

Press release  
24 December 2010

## **Hackney Homes gritters get helping hand from community payback**

Twenty people sentenced to community payback have spent over 390 hours this month clearing paths of snow and gritting pavements across estates in Hackney.

Accompanied by a probation worker throughout the operation, and working alongside Hackney Homes staff, the offenders helped to clear the Woodberry Down, Fellows Court and St Mary's estates of snow, and to make the paths safe to walk on.

Community Payback is a scheme jointly administered by the Council's Community Safety Team, Hackney Police, and London Probation Trust, where offenders spend time 'paying back' by carrying out unpaid, supervised physical work in their community.

Christophe Tabi, Interim Head of Estate Environment Services at Hackney Homes, said: "We were pleased to welcome the participants into our team. They were willing to learn, worked hard and learned something new".

Councillor Julius Nkafu, Hackney Council's Cabinet Advisor for Community Safety said: "It's good for Hackney residents to see that people are repaying their crimes and benefiting the community".

Chief Inspector Jane Easton, head of Hackney Police's Safer Neighbourhoods unit adds: "By carrying out community service such as this, offenders are putting something back into the community which has been blighted by their previous actions. They are also carrying out a useful service at a time when the most vulnerable in society are hardest hit."

Hackney Homes and Hackney Council will continue to work alongside police and probation services to identify opportunities to use the Community Payback scheme to benefit residents.

**-Ends-**

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### **Notes to Editors**

- Hackney Homes is an arms-length management organisation managing around 30,000 council properties in the borough of Hackney.