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PRESS RELEASE

FIRST WESSEX CELEBRATES FULL SET OF GREEN LIGHTS

First Wessex Housing Group is delighted to have received four green lights in the latest Housing Corporation assessment of the Group, published on the Corporation's website on July 29th.

For a period of four months (from March 2008) the Group's assessment had included two amber lights, for development and governance, because of concerns over two development schemes during the course of 2007.

As a result, First Wessex commissioned a comprehensive consultant's review to carry out an organisational health check, in consultation with the Corporation.

Peter Walters, Group Chief Executive, said: "We were very pleased to find that the consultants concluded that the problems were isolated 'one-off' incidents, and in all other respects there were no major issues of concern."

A Housing Corporation review has since concluded likewise, and the Group now has its four green lights, and its status as development partner reinstated.

Peter Walters added: "We understand the need for the Corporation to be cautious in these circumstances but we are of course delighted that the reviews

carried out have given First Wessex a clean bill of health. We very much look forward to the future knowing our systems and controls have been subject to rigorous scrutiny, and that we've come through the process with flying colours."

ENDS

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Notes to Editors

First Wessex Housing Group 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.

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.

www.firstwessexhg.co.uk

www.atlantichousing.co.uk

www.pavilionha.co.uk

www.phagroup.org.uk