



PRESS STATEMENT

12 July 2007

LOCAL HOUSING GROUP WELCOMES PRIME MINISTER'S PLANS TO TACKLE SHORTAGE OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Peter Walters, Chief Executive at First Wessex Housing Group, commented:

“We welcome the priority being placed by Gordon Brown in his revised legislative programme announced yesterday, which promises to set aside up to £10 billion for more social housing over the next three years.

“As a leading provider of affordable housing across Hampshire, our subsidiaries Atlantic Housing Limited, Pavilion Housing Association and Portsmouth Housing Association are already building over 700 high quality affordable homes across the county each year. We look forward to being able to increase that number to meet the aspirations of those in need of housing in the area.

“We very much hope that the increased supply of homes will be prioritised in areas where there is greatest difficulty. With the exceptionally high property prices across the South and South East, home ownership for many families in Hampshire is completely out of reach. The Prime Minister's new proposals will hopefully mean we can provide even more high quality, affordable rented housing and shared ownership schemes to help secure a better future for many families across the county.

“With the Government’s plan to build 3 million new homes by 2020, an increase of 20% on the existing house building programme, the difficulty will be finding land on which to build. We are therefore pleased to hear of the Government’s plans to release disused publicly-owned sites and address inefficiencies and delays in the planning system.”

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