

Statutory auditors’ report to Apex Housing Association Limited

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Apex Housing Association Limited (“the Association”) and its consolidated undertakings (“the Group”) for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise: the Consolidated and Association Statements of Comprehensive Income, the Consolidated and Association Statements of Changes in Reserves, the Consolidated and Association Statements of Financial Position and the Consolidated Cash Flow Statement and the related notes, which include a description of the significant accounting policies.

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Standards including Financial Reporting Standard 102 ‘The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland’ (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and the Housing SORP – Statement of Recommended Practice for Social Housing Providers.

In our opinion, the Consolidated and Association financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the Group and of the Association as at 31 March 2024 and of the income and expenditure of the Group and of the Association for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 (formerly the Industrial and Provident Societies Act (Northern Ireland) 1969), the Housing (Northern Ireland) Order 1992, the Registered Housing Associations (Accounting Requirements) Order (Northern Ireland) 1993, the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and Regulation 9 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (“ISAs (UK)”) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under ISAs (UK) are further described in the auditors’ responsibility for the audit of the financial statements section of our report.

We are independent of the Group and the Association in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council’s Ethical Standard and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Board’s use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Group or the Association’s ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Board with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report other than the financial statements and our auditors' report thereon. The Board is responsible for the other information contained within the Annual Report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements, or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In light of our knowledge and understanding of the Group and the Association obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Report of the Board and the Strategic Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities (Northern Ireland) Act 2008 and Regulation 9 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Report of the Board and the Strategic Report is inconsistent in any material respect;
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept;
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations required to complete our audit.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Under the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 (formerly the Industrial and Provident Societies Act (Northern Ireland) 1969) are required to report to you if, in our opinion:

- a satisfactory system of control over transactions has not been maintained; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- proper accounting records have not been kept by the Association; or
- the Association's financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of the Board

As explained more fully in the Board's Statement of Responsibilities on page 15, the Board of Management is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable framework and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. The Board of Management is also responsible for such internal control as it determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Board is responsible for assessing the Group's and the Association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless they either intend to liquidate the Group and the Association or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditors' responsibility for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or

in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

We considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the Group and the Association for fraud and identified the greatest potential for fraud in the following areas: management override of controls relating to posting of journals. To address this risk we discussed the risks with client management and designed audit procedures to test sample of journals to confirm they were appropriate.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditors' report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the Board in accordance with section 43 of the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 (formerly the Industrial and Provident Societies Act (Northern Ireland) 1969) and article 19 of The Housing (Northern Ireland) Order 1992. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Board those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Association and the Board, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



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18 September 2024