













**Making homes and lives better** wheatley-group.com

We are **Wheatley Group** 

Wheatley Group

# Trust Community Ambition Excellence

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Wheatley Housing Group Limited, trading as Wheatley Group, brings together seven housing, care and community regeneration organisations. Together, we're Making Homes and Lives Better.

**Making homes and lives better** wheatley-group.com



### Group at a glance

# 41,500

GHA, Scotland's largest social landlord, with almost 41,500 affordable homes in



www.gha.org.uk



# 3300

Cube Housing Association, with more than 3300 affordable homes across the West of Scotland



www.cubehousing.co.uk



# 1000

Loretto Housing Association, with more than 1000 affordable homes in the central belt



www.lorettoha.co.uk



### 400

West Lothian Housing Partnership, with almost 400 affordable homes



www.wlhp.org



Wheatley Group is Scotland's leading housing, care and regeneration organisation. It comprises four Registered Social Landlords, a care organisation and two commercial subsidiaries.



Loretto Care, supporting more than 1000 care clients and service users





# 25,000

YourPlace Property Management, Scotland's "Feel Good Factor", with more than 25,000 customers



www.your-place.net



### 400

Lowther Homes, which has a growing portfolio of almost 400 mid and fullmarket apartments



www.lowtherhomes.co.uk

LOWTHER HOMES.

### Highlights



Number of homes owned or managed by Wheatley

90%

Average customer satisfaction levels

Number of care clients

643

Number of training places and jobs created for people in our communities

25,000

Number of factored homeowners

Wheatley Group spans 12 local authority areas across Central Scotland, providing homes and award-winning services to more than 100,000 tenants, service users and factored home owners.



In the year ahead we will continue to do all we can to make a positive difference to the homes and lives of our customers and their families.



**Alastair Dempster CBE** Chair of Wheatley Group

The founding members of Wheatley – GHA, Cube, YourPlace and Lowther Homes – had a shared vision. It was that every Wheatley partner would remain rooted in their local communities and retain their own individual identity, while benefiting from the scale, size and capacity of Scotland's largest housing, care and community regeneration organisation.

I am pleased to report we are turning that shared vision into reality and that the full weight and resources of Wheatley are being deployed to very positive effect across 12 Central Scotland local authority areas.

We have been strengthened considerably by the arrival of two new partners, West Lothian Housing Partnership (WLHP) and Loretto Housing and Care. In providing the highest levels of specialist care, Loretto augments and strengthens our ability to offer a wider range of support services to vulnerable customers, while WLHP extends Wheatley's footprint across Scotland,

creating development opportunities and adding hundreds of quality units to the Group's social housing stock.

On behalf of the Board, can I thank all Group staff for their unstinting efforts over the past year in "Making Homes and Lives Better" for our 100,000 tenants, service users and factored homeowners. It is due to their commitment Wheatley is gaining unprecedented external recognition.

The array of awards and accreditations achieved ranges from Wheatley being named one of the best places to work in the UK in the Sunday Times' Top 100 Not-For-Profit Companies List to GHA winning the "Leading with Vision, Inspiration and Integrity" prize at the European Foundation for Quality Management finals in Vienna.

Our ground-breaking culturechange programme, "Think Yes", earned "Business Transformation of the Year" at the prestigious UK Housing Awards, while Cube gained Customer Service Excellence accreditation and Loretto achieved Investors in People (IiP) Gold for the third consecutive time. Group Chief Executive Martin Armstrong was also named the UK's "Leader of the Year" at the inaugural IiP awards in London, while GHA was named "Large Employer of the Year".

I would also like to pay tribute to my fellow Wheatley Board members and the directors of all partner organisations for their hard work and dedication. In doing so, I would like to recognise the many years of excellent service given by John Grant, the long-serving GHA Board member and, more recently, Wheatley and Lowther Homes Director, who is standing down.

The "Wheatley Way" involves all staff and Board members uniting on a journey to excellence and in the year ahead we will continue to do all we can to make a positive difference to the homes and lives of our customers and their families.

Too many of our customers continue to live daily with hardship. That is why we have been determined to provide practical solutions for the people who live in the 72,600 homes we own and manage across Central Scotland.



**Martin Armstrong**Group Chief Executive

The worlds of affordable housing and care continue to change apace. The challenge this creates – for sectors critical to the health and wellbeing of Scotland – is to ensure our staff retain current and relevant skills sets that enable them to provide the excellent services customers need and deserve.

In housing, core competencies such as rent collection, allocations and void management remain essential. However, today's housing professionals also need to be skilled problem solvers, vigorous customer advocates and talented negotiators. They need to be expert communicators, delivering advice on an expanding range of issues.

With patch sizes of around 200 homes, we expect our housing professionals not only to know their neighbourhoods intimately, but to have informed relationships with the people they serve. Equipping and supporting them to meet today's challenges is a priority at

Wheatley and it's where our focus has been this past year.

In welcoming Loretto to the Group, we have the perfect platform to expand the services we offer people who are at risk of, or experiencing, mentalhealth problems, addictions or homelessness. Our aim is to ensure those in need receive the highest level of care and support to live fulfilled and independent lives.

Too many of our customers continue to live daily with hardship. That is why we have been determined to provide practical solutions for the people who live in the 72,600 homes we own and manage across Central Scotland.

This has ranged from our Home Comforts service which helps people in need set up home by supplying recycled furniture and Wheatley Pledge which is creating hundreds of jobs and training opportunities to Loretto Care's new Tenancy Support Service aimed at the most vulnerable tenants.

Our "Think Yes" culture-change programme has empowered staff to use their professional judgment to "do the right thing" for our customers. It has reduced bureaucracy with staff designing and delivering services tailored to individual customers. At GHA, where it all began two years ago, customer satisfaction has risen to 90% and staff satisfaction to 87%.

Our journey to excellence has resulted in Wheatley receiving a host of external accreditations and accolades including being named in the top 40 Best Places to Work in the Sunday Times not-for-profit companies list.

We set out last year to establish Wheatley as Scotland's leading housing, care and community regeneration organisation. Much has been achieved; much needs to be done. We will not be found lacking.

The Group used its combined strength to help its customers – particularly those experiencing hardship – and to give them additional support to feel settled in their home.

### No place like our 'new' home

Our Wheatley Group Services a range of centralised support teams which help our partner organisations deliver excellent services – moved to a new home in Wheatley House in Glasgow city centre. For some GHA staff and tenant Board members, it felt like moving back home. Before the transfer of Glasgow's council housing stock to GHA in 2003, the building in Cochrane Street was the housing department's base, and it remained under GHA ownership. A refurbishment was carried out, and in September support staff relocated from Granite House. The move has allowed the Group to save on office rental costs and created bright modern offices and meeting spaces for tenants and visitors.

### **Painting unveiling**

Wheatley Group welcomed a very important visitor to their offices this year. Mrs Kathleen Dalyell, the great niece of John Wheatley MP – after whom the Group is named – popped in to meet staff, tenants and Board members.

Mrs Dalyell also unveiled a rare painting of John Wheatley called Decent Houses for All, painted by her nephew, Nichol Wheatley. She was joined by husband and former MP, Tam Dalyell, as well as Margaret Curran MP for Glasgow East and other guests at Wheatley House.

Mrs Dalyell said: "I appreciate Wheatley Group honouring the memory of my great uncle, John Wheatley, and what he achieved. The housing sector is facing many challenges in the years ahead, and bringing social landlords together under Wheatley Group is the way forward."

John Wheatley was elected as Labour MP for Glasgow Shettleston in 1922.

Wheatley's Housing Act 1924 saw over half a million houses built across the UK and led to Mr Wheatley becoming known as "the Father of Social Housing".

### Our award-winning services

Wheatley Group and its partner organisations have won a string of awards for their work over the past year.

Wheatley was named one of the best places to work in the UK. We were placed 36th in the Sunday Times Top 100 Not for Profit Companies List and awarded two stars, which categorises Wheatley as an "Outstanding Organisation".

The European Foundation for Quality Management (EFQM) recognised GHA as an international industry leader with a track record of continuous improvement. GHA was presented with EFQM's "Leading with Vision, Inspiration and Integrity" prize at the 2013 EFQM Finals. GHA also won the "Business Transformation of the Year" award for its ground-breaking "Think Yes" staff campaign at the prestigious UK Housing Awards, organised by the

Chartered Institute of Housing.

Cube and WHLP staff were recognised for delivering excellent customer service by a national accreditation scheme overseen by the Government's Cabinet Office. Customer Service Excellence (CSE) is the national standard for excellence in customer service. This was the first time Cube and WHLP had been assessed for the standard. GHA and YourPlace have been awarded CSE five years in a row.

Loretto Housing and Loretto Care
– our newest partners – achieved
Investors in People Gold for the third
time in a row.

I appreciate Wheatley Group honouring the memory of my great uncle, John Wheatley, and what he achieved. The housing sector is facing many challenges in the years ahead, and bringing social landlords together under Wheatley Group is the way forward.

**Kathleen Dalyell** below left, the great niece of John Wheatley MP





### **Creating better lives**

The Group used its combined strength to help its customers – particularly those experiencing hardship – and to give them additional support to feel settled in their home.

We continued to deliver a range of measures designed to help tenants deal with changes to their benefits through Welfare Reform.

We also launched innovative new services to help tenants in need. An example of this is our new Home Comforts service which sees secondhand furniture collected, refurbished, recycled and distributed, by our own in-house team, to tenants who need help to set up home. Up to the end of April, 225 tenants were supported by the scheme.

For the second year in a row, we awarded bursaries of up to £1500 to tenants and their families who are studying at university or college. The grants help people from our communities with their costs while they are studying. In total we provided 370 bursaries over the year to tenants of GHA, Cube and West Lothian Housing Partnership.

### Giving customers a say

We believe in giving our customers a real say on local decisions affecting their communities and this year our partner organisations launched new ways for people to get involved. We set up new Polish and African Forums to involve more people from across our housing associations.

Our new Scrutiny Panel also gives tenants and homeowners a handson role in assessing how we deliver our services. And our partner organisations also use social media to reach out to younger customers.

### Raising the profile of housing

We are committed to working with a range of partners to support the sectors in which we work and raise the profile of housing on national agendas. Through our participation in national conferences, round-table discussions and other events, we continue to push for housing to be recognised as an urgent issue of the highest national significance, and for housing's voice, as a major transformational force for good, to be heard and valued by leaders and influencers of every persuasion. We also agreed a new Scottish Corporate Partnership with the Chartered Institute of Housing, which will see CIH provide a range of services including staff development, policy and research. One of the first pieces of work has been research into the future role of frontline housing staff.

To get this opportunity is a great thing. It's a secure position and I'm glad to be working. I'm grateful to Wheatley Group for giving me a chance that no one else gave me.

**Peter Fern**Cube tenant working with City Building

### Creating job opportunities

Together we created 250 new training places for people in our communities and supported 293 people into employment. This included opportunities created through the Community Janitors scheme and Modern Apprenticeships.

In addition we helped create a further 100 jobs or training opportunities through our new Wheatley Pledge initiative. We launched the scheme to increase opportunities for tenants, owners and their families by encouraging our contractors and suppliers to do more to help. As an incentive, Wheatley gives companies which sign up to the pledge a contribution towards wages and training costs for every new opportunity they create. Opportunities so far have included trade apprenticeships, internships, admin and hospitality jobs. Cloud computer firm iomart also offered sports kits for clubs in our communities as part of the Wheatley Pledge.

### **Academy inspires staff**

The Academy, our learning and training centre for all Group staff, moved to the ground floor of Wheatley House in September 2013. The Academy has since hosted a major programme of interactive workshops to engage and inspire all staff on the future of the Group. The 'Wheatley Way' sessions, led by the Executive Team, brought staff together to discuss how the Group can better work together to deliver

excellent services for our customers and our communities.

Induction training was delivered to more than 50 Loretto Care managers and 19 members of the Loretto Housing Team. And, in response to a staff review, Priority Management training was delivered to 250 frontline employees.

Through various accreditation programmes, the Academy has helped more than 260 members of staff gain professional qualifications such as the ILM Certificate in Leadership and Management and the CIH Level 2 Certificate in Housing Practice.

A key team member at the Academy, June Divers, was named the 'Most Inspiring Front Liner' at the 2013 WOW awards in London, which celebrate excellence in service among organisations across the UK.

June was nominated for her award by more than 100 Wheatley Group customers.







# Tenant participation is at the heart of everything GHA does and this year we redoubled our efforts to give tenants a greater say.



**Gordon Sloan** Chair of GHA

GHA is firmly rooted in the communities we serve and committed to delivering "Better homes, better lives and a better Glasgow".

Our dedicated staff work locally with tenants to create homes and communities people feel proud to live in. We are constantly reviewing the services we provide and looking at how we can deliver more and better opportunities to help our customers get on in life.

This year we completed 248 new homes in Glasgow and work is under way on 614 more. Many of these are being built in sites identified as priority Transformational Regeneration Areas (TRAs) and are part of a partnership 'Transforming Communities: Glasgow' involving GHA, Glasgow City Council and the Scottish Government.

We've made great strides in delivering safer communities via

our ground-breaking partnership that sees police and fire officers work closely with our Housing Officers. We were able to report earlier this year that we'd had no accidental fire deaths in our properties for over two and a half years as a result of the Community Improvement Partnership.

Tenant participation is at the heart of everything GHA does and this year we redoubled our efforts to give tenants a greater say. We set up new forums to complement our 27 local committees and three Area Committees and saw our followers on Facebook increase to almost 10,000.

Our commitment to customer satisfaction was recognised by tenants and it's a great achievement we exceeded 90% overall customer satisfaction for the first time.

In recognition of our work, GHA

won a prestigious EFQM award for "Leading with Vision, Inspiration and Integrity" as well as the Chartered Institute of Housing's award for "Business Transformation of the Year".

All in all, another busy but productive year at GHA as we continued our work to make homes and lives better.

I love my new home. It's much warmer, there are no draughts and the rooms are much bigger. The location is great too – I'm out and about in town more than I ever was before.

Margaret Thomson Tenant

### **New-build homes**

A total of 248 new homes were built and approval was given to start work on 614 more. In total GHA has now completed 1079 homes and we aim to build many more.

Homes were completed in Duke Street/High Street near the city centre, Capelrig in the South Side, Gallowgate and Conisborough Road in Easterhouse.

Work has now started on 141 homes in Sighthill, 100 in Toryglen and 157 in Barmulloch. All three sites are in Transformational Regeneration Areas (TRAs) – areas of the city which have been identified as priorities for regeneration. GHA is working in partnership with Scottish Government and Glasgow City Council to deliver these large-scale regeneration projects.

Tenant Margaret Thomson, swapped her flat in Sighthill for her new home in Duke Street last November.

Margaret, 65, said: "I lived in Sighthill for 44 years and brought my children up there. Some of my new neighbours are from Sighthill so that helps. I love my new home. It's much warmer, there are no draughts and the rooms are much bigger. The location is great too – I'm out and about in town more than I ever was before."

### **Home improvements**

With our £1.2billion programme to modernise 70,000 former council homes complete, our focus is now turning to making sure our homes remain warm and comfortable well into the future. This includes replacing windows, heating systems, boilers, kitchens and bathrooms as they reach the end of their lifespan. This year we invested £63.2million in home improvements.

This year we delivered:

// 478 central heating systems

// 1084 new bathrooms

// 1096 new kitchens.

We also overclad 443 homes, reroofed 473 and rewired 1093.

A total of 95% of our homes now reach Scottish Housing Quality Standard (SHQS).

### Jobs and training

GHA continued to push ahead with its mission to help people from our communities into jobs and training. Over the past year we created 147 new training places for people in GHA homes through our Community Janitors scheme and our Modern Apprenticeships. We also supported 105 people from our homes into employment through our employability schemes and clauses in our contracts.

In addition, 60 GHA customers landed jobs or training through Wheatley Pledge, our new Groupwide initiative to encourage our contractors and suppliers to do more to help people in our communities.

Daniel Horsfield, 18, lives in a GHA home in Knightswood and is an apprentice joiner with City Building. He said: "It's great. You learn while you earn. It makes you more independent, more able to do things for yourself – and it means you're contributing to society too."

### **Tenant participation**

We redoubled our efforts to give more tenants a real say in shaping what happens in their communities. GHA has 27 Local Housing Organisation committees across Glasgow and three Area Committees – all led by tenants. We know sitting on committees doesn't work for everyone. New forums for minority groups were established including a Polish Forum, an African Forum and a Deaf Forum. Our new Scrutiny Panel also gives tenants a handson role in assessing how we deliver our services. Our GHA Facebook page is now followed by nearly 10,000 people and gives customers, particularly younger people, another effective way to communicate with us or pass on feedback.

It's great. You learn while you earn. It makes you more independent, more able to do things for yourself – and it means you're contributing to society too.

**Daniel Horsfield**Apprentice

### Safer communities

Our ground-breaking Community Improvement Partnership (CIP) is saving lives.

The CIP sees GHA, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and Police Scotland work side by side to keep GHA neighbourhoods safe. A team of 15 police officers and a Watch Commander from the fire service are seconded to work with us. Housing Officers identify people whose lifestyles put them at risk of having a fire in their home, and then work with the fire service to help the tenant keep safe.

Before the introduction of the CIP in 2011, GHA experienced an average of seven fire deaths a year in our homes.

There have been no accidental fire deaths in GHA properties for over two and a half years.

### **Digital inclusion**

GHA is challenging historically low levels of broadband take-up among social housing tenants in Glasgow and this year launched a number of projects to help tenants get online.

Working with the Scottish Government, BT, Power Ethernet and other partners, we carried out pilot projects in Pollok and Knightswood which saw tenants in tenement flats and in a multistorey block given computer and broadband access. Our ultimate aim is to find a way of providing affordable internet access in all our homes for social rent. A innovative partnership with Glasgow Kelvin College has also created 24 'Click & Connect' computer learning centres to help tenants get online.

### A great start for younger people

We also introduced projects to help younger people get on in life. This included supporting 347 GHA tenants or people in their families through their college and university studies through Better Futures bursaries of up to £1500.

We also worked with pupils from St Roch's in Royston and Smithycroft Secondary in Riddrie to help them gain a CIH Level 2 Community Action in Housing qualification and supported young people through a range of youth projects in local areas. One example in the South Side saw 14 people offered training for careers in fitness - from Zumba and yoga to outdoor fitness. The project was a partnership with Glasgow Life and will see the young people provide free training sessions to others in their community.



Thanks to the Home Comforts service, I now have a sofa, a wardrobe, table and chest of drawers. It really helped me get started in my new home. When you haven't got anything, anything you do get means so much.

**Alan Popowicz** Tenant





### Supporting people

Welfare reform, together with the on-going economic climate, has left many of our customers struggling to make ends meet. We have supported them in a wide range of ways over this year including:

- // working with others in Wheatley to launch a new furniture recycling scheme which has seen 182 GHA tenants get help to furnish their home
- // launching a pilot 'Eat Well' project in the East End of Glasgow which gives people in real need free deliveries of surplus supermarket food and support to get their finances back on track
- // offering tailored benefits and money advice through our team of specialist advisors
- // providing fuel advice to help tenants cut the costs of heating their home.

Alan Popowicz, 48, a British Army veteran with the Royal Signals Corp, had no furniture when he moved into a GHA home. He said: "Thanks to the Home Comforts service, I now have a sofa, a wardrobe, table and chest of drawers. It really helped me get started in my new home. When you haven't got anything, anything you do get means so much."

### Extra help for older people

We know our older people often need a bit of extra support to live independently. Our Handyperson Services continued to prove popular, with 1495 people accessing the free service in the past year. Tenants over 60 and those with a disability get odd jobs done around the home such as putting up shelves, hanging curtains or changing plugs.

More than 300 people over 60 took part in fitness and arts and crafts classes through Silver Deal Active. The classes are delivered in partnership with Glasgow Life and Glasgow City Community Health Partnership and run in sheltered housing complexes and community venues.

And we carried out 4483 free WinterReady home checks for our older tenants to make sure their home was in good shape to deal with the cold weather. The home check is carried out by a plumber who tests the boiler, pipes and taps and bleeds the radiators.

### Legacy projects

GHA played its part in helping create a legacy for the people of Glasgow from the 2014 Commonwealth Games.

We supported a range of projects designed to involve local people in the buzz of the Games and encourage them to lead more active lives. This included The FARE Mini Olympics for 920 primary pupils from the East End and the Gold Medal Programme which provided funding for sport or cultural projects in schools and nurseries.

GHA is an organisation that is of iconic significance in Scotland and its extraordinary levels of customer and staff satisfaction are a substantial achievement.

Sir Peter Housden

Permanent Secretary to the Scottish Government

### **Area Committees**

Our Area Committees, made up of tenants and other local representatives, took decisions about what their communities needed to make them better places to live. Each of the three committees, in the North East, North West and South, had £1.5 million to spend on local environmental projects identified as priorities. Projects ranged from replacing fencing and paths to creating new community gardens and allotments.

They also supported local grass-roots projects through their £150,000 Community Funds.

### **Customer satisfaction**

GHA exceeded 90% overall customer satisfaction for the first time.

Other highlights in performance included:

// more than 90% of anti-social behaviour cases were resolved in full and to agreed timescales

// 95% of repairs completed right first time

// 87% customer satisfaction with repairs

However, satisfaction with the way we handled complaints is an area we will focus on in the year ahead.

### **Awards**

It was a great year for GHA in gaining external recognition for the work we do.

We won one of Europe's most prestigious prizes for business excellence and a top UK award for our staff campaign, "Think Yes".

The European Foundation for Quality Management (EFQM) recognised GHA as an international industry leader with a track record of continuous improvement, awarding GHA the "Leading with Vision, Inspiration and Integrity" prize at the 2013 EFQM Finals in Austria.

We won the award for "Business Transformation of the Year" for the ground-breaking "Think Yes" staff campaign at the UK Housing Awards, organised by the Chartered Institute of Housing to recognise excellence across the housing sector.

There was more success for GHA at the Association of Gas Safety Managers' inaugural Gas Safety Awards, where we won the award for "Gas Safety Initiative of the Year" and "Safety / Training Skills Initiative".





It's what our customers think that's most important and I'm pleased to say our overall customer satisfaction rose to 86%, six percentage points up on the previous year.



**Liz Ruine** Chair of Cube

What a year it has been for Cube and what a transformation! This really was the year when our staff and Board members listened to our customers and reviewed and improved just about every area of our services.

Take the new repairs service we launched in November 2013. I know our customers are finding the service – which now offers weekend and evening appointments – to be an improvement.

We also reorganised our housing staff so they are better placed to spend more time in their communities, helping people in every way they can. We launched a new way of advertising our available properties to make it easier and more convenient for people looking for a new home and even took to Facebook to give our younger tenants a new way to engage with us.

We kickstarted plans to build hundreds of new affordable homes, improved our performance across a range of measures and continued our work to help our tenants into work, training and education.

And while we were doing all that, we also moved offices to our new premises in Maryhill Burgh Halls. It's a great new base for the team and a welcoming place for our customers to drop in and see us.

I'm delighted Cube staff were recognised for their hard work by Customer Service Excellence, a national accreditation scheme overseen by the UK Government's Cabinet Office. Employees were assessed on all aspects of customer focus and it was a great achievement to reach the CSE standard at our first attempt. But, of course, it's what our customers think that's most important and I'm pleased to say our overall customer satisfaction rose to 86%,

six percentage points up on the previous year.

There is no doubt Cube has made real progress this year. Over the coming year, there will be no letup in our efforts as we continue our work – as part of Wheatley Group – to make a difference to the communities we serve.

### I'd just like to say a big thank you to Cube for all the work being done to improve our homes.

**Cube tenant** 



### New repairs service launched

Cube introduced a new improved repairs service, run by City Building, in November last year.

Customers are now given appointments at a time which suits them best – including in the evenings and at weekends. This means customers don't have to wait at home for long periods for the repairs team to call. In the first five months of the new service, 3681 appointments were offered to customers compared with only 618 in the previous seven months.

Customers can also call our Customer Service Centre, 24-hours a day, every day of the year to book a repair. Here's how we did this year:

- // 99.52% of emergency repairs were completed within timescale, with the average timescale standing at 4 hours 44 minutes
- // 7717 non-emergency repairs were completed with an average completion time of 6.3 working days
- // 88.8% of repairs were carried out right first time
- // 100% of annual gas services were carried out
- // 84% tenants reported being satisfied with their repair.

### **Better homes**

We continue to focus on investing in our homes with 65% now meeting or exceeding the Scottish Housing Quality Standard and the remainder due to be upgraded and modernised by 2015.

This year we:

- // installed 506 new kitchens in our homes in Glasgow and Haldane
- // put new windows in all our Glasgow homes
- // completed our lift refurbishment programme
- // renewed roofs on five multistorey blocks
- // completed cladding in Broomhill and Gorget eight-storey blocks
- // continued cladding work in remaining blocks in Wyndford.

### **New-build homes**

Cube joined forces with Barratt West Scotland to provide brand new one and two bedroom flats in a flourishing new community in Clydebank.

Cube bought 33 flats on Barratt's 'The Scholars' development in Clydebank with support from West Dunbartonshire Council and the Scottish Government.

The site allows Cube to provide more small, good-quality homes at affordable rents for local people.

This partnership has the potential to make a significant contribution towards meeting the need for more affordable homes in West Dunbartonshire.

### Councillor David McBride

Convener of Housing for West Dunbartonshire Council

### Plans for hundreds more

Cube is now working on plans which could see hundreds more new-build homes for social and mid-market rent over the next few years. Work is expected to start later this year on 46 homes in Ruchazie. Further homes are planned, subject to approvals, in Kelvindale Road, Maryhill, Milton and Dalmuir.

Cube will also lead the delivery of hundreds of new affordable homes in West Dunbartonshire after Wheatley Group agreed a strategic partnership with West Dunbartonshire Council.

Discussions are being held over an arrangement that will see homes built at the sites of the former Bonhill Primary School, and St Columba's and St Andrew's High Schools in Clydebank.

Land at Singer Street and Second Avenue in Clydebank and at Croft Street and Raglan Street, Bonhill, are also earmarked for development as part of a 10-year regeneration programme.

The agreement will see 393 new social rented homes built by Cube with the Council receiving 100% nomination rights for all of the properties.

### Customer satisfaction up

Customers are more satisfied than ever before with Cube's services. Cube's overall customer satisfaction was 86% for 2013-14, up from 80% the previous year. Cube also resolved 97% of all complaints they received within agreed timescales (for most complaints this is five days) and, despite the Welfare Benefits changes and difficult economic climate, reduced rent arrears from 4.6% to 3.7%.

### **Better services**

We reorganised our teams at Cube to help us provide a better service to our customers.

The changes mean Housing Officers, such as Julie Snell, pictured right, now spend more time out and about in their communities, doing more for customers. They have small patches of around 230 homes, giving them time to build stronger relationships with customers and deal with any issues straight away.

The improvements also included:

- // new Welfare Benefits and Fuel Advisors to give customers the tailored support they need to make the most of their tenancy
- // access to Wheatley's 24/7 Customer Service Centre, allowing customers to report a repair or pay their rent round-the-clock and giving our frontline staff more time to talk to customers in their homes
- // new environmental teams to provide extra cleaning and new night-mobile caretaking service to help residents feel safer.



I called the Handyperson Service as my disabled husband needed a handrail fitted in the bathroom of our house. They did a good job and were really friendly. It's a great scheme and helps tenants who might not be able to do little jobs for themselves. I would definitely recommend it.

Jackie Barnes



### **Better lives**

In common with all our partner organisations in Wheatley, we continued with our mission to improve the lives of our customers. As well as providing tailored advice and support through our Welfare Benefits and Fuel Advisors, Cube customers also benefited from Wheatley-wide schemes such as Home Comforts, which sees second-hand furniture refurbished and distributed to tenants in need. A total of 36 Cube tenants received help with furnishing their home through Home Comforts.

Wheatley Group also supported a range of community-based projects to help our tenants such as the Lone Parents Advice Network which ran in Knightswood and Maryhill and which offered single parents help with money, benefits and getting online.

### Support for young people

We provided support for younger members of our households in a range of ways. The Gold Medal Programme, a £55,000 fund, saw nursery and school-age children in our Glasgow communities take part in a range of sporting and cultural activities through their schools.

Schools, learning centres and nurseries were invited to bid for a cash award to stage their commonwealth-inspired activities. All the projects included youngsters from Cube or GHA neighbourhoods.

Through Wheatley Group's Better Futures Bursary scheme we also helped 21 tenants through their university studies by providing a grant of up to £1500.

### Helping older people

More than 70 Cube tenants have taken advantage of our new Handyperson Service to get odd jobs done around their home.

The service, which is open to all tenants over 60 or those with a disability, is proving very popular. Some residents have found it so useful they've called on the Handyperson team three or four times with different jobs.

The team calls round and helps with a range of tasks including: changing plugs and sockets, cleaning internal windows, furniture assembly and basic plumbing.

Jackie Barnes, a tenant in Hawthornhill, said: "I called the Handyperson Service as my disabled husband needed a handrail fitted in the bathroom of our house. They did a good job and were really friendly. It's a great scheme and helps tenants who might not be able to do little jobs for themselves. I would definitely recommend it."

Nine older Cube tenants have taken part in Silver Deal Active classes. And more than 170 had one of our WinterReady home checks carried out to make sure their home, including their boiler and radiators, was all geared up for winter.

It's the small things that count, such as minor repairs, removing litter, grass cutting and getting them resolved.

**Cube tenant** 

### Jobs and training

We are determined to provide our tenants with more opportunities to get on in life. This year we began offering jobs or training opportunities to people in our homes – with a total of 10 getting a step into employment so far. Seven Cube tenants secured a year-long training place on our Community Janitors scheme, while one school leaver landed a Modern Apprenticeship. A further two Cube tenants were recruited through our Group's Wheatley Pledge which encourages contractors and suppliers to do more for people in our communities.

### Greener homes and communities

Cube's work to help create greener homes continued over the year. The district heating scheme on the Wyndford estate in Glasgow - which was designed and built by SSE Heat Networks - picked up a prestigious prize at the Combined Heat and Power Association (CHPA) Awards.

The heating system provides low-cost heating and hot water to more than 1500 tenants and around 300 owners, and is part of a £27million regeneration of the estate in Maryhill.

Meanwhile, major improvements to more than 1000 homes on the estate were given the go-ahead after British Gas vowed to complete the £10million overcladding programme – despite changes to UK energy efficiency funding.

The energy-improvement work on the remaining five multi-storey blocks and 12 low rise blocks – totalling 1025 homes – in Wyndford is expected to be complete in 2015.

### **Letting homes**

We introduced a new improved way of advertising our available properties in November 2013.

Homes are now advertised on our Home Finder website and available in a printed publication for people who are not online.

Anyone who is looking for a home can now go online, or call us 24 hours a day, and note an interest in properties they would like to live in.

They are also able to see a wider range of properties which are available from our sister landlords such as GHA.

### Cleaner and tidier neighbourhoods

We carry out estate walkabouts with our senior staff to help understand issues affecting our communities. Walkabouts were managed across all our neighbourhoods from West Dumbarton to North Lanarkshire and Renfrewshire.

Residents helped to identify any problems and improvements. We've taken action on concerns including building maintenance, stair cleaning, unkempt gardens and tree stumps left in open spaces.

One resident said: "It's the small

things that count, such as minor repairs, removing litter, grass cutting and getting them resolved."

### **Customer Service Excellence**

Cube staff were recognised for delivering excellent customer service by a national accreditation scheme overseen by the UK Government's Cabinet Office.

This was the first time Cube had been assessed for the Customer Service Excellence (CSE), which is the national standard for excellence in customer service and focuses on areas which matter to customers such as delivery of services, information, professionalism and staff attitude.

Cube was awarded three 'Compliance Plus' marks – the highest grade that can be achieved.

I was very proud to receive this award, but it was a real team effort – I couldn't have done it without the rest of the Cube tenants on the committee.

**Liz Ruine** Chair





### **New office**

Cube head office moved into a new home of its own in Maryhill Burgh Halls. All our frontline services moved from the Gatehouse in Wyndford and our Firhill office to the newly restored Halls in Gairbraid Avenue.

The move means that staff such as Housing Officers, Project Officers, Clerk of Works, Welfare Benefits, Fuel and Money Advisors are now all based under the same roof.

Tenants can pop in to report a repair, pick up information on our services and speak to staff. The new office has been fully refurbished with private interview rooms and meeting rooms.

### New ways to contact us

Cube wants customers to get in touch when and where it suits them best. That's why we introduced new ways for people to engage with us. We went live on Facebook, refreshed our website and made it easy for customers to call us any time of the day by providing 24/7 access to our friendly advisors at the Group's Customer Service Centre. Our Housing Officers can visit tenants in their home if they get in touch.

### Liz's EVH award

Cube Chair Liz Ruine was recognised with a prestigious award for volunteering. Liz picked up the Helen McGregor Award 2013 from the Employers in Voluntary Housing (EVH) for more than two decades of volunteer work.

The award recognises people from all over Scotland who give freely of their own time to improve local communities.

Liz, from Dumbarton, has been Chair of Cube since 2012 but has been volunteering for 23 years.

She said: "I was very proud to receive this award, but it was a real team effort – I couldn't have done it without the rest of the Cube tenants on the committee."

Liz was also chosen to carry the Queens Baton as it passed through Dumbarton. Liz was nominated by Wheatley Group Director of Partnerships Lynn McCulloch for the work she does for people in her community and all Cube tenants.





### Loretto's expertise in care and support is already benefiting the wider Wheatley Group.



Michael Burns Chair of Loretto

The past year has been an important one in Loretto's history. In January 2014 – after listening to the views of the people we work for and our stakeholders - we became a partner in Wheatley Group.

Loretto Housing has more than 1000 tenants and our subsidiary company, Loretto Care, provides specialist care and support services to a further 1000 people in partnership with seven local authorities.

Although we are just a few months into our partnership with Wheatley, we are already sharing services, expertise and costs to do more to help and support the people we work for.

Some of our older and disabled customers are making good use of our new Handyperson Service for help with odd jobs around the home. All our customers can now take advantage of the Group's 24/7

Customer Service Centre to speak to an advisor at any time.

Another great new service is Home Comforts which provides recycled furniture to people who need help to settle into a new home.

Loretto's expertise in care and support is already benefiting the wider Wheatley Group. We are rolling out – across Wheatley's housing associations – a Tenancy Support Service so that vulnerable tenants needing extra help to stay in their homes can access the right services and advice.

Just ahead of joining Wheatley, we opened a £4.7million specialist care home in Tollcross in Glasgow to support the recovery of people with alcohol-related brain damage. We also completed new-build projects including 55 low-carbon homes in Paisley and 22 flats in Lambhill in North Glasgow.

We have been able to give all staff a consolidated pay increase for the first time in several years and are delighted to reward their hard work and commitment.

Sadly, we said goodbye to some well-known faces who had given many years' service to Loretto, helping build it into a successful and progressive organisation. They are former Chief Executive Simon Carr, Carol Best, Paul Hush and Ian Elrick. We wish them all well as we embark on an exciting new chapter for Loretto.

I am extremely impressed with this excellent purposebuilt facility, which will offer a high standard of care for people with enduring mental health problems and alcohol-related brain damage (ARBD), helping them with their very specific needs so they have more confidence and improved self-worth as well as feeling less alone and isolated.

### Michael Matheson

Minister for Public Health on the opening of the Fullarton Service in Tollcross



### New-build completed

We completed four major new-build and regeneration projects. They are:

- // Charleston Square, a sustainable, low-carbon development of 53 homes on the site of the former South Primary School in Paisley. The development of one to four-bedroom flats and houses includes amenity and wheelchair standard accommodation and a courtyard building with 10 supported flats for young adults
- // Balmore Road in Lambhill in
  North Glasgow which comprises
  22 two, three and four-bed flats
   two of which are wheelchair
  accessible and eight of which were
  designed specifically for adults
  with learning disabilities or mental
  health issues. Support for these
  tenants is provided in partnership
  with Glasgow City Council Social
  Work Services. The project was
  part funded with £1.22m from the
  Scottish Government's Investment
  and Innovation Fund
- // a £4.7million specialist care home in Tollcross in Glasgow, the Fullarton Service, to support the recovery of people with alcoholrelated brain damage. The facility houses 22 people and offers round-the-clock nursing care
- // a £1.5m upgrade to homes at St John Court in Partickhill, Glasgow. The flats were refurbished to make them warmer, more modern and energy efficient with new kitchens and doors, insulation

and a communal heating system.

Minister for Public Health Michael Matheson opened the Fullarton Service in Tollcross. He said: "I am extremely impressed with this excellent purpose-built facility, which will offer a high standard of care for people with enduring mental health problems and alcohol-related brain damage (ARBD), helping them with their very specific needs so they have more confidence and improved self-worth as well as feeling less alone and isolated."

### **Award-winning service**

Loretto was recognised for excellence through a number of prestigious awards.

The organisation as a whole achieved Investors in People (IiP) Gold status for the third year running and continues in its role as an IiP Champion – a leading organisation which helps and inspires other organisations in their bid for IiP accreditation.

At Loretto Care, 100% of Housing Support Services received good, very good or excellent grades from the Scottish Care Commission.

Loretto retained Healthy Working Lives Gold accreditation at its annual review along with a renewal of its Mental Health Commendation.

Loretto continues to be both an accredited "Mindful Employer" and a "Positive about Disabled" employer.

It's changed my life. I've always wanted my own back and front door, and the boys have never had their own room, so this is a dream come true. Now they have their own private space to do their homework. They're much happier – and are even doing better at school. My fuel bills are about 30 per cent lower too.

Diane Wallace

### **Loretto Housing performance**

Loretto Housing achieved strong performance across a range of indicators. This included:

// rent arrears in 2013-14 reduced and we saw an increase in outstanding payments collected from former tenants. Total rent collection was 108.6% compared to 97.5% in 2012-13

// 103 new build properties let to tenants in 2013-14, the first new builds since 2011.

// a decrease in rent lost on empty properties from 2.35% to 0.74%

// a drop in average time taken to let all properties of five days

// 91.5% of tenants reporting Loretto was good at keeping them informed about their homes and tenancy.

### **Loretto Care services**

Loretto Care received good, very good or excellent grades for all care inspections carried out in its housing support services.

The Care Inspectorate – Loretto Care's regulatory body – grades services based on four 'quality themes' – care and support, environment, staffing, and leadership and management.

Of the 13 inspections carried out, two received excellent grades for the quality of care and support delivered by the service. These were for Renfrewshire Housing Support and Supported Living and for Glasgow resettlement services.

### **Delivering training**

Loretto's Training and SVQ Team delivered a total of 119 courses on 15 different topics covering statutory and foundation training to over 1100 participants. We also coordinated 675 eLearning packages.

Of the participants who completed a course, 94.8% felt the course would enable then to perform their job better; 95.8% felt their understanding of the subject had improved as a result of the course and 98.3% felt the course was clear and well presented.

Our strategy to qualify the workforce to Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) standards by 2020 continues, with our current qualification rates at:

Qualifications	Qualified
Registered Managers	100%
Depute Service Managers	84%
Care Home Practitioners	100%
Care Staff	66%

### **Tenancy Support Service**

Loretto Care's successful Tenancy Support Service is being rolled out across Wheatley Group. The service provides short-term, lowlevel support to help tenants who are vulnerable, at risk or in crisis to develop the skills they need to make a success of their tenancy. The aim is to help people sustain their tenancy and reduce the risk of homelessness.

This is the first service designed by Loretto to be rolled out to all subsidiaries in Wheatley Group. We've all really come together as a team during the project. We've supported and helped each other. The sense of achievement is huge. It's changed my idea of how I want my home to be in future.

### Levi

Loretto Care young person





### Support for young people

Loretto Care offered a range of courses to help the young people it supports to live settled and independent lives.

The courses, on topics such as cookery and budgeting, are designed to help participants gain valuable skills and experience. One course this past year saw formerly homeless young people in Stirling and Falkirk complete a seven-week furniture recycling course, learning practical new skills, working as part of a team and building confidence and interpersonal skills.

Levi, 22, renovated an old bureau. He said: "We've all really come together as a team during the project. We've supported and helped each other. The sense of achievement is huge. It's changed my idea of how I want my home to be in future."

### **New services**

Loretto introduced a number of new services after joining Wheatley Group. These included a new Handyperson Service for over 60s and disabled tenants where they can receive help with odd jobs round the home. Over 60s can also access free fitness and arts classes. A new furniture recycling scheme which helps tenants setting up home was launched by Wheatley Group in 2014 with Loretto tenants also able to access this.

### Sharing knowledge

Loretto Care has formed a partnership with the University of the West of Scotland to share knowledge, education and training. The 'University-Industry Partnership Agreement' will see the two organisations working together on a range of projects and exploring the potential for future research links and joint research projects.

This partnership will result in improved training and development opportunities for staff within Loretto. It will also enable Loretto Care to absorb world-class academic research and knowledge into their work.





Gaining this recognition for our customer service focus is a real tribute to our team of five hard-working staff and I'm absolutely delighted we got this at the first time of asking.



**Margaret Dunlop** Chair of West Lothian Housing Partnership

West Lothian Housing Partnership (WLHP) is one of the newer Wheatley partners, formally joining the Group in July 2013. It has been a busy and exciting time for us, as we extend Wheatley's groupwide services to our tenants, get to know our new colleagues and adapt to new ways of working. I would like to thank the WLHP Board for its efforts for making this transition possible and to the staff for embracing the change.

WLHP manages 381 homes across the West Lothian area – most of which are less than 10 years old. We will be moving to our new housing office in Bathgate later this year to bring us closer to our tenants. We have three housing officers, who work out and about in our communities.

Joining Wheatley Group is already reaping benefits for our tenants. We are beginning to make savings and efficiencies by sharing costs and central services. We made savings of £86 per unit between 2012-13 and 2013-14. This is allowing us to invest more in our communities and services. Already, we are providing a better deal for tenants through the provision of all the extra services and opportunities that being part of Scotland's largest housing, care and regeneration group brings.

Our commitment to delivering first-class customer services was recognised this year when WLHP gained Customer Service Excellence (CSE) accreditation at the first attempt. CSE is the national standard for excellence in customer service in public sector organisations overseen by the UK Government's Cabinet Office. Gaining this recognition for our customer service focus is a real tribute to our team of five hard-working staff and I'm absolutely delighted we got this at the first time of asking.

People who live in our homes

can already take advantage of Wheatley's Handyperson Service for help with odd jobs around the home; some have accessed bursaries to help with the cost of going to university or college and all our tenants can talk with a Welfare Benefits or Fuel Advisor for support in managing their money and bills.

A further great benefit for our tenants is that they can now report a repair or pay a bill 24 hours a day, seven days a week, thanks to our Customer Service Centre. This is freeing up more of our Housing Officers' time, meaning they can spend more time out and about in their patch, meeting directly with tenants.

Joining Wheatley Group has given us the opportunity to see the best of both worlds in the housing sector. It allows us to maintain close links to our tenants while remaining deeply rooted in our local community.

**Dan Blake** Housing Officer

### Satisfied customers

We hold regular Tenant Satisfaction Surveys to find out how satisfied our customers are with their homes, environments and services. The most recent survey took place in April 2013 and showed 88% of respondents are satisfied with WLHP as their landlord and 82% are happy with their neighbourhood as a place to live. On repairs, 91% reported being satisfied with the service they received and 77% are satisfied with the way WHLP deals with day-to-day repairs and maintenance.

We also resolved more than 90% of anti-social behaviour cases.

### Improving lives in communities

Our Housing Officers have been out and about in our neighbourhoods, identifying potential projects as part of our work to improve and strengthen our communities and to help people to live better lives.

This is a new role for our Housing Officers and it's a very interesting time for us as we speak to tenants and seek out areas where we can drive real improvements. We look forward to reaping the benefit of some successful projects soon.

### Finding a home

We carried out a review of our allocations policy – the way we let our homes – and consulted residents on their views. Our proposals will see a new way of letting homes introduced over the next year which will give customers more of a say in where they live.

WLHP will advertise its available homes through Home Finder – an online portal which gives people who are registered for housing the chance to look at available homes and note an interest in any they want to live in.

### Giving tenants a voice

Our Housing Officers worked closely with our tenants and the Wheatley Group Community Governance team to involve more tenants in having a say in what we do.

We have set up new local tenant forums which will enable us to hear more from our tenants and put them at the heart of decisions affecting their communities.

Some of our tenants have also joined forums which can influence services and decision-making across Wheatley Group. These include the Polish Forum, the Scrutiny Panel and a Welfare Advisor Panel.

### WinterReady checks

This past year we were able to offer free WinterReady checks to all tenants over the age of 60 to help make sure their homes were in good shape for the cold winter months. A total of 12 of our tenants took up the offer, with a plumber visiting the home, checking the boiler and radiators and offering tips on staying warm and reducing energy bills.

### Support and advice

All of our tenants can now access the support of a Welfare Benefits

Advisor who can offer free, impartial advice to tenants on all matters relating to benefits and welfare reform. Fuel Advisors are also available to offer free advice on reducing fuel bills.

WLHP's customer service benefits from very wellmotivated staff who fully involve themselves in continuous improvement.

Customer Service Excellence (CSE) assessor

### Help with higher education

We offered bursaries of up to £1500 to help people who live in our homes go to college or university. We're delighted that two of our tenants were able to get help while they study as a result of this scheme.

### Help in the home

The Group's Home Comforts scheme helps people settle in their homes by collecting unwanted furniture, restoring it and recycling it before distributing it to tenants in need. Three of our tenants have already benefited from this new scheme.

Our Handyperson Service is available for tenants who are over 60 or disabled to help with odd jobs around the home. This includes tasks like changing plugs, basic plumbing, fitting shelves or cleaning internal windows.

### Jobs and training

We have been actively promoting the Wheatley Pledge scheme to our customers which we hope in time will create employment opportunities for more of our tenants. Wheatley Pledge encourages our contractors and suppliers to create more jobs and apprenticeships for people in our communities. We are also learning about how we can create more jobs and training opportunities for people in our areas and are looking forward to making progress in this area over the coming year.

### **Joining Facebook**

We made the step of signing up for social media with the launch of our own Facebook page, which allows tenants to stay in touch with us digitally. The page carries all the latest news and updates from WHLP as well as a link to enable them to pay rent online and, importantly, it allows tenants to get in touch with us with any feedback.

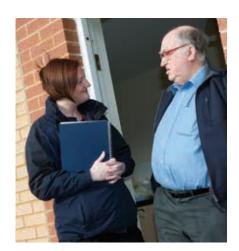
### **Our customer focus**

We gained Customer Service Excellence (CSE) accreditation at our first attempt. The scheme recognises excellence in customer services and is overseen by the UK Government's Cabinet Office.

All five staff were assessed across a number of areas including delivery of services, information, professionalism and staff attitude. WLHP was considered to be 'compliance plus' – the highest grading available – in four areas.

The assessors noted "areas of considerable strength in the customer service approach" and said the service "benefits from many very well motivated staff who fully involve themselves in continuous improvement".

They also said staff "demonstrated a highly customer-focused approach".







Over the past year our business has grown. We have taken over the provision of factoring services for Cube Housing and increased the number of new private sector customers from 183 to 516.



**Liz Walford** Chair of YourPlace

Known as Scotland's "Feel Good Factor", YourPlace is one of Scotland's leading property management companies with over 25,000 customers across the Central Belt.

As Wheatley's largest commercial subsidiary, YourPlace makes a significant contribution to the diversification and commercialisation of the Group's operations.

Our core business is delivering an excellent factoring service to homeowners in wholly-owned blocks and blocks shared with tenants. This involves maintaining common areas to a high standard, providing round-the-clock customer service and ensuring owners vote on factoring issues and meet their share of responsibilities, in particular, paying their share of costs.

Our wide range of services can be accessed via multiple channels including: digitally via our website

and smart phone app; by telephone through Wheatley's 24/7 customer service centre and in person at the shop in Trongate, Glasgow.

Over the past year our business has grown. We now provide factoring services for Cube Housing Association and increased the number of new private sector customers from 183 to 516.

We continue to focus on delivering exceptional customer satisfaction for all customers. In October this year, customer satisfaction with repairs rose to 97%.

YourPlace is committed to driving up standards in the sector as a leading member of Glasgow City Council's Factoring Commission.

YourPlace employs 52 staff, including those in the Group shop and Common Repairs Team.

YourPlace services offer good value for money and the costs are cheaper than our previous factor. Any contact I've had with YourPlace has been straightforward with staff being very pleasant and helpful.

**Alison Flynn** Factored owner





### Financial highlights

By further improving the efficiency and effectiveness of our services, YourPlace is delivering better value for money for our customers. We benchmark our performance against other property factors and achieved our objective of remaining in the top quartile in 2013-14.

YourPlace's profits are routed straight back into the Group, to continue developing services for customers. Gift Aid can be claimed on these profits and in 2013-14, YourPlace generated £1m of Gift Aid, exceeding its target by £272,000 and reaching the £1million mark two years ahead of schedule.

### **Keeping customers happy**

The latest customer satisfaction survey for YourPlace owners shows an overall satisfaction rate of 67% – exceeding the 65% target set and a steady rise from satisfaction of 40% in 2006. However there is still room to improve this and we aim to do so over the coming years.

The figures come from a telephone survey of more than 1000 customers – the results of which will help improve standards and to shape future services.

The Common Repairs Team has had a major impact on customer satisfaction, with 97% of customers reporting they were happy with their repairs in October 2013.

These findings are the result of the hard work by YourPlace staff and

across the Group. The results give YourPlace important information to help us focus on improvements, as part of our continuing journey towards customer excellence.

Alison Flynn, who lives in the South Side of Glasgow, became a YourPlace factored owner last summer. She said: "YourPlace services offer good value for money and the costs are cheaper than our previous factor. Any contact I've had with YourPlace has been straightforward with staff being very pleasant and helpful."

### **Group-wide factoring services**

As Wheatley Group grows, YourPlace is taking on the provision of factoring services across a number of subsidiaries.

During 2013-14, YourPlace took on factoring services for Cube Housing Association. This has streamlined services and has meant some savings for customers due to the Group's size and scale.

YourPlace continues to grow its customer base, with 333 new customers from the private sector choosing YourPlace to provide their factoring services over the past year. The service has been excellent. The staff were courteous and professional and did a great job. I got a few quotes from other companies and YourPlace's prices compared really well. I decided to use the YourPlace service as it's a company I trust to do a good job.

**Carol Paisley** Customer

### **Advice for customers**

YourPlace customers looking for help to manage their money can now access Wheatley Group's dedicated team of Welfare, Benefit and Money Advisors based in our shop in the Trongate in Glasgow.

Advisors can offer customers useful budgeting advice as well as helping to make sure they are claiming all the benefits they are entitled to. Advisors can also go through income and expenditure forms to help people manage their finances more effectively.

### **Optional services**

YourPlace continues to improve the optional services available to customers.

Plans are under way to expand the home improvements service to offer customers the option of replacement double glazed windows. YourPlace has also changed its supplier for gas and boiler cover following customer feedback. The service is now provided by Saltire.

YourPlace has also introduced a land maintenance service offering a grass cutting service to newbuild developments. The service is already proving popular, with hundreds of homes signing up.

Carol Paisley, from Thornliebank in Glasgow, has used the YourPlace Internal Repairs Service. She said: "The service has been excellent. The staff were courteous and professional and did a great job.

"I got a few quotes from other companies and YourPlace's prices compared really well. I decided to use the YourPlace service as it's a company I trust to do a good job."

### Speeding up repairs

The Common Repairs Team continues to provide an excellent service. Customer satisfaction averaged 88% over the year and reached 97% in October 2013.

The team is also working its way across the city, completing 876 Property Maintenance Reports this year and sending these to customers. This gives customers an insight into the condition of their property and helps them plan for any future repairs and maintenance required.





I am delighted to have an apprenticeship with City Building and am grateful to Wheatley Group for providing this opportunity.

**Andrew Britton**Modern Apprentice



### **Opportunities for customers**

Ten young people from YourPlace homes secured an apprenticeship or job through The Wheatley Pledge scheme.

The Wheatley Pledge, launched in August last year, encourages our contractors and suppliers to offer people in our communities new employment or training opportunities. YourPlace customers or their families took up 10 of the 100 opportunities created in the first eight months of the scheme.

Of the 10, six secured an electrician or painter and decorator apprenticeship with City Building.

Apprentice Electrician Andrew Britton, from Carntyne, said: "I am delighted to have an apprenticeship with City Building and am grateful to Wheatley Group for providing this opportunity."

### Recognising excellent service

YourPlace achieved 'Recognised for Excellence' accreditation, a Europewide scheme designed for highperforming organisations that are well on their way to excellence.

YourPlace gained the award after being assessed by Quality Scotland.

Many staff met with the assessors as they gathered information and evidence during their week-long visit in March.

This success follows YourPlace gaining Investors in People Gold last year.





Growing Lowther Homes is helping Wheatley Group to diversify and expand the range of tenures for people looking for a home.



**Ronnie Jacobs**Chair of Lowther Homes

Lowther Homes' portfolio of full and mid-market homes for rent has grown rapidly in the past year - from 195 last year to 381 today.

That means Wheatley is now offering a wider range of options for people to access affordable, good-quality homes across our communities.

The biggest development has been the multi-million pound refurbishment of 98 mid-market rent flats at Ibroxholm Oval in the South Side of Glasgow, all of which were let well ahead of schedule.

The portfolio has grown through a number of acquisitions and refurbishments with two further refurbishment projects in Glasgow under way.

Lowther Homes is also working in partnership with its sister organisation GHA on its first newbuild development in Croftfoot in the South Side of Glasgow.

All this will bring Lowther Homes' portfolio to almost 500 properties.

Over the coming year, we are committed to working hard to understand Lowther customers better through satisfaction information and doing more to meet their needs.

Growing Lowther Homes is helping Wheatley Group to diversify and expand the range of tenures for people looking for a home.

Many people struggle to get on the property ladder or to pay fullmarket rent and often don't qualify for social housing. Lowther Homes aims to provide these people with a new option to get a good-quality home they can afford. It's a fantastic location. As soon as I went to view the flat I knew I wanted to live there. I've been very impressed with the quality of the interiors and everything is brand new – including all the white goods

**Graeme Brewster**Ibroxholm tenant



### Stylish flats at Ibroxholm Oval

The multi-million pound refurbishment of İbroxholm Oval was completed in October 2013. The £7million makeover involved overcladding the outside of the block, installing new windows, kitchens and bathrooms and building a stylish, new glass foyer at the front. A combined heat-andpower system heats the homes through a network of underground pipes. The development also has new lifts, secure parking, a new bike shed, CCTV and state-ofthe-art controlled entry system. Environmental work was carried out over the summer to add finishing touches to the development.

These one and two-bedroom apartments have proved very popular with key workers and young professionals. All 98 flats were snapped up eight months ahead of schedule.

Tenant Graeme Brewster, 41, said: "It's a fantastic location. As soon as I went to view the flat I knew I wanted to live there. I've been very impressed with the quality of the interiors and everything is brand new – including all the white goods."

### More homes refurbished

Work has already started on the refurbishment of 40 two-bedroom tenement flats at Shawbridge Street on Glasgow's South Side. The flats, previously earmarked for demolition, will benefit from improved energy efficiency through the addition of sun spaces, energy efficient boilers, solar panels and enhanced levels of insulation.

The site, which attracted funding from the Scottish Government, will be for mid-market rent and is due for completion in December 2014.

It's great to see new, mixed tenure, homes being built. I know these affordable homes will be life-changing for those lucky enough to secure them. It's a great achievement for everyone involved.

**Sadie Docherty** Lord Provost of Glasgow

### **New-build homes**

New homes are being built at a £3.6million development in Croftfoot Road on the South Side of Glasgow.

The site, due for completion in Spring 2015, will have 24 two and four-bedroom semi-detached and terraced houses for midmarket rent, and eight two-bedroom flats for shared equity ownership. Lowther Homes is working in partnership with its sister organisation, GHA, who will build the homes in partnership with contractor City Building, with Lowther responsible for letting and managing them.

Almost £1million of funding was secured through the Scottish Government's Greener Homes Innovation Scheme. The funding bid was also supported by Glasgow City Council who sold the land to GHA.

The houses are being specially designed with energy-saving features which will reduce residents' energy bills significantly.

Glasgow's Lord Provost Sadie
Docherty helped mark the start of
work on the site of the old St Julie's
Primary School in Croftfoot Road.
She said: "It's great to see new,
mixed tenure, homes being built.
I know these affordable homes
will be life-changing for those
lucky enough to secure them. It's
a great achievement for everyone
involved."

### **Expanding our portfolio**

In order to increase our diverse range of homes to let, this year Lowther has acquired a number of properties in and around the Glasgow area.

These include:

- // nine two-bedroom city centre flats in The Metropole building in Dunlop Street with secure underground parking
- // The Dell, a 35-home retirement complex in Giffnock on the outskirts of Glasgow. This development is geared for older residents and is made up of a mixture of one and two bedroom flats, along with communal facilities including a residents lounge
- // 12 brand new two-bedroom flats at The Sidings in Baillieston. These flats come with a parking space and are close to the M8 and ideally located for commuters to both Glasgow and Edinburgh.

Lowther Homes will continue to grow its portfolio with further acquisitions planned for 2014-15.

Directors' Report and Financial Statements

The Group continued to grow this year with West Lothian Housing Partnership and Loretto Housing and Care joining as subsidiaries. The environment in which the Group operates faced a number of challenges including changes to welfare benefits relating to under occupancy limits. However through early planning and continued focus on the achievement of cost efficiencies, financial performance remained strong. The Group is well placed to continue to deliver a stable and secure future for the organisation, its customers and staff.

### Income

Wheatley Group turnover for 2013-14 (excluding loss on sale of fixed assets and interest received) was £195.4m (£193.3m, 2012-13). The principal source of income was net rental income of £167.4m (£162.6m, 2012-13). Income was also earned from the provision of factoring services, commercial property rental income, care activities in the new subsidiary Loretto Care and the recharge of owners' improvements.

In addition, the Group received grant income totalling £45.4m (£43.7m, 2012-13). Sales under Right-to-Buy legislation totalled £4.3m (£3.6m, 2012-13).

### Expenditure

Total revenue expenditure was £202.5m (£193.4m, 2012-13) comprising the following main items:

// letting activity management and maintenance administration costs were £51.7m (£59.2m, 2012-13) // planned and cyclical maintenance costs of £26.0m (£23.2m, 2012-13)

// reactive maintenance costs of £32.6m (£29.9m, 2012-13)

// depreciation and amortisation of £30.1m (£26.9m, 2012-13)

Net expenditure on other activities including demolition works and wider role activities (not directly part of social letting activity) rose to £32.1m (£21.8m, 2012-13)

At the end of the year, rent arrears were £13.3m (£13.6m, 2012-13) and bad debt provisions of £4.2m (£4.3m, 2012-13).

### **Balance Sheet**

At the year end, Wheatley Group had a net position of £401.6m (£194.9m, 2012-13). Investment during the year in tenants' homes totalled £92.4m (£109.8m, 2012-13). The value of housing stock is £1,079.0m (£790.2m, 2012-13).

Glasgow Housing Association participates

in the Strathclyde Pension Fund with its share of deficit at year end being £43.7m (£33.5m deficit, 2012-13). This movement reflects the results from the FRS 17 actuarial valuation which incorporate the change in future inflation assumptions.

### **Housing assets**

All Registered Social Landlord subsidiaries in the Group carry social housing properties at valuation using an Existing Use Value for Social Housing (EUV-SH) basis. Prior year comparatives have been restated to reflect the introduction of this policy for Cube Housing Association and the two new RSL subsidiaries, West Lothian Housing Partnership and Loretto Housing Association.

Lowther Homes' policy is to value housing properties on an open market basis subject to tenancies. The valuation is provided by an independent professional advisor qualified by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. Lowther Homes

classifies housing properties for market rent as investment properties on its balance sheet.

#### Cash flows

Wheatley Group cash flows are shown on page 61. Net cash inflow from operating activities was £33.7m (£18.4m, 2012-13). The increase in net cash of £19.2m (£2.1m, 2012-13) was after grants of £40.7m (£35.8m, 2012-13) and loan receipts of £75.5m (£85.1m, 2012-13). The principal cash outflows were operating costs and investment in assets, particularly housing stock of £92.4m (£109.8m, 2012-13).

#### Liquidity

Wheatley Group's short-term liquidity has further improved in the year to show net current liabilities of £7.0m (£9.9m, 2012-13). Creditors falling due after more than one year have increased to £710.9m from £619.3m in 2012-13 with the main movements being additional bank loans to fund investments in tenants' homes and West Lothian Housing Partnership and Loretto Housing and Care joining the Group during the financial year.

### Going concern

There are no uncertainties related to events or conditions that cast doubt upon the entity's ability to continue as a going concern.

### **Capital Structure and Treasury Policy**

The activities of the largest Group subsidiary, Glasgow Housing Association, are funded on the basis of a Business Plan which is updated annually. The main elements of Glasgow Housing Association's long-term funding are a 30-year loan facility with a syndicate of banks and capital grants and loan provided by the Scottish Government.

The syndicated loan facility allows Glasgow Housing Association to borrow up to £700m and is to be fully repaid by 2040. In broad terms, the current Business Plan assumes that GHA will increase its borrowings each year until it completes the

remaining significant capital investment programme in the early years of the Plan. The debt is progressively paid off in subsequent years and is projected to be fully paid off by 2040-41. An amount of £30m of the GHA syndicated loan facility is for on-lending to Lowther Homes Limited.

The GHA Business Plan assumes total capital grants of £470m from the Scottish Government made up of the following funds:

i) Secured repayable loan

An amount of £370m was originally assumed to be repayable in 2040. However, since Glasgow Housing Association successfully achieved certain targets in respect of its performance and second stage transfer (SST), this grant was fully written off by agreement with the Scottish Government during the year.

ii) Contingent Efficiencies Grant

The Scottish Government has made available £100m of Contingent Efficiencies Grant which has been received up to 31 March 2014. This Grant is repayable in 2040-41.

The Business Plan also includes Scottish Government funding for specific elements of our investment programme in respect of new build works.

Cube Housing Association is funded by a combination of long and medium-term bilateral bank loans totalling £44.9m. Similar to GHA, Cube will increase its borrowing to fund its capital investment programme. All the loans will be repaid by 2040-41.

West Lothian Housing Partnership had bank loans outstanding of £8.6m, as at 31 March 2014. No further undrawn borrowing facilities existed, and outstanding borrowings existed, and outstanding borrowings are repayable in installments over 35 years. Loretto Housing Association is funded by loans provided by their banking syndicate and has a £15.0m facility available. As at 31 March 2014, a total of £10.0m has been drawn against this arrangement and is repayable in instalments.

Wheatley Housing Group manages its interest rate risk by entering into hedging arrangements, which have the effect of fixing the interest rate on a proportion of the projected debt levels each year. The interest rate on the remainder of the debt will vary in accordance with market interest rates. We regularly review our arrangements with respect to the hedge on our loans to ensure that we achieve adequate protection for our projected debt profile as it evolves. The Board receives updates each quarter which detail the debt, cash and interest received and paid. Changes to banking arrangements and bank signatories are approved by the Board.

The Group Treasury Management Policy sets down the framework for investing and managing of cash, raising loans, interest rate management and the use of financial derivatives by the Group. A key objective of the Policy is to ensure that the Group's loan portfolio represents the optimum balance of risk in interest rate, loan maturity and fixed rate exposure. In turn, it ensures that Group officers have the authority to take the necessary action as and when required in response to changes in the financial markets. The overriding objective of this Policy is to be risk averse, whilst at the same time maximising return on funds invested within laid down agreed parameters.

### Longer term business planning

Each year the Group and its subsidiaries produce a 30-year Business Plan which details and costs long-term plans. This document, which is approved by the Board and reviewed by external auditors, demonstrates our longer-term viability and regeneration plans.

### Financial risk management

The Group's operations expose it to a variety of financial risks as discussed below. The Wheatley Housing Group has a detailed risk management framework that seeks to limit the adverse effect of such risks on financial performance. The Group also has a centralised treasury function which ensures there is sufficient liquidity available to meet any cash requirements the Group may have.

### Liquidity and funding risk

The Group has sufficient facilities in place to meet its funding requirements. At the balance sheet date the Group had facilities in place totalling £768.5m with £161.4m remaining undrawn. These facilities are spread across a number of counterparties. Further details can be found in Note 22 of the financial statements. As noted above, the Group prepares a 30 year business plan on an annual basis. As part of this, liquidity and funding are reviewed to ensure sufficient funding is in place to deliver this plan.

### Credit risk

The risk of counterparties defaulting on amounts owed to the Group in relation to cash deposits and financial instruments is minimised by selecting counterparties with high credit ratings.

### Interest rate risk

The Group's treasury management policy requires that interest rate risk is minimised through a balance of fixed and floating rates. The policy states that the Group's target is a measure of between 50-70%. As at the balance sheet date, the Group's rate was 69.3% fixed. The Group also hedges against interest rate risk through the use of embedded hedges within its facilities.

### **Employee Policies**

### **Equal Opportunity**

The Wheatley Group remains committed to the principle of equal opportunity and to ensuring that no applicant or employee receives less favourable treatment on the grounds of gender, race, age, colour, nationality, religion, HIV status, disability or sexuality. Policies are in place to support any staff member who becomes disabled through modification of duties or retraining and support.

#### **Employee Relations**

Wheatley's subsidiaries recognise three trade unions: Unison, Unite and GMB and engage in collective bargaining and consultation with them. Wheatley continues to work closely with our trade union partners in ensuring policies remain relevant, fit for purpose and compliant with all relevant legislation. The Group Employee Relations team develops training programmes to ensure consistent implementation of these policies throughout the organisation and to empower staff to use the policies to make informed decisions.

### The Academy

People are at the heart of delivering everything Wheatley does across all the services it offers through its subsidiaries – be it social landlords, factoring or market rental businesses. Wheatley ensures that staff access all the development and support they need to be able to deliver to customers. Wheatley has developed a new induction process where everyone new to the Group attends a corporate induction which takes place over two and a half days. This concentrates on the Group vision, values and customers' experience.

### **Apprenticeship Programme**

Wheatley provides a tailored two year work placement supported by a programme of development for modern apprentices where they achieve Chartered Institute of Housing Level 2 in Housing Practice and SVQ Level 2 in Business Administration.

### **Graduate Trainees**

There are four graduate trainees undertaking a two year work placement. They develop their skills and knowledge in housing management by working across the Group.

### **Bursaries for staff**

Wheatley has 26 members of staff undertaking external further education courses with funding support from the Group.

#### **Accredited Development**

Wheatley now offers three different accredited CIH qualifications and two accredited leadership development programmes in-house at The Academy and is continuing to develop and extend the number of CIH qualifications on offer.

### **Partnerships**

Partnerships with Colleges and Universities are being continually developed to provide continuing professional development for staff.

#### Tenants and their families

The Stronger Communities Strategy is supported by creating learning and development opportunities for tenants and their families to build their educational attainment and their employability. This includes providing bursaries for tenants and their families to go to university, offering paid work placements through our Community Janitors programme and clauses in our contracts which require our contractors to offer local people jobs and training.

# Wheatley Board, Committee Structure and Related Matters

As at 31 March 2014 Wheatley's Articles of Association allowed for the appointment of up to twelve Directors as follows:

// up to five Non-Executive Directors // up to two GHA nominated Directors // up to four co-opted Directors // one "other" Director

At 31 March 2014 there were eleven Directors.

The Directors of the Board during the year are listed below:

Name	First Joined Board	Re-elected / Re-appointed	Left Board	Committees/ Groups / Directorships
Alastair Dempster	17 September 2012	-	-	Glasgow Housing Association Limited, GHA Enterprises Limited, GHA (Funding) Limited, Group Remuneration, Appointments, Appraisals & Governance Committee and Group Strategic Development Committee
Martin Armstrong	17 September 2012	-	-	GHA Enterprises Limited
Mike Blyth	17 September 2012	-	-	Glasgow Housing Association Limited, Glasgow Housing Association (Funding) Limited, Group Audit Committee, Group Remuneration, Appointments, Appraisals & Governance Committee and Group Strategic Development Committee
John Grant	17 September 2012	-	-	Glasgow Housing Association Limited, Lowther Homes Limited and Group Strategic Development Committee
Ronnie Jacobs	17 September 2012	-	-	Lowther Homes Limited and Group Strategic Development Committee

Name	First Joined Board	Re-elected / Re-appointed	Left Board	Committees/ Groups / Directorships
Alastair MacNish	17 September 2012	-	-	GHA Enterprises Limited, Glasgow Housing Association (Funding) Limited, Lowther Homes Limited, Group Audit Committee and Group Strategic Development Committee
Gordon Sloan	17 September 2012	-	-	Glasgow Housing Association Limited, GHA Enterprises Limited, Lowther Homes Limited, Glasgow Housing Association (Funding) Limited, Group Remuneration, Appointments, Appraisals & Governance Committee, Group Strategic Development Committee and Group Audit Committee
Elizabeth Walford	17 September 2012	-	-	Glasgow Housing Association Limited, GHA (Management ) Limited, trading as YourPlace, Glasgow Housing, Glasgow Housing Association (Funding) Limited, Group Audit Committee & Group Strategic Development Committee
Lesley McInnes	28 September 2012	-	-	Cube Housing Association Limited, Group Audit Committee
Sheila Gunn	6 November 2012	-	-	Glasgow Housing Association Limited, GHA (Management) Limited, trading as YourPlace, and GHA Enterprises Limited
Margaret Dunlop	28 August 2013	-	-	West Lothian Housing Partnership Limited

The Board is responsible for the strategic direction of the Group and financial planning.

Key responsibilities are:

// approval of the Group Strategy;
// approval of the Group Business
Plan, budget and any variations and
amendments to them, together with
other matters which fall within the role of
the Group Board;

// approval of the creation of new subsidiaries and partnerships;

- // approval of the group governance arrangements, systems of internal control and delegations;
- // defining and ensuring compliance with our values and objectives as a registered social landlord; and
- // approving each year's Group financial statements.

The Board also delegates authority to its Committees as follows:

### **Audit Committee**

Responsible for:

- // reviewing the Group's system of internal control, compliance assurance and risk management system;
- // providing an overview of the internal and
  external audit functions;

// scrutinising the financial statements;
// appoint and agree the remuneration of
 external auditors;

// monitoring the implementation of internal audit recommendations and external audit reports and management letters;

// reviewing the internal audit plan and scope of work; and

// reviewing the effectiveness of the overall risk strategy.

## **Group Remuneration, Appointments, Appraisals and Governance Committee**Responsible for:

// approving the process for recruitment, selection, succession planning and appraisal of Board members;

// ensuring Board members within the Group have the necessary balance of skills and experience to fulfil their roles; // evaluation and review of Group's

governance framework; and

// to make recommendations to the Group Board regarding the appointment and remuneration of the Group Chief Executive.

### **Group Strategic Development Committee**Responsible for:

// oversight of performance within the Group on key strategic measures; 
// reviewing the Group's strategic and financial planning arrangements; 
// oversight of the implementation of agreed Group strategies; and 
// review business rationale for any new major strategic projects.

### **Tenant Participation**

Wheatley's social landlords are led by tenants. Our objectives, strategies and services are shaped by what our tenants tell us is important to them, their families and communities.

We listen to our tenants and engage with them on a day to day basis, across the range of our engagement activities and through our satisfaction surveys and focus groups. We value and learn from the comments and complaints that we receive and use this to inform our learning and to develop services that meet their requirements.

We regularly consult with our tenants on a range of formal and informal issues, including allocations, rent setting, investment priorities and service development. We also consult with tenant representatives including local housing committees and registered tenant groups.

Our engagement structures are diverse and provide opportunities for tenants to participate with us in ways that are meaningful to them. We encourage and enable participation through capacity and skill building programmes that include accredited learning qualifications with the associated benefits of transferable skills for the workplace or volunteering.

### **Health and Safety**

### **Reporting and Prevention of Accidents**

Wheatley is committed to providing a safe, secure and pleasant environment for our tenants and colleagues. Our Boards, as part of their governance roles, are provided with quarterly reports in respect of reportable accidents/incidents that occur at work (Reporting of Injuries Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations - RIDDOR - 1995 Updated 2012). The Health and Safety team has an extensive remit in respect of colleagues' health and safety and is primarily concerned with the design, implementation and audit of a bespoke safety management system for our sites. Training including Health and Safety and Fire Awareness packages are an integral part of the team's remit and are designed and delivered by the team. In addition the team investigates accident/ incident causation and provides competent guidance and advice as required.

There were no incidents to report during the year.

### **Employee Support**

Wheatley has a customised Occupational Health Contract in place for staff including an Employee Assistance Programme.

### Sustainability

We continue to implement initiatives on recycling, energy efficiency and reclamation of materials from demolished properties.

### **Political and Charitable Donations**

There were no political or charitable donations made by any of the Wheatley subsidiaries during the year.

#### **Disclosure of Information to Auditors**

The Board members who held office at the date of approval of this Board report confirm that, so far as they are each aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Group's auditors are unaware and each Board member has taken all the steps that he/she ought to have taken as a Board member to make himself/herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Group's auditors are aware of that information.

### Statement of Internal Controls

### 1. Introduction – background and responsibility

The system of internal controls is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives; it can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to:-

- // identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of the organisation's policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised;
- // manage them efficiently, effectively and economically;
- // safeguard assets against unauthorised use or disposition; and
- // manage the maintenance of proper accounting records.

### 2. Overview of main features of the system of Internal Control

The Board of Wheatley Housing Group is responsible for ensuring that an effective system of internal control is maintained within all members of the Group. This system of internal control can provide reasonable but not absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss.

The key methods by which the Board establishes the framework for providing effective internal financial control are as follows:

- // Corporate Governance arrangements as outlined in the Corporate Governance Statement;
- // regular meetings of the Board, and Subsidiary Boards, which have a schedule of matters which are specifically reserved for approval and which are the subject of regular standard reports as required;
- // arrangements under terms of reference for the Group Audit Committee to meet regularly and receive reports from management and internal and external auditors on the system of internal control in operation across the Group, and to

- provide reasonable assurance that control procedures are in place and are being followed;
- // arrangements under terms of reference for Group Strategic Development Committee to meet regularly and receive reports from Finance Management on the soundness of financial management and to provide reasonable assurances prudent practices are in place and being followed;
- // written policies and procedures including Standing Orders setting out delegated authorities across Group subsidiaries;
- // an organisational structure to support business processes and with clear lines of responsibility;
- // the employment of suitably qualified and experienced staff to take responsibility for key areas of the business. This is supported by a formal personal development programme;
- // an Internal Audit function with an annual Internal Audit plan and producing an annual Internal Audit Report;
- // adoption of a risk based approach to internal control through evaluating the likelihood and significance of identified corporate risks, vesting responsibility for risk management and internal control with designated owners and with an ongoing process of monitoring and reporting progress against the company's key risks established through the corporate risk management function.
- // a Business Plan and Budget supporting strategic and operational plans, financial targets, regularly revised forecasts, a comparison of actual with budget and with forecast on a quarterly basis, operating cash flow and variance statements, and key performance indicators, all of which are reviewed by the Board; and
- // measurement of financial and other performance against the Delivery Plan objectives and key performance indicators and targets.

### 3. Role of Internal Audit and Management

The Internal Audit function has a central role in the process of developing this

Statement of Internal Controls. As part of Internal Audit work, reviews are directed using a risk based approach to assess the robustness of the implementation of the Group's key system of internal control.

Internal Audit provide information on the various strengths and weaknesses on the approach we have adopted, and advise where improvements are necessary and desirable for good governance. Management across the Group are responsible for the implementation of improvements identified through the audit process.

In line with good practice, Internal Audit provides the Audit Committee with an Annual Internal Audit Report and Statement, which summarises all the work completed during 2013-14. The overall Internal Audit opinion provided in this statement is detailed below:

"Based on our programme of audit work undertaken during the year, assurance can be given that the Group's systems of internal control are generally working soundly to ensure effective, economic and efficient management".

### 4. Risk and Control Framework

Wheatley Housing Group recognises the importance of effective identification, evaluation and management of all key strategic and operational risks, and this is a requirement set out by the Scottish Housing Regulator's Regulatory Standards.

"The governing body bases its decisions on good quality information and advice and identifies and mitigates risks to the organisation's purpose."

Risk management is a key element of the Group's overarching governance arrangements as it demonstrates that we have considered what might go wrong with our plans, that we have analysed the consequences of things going wrong and that we have thought through the actions and controls we need to prevent or limit these consequences. As the parent company, Wheatley Housing Group manages the governance arrangements to manage the risks associated with control of activities of, and managing the risks of, all subsidiaries; to ensure that there is an appropriate use of funds across the Group; that risks to the core business of the Group are managed and mitigated and that strong governance arrangements are upheld by all subsidiaries to protect the reputation of the Group.

Risk Management covers the whole spectrum of risks and not just those associated with finance, health and safety, business continuity and insurance. It also includes risks associated with service provision, effectiveness and continuity, public image (reputation), compliance with legislation and regulation and environment.

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

Risk Management is the responsibility of everyone in the organisation, whether or not they have a formally defined role in the process.

To ensure the successful implementation of the Risk Management Policy and Strategy, clear roles and responsibilities for the Risk Management process have been established.

The Executive Team is the facilitator of the Risk Management Framework and processes. Their role is to ensure that Departmental Managers comply with the Risk Management Framework including monitoring of the risk registers on Covalent; which is the Group's performance management system. This ensures that Departmental Managers keep their risk registers up to date, new and emerging risks are identified and risk scores are challenged.

Risk Management is an integral part of the culture and way we are run. Risk Management plans are incorporated and embedded into business plans of all applicable sections of the organisation (e.g. service improvement plans, project plans, team plans, individual plans). In this way, Risk Management is not the responsibility of senior management alone, but more appropriately the responsibility of all colleagues.

The significant risks facing the Group are detailed below; mitigating actions are in place to control the risk exposure to an acceptable level.

- // proposed Welfare Reforms reduce
  quaranteed income streams;
- // failure to transform services by the innovative use of Information and Communications Technology;
- // future fundraising activity by the Group does not raise the anticipated level of finance or expected cost of funds;
- // the Group does not have adequate or tested business continuity / disaster recovery plan;
- // the governance structure is not clearly defined, with lack of appropriate skills at Board and Committee levels;
- // assumptions in the Business Plan are not robust and the expected level of income is not achieved or cost base increases;
- // the failure of key commercial business activities such as Lowther Homes, YourPlace and GHA Legal reduces stakeholder confidence.

On behalf of the Board

M Dungstr

Alastair Dempster CBE, Chair

27 August 2014

### Statement of Directors' Responsibilities

The directors are responsible for preparing the Director's Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the directors have prepared the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the profit or loss of the company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- // select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- // make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- // prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006, the Housing (Scotland) Act 2010 and the Determination of Accounting Requirements 2012. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

### Independent Auditors' Report to the Members of Wheatley Housing Group Limited

### Report on the financial statements

#### Our opinion

In our opinion the financial statements, defined below:

- // give a true and fair view of the state of the Group's and of the company's affairs as at 31 March 2014 and of the Group's deficit and cash flows for the year then ended:
- // have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- // have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006; and
- // have been properly prepared in accordance with the Housing (Scotland) Act 2010 and the Determination of Accounting Requirements 2012.

This opinion is to be read in the context of what we say in the remainder of this report.

### What we have audited

The group and company financial statements (the "financial statements"), which are prepared by Wheatley Housing Group Limited, comprise:

- // the Group and company balance sheet as at 31 March 2014;
- // the Group income and expenditure
  account;
- // the Group statement of total recognised surpluses and deficits for the year then ended:
- // the Group cash flow statement for the year then ended; and
- // the notes to the financial statements, which include a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In applying the financial reporting framework, the directors have made a number of subjective judgements, for example in respect of significant accounting estimates. In making such estimates, they have made assumptions and considered future events.

### What an audit of financial statements involves

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) ("ISAs (UK & Ireland)"). An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of:

- // whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Group's and the company's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed;
- // the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the directors; and
- // the overall presentation of the financial statements.

In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the Directors Report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

### Opinion on other matter prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion the information given in the Strategic Report and the Directors' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

### Other matters on which we are required to report by exception

Adequacy of accounting records and information and explanations received.

Under the Companies Act 2006 we are required to report to you if, in our opinion:

- // we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- // adequate accounting records have not been kept by the Group, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us: or
- // the company's financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns.

We have no exceptions to report arising from this responsibility.

### Directors' remuneration

Under the Companies Act 2006 we are required to report to you if, in our opinion, certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made. We have no exceptions to report arising from this responsibility.

### Responsibilities for the financial statements and the audit

### Our responsibilities and those of the directors

As explained more fully in the Directors' Responsibilities Statement set out on page 54, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view.

Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and ISAs (UK & Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

This report, including the opinions, has been prepared for and only for the company's members as a body in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and section 69 of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2010 and for no other purpose. We do not, in giving these opinions, accept or assume responsibility for any other purpose or to any other person to whom this report is shown or into whose hands it may come save where expressly agreed by our prior consent in writing.

Lindsey Paterson (Senior Statutory Auditor) for and on behalf of

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors Glasgow

27 August 2014

- (a) The maintenance and integrity of Wheatley Housing Group Limited website is the responsibility of the directors; the work carried out by the auditors does not involve consideration of these matters and, accordingly, the auditors accept no responsibility for any changes that may have occurred to the financial statements since they were initially presented on the website.
- (b) Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

## Group Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 March 2014

	Notes	2014	2013
		£ '000	restated £'000
Turnover	3	195,392	193,310
Operating costs	3	(202,471)	(193,357)
Gain on business combination	9	27,887	-
Operating surplus/(deficit)		20,808	(47)
Gain on sale of fixed assets – housing properties	10	2,306	2,194
Interest receivable and similar income	11	292	1,173
Interest payable and similar charges	12	(26,549)	(24,321)
Deficit on ordinary activities before taxation		(3,143)	(21,001)
Taxation on deficit for the year	13	194	13
Deficit for the year	25	(2,949)	(20,988)

## Group Statement of Total Recognised Surpluses and Deficits

for the year ended 31 March 2014

	Notes	2014	2013
			restated
		£ '000	£ '000
Deficit for the year	25	(2,949)	(20,988)
Unrealised gain on revaluation of fixed assets	25	219,017	65,198
Actuarial loss on pension assets and liabilities	26	(9,417)	(14,414)
Total recognised surpluses for the year		206,651	29,796

All amounts relate to continuing operations. There is no material difference between the deficit for the year stated above or the historical cost equivalents. The notes on pages 62 to 89 form part of these financial statements.

## Company Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 March 2014

	Notes	2014 £ '000	From incorp- oration to 31 March 2013 £'000
Turnover	3	14,919	-
Operating costs	3	(14,919)	-
Operating surplus/(deficit) Interest receivable and similar income Interest payable and similar charges		- - -	- - -
Deficit on ordinary activities before taxation  Taxation on deficit for the year		-	-
Deficit for the year		-	_

All amounts relate to continuing operations. There is no material difference between the deficit for the year stated and the historical cost equivalents. The company has no recognised gains or losses other than the results for the periods as set out above, and, accordingly, no statement of total recognised gains or losses is shown. The notes on pages 62 to 89 form part of these financial statements.

## Group Balance Sheet at 31 March 2014

	Notes	2014	2013 restated
		£ '000	£ '000
Tangible fixed assets			
Housing properties	16	1,078,985	790,183
Other tangible fixed assets	17	39,948	28,025
Fixed asset investments	18	72	72
		1,119,005	818,280
Investment properties	19	28,607	23,537
Debtors due after more than one year	20	159,621	205,576
Current assets			
Debtors due within one year	20	28,399	30,098
Cash at bank and in hand		30,904	14,548
		59,303	44,646
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	21	(66,334)	(54,588)
Net current liabilities		(7,031)	(9,942)
Total assets less current liabilities		1,300,202	1,037,451
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	22	(710,884)	(619,304)
		589,118	418,147
Provisions for liabilities and charges	23	(142,767)	(188,364)
Government grant		(1,308)	(1,344)
Net assets excluding pension liability		445,243	228,439
Pension liability	26	(43,663)	(33,510)
Net assets including pension liability		401,580	194,929
Capital and reserves			
Share capital	24	_	_
Revenue reserve excluding pension reserve	25	93,638	95,851
Pension reserve	25	(43,663)	(33,510)
Revenue reserve including pension reserve	25	49,975	62,341
Revaluation reserves	25	351,605	132,588
Consolidated funds		401,580	194,929

These financial statements were approved by the Board on 27 August 2014 and were signed on its behalf by:

Alastair Dempster Alastair MacNish Kirsten Craig Chair Director Secretary

The notes on pages 62 to 89 form part of these financial statements.

# Company Balance Sheet at 31 March 2014

	Notes £'000	2014 £'000	2013
Fixed assets			
Investment in Group undertakings	30	-	-
<b>Debtors:</b> amounts falling due within one year	20	1,778	-
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	21	(1,778)	-
Net current assets		-	-
Total assets less current liabilities		-	-
Net assets excluding pension liability		-	-
Pension liability		-	-
Net assets including pension liability		-	
Capital and reserves			
Share capital	24	-	-
Company funds		-	-

These financial statements were approved by the Board on 27 August 2013 and were signed on its behalf by:

Alastair Dempster Chair

Alastair MacNish

Kirsten Craig

Director

Secretary

The notes on pages 62 to 89 form part of these financial statements.  $\,$ 

### Cash Flow Statement

for the year ended 31 March 2014

	Notes	2014	2013
		£'000	restated £'000
Net cash inflow from operating activities	29	33,719	18,405
Returns on investment and servicing of finance			
Right to buy and Second Stage Transfer proceeds	10	4,257	3,582
Interest received	11	72	49
Interest paid	12	(26,549)	(24,321)
Net cash outflow from returns on investment and servicing of finance		(22,220)	(20,690)
Capital expenditure and financial investment			
Improvement of properties	16	(92,430)	(109,792)
Purchase of other fixed assets	17	(15,079)	(6,568)
Purchase of investment properties	19	(4,916)	(1,422)
Capital grants received	27	40,739	35,778
Net cash outflow from capital expenditure and financial investment		(71,686)	(82,004)
Financing			
Cash at acquisition		3,895	1,331
Loan drawn down	22	75,521	85,065
Net cash inflow from financing		79,416	86,396
Increase in net cash	29	19,229	2,107

The notes on pages 62 to 89 form part of these financial statements.

for the year ended 31 March 2014

### 1. Legal status

Wheatley Housing Group Limited ("Wheatley Group" or "the Company") is a housing association registered with Scottish Housing Regulator under the Housing (Scotland) Act 2010. The Company and its subsidiaries are referred to as "the Group". The Group's subsidiaries include housing associations, incorporated entities and charities.

The Company was incorporated on 13 June 2012.

#### 2. Accounting policies

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the financial statements

### **Basis of accounting**

The financial statements of the Group and the Company are prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards and in accordance with the accounting requirements included with the Determination of Accounting Requirements 2012, and under the historical cost accounting rules, modified to include the revaluation of properties held for letting and commercial properties. The financial statements have also been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting by Registered Social Landlords Update 2010 ("SORP 2010"), issued by the National Housing Federation.

Whilst the Group Balance Sheets show net current liabilities, the Group has in place through its subsidiaries loan facilities as explained in note 22 which allows the borrowing of sufficient funds to meet current liabilities as they fall due. Accordingly the financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

### **Basis of consolidation**

The Group financial statements consolidate those of the Company and its subsidiary undertakings drawn up to 31 March 2014. Profits or losses on intra-group transactions are eliminated in full in accordance with FRS 2 – Accounting for subsidiary undertakings.

New subsidiaries joining the Group are accounted for using acquisition accounting. Any gain on acquisition is recognised through the income and expenditure statement as a gain on business combination. Subsidiaries are fully consolidated from the date on which control is transferred to the Group. On joining the Group, an exercise is undertaken to align subsidiary accounting policies to the Group policies which may result in a restatement of comparative figures in the subsidiary results prior to consolidation.

### Related party disclosures

The company is exempt under the terms of FRS 8 from disclosing related party transactions with wholly owned entities that are part of Wheatley Group.

#### Turnover

Turnover, which is stated net of value added tax, represents income receivable from lettings and service charges, fees receivable, revenue grants and other income. In respect of the Group income and expenditure account, turnover also includes factoring income.

#### **Grant income**

Grant income received is matched with the expenditure to which it relates. Where grant is paid as a contribution towards revenue expenditure, it is included in turnover. Where grant is received from government and other bodies as a contribution towards the capital cost of housing schemes, it is deducted from the cost of housing properties in accordance with the SORP 2010.

#### Bad and doubtful debts

Provision is made against rent arrears of current and former tenants as well as other miscellaneous debts to the extent that they are considered potentially irrecoverable.

### **Supported housing**

Expenditure on housing accommodation and supported housing is allocated on the basis of the number of units for each type of accommodation, except for staffing and running costs for which the level of expenditure is directly attributable.

### Deposits and liquid resources

Cash, for the purpose of the cash flow statement, comprises cash in hand and deposits repayable on demand, less overdrafts repayable on demand. Liquid resources are current asset investments that are disposable without curtailing or disrupting the business and are readily convertible into known amounts of cash at or close to their carrying values.

### **Pensions**

Glasgow Housing Association participates in the Strathclyde Pension Fund ("the Fund"). The Fund is administered by Glasgow City Council in accordance with the Local Government Pension Scheme (Scotland) Regulations 1998 as amended. All existing and new employees have the option of joining the Fund. The Fund is a defined benefit one, providing benefits based on final pensionable pay, which is contracted out of the State Second Pension. Assets and liabilities of the Fund are held separately from those of the Association.

Glasgow Housing Association accounts for its participation in the Fund in accordance with FRS 17. Retirement benefits (FRS 17) which require disclosures presented for both the current and comparative period. FRS 17 also requires disclosures presented for both the current and comparative period. The 'FRS 17 Retirement benefits' also requires that quoted securities are valued at their current bid-price rather than their mid-market value.

for the year ended 31 March 2014 (continued)

The Fund liabilities are measured using a projected unit method and discounted at the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liability. Glasgow Housing Association's share of the Fund surplus (to the extent that it is recoverable) or deficit is recognised in full. The movement in the Fund surplus / deficit is split between operating charges, finance items and, in the statement of total recognised gains and losses, actuarial gains and losses.

Cube Housing Association, West Lothian Housing Partnership,
Loretto Housing Association and Loretto Care participated
in the Pensions Trust Scottish Housing Association Pension
Scheme (SHAPS) Defined Benefits Pension Scheme in the year.
Retirement benefits to employees are funded by contributions
from all participating employers and employees in the Scheme.
Payments are made in accordance with periodic calculations by
consulting actuaries and are based on pension costs applicable
across the various participating Associations taken as a whole.
Loretto transferred to the SHAPS Defined Contribution Scheme on
1 July 2013 with Cube and West Lothian remaining in the Defined
Benefits Scheme at 31 March 2014.

### Tangible Fixed Assets – housing properties

In accordance with SORP 2010, the Group operates a full component accounting policy in relation to the capitalisation and depreciation of its completed housing stock.

### **Valuation of Social Housing Stock**

All social housing properties owned by the Group and its subsidiaries are valued on an Existing Use Value for Social Housing (EUV-SH) basis by an independent professional advisor qualified by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors to undertake valuation. Housing stock has been split into two streams of property for valuation purposes, namely housing retained for letting and demolition programme properties. This separation into categories is on the basis of the Group's 30 year Business Plan which identifies the core stock which will be the subject of the Group's investment expenditure going forward and the stock which forms part of the demolition programme until 2016, and consequently has limited investment expenditure attached to it.

The cost of properties is their purchase price together with the cost of capitalised improvement works. Included in the cost of repairs are the direct costs of staff engaged in the investment programme.

### Donated assets

All donated assets are separately disclosed. Properties donated from Glasgow City Council are valued at EUV-SH basis. The difference between the EUV-SH value and the transfer price is treated as a government grant. Government grants are written-off against the value of the asset over the estimated useful life of the asset being 50 years.

### **Depreciation and Impairment**

Housing properties are split between land, structure and major components which require periodic replacement. Replacement or refurbishment of such major components is capitalised and depreciated over the estimated useful life which has been set taking into account professional advice, the Group's asset management strategy and the requirement of Scottish Housing Quality Standard. In determining the remaining useful lives for the housing stock, the Group has taken account of views provided by both internal and external professional sources. Freehold land is not subject to depreciation.

Major components are treated as separate assets and depreciated over their expected useful economic lives or the lives of the structure to which they relate, if shorter, at the following rates:

	Economic Life
Land	n/a
Bathrooms	25 yrs
External environment	20 yrs
External wall finishes	35 yrs
Heating system boiler	12 yrs
Internal works & common areas	20 yrs
Kitchens	20 yrs
Mechanical, Electrical & Plumbing	25 yrs
Structure & roofs	50 yrs
Windows and doors	30 yrs

Housing assets are depreciated in the month of acquisition, or in the case of a larger project, from the month of completion.

Where there is evidence of impairment, the fixed assets are written down to the recoverable amount and any write down would be charged to operating surplus unless it was a reversal of a past revaluation surplus in which case it would be taken to the statement of total recognised gains and losses.

for the year ended 31 March 2014 (continued)

### New Build

Housing properties in the course of construction are held at cost and are not depreciated. They are transferred to completed properties when ready for letting or sale.

The Group's policy is to capitalise the following:

// cost of acquiring land and buildings;

// development expenditure including direct development staff costs; and

// other directly attributable internal and external costs.

Expenditure on schemes which are subsequently aborted will be written off in the year in which it is recognised that the schemes will not be developed to completion.

### Non-housing properties

The Group owns a number of non-housing properties. The Group applies the same capitalisation and component life approach as stated under Housing Properties unless otherwise stated below.

### **Commercial properties**

Commercial properties are stated at existing use value and are subject to revaluation at least every five years.

### Housing Association Grant and other capital grants

Housing Association Grant ("HAG") is received from central government agencies and local authorities and is utilised to reduce the capital costs of housing properties.

HAG due or received in advance is included as a current asset or liability. HAG received in respect of revenue expenditure is credited to the income and expenditure account in the same period as the expenditure to which is relates.

Properties are disposed of under the appropriate legislation and guidance. All HAG relating to the share of property sold are removed from the financial statements at the date of sale. Any HAG received that cannot be repaid from the proceeds of sale is abated and the grant removed from the financial statements. Where a disposal is deemed to have taken place for accounting purposes, but the repayment conditions have not been met in relation to the grant funding, the potential future obligation to repay is disclosed as a contingent liability.

### Other tangible fixed assets

For other tangible fixed assets, depreciation is charged on a straight line basis over the expected useful economic lives of fixed assets to write off the cost, or valuation, less estimated residual values over the following expected lives. Assets are depreciated in the month of acquisition, or in the case of a larger project, from the month of completion, at the following rates:

Economic Life
Commercial properties 50 yrs
Combined Heat & Power plant 30 yrs
Furniture, fittings and office equipment 5 to 7 yrs
Computer equipment 3 to 4 yrs

### **Investment Properties - Housing for Market Rent**

Housing for Market Rent properties are valued on an open market value subject to tenancies basis at the balance sheet date by an independent professional advisor qualified by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors to undertake valuation and are held as investment properties and not subject to depreciation. Where it is considered that there has been any impairment in value this is provided for accordingly. The cost of properties is their purchase price together with capitalised improvement works.

Depreciation is charged on all housing properties on a straight-line basis to write down the value of freehold properties, plus capital additions net of grants over their estimated expected useful economic lives. The average life of Lowther Homes Limited housing stock is estimated to be 50 years. Application of this has required a prior year restatement (note 19).

### Taxation

As charities, Glasgow Housing Association, Cube Housing Association, West Lothian Housing Partnership, Loretto Housing Association and Loretto Care are exempt from corporation tax on their charitable activities by virtue of Section 505(1) Income & Corporation Taxes Act 1988 and from capital gains tax by virtue of Section 145 Capital Gains Tax Act 1979. A charge for taxation is made in the Group's non-charitable subsidiary companies, based on their profit for the year. In accordance with FRS 19 Deferred Tax, full provision is made for all material timing differences.

### Value Added Tax

The Group is registered for VAT. A large portion of its income, including rental receipts, is exempt for VAT purposes, giving rise to a partial exemption calculation. Expenditure with recoverable VAT is shown net of VAT and expenditure with irrecoverable VAT is shown inclusive of VAT. VAT on Glasgow Housing Association refurbishment works expenditure included in the development works agreement with Glasgow City Council is substantially recoverable. Expenditure on these works is shown net of VAT.

### **Development Agreement**

Glasgow Housing Association has entered into agreements with Glasgow City Council whereby the undertaking of catch up repairs and improvement works remained with the City Council, with that obligation sub-contracted to Glasgow Housing Association. This has been shown on the Group's Balance Sheet as a debtor offset by a provision of an equal amount. As work progresses, both amounts will be reduced by the appropriate amount.

for the year ended 31 March 2014 (continued)

2 D 1' 1 C1		
3. Particulars of turnover,	operating costs and	operating surplus

3. Particulars of turnover, operating costs and operating surplus	Turnover	Operating Costs	2014 Gain on acquisition	Operating surplus/ (deficit)	2013 Operating surplus/ (deficit) restated
GROUP	£'000	£ '000	£'000	£ '000	£ '000
Social lettings (note 4)	167,399	(142,396)	-	25,003	21,790
Other activities (note 5)	27,993	(60,075)	-	(32,082)	(21,837)
Gain on business combination (note 9)	-	-	27,887	27,887	-
Total	195,392	(202,471)	27,887	20,808	(47)

	Turnover	2014 Operating Costs	Operating surplus/ (deficit)	2013 Operating surplus/ (deficit)
COMPANY	£ '000	£ '000	£ '000	£ '000
Social lettings (note 4)	-	-	-	-
Other activities (note 5)	14,919	(14,919)	-	-
Total	14,919	(14,919)	-	-

for the year ended 31 March 2014 (continued)

4. Particulars of turnover, operating costs and operating surplus from social letting activities

	General Needs	Supported Housing	Shared Ownership	2014 Total	2013 Total restated
GROUP	£ '000	£ '000	£ '000	£ '000	£ '000
Rent receivable net of service charges	159,965	4,464	124	164,553	159,223
Service charges	3,941	328	1	4,270	4,473
Gross income from rents and service charges	163,906	4,792	125	168,823	163,696
Less rent losses from voids	(1,325)	(99)	-	(1,424)	(1,120)
Net income from rents and service charges	162,581	4,693	125	167,399	162,576
Total turnover from social letting activities	162,581	4,693	125	167,399	162,576
Management and maintenance administration costs	50,549	1,171	6	51,726	59,235
Service costs	6,376	145	1	6,522	5,960
Planned and cyclical maintenance including major repairs costs	25,336	668	-	26,004	23,194
Reactive maintenance costs	31,720	898	-	32,618	29,869
Bad debts – rents and service charges	1,013	26	-	1,039	1,273
Depreciation of social housing	23,857	619	11	24,487	21,255
Operating costs from social letting activities	138,851	3,527	18	142,396	140,786
Operating surplus from social lettings	23,730	1,166	107	25,003	21,790

There were no activities in the Wheatley Housing Group Limited entity results classified as social letting.

The disclosure of management and maintenance administration costs, service costs, planned and cyclical maintenance including major repair costs, and reactive maintenance costs have been restated to better reflect the allocation of costs to social letting, repairs and maintenance and other activities in notes 4 and 5. This is in line with the definition of other activities within the SORP 2010 and guidance issued by the Scottish Housing Regulator.

Costs incurred in relation to financing activities have been moved from management and maintenance administration costs and are now included within interest payable (note 12).

Comparative figures have been restated on the same basis.

for the year ended 31 March 2014 (continued)

### 5. Particulars of turnover, operating costs and operating surplus / (deficit) from other activities

	Grants From Scottish Ministers	Other Revenue	Supporting People Income	Total Turnover	Total Operating Costs	2014 Operating Surplus /(Deficit)	2013 Operating Surplus /(Deficit) restated
GROUP	£ '000	£'000	£ '000	£ '000	£ '000	£ '000	£ '000
Wider role activities to support the community	-	-	-	-	17,977	(17,977)	(9,958)
Care activities	-	2,796	-	2,796	2,889	(93)	-
Factoring	-	8,912	-	8,912	7,783	1,129	848
Commercial Property	-	2,063	-	2,063	511	1,552	2,080
Support activities	-	-	1,519	1,519	2,268	(749)	(346)
Owners' improvement activities	-	3,427	-	3,427	3,677	(250)	127
Demolition activities	4,656	-	-	4,656	13,746	(9,090)	(606)
Other income	-	4,620	-	4,620	-	4,620	2,813
Depreciation - Non Social Housing	-	-	-	-	4,967	(4,967)	(4,830)
Organisation Restructuring	-	-	-	-	3,890	(3,890)	(8,252)
Development & Construction of Property Activities	-	-	-	-	2,367	(2,367)	(3,713)
Total from other activities	4,656	21,818	1,519	27,993	60,075	(32,082)	(21,837)

	Grants From Scottish Ministers	Other Revenue	Supporting People Income	Total Turnover	Total Operating Costs	2014 Operating Surplus /(Deficit)	2013 Operating Surplus /(Deficit)
COMPANY	£ '000	£ '000	£ '000	£'000	£ '000	£ '000	£ '000
Provision of Group services	-	14,919	-	14,919	14,919	-	-
Total from other activities	-	14,919	-	14,919	14,919	-	-

for the year ended 31 March 2014 (continued)

### 6. Board members' emoluments

Board members received emoluments of £50,250 (2013: nil) in respect of their services to Wheatley Housing Group Limited and for reimbursement of expenses. These amounts are fully recharged to operational subsidiaries.

Emoluments were paid to the following Board members:

	2014
	£
Alastair Dempster (Chair)	8,250
Mike Blyth	5,500
Ronnie Jacobs	5,500
Alastair MacNish	5,500
Gordon Sloan	5,500
Elizabeth Walford	5,500
Lesley McInnes	5,500
Sheila Gunn	5,500
Margaret Dunlop (part-year)	3,500
	50,250

In addition, £2,754 was paid to Board members for reimbursement of expenses.

for the year ended 31 March 2014 (continued)

7 (	Officars'	ama	luments
/. C	лисеrs -	emo	luments

	£'000	£ '000
Aggregate emoluments payable to senior officers	2 000	2 000
(including pension contributions and benefits in kind)	1,007	1,029
	2014 £'000	2013 £'000
Emoluments payable to the Chief Executive	£ 000	2 000
(excluding pension contributions)	216	196
During the periods the senior officers' emoluments (excluding pension contributions) fell within the following band distributions:		
More than £60,000 but not more than £70,000	1	-
More than £70,000 but not more than £80,000	1	-
More than £90,000 but not more than £100,000	1	-
More than £110,000 but not more than £120,000	1	-
More than £120,000 but not more than £130,000	-	1
More than £130,000 but not more than £140,000	1	3
More than £140,000 but not more than £150,000	1	1
More than £150,000 but not more than £160,000	1	-
More than £190,000 but not more than £200,000	-	1
More than £210,000 but not more than £220,000	1	-
More than £190,000 but not more than £200,000	-	- 1 -

The senior officers are defined for this purpose as the Chief Executive and Non-executive Directors, the Chief Executive and any person reporting directly to the Chief Executive earning at the rate of over £60,000 per annum. Senior officers duties extend across the Group with emoluments paid by the employing subsidiary company and not directly by Wheatley Housing Group Limited.

The senior officers are eligible to join the pension scheme of the Group subsidiary company by which they are employed and employer's contributions are paid on the same basis as other members of staff.

During the year two senior officers resigned and two new senior officers were appointed, with the total number remaining at six.

2014

2013

for the year ended 31 March 2014 (continued)

### 8. Employees

In the year to 31 March 2014, the full time equivalent number of employees of the Group, including senior officers, was 2,073 (2013:1,621). Employee costs include staff employed by West Lothian Housing Partnership Limited, Loretto Housing Association Limited and Loretto Care who joined the Group during the year. No staff are directly employed by the Company.

	2014	2013 restated
GROUP	£ '000	£ '000
Staff costs (for the above persons)		
Wages and salaries	51,429	48,476
Social security costs	3,991	4,081
Employer's pension costs	7,532	5,735
	62,952	58,292
9. Gain on business combination		
	2014 £'000	2013 £'000
West Lothian Housing Partnership Limited:		
Fair value of net assets acquired Consideration	6,017	-
Gain on business combination	6,017	-
Loretto Housing Association Limited:		
Fair value of net assets acquired Consideration	21,870	-
Gain on business combination	21,870	-
Total gain on business combination	27,887	-

The entities joined the Group during the year within the normal course of the Group's operations, with no fundamental reorganisation or restructuring occurring as a result. In accordance with FRS 3, the gain arising on business combination is therefore recognised within operating surplus.

Total

## Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 March 2014 (continued)

#### 10. Surplus on sale of fixed assets – housing properties

This represents net income from the sale of properties under tenants' Right-to-Buy (RTB) entitlement. Sales were made in Glasgow Housing Association and Cube Housing Association.

GROUP	2014 £'000	2013 £'000
Right-to-Buy		
Proceeds from disposal of properties	4,257	3,582
Value of properties disposed	(1,951)	(1,388)
Surplus on sale of fixed assets	2,306	2,194
11. Interest receivable and similar income		
GROUP	2014 £'000	2013 £'000
Bank interest receivable on deposits in the year	72	49
Net return on pension asset	220	1,124
Total	292	1,173
12. Interest payable and similar charges		
	2014	2013
GROUP	£'000	restated £'000
Bank interest payable	24,496	22,590
Other financing costs	2,053	1,731

Prior year comparative has been restated to disclose bank fees and other costs related to the provision of finance to the Group previously reported in operating costs.

26,549

24,321

for the year ended 31 March 2014 (continued)

#### 13. Tax on deficit on ordinary activities

	2014	2013
		restated
GROUP	£ '000	£ '000
Corporation tax		
UK Corporation Tax on income for the year	13	207
Adjustments in respect of prior years	(207)	(220)
	(194)	(13)

The charitable status of Glasgow Housing Association, Cube Housing Association, West Lothian Housing Partnership and Loretto Housing Association means that no corporation tax is payable on their activities. Tax is payable on the profits from the activities of the Group's other non-charitable subsidiary companies.

#### Factors affecting the tax charge credit for the current period

	2014	2013
GROUP	£ '000	restated £'000
Current tax reconciliation		
Loss on ordinary activities of subsidiary undertakings	(3,143)	(21,001)
Current Tax at 23% (2013: 24%)	(723)	(5,040)
Effects of:		
Charitable losses not deductible for tax purposes	547	5,057
Charitable donation against prior period liabilities	189	190
Over provision in prior year	(207)	(220)
Total current tax credit	(194)	(13)

#### 14. Auditors' remuneration

The remuneration of the auditors		
(excluding VAT) is as follows:		
Audit of these financial statements	15	13
Audit of financial statements of subsidiaries pursuant to legislation	118	104
Other services	66	140

2014

£ '000

2013

£ '000

for the year ended 31 March 2014 (continued)

#### 15. Financial commitments

#### **Capital commitments**

All capital commitments of the Group were as follows:

GROUP	2014 £ '000	2013 £ '000
Expenditure contracted for, but not provided in the financial statements  Expenditure authorised by the Board but not contracted	59,792 23,738	39,524 26,613
	85,530	66,137

### Operating leases

At 31 March 2014 the Group had annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2014 Land and Buildings	2014 Other	2013 Land and Buildings	2013 Other
GROUP	£ '000	£ '000	£ '000	£ '000
Operating leases that expire:				
Within one year	346	380	1,372	-
In the second to fifth years inclusive	631	168	286	518
Over five years	598	-	696	-
	1,575	548	2,354	518

for the year ended 31 March 2014 (continued)

#### 16. Tangible fixed assets – Housing Properties

GROUP	Core Stock £'000	Donated Assets C £'000	Housing Under Construction £ '000	Shared Owner- ship £'000	Total £'000
Contraction					
Cost or Valuation At 1 April 2013 (restated)	961,993	1,347	24,991	1,752	990,083
Acquisitions	103,092	1,547		1,732	118,470
Additions		-	15,186		
	67,212	-	25,217	-	92,429
Disposals	(2,114)	-	(5)	-	(2,119)
Transfers	37,487	-	(37,487)	-	-
Revaluation	192,309	56	-	42	192,407
At 31 March 2014	1,359,979	1,403	27,902	1,986	1,391,270
Grants					
At 1 April 2013 (restated)	180,642	_	16,628	1,168	198,438
Acquisitions	64,304	_	8,797	93	73,194
Received / receivable for year	24,681	_	16,058	-	40,739
Disposals	(86)	_	-	_	(86)
Transfers	16,671	_	(16,671)	_	-
At 31 March 2014	286,212	-	24,812	1,261	312,285
Depreciation					
At 1 April 2013 (restated)	(1,441)	_	_	(21)	(1,462)
Acquisitions	(2) /	_	_	-	(1):02/
Charge for year	(24,975)	(24)	-	(12)	(25,011)
Disposals	16	-	_	-	16
Revaluation	26,400	24	_	33	26,457
At 31 March 2014	-	-	-	-	-
Net Book Value					
At 31 March 2014	1,073,767	1,403	3,090	725	1,078,985
Net Book Value					
At 31 March 2013 (restated)	779,910	1,347	8,363	563	790,183

Comparative figures have been restated to reflect the change in accounting policy in Cube Housing Association where housing properties are now carried at valuation as opposed to cost, and housing held for market rent which is reported under investment properties. All subsidiaries in the Wheatley Housing Group Limited account for housing properties at valuation.

The valuation of housing properties is separated into two categories, namely those retained for letting and those properties which form part of the Group's demolition programme, as detailed in the Group's 30-year Business Plan for 2014-15. The demolition programme identifies 2,222 properties for demolition over the next few years, with no long term investment expenditure associated with these properties. Demolition programme stock has a negative valuation for accounting purposes due to the impact of demolition costs on EUV-SH calculation, and so is held at nil on the balance sheet as under FRS 12 there is no constructive obligation at the balance sheet date to provide for these costs.

Retained stock for letting has been valued at £1,072.7 million.

for the year ended 31 March 2014 (continued)

Housing properties have been valued by Jones Lang LaSalle, an independent professional advisor qualified by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) to undertake valuations. This valuation was prepared in accordance with the appraisal and valuation manual of the RCIS at 31 March 2014 on an Existing Use Valuation for Social Housing (EUV-SH). A discount rate of between 6.0%-6.5% (2013: 6.25% for retained and 8.0% for demolition stock) was used for retained stock dependant on the archetype. The valuation assumes a rental income increase of RPI + 1% for retained stock from year 2 in line with the Group's 30 year Business Plan (2013-14). The capital investment made in housing properties each year may not translate directly into an increase in the value of the assets by virtue of the nature of the EUV-SH valuation methodology.

During 2007-08 GHA received 30 properties from GCC at nil cost with 1 property subsequently sold. The 29 properties were valued by Jones Lang LaSalle at £1.403m as at 31 March 2014 (2013: £1.347m) on a EUV-SH basis. In line with our policy on donated assets the value of these properties has been treated as a government grant and written-off against the value of the asset across the economic life of the asset. The balance on the government grant account at 31 March 2014 was £1.008m (2013: £1.032m).

During the year the Group disposed of 121 properties (2014: 91 properties) to tenants under RTB entitlements. These properties were valued at £1.951m during the year (2013: £1.387m).

The number of units of accommodation owned and managed (excluding unlettable voids) by the Group at 31 March 2014 is shown below:

	2014	2013
Social Housing		_
General needs	43.258	42 580
Shared ownership	50	49
Supported housing	1,335	831
	,	
Total Social Housing	44,643	43,460

The housing valuation has been based on the number of houses held for letting, approved for demolition and planned for demolition as per the approved business plan as follows:

	2014	2013
Housing Properties		
Housing held for long-term letting	44,152	42,287
Housing approved / planned for demolition	2,222	3,949
Total Units	46,374	46,236

The difference between total units and Total Social Housing is made up of unlettable voids mostly within the approved for demolition and planned for demolition categories.

for the year ended 31 March 2014 (continued)

17. Tangible fixed assets – other tangible fixed assets

GROUP	Commercial Properties £ '000	Combined Heat & Power £ '000	Furniture fittings and equipment £ '000	Computer Equipment £ '000	Total £'000
Cost or valuation					
At 1 April 2013	20,431	4,932	*	24,886	61,593
Acquisitions	2,320	-	96	866	3,282
Additions	358	-	10,113	4,608	15,079
Disposals	-	-	-	(20)	(20)
At 31 March 2014	23,109	4,932	21,553	30,340	79,934
Depreciation					
At 1 April 2013	(2,494)	(2,561)	(9,648)	(18,865)	(33,568)
Acquisitions	(544)	-	(66)	(766)	(1,376)
Charge for year	(460)	(80)	(1,609)	(2,912)	(5,061)
Disposals	-	-	-	19	19
At 31 March 2014	(3,498)	(2,641)	(11,323)	(22,524)	(39,986)
Net Book Value					
At 31 March 2014	19,611	2,291	10,230	7,816	39,948
At 31 March 2013	17.937	2.371	1.696	6.021	28.025

Commercial Properties belonging to Glasgow Housing Association were valued by an independent professional advisor, Ryden Property Consultants, on 31 March 2012 in accordance with the appraisal and valuation manual of the RICS. This process resulted in an elimination of £0.2m from the revaluation reserve in 2011-12. Commercial properties are subject to valuation at least every five years. No further revision was considered appropriate in the year 2013-14.

for the year ended 31 March 2014 (continued)

#### 18. Fixed Asset Investments

	Shared
	Equity
	Properties
GROUP	000° £
Cost	
At 1 April 2013	1,200
Additions	-
At 31 March 2014	1,200
Grants	
At 1 April 2013	1,128
Additions	-
At 31 March 2014	1,128
Net Book Value	
At 31 March 2014	72
At 31 March 2013	72
19. Investment properties	
13. Tilvesti iletit properties	Properties
	held for
	market rent
GROUP	£'000
Valuation	
At 1 April 2013 (restated)	23,537
Additions	4,916
Revaluation	154
At 31 March 2014	28,607
W.B. 1971	
Net Book Value	20.607
At 31 March 2014	28,607
At 31 March 2013 (restated)	23,537
, to 51 Figure 1 2015 (Cotated)	23,337

Properties held by Lowther Homes Limited for market rent have been reclassified as investment properties having previously been reported within housing properties fixed assets in note 16. This is to better reflect the nature of the assets.

for the year ended 31 March 2014 (continued)

#### 20. Debtors

#### Due after more than one year:

GROUP	2014 £'000	2013 £'000
Development agreement	141,148	186,717
Arrangement fees	18,012	18,859
Other	461	-
Total	159,621	205,576

Included in debtors is a balance of £141.1m (2013: £186.7m) in respect of the expected cost of the development work that Glasgow City Council has committed to undertake in order to refurbish the properties. The Council has sub-contracted Glasgow Housing Association to carry out the programme of catch-up repairs to the residential accommodation as part of a development agreement. This balance relates to the identical provision in the accounts for this expenditure (note 23) and as work progresses both of these balances will be utilised when the work is actually undertaken.

#### Due within one year:

GROUP	2014 £'000	2013 £'000
Arrears of rent and service charges	13,282	13,592
_	•	
Less: provision for bad and doubtful debts	(4,244)	(4,313)
	9,038	9,279
Prepayments and accrued income	1,632	2,321
Other debtors	17,729	18,498
Total	28,399	30,098
	2014	2013
COMPANY	£'000	£'000
Amounts due from Group undertakings	1,778	-
Total	1,778	-

for the year ended 31 March 2014 (continued)

### 21. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

GROUP	2014 £'000	2013 £ '000
	2 000	
Trade creditors and accruals	23,603	31,194
Deferred Income	18,424	557
Rent and service charges received in advance	5,729	4,233
Salaries, wages, other taxation and social security	1,243	1,115
Corporation tax	14	208
Bank loans	874	-
Bank overdraft	5,865	8,738
Other creditors	10,582	8,583
Total	66,334	54,588
Company	2014 £'000	2013 £ '000
	1 770	
Amounts due to Group undertakings	1,778	-
Total	1,778	-

for the year ended 31 March 2014 (continued)

#### 22. Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

GROUP	2014 £'000	2013 £'000
Scottish Government Loan	100,000	100,000
Bank loans	606,332	514,345
Other creditors	4,552	4,959
Total	710,884	619,304

The Scottish Government has made available to Glasgow Housing Association £100.0m of contingent efficiencies grant over an eight year period. Under this agreement £100.0m (2013: £100.0m) has been received and is shown as an interest free loan with repayment due in 2041-41. The grant is however only repayable if agreement cannot be reached between Glasgow Housing Association, Glasgow City Council and the Scottish Government on a suitable re-investment proposal prior to the repayment date.

#### Bank lending facility

A committed facility of £700.0m (2013: £700.0m), secured on the Glasgow Housing Association's housing stock is available from a syndicate of banks. During the year an additional £72.4m was drawn down (2013: £82.0m) at an interest rate of 4.52% (2013: 4.8%). Of the £700.0m facility £30m is committed for onlending to Lowther Homes Limited which is secured on Lowther Homes' market rental stock. Of the £72.4m drawn during the year onlending to Lowther Homes totalled £5m (2013: £2m) at an interest rate of 5.25% (2013: 5.25%).

The bank loans are secured over the whole of the housing stock, including new build properties completed since stock transfer in March 2003 and certain other properties of the Group subsidiary entity, The company, The Glasgow Housing Association Limited.

A committed facility of £44.9m (2013: £44.9m) secured on Cube Housing Association's housing stock is available from two banks under bilateral loan agreements. During the year an additional £1.8m was drawn down (2013: £3.1m) at an interest rate of 4.02% (2013: 3.91%). At the balance sheet date Cube borrowings under this facility were £34.1m (2013: £32.3m).

West Lothian Housing Partnership had fully drawn its loan facilities and a balance of £8.6m remained outstanding at the year end, fully secured on housing stock. These loans were provided by the Nationwide Building Society. During the year £0.5m was repaid (2013: £0.5m) with the remaining £8.6m repayable at interest rates varying from 0.875% to 5.69%.

Loretto Housing Association has committed secured bank facilities of £15.0m, with a total balance due of £10.0m at the balance sheet date. During the year £4.0m has been drawn down (2013:£0.6m) at an interest rate of 3.205%.

Borrowings are repayable as follows	2014 £'000	2013 £'000
In less than one year	870	-
In less than five years and more than one year	17,837	10,970
In more than five years	588,495	503,375
	607,202	514,345

for the year ended 31 March 2014 (continued)

#### 23. Provisions for liabilities and charges

GROUP	Development Agreement £ '000	Insurance £'000	Project equalis ation £'000	Total £'000
At 1 April 2013	186,717	1,647	-	188,364
Acquired	-	-	731	731
Created in year	-	-	(295)	(295)
Released	-	-	228	228
Utilised	(45,569)	(499)	(193)	(46,261)
At 31 March 2014	141,148	1,148	471	142,767

#### **Development Agreement**

The provision represents the best estimate of the costs of contracted works for the repair of managed properties in 2003 less the cost of repairs carried out since that date. This agreement is part of the Development Agreement between Glasgow Housing Association and Glasgow City Council and as work progresses the provision will be utilised when the work is actually undertaken.

#### Insurance

A provision has been made in respect of the excess arising on all outstanding insurance claims.

#### **Project equalisation**

Under terms of Loretto Care's funding, surpluses arise from the provision of care services which may either be repayable or be used to fund the project in the future.

#### 24. Share capital

Wheatley Housing Group Limited was incorporated on 13th June 2012 and is a Company Limited by Guarantee and therefore does not have a Share Capital.

for the year ended 31 March 2014 (continued)

#### 25. Reserves

		Revaluation				
		reserve -	Revaluation	Revaluation	Revaluation	
		core	reserve -	reserve -	reserve -	
	Revenue	housing	donated	commercial	investment	
	reserve	stock	assets	properties	properties	Total
GROUP - RESTATED	£ '000	£ '000	£ '000	£ '000	£'000	£ '000
Opening Balance at 1 April 2013 (restated)	62,341	125,099	341	6,751	397	194,929
Deficit for the year	(2,949)	-	-	-	-	(2,949)
Revaluation during the year	-	218,783	80	-	154	219,017
Actuarial loss in respect of pension provision	(9,417)	-	-	-	-	(9,417)
						••••••
Closing balance at 31 March 2014	49,975	343,882	421	6,751	551	401,580

The revaluation reserves opening balance has been restated to reflect the change in accounting policy for Cube housing stock which is now carried at valuation (note 16) and for the reclassification of Lowther housing for market rent now classed as investment property.

There were no balances in reserves for the company at 1 April 2013 and at 31 March 2014.

#### 26. Pensions

#### **Glasgow Housing Association**

The Group subsidiary Glasgow Housing Association Limited participates in the Strathclyde Pension Fund which is administered by Glasgow City Council and is a defined benefit scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Association in investments under the overall supervision of the Fund Trustees.

The latest full actuarial valuation was carried out as at 31 March 2011. The next full actuarial valuation is due at 31 March 2014 but is not yet available as at the date of these financial statements. The assumptions that have the most significant effect on the results of the valuation are those relating to the rate of return on investments and the rates of increases in salaries and pensions. The principal actuarial assumptions (expressed as weighted averages) at the year end were as follows:

	31 March 2014	31 March 2013
Discount rate	4.3%	4.5%
Expected rate of return on plan assets	6.0%	5.2%
Future salary increases	*5.1%	**5.1%
Inflation	2.8%	2.8%

<sup>\*</sup> Salary increases are assumed to be 1% p.a. until 31 March 2015 reverting to the long term assumption thereafter.

In valuing the liabilities of the pension fund at 31 March 2014, mortality assumptions have been made as indicated below. The assumptions relating to longevity underlying the pension liabilities at the balance sheet date are based on standard mortality tables and include an allowance for future improvements in longevity. The assumptions are equivalent to expecting a 65-year old to live for a number of years as follows:

// current pensioner aged 65: 21.0 years (male) (2013: 21.0 years), 23.4 years (female) (2013: 23.4 years). // future retiree upon reaching 65: 23.3 years (male) (2013: 23.3 years), 25.3 years (female) (2013: 25.3 years).

The assumptions used by the actuary are chosen from a range of possible actuarial assumptions which, due to the timescale covered, may not necessarily be borne out in practice.

<sup>\*\*</sup> Salary increases are assumed to be 1% p.a. until 31 March 2015 reverting to the long term assumption thereafter.

for the year ended 31 March 2014 (continued)

The information disclosed below is in respect of the whole of the plans for which GHA has been allocated a share of cost under an agreed policy throughout the periods shown.

	Value at 31 March 2014 £ '000	Value at 31 N	March 2013 £'000
Present value of funded defined benefit obligations	(313,304)		(280,460)
Fair value of plan assets	269,641		246,950
Net liability	(43,663)		(33,510)
		2014	2013
Movements in present value of defined benefit obligation		£ '000	£ '000
Opening defined benefit obligation		280,460	227,202
Current service cost		8,619	6,347
Interest cost		12,772	11,113
Loss on curtailment		1,208	5,365
Actuarial losses		13,252	33,416
Contributions by members		2,280	2,130
Estimated benefits paid		(5,287)	(5,113)
Closing defined benefit obligation		313,304	280,460
		2014	2013
Movements in fair value of plan assets		£ '000	£ '000
Opening fair value of plan assets		246,950	206,434
Expected return on plan assets		12,992	12,237
Actuarial gains		3,835	19,002
Contributions by the employer		8,871	12,260
Contributions by the members		2,280	2,130
Estimated benefits paid		(5,287)	(5,113)
Closing fair value of plan assets		269,641	246,950
		2047	2042
Expense recognised in the income and expenditure account		2014 £ '000	2013 £ '000
Expense recognised in the income and expenditure account		1 000	£ 000
Current service cost		8,619	6,347
Losses on settlements or curtailments		1,208	5,365
Interest on defined benefit pension plan obligation		12,772	11,113
Expected return on defined benefit pension plan asset		(12,992)	(12,237)
		9,607	10,588

for the year ended 31 March 2014 (continued)

	2014	2013
The expense is recognised in the following line items in the profit and loss account	£ '000	£ '000
Operating costs	202,471	193,357
Interest receivable	292	1,173

The total amount recognised in the statement of total recognised surpluses and deficits in respective of actuarial gains and losses is £9.417m loss (2013: £14.414m loss).

Cumulative gains reported in the statement of total recognised gains and losses for accounting periods ending on or after 22 June 2002 and subsequently included by prior year adjustment under paragraph 96 of FRS 17, are losses of £50.901 million (2013: £41.484m loss).

The fair value of the plan assets and the return on those assets were as follows				2014 £'000	2013 £'000
Equities				204,927	187,681
Corporate bonds				32,357	34,573
Property				18,875	17,287
Cash				13,482	7,409
	••••••	••••••	•••••	269,641	246,950
Actual return on plan assets				16,826	31,299
	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
History of experience gains and losses	£ '000	£'000	£ '000	£ '000	£'000
Balance Sheet					
Present value of scheme liabilities	(313,304)	(280,460)	(227,202)	(208,219)	(235,144)
Fair value of scheme assets	269,641	246,950	206,434	202,419	179,185
(Deficit)	(43,663)	(33,510)	(20,768)	(5,800)	(55,959)
	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Experience Adjustments	£ '000 / %	£ '000 / %	£'000/%	£'000/%	£ '000 / %
Experience adjustments on scheme liabilities (2000	118	318	10 222	(72)	7
Experience adjustments on scheme liabilities £'000			10,333	(72) 0.0	7
Experience adjustments on scheme liabilities %	0.0	0.1	4.5	0.0	0.0
Experience adjustments on scheme assets £'000	3,835	19,002	(14,795)	1,188	39,081
Experience adjustments on scheme assets %	1.4	7.7	(7.2)	0.6	21.8

for the year ended 31 March 2014 (continued)

#### Pensions Trust Scottish Housing Association Pension Scheme

Cube Housing Association, West Lothian Housing Partnership, Loretto Housing Association and Loretto Care participate in the Pensions Trust Scottish Housing Association Pension Scheme ("SHAPS"). SHAPS is a multi-employer defined benefit scheme and is funded and contracted out of the State Pension Scheme.

The Scheme offers six benefit structures to employers, namely:

// Final salary with a 1/60th accrual rate

// career average re-valued earnings with a 1/60th accrual rate

// career average re-valued earnings with a 1/70th accrual rate

// career average re-valued earnings with a 1/80th accrual rate

// career average re-valued earnings with a 1/120th accrual rate, contracted in

// defined contribution scheme

An employer can elect to operate different benefit structures for their active members (as at the first day of April in any given year) and their new entrants. An employer can only operate one open benefit structure at any one time. An open benefit structure is one which new entrants are able to join.

Cube Housing Association and West Lothian Housing Partnership have elected to operate the final salary with a 1/60th accrual rate benefit structure for active members as at 31st March 2008 and the final salary with a 1/60th accrual rate benefit structure for new entrants from 1st April 2008.

Loretto Housing Association also operated the final salary option at the start of the year and subsequently transferred to the SHAPs Defined Contribution scheme with effect from 1 July 2013.

The Trustee commissions an actuarial valuation of the Scheme every three years. The main purpose of the valuation is to determine the financial position of the Scheme in order to determine the level of future contributions required, so that the Scheme can meet its pension obligations as they fall due.

The actuarial valuation assesses whether the Scheme's assets at the valuation date are likely to be sufficient to pay the pension benefits accrued by members as at the valuation date. Asset values are calculated by reference to market values. Accrued pension benefits are valued by discounting expected future benefit payments using a discount rate calculated by reference to the expected future investment returns.

During the accounting period Cube Housing Association and West Lothian Housing Partnership paid contributions at the rate of 9.6% of pensionable salaries. Member contributions were 9.6%. Loretto Housing Association paid employer contributions of 9.6% of pensionable salaries whilst operating the final salary option up to 1 July 2013, and thereafter 5.0% of pensionable salaries to the defined contribution scheme.

Cube Housing Association and West Lothian Housing Partnership will cease to offer membership of the defined benefit scheme with effect from 1 September 2014. From that date all active employee members will be transferred to the SHAPs defined contribution scheme which will offer a range of flexible funding options with contributions split between the employees and employer.

It is not possible in the normal course of events to identify the share of underlying assets and liabilities belonging to individual participating employers as the scheme is a multi-employer arrangement where the assets are co-mingled for investment purposes, benefits are paid from the total scheme assets, and the contribution rate for all employers is set by reference to the overall financial position of the scheme rather than by reference to individual employer experience. Accordingly, due to the nature of the Scheme, the accounting charge for the period under FRS17 represents the employer contribution payable.

The last formal valuation of the Scheme was performed as at 30th September 2012 by a professionally qualified actuary using the Projected Unit Credit method. The market value of the Scheme's assets at the valuation date was £394m. The valuation revealed a shortfall of assets compared with the value of liabilities of £304m (equivalent to a past service funding level of 56.4%).

for the year ended 31 March 2014 (continued)

The Scheme Actuary has prepared an Actuarial Report that provides an approximate update on the funding position of the Scheme as at 30 September 2013. Such a report is required by legislation for years in which a full actuarial valuation is not carried out. The funding update revealed an increase in the assets of the Scheme to £470 million and indicated a decrease in the shortfall of assets compared to liabilities to approximately £272 million, equivalent to a past service funding level of 63%.

#### **Financial Assumptions**

The financial assumptions underlying the valuation as at 30th September 2012 were as follows:

	% p.a.
Investment return pre-retirement	5.3
Investment return post-retirement – non pensioners	3.4
Investment return post-retirement – pensioners	3.4
Pensionable earnings growth (annual)	4.1
Rate of price inflation	2.6
Rate of consumer price inflation	2.0

In addition, latest mortality research has been taken into account.

#### **Valuation Results**

The long-term joint contribution rates required from employers and members to meet the cost of future benefit accrual were assessed as:

Benefit Structure	Long-term joint contribution rate (% of pensionable salaries)
Final salary – 60ths	19.2
Career average 60ths	17.1
Career average 70ths	14.9
Career average 80ths	13.2
Career average 120ths	9.4

If an actuarial valuation reveals a shortfall of assets compared to liabilities the Trustee must prepare a recovery plan setting out the steps to be taken to make up the shortfall.

Following consideration of the results of the valuation it was agreed that the shortfall of £304m would be dealt with by the payment of additional contributions of 5.4% of pensionable salaries per annum with effect from 1st April 2014. Past service deficit contributions will increase each 1st April at a rate of 3%.

As a result of Pension Scheme legislation there is a potential debt on the employer that could be levied by the Trustee of the Scheme. The debt is due in the event of the employer ceasing to participate in the Scheme or the Scheme winding up.

The debt for the Scheme as a whole is calculated by comparing the liabilities for the Scheme (calculated on a buyout basis i.e. the cost of securing benefits by purchasing annuity policies from an insurer, plus an allowance for expenses) with the assets of the Scheme. If the liabilities exceed assets there is a buy-out debt.

The leaving employer's share of the buy-out debt is the proportion of the Scheme's liability attributable to employment with the leaving employer compared to the total amount of the Scheme's liabilities (relating to employment with all the currently participating employers). The leaving employer's debt therefore includes a share of any "orphan" liabilities in respect of previously participating employers. The amount of the debt therefore depends on many factors including total Scheme liabilities, Scheme investment performance, the liabilities in respect of current and former employees of the employer, financial conditions at the time of the cessation event and the insurance buy-out market. The amounts of debt can therefore be volatile over time.

for the year ended 31 March 2014 (continued)

#### 27. Scottish Government and other grants

The Scottish Government has made available to Glasgow Housing Association a secured repayable grant of £370m receivable over 13 years. The grant is subject to a number of specified conditions. These conditions were revised on 1 April 2009 to make the grant repayable under certain circumstances. If Glasgow Housing Association delivers all commitments to tenants made at the time of transfer in March 2003, and meets the performance standards of the Scottish Housing Regulator by 31 March 2015 then no grant will be repayable. These conditions were met during the year and accordingly the Scottish Government agreed that this grant was not repayable. No provision for repayment is therefore required.

Additionally, the Scottish Government has made available to Glasgow Housing Association a further £100m of Contingent Efficiencies Grant receivable over an eight year period from 2004-05 and £100m has been received up to the 31 March 2014 and is shown as a loan (note 22).

A list of Scottish Government Grants and loans receivable for the year is given in the table below:

	2014	2013
GRANTS & LOANS	£'000	£ '000
Scottish Government Grants (Capital)		
Secured Repayable grant	22,326	21,656
Reprovisioning grant	16,058	11,002
Investment & innovation funding	-	-
Total Scottish Government Capital Grants	38,384	32,658
Other Capital Grants		
Energy Efficiency	2,355	3,146
Total Capital Grants	40,739	35,804
Scottish Government Revenue Grants		
Demolition grant	4,636	7,931
Total	45,375	43,735

#### 28. Related party transactions

The company retains a register of members' interests. During the year there were no interests in related parties that require to be declared by Directors.

for the year ended 31 March 2014 (continued)

### 29. Cash Flow Analysis

		2014	2013 restated
Reconciliation of surplus to net cash inflow from operating activities		£ '000	£ '000
Surplus / (deficit) from operating activities		20,808	(47)
Gain on business combination		(27,887)	-
Depreciation charges		30,074	26,932
Decrease in debtors		3,186	6,745
Decrease in creditors and provisions		6,617	(14,642)
Release of grant		(36)	(36)
Pensions costs less contributions payable		957	(547)
Net cash inflow from operating activities		33,719	18,405
		2014	2013
Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net debt		£ '000	£'000
		(600 506)	(106.007)
Net debt at 1 April		(608,536)	(496,297)
Increase in cash in the year  Decrease in overdraft		16,357	6,580
		2,873	(4,473)
Cash inflow from debt due within one year Cash inflow from debt due in more than one year and less than five		(870) (6,867)	(10,970)
Cash inflow from debt due after more than five years		(85,120)	(102 27E)
cash intow from debt due diter more than five years		(03,120)	(103,375)
Net debt at 31 March		(682,163)	(608,535)
	At 1 April		
	2013	Cashflow	2014
Analysis of changes in net debt	£ '000	£ '000	£'000
Cash at bank and in hand	14,548	16,356	30,904
Overdraft	(8,738)	2,873	(5,865)
Movement in cash	5,810	19,229	25,039
Debt due within one year	-	(870)	(870)
Debt due in more than one year and less than five	(10,970)	(6,867)	(17,837)
Debt due after more than five years	(603,375)	(85,120)	(688,495)
Net debt	(608,535)	(73,628)	(682,163)

for the year ended 31 March 2014 (continued)

#### 30. Subsidiary and associated undertakings

The ultimate parent company is Wheatley Housing Group Limited. The company has eight immediate subsidiaries – Glasgow Housing Association Limited, Cube Housing Association Limited, West Lothian Housing Partnership Limited, Loretto Housing Association Limited, Glasgow Housing Association (Funding) Limited ("GFL"), GHA Enterprises Limited, Lowther Homes Limited and YourPlace Property Management Limited. Wheatley Housing Group Limited retains constitutional control of all subsidiary undertakings.

The objectives of Glasgow Housing Association (Funding) Limited include the provision of finance to registered social landlords. GHA Enterprises Limited is a non-trading holding company overseeing commercial activity which, through Glasgow Housing Association (Management) Limited, delivers factoring services to homeowners. Lowther Homes Limited is involved in property development and acquisition and offers its properties for private and mid-market rent. YourPlace Property Management Limited is non-trading.

The results of Scotcash CIC have not been consolidated as an associate undertaking into these accounts as they are not material to the Group's operations. Scotcash provides accessible and affordable finance to individuals with limited access to banking services. GHA has provided start-up funding to Scotcash and has no outstanding obligations.

Wheatley Housing Group Limited investment in subsidiaries at the year end was as follows:

Subsidiary	Legal status	Issued share capital
The Glasgow Housing Association Limited	Co-operative and Community Benefit Society	9 x £1 shares
Cube Housing Association Limited	Co-operative and Community Benefit Society	227 x £1 shares
The Glasgow Housing Association (Funding) Limited	Company Limited by Guarantee	No share capital
GHA Enterprises Limited	Company Limited by Shares	100 x £1
		ordinary shares
Lowther Homes Limited	Company Limited by Shares	100 x £1
		ordinary shares
YourPlace Property Management Limited	Company Limited by Shares	2 x £1
		ordinary shares
Loretto Housing Association Limited	Co-operative and Community Benefit Society	259 x £1 shares
West Lothian Housing Partnership Limited	Company Limited by Guarantee	No share capital

The Company exercises its functions as parent of the entities listed above through ownership of 100% of the share capital in all Companies Limited by Shares, through the ownership of a parent share with controlling rights in all Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies, and through a controlling interest as a member of the Companies Limited by Guarantee.

Transactions between wholly owned Group companies and closing balances do not required to be disclosed under FRS 8.

#### 31. Post balance sheet events

Discussions are ongoing with Dunedin Canmore Housing Association Limited regarding a partnership which would see Dunedin Canmore Housing Association Limited joining the Wheatley Housing Group Limited.

# Supplementary Information

#### **Secretary and Registered Office**

Kirsten Craig Wheatley Housing Group Limited Wheatley House 25 Cochrane Street Glasgow G1 1HL

#### **Auditors**

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP 141 Bothwell Street Glasgow G2 7EQ

#### Bankers

Royal Bank of Scotland Glasgow Corporate Office Kirkstane House 139 St Vincent Street Glasgow G2 5JF

Lloyds Banking Group 3rd Floor 25 Gresham Street London EC2V 7HN

#### Members of Loan Syndicate

Royal Bank of Scotland Glasgow Corporate Office Kirkstane House 139 St Vincent Street Glasgow G2 5JF

Lloyds Banking Group 3rd Floor 25 Gresham Street London EC2V 7HN

Nationwide Building Society Housing Finance Kings Park Road Moulton Park Northampton NN3 6NW.

European Investment Bank 100 Boulevard Konrad Adenauer L-2950 Luxembourg

### **Board Members and Executive Team Information**

#### Alastair Dempster CBE, Chair (Non-Executive Director)

A career banker, Alastair held a number of senior positions, latterly as the Chief Executive of Lloyds TSB Scotland PLC for 6 years. A fellow and former President of the Chartered Institute of Bankers in Scotland, Alastair has held a number of non-executive director positions in the private and public sector, including 12 years as an independent Board member of GHA.

#### Liz Walford (Non-Executive Director)

Liz has held a number of executive positions within the housing sector in England, retiring as the Group Chief Executive of Walsall Housing Group in 2009 following 5 years in post. Liz has extensive experience of business transformation and change, having supported significant change programmes and provided expert governance advice and support as a regulatory appointee on a number of housing provider Boards.

#### Mike Blyth (Non-Executive Director)

A chartered accountant, Mike was a partner for 30 years in Baker Tilly where he held a number of senior management positions both locally and nationally. In addition, he headed up the not-for-profit group in the West of Scotland and, as such, provided audit and advisory services to a wide range of Registered Social Landlords the length and breadth of Scotland. Mike is also a trustee and Vice Chair of Erskine Hospital and a non-executive director of Anglo Pacific Group PLC.

#### **Ronnie Jacobs (Non-Executive Director)**

Ronnie is a qualified surveyor and has over 30 years' experience in the private housing sector, in particular new build. He has held a number of senior positions in the private housing sector, including Managing Director of Persimmon Homes and Miller Homes in Scotland and he recently retired as Scottish Regional Chairman of Miller Homes. Ronnie has advised the Scottish Government on housing as part of the Housing Supply Task Force and has served on the Board of Homes For Scotland.

#### Alastair MacNish (Non-Executive Director)

Alastair spent his career in local government, initially in finance as a Chartered Accountant, and latterly he spent 5 years as the Chief Executive of South Lanarkshire Council, Scotland's third largest local authority at the time. He was formerly the Chairman of the Accounts Commission and Audit Scotland and has advised the Scotlish Government on a wide range of issues, including being part of the review group for MSP remuneration, chairing the Leadership Advisory Panel on Local Government Leadership Capacity and providing evidence to the Scotlish Parliament Local Government and Communities Committee on the budget setting.

#### Gordon Sloan (GHA nominated Director)

Gordon has been the Chairman of GHA since 2010. Gordon spent his career in the civil service, working as a Children's Reporter. Gordon has extensive experience in community governance, where he is a member of Keystone Management Committee. He is also a Chair of the NHS Trust Panel in Glasgow.

#### John Grant (GHA nominated Director)

John has a wide range of experience of not-for-profit and commercial non-executive roles. He is currently a director of social enterprise Scotcash CIC, a financial services company which provides loans to non-mainstream clients. John is also a non-executive director of Lowther Homes Limited, a private property development company and is a member of the GHA Board, chairing the West Area Committee.

#### Lesley McInnes (Co-Optee)

Lesley has extensive senior experience in the housing sector, at Executive and Board level and is currently the Chief Executive of West Highland Housing Association. She also serves on the Board of Cube Housing Association and the Group Audit Committee.

#### Sheila Gunn (Co-Optee)

Sheila is a solicitor and has worked in legal private practice for 24 years, most recently as Partner and Head of Employment at Shepherd & Wedderburn. She has a track record of Board-level success as counsel to some of the UK's leading companies including Scottish Power, Cairn Energy and Ignis Asset Management. Sheila also has extensive experience in the housing sector having advised Ark Housing Association and Hanover Housing Association over many years on a wide range of issues and is also a director of GHA (Management) Limited.

#### Margaret Dunlop (Co-Optee)

Margaret spent her early career as Senior Industrial Engineer within a multi-national company where she analysed and designed systems. Subsequently, as Head of Department, she managed both academic and administrative resources college-wide for IT, Audio-visual, Theatre, Printing, Publishing and Library Services. Her Head of Department remit also involved the promotion, production and delivering of Learning Packages to Fire Services nationally and internationally including the design and implementation of a staff advancement learning system within the multi-national BAA company. Margaret is the Chair of West Lothian Housing Partnership.

#### **Martin Armstrong (Director)**

Martin is Group Chief Executive of Wheatley Housing Group. Martin has over 20 years of public sector experience with a track record in strategy formulation, performance management and change management. He has successfully led the transformation of GHA to the top performing landlord in Scotland, a recognised and valued partner at local and national level as well as achieving a wide range of external recognition.

### **Executive Team**

#### Martin Armstrong, Group Chief Executive

Martin sits on the Board of Wheatley Housing Group and also leads the Group's Executive team.

#### Mark Logan, Group Director of Finance

Mark, a Chartered Accountant, joined GHA in October 2009 from West of Scotland Housing Association where he was initially Director of Corporate Services before becoming Deputy Chief Executive. He was previously Assistant Director of Housing and Regeneration at Ernst & Young from 2000-2006 providing support to clients across the UK including large local authorities and housing organisations gaining a wealth of experience in stock and second stage transfer. Mark was appointed Group Director of Finance for Wheatley Group in June 2012. Mark serves as a director of Lowther Homes Limited and YourPlace Property Management.

#### **Alex McGuire, Group Director of Property**

Alex joined GHA in April 2008 and was appointed Group Director of Property in 2013. Alex had responsibility for Glasgow Housing Association's £1.2 billion Investment Programme – the largest of its kind in Europe – as well as repairs and maintenance. Alex, formerly a Housing Strategy Manager at West Lothian Council, set up and ran the West Lothian Housing Partnership. He is a director of Lowther Homes Limited.

#### Graham Isdale, Director of Corporate Affairs and Commercial

A former UK Board director of one of the world's largest communications companies, Graham joined Glasgow Housing Association in 2009. He was previously instrumental in building two of the biggest independent PR consultancies in the UK and has handled major crisis, issues-management and communications assignments for multi-nationals all over the world, as well as FTSE 100 companies and Government departments and agencies. Graham is also a former regional newspaper editor.

#### Olga Clayton, Group Director of Housing and Care

Olga joined Wheatley Group in September 2013, and has over 25 years' experience in Scottish social housing . As Head of Housing at North Ayrshire Council, Olga led the transformation of the service achieving an 'A' rating from the Scottish Housing Regulator, winning Quality Scotland's top award for Business Excellence and achieving COSLA's Gold award for innovation in services. Olga also has substantial experience of developing partnerships and delivering services in the care sector. As Head of Housing and Community Care in her final four years at North Ayrshire Council, she was responsible for commissioning and contracting for services to older people and people with disabilities, achieving excellent Care Inspectorate ratings and leading service integration with the Health Service. As well as having a strong operational track record, Olga has extensive experience of contributing to policy development at national level, most recently serving on the Ministerial Strategy Group on Homelessness and the national delivery group for the Integration of Health and Social Care.

#### **Elaine Melrose, Group Director of Resources**

Elaine joined Wheatley Group in September 2013 from West Dunbartonshire Council where she was an Executive Director for Housing, Environmental and Economic Development. Elaine has wide strategic experience in everything from regeneration and community planning to infrastructure investments and has led key improvement activity in organisation culture and improving competitiveness.

#### Kirsten Craig, Company Secretary

Kirsten is a qualified solicitor and held the position of Company Secretary at Dumfries and Galloway Housing Partnership Limited prior to joining Wheatley Group in January 2014.

**Wheatley Group** Wheatley House 25 Cochrane Street GLASGOW G1 1HL

wheatley-group.com

