

Board Information Pack



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Welcome & Introduction

Thank you for your interest in becoming a Board Member (Charity Trustee) of Lintel Trust.

We welcome applications from people with a wide range of skills and backgrounds. You do not need previous board experience, just commitment, curiosity, and a passion for community impact.

For more than four decades, Lintel Trust has been a driving force in supporting the social housing sector. From funding grassroots initiatives, to strengthening social enterprises, to ensuring vulnerable individuals and families have access to opportunities and support, our work has touched thousands of lives. We are proud to stand alongside housing associations/cooperatives, community groups, and public bodies, helping them deliver projects that reduce inequality, tackle social isolation, and build stronger, fairer communities.

This pack provides an overview of the organisation, its purpose, governance structure, and the responsibilities of trustees, based directly on the Lintel Trust Constitution. It is intended to help prospective trustees understand the organisation before joining and to support new trustees during induction.

Mark Thorley,
Chair



Our Mission Values & Purpose



Lintel Trust provides opportunities for people living in social housing to live fulfilled lives - with our values of participation, empowerment, inclusivity and accountability at the heart of everything we do.



Participation

We participate and contribute to Scottish housing sector



Empowerment

We support activities and projects that empower communities



Inclusivity

Our projects and activities are accessible to all, and we make any reasonable adjustments to ensure inclusivity



Accountability

We hold ourselves accountable for all actions

CHARITABLE PURPOSE

- Advancing citizenship and community development through financial assistance and support to social housing providers and related organisations
- Supporting education related to social housing through grants, training and apprenticeships
- Relieving those in need due to age, ill-health, disability, poverty or disadvantage, by assisting organisations working with vulnerable groups seeking housing or related services
- Promoting participation in the voluntary and social housing movement

Lintel Trust advances these aims primarily through grants, loans and other forms of charitable assistance



Our History

The Lintel Trust Journey



Lintel Trust is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO), proudly registered with OSCR, with a legacy of over four decades of supporting communities across Scotland.

Founded in 1979 by the Scottish Federation of Housing Associations (SFHA) as the Scottish Housing Associations Charitable Trust, we have been at the heart of the housing sector ever since.

For many years, Lintel Trust was best known as a funder and catalyst for change, directing government investment into the communities that needed it most, championing the social enterprise movement, and supporting new ventures with both funding and expert advice. We also played a key role in strengthening the housing workforce by hosting fundraising events and providing training on issues such as equality, diversity, and tackling social isolation.

As Scotland's housing and funding landscape evolved, so too did we. Between 2016 and 2018, Lintel Trust underwent a full transformation. We modernised our governance, becoming a SCIO in 2016, and reshaped ourselves from a grant-giving trust into a service provider with a sustainable model, ensuring we could continue delivering meaningful social impact.

In 2017, we began delivering a specialist fund management service for the Scottish Procurement Alliance (SPA), providing management support and social value reporting. This partnership deepened in 2021, when Lintel Trust formally transferred to become SPA's in-house charity partner. This move secured our long-term sustainability and placed us at the very heart of SPA's community investment activity.

SPA is part of the LHC Procurement Group - a not-for-profit organisation operating across the UK that brings together regional procurement alliances. LHC provides the overarching governance, resources, and frameworks that empower SPA to deliver procurement solutions for housing associations, councils, and public sector bodies in Scotland. Through this structure, The Lintel Trust benefits from being aligned to a UK-wide network, while retaining its Scottish identity and focus on local community impact.

Today, we are led by a voluntary Board of Trustees, bringing together expertise from the housing sector, third sector, and private industry. We value diversity, fresh perspectives, and welcome trustees from all career stages who share our commitment to building stronger communities.

Our Work



Our work focuses on sustainable development, education, and community welfare, providing funding, capacity-building, and practical support to grassroots initiatives

Small Grants

We provide grants and financial support of up to £1,000 to grassroots charities and community initiatives in Scotland through our [Small Grant Fund](#).

Fundraising

Every year, we hold an Annual Golf Fundraiser to raise money for our Small Grant Fund. This event not only generates valuable funding but also strengthens connections with supporters and partners, reinforcing the Trust's mission to make a meaningful impact.

SPA Community Benefit Fund Management

Intel Trust is responsible for administering the Scottish Procurement Alliance (SPA) Community Benefit Fund, which provides financial support to local community projects and initiatives. The Trust ensures that all funds are distributed transparently and fairly, in line with the fund's objectives, and monitors projects to make sure they deliver meaningful social and community impact. Trustees play a key role in overseeing the fund's management, approving grants, and ensuring proper governance and accountability throughout the process.

Reduce, ReUse & Raise Funds

This initiative helps communities recycle textiles, reduce landfill, and raise money for local projects. Textile banks are placed in social housing communities, and when 2.5 tonnes of donations are collected, the community receives a £500 grant through our partner Clyde Recycling. The project also provides workshops on upcycling and skills sharing, empowering communities to make sustainable choices while funding improvements they want to see.





GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

Lintel Trust is governed by:

- The Members, who have powers including appointing trustees and approving constitutional changes Lintel Constitution
- The Board of Charity Trustees, who control and manage the organisation's activities, finances, and strategic direction Lintel Constitution

A minimum of three and a maximum of twelve trustees may serve on the Board at any time.



The role of a Board Member



Board members of Lintel Trust serve as non-executive directors and act as the organisation's charity trustees, providing independent oversight and strategic guidance. The role of Trustee is a voluntary, unpaid role that carries significant legal responsibilities. The Board operates at a strategic level and the day to day management and running of the Charity is delegated to the senior staff.

Lintel Trust became the in-house charity partner of the Scottish Procurement Alliance (SPA) in 2021 and is part of the wider LHC Procurement Group (LHCPG). Through this structure, the Chief Executive of LHCPG automatically holds membership of Lintel Trust, while the Director of SPA serves as a Trustee alongside our appointed board members. This ensures strong alignment between Lintel Trust, SPA, and the wider LHC Procurement Group, while maintaining the independence of our voluntary board.

Responsibilities

Trustees are collectively responsible for the governance and strategic direction of Lintel Trust. As a Trustee, you must:

- Act in the interests of the Charity
- Seek in good faith to ensure the charity operates in a manner consistent with its purposes
- Act with care and diligence
- Manage any conflict of interest between the charity and any person or organisation who appoints trustees
- Comply with the The Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005

What is involved?

- Preparing for and attending regular Board meetings
- Monitoring financial position, progress, results and approving budgets, management accounts and end of year accounts.
- Agreeing and signing key contracts/documents as per the scheme of delegation
- Dealing with various approvals outside of the delegated authority of executive team
- Participating in various Board working groups where relevant
- Assisting with operational matters where impartial/Board input or specialist skills and experience are necessary or helpful
- Using any specific knowledge or experience they have to help the Board reach sound decisions.
- Scrutinising board papers, leading discussions, focussing on key issues, and
- Providing advice and guidance requested by the Board on new initiatives, or other issues relevant to the area of the company's work in which the Board member has special expertise.

Time commitments

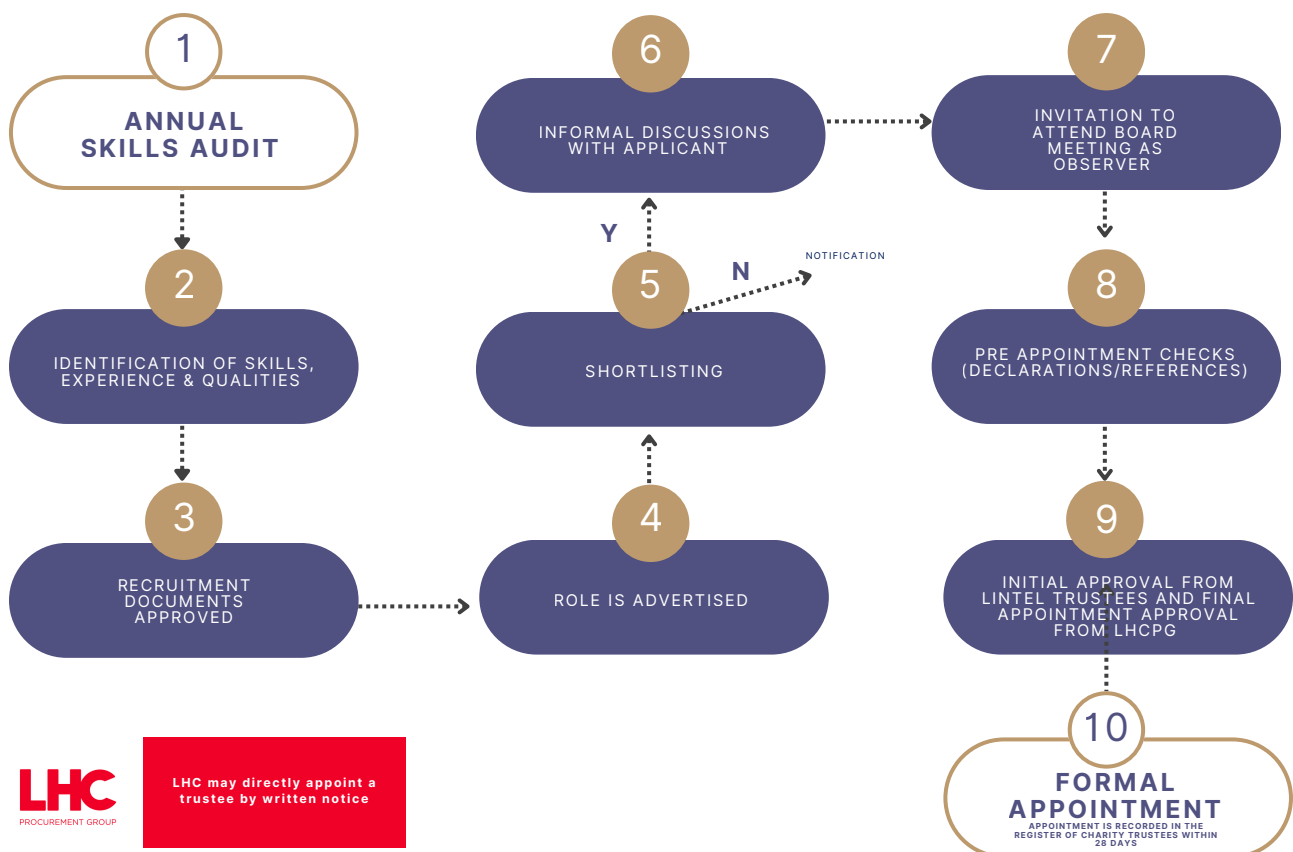
- Attendance at approximately 4 Board meetings per year (2 in-person meetings are held during working hours and 2 virtual meetings held in the evening), plus occasional sub-committee meetings or strategy sessions. Advanced preparation including reading all documents, preparing for meetings and reviewing applications is expected.
- Participation in annual strategy days, training sessions, and representation at external events where appropriate.

Recruitment Process



NOTE:
Trustees serve up to five years without re-appointment.

At each AGM (third and fourth anniversaries), a rotation system requires some trustees to retire, with eligibility for re-appointment (subject to LHC approval)



Intel Trust is committed to a transparent, inclusive, and skills-based approach to Board recruitment. The process ensures that all new trustees meet constitutional requirements and bring value to the organisation.



Thank You

For your interest in joining the Board of Lintel Trust

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