**Thursday 15 May 2025**

##### **Note of actions**

**Attendance**

Chair of the GBM forum Freya Lees (Grampian HA) welcomed 14 attendees to the meeting.

**Actions from the previous meeting**

Alan Stokes (SFHA) provided an overview of actions from the previous meeting, which had all been completed. Actions included those relating to the Model Entitlements Payments and Benefits (EPB) policy and GBM Conference, covered later in the agenda.

**Leading with confidence in a Digital World**

Stephanie Elliot (SFHA) gave an overview of a new piece of guidance produced by TECH Scotland in conjunction with SFHA and others – [Leading with confidence in a digital world: board level priorities for housing associations](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/63e35f744bcf3d38b9fbc65e/t/685911deae42e32fbeb03614/1750667743720/Tech+Guidance+for+Boards.pdf). The guidance looks at the digital challenges governing bodies must steer through in a digital world, such as digital exclusion, cybersecurity risks, and AI adoption.

**Action 1 –** SFHA to circulate background presentation slides to the group.

**Action 2 –** SFHA to include digital issues on the agenda of the next meeting of the group to follow up on this piece of work.

**Get Governance guidance review update**

Linda Ewart provided an update on the ongoing review of the SFHA Model Entitlements Payments and Benefits policy (EPB) and upcoming guidance in the SFHA’s Get Governance suite. This will include new guidance looking at GBM induction; guidance looking at board papers/business; and guidance looking at governance in subsidiaries/group structures.

**Action 3 –** SFHA to circulate finalised Model EPB policy to the group once published.

**Action 4** – SFHA to ensure GBM Forum members are given the opportunity to join member working groups looking at the development of the new guidance.

**Action 5 –** SFHA to ensure it gives members of the GBM Forum an opportunity to offer any views on what new pieces of guidance should cover at the beginning of the process of development.

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**Action 6 –** SFHA to provide a further Get Governance update at the November meeting.

**SFHA Governing Body Members’ Conference Reflections**

Members who attended the SFHA GBM Conference in February provided useful feedback and reflections on the day. Feedback was positive, with some helpful suggestions as to how SFHA could shape the next GBM Conference in Feb 2026.

**Action 7** – SFHA to look at including more interactive roundtable discussions at the next Conference.

**Action 8 –** SFHA to continue to ensure that as many board member speakers or chairs are included in each session.

**Action 9 –** SFHA to consider methods to break down barriers to attendance for those travelling from a distance.

**SFHA PVG Scheme Briefing**

Alan provided an overview of an [SFHA briefing relating to PVG scheme requirements](https://www.sfha.co.uk/news/sfha-briefing-re-pvg-scheme-requirements-may-2025). The guidance provides a steer on which roles are likely to be coved under the Protected Vulnerable Groups scheme, and highlights Disclosure Scotland advice that it is unlikely GBMs will be subject to mandatory PVG registration unless involved with care subsidiary.

**Future topics for breakout discussions/presentations**

Frey highlighted previously suggested topics, including:

* Constructive challenge and staff relationships.
* Amplifying the tenant voice.
* Senior officer/CEO appraisals.
* Ensuring data accuracy presented to boards.
* Partnership working and community development.
* Best practices on rent consultation

**Action 10** – SFHA and Chair to agree topic for group discussion/presentation from those identified and share with the forum in advance of next meeting.

**Next meeting**

The date for the next meeting is **Thursday 13 November at 11am** (via Zoom). Forum members can register to attend here: [GBM Forum.](https://www.sfha.co.uk/events-forums/governing-body-members-november)