

AGENDA ITEM:	5g
TO:	Management Committee
PREPARED BY:	Linda Sichi (Deputy CEO)
SUBJECT:	SUSTAINABILITY POLICY
DATE OF MEETING:	14 07 October 2023
APPROVED BY:	Paul Martin (CEO)

# SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

**LS/May 2024/Ref: P98**



## **1. POLICY AIM**

- 1.1 The aim of this policy is to set out the key principles in Milnbank Housing Association's (MHA) approach to sustainability in building and the environment, our community and in the workplace.
- 1.2 MHA aims to provide excellent housing and services in the Dennistoun and Haghill community. The Association believe that people living in our community should have a warm, safe, and affordable home and receive an excellent service.
- 1.3 The Management Committee is aware of its corporate social responsibility towards operating in a sustainable and green way and will endeavour to promote good practice and develop a long-term sustainability strategy.
- 1.4 MHA endeavours to promote to staff and the community a culture that focuses on the economic, social, and environmental improvement of our area to sustain the communities of today and the future.
- 1.5 MHA endeavours to meet targets relating to areas like the transition to net zero standards, Scottish Housing Quality Standard (SHQS), and compliance with the Energy Efficiency for Scottish Social Housing (ESSH).

## **2. KEY PRINCIPLE: SUSTAINABILITY IN BUILDINGS AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

- 3.1 The sustainability focus of our development and maintenance activities will be on the following areas:
- 3.2 Reduce the carbon footprint of our operations: ensuring that MHA's activities reduce waste, energy consumption and minimise CO2 emissions. MHA seeks to integrate sustainability measures at all stages of the process including decisions on location, mix and function of projects; layout, design, and specification; the most effective forms of procurement; construction methods; material specification; energy sources and energy efficiency; the future use and maintenance of the buildings; waste management and site management. We will seek to influence the sustainability practices of our contractors and where appropriate include sustainability targets within contract conditions.
- 3.3 Reduce Residents' Energy Consumption: we will provide advice to support to reduce fuel consumption whilst enabling residents to remain safe and warm. This will inform improvement works and include provision of various forms of learning and information.
- 3.4 Reduce low life cycle products where possible: we will seek to use components in our new build developments, and in our planned replacement programme, that have long lifespans and deliver energy efficient solutions during their lifetime.

- 3.5 Reduce waste: we will encourage and participate in recycling activities for both our residents and our office to recycle as much as possible. We will also ensure that goods are re-used as far as possible by supporting and participating in schemes that promote this.
- 3.6 Make the best use of green space: where possible, MHA will encourage a range of planting and growing to increase biodiversity across our area of operation. This includes engaging with residents in the use of their open spaces and where quality of open spaces is poor, we will work with residents to undertake improvements.
- 3.7 Manage water efficiently: we will work to reduce water consumption and encourage residents to do the same. We will seek to use components in our new build developments, and in our planned replacement programme, that limit water usage where possible (e.g. flow-restricted showers).

#### **4. KEY PRINCIPLE: SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES**

- 4.1 MHA will contribute to the establishing and the enhancement of sustainable communities through the following:
- 4.2 Provide homes that people want to live in, both now and in the future
- 4.3 Promote social inclusion within balanced and socially diverse communities.
- 4.4 Promote and participate in the development of community facilities and with a focus within neighbourhoods.
- 4.5 Work with stakeholders and other partner agencies to engender a sense of ownership and responsibility to promote safer and healthier communities.
- 4.6 Promote and create opportunities for the development of skills and enhancement of knowledge within communities and promote local employment initiatives.
- 4.7 Promote and participating in partnership working with other organisations and agencies to ensure effective delivery of services to local people.

#### **5. KEY PRINCIPLE: SUSTAINABILITY IN THE WORKPLACE**

- 5.1 The sustainability focus of MHA's activities within the workplace will be in the following areas:
- 5.2 Reduce the carbon footprint of our operations: we will ensure that our activities reduce waste, reduce energy consumption, and minimise CO2 emissions.
- 5.3 Achieve best VFM through consideration of quality and whole life costs of goods and services purchased.

- 5.4 Reduce waste: through encouraging and participate in recycling activities for our residents and our own operations to reduce consumption and encourage recycling as much as possible. We will also ensure that goods are re-used as far as possible by supporting and participating in schemes that promote this.
- 5.5 Where possible, we will start to set targets and measure progress in terms of deliverable outcomes such as carbon emissions and identify actions we need to take to make improvements.

## **6. EQUALITIES & HUMAN RIGHTS**

- 6.1 MHA aims to ensure that all services, including the delivery of the Sustainability Policy, provide equality of opportunity. MHA will respond to the different needs and service requirements of individuals, and we will not discriminate against any individual for any reason outlined in Equality & Human Rights Legislation.

## **7. DATA COLLECTION**

- 7.1 MHA will manage all personal data in accordance with our obligations under the GDPR regulations and the Association's Policy.

## **8. MONITORING & REVIEW OF POLICY**

- 8.1 The Sustainability Policy will be reviewed by the Management Committee every three years in line with the Business Plan updates, or as otherwise deemed necessary.