

Annex A Regulation and governance SDG: workshop session

The regulation and governance SDG debated key areas of interest. These are summarised below:

- Transparency
- Affordable housing review
- VFM
- Affordability
- Risk management - defining risk appetite
- Board assurance
- Lessons learnt from complex cases and learning lessons about recovery planning.
- Shaping the CHC training offer for governance professionals and board members.
- Skills - future proofing for boards and the role of governance officers.
- RBW governance thematic review - following up and making it a reality
- Regulatory assurance plan - sharing experiences and good practice
- Establishing culture
- Sharing good practice
- Understanding regulatory expectations and ensuring proportionality

The SDG discussed their preferred ways of working. The key points are summarised below:

- Clarity about where information about this and other SDGs is being stored and shared.
- When seeking guidance and sharing experiences the immediacy of the response is really important. Some found yammer helpful and others preferred to use the governance officers informal email group.
- Important for the SDG to complement the governance officers group and not to duplicate. Information sharing between the two groups was felt to be important.
- Feedback from key meetings to the wider group was felt to be important. For example updates following RAG.
- CHC should continue to use 'start the week' to share updates about the other SDGs and help colleagues to make links across the SDGs.
- The attempts to identify overlap and opportunities for collaboration between SDGs was felt to be useful. Members were keen to work with other SDGs on areas of mutual interest.

Annex B: workshop session on schedule 1

The group debated the current operation of Schedule 1 and identified areas where changes would be beneficial:

- The legislation is open to interpretation and is not clear in places. Plain English would be preferable!
- Would be useful to identify areas where Board needs to approve/decide and where authority can be delegated.
- It would be useful to identify areas to reduce administrative burden across the board.
- There should be no need for specific exemptions related to the provision of homes to tenants and employees as allocations take place via local government.
- There should be no need for exemptions for employing family members as this important issue would be better tackled via robust HR processes rather than Schedule 1.
- Restrictions around the use of contractors could restrict the ability to employ local SMEs. Safeguards would be better situated within robust procurement policies.
- It was felt important that restrictions around re-employing former employees remained within Schedule 1.
- As a whole the legislation and surrounding circulars and guidance is out of date and doesn't reflect open market sales and the increase in group structures.
- It was felt to be important to align and cross reference the expectations within Schedule 1 with the Bribery Act and controls internally.
- Monetary limits are out of date.
- Limits to contractual payments are outdated.
- HAs reflected that the way that Schedule 1 is interpreted and used should be discussed internally. In particular a robust risk assessment was required before actions and decisions taken in light of the lack of clarity in places.