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Press Release

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For immediate release

LOCAL HOUSING ASSOCIATION PROVIDES SUPPORT IN DIFFICULT ECONOMY

East Boro Housing Trust and East Dorset District Council work together to secure more affordable homes for local people:

East Boro Housing Trust is expanding its housing stock with the addition of three new properties, adding a further 20 units to its portfolio.

East Boro, with support from East Dorset District Council, submitted a funding proposal for the three schemes to the Homes and Communities Agency, the Government body that delivers social housing. The bid was successful with £1.3 million granted towards the developments.

All three properties are located within central Wimborne, including Meadowpoint, New Borough, a 13 unit property for the sheltered elderly, four further units on New Borough accommodating young people and three units at West Street for single people in need of emergency housing.

East Boro's Chief Executive Kevin Hodder says: "In difficult economic times affordable housing is important now more than ever - the continuing demand for the provision of affordable housing is only increasing. East Boro will continue to take advantage of any development opportunity as it arises. We are also trying to keep the trades and facilities needed for new developments local to support the local economy."

He continues: "East Dorset's support for this housing package was crucial in securing the necessary funds. These new properties will not only help East Dorset fulfil local housing need but one will specifically help in meeting the immediate need of re-housing tenants of Shamrock Court."

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The other two schemes will involve further partnership working with East Dorset District Council in a joint approach to provide a support package to ensure the young people housed in these properties are assisted to find longer term, appropriate housing suitable for their needs.

East Dorset District Council's Head of Housing Keith Mallett comments: "The Council is keen to increase the amount of affordable housing in East Dorset. These new properties provide high-quality provision for both older and younger members of the community, and are very important additions to the district's housing stock. The young persons properties, in particular, increase the supply of such accommodation by a quarter - a significant step forward to meeting the needs of this client group."

East Boro's funding for such developments is achieved through the Source Development Partnership; a Dorset based consortia in which local housing associations work together to ensure housing need is met. The partnership bids for grant funding to the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA.) In addition to the £1.3 million funding the HCA granted, East Boro also contributed its own funds to the development of these three schemes.

Kevin Hodder says: "Given the current economic environment it is fortunate the Trust's bank, the Royal Bank of Scotland, were willing to put the necessary procedures in place to enable the Trust to financially secure this deal."

He continues: "Located on New Borough and West Street, these new properties are ideally situated benefiting from the town's amenities close by, especially for sheltered housing. Obtaining property within central Wimborne is not easy so this is a great achievement."

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Note for Editors:

Shamrock Court is an Anchor Housing Trust scheme that as of Autumn 2008 faced imminent closure. As the Local Authority East Dorset District Council made registered social landlords aware of the closure and requested tenants of Shamrock Court be treated as unintentionally homeless and given priority housing need.

The Source Development Partnership is one of the largest consortiums in the South and is committed to providing high quality, affordable housing whilst supporting the local communities in which it works. For more information visit www.source-development.co.uk

East Boro provides accommodation for the sheltered elderly, adults with learning disabilities, single parent families, single young people and general needs housing for young couples/small families. The Trust's other services include a Sheltered Housing Warden Service, a Learning Disability Support Team, a Direct Labour Response Repair & Care-taking Service, a Handy Van Repair Service in Bournemouth & Poole, a Visiting Support Service in Poole and a Housing Related Support Service to people with physical disabilities in Bournemouth.

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