20

Our strategy continued

Becoming the employer of choice

Our people are the backbone of our customercentric approach and we are investing in their development to ensure they have the right skills and to help underpin our future growth. We aspire to be the employer of choice in our sector, offering a unique and valued employee experience by investing in our people, giving them more challenge, more ownership and more flexibility, where it counts. We were pleased to have been named in the top 10 places to work in the UK for 2019, by Glassdoor, as rated by employees, once again the only commercial housebuilder to make the list. This is the second consecutive year we have featured on the list, having ranked number 15 in 2018.

We may be a national homebuilder, but for customers, it is their interactions with the local site and sales team and regional office that matter. This is where their impression of Taylor Wimpey is formed and where we strive to prove to them that they made the right choice by choosing a Taylor Wimpey home. Embedding our approach to customers and getting buy in and commitment from our employees has been a key part of our strategy. During 2018 we ran a very successful engagement programme featuring emails, presentations, meetings and focus groups hosted by senior management across the country, as well as an all staff survey.

There is a skills shortage in our industry. To reduce the impact on our business and help reverse this trend, we are increasing the number of trades people we hire directly. This also has the benefit that it will increase customer satisfaction and underpin future growth. During 2018, we began our first direct labour model, increasing the number of trades people we hire directly (as well as through subcontractors). This includes both experienced trades people and new recruits to the industry, such as apprentices and people looking for a

career change. We piloted this approach in six regions during 2017 and 2018, focusing on five key trades: bricklayers, carpenters, scaffolders, painters and joiners. We currently directly employ 748 key trades including trade apprentices (2017: 581), a 29% increase on 2017. Our approach includes recruiting a greater diversity of candidates to join our apprenticeship schemes. This includes working with St Mungo's, one of our national charities, to support their long term unemployed clients to transition from their Train and Trade scheme into paid employment.

Through our learning and development initiatives, aimed at growing talent from within, we give our employees the opportunities and skills to become our future business leaders and develop their careers with Taylor Wimpey. We continue to expand and improve our early talent development programmes. Apprentices and apprenticeships will support our plans for direct labour. We will increase the numbers of apprentices in 2019 and will deliver a more consistent framework and development path for apprentices through the business. We are delighted to have been named as a top employer for graduates and apprentices by JobCrowd in 2018/19.

There is nothing more important to our Board or employees than health and safety. Building sites are, by their very nature, dangerous and so we do everything we can possibly do to minimise those risks. We embed a safety culture through training, awareness and visible health and safety leadership.

What this means...

In practice

- Attraction, recruitment and retention of a talented employee base is a competitive advantage that cannot be easily or quickly replicated
- Properly resourcing future growth
- Importance of employee buy in to strategy
- Increased commitment to customer service and Taylor Wimpey culture
- Increased employee and customer satisfaction

Key priorities

- Continue to prioritise health and safety at all levels of the business
- Create a more consistent framework and development path for early and ongoing talent management
- Focus on direct labour programme and roll out to all regional businesses
- Continue to engage our employees with the strategy and get their feedback
- Increase apprentices and our early talent programmes

Read more on page 7

