Housing Associations (and all Registered Providers - RPs) have is an expectation for you to meet the Regulator of Social Housing, seven Regulatory Standards.

The Governance and Financial Viability Standard requests RPs adopt and measure themselves against a specified Code of Governance.

Most Registered Providers of social housing adopt the NHF Code of Governance.

In November 2020, the National Housing Federation (NHF) is set to release its updated Code of Governance after a month-long period of consultation.

The draft text of the new NHF Code of Governance can be found [here](https://www.housing.org.uk/resources/code-of-governance-final-consultation/).

This is the first time they have updated their Code of Governance since the current iteration was released in February 2015, and it includes a fresh focus on a number of areas, including accountability, sustainability and equality.

A period of consultancy was open between Wednesday 5 August and Sunday 6 September 2020, and while a draft Code was released as part of that consultation, an amended final document will be released next month.

The requirements of the code are set out under four underpinning principles: mission and values; strategy and delivery; board effectiveness; and control and assurance. New emphasis has been placed on four areas of governance in the new code: (1) accountability to stakeholders including residents, (2) equality, diversity and inclusion, (3) sustainability and (4) organisational culture, including the key aspects detailed below.

*Accountability*

The new draft code says that residents and other customers of providers should be given adequate opportunities and access to information in order to allow them to independently scrutinise an organisation’s work, while this must be reviewed every three years so as to ensure structures remain fit for purpose.

*Equality, diversity and inclusion*

In order to reflect the communities they serve, organisations must publish, at least annually, information about the work they have undertaken to deliver their commitments to equality, diversity and inclusivity, reflecting the diversity of the communities they serve.

*Sustainability*

The boards of organisations must consider the financial, environmental and social sustainability implications of the plans their organisations choose to implement.

*Organisational culture*

The culture and behaviours of an organisation must also be regularly reviewed by an organisation’s board, in order to implement those which will best enable the achievement of an organisation’s missions and values, and…

* the needs and views of stakeholders are given a central role in strategic decision-making
* a process by which measures to keep residents, customers and staff safe are adequately overseen, and
* boards must consider risk, testing scenarios in order to ascertain the threats to an organisation’s strategic plans.

**Some headlines for discussions for S. Net might be:**

Mission and values:

* The board sets and actively drives the organisation’s social purpose, mission, values and ambitions, and through these embeds within the organisation resident focus, inclusion, integrity, openness and accountability.
* A resident focus
* Residents at the heart of decision making
* Increased accountability
* Communication increased – and to diverse groups
* People with direct lived in experience -on the Board or Committee structures