#### **Appendix A: Self-assessment form**

This self-assessment form should be completed by the complaints officer (Customer Experience Manager as Saxon Weald's lead on complaints) and it must be reviewed and approved by the landlord's governing body at least annually.

Once approved, landlords must publish the self-assessment as part of the annual complaints performance and service improvement report on their website. The governing body's response to the report must be published alongside this.

Landlords are required to complete the self-assessment in full and support all statements with evidence, with additional commentary as necessary.

We recognise that there may be a small number of circumstances where landlords are unable to meet the requirements, for example, if they do not have a website. In these circumstances, we expect landlords to deliver the intentions of the Code in an alternative way, for example by publishing information in a public area so that it is easily accessible.

## **Section 1: Definition of a complaint**

| Code provision | Code requirement   | Comply:<br>Yes / No | Evidence         | Commentary / explanation   |
|----------------|--|---------------------|------------------|--|
| 1.2            | A complaint must be defined as:  'an expression of dissatisfaction, however made, about the standard of service, actions or lack of action by the landlord, its own staff, or those acting on its behalf, affecting a resident or group of residents.'   | Yes                 | Complaint Policy | This definition is used in our complaints policy (point 2.1).  |
| 1.3            | A resident does not have to use the word 'complaint' for it to be treated as such. Whenever a resident expresses dissatisfaction landlords must give them the choice to make complaint. A complaint that is submitted via a third party or representative must be handled in line with the landlord's complaints policy. | Yes                 | Complaint Policy | As per the definition there is no requirement for residents to use the word 'complaint' (point 2.1).  Our policy confirms we accept complaints via a third party, and they have the appropriate authority (point 4.1). |
| 1.4            | Landlords must recognise the difference between a service request and a complaint. This must be set out in their complaints policy. A service request is a request from a resident to the landlord requiring action to be taken to put something right. Service requests are not complaints, but must be                 | Yes                 | Complaint Policy | This is covered by point 2.2 in our complaint definitions. Service requests are recorded through our CRM system.   |

| Code provision | Code requirement   | Comply:<br>Yes / No | Evidence  | Commentary / explanation   |
|----------------|--|---------------------|---|--|
|                | recorded, monitored and reviewed regularly.  |                     |   |  |
| 1.5            | A complaint must be raised when the resident expresses dissatisfaction with the response to their service request, even if the handling of the service request remains ongoing. Landlords must not stop their efforts to address the service request if the resident complains.  | Yes                 | Complaint Policy  | This is also explained under point 2.2 of the policy.  |
| 1.6            | An expression of dissatisfaction with services made through a survey is not defined as a complaint, though wherever possible, the person completing the survey should be made aware of how they can pursue a complaint if they wish to. Where landlords ask for wider feedback about their services, they also must provide details of how residents can complain. | Yes                 | Closing page of online<br>satisfaction surveys and<br>script for TSM survey | An explanation and link are included at the end of online surveys for respondents to provide further feedback or make a complaint. At the end of telephone surveys, interviewers provide details of how to make a complaint. |

#### **Section 2: Exclusions**

| Code provision | Code requirement  | Comply:<br>Yes / No | Evidence         | Commentary / explanation   |
|----------------|---|---------------------|------------------|--|
| 2.1            | Landlords must accept a complaint unless there is a valid reason not to do so. If landlords decide not to accept a complaint they must be able to evidence their reasoning. Each complaint must be considered on its own merits | Yes                 | Complaint Policy | Point 3.1 of the policy explains that all complaints will be considered by their own merits. |
|                | A complaints policy must set out the circumstances in which a matter will not be considered as a complaint or escalated, and these circumstances must be fair and reasonable to residents. Acceptable exclusions include:       |                     |                  |  |
| 2.2            | <ul> <li>The issue giving rise to the<br/>complaint occurred over twelve<br/>months ago.</li> </ul>   | Yes                 | Complaint Policy | Exclusions are listed under point 3.1 of the policy.   |
|                | <ul> <li>Legal proceedings have started.         This is defined as details of the claim, such as the Claim Form and Particulars of Claim, having been filed at court.     </li> </ul>  |                     |                  |  |
|                | <ul> <li>Matters that have previously been<br/>considered under the complaints<br/>policy.</li> </ul>   |                     |                  |  |

| Code provision | Code requirement   | Comply:<br>Yes / No | Evidence         | Commentary / explanation  |
|----------------|--|---------------------|------------------|---|
| 2.3            | Landlords must accept complaints referred to them within 12 months of the issue occurring or the resident becoming aware of the issue, unless they are excluded on other grounds. Landlords must consider whether to apply discretion to accept complaints made outside this time limit where there are good reasons to do so.   | Yes                 | Complaint Policy | This is explained under point 2.3 of the policy.  |
| 2.4            | If a landlord decides not to accept a complaint, an explanation must be provided to the resident setting out the reasons why the matter is not suitable for the complaints process and the right to take that decision to the Ombudsman. If the Ombudsman does not agree that the exclusion has been fairly applied, the Ombudsman may tell the landlord to take on the complaint. | Yes                 | Complaint Policy | Point 3.2 of the policy explains that we will provide a full explanation and include details of how to contact the Housing Ombudsman under these circumstances. |
| 2.5            | Landlords must not take a blanket approach to excluding complaints; they must consider the individual circumstances of each complaint.   | Yes                 | Complaint Policy | Point 3.1 of the policy explains that each case will be considered under its own merits.  |

## **Section 3: Accessibility and Awareness**

| Code provision | Code requirement  | Comply:<br>Yes / No | Evidence                             | Commentary / explanation   |
|----------------|---|---------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| 3.1            | Landlords must make it easy for residents to complain by providing different channels through which they can make a complaint. Landlords must consider their duties under the Equality Act 2010 and anticipate the needs and reasonable adjustments of residents who may need to access the complaints process. | Yes                 | Complaint Policy                     | Point 4.1 of the policy explains how complaints are accepted across multiple channels. Point 4.8 of the policy explains how reasonable adjustments are catered for.  |
| 3.2            | Residents must be able to raise their complaints in any way and with any member of staff. All staff must be aware of the complaints process and be able to pass details of the complaint to the appropriate person within the landlord.   | Yes                 | Complaint Policy                     | We do not place restrictions on how or to whom a customer can complain. The complaint policy is accessible to staff through our central knowledge base and our customer support team has had additional complaints training. Our CX team guide clearly shows who people can talk to if they have any queries about complaints. |
| 3.3            | High volumes of complaints must not<br>be seen as a negative, as they can be<br>indicative of a well-publicised and<br>accessible complaints process. Low   | Yes                 | Quarterly & Annual Complaints report | Saxon Weald reports on the Regulator of Social Housings TSMs on a monthly basis. One of these  |

| Code provision | Code requirement   | Comply:<br>Yes / No | Evidence                                 | Commentary / explanation  |
|----------------|--|---------------------|--|---|
|                | complaint volumes are potentially a sign that residents are unable to complain.  |                     |  | measures is "Number of complaints per thousand properties". We use HouseMark to benchmark our results against our peer group.   |
| 3.4            | Landlords must make their complaint policy available in a clear and accessible format for all residents. This will detail the two stage process, what will happen at each stage, and the timeframes for responding. The policy must also be published on the landlord's website. | Yes                 | Complaint Policy, and Easy-read<br>Guide | Point 4.2 of the policy explains how we promote our complaints policy widely, making it available in our customer handbooks and on our website.  We also regularly promote how to make a complaint in our newsletters, annual performance report and via posters in retirement scheme communal areas.  We produce an easy-read version of the complaints process to assist those with literacy issues or learning disabilities. We also provide a copy of the information in large print or alternative languages on request. |
| 3.5            | The policy must explain how the landlord will publicise details of the complaints policy, including information about the Ombudsman and this Code.   | Yes                 | Complaint Policy                         | This is covered as above in point 4.2 of the policy.  |

| Code provision | Code requirement   | Comply:<br>Yes / No | Evidence         | Commentary / explanation  |
|----------------|--|---------------------|------------------|---|
|                |  |                     |                  | Point 4.15 of the policy provides detail about the Housing Ombudsman.   |
| 3.6            | Landlords must give residents the opportunity to have a representative deal with their complaint on their behalf, and to be represented or accompanied at any meeting with the landlord. | Yes                 | Complaint Policy | This is covered under point 4.6 of the policy 'Helping with complaints'.  |
| 3.7            | Landlords must provide residents with information on their right to access the Ombudsman service and how the individual can engage with the Ombudsman about their complaint.             | Yes                 | Complaint Policy | Point 4.13 of the policy provides contact details for the Ombudsman. There is further information about the Housing Ombudsman provided in our guides. |

**Section 4: Complaint Handling Staff** 

| Code provision | Code requirement   | Comply:<br>Yes / No | Evidence   | Commentary / explanation  |
|----------------|--|---------------------|--|---|
| 4.1            | Landlords must have a person or team assigned to take responsibility for complaint handling, including liaison with the Ombudsman and ensuring complaints are reported to the governing body (or equivalent). This Code will refer to that person or team as the 'complaints officer'. This role may be in addition to other duties. | Yes                 | Role profiles for the Customer<br>Experience team. | The Customer Experience Manager holds overall responsibility for the complaint process. We also have a Complaints Manager.                          |
| 4.2            | The complaints officer must have access to staff at all levels to facilitate the prompt resolution of complaints. They must also have the authority and autonomy to act to resolve disputes promptly and fairly.   | Yes                 | Role profile of Customer<br>Experience Manager     | The Customer Experience Manager has suitable access and authority, supported by the Assistant Director Customer Experience and a case review panel. |
| 4.3            | Landlords are expected to prioritise complaint handling and a culture of learning from complaints. All relevant staff must be suitably trained in the importance of complaint handling. It is important that complaints are seen as a core service and must be resourced to handle complaints effectively                            | Yes                 | Complaint Policy, and training resources           | Point 4.1 of the policy explains that complaint handlers are provided with training.  |

# **Section 5: The Complaint Handling Process**

| Code provision | Code requirement  | Comply:<br>Yes / No | Evidence         | Commentary / explanation   |
|----------------|---|---------------------|------------------|--|
| 5.1            | Landlords must have a single policy in place for dealing with complaints covered by this Code. Residents must not be treated differently if they complain.  | Yes                 | Complaint Policy | This is the only policy in place.                                  |
| 5.2            | The early and local resolution of issues between landlords and residents is key to effective complaint handling. It is not appropriate to have extra named stages (such as 'stage 0' or 'informal complaint') as this causes unnecessary confusion.                               | Yes                 | Complaint Policy | There is no 'stage 0' or 'informal complaint' stage.               |
| 5.3            | A process with more than two stages is not acceptable under any circumstances as this will make the complaint process unduly long and delay access to the Ombudsman.  | Yes                 | Complaint Policy | There are only two stages as outlined in point 4.11 of the policy. |
| 5.4            | Where a landlord's complaint response is handled by a third party (e.g. a contractor or independent adjudicator) at any stage, it must form part of the two stage complaints process set out in this Code. Residents must not be expected to go through two complaints processes. | Yes                 | Complaint Policy | All formal complaints are handled by Saxon Weald.                  |

| Code provision | Code requirement   | Comply:<br>Yes / No | Evidence                  | Commentary / explanation   |
|----------------|--|---------------------|---------------------------|--|
| 5.5            | Landlords are responsible for ensuring that any third parties handle complaints in line with the Code.   | Yes                 | Not applicable            | All formal complaints are handled by Saxon Weald.  |
| 5.6            | When a complaint is logged at Stage 1 or escalated to Stage 2, landlords must set out their understanding of the complaint and the outcomes the resident is seeking. The Code will refer to this as "the complaint definition". If any aspect of the complaint is unclear, the resident must be asked for clarification. | Yes                 | Complaint acknowledgement | At acknowledgment stage,<br>Saxon Weald will confirm<br>with complainants what the<br>complaint concerns are and<br>the desired outcome.   |
| 5.7            | When a complaint is acknowledged at either stage, landlords must be clear which aspects of the complaint they are, and are not, responsible for and clarify any areas where this is not clear.   | Yes                 | Complaint acknowledgment  | Complaint acknowledgements would establish if any element of the complaint could not be considered in our response and an explanation given.   |
| 5.8            | At each stage of the complaints process, complaint handlers must:  a. deal with complaints on their merits, act independently, and have an open mind;  b. give the resident a fair chance to set out their position;  c. take measures to address any actual or perceived conflict of interest; and                      | Yes                 | Complaint Policy          | <ul> <li>a) Complaints are handled by a manager who has had no prior involvement in any issues raised in the complaint.</li> <li>b) The complaint investigation enables complainants this opportunity.</li> <li>c) Complaints can be reassigned where required.</li> </ul> |

| Code provision | Code requirement   | Comply:<br>Yes / No | Evidence  | Commentary / explanation  |
|----------------|--|---------------------|---|---|
|                | d. consider all relevant information and evidence carefully.   |                     |   | d) Complainants are invited to provide additional information to consider as part of their complaints.                        |
| 5.9            | Where a response to a complaint will fall outside the timescales set out in this Code, the landlord must agree with the resident suitable intervals for keeping them informed about their complaint.   | Yes                 | Complaint Policy                                  | Points 4.11.2 and 4.11.6 of<br>the policy explain how<br>extensions are handled as<br>part of the complaint<br>investigation. |
| 5.10           | Landlords must make reasonable adjustments for residents where appropriate under the Equality Act 2010. Landlords must keep a record of any reasonable adjustments agreed, as well as a record of any disabilities a resident has disclosed. Any agreed reasonable adjustments must be kept under active review. | Yes                 | Complaint Policy                                  | Point 4.8 of the policy covers how we handle reasonable adjustments.  |
| 5.11           | Landlords must not refuse to escalate a complaint through all stages of the complaints procedure unless it has valid reasons to do so. Landlords must clearly set out these reasons, and they must comply with the provisions set out in section 2 of this Code.   | Yes                 | Complaint Policy                                  | Point 3.0 of the policy explains reasons for exclusion from the complaint process.  |
| 5.12           | A full record must be kept of the complaint, and the outcomes at each stage. This must include the original  | Yes                 | Our Customer Relationship management (CRM) system | Complaints are raised on our CRM system with cases  |

| Code provision | Code requirement  | Comply:<br>Yes / No | Evidence   | Commentary / explanation  |
|----------------|---|---------------------|--|---|
|                | complaint and the date received, all correspondence with the resident, correspondence with other parties, and any relevant supporting documentation such as reports or surveys.   |                     |  | updated as the investigation progresses.  |
| 5.13           | Landlords must have processes in place to ensure a complaint can be remedied at any stage of its complaints process. Landlords must ensure appropriate remedies can be provided at any stage of the complaints process without the need for escalation.                 | Yes                 | Complaint Policy                                       | Managers investigating complaints are empowered to take decisions that will provide appropriate remedies at both stages of the complaint process. |
| 5.14           | Landlords must have policies and procedures in place for managing unacceptable behaviour from residents and/or their representatives. Landlords must be able to evidence reasons for putting any restrictions in place and must keep restrictions under regular review. | Yes                 | Complaint policy and<br>Unreasonable behaviour policy  | Section 6 of the complaint policy explains how the unreasonable behaviour policy will be used.  |
| 5.15           | Any restrictions placed on contact due to unacceptable behaviour must be proportionate and demonstrate regard for the provisions of the Equality Act 2010.  | Yes                 | Complaint policy and<br>Unreasonable behaviour policy. | Section 8 of the complaint policy explains Saxon Weald's approach to Equality and Diversity.  |

## **Section 6: Complaints Stages**

## Stage 1

| Code provision | Code requirement  | Comply:<br>Yes / No | Evidence         | Commentary / explanation  |
|----------------|---|---------------------|------------------|---|
| 6.1            | Landlords must have processes in place to consider which complaints can be responded to as early as possible, and which require further investigation. Landlords must consider factors such as the complexity of the complaint and whether the resident is vulnerable or at risk. Most stage 1 complaints can be resolved promptly, and an explanation, apology or resolution provided to the resident. | Yes                 | Complaint Policy | Point 4.11.1 of the policy explains the aim is for as many complaints as possible be resolved at stage one. |
| 6.2            | Complaints must be acknowledged, defined and logged at stage 1 of the complaints procedure within five working days of the complaint being received.  | Yes                 | Complaint Policy | Point 4.11.1 confirms stage one complaints will be acknowledged within five working days.                   |
| 6.3            | Landlords must issue a full response to stage 1 complaints within 10 working days of the complaint being acknowledged.  | Yes                 | Complaint Policy | Point 4.11.1 confirms stage one complaints will be responded to within 10 working days.                     |
| 6.4            | Landlords must decide whether an extension to this timescale is needed when considering the complexity of the complaint and then inform the resident  | Yes                 | Complaint Policy | This is confirmed under point 4.11.2 of the policy.   |

| Code provision | Code requirement  | Comply:<br>Yes / No | Evidence                                | Commentary / explanation  |
|----------------|---|---------------------|---|---|
|                | of the expected timescale for response. Any extension must be no more than 10 working days without good reason, and the reason(s) must be clearly explained to the resident.  |                     |   |   |
| 6.5            | When an organisation informs a resident about an extension to these timescales, they must be provided with the contact details of the Ombudsman.  | Yes                 | Complaint Policy                        | This is confirmed under point 4.11.2 of the policy.                             |
| 6.6            | A complaint response must be provided to the resident when the answer to the complaint is known, not when the outstanding actions required to address the issue are completed. Outstanding actions must still be tracked and actioned promptly with appropriate updates provided to the resident. | Yes                 | Complaint Policy                        | This is covered under point 4.11.4 of the policy.                               |
| 6.7            | Landlords must address all points raised in the complaint definition and provide clear reasons for any decisions, referencing the relevant policy, law and good practice where appropriate.   | Yes                 | Complaint acknowledgement and responses | Communications during complaint investigations ensure all points are addressed. |
| 6.8            | Where residents raise additional complaints during the investigation, these must be incorporated into the stage 1 response if they are related and the stage 1 response has not been  | Yes                 | Complaint Policy                        | This is covered under point 4.11.3 of the policy.                               |

| Code provision | Code requirement   | Comply:<br>Yes / No | Evidence            | Commentary / explanation   |
|----------------|--|---------------------|---------------------|--|
|                | issued. Where the stage 1 response has been issued, the new issues are unrelated to the issues already being investigated or it would unreasonably delay the response, the new issues must be logged as a new complaint.   |                     |                     |  |
| 6.9            | Landlords must confirm the following in writing to the resident at the completion of stage 1 in clear, plain language:  a. the complaint stage; b. the complaint definition; c. the decision on the complaint; d. the reasons for any decisions made; e. the details of any remedy offered to put things right; f. details of any outstanding actions; g. details of how to escalate the matter to stage 2 if the individual is not satisfied with the response. | Yes                 | Complaint responses | Templates have been provided for managers to ensure they include these details in their responses. |

## Stage 2

| Code provisio | Code requirement  | Comply:<br>Yes / No | Evidence         | Commentary / explanation                          |
|---------------|---|---------------------|------------------|---|
| 6.10          | If all or part of the complaint is not resolved to the resident's satisfaction at stage 1, it must be progressed to stage | Yes                 | Complaint Policy | This is covered under point 4.11.5 of the policy. |

| Code provision | Code requirement  | Comply:<br>Yes / No | Evidence         | Commentary / explanation  |
|----------------|---|---------------------|------------------|---|
|                | 2 of the landlord's procedure. Stage 2 is the landlord's final response.  |                     |                  |   |
| 6.11           | Requests for stage 2 must be acknowledged, defined and logged at stage 2 of the complaints procedure within five working days of the escalation request being received.   | Yes                 | Complaint Policy | Point 4.11.5 confirms stage two complaints will be acknowledged within five working days.   |
| 6.12           | Residents must not be required to explain their reasons for requesting a stage 2 consideration. Landlords are expected to make reasonable efforts to understand why a resident remains unhappy as part of its stage 2 response. | Yes                 | Complaint Policy | Point 4.11.5 explains complaints will be escalated upon request from complainants.  |
| 6.13           | The person considering the complaint at stage 2 must not be the same person that considered the complaint at stage 1.   | Yes                 | Complaint Policy | Point 4.11.5 explains complaints escalated to stage two will be handled by the Customer Experience team. If a member of the Customer Experience team has handled a stage one complaint, then the stage two complaint will be handled by another member of the team. |
| 6.14           | Landlords must issue a final response to the stage 2 within 20 working days of the complaint being acknowledged.  | Yes                 | Complaint Policy | Point 4.11.5 confirms stage two complaints will be responded to within 20 working days.   |

| Code provision | Code requirement  | Comply:<br>Yes / No | Evidence                                | Commentary / explanation   |
|----------------|---|---------------------|---|--|
| 6.15           | Landlords must decide whether an extension to this timescale is needed when considering the complexity of the complaint and then inform the resident of the expected timescale for response. Any extension must be no more than 20 working days without good reason, and the reason(s) must be clearly explained to the resident. | Yes                 | Complaint Policy                        | This is covered under point 4.11.6 of the policy.  |
| 6.16           | When an organisation informs a resident about an extension to these timescales, they must be provided with the contact details of the Ombudsman.  | Yes                 | Complaint Policy                        | This is covered under point 4.11.6 of the policy.  |
| 6.17           | A complaint response must be provided to the resident when the answer to the complaint is known, not when the outstanding actions required to address the issue are completed. Outstanding actions must still be tracked and actioned promptly with appropriate updates provided to the resident.                                 | Yes                 | Complaint Policy                        | Stage two responses and outstanding actions are handled in the same way as stage one complaints. |
| 6.18           | Landlords must address all points raised in the complaint definition and provide clear reasons for any decisions, referencing the relevant policy, law and good practice where appropriate.   | Yes                 | Complaint acknowledgement and responses | Communications during complaint investigation ensure all points are addressed.                   |
| 6.19           | Landlords must confirm the following in writing to the resident at the completion of stage 2 in clear, plain language:  | Yes                 | Complaint responses                     | Templates have been provided for staff to use  |

| Code provision | Code requirement   | Comply:<br>Yes / No | Evidence         | Commentary / explanation                         |
|----------------|--|---------------------|------------------|--|
|                | <ul> <li>a. the complaint stage;</li> <li>b. the complaint definition;</li> <li>c. the decision on the complaint;</li> <li>d. the reasons for any decisions made;</li> <li>e. the details of any remedy offered to put things right;</li> <li>f. details of any outstanding actions; and</li> <li>g. details of how to escalate the matter to the Ombudsman Service if the individual remains dissatisfied.</li> </ul> |                     |                  | when responding to complaints.                   |
| 6.20           | Stage 2 is the landlord's final response and must involve all suitable staff members needed to issue such a response.  | Yes                 | Complaint Policy | This is covered under point 4.11.5 of the policy |

# Section 7: Putting things right

| Code provision | Code requirement  | Comply:<br>Yes / No | Evidence         | Commentary / explanation                       |
|----------------|---|---------------------|------------------|--|
| 7.1            | <ul> <li>Where something has gone wrong a landlord must acknowledge this and set out the actions it has already taken, or intends to take, to put things right.  These can include: <ul> <li>Apologising;</li> <li>Acknowledging where things have gone wrong;</li> <li>Providing an explanation, assistance or reasons;</li> <li>Taking action if there has been delay;</li> <li>Reconsidering or changing a decision;</li> <li>Amending a record or adding a correction or addendum;</li> <li>Providing a financial remedy;</li> <li>Changing policies, procedures or practices.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | Yes                 | Complaint Policy | This is covered under point 5.1 of the policy. |
| 7.2            | Any remedy offered must reflect the impact on the resident as a result of any fault identified.   | Yes                 | Complaint Policy | This is covered under point 5.2 of the policy. |
| 7.3            | The remedy offer must clearly set out what will happen and by when, in agreement with the resident where  | Yes                 | Complaint Policy | This is covered under point 5.1 of the policy. |

| Code provision | Code requirement   | Comply:<br>Yes / No | Evidence  | Commentary / explanation  |
|----------------|--|---------------------|---|---|
|                | appropriate. Any remedy proposed must be followed through to completion.                                   |                     |   |   |
| 7.4            | Landlords must take account of the guidance issued by the Ombudsman when deciding on appropriate remedies. | Yes                 | Complaint Policy and<br>Compensation and payments<br>policy | Both the Housing Ombudsman Remedies Policy and Remedies Guidance were considered when the Compensation and payments policy was reviewed in February 2024. |

## Section 8: Self-assessment, reporting and compliance

| Code provision | Code requirement   | Comply:<br>Yes / No | Evidence                 | Commentary / explanation                  |
|----------------|--|---------------------|--------------------------|---|
| 8.1            | Landlords must produce an annual complaints performance and service improvement report for scrutiny and challenge, which must include:  a. the annual self-assessment against this Code to ensure their complaint handling policy remains in line with its requirements.  b. a qualitative and quantitative analysis of the landlord's complaint handling performance. This must also include a summary of the types of complaints the landlord has refused to accept;  c. any findings of non-compliance with this Code by the Ombudsman;  d. the service improvements made as a result of the learning from complaints;  e. any annual report about the landlord's performance from the Ombudsman; and  f. any other relevant reports or publications produced by the Ombudsman in relation to the work of the landlord. | Yes                 | Annual Complaints report | Reports covers the requirements outlined. |

| Code provision | Code requirement  | Comply:<br>Yes / No | Evidence                 | Commentary / explanation   |
|----------------|---|---------------------|--------------------------|--|
| 8.2            | The annual complaints performance and service improvement report must be reported to the landlord's governing body (or equivalent) and published on the on the section of its website relating to complaints. The governing body's response to the report must be published alongside this.                       | Yes                 | Annual Complaints report | Report is presented to the Customer Experience Committee and published on our website. |
| 8.3            | Landlords must also carry out a self-<br>assessment following a significant<br>restructure, merger and/or change in<br>procedures.  | Yes                 | Not applicable           | There have been no significant restructures or mergers, so hasn't been required.       |
| 8.4            | Landlords may be asked to review and update the self-assessment following an Ombudsman investigation.   | Yes                 | Not applicable           | Housing Ombudsman has not asked Saxon Weald to carry this out.                         |
| 8.5            | If a landlord is unable to comply with the Code due to exceptional circumstances, such as a cyber incident, they must inform the Ombudsman, provide information to residents who may be affected, and publish this on their website Landlords must provide a timescale for returning to compliance with the Code. | Yes                 | Not applicable           | This has not been necessary.   |

Section 9: Scrutiny & oversight: continuous learning and improvement

| Code provision | Code requirement   | Comply:<br>Yes / No | Evidence   | Commentary / explanation  |
|----------------|--|---------------------|--|---|
| 9.1            | Landlords must look beyond the circumstances of the individual complaint and consider whether service improvements can be made as a result of any learning from the complaint.   | Yes                 | Complaint Policy and<br>Complaint learning tracker | This is covered under sections 4.1 and 7.0 of the policy. The tracker is used to record learning recommendations and their progress.                    |
| 9.2            | A positive complaint handling culture is integral to the effectiveness with which landlords resolve disputes. Landlords must use complaints as a source of intelligence to identify issues and introduce positive changes in service delivery.       | Yes                 | Complaint Policy and<br>Complaint learning tracker | This is covered under sections 4.1 and 7.0 of the policy. The tracker is used to record learning recommendations and their progress.                    |
| 9.3            | Accountability and transparency are also integral to a positive complaint handling culture. Landlords must report back on wider learning and improvements from complaints to stakeholders, such as residents' panels, staff and relevant committees. | Yes                 | Customer<br>newsletters/website/annual<br>report.  | Examples of learning from complaints are included in our customer newsletter, annual report and also uploaded to the Your Voice section of our website. |
| 9.4            | Landlords must appoint a suitably senior lead person as accountable for their complaint handling. This person must assess any themes or trends to identify potential systemic issues,  | Yes                 | Customer Experience team                           | The Customer Experience<br>Manager produces quarterly<br>reports that identify themes<br>and trends for complaints.                                     |

| Code provision | Code requirement  | Comply:<br>Yes / No | Evidence            | Commentary / explanation  |
|----------------|---|---------------------|---------------------|---|
|                | serious risks, or policies and procedures that require revision.  |                     |                     |   |
| 9.5            | In addition to this a member of the governing body (or equivalent) must be appointed to have lead responsibility for complaints to support a positive complaint handling culture. This person is referred to as the Member Responsible for Complaints ('the MRC').  | Yes                 | MRC as board member | Saxon Weald Board<br>member Susan Morris is our<br>MRC.<br>The MRC is also a member<br>of our Customer Experience<br>Committee, which reports<br>into Board.  |
| 9.6            | The MRC will be responsible for ensuring the governing body receives regular information on complaints that provides insight on the landlord's complaint handling performance. This person must have access to suitable information and staff to perform this role and report on their findings.                                | Yes                 | MRC as board member | MRC receives quarterly reporting regarding complaints handling. The MRC is also a member of our Customer Experience Committee, which reports into Board.  |
| 9.7            | As a minimum, the MRC and the governing body (or equivalent) must receive:  a. regular updates on the volume, categories and outcomes of complaints, alongside complaint handling performance;  b. regular reviews of issues and trends arising from complaint handling;  c. regular updates on the outcomes of the Ombudsman's | Yes                 | MRC as board member | MRC and the Board receive quarterly and annual complaints reporting. In addition, the MRC is issued with all Housing Ombudsman outcome reports and the associated learning reports produced by the Customer Experience team.  The MRC is also a member of our Customer Experience |

| Code provision | Code requirement  | Comply:<br>Yes / No | Evidence         | Commentary / explanation  |
|----------------|---|---------------------|------------------|---|
|                | investigations and progress made in complying with orders related to severe maladministration findings; and d. annual complaints performance and service improvement report.  |                     |                  | Committee, which reports into Board.  |
| 9.8            | Landlords must have a standard objective in relation to complaint handling for all relevant employees or third parties that reflects the need to:  a. have a collaborative and cooperative approach towards resolving complaints, working with colleagues across teams and departments;  b. take collective responsibility for any shortfalls identified through complaints, rather than blaming others; and  c. act within the professional standards for engaging with complaints as set by any relevant professional body. | Yes                 | Staff objectives | The Customer Experience team, complaint investigating managers, and the Leadership Team all have a complaint related objective as prescribed. |