

## Press release

31 March 2009

### **Hackney Homes encourages residents to claim what is theirs**

Hackney Homes is encouraging residents to check if they are entitled to benefits to support them during these tough economic times.

Simple and easy to do. Residents can log on to the Hackney Homes website [www.hackneyhomes.org.uk](http://www.hackneyhomes.org.uk) and use the online calculator which enables them to find out which benefits they can claim. They can check if they are entitled to benefits such as housing benefit and council tax benefits.

Head of Rent Accounting for Hackney Homes, Ibrahim Ali, said: "Benefits go unclaimed because people assume they are not eligible. Having a benefits check-up enables residents to find out exactly what they're entitled to."

An information leaflet will also be sent to all tenants with the annual rent statements to encourage them to find out what they are entitled to.

For more information, check the Hackney Homes website [www.hackneyhomes.org.uk](http://www.hackneyhomes.org.uk).

#### **Ends**

**Press queries to Nicola Morgan, 020 8356 3528 or email [nicola.morgan@hackneyhomes.org.uk](mailto:nicola.morgan@hackneyhomes.org.uk)**

#### **Notes to Editors**

- According to the Department for Work and Pensions between £6,180 million and £9,990 million of benefits went unclaimed in 2006/2007.
- **Benefits that commonly go unclaimed**  
(according to Department for Work and Pensions)
  - **Income support:** For people who are unable to work and don't have enough money to live on.
  - **Housing benefit:** For people on low incomes to help them pay some or all of their rent.
  - **Council tax benefit:** For people with income and savings of £16,000 to help them pay their annual bill.

- **Jobseeker's allowance:** People who are of working age and not in employment can claim jobseeker's allowance while they are out of work.
- **Pension credit:** This is calculated on a weekly basis and is paid to those aged over 60, based on their income.
- **Tax credits:** According to the Directgov website, over 90% of households are entitled to this. There are two types of tax credits – child tax credits and working tax credits.
- **Where else residents can get a benefits check-up**
  - The Government's **online Benefits Adviser** at [www.direct.gov.uk/benefitsadviser](http://www.direct.gov.uk/benefitsadviser), helps you workout what you can claim.
  - **Your local Jobcentre Plus** can tell you if you can apply for social security benefits like Jobseeker's Allowance, Income Support and Disability Living Allowance.
  - **HM Revenue and Customs** handle tax credits which include working tax credits and child tax credit. Visit, [www.hmrc.gov.uk](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk), call 0845 300 3900 or write to Tax Credit Office, Preston, PR1 0SB.