed to increasing the attendance target to 90% and publishing the Board Member Register of Interests on the website.
<b>Audit and Risk Committee annual report (including review of terms of reference)</b>
Committee noted the report which provided an annual overview of the activities and achievements of the Audit and Risk Committee in 2023/24 and identifies areas for further development. It also reviewed the Terms of Reference, and it was proposed and agreed to add business continuity as a responsibility which will be put forward to Berneslai Homes Board for approval. It was agreed to increase the number of face-to-face meetings with the October Committee invite being updated to reflect this.

**Building Safety Compliance Scorecard**

A presentation was given to update Committee on the performance of BH in delivering key services as set out in the Building Safety Scorecard as at the end of December 2023 and provided a high-level summary of the report. Compliance remained strong with an average compliance against the 7 key compliances areas of 99.18% (a slight increase from 99.13% in October). 100% compliance achieved on fire, gas, asbestos, non-domestic legionella and fire safety equipment. There are no overdue electrical or water actions. The Housing Ombudsman's status that "no access is not an excuse" with regard to damp and mould was discussed together with Berneslai Homes' response that if warranty of entry is granted on EICRs, it will be used on damp and mould where there are severe cases and 3 attempts have been made for access. Committee noted Berneslai Homes performance in delivering overall building safety and thanked the Team on the progress made.

**New Repairs System Implementation Update**

An update was given on the current position and progress to date with the aim for the system to go live on 31/1/24. However, Committee were advised that this may be delayed until some technical issues had been resolved. KS will keep Committee informed if the intended go live date will be met.

**Write off Irrecoverable Debts Annual Schedule**

A report was presented which provided a summary of Berneslai Homes' irrecoverable debts and stock written off during 2023/24. The report set out irrecoverable debts and stock value written off by the Executive Management Team under the Company's Finance Regulations to the value of £37,957.36. Details of the individual debts were provided for Committee's information. It was noted that a review and update of stock take, and control procedures has also been requested.

**Information Governance and Security Compliance Update**

Committee reviewed a report which provided assurance on the information governance activity being undertaken within Berneslai Homes and that the organisation was compliant with all aspects of IG legislation, regulation, and codes of practice. Committee to be updated on future Data Protection Officer arrangements. No additional information for assurance was requested.