

AGM MINUTES

Regional Networks AGM
Meeting held on Saturday 1 June 2024
at 11.00 a.m. via Zoom

Present:

Colin Stewart	CS	R1	Chair	Aberdeen City
Liz Richardson	LR	R1	Nominee	Highlands
Kath Fennell	KF	R1	Nominee	Orkney Islands
Linda Lennie	LL	R1	Committee Member	Orkney Islands
Jackie Bugden	JB	R1	Committee Member	Highlands
Gordon Saunders	GS	R2	Chair	Scottish Borders
Irina Lazarenko	IL	R2	Vice Chair	City of Edinburgh
Anne Cameron	ACa	R3	Chair	South Ayrshire
Bruce Cuthbertson	BCu	R3	Vice Chair	East Ayrshire
Norma Ferguson	NF	R3	Secretary	North Ayrshire
Margaret Dymond	MD	R3	Treasurer	Renfrewshire
Suzanne Austin	SA	R3	Committee Member	Renfrewshire
Shona Gorman	SG	R4	Chair	Falkirk
June Anderson	JA	R4	Vice Chair	Clackmannanshire
Frances McGonagle	FMcG	R4	Nominee	West Dunbartonshire
William Derrick	WD	R4	Nominee	Stirling

In attendance:

Carolynne Watson	Scottish Government	
Sharon Donohoe	TIS	
Fawn Russell	TIS	
Scott MacLeod	Nominee	Highland
Sarah-Jane Dunbar	Nominee	Stirling
Hugh McClung	Delegate	Stirling
Robert Cairney	Delegate	Stirling
John Young	Delegate	Clackmannanshire
Mike Cameron	Delegate	Angus
Catherine Coutts	Delegate	Castlehill TPO
Claire Hancox	Delegate	Aberdeenshire

Apologies / Absent:

John Duffy	JD	R4	Committee Member	Apologies
Donna Murray	DM	R4	Committee Member	Apologies
Rebecca Blackwood	R	R1	Nominee	Apologies

	MAIN ROOM ITEMS	ACTION
1	<p>Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of interest</p> <p>CS welcomed everyone to the 2024 Regional Network AGM meeting.</p> <p>Under Declarations of Interest, CS noted his role as a Board member of the Scottish Housing Regulator.</p> <p>A one-minute silence was held in honour of John ‘Mac’ McKenzie, who passed away last July. Thanks were extended to Jeanette Arneil, formerly of Central Scotland Regional Network, who stepped down from the Networks in 2024 after serving on the committee since the Networks were established.</p>	
2	<p>Chairs Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CS presented the Chair’s report, setting out information on the work and the achievements of the committee since the last AGM was held in June 2023. The Regional Network committees and working groups have continued to meet primarily on a virtual basis, however this year have held some face-to-face meetings for the first time since early 2020. The intention is to continue with a small number of in-person meetings in the coming year. • The committee have contributed to a wide range of work over the past year and have continued to represent the views of tenants and residents effectively, working alongside Scottish Government Ministers, officials and stakeholder working groups on a variety of issues. A great deal has been achieved over the past year, and CS thanked the committee members for their hard work and contribution. • Hugh McClung thanked CS for his report, and asked for clarification on progress with the Regional Networks Housing Revenue Account (HRA) working group. CS noted that the issue was again raised with Paul McLennan MSP, Minister for Housing, during the year, who subsequently requested evidence of the identified concerns on use of the HRA. SG noted that the committee have been awaiting further information from a representative who has been absent recently due to ill-health, however HRA issues will be revisited at the next meeting later in June. • Copies of the Chair’s report can be made available on request to the Scottish Government’s Tenant Priorities team. 	

<p>3</p>	<p>Minutes of previous AGM and Matters Arising</p> <p>The minutes of the June 2023 main meeting:</p> <p><u>Approved:</u> LR <u>Seconded:</u> AC</p> <p>The minutes of the June 2023 North of Scotland breakout room:</p> <p><u>Approved:</u> LR <u>Seconded:</u> KF</p> <p>The minutes of the June 2023 South East Scotland breakout room:</p> <p><u>Approved:</u> GS <u>Seconded:</u> IL</p> <p>The minutes of the June 2023 South West Scotland breakout room:</p> <p><u>Approved:</u> AC <u>Seconded:</u> MD</p> <p>The minutes of the June 2023 Central Scotland breakout room:</p> <p><u>Approved:</u> SG <u>Seconded:</u> JA.</p> <p>Minor corrections were noted to the spelling of some delegate names.</p> <p>There were no Matters Arising not already included on the agenda for today's AGM.</p>	
<p>4</p>	<p>Treasurer's Report</p> <p>CS presented the Treasurer's report, per the report included in the AGM pack, noting that in 2023/24, the Regional Networks have largely consolidated their bank accounts into one account for all Regions. All balances with the exception of a minimal holding balance have been transferred from the South West Scotland and Central Scotland accounts to the North of Scotland account which will serve as the main account going forward. Work is in hand to transfer the entirety of the South East Scotland balance, as no active signatories remain on that account.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening balance was £267.61. • A total income of £16,250 was received, comprising- £12,000 income from Scottish Government, £1,850 	

	<p>transferred from the South West Scotland Regional Networks account and £2,400 from the Central Scotland Regional Networks account.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The balance brought forward was £16,521.61. • The direct running costs of the Regional Networks in 2023/24 was £11,748.24. • The balance as per end of financial year was £4773.37. 	
<p>5</p>	<p>Report: Rebranding from Regional Networks to Tenants Together</p> <p>SG presented a report on the rebranding project which committee members have progressed in 2023/24 with support from TIS and the Scottish Government’s Tenant Priorities team. A working group of committee members has been involved in this significant project this year, which has considered the branding, logo and name, and aspects of the structure and working practices of the Regional Networks.</p> <p>A new logo, brand identity and name- Tenants Together- have been developed, and a constitution drafted, which will be considered under agenda item 6. A new website has also been developed. The working group’s goal with regard to the rebrand is to increase awareness of the role and work of Regional Networks/ Tenants Together among tenants in the sector, with the ultimate aim of attracting new, active members to the committee.</p> <p>Delegates agreed that action is required to re-energise the role of the group and promote it amongst tenants- anecdotally, awareness of the Regional Networks as they stand currently is low. Delegates noted that this is likely- in part- to be a result of the changing landscape of tenant participation in Scotland in recent years; also highlighting declining membership of RTOs and scrutiny groups, and declining numbers of such groups overall. Some delegates were of the view that landlords no longer see tenant participation as a priority, although it was noted that this is by no means a uniform picture across the sector, and there are likely a number of factors at play.</p> <p>Delegates noted that the new branding and logo is bright and engaging and reflective of the aims of Tenants Together moving forward. It was noted that a social media presence will be beneficial in reaching the widest range of tenants within the sector, and this will be progressed in the coming weeks.</p>	
<p>6</p>	<p>Vote: Dissolving the Regional Networks constitution and invoke the Tenants Together</p> <p>CS presented this item, beginning with the vote to dissolve the Regional Networks constitution, which was unanimous.</p>	

	<p>CS requested any points on the draft constitution for Tenants Together included in the AGM paperwork pack. Hugh McClung noted the view that paragraph 2.1 should expand to refer to 'tenants and service users' in addition to 'members'. This was agreed, and the constitution wording at 2.1 will be amended to reflect this.</p> <p>The vote to involve the constitution of Tenants Together was unanimous.</p>	
7	<p>Elections to the committee</p> <p>Three nominations were received- from Sarah-Jane Dunbar, Scott MacLeod and Rebecca Blackwood to join the committee, and all were welcomed by CS.</p>	
8	<p>Closing remarks and thanks</p> <p>CS thanked everyone for attending, and SG extended thanks to the Chair on behalf of attendees.</p>	
	<p>Results from Closed session to elect Office Bearers</p> <p>Chair/ Secretary – Colin Stewart. Vice-Chair- Shona Gorman. Treasurer – Gordon Saunders.</p>	

Date	18-Jun-2024
Proposed	AC
Seconded	LR