

21 November 2019

## LEGAL & GENERAL COMMITS £100M TO SUNDERLAND REGENERATION, SUPPORTING 3,000 NEW JOBS

Legal & General announces that it has committed £100m to back Sunderland City Council's extensive masterplan for the regeneration of the former Vaux Brewery site. Proposed as a new core business district, Legal & General's investment, which forms part of the wider 'Riverside Sunderland' project, is supporting the creation of up to 3,000 new jobs.

Sunderland is home to over 5,500 businesses, including 80 internationally owned corporations, employing more than 100,000 people. Despite this, there has been a lack of development of Grade A office space and good quality stock within the city centre has been limited. Sunderland, therefore, is a key target for Legal & General as it looks to support the transformation of a city which has seen significant underinvestment for the past twenty years.

Legal & General is uniquely placed to invest pension money into the UK economy. Across the UK, it has invested over £22bn into direct investments such as urban regeneration, clean energy and transport infrastructure. This can help support its long-term commitments whilst driving extraordinary social outcomes by creating real jobs, high quality and varied housing and better infrastructure. This, in turn, boosts productivity and delivers vibrant communities in which people can live longer, healthier and happier lives.

Meeting Sunderland's increasing need for modern office facilities, the £100m investment from Legal & General seeks to deliver three new commercial buildings, comprising up to 300,000 sq ft of Grade A office space including the new Sunderland City Hall. Legal & General's investment should act as a catalyst for wider regeneration, driving regional economic growth and job creation within Sunderland.

**Nigel Wilson, CEO of Legal & General, said:** "Sunderland City Council has drawn up a visionary plan for Sunderland; a City ripe for economic growth, having historically lagged behind its Northern neighbours. As seen with our other Future Cities investments in areas such as Oxford, Leeds, Bristol, Newcastle and Cardiff, a long term patient capital injection can completely transform towns and cities. This can have a direct social impact, creating real jobs and supporting real wage increases, whilst

creating a virtuous circle by generating income to pay pensioners. This is Inclusive Capitalism at its best. We hope our investment today will accelerate regeneration plans for Sunderland, attracting further capital to support the vast potential of this city.”

**Patrick Melia, Chief Executive of Sunderland City Council, said:** “Today’s announcement is the single most significant investment story to come out of Sunderland for decades. We are absolutely delighted that the vision we have created for this city is attracting the enthusiasm, support and most importantly the financial backing of Legal & General, one of the world’s most significant investors. Sunderland has been something of a sleeping giant, but it has awoken, and we’re absolutely determined to ensure this city realises every bit of its vast potential”

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**Notes to editors**

### **Legal & General Capital**

Legal & General Capital (LGC) is the early-stage investment arm of Legal & General Group. Investing from Legal & General’s principal balance sheet, LGC’s purpose is to generate long-term shareholder value by injecting new capital into key sectors where there has been a shortage of investment and innovation. Focused on Future Cities (including Urban Regeneration, Clean Energy and Infrastructure), Housing and Principal Investing (including SME Finance and Venture Capital), these key sectors reflect our aim to invest for the long term in economically and socially useful assets, to secure competitive returns and to create new asset classes for Legal & General’s varied investment requirements, for our partners and for the wider marketplace.

### **LGIM Real Assets**

LGIM Real Assets is a division of Legal & General Investment Management (LGIM), one of Europe’s largest institutional asset managers and a major global investor. LGIM manages £1.1tn in assets (as at 30 June 2019), working with a range of global clients, including pension schemes, sovereign wealth funds, fund distributors and retail investors. LGIM Real Assets, headed up by Bill Hughes, has AUM of £33.4bn (as 30 June 2019) and is one of the largest private markets investment managers in the UK. Investing in both debt and equity and across the risk/return spectrum, the platform actively invests in and manages assets across commercial, operational and residential property sectors, as well as infrastructure, real estate, corporate and alternative debt. By bringing these capabilities together under one platform,

the business is able to offer its clients enhanced outcome-focused strategies and diversification benefits, with deep sector understanding across a broader investment universe. Taking a long term view in order to future proof its investments, the business continues to lead the industry in ESG performance, considering all environmental, social and governance issues at asset level as well as portfolio level.

### **Legal & General Group**

Established in 1836, Legal & General is one of the UK's leading financial services groups and a major global investor, with international businesses in the US, Europe, Middle East and Asia. With over £1 trillion in total assets under management, we're the UK's largest investment manager for corporate pension schemes and a market leader in pensions de-risking, life insurance and workplace pensions. We have also invested over £22 billion in direct investments such as homes, urban regeneration, clean energy and small business finance.