



MEDIA RELEASE

25th May 2010

WATES LIVING SPACE APPOINTED TO DELIVER £2.8MILLION PASSIVHAUS SCHEME

Orbit Heart of England Housing Association and its development partner Orbit Homes have appointed Wates Living Space to deliver the first social housing scheme in the Midlands to achieve PassivHaus Certification – the world's leading standard in energy efficient construction.

The 23-home scheme on brownfield site in North Coventry will combine a mixture of terraced housing and apartments, designed to save 80 per cent more energy than an average home.

Exceeding the Code for Sustainable Homes Level 3 energy performance standards, the new homes concentrate on air-tightness and insulation. Passive heating from the sun reduces energy use which with triple glazing, thermal bridging, passive and non-passive shading and low energy lighting will halve occupier costs.

Thousands of Passivhaus houses have been built in Germany since the technique was introduced in 1996. Wates starts on site this month and will complete the scheme by February 2011, hitting difficult construction targets at every stage of the development in order to achieve the Certification.

Martyn Hopkins, Development Director for Wates Living Space said: "We are constantly striving to exceed stringent Government targets, reduce operational costs and practically apply renewable technologies and waste management solutions.

“Orbit is leading the way by investing in PassivHaus. We look forward to helping them meet the rigorous construction standards and delivering homes that set a new standard in sustainable, affordable living in the region.”

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For further information about Wates Living Space please contact Victoria Walker or Emma Radcliffe at Beattie Communications on 07855015137 or wates@beattiegrou.com

Notes to Editors

- Wates is one of the UK's largest family-owned construction services and development companies. Established in 1897, it remains privately owned by the Wates Family. Wates employs over 2000 people and had a turnover of £945 million in 2009.
- Part of the family owned Wates Group, Wates Living Space is one of the UK's leading affordable housing contractors, working with RSLs and ALMOs we build or refurbish in the region of 20,000 homes for residents each year through the New Build and decent homes programme.
- Wates Living Space was awarded Contractor of the Year at the Housing Excellence Awards and Sustainable Contractor of the Year at the Inside Housing Sustainable Housing Awards in 2009.

www.wates.co.uk

About Orbit Homes

- Orbit Homes (2020) Limited is a member of Orbit Group Limited which is an exempt charity registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act 1965.
- Orbit Homes was founded in 2009 to develop schemes for Social Rent, Market Sale and the Intermediate market.
- Orbit Homes operates in the Midlands, the South East and the East of England and will develop around 1,000 properties per year of all tenures across these regions.
- As well as the development arm of the Orbit Group, Orbit Homes also comprises all areas of Orbit First Step, including Orbit's sales team and Orbit HomeBuy Agents, the largest HomeBuy Agency in the country, which helps people find the right home ownership product for them.
- In all that we do to become developer of choice we will uphold the Orbit values of 'Partnership, Honesty, Innovation, Respect and Excellence'.

