

"Offering our community more than a home"

Repairs & Maintenance Policy

Housing Services Sub-Committee submission: 22 November 2022

Last Approved: 20 August 2022

Date Approved:

Next Review date: November 2025

CHA Objectives:

- To provide quality, affordable housing that meets the changing needs of our customers and to ensure fair access to housing within our area.
- To manage the houses provided, in a professional and cost effective manner, for the benefit of our local community and the environment.
- To provide a first class maintenance service which offers value for money and ensures the comfort and safety of our residents while achieving high levels of satisfaction

Regulatory Standards:

- The governing body leads and directs the RSL to achieve good outcomes for its tenants and other service users.
- The RSL is open about and accountable for what it does. It
 understands and takes account of the needs and priorities of
 its tenants, service users and stakeholders. And its primary
 focus is the sustainable achievement of these objectives.
- The RSL manages its resources to ensure its financial wellbeing and economic effectiveness.
- The governing body bases its decision on good quality information and advice and identifies and mitigates risks to the organisation's purpose.

This policy can be made available on request in a variety of different formats, such as on tape, in large print and translated into other languages.

Introduction

Clydebank Housing Association is committed to the provision of a good quality maintenance service which represents a high degree of client satisfaction, value for money and the long term security of its assets.

The purpose of this policy is to establish an operational framework to enable the Association to discharge its statutory and contractual responsibilities in relation to reactive, cyclical and planned maintenance

Legal Framework

The following publications have been used to ensure performance standards and good practice are followed and statutory requirements are complied with throughout the Policy.

- The Scottish Housing Regulator Guidance Notes
- Performance Standards for Registered Social Landlords in Scotland
- Raising Standards in Maintenance
- Scottish Housing Quality Standard
- Housing (Scotland) Act 2001
- Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998
- The Equality Act 2010
- General Data Protection Regulations 2018
- Property Factors (Scotland) Act 2011
- Construction Design & Management Regulations 2015
- Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing
- The Building Scotland Regulation 2004

Equal Opportunities

Clydebank Housing Association will ensure equality of opportunity across the full range of our activities, including both employment and service provision.

We will not discriminate on the grounds of Age, Disability, Gender Reassignment, Marriage and Civil Partnership, Pregnancy and Maternity, Race, Religion or Belief, Sex and Sexual Orientation.

Aims and Objectives

The key aims and objectives of the Association's maintenance policy and procedures are as follows:-

- To provide a safe, secure and healthy living environment for the Association's tenants
- To protect the asset value of the Association's stock through maximising the life of components and minimising the risk of defects occurring
- To make best us of the Association's resources

- To meet or exceed the standards defined in the Scottish Housing Quality Standard (SHQS) and the Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing (EESSH)
- To enable the Association to anticipate future repairs expenditure and make provision for this
- To ensure that performance is continuously improved by appropriate monitoring of service delivery and quality to customers
- To focus on the customer experience by delivering high standards of customer care and satisfaction

Core Values

Clydebank Housing Association has the following core values, which are integrated into our working practices and approach to interacting and dealing with people.

"Offering our community more than a home"

We will achieve this by being:

- Respectful- we will treat all our customers with courtesy and respect
- Accountable we will be open, honest and approachable and act with the highest integrity at all times
- **Responsive and Informative** we will listen, respond and inform through effective and timely communication
- **Professional** we will ensure we have the appropriate skills and strive for excellence in all aspects of our service

Performance Monitoring

In line with the requirements of the Scottish Social Housing Charter, the Association will monitor the effectiveness of this policy and the quality of service delivered to customers on a regular basis.

Customer feedback will be used to monitor service delivery and to address weaknesses, improve performance and develop the service to meet customers' needs.

Regular meetings are conducted with contractors. This allows for any trends or dips in performance to be discussed and resolved to allow for the service provided to meet the relevant standards expected of the service we provide.

The performance of the repairs and maintenance service will be reported to the Housing Services Sub-Committee and to customers through Annual Reports, website, and other appropriate methods.

Landlord Responsibilities

The Association is responsible for maintaining the structure and exterior of the property and for ensuring that it is fit for human habitation.

This includes:

- The maintenance of all installations provided for space heating, water heating and sanitation and for the supply of water, gas and electricity.
- Maintaining drains, gutters and external pipes (excluding blockages caused by tenant negligence).
- The external envelope i.e., the roof, outside walls, windows and doors.
- The internal structure i.e., walls, floors, ceilings, staircases, doors and door frames (excluding decoration).
- Chimneys, chimney stacks and flues (excluding sweeping).
- Pathways, steps or other means of access / egress.
- Boundary walls and fences if damage significantly affects use of common parts of property or if it poses a danger to any user.
- Drying poles
- Communal television aerials/satellite dishes (installed by the Association)

Tenant Responsibilities

- Tenants must keep the interior of the house in good and clean condition and good decorative order.
- Tenants must, with other occupiers, sweep and clean the common parts including close and stairs, back court areas, drying areas, bin stores etc. This should be carried out on a weekly basis at least, or as required unless such cleaning is provided as a service.
- Tenants must report promptly to the Association any defect or disrepair including that which is due to accidental damage or as a result of vandalism.
- Tenants must repair or replace items damaged through neglect or carelessness on the part of the tenant, any member of the tenant's household or their visitors.
- Tenants are responsible for damage to glass, sink or sanitary ware, choked sinks or sanitary ware (if the choke is found to be the fault of the tenant), replacement sink plugs or chains, toilet seats, light bulbs, smoke alarm batteries, internal door handles, lost or broken keys and any cost incurred through forcing entry due to lost keys.
- Tenants must allow the Association's employees and / or approved contractors access at all reasonable hours to inspect the condition of the house or to carry out repairs to the house or adjoining property. The Association will give the tenant 24 hours' notice of access being required, except in the case of an emergency when access will be required to be given immediately.

 Tenants should ensure that access hatches are not blocked or tiled over. Some properties may have hatches allowing access to common services and these should be kept clear at all times.

Classification of Repairs

Reactive Repairs

Reactive repairs are day to day repairs that are required within a relatively short timescale and are to ensure the health, safety or security of the tenant and to prevent deterioration of the property. These obligations are defined by statute or set out in the tenancy agreement.

Reactive repairs are most often reported by tenants but can be instigated by any member of staff. These repairs will be reportable to the Scottish Housing Regulator (SHR) within the Annual Return on the Charter (ARC) as defined within its guidance for; emergency repairs, non-emergency repair and Right First Time guidance.

Non- Reactive Repairs

Non-Reactive repairs are day to day repairs that are not reportable to the Scottish Housing Regulator (SHR) within the Annual Return on the Charter (ARC) as defined within the guidance for; emergency repairs, non-emergency repairs and Right First Time guidance. These include Void Repairs which are carried out to properties between tenancies to ensure that they are safe to be re-let and to bring them up to specified standards. The Association has a defined 'lettable' standard in this regard.

Cyclical Maintenance

Cyclical maintenance is carried out at agreed intervals and usually involves inspection, servicing or cleaning.

The Association will carry out cyclical maintenance to ensure that appliances and machinery are maintained to safe operating standards and in accordance with guidelines and legislation.

Examples of cyclical maintenance include painterwork, gutter cleaning, roof inspection, water pump/tank inspection, lift maintenance, gas appliance testing, electrical testing, fire system testing, dry riser testing and communal ventilation fan maintenance.

Planned Maintenance

Planned maintenance is work which is programmed in advance, normally over a thirty year period, and which usually involves the replacement of external or internal elements of the property or common parts.

Planned maintenance will be programmed according to regularly updated stock condition survey information and components will be replaced in accordance with their anticipated lifespan.

There may be occasions when there is a premature failure of a component outwith planned programmes and the Association will budget annually for such works.

Categories of Repairs

All repairs are responded to in terms of their necessity, liability and degree of urgency. In all cases tenants will be advised of the expected timescales involved.

Emergency Repairs

Emergency repairs shall include any incidents which may be a risk to health and safety, which make a property uninhabitable or are required to avoid serious damage to a property. This includes, but is not restricted, to the following:

- Gas leaks
- Electrical faults endangering life and property
- Broken W.C where there is no other toiler in the house.
- Fires or break-ins
- Lightening, flood or storm damage
- Structural problems causing a danger to tenants and the general public
- Choked common drains where sewage is reported.

Contractors will be instructed to attend and carry out repairs to make safe within 4 hours of repair being reported. Any follow up work will be allocated a completion category timescale that reflects the extent and nature of the work required.

Emergency Right to Repair

This class of repair is intended to deal with any qualifying repairs referred to within the Scottish Secure Tenants (Right to Repair) Regulations 2002 which would be deemed to be an emergency in nature. The response target time to attend and make safe is within 4 hours and completion of the repair in line with Right to Repair legislation.

Repairs categorised as Emergency Right to Repairs are;

- Blocked or leaking toilets where there is no other toilet in the house.
- Blocked bath where there is no other bathing facility in the house.
- Loss of electric power.
- Loss of water supply.
- Insecure external window, entrance door and/or lock (does not include common doors).
- Significant leaks or flooding from water or heating pipes, tanks or cisterns.
- Loss of gas supply.
- Loss of heating where there is no alternative heating available.
- Toilet not flushing where there is no other toilet in the property.
- Unsafe power or lighting socket or electrical fitting.

<u>Urgent Repairs</u>

To be completed within 3 working days of when repair was notified. (the first date is the day the repair was reported by the service user and the end date should be the date it is signed off as completed.) Pre-inspection visits are to be included in the time taken and time taken due to receipt of faulty parts or delays due to inclement weather must also be included.

Faults and incidents that are not deemed to be an emergency in nature but has the potential to escalate to cause risk to health & safety or cause serious damage to the property if not addressed as a matter of urgency. This includes, but is not restricted, to the following:

- Electrical fault not falling into emergency category
- Containable leaks at W.C. bowl/cistern
- Rain penetration
- Fault at controlled entry system
- Choked waste at W.H.B., sinks and baths where there is another facility within the property.
- Choked communal drain

Routine Repairs

Non-emergency repairs that do not have a high risk of escalating to cause concern to health and safety or serious damage to the property. The response target time is within 10 working days. These include, for example, a requirement to order parts and materials, very specialist works and additional works being identified when repairs are being carried out. Any amendment to the completion timescale will be clearly recorded in order to create an appropriate audit trail.

Day 1 will commence the day that the repair is reported. Pre-inspection visits are to be included in the time taken and time taken due to receipt of faulty parts or delays due to inclement weather must also be included.

Examples of routine repairs are (but not limited to);

- damaged fencing
- drip at tap
- fault with TV aerial
- plasterwork.
- Internal door repairs
- Repairs to floorboards

Complex Repairs

These are repairs which are likely to involve multi-trades and can include jobs requiring time to dry out, removal of asbestos, jobs requiring authority from owners, insurance approval. The response target time is within 20 working days. Day 1 will commence the day the repair is reported and end at 5 p.m. on day 20.

In any case, repairs shall only be categorized as "complex" where the Maintenance Officer, Housing Services Manager of Head of Housing Services has reviewed whether the repair would fall into this category. Evidence must be available to confirm that the repair cannot be reasonably expected to be completed within 10 working days and the reason for this is extraordinary in nature.

Example of a complex repair are (but not limited to);

- Jobs where specialist parts are required and cannot reasonably be expected to arrive from their point of origin within 10 working days.
- Jobs that require owners consent in which the title deeds require meetings to be held and have a minimum notification of seven days or more for meeting to be called.

Right to Repair

The Association will adhere to the duties set out within the Scottish Secure Tenants (Right to Repair) Regulations 2002. The timescales are set out in this legislation and are specific for qualifying repairs. Repairs which are covered by the scheme include:

REPAIR	Working days to complete
Blocked flue to open fire or boiler	1
Blocked or leaking foul drains, soil stacks, or toilets	1
where there is no other toilet in the house	
Blocked sink, bath or drain	1
Loss of electric power	1
Loss of water supply	1
Insecure external window, door or lock	1
Unsafe access path or step	1
Significant leaks or flooding from water or heating	1
pipes, tanks or cisterns	
Loss or partial loss of gas supply	1
Loss or partial loss of space or water heating where	1
there is no alternative heating available	
Toilet not flushing where there is no other toilet in the	1
house	
Unsafe power or lighting socket or electrical fitting	1
Partial loss of electric supply	3
Partial loss of water supply	3
Loose or detached banister or handrail	3
Unsafe timber flooring or stair treads	3
Mechanical extractor fan in internal kitchen or	7
bathroom not working	

Full details are contained within the Association's Right to Repair Policy.

Rechargeable Repairs

The Association will recover the cost of repair work where the cause of the repair is not the responsibility of the Association. Some examples of repairs that would be rechargeable to tenants are:

- Damage caused by negligence by the tenant, a member or their household or visitor
- Making good unauthorised alterations i.e. shower or electrical installation not to an acceptable standard
- Forcing entry due to lost keys
- Vandalised glazing
- Failing to return property to Association's lettable standard as advised at pre-end of tenancy inspection
- Failure to provide access for annual gas safety check

Full details are contained within the Association's ...\..\Rechargeable Repairs\Approved Policies\Rechargeable Repair Policy - April 2021.pdf

Reporting Repairs

The Association aims to ensure that tenants are able to report repairs easily and that action to remedy the fault is taken as quickly as possible.

Tenants can report repairs in person at the Association's offices, by telephone, by email, by letter, via the tenants' portal or by completing the repairs notification form on our website.

The Association will also provide an "out of office hours" service for emergency repairs and details of how to contact this service are available on the office answering machine, on noticeboards at the multi-storey flats and published in our ChitChat newsletters and on our website.

Pre and Post Work Inspections (annual targets)

Void properties – 100% pre and post inspections

Gas services – 10% of total services audited by specialist contractor

Medical adaptations – 100% post inspected and 100% pre-inspected when requested by OT and/or major works involved

Ad hoc major repairs – 100% post inspected

Non-emergency reactive repairs – a minimum of 5% pre and post inspected.

The Housing Services Manager will report on performance of these targets annually to determine whether targets require to be reviewed and/or adjusted.

All data on pre and post inspections will be entered onto the computerised database.

Tenant Alterations

The Association recognises that tenants may wish to carry out alterations and is committed to consenting to these where it is reasonable to do so.

It is a term of every Scottish Secure Tenancy that the tenant is not to carry out work, other than interior decoration, without the consent, in writing, of the landlord. Tenants should therefore seek permission, in writing, prior to carry out any alterations. Requests for alterations will be responded in line within the timescales outlined in the Customer Care Policy. This consent will not be unreasonably withheld.

Compensation for Improvements

Certain alteration works qualify for compensation under the Government scheme implemented under The Housing (Scotland) Act 2001, which is payable to the tenant upon termination of their tenancy.

Full details are contained within the Association's Compensation for Improvements Policy.

Gas Safety Checks

The Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 places a legal duty on the Association to complete an annual inspection of gas appliances, pipe work and flues provided by the Association within a 12 month period of the previous inspection. In addition a gas safety check is carried out at every change of tenancy when there is a gas appliance within the property.

We will meet all statutory duties in relation to gas safety management and associated health and safety legislation. In doing so we will maintain effective administration systems to ensure appropriate records as well as the accurate monitoring of and reporting on progress of the servicing programme

In fulfilling our legal responsibilities, we will pursue a clearly defined process in order to secure access to properties for the purpose of enabling servicing work to be carried out. Where necessary this will include taking appropriate action to gain entry.

We will appoint independent Gas Safe Register approved contractors to carry out a quality assurance check of the principle gas safety contractor's work on a sample. The outcomes and any actions taken to progress any issues raised by the independent contractor will be reported to the Association's Housing Services Sub-Committee.

Full details are contained within the Association's ..\..\Maintenance Folder\Maintenance Procedures\7 - Gas Management Procedures

Asbestos Management

The Association recognises the dangers presented by asbestos and has a detailed

Asbestos Management Policy and Procedure in place. These describe the general approach and particular steps it shall take in order to meet relevant legal, health and safety, and best practice requirements.

Legionella Management

The Association will carry out its legal duties to consider, assess and control the risks of exposure to Legionella to our tenants. This requirement stems from the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 1989; Section 3(2) of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 making provision for the legislation to apply to landlords of both business and domestic premises.

PERFORMANCE MONITORING AND REPORTING

The Association shall maintain internal information systems which are based around ensuring effective monitoring, control and reporting of its repairs and maintenance activities. Comprehensive records of all repairs and maintenance work shall be held with a view to demonstrating transparency in the way work has been carried out and authorised.

The Association will monitor repairs and maintenance performance using both regulatory and local performance indicators.

Quarterly performance reports shall be presented to the Housing Services Sub Committee.

Delegation of Maintenance Authority

The Housing Services Sub-Committee has delegated administration of the maintenance budget within the following specified levels - ..\..\Standing Orders, Remits & Delegated Authorities\Standing Orders-Sub-Committee Remits and Delegated Authorities update 27.06.19.doc

	Details (Estimated Expenditure)	Authorisation	Procurement/ Minimum Quotes Required
а	Up to £500 plus VAT (Grade 5/6)	Housing Services AssistantsFinance Assistants	N/A
b	Up to £1,000 plus VAT (Grade 7)	Housing Services Officer	Direct Award through relevant supplier
С	Up to £5,000 plus VAT (Grade 8)	Housing Services ManagerFinance and Corporate Services Manager	2 Quotes
d	Up to £10,000 plus VAT	 Chief Executive Head of Finance and Corporate Services Head of Housing Services 	2 Quotes/ Or Quick Quote through PCS
е	> £10,000 plus VAT	Finance and Corporate	

	1
Services Sub-Committee	PCS or through
 Housing Services Sub- 	existing Framework
Committee	(e.g. Scotland Excel,
Management Committee	SPA, etc.)
In line with Procurement	·
Policy	
 Emergency arrangements – 	
at least 4 MC members to	
be contacted	

Planned and Cyclical Repairs

The Housing Services Sub-Committee will approve the major repair programme and any alterations or additions to the programme. Maintenance budgets, which are based on a stock condition survey and life cycle costing exercise, are approved by the Finance and Staffing Sub-Committee and these decisions are ratified by the Management Committee.

Authority for approval of invoices and payment certificates will be in accordance with the table above. Purchase of Materials

The Housing Services Manager is authorised to purchase materials / components etc. for the use of the Association within the same limits as above.

Contractors

The Association will provide its maintenance service through external works contractors who will be expected to deliver the service to the quality and standards required by the Association.

The Association will comply with the latest procurement legislation when appointing contractors. The Housing Services Sub-Committee will approve the relevant procurement routes following recommendations from the Housing Services Manager which will be dependent of the cost of the works.

The Association utilise existing frameworks or will advertise framework agreements through Public Contracts Scotland for the following contracts:

Repairs & Maintenance Framework (for reactive works) divided into different "lots"

Lot	Description
1	Void works (to include any combination of electrician, joiner, plumber, painter, plasterer, builder, roofer, EPC assessor/surveyor, cleaner etc)
2	Multi-trade – general (to include any combination of electrician, joiner plumber, gas engineer, painter, plasterer, builder, roofer etc)
3	Out of hours (to include any combination of electrician, joiner, plumber, gas engineer, painter, plasterer, builder, roofer, cleaner etc) – single award
4	Medical adaptations – single award
5	Joinery / glazier / ironmongery
6	Electrician / door entry
7	Plumber / gas engineer

8	Painter / tape & fill
9	Builder / plasterer
10	Roofer / slater
11	Close window cleaning / cleaning (general) / pest control / bulk uplifts
12	TV aerial
13	Blacksmith
14	CHP engineer (district heating)
15	Ventilation engineer

All contractors are required to agree to operate in accordance with the Association's Code of Conduct for Contractors and Customer Care standards.

Should an emergency repair require the services of a specialist contractor, who is not on our Framework, the work can be instructed by the Housing Services Manager and details reported at the next scheduled Housing Services Sub-Committee meeting.

Consultants

The Association will appoint consultants, including those required to comply with the Construction Design & Management Regulations 2015, on larger maintenance contracts where appropriate and including major repairs and renewals approved in the long-term maintenance programme.

The Association will comply with the latest procurement legislation when appointing consultants and will utilise existing or partnering Framework Agreements. The Housing Services Sub-Committee will approve the appointment of consultants following recommendations from the Housing Services Manager.

Health & Safety

The Association has arrangements in place to address the requirements of health & safety legislation and these will include:-

All contractors and consultants are required to provide their health & safety policy statements.

All contractors and consultants are required to hold and provide to the Association a copy of their insurance policies e.g., employer, public and professional indemnity.

The Association has in place an asbestos management register for domestic properties and communal areas which will be regularly reviewed in order to protect tenants, staff and contractors from exposure to asbestos containing materials.

The Association has in place legionella risk assessments for properties, where applicable, to ensure effective control measures are in place to prevent the occurrence of legionella.

Stock Condition Survey / Life Cycle Costing

The Association will carry out regular inspections of its properties utilising both employees and external surveyors to monitor the condition of properties in line with its obligations outlined within the Landlord Health and Safety Manual.

F:\Maintenance Folder\Health & Safety\H & S Manuals\Landlord Safety Manual\EVH LSM Version Sept 2022.docx

The Association operates a 30 year planned maintenance programme for all of its properties based on standard element life assumptions (life cycle costings). These component accounting lifespans are detailed in the following table:

Component accounting lifespans

Component	Lifespan
Structure	50
Kitchen	20
Bathroom	25
Gas boiler	15
Radiators and pipework	30
Electric heating systems	25
Re-wiring	30
Ventilation units	10
Emergency lighting (internal)	15
Emergency lighting (inverters)	10
Close windows	30
External doors and unit windows	30
Communal entrance / pass doors	20
Door entry systems	15
Passenger lifts	30
Bin chutes	30

The Association will carry out a stock condition survey at five yearly intervals to enable the life cycle costings to be updated. A minimum of 20% of each property type will be inspected.

Stock condition survey information will also be gathered on a reactive and cyclical basis by Association staff and contractors to enable an accurate and up to date database of all stock to be maintained.

All stock condition survey information which is gathered will include the elements required for compliance with the Scottish Housing Quality Standard and the Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing.

The following policies and procedures detail maintenance responsibility in relation to delivery of service, customer satisfaction and achievement of our corporate objectives.

- Right to Repair Policy
- Gas Servicing procedures
- Electrical Safety Policy
- Fire Safety Policy

- Lift Maintenance Policy
- Void Management Policy
- Social Work Adaptations Policy
- Asbestos Management Policy
- Rechargeable Repairs Policy
- Compensation for Improvements Policy
- Factoring Policy
- Procurement Policy
- Sustainability Policy
- Health & Safety policies
- Equal Opportunities & Diversity Policy
- Customer Care Policy
- Tenant Participation Strategy
- Asset Management Strategy
- Value for Money Strategy
- Lettable Standard Guide

For Office Use Only – Actions

Customer Consultation Required/Arranged	No
Intranet Update	Yes
F Drive Update	Yes
Website Update	Yes
Leaflet change required?	No
Newsletter Promotion?	Yes
Other information updated, e.g. posters, automatic email responses, post	No
cards, answering machine messages, etc.	
Equality Impact Assessment completed	Yes