

Press release

11 August 2008

Hackney Homes tackles Squatted Homes

Hackney Homes is on track to reduce the number of squatted Council homes in the borough to zero - thanks to a successful cross-cutting partnership approach to tackling the problem.

There are currently only five squatted homes left – a reduction of 18 from March 2006 when there were 23 squats.

This winning approach is the result of close working with the local Police and Safer Neighbourhood teams and measures include permanently securing properties on the day of their vacation and employing 24 hour security guard dog patrols.

Chair of Hackney Homes Rupert Tyson says: “We’ve had a long standing problem of empty homes being squatted in Hackney – often on housing estates where regeneration schemes are about to start – so we are delighted we are on track to eradicate this blight from our estates. This news will bring much needed respite to local people as many of the squatters were involved in criminal activities which had a negative affect on the lives of those residents living nearby. He adds: “It’s vital we crack this problem as squatters deprive those living in temporary accommodation, from quickly moving into a new home.”

Residents who suspect that a property is squatted can call the estate safety team in confidence on 0208 356 3333.

Ends

Notes to Editors

Press queries to Chloe Goddard on 0208 356 3877/ or Olaide Oyekanmi on 0208 356 3522