bLEND taps 2054 bond at 2.17%

For immediate release

On Tuesday, bLEND priced a 34 year, £100m loan at an all-in rate of 2.17% for housing association borrower Torus.

At a spread of +1.33% over Gilts, the pricing included no new issue premium, reflecting the strength of investor interest in bLEND, which in just two years has issued more than £0.75bn in bonds. Today's transaction was a tap of bLEND's 2054 maturity and grows it to benchmark size. With 18 investor orders, including from three sovereign wealth funds and a major UK pension fund, the transaction was almost four times oversubscribed, demonstrating healthy appetite for bLEND's strong credit and established model.

Proceeds of today's tap will go to Torus, which has over 37,000 homes across the North West. Torus is committed to regeneration in order to create sustainable and thriving communities, and alongside providing affordable homes also delivers a range of services to support and empower residents.

Peter Fieldsend, Chief Financial Officer at Torus, said "Being able to access funding through bLEND at such competitive rates means we can continue our work building new affordable homes and regenerating communities. The flexibility of the model allowed us to take advantage of favourable market conditions at short notice, and we're thrilled with the result."

bLEND's CEO, Piers Williamson, said "With political uncertainty again very much a feature of the bond markets, it's fantastic to see bLEND gaining the attention of investors, and a reflection of the confidence in the housing association sector more broadly. bLEND can boast not only its solid A2 credit rating, but now an ever-growing track record of successful issuance across a wide range of maturities, which in turn allows our borrowers to reap the rewards in the form of low-cost, long-term funding".

Alongside the £100m priced for Torus, an additional £150m of retained bonds were issued, to be placed in future transactions on behalf of other members of the bLEND borrower pool including Cobalt Housing and WHG.