

Press Release

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Southern Housing Group celebrates award for building 1076 social homes to Code for Sustainable Homes standard

Southern Housing Group has scooped BRE's award for the housing association that has developed and constructed the highest number of social homes through BRE since the Code for Sustainable Homes became operational in March 2007, with a total of 1076 homes certified at post construction.

BRE runs the scheme on behalf of the Department for Communities and Local Government, and presented the award to Dale Meredith, Southern Housing Group's Development Director, and Environmental Sustainability Officer, Will Routh, at a ceremony on Monday 3 June 2013.

Dale says: "The Code for Sustainable Homes has really driven the development of environmentally sustainable housing over the last six years. It has helped Southern Housing Group to focus on the fabric of the building as well as trying out new technologies.

"By using CSH, Southern Housing Group is reducing carbon emissions while providing warm homes that are affordable for our residents to live in."

The objectives of our [Environmental Sustainability Strategy](#) include, "Delivering affordable warmth and reducing fuel poverty". Central to this is constructing new homes to CSH level three and above, employing a fabric-first approach to ensure that the homes are well insulated and airtight.

Leanna Twell, BREEAMS Domestic Sector Manager from BRE says:
"Southern Housing Group's achievement in the social housing sector shows that sustainability can be achieved cost effectively at volume. The Group should be proud of all it has achieved so far.

"BRE is pleased to recognise Southern Housing Group's significant efforts within the social housing sector over the past six years as they would have had to overcome many challenges in order to deliver their homes to the Code for Sustainable Homes standard."

Sustainable homes case study: Vega, Hove

Southern Housing Group has completed (May 13) the construction of 40 apartments for rent in Hove, East Sussex. The striking new 'Vega' building on Kingsway, echoes thirties architecture and includes a light feature linked to the changing tide.

The development achieved CSH Level 4, with high levels of natural light and a highly efficient centralised heating system that includes two micro CHP units. Photovoltaic panels provide power to communal areas, including lighting for the columns at the front of the building.

The flats are a mix of affordable rent, intermediate market rent and open market rent. One-to-one car parking is provided in a secure basement. Four of the apartments are designed as wheelchair accessible.

Notes to Editors

- Over the last 110 years, Southern Housing Group has become one of the largest housing associations in the south of England, housing 66,000 residents, managing more than 25,500 homes, employing almost 800 people and working with more than 70 local authorities across the South East, including the Isle of Wight.
- Our mission of 'Unlocking the potential of people and places' unites the organisation behind a common set of qualities and objectives.
- Our activities focus on four key areas: the development of quality affordable housing; housing and neighbourhood management; a range of housing options for rent and home ownership; and social and economic regeneration.

- Our social and economic regeneration work is undertaken to improve the lives of residents in the communities and neighbourhoods where we build and manage homes. It provides tangible evidence of our commitment to building sustainable communities.
- Southern Housing Group is a member of the g15, which represents London's 15 largest housing associations. The g15 houses one in ten Londoners and builds a quarter of London's new homes. We are working to solve the housing crisis by delivering good quality, affordable homes of all types. To find out more about the g15's work please visit www.g15.org.uk

The CSH standard is compulsory for all new homes built with Homes and Communities Agency funding. To comply, buildings must meet the assessment criteria at design stage and then after they have been built. There are nine areas for assessment, including: energy and CO2 emissions; water and surface-water run-off; and health and wellbeing. Find out more about the CSH standard here: <http://www.breeam.org/page.jsp?id=86>

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