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Legal & General Capital hires UKGBC's John Alker as Head of Sustainability

Legal & General Capital (LGC), Legal & General Group's alternative asset platform, announces that it has appointed John Alker as its new Head of Sustainability. Joining the business on 9 August, this senior appointment demonstrates LGC's commitment to protecting our planet by driving tangible and meaningful change across the diverse sectors it operates in – from its net zero carbon housing commitment to its levelling up agenda, transforming towns and cities across the UK.

With over 15 years' experience in the sector, John joins the business from the UK Green Building Council (UKGBC), a business-led not-for-profit that works collaboratively to influence industry practice and government policy, to transform the sustainability of the built environment. At UKGBC he is Director of Policy & Places, having joined shortly after its launch in 2007 and leading its well-respected policy and advocacy at both national and local level, working with the construction and property sector on a suite of successful programmes and projects, covering topics such as net zero carbon, social value, health & wellbeing and regeneration & placemaking. John has also served as Board Director for the World Green Building Council. Prior to joining UKGBC, John worked on sustainable homes and carbon trading for the environmental charity WWF-UK, has worked as a researcher in the House of Commons, and in commercial public affairs. He is on the Board of the Quality of Life Foundation.

In this new role, John will act as the strategic sustainability lead within LGC, challenging the business to continue to set ambitious sustainability commitments, and bringing his expertise to drive their delivery. Beyond environmental sustainability, John's remit will also include the measurement and articulation of the social impact we deliver across LGC's broader strategy.

LGC is committed to using its diverse sources of capital, including long term UK pension money, to help address climate change. Investing in the real economy and creating assets that deliver a tangible societal impact, LGC's sustainability commitments range from creating energy efficient homes, regenerating communities, and supporting health and scientific advancements, to investing across power, heat and transport in clean energy.

Last year Legal & General pledged that it will make all of its new housing stock operational net zero carbon enabled by 2030, implemented in a phased approach across all homes invested in or built by the Group including: Build to Rent, Build to Sell, later living, modular and affordable housing. Earlier this year it announced that Inspired Villages, LGC's later living business, has started on site to deliver the UK's first net-zero retirement community, demonstrating LGC's approach to walk the walk, not just talk the talk. With the 26th UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) taking place this November, we believe that now is the time to act and make real progress with science-based targets in order to create a greener, cleaner future for our society.

Kerrigan Procter, CEO, Legal & General Capital, said:

“We are delighted to welcome John to the business. His experience in working collaboratively across the construction and real estate industry to drive real improvement in environmental outcomes is exactly in line with our continued drive to deliver the societal benefits of quality, affordable housing for all and regenerated towns and cities. John's expertise makes him well placed to maximise the advantages within our housing and urban regeneration businesses in order to deliver on our ambitions for improved social and environmental outcomes.

“John will play a crucial role in ensuring that our sustainability commitments are delivered as well looking at further ways that our platform can help to transform climate change. We have a real opportunity to use LGC's diverse sources of capital to build back better and seek out new transformative sustainable investments.”

John Alker said:

“I feel privileged to have been able to work with hundreds of progressive businesses from across the real estate and construction sector over many years at UKGBC. One that has always stood out as particularly influential, innovative and purpose-driven is Legal & General. I am delighted to be joining the great team at LGC, to support the sustainability ambitions of the business in this critical decade of action. We face a series of related challenges from global to local, both environmental and societal. The places where we live and work and the communities we create are at the heart of this challenge. That is why the scale and scope of LGC’s diverse interests in our built environment provide such an exciting opportunity – to deliver positive impact and create value in the round.”

Notes to editors

About Legal & General Capital

Legal & General Capital (LGC) is Legal & General Group’s alternative asset platform, creating assets for Legal & General Retirement and third-party clients in order to achieve improved risk-adjusted returns for our shareholders.

LGC has built its market leading capabilities in a range of alternative assets, delivering depth of resource, track record and intellectual property. Investing in the real economy and creating alternative assets that deliver a tangible societal impact, its purpose is to invest society’s capital for society’s benefit. LGC’s investments have been vertically integrated and include: residential property; specialist commercial real estate; clean energy; alternative credit; and venture capital.

As LGC’s capability to create alternative assets continues to grow, it will not only continue to grow its balance sheet alternative assets but also create alternative assets for third party investors. Many of these investors have the same aims, namely to create assets to back pensions with an improved yield or to create assets with strong growth prospects but with low correlation to equities.

L&G has invested over £29bn in levelling-up regional economies, including through major regeneration schemes in Cardiff, Newcastle and Salford. Legal & General recently made a commitment to enable all new homes across its portfolio to operate at net zero carbon emissions by 2030, including Legal & General Modular Homes, CALA Group, Legal & General Affordable Homes, Build to Rent and Later Living.

www.legalandgeneralcapital.com

About 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 £1.24 trillion in total assets under management, we are the UK’s largest investment manager for corporate pension schemes and a UK market leader in pension risk transfer, life insurance, workplace pensions and retirement income.

Further information

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