

## **PORT OF LEITH HOUSING ASSOCIATION**

### **SUSTAINABILITY POLICY**

#### **1.0 Vision Statement**

Port of Leith Housing Association's (PoLHA) stated ambition is:

To make Leith the best place to be.

#### **2.0 The Association's Sustainability Objectives**

Port of Leith Housing Association believes that an appropriate approach to improving its performance will bring direct social, environmental and economic benefit across its activities and is committed to achieving the objectives stated below:

- To ensure that development meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- To take a step up in the quality of built development in order to create a resource efficient, healthy environment.
- To contribute to minimising adverse environmental impacts and minimise future liabilities for the Association.
- To deliver best value.
- To demonstrate commitment to the ethos of sustainability and of responsible global citizenship.
- To engage with tenants and communities in scheme designs.
- To minimise fuel poverty and improve the quality of life for tenants/ end users.
- To contribute to the achievement of local, national and international objectives with respect to sustainable development.
- To maintain the reputation of PoLHA.
- To Influence the process of commissioning and procurement nationally to ensure that sustainable development is a full consideration.
- To work with responsible providers.
- To contribute towards achieving the Scottish Government's targets established by the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 and City of Edinburgh Council's vision for Edinburgh as contained within its document 'Sustainable Edinburgh 2020', 2011 and the 'Sustainable Edinburgh 2020 Action Plan 2012-14' which was approved in March 2012.

### 3.0 Methodology and Implementation

PoLHA's approach to raising standards is to ensure that sustainability is fully incorporated in to all the Association's activities. This includes the Newbuild Design Guide, the forthcoming PoLHA Home Standard and the Sustainability Action Plan covering wider corporate activities. The scope of activities includes:

- **Supporting communities** - identifying and meeting the real needs, requirements and aspirations of communities and stakeholders and involving them in key decisions;
- **Using resources effectively** - not consuming a disproportionate amount of money, energy, water or materials; not causing unnecessary waste due to poor design, inefficiency or less than best-practice; and ensuring that all products and materials consumed are affordable, manageable and maintainable in use;
- **Enhancing biodiversity** - not using materials that threaten species or habitats and improving natural habitats through appropriate planting and water use;
- **Minimising pollution** - creating minimum dependence on polluting materials, management practices, energy and transport;
- **Creating healthy environments** - enhancing living, leisure and work environments; not endangering the health of the staff, residents, contractors and the wider community through exposure to pollutants or toxic materials or harmful organisms.

The Sustainability Action Plan is reviewed on an annual basis with suggested future actions reviewed by the Senior Management Team before inclusion.

### 4.0 Policy Review

This policy is part of a range of documents which will be reviewed on a regular basis:

A. Asset Management Policy Statement	5 yearly review
B. New Build Design Guide	2 yearly review
C. PoLHA Home Standard	TBA when published
D. Sustainability Action Plan	1 yearly review