

For immediate release

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## **Appointment of new Finance Director Strengthens First Wessex**

First Wessex is delighted to announce the appointment of Patrick Symington to the position of Group Finance Director following a competitive recruitment process which saw an extremely strong short list of candidates.

Patrick has over 17 years extensive Housing experience and is well known throughout the sector due to his previous Finance Director and Consultancy roles. He is also a former Board member and Vice Chair of Sentinel Housing Association.

Patrick is delighted to be taking up the role. "What motivates me to work for housing associations is that they can truly make a huge difference to the communities they work in and the lives of the customers they serve. I firmly believe that First Wessex is already doing this, and that the group is poised to deliver stronger and better services in the future to benefit residents throughout Hampshire."

Peter Walters, Group Chief executive said "Patrick has been with the Group as an interim since March, and we were very pleased that he chose to apply for the permanent position when it was advertised. Patrick brings a wealth of knowledge and skill to the role and we are delighted to welcome him to First Wessex as Group Finance Director."

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### **For further information, please contact:**

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## **Notes to Editors**

First Wessex manages around 17,000 affordable homes primarily in Hampshire and with some activity in Surrey.

The group comprises Atlantic Housing Limited, First Atlantic Housing, Pavilion Housing Association, Portsmouth Housing Association, Fernhill Care Limited and Wessex Property Limited.

Portsmouth Housing Association: provides homes in Portsmouth, Fareham, Gosport and Havant. It also provides a wide range of community regeneration services across South East Hampshire.

Atlantic Housing and First Atlantic Housing: provide a full range of affordable housing including rented, supported, shared ownership and key worker housing. A large support portfolio includes housing for older people, extra-care housing, dementia care housing, housing for people with learning disabilities, people recovering from mental illness and some specialist accommodation. They cover a geographic area spanning Eastleigh, Southampton, Winchester and the New Forest.

Pavilion Housing Association: the largest provider of housing association homes for rent in the Aldershot, Farnborough, Ash and Farnham areas.

Fernhill Care: provides care services for tenants of First Wessex Housing Group and other landlords and for individuals in the community with support needs. It specialises in domiciliary, extra- and dementia care.

Wessex Property Limited: the group's in-house repairs and maintenance organisation.