

BUSINESS PLAN 2024-2027

Date of Review: October 2023-March 2024

Date of Approval:

Date of Next Review: October 2026

Craigdale Housing Association can provide this document on request, in different languages and formats, including Braille and audio formats.

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Business Plan (the Plan) covers the three years from 2024 to 2027. It is a key strategic document, which communicates our mission statement, vision and values, together with the overall strategic direction and ambition of the Association.

The plan is primarily an internal document, serving several functions:

- helping us to understand the opportunities and threats inherent in our operating environment as well as our own internal strengths and weaknesses;
- clarifying and communicating our strategic objectives and priorities and setting out the key actions we will take to achieve these objectives;
- demonstrating that we have the resources necessary to carry out these actions and helping us to identify and mitigate any risks we face in delivering these actions;
- providing a strategic overview for our plans;
- providing a strategic objective framework with which we can monitor our progress and measure our success; and
- providing a framework for action, which communicates to staff, tenants, customers and other key stakeholders what the Association aims to achieve over the 3 years of the Plan.

Much has changed since our last business plan was agreed. We all recognise the challenges we have faced together caused by the Covid 19 pandemic and the subsequent cost of living crisis. One thing we can assure tenants is that the Board and staff at Craigdale will always endeavour to put tenant's safety first and work tirelessly to protect the well-being of our tenants.

During the period of the last business plan Craigdale have increased our stock by 10%, bringing the total number of properties to 407 (as at February 2024). Most notable was the completion of our first new build properties in over 15 years at Carmunnock Road. These were built on the site of the former Castlemilk parish church. There are 36 two and three apartment properties and include 3 purpose built wheelchair flats. We have also delivered the award winning Craigdale Cares initiative. This goes above and beyond normal landlord functions and gives added support to our tenants when they need it most. We also started the Lens project which saw an active camera club start up with equipment funded by the Association.

Since formation in 1988, Craigdale has built a solid tradition of driving positive change in the Castlemilk community through housing led regeneration and excellent service provision. This will continue throughout the duration of this Business Plan.

The Business Plan focuses on providing first class housing management services and maintaining properties to a high standard in line with targets set by the Scottish Government. Our focus remains on the long-term financial health, governance, independence and viability of the Association ensuring strong leadership, cultural values and value for money are key factors in our service delivery.

The Board continues to drive forward and further develop a positive change culture. The Business Plan aims to ensure this programme of change and improvement is implemented effectively to support excellent and sustainable services to our tenants.

To achieve this, an updated set of interlinked strategic objectives have been set; underpinned by clear delivery plans. The Strategic Objectives reflect the opportunities and threats we face in the evolving external environment in which we operate and the current internal strengths and weaknesses of the Association.

2. OUR PURPOSE

In October 2023 the Board and Staff met to review and if needed refresh our Mission Statement, Vision and Values. The overwhelming feeling is that they are still relevant and that we are happy that the mission statement, vision and values still adequate reflect Craigdale HA.

2.1 Mission Statement

We are passionate about providing excellent affordable homes and services for our community

2.2 Vision

Changing Lives for the Better

2.3 Values

Our core values are:

Respect - We will treat people with courtesy, politeness and kindness; recognising that people have rights, opinions and experiences

Openness – We will be transparent and accountable in all our actions, and decision-making

Trust – We will be honest; objective; consistent; open and lead by example in everything we do

Listening – We will actively listen to what people tell us.

Informing our Plan

In developing this Business Plan, we have taken account of business planning guidance published by the Scottish Housing Regulator (December 2015). This guidance was supplemented by <u>additional guidance in 2020</u>, regarding the implications of the Covid 19 pandemic and the post pandemic landscape on the business planning process.

Our planning process involved;

- o business planning workshops with board members and staff;
- o telephone interviews with several local stakeholders;
- o all staff involved in a consultation session: and
- o consideration of our most recent tenant satisfaction surveys

3. BACKGROUD

3.1 Brief History

Craigdale is registered under the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014, is a Scottish Registered Charity and registered with the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) and a Registered Social Landlord (RSL) with the Scottish Housing Regulator (SHR) in accordance with the Housing (Scotland) Act 2001. Our services are provided for the benefit of our tenants and customers.

Craigdale was originally formed to receive the transfer of 66 houses from Glasgow City Council in 1988. The first task was to improve the quality of the stock and this was achieved through a programme of comprehensive tenemental improvements. Upon completion, we then embarked on demolitions, site acquisitions and new build developments, which led to an increase in stock to the current level all within the community of Castlemilk West. The last new build development was completed in 2007.

Our asset base is made up of 407 self-contained houses and three shared ownership properties. The stock was acquired through 10 phases of new build development our latest being completed in February 2023 and the refurbishment of existing tenement buildings. A small number of privately owned properties are factored. The office is in the heart of the community and is fully accessible to visitors following a comprehensive upgrade, completed in 2020 and is owned outright.

Of the 407 rented properties, 267 are unencumbered meaning that there is the ability to raise private finance on these properties in the future to either add to or improve our properties.

In terms of performance, Craigdale is one of the top performing Housing Associations in Scotland. When comparing with both our local neighbours and RSL's of a similar size we consistently have higher or parallel performance as reported in the Annual Return on the Charter (ARC) to the SHR. Craigdale delivers a highly successful Welfare Benefit and Money Advice service in partnership with Southside Housing Association, with an overall aim to support our tenants by maximising income and ensuring our tenants access benefits and receive good financial advice. Over the life

of the last business this service has undertaken 1060 appointments some telephone during the pandemic but mostly face to face and has seen people's incomes increased by £862,896.

Craigdale's reputation as a caring social landlord has been enhanced over the years within the community through an annual programme of community events, which are highly popular and enjoyed by our tenants, the wider community, board members and staff.

3.2 Our Board

Craigdale is led by a Board made up of local tenants and other individuals with an interest in the aims of the Association. Each Board member brings particular skills and experience to the governing body. The Board are tasked with making the key decisions about the Association's direction and provide challenge and oversight of the staff team to ensure that all decisions and services are provided and delivered in the best interests of our tenants and customers.

The Board is supported in its work by three committees:

Operational Services Committee meets bi-annually and has the remit of overseeing the Association's housing management, maintenance, community engagement services and also factoring services to home owners.

Staffing Committee meets when required with the remit of overseeing the Association's role in relation to staffing issues.

Audit & Assurance Committee meets quarterly and has the remit of providing validation to the Board that management systems and controls in place are effective for internal and external audit. The Audit and Assurance Committee also has responsibility for organisational development, health and safety management, risk management, developing the Annual Assurance Statement, finance and the promotion of equal opportunities in its role as an employer.

3.3 Our Staff

Our small staff team of 9 is led by the Association's most senior officer; the Chief Executive Officer who is responsible for supporting the Board and inspiring and leading the staff team, to deliver our services and improvement plans, as we move into an exciting and challenging few years and beyond. All members of staff are passionate about their roles and we are committed to staff development.

The staff team provide housing, factoring, maintenance, community engagement and environmental services. Our team also lead on a wide range of annual community events and have an excellent relationship with tenants as demonstrated through our tenant satisfaction surveys.

3.4 Our Operating Area

The Association's properties are all located in Castlemilk, which shows features of multiple deprivations as detailed within the latest Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) published in 2020. This Index identifies areas of greater need for support and intervention. Craigdale's area of operation ranks in the top 10% most deprived in health, income, employment and education. Despite this, Craigdale has an excellent record on performance and participation within the community. Craigdale also provides financial assistance to the Community Pantry to help to address food poverty and inequalities in the area.

As of 31 March 2024 Craigdale had a turnover of 9% of voids for our lettable properties for the year. There are currently no low demand properties within our stock profile however in the past we have had issues with refusals in of some 3 apartment tenement properties. This will continue to be closely monitored.

4. ANALYSIS OF OUR OPERATING ENVIRONMENT

To assist us in the setting of this Business Plan we have to take cognisance of the environment in which we operate. We have considered:

- the current and future issues relating to our external operating environment and implications;
- the impact of COVID 19 and subsequent cost of living crisis on our operating environment;
- our strengths and weaknesses and how we can build on these strengths and deal with areas for improvement; and
- the risks we face and how best to address these in terms of being able to avoid, mitigate or manage each risk

The purpose of doing this is to align the Association to the changing environment; to manage threats and take advantage of opportunities that further our Strategic Objectives. Our operating environment is constantly changing and we have faced enormous challenges since 2020, which may impact on our operations for years to come.

A summary of the areas we have considered in detail are noted below.

4.1 Political, Economic, Social, Technical, Legal & Environmental (PESTLE) Analysis



Political/Legal	Social
 Govt. target for 110,000 new homes by 2032 not on target EESSH 2 SHR Regulatory Framework BREXIT IndyRef2 Living wage Procurement Regulations Data Protection Regulations Restrictions in Local Government budgets Homelessness emergency declared in Glasgow Government 2050 net zero targets 	 Demographic changes Operating in one of the most disadvantaged Scottish Index of Multiple Depravation area's Growth of older & very old population Health inequalities Isolation and Mental Health issues Youth profile in Castlemilk Rising tenant & customer expectations Reputation of neighbourhood Need for greater partnership working Demand for social and affordable housing IT literacy amongst tenants
Economic/Environmental	Technological
 Uncertainty caused by cost of living crisis Rising and uncertain Inflation Cost of living crisis Austerity cuts (UK, Scottish Government and impact on Council funding) Unemployment Inequality and poverty Unprecedented levels of fuel poverty driven by rising energy prices SHAPS pension valuation House price inflation Climate change Increasing business costs due to rising energy prices Planning and costs to meet 2050 net zero targets Changes to Universal Credit 	 Home/ mobile working for staff ICT requirements for on-line services Digital Inclusion and connectivity Innovations in energy efficiency Improved performance management systems Increased use of mobile technology & social media Better use of SDM ICT support for Board members

The Scottish Government has produced 'Housing to 2040' this is the vision for housing in Scotland to 2040 and its route map to get there . Many of the challenges identified by the Scottish Government are relevant to Craigdale and our tenants.

Key challenges include:

- Providing more affordable housing and reduce running costs;
- Reducing homelessness in Glasgow;
- Addressing the needs of an older population where life expectancy is becoming higher;

- Responding to the growing number of households and people who live alone;
 and
- Mitigating against climate change and reducing carbon footprint

Our Business plan recognises these challenges, and we will participate fully in further discussions with the Scottish Government about the future issues facing housing until 2040.

4.2 Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) Analysis

The following is a summary of our SWOT analysis.

SWOT Analysis

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
 Excellent financial position High performance in service delivery High levels of tenant satisfaction Local knowledge, skills & commitment of voluntary Board Stable, highly motivated experienced staff Clear vision, mission & values Stable community in which we operate Strong, affordable asset base Adaptable to the changing environment Commitment to on-going learning Full SHQS/EESSH compliance Welfare and Money Advice Service Ability to buy-in specialist services Local partnership with Castlemilk RSL's Member of Community Pantry 	 Land availability in Castlemilk Low level engagement with factored owners Limited strategy to embrace 'green/climate change agenda' Limited activities of Tenants Panel Development of community engagement strategy Number of procedures which need to be updated Large number of tenants who are not digitally enabled
OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
 Develop partnerships with Glasgow City Council & other RSLs - smarter working Purchase 'one-off' properties Economic downturn - leading to increasingly competitive prices from customers Attract new Board members with key skills Work with GCC on neighbourhood management issues e.g. environment, recycling Tackling social exclusion, create employment & training opportunities for local residents through community engagement projects On-line services & digital inclusion 	 Changes to benefits which may lead to reduced income for tenants Increased rent arrears & void loss <50% of income from benefits Brexit implications Economic downturn Demographics/stock profile may mismatch with profile of demand Owners within estates not contributing to works Compliance requirements regarding fire safety Regulation - Homelessness Tenancy sustainment Regulation - impact on Board members Apathy of tenants

- Work with tenants on developing innovation ideas
- Innovations to help address fuel poverty
- Expansion of Phase 10

- Certain types of properties no longer popular
- SHAPS performance
- Staff & Board retention
- IT security/integrity
- Political upheaval with general elections both in the UK and Scottish Governments
- Damp and mould within buildings
- Tenant affordability implications of moving from gas to electricity
- Increasing environmental costs e.g. fly tipping as a result of reduced spending by GCC

4.3 Risk Analysis

The management of risk is vital to our success and we acknowledge that not all risks can be eliminated. Risk management is an integral part of all the functions and activities of the Association and the services we deliver. Our Audit and Assurance Committee considers the management of risk on a quarterly basis and takes into consideration new or emerging issues that require mitigation and monitoring. Our Risk Management Action Plan (MAP) is updated with emerging risks and risk ratings are reviewed through our Audit and Assurance Committee.

When carrying out this review we took account of the SHR's December 2015 publication: Business Planning – recommended practice and ensured we reviewed each of the risk areas. This document was supplemented in 2020 due to the COVID 19 pandemic with the SHR making suggestions on areas, which Board's should consider, when agreeing their Business Plans.

Our approach to risk management extends to our culture, processes and organisational structures, which contribute to the effective management of potential opportunities, threats and weaknesses.

Risk awareness and management will be an integral part of our strategic planning and decision-making processes. For new initiatives and projects, risk analysis shall also be used to inform our decision-making process.

The table below details the four key strategic risks facing the Association and how these will be managed:

Risk Area	How we will manage risk				
Financial Inclusion	 Promotion and use of our Welfare Advice an Money advice service Identify and work with other partner agencies Implement our communication strategy to improve how we inform customers about financial inclusion issues Consider rent affordability Ensure Value for Money in everything we do Carry out a skills audit 				
Succession Planning – Board and staff	 Carry out a skills audit Fill gaps identified Implement training needs assessment Develop our corporate training plan 				
Asset Management	 Complete stock condition survey Incorporate outcomes into long term financial plans Ensure compliance with EESSH and subsequent energy efficiency regulation (EESSH 2 or equivalent) Determine fuel efficiency of our stock Assess sustainability of all stock 				
Regulatory Intervention	 Implement governance improvement plans Complete Annual Assurance Statement and demonstrate compliance with Regulatory Standards Monitor our performance against others Complete review of policies and procedures ARC compliance review Attain low engagement during period of Business Plan 				

We have identified some areas where we consider we still have some weaknesses to address. These include:

Tenant Engagement - Despite the fact that nearly 100% of our tenant's report that they are very satisfied with the opportunities we offer them to participate in our decision-making processes, we feel that we should still be able to do more. Over recent years we have increasingly found it difficult to systematically engage with our tenants and suspect that this is largely due to the high tenant satisfaction levels we experience. Nonetheless, as a community-controlled Housing Association we are keen to see our tenants actively and genuinely participate in shaping the Association and our services. Our aim is to allow tenants to influence our decisions and shape outcomes.

Community Engagement – We have built up an excellent relationship with our tenants and have a great track-record of arranging a wide range of community events spread across the year. Our aim within this Business Plan is to go further and fully implement and review a community engagement strategy to address a number of key issues within our areas.

Procedures – We will ensure that all of our core suite of procedures are fully updated within year 1 of this Business Plan. This will largely involve reflecting on good practice within the sector and understanding changes to legislation across core business areas.

Digital Connectivity – We know that many of our tenants still do not have basic access to internet services. Our aim during this Business Plan is to increase the numbers of our tenants who can access internet services and we will do this by working with others to create opportunities for our tenants to become more digitally enabled.

5. OUR STAKEHOLDER MANAGEMENT

The Association has a range of key stakeholders who are individuals or organisations who are interested in or have influence over the activities of the Association.

The Association pays considerable attention to the management and development of its relationships with its stakeholders, as their support can play a key part in the Association being able to achieve its strategic objectives. The following table summarises the nature of these relationships and how we will interact with each based on their power and interest.

High Power and High Interest Key group: engage, focus on this group, consult and involve in governance and decision making	High Power and Low Interest Meet their needs; engage and consult, attempt to increase
Tenants and Service Users Scottish Housing Regulator Glasgow City Council Financial Institutions/Lenders Scottish Government Solicitors and Auditors	TPAS The Pensions Trust The Accounting Standards Board SFHA Chartered Institute of Housing Glasgow & West of Scotland Forum EVH
Low Power and High Interest Show consideration, involve in low risk areas	Low Power and Low Interest Least important: Keep informed
Welfare Benefit and Money Advice Services Property Developers Employers in Voluntary Housing	Wider Local Community in which the Association operates

6. ASSET MANAGEMENT

A full life cycle costing exercise was completed in 2020 and the impact of this fed into the financial models. A strategic approach to Asset Management is key to the future viability of the Association. An Asset Management Strategy was agreed in 2023 and

is regularly updated taking into consideration new compliance issues, informed from the SHR and the Scottish Government.

As at 31 March 2024, our stock was 100% compliant with Scottish Housing Quality Standards (SHQS) and with the Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing (EESSH).

A detailed programme of works is included within our Asset Management Strategy and this will be updated, as we assess our budgets and plans on a yearly basis.

During the period of this business plan, we will continue to assess emerging issues and consider improvements to homes and the external environment. This will also aim to reduce our carbon footprint and make homes more energy efficient, saving tenant's money.

We also carry out cyclical maintenance programmes every year to ensure that our properties remain safe and protected for the future. Typically, our programme involves yearly gas safety checks, periodic electrical safety checking, gutter cleaning, roof checks, controlled entry maintenance and general building maintenance.

7. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

7.1 Strategic Analysis

At our recent strategic planning sessions the Board and Staff agreed the following 6 Strategic Objectives for the coming 3 years;

- 1. Investing in our homes for a sustainable future
- 2. Providing excellent customer services
- 3. Working with partners to improve communities and tenants lives
- 4. Deliver excellence in Governance, Risk Management and Assurance
- 5. Demonstrate value for money and strong financial management
- 6. Value our people

For each objective we state what we will do; how we will do it, the Business Plan timeframe and importantly how we will know if we have achieved each objective at the end of the three-year period.

We considered the following key strategic issues;

- 1. To limit the adverse impact of increased inflation on our tenants, service delivery, financial and non-financial resources and general business operations
- 2. To mitigate current risks to tenants and other customers in relation to fuel poverty and to promote digital and social inclusion agendas whilst taking cognisance of our environmental impact.
- 3. To mitigate current risks in relation to the cost of living and maximising tenancy sustainment through provision of support and advice, digitalisation and welfare benefit and money advice services.

- 4. To ensure continued SHR governance compliance and provide opportunities for self-assessment of our activities in an open and transparent manner
- 5. To develop the Craigdale tenants panel to ensure service improvement and the scrutiny of our activities
- 6. To protect cash flows by exploring new investment opportunities relating to sustainability and closely monitoring impact of increasing costs in relation to new energy efficiency standards, arrears and bad debts.

 We will also ensure value for money from our business, especially our Major Repairs Programme through appropriate procurement practices.
- 7. To ensure value for money for our business, especially our major works programme through appropriate procurement practices.

7.2 Strategic Objectives

EXTERNAL FOCUS

Strategic Objective 1: Investing in our homes for a sustainable future

	Operational Objective	Actions/Controls	Timeline/Monitoring	Financial Implication	Risk Register Reference	Outcomes
1	Maintain and improve our high performance levels	 Achieve KPIs and improve performance Compare ourselves against others including Castlemilk partnership and Millenium group Review our lettable standard for voids Ensure repairs and maintenance timeframes are maintained 	Quarterly to Board Yearly through ARC returns Year 1 quarter 1 Quarterly to Board	Bad debts impact on viability of BP		
						We will be a high
2	Develop & support excellent & sustainable services for our tenants & others	 Develop a sustainability strategy for our stock Review our approach to fuel poverty and reducing our overall carbon footprint Work in partnership with others to develop services, tackling fuel poverty 	Year 1 quarter 4 Year 1 Quarter 3 2024-2027	Costs of meeting EESH 2 unknown at present		preforming RSL with high levels of satisfaction in all areas of our operation
3	Develop the knowledge of our stock	 Interrogate Stock Condition Survey results and feed survey results into our Asset Management Strategy Implement Asset Management Strategy 	Yearly	5 Year Investment Plan and 30 Year Financial Plan		

	 SHQS/EESSH continue to demonstrate current compliance EESSH 2 or equivalent Consider how we will demonstrate compliance by deadlines 	Yearly 2024-27		
Invest in homes and in our environment	 Deliver Investment programme Consider tenants views relating to investment in their homes and environment 	Yearly Quarterly (Tenant Satisfaction pulse surveys) 2024-2027 Craigdale Tenant's Panel	5 Year Investment Plan and 30 Year Financial Plan	

EXTERNAL FOCUS

Strategic Objective 2: Providing Excellent Customer Services

	Operational Objective	Actions/Controls	Timeline/Monitoring	Financial Implication	Risk Register Reference	How will we know we have achieved our goal
1	Improve Communication with our tenant & others	 Implement our communications strategy and review how we currently communicate and how we can improve practices Involve tenants in a review of our newsletter Consider options for using other communication channels using technology such as You Tube Improve and enhance the Tenant's Portal launching in 2024 ensuring increased tenant take up 	Yearly/ Through pulse Tenant Satisfaction surveys Year 1 Quarter 3 2025	Potential increase in set up costs of new communication methods		We will have increased engagement with focused services that ensure that we demonstrate excellent forward
						thinking customer
2	Improve consultation with our tenants & others	 Consult with other groups of stakeholders Produce and agree a timeline of consultations for each year including consultation on rent increase options Consult on service standards and changes through our website Develop Craigdale Tenants Panel Action Plan 	Yearly Yearly - Reported to Board annually Yearly - Reported to Board in reports	Costs of working with tenants panel will be minimal and opportunities to consult already included in BP		services for our tenants. We also want to ensure that services are shaped by our tenants and other service users

I			2024 – Monitored annually and reported to Board		
3	Work towards achieving the Customer Service Excellence Standards	 Assess our compliance with Customer Service standards Achieve Customer service Excellence Standard or suitable equivalent by 2026 	2025	Costs to be included in 2025-2026 budget	
4	Seek our Tenants views	 Carry out a full Tenant Satisfaction Survey Complete quarterly tenant satisfaction pulse surveys Review Landlord Report results against others Carry out Consultations via surveys/website/tenants portal Promote opportunity for tenants to make complaints and publish lessons learned on 6 monthly basis to tenants 	2026 – Results reported to Board and Improvement Plan agreed and then monitored Yearly through ARC returns Yearly – Consultation views included in Board reports Half Year report to Board on themes and lessons learned from complaints	Costs included in 2025/26 budget for full tenant satisfaction survey and continue pulse surveys	
5	Embed Equality across all of our services and	Ensure we promote equality of opportunity, to eliminate discrimination	Quarterly report to Board		

	provide opportunities for all	 and harassment . Continue to monitor performance against equalities strategy Deliver on adaptation requests to improve the lives of our tenants 	Quarterly – Reported to Board	Adaptation costs met through grant funding from GCC	
6	Addressing future needs of tenants	 Increase digital connectivity and inclusion amongst our tenants Monitor useage of website and Facebook pages Introduce an app for tenants Introduce a portal for tenants 	2024-2027 2024-2027 - reported annually to Board Year 1 Quarter 2 Year 1 quarter 3	Costs included in Annual Budget planning process	
7	Achieve excellent performance outcomes	 Meet KPI targets on customer related issues Monitor performance on monthly basis and resolve blockages to poor performance 	Quarterly and reported to Board Monthly monitoring by SMT	Requirement to maximise rental income and minimise overall costs	

EXTERNAL FOCUS

Strategic Objective 3: Working with partners to improve communities and tenants lives

	Operational objective	Actions/Controls	Timelines/Monitoring	Financial Implication	Risk Register Reference	How will we know we have achieved our goal
1	Fully implement community engagement strategy in partnership with others	 Develop and implement a community engagement strategy Promote social and economic inclusion in our policies and procedures 	Year 1 quarter 4 Yearly	Community engagement activities agreed within yearly budget		Successful deliver of programme of annual events and delivery of community
						engagement
2	Encourage tenant innovation to make decisions and improvements for their area	 Create opportunities for tenants to develop ideas and attract match funding Implement annual idea creation opportunities for projects identified by our tenants 	2024 - 27 – updates reported to Board	Community engagement activities agreed within yearly budget	2.2 Customer satisfaction	strategy
3	Work with others to address inequalities such as unemployment, poverty, and education	 Further develop equalities strategy to address inequalities in partnership with others 	2024-27	Community engagement budget agreed together with opportunity to	4.1 Financial Inclusion	

		 Develop opportunities to utilise office for other groups and stakeholders Address tenant food/fuel/hygiene/furniture poverty through partnership with other Castlemilk RSL's Promote and extend the Castlemilk Human Rights strategy in partnership with other Castlemilk RSL's 	2025 2024-27	attract external grants		
4	Work with others to improve staff and tenant health within our area	 Address isolation and loneliness working in partnership with others Work with others to create an action plan to address health, whilst recognising that we will play a part but not a lead role in this area 	2024-26 2025	Community engagement budget agreed with opportunity to attract external grants	4.1 financial inclusion	
5	Expand Castlemilk RSL partnership	 Continue to expand the CEO partnership to include other groups of staff Look for funding for the Human Rights work currently being undertaken by the partnership Develop a programme of shared procurement across the RSL's 	Year 1 quarter 4 2024-5 2024-7			

INTERNAL FOCUS

Strategic Objective 4: Deliver excellence in Governance, Risk Management and Assurance

	Operational Objective	Actions/Controls	Timeline/Monitoring	Financial Implication	Risk Register Reference	How will we know we have achieved our goal
1	Develop & support our Board	 Update the Skill Assessment & Training Needs Assessment for Board Continue rolling training programme Identify skill gaps and recruit to fill same Review Succession Planning Policy for Board 	Yearly – Reported to Board	Included within annual budget provision		We will have a strong, committed Board and staff team living our vision, mission and values. We have a robust business plan that
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2	Improve our governance & Meet the SHR Regulatory Standards	 Carry out 2nd external review of our Regulatory standards Complete governance improvement plan Implement other improvement plans identified through internal audit plans 	2025 – Report to Board Yearly/Quarterly – reported to Board	Costs for external review and audit included within budget	minimises regulatory scrutiny.
3	Prepare Assurance Statement for submission to SHR	 Keep the evidence bank for Board Members up to date to demonstrate compliance Ensure that the Audit and Assurance Committee review standards on a rolling programme of meetings 	Quarterly – Reported to Board Quarterly through Audit and Assurance Committee	Costs met through staff resources	
4	Increase our Membership	 Actively encourage membership and promote the benefits of becoming a member Aim to encourage attendance at AGM 	Yearly – Reported at AGM and Annual report	Costs met through staff resources	
5	Embed Risk Management	Report quarterly to Audit and Assurance	Quarterly/Yearly – Reports to Board and	Costs met through annual	
		Committee on our Risk Management Action Plan Carry out risk analysis on all new projects Carry out annual Risk Analysis at Board Business Planning days	during Business planning sessions	budgets	

INTERNAL FOCUS

Strategic Objective 5: Demonstrate value for money and strong financial management

	Operational Objective	Actions/Controls	Timeline/Monitoring	Financial Implication	Risk Register Reference	How will we know we have achieved our goal
1	Maintain our solid financial base	 30 year financial projections Incorporate stock condition survey findings Maximise treasury management policies Ensure that procurement procedures are followed with cost drivers considered Consider options appraisal on a cyclical 5 yearly basis 	Yearly/Quarterly – Reported to Board	Financial projections submitted annually as part of SHR return		Continue to be a strong independent Association, financially sound and effectively managing changing risks
2	Develop a Value for Money Framework	Apply VFM framework	Yearly/Quarterly – Reported to Board	Financial projections		

Identify alternative sources of funding including grant funding to support community engagement activities Identify areas where joint working may take place locally leading to reductions in costs Review all operating costs and drive efficiencies Identify where costs can be reduced through use of technology Review Operating Model and consider where efficiencies can take Review all operating costs and drive efficiencies are identified through annual budget process Review Operating Model and consider where efficiencies can take Review Operating Model and consider where efficiencies can take Review Operating Model and consider where efficiencies can take	ı		 Review our management costs Know our cost drivers Make efficiencies through better use of IT 		submitted annually as part of SHR return	
costs and drive efficiencies are identified through annual budget process Identify where costs can be reduced through use of technology Review Operating Model and consider where efficiencies can take reports to Board and through annual Business Planning process budget process budget process	3	-	sources of funding including grant funding to support community engagement activities Identify areas where joint working may take place locally leading to	through reports to	External funding	
place	4	costs and drive	 are identified through annual budget process Identify where costs can be reduced through use of technology Review Operating Model and consider where 	reports to Board and through annual Business Planning	costs to be achieved through annual	

INTERNAL FOCUS

Strategic Objective 6: Value our People

	Operational Objective	Actions/Controls	Timeline/Monitoring	Financial Implication	Risk Register Reference	How will we know we have achieved our goal
1	Achieve High Staff Satisfaction levels	 Complete yearly staff satisfaction surveys Create action plans for improvement and report progress to Board Ensure that Staff issues are raised and acted upon by Senior Management team and reported to Board 	Yearly – Reported to Board	Costs included within annual budget		We will meet individual and team development plans and ensure that all staff and Board/Tenant Panel members are fully trained and supported to be the
						best that they can be
2	Board and Tenant Panel Development	Yearly Board appraisalsInduction and training plans for each	Yearly – Reported to Board	Costs included within annual budget		in their respective roles.

		Board/Tenant Panel member			
3	Training and Staff Development	 Encourage personal development through monthly Support and Supervision meetings Create a Yearly Planner for Staff training Empower staff to do their jobs effectively Embed culture and core values Put in place a clear performance framework which motivates delivery of high performance Underpin with training 	Monthly/Yearly – Reported to Board	Costs met through staff resources	
		and development plan			

7.3 Strategic KPIs

We are committed to improving our services and we will develop our knowledge base and use internal and external sector information to help us gauge and improve our performance.

We monitor our performance against local peers and by using data from the SHR's website and present our key strategic KPI's to the Board on a quarterly basis for monitoring. Our performance compares well across the sector and our KPI's have agreed targets, which are aimed at meeting high performance levels.

ARC Indicator	Craigdale 2022/23	Craigdale 2021/22	Scottish Average 2022/23
Average calendar days to re-let properties	9.31 days	4.67 days	55.61days
Gross rent arrears (all tenants) as at 31 March each year as a percentage of rent due for the reporting year	2.31%	2.17%	6.86%
Percentage of rent due lost through properties being empty during the last year	0.23%	0.06%	1.4%
Average length of time taken to complete emergency repairs	2.29 hours	2.44 hours	4.17 hours
Average length of time taken to complete reactive repairs	3.49 days	4.53 days	8.68 days
Percentage of reactive repairs carried out in the last year completed right first time	99.38%	96.85%	87.80%
Average time to complete adaptations	11.08 days	28.25 days	46.83 days

Of the tenants who responded to the Association's most recent Tenants Satisfaction Survey in 2023 our figures compare very well against Scottish averages.

ARC Indicator	Craigdale 2022/23	Scottish Average 2022/23
Percentage of tenants satisfied with the overall service provided by their landlord.	94.9%	86.7%
Percentage of tenants who feel their landlord is good at keeping them informed about their services and decisions.	98.43%	89.68%
Percentage of tenants satisfied with the opportunities given to them to participate in their landlord's decision making processes.	99.22%	85.86%
Percentage of tenants satisfied with the quality of their home.	95.29%	84.16%
Percentage of tenants who have had repairs or maintenance carried out in last 12 months satisfied with the repairs and maintenance service.	92.79%	88.02%

Percentage of tenants satisfied with the landlord's contribution to the management of the	96.86%	84.30%
neighbourhood they live in		
Percentage of tenants who feel that the rent for their property represents good value for money.	83.92%	81.79%
Percentage of factored owners satisfied with factoring service.	75.00%	61.69%

7.4 Delivery Plans

The six Strategic Objectives will be further translated into practical Delivery Plans with timescales, targets and named people (staff and service providers) who will take ownership for ensuring the targets are met.

The Delivery Plans (Strategic and Operational) performance will be reported quarterly to the Board. The Delivery Plan will be a 'live' document and will be reviewed by the Board and staff annually as part of the annual review of the Business Plan.

8. FINANCING OUR PLAN

8.1 Funding the Plan

FINANCIAL PROJECTIONS

INTRODUCTION

The Association is currently involved in core stock management and maintenance activity managing 407 rented units and 3 owner occupied units at the start of the financial year 24/25. At March 2024 an overall surplus of £135k is expected prior to any changes in actuarial assumptions for the pension deficit. Net assets of the Association are projected at £7.7m inclusive of cash balances of £1.95m at March 2024. For financial year 24/25 an overall surplus of £234k is projected with cash balances at March 25 of £2.02m.

CURRENT OPERATING ENVIRONMENT

In considering the main assumptions to be employed within the business planning model recognition requires to be taken of the current financial and political climate which the Association is expecting to operate within.

Main factors include:-

- Global economic and political climate including Brexit, Ukraine, Middle East
- High inflation....but rates falling
- Increased repair costs
- Fewer insurers in the market for social housing

- High interest rates
- UK and Scottish Government priorities
- Impending national elections
- EESSH 2 impacts
- Expectation of service level improvements

Within this plan the following material assumptions should be noted:-

- No proposed new build projects at present
- Inflation levels at 2% over the long term
- Real rent rise of 2% for 1 year and 1% for 3 years and CPI inflation only thereafter
- Voids and Bad Debts at 0.5% over the long term
- Real maintenance cost increases at 0.5% over 30 years
- Current staffing structure remains over the long term
- Real increases of 0.5% in management costs until year 10
- Majority of staff in defined contribution pension scheme at contribution rate of 10.45%
- Loan interest rates (pre margin) decreases until year 3 where it remains at 4%
- All debt repaid by year 13
- Cash exceeds debt by year 7
- Average annual spend of £6k on other fixed assets

ASSUMPTIONS AND COMMENT

Base Date and Stock Levels

All financial information is based at 2024/25 levels.

The Association's rented housing stock levels at the start of 2024/25 comprises of 407 general rented units plus 3 sharing owners.

Rental Policy

Mainstream Stock

Comparisons with other local RSLs notes that Craigdale rent levels for 22/23 are on average 4% lower for 2 apt properties, 9% lower for 3 apts, 6% for 4 apartment properties and 17% lower for 5 apartments.

Scottish average rent levels are 9.4%, 7.2%,3.1% and 8.8% higher for 2 to 5 apartment properties respectively compared with Craigdale HA rents.

Average Weekly RSL Rents							
Craigdale HA				North View HA			
1 Apt	-	-	-	-			
2 Apt	£75.58	£75.45	£81.37	£79.37			
3 Apt	£80.09	£85.27	£84.53	£93.03			
4 Apt	£91.09	£94.20	£93.20	£103.20			
5+ Apt	£94.56	£107.48	£108.24	£115.72			

Currently around 28 % of tenants are in receipt of full housing benefit with 8% on partial benefit. Around 15% of tenants are on Universal Credit. Rent arrears for mainstream units at December 2023 were 1.96% net of technical arrears. The projections assume continued gross arrears at 3.5%.

The projections assume a real rent rises of 2% Year 2 and 1% for the next 3 years then CPI inflation only rises thereafter. This is a current planning assumption and shall be considered on an annual basis. The Association recognises the potential for affordability issues and the SFHA affordability tool confirms no material concerns in terms of affordability.

In the event that no real rent increases are applied then this has an adverse impact on the year 30 cash position of around £4.8m.

The ability of the Association to apply continued restricted increases will depend upon changes in the economy and performance compared with the approved business plan.

Voids and Bad Debts

For the year to 31 March 2023 voids and bad debts for the Association's stock were at a level of 0.11% and 0.52% respectively. In the previous 3 years void losses averaged 0.12% with bad debts at around 0.34%. Total costs are assumed at 1% over the long term. This increase is a business planning assumption as opposed to a specific target.

A 1% change in voids and bad debts has an overall impact of around £1.1m over the long term. Subject to no other changes an increase could be managed by the Association.

Other Income

Sums include Stage 3 grants for medical adaptations plus factoring fees from owner occupiers.

Sensitivities were run to gauge adverse impacts in a material fall in net income. A £50k per annum reduction in net income had an adverse impact of £2.5m over the long term.

Major Repairs

Major repairs costs are based on the planned maintenance programmes produced internally and with the assistance of the John Martin Partnership Hub system.

It is envisaged that on average around £40,743 per unit shall be incurred over the plan period. In the first 10 years 36% of total spend shall take place, followed by a further 34% of spend up to year 20, with the balance of 30% being spent in the last 10 years. Real cost increases are assumed at 0.5% per annum.

The Association currently fully complies with EESH requirements. Work is ongoing to consider the budget implications of EESSH 2. The financial model indicates that a net cost of £5k per unit between years 6 and 10 could be managed by the Association although the adverse cash impact is £4m.

A 5% difference in planned maintenance costs has a £2.1m impact on the year 30 cash position and if no real cost increases are applied on any planned maintenance costs then an improvement of £2.9m arises.

Taking account of our knowledge of the stock, the Association is satisfied that costs can be contained within sums provided for in the financial model.

Cyclical Maintenance

Cyclical costs per unit are estimated at an average of £658 per unit over the plan period for stock. These costs are based on existing surveys. Real cost increases are assumed at 0.5% per annum up until Year 7, and 0.6% thereafter. Costs include paint work, gas servicing, electrical inspections, stair lighting, landscaping, close cleaning and bulk uplift.

Expenditure per unit on rented stock totalled £482 per unit on average for the 3 years to 31 March 2023.

Taking account of our knowledge of the stock, the Association is satisfied that costs can be contained within sums provided for in the financial model.

Reactive Maintenance

Expenditure per unit on rented stock totalled £310 per unit on average for the previous 3 years to 31 March 2023.

The financial model include average costs at £605 per unit. Real cost increases are assumed at 0.5% per annum.

A 10% increase in reactive costs has an adverse impact of £1.2m over the plan period. Subject to no other material adverse changes this position could be managed by the Association.

Taking account of our knowledge of the stock, the Association is satisfied that costs can be contained within sums provided for in the financial model.

Other Costs

Costs relate to the wider action costs at around £5k per annum and stage 3 costs of £18k per annum over the full 30 year period.

Management and Administration

The Association's management costs in the Association's annual accounts refer to staff and overhead costs relating to the rented stock. Costs for 22/23 totalled £1,834 per unit and average £1,924 per unit over the long term. Overheads as a % of turnover average 9.12% and, taking account of the size of the organisation, are at reasonable levels.

Real cost increases are assumed at 0.5% per annum up until Year 10. This is a prudent planning assumption as opposed to a specific target. In the event of inflation only cost increases a £1.5m saving results.

Other Fixed Assets

The long term projections have included replacement costs for furniture, fittings, replacements and equipment over the plan period. Average annual spend of £6k per annum is allowed.

Loan Finance and Stock Value

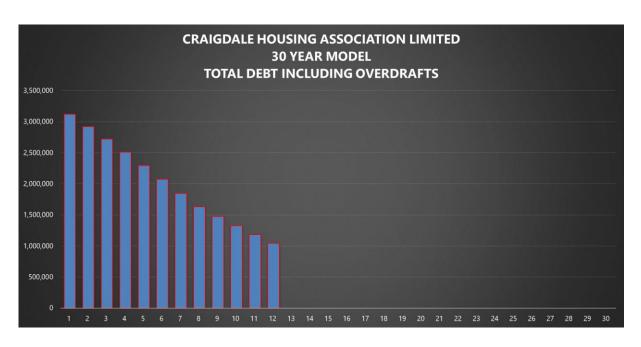
Loan debt at 31 March 24 is projected at around £3.2m and this represents debt with Bank of Scotland, RBS and Nationwide. All loan finance remains on a variable rate basis with margins ranging from 0.4% to 0.1.4%. Fixed rate funding remains under consideration.

Peak debt is projected at year 1.

The performance indicators analysis confirms no issues with loan covenant compliance.

The base case model indicates that by Year 7 cash resources are projected to exceed debt levels and all debt is modelled as repaid by year 13.

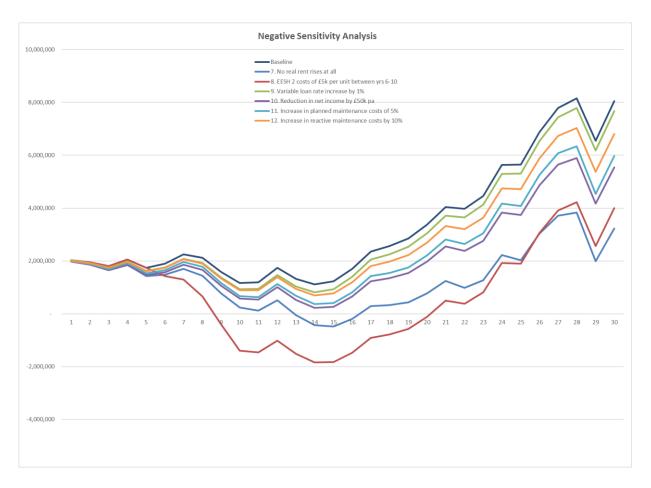
Currently around 65% of stock is unencumbered and the Association has an estimated ability to borrow around £11m based on the stock valuations undertaken in 2020-2023.



Sensitivity Analysis

Sensitivities are largely modelled on varying rent increases, rent losses, management and maintenance costs, inflation and changes to net income.

The majority of sensitivities have been modelled on an individual basis. It is recognised that a combination of changes in assumptions is a clear possibility. One of the purposes of regular budgeting and the monitoring of financial results is to ensure that the financial position remains on target. In the event of material adverse variances this allows corrective action to be put in place.



Risks to the Delivery of Financial Plans

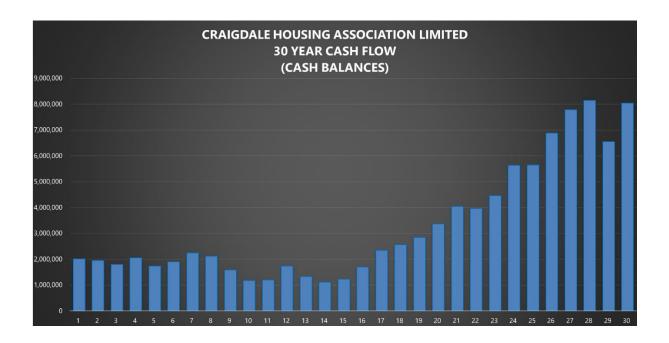
The Association regularly considers risks facing the organisation and updates its risk register accordingly.

Risks associated with ongoing costs of running the business and net zero compliance continue as the main financial risks for the Association.

Summary:

The Association commences the plan period with total reserves of around £7.7m.

Whilst we cannot expect to be precise over a 30-year period it is sensible to project forward based on realistic assumptions and expectations. The bottom-line cash position of the Association provides an indication of the level of comfort available to manage risk changes in circumstances.



Based on reasonable assumptions the Association's financial projections show annual surpluses and confirm more than adequate liquidity in order to allow implementation of the financial plans. No issues arise in respect of loan covenant compliance and the Association continues to operate satisfactorily. Changes in actuarial assumptions shall be accounted for as information becomes available post each year end.

In the first 5 years surpluses of £943k add to the net assets of the organisation and cash balances average £1.9m. No SHQS or EESH difficulties are expected, total major repair spend is £2.7m and debt capital repayments total £997k. This is after additional rental losses have been provided for and rent arrears at a level of 3.5%.

The next five-year period to year 10 project surpluses of £1.25m, loan repayments of £970k, and major repair spend of £3.9m. Rental arrears are projected as continuing at 3.5% and cash reserves average £1.8m over this 5-year period.

For the 5-year period to year 15 surpluses of £1.2m result, all debt is repaid and major repair spend totals £3.6m. Rental arrears are projected as continuing at 3.5% and cash reserves average £1.3m over this 5 year period.

Thereafter the annual surplus position continues Cash resources also increase with average balances at £4.9m and a final year 30 cash balance of £8m.

The sensitivity analysis undertaken by the Association shows that each of the adverse scenarios could, assuming they arise as single events, be capable of being managed by the Association. Some factors remain within the Association's control such as rental policy, staffing levels, the timing of maintenance contracts and any combination of adverse scenarios would require to be managed by the Association on an ongoing basis.

The Association shall continue to produce its long-term projections on an annual basis. The short-term annual budget exercise considers the first 12 months of the plan period in detail and the quarterly management accounts shall be used to monitor achievement of the short-term budget. As long as the short-term position remains broadly in line with the annual budget then the Association's overall financial plans shall remain on target.

8.2 Rent Affordability

A key priority is to maintain our rents at an affordable level. Affordability is essentially about the ability of our individual tenants to pay the rent charged by Craigdale.

We ensure that our rents are affordable by making use of the annually updated SFHA Guidance to Rent Setting & Affordability Toolkit. We will use this guidance, and the affordability analysis and tools within it, to analyse the affordability of our rents, and address any issues that may arise. We will consult with our tenants on options for rent increase and take on board tenants views on what rent is used for and allow real opportunities to influence our decision-making process.

We will also work with the tenants panel, once established, and with the Human Rights Lived Experience Group to look at what rent affordability looks like within our community.

9. REVIEWING THE PLAN

Date	Action			
March 2024	Final Plan Approved 20242027			
July 2024	Review performance Q1			
Oct 2024	Review performance Q2			
Nov 2024	Strategic Away Day – review current and refresh direction, objectives and vision			
Dec 2024	Prepare financial plans for year 2			
Jan 2025 Review performance Q3				
March 2025 Final Plan Approved 2022/23 – 2023/24				
Apr 2025	Review performance Q4			
2025/2027	Repeat above			