

## PRESS RELEASE

# ARA VENN MAKES SENIOR APPOINTMENT FOR ITS £3 BILLION AFFORDABLE HOMES GUARANTEE SCHEME

## *Oriane Auzanneau will lead loan investments for the firm's social housing strategy*

**United Kingdom, 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020** - Investment manager **ARA Venn** is pleased to announce that Oriane Auzanneau will be joining the firm to lead loan investments for its social housing strategy as a Director and Deputy Portfolio Manager.

Oriane joins from M&G Investments, where she spent 12 years involved in corporate lending and was a Director in the social housing team. She has a passion for the sector and brings significant experience in originating, underwriting and managing social housing loans and investing in social housing bonds as part of a £6 billion portfolio. Her experience also includes corporate loan investments for M&G's UK Companies Financing Funds 1 and 2, the latter of which involved funding from HM Treasury under the Business Finance Partnership.

Saltaire Housing Ltd ("**Saltaire**"), a wholly-owned subsidiary of ARA Venn, was appointed by UK Government in October to deliver the Affordable Homes Guarantee Scheme ("**Scheme**") to provide £3 billion of cost-effective long-term loans, of up to 30 years, to Registered Providers developing new affordable homes in England.

As the investment manager to Saltaire for the Scheme, ARA Venn is responsible for establishing and managing the Scheme including originating, underwriting and ongoing management of the loans, and developing and managing a government guaranteed bond programme to efficiently fund them.

The Scheme is available to finance social rent, affordable rent and shared ownership housing in England, in accordance with the Scheme's rules, and is expected to support the delivery of around 17,000 new affordable homes. This contributes significantly to the supply of such critical housing, which has an even greater imperative at a time of economic uncertainty.

**Richard Green, Partner, Portfolio Manager of the Scheme at ARA Venn, said:** "We are thrilled to welcome Oriane to the team. She brings great experience of lending in the social housing sector and her passion will help drive our social housing strategy."

**Oriane Auzanneau commented:** "I am delighted to join ARA Venn to lead the social housing strategy. The team has recently been appointed by the UK Government as delivery partner for the Affordable Homes Guarantee Scheme, so it is a very exciting time. By offering Registered Providers access to funding at a highly competitive cost, the Scheme will help the social housing sector serve its communities and deliver thousands of much needed affordable homes. We look forward to applications for the Scheme and building long-term relationships in the sector."

**For more information contact:**

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### **About ARA Venn**

ARA Venn (the trading name of Venn Partners LLP) (“the firm”) is an investment manager in European real estate private debt. The firm specialises in creating investment products that provide investors with access to compelling risk-adjusted returns, whilst satisfying borrower demand for competitive, efficient and transparent loan product. ARA Venn serves the investment needs of a diverse range of government entities, leading global institutions and private investors.

Founded in 2009, the firm has AUM and active mandates totalling in excess of £8.5 billion. With offices in the UK, Spain and an affiliate office in the Netherlands, ARA Venn comprises a team of experienced professionals that pull together credit origination, underwriting, liability structuring and risk management skills with a deep understanding of investor and borrower requirements.

In 2020, Venn welcomed ARA Asset Management Limited (“ARA”) via its UK subsidiary, ARA UK Asset Management Limited, as a majority shareholder to help drive the firm’s next phase of growth, with Venn’s management team retaining a significant ownership stake. Under the transaction, Venn Partners re-branded as ‘ARA Venn’.

ARA is a leading Singapore-based APAC real assets fund manager with a global reach. With S\$110 billion<sup>1</sup> (£62 billion) in gross assets under management as at 30 June 2020, ARA manages listed and unlisted real estate investment trusts (REITs), private real estate credit and equity funds and infrastructure funds in 28 countries. As part of its investor-operator philosophy, ARA also operates a real estate management services division with local teams to manage its assets worldwide.

ARA Venn is ARA’s second investment partnership in Europe following its acquisition in July 2019 of a majority stake in Dunedin Property Asset Management Ltd (renamed ARA Dunedin) to invest in and manage real estate equity assets in the United Kingdom.

For more information, please visit <http://www.ara-group.com>.

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<sup>1</sup> Includes assets under management by ARA Asset Management Limited and the Group of companies (“ARA Group”) and its Associates as at 30 June 2020.