

Media release

10 July 2008

International visitors help put Hackney on the map

Visitors from Hong Kong and Australia recently helped shine the international spotlight on Hackney by visiting the borough to gain an insight into how council housing stock is managed.

Hackney Homes' Homerton Neighbourhood Office hosted a group of delegates from Hong Kong as part of an annual trip to the UK arranged by the Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH). Officers from Hackney Homes led a guided tour of several estates in the Homerton area including Frampton Park estate where Decent Homes works are currently underway.

Hackney Homes Chief Executive and CIH Board Member, Charlotte Graves, said: "Managing over 30,000 council homes is no easy feat so for Hackney to be recognised as leading the way in housing management best practice is a great achievement."

Likewise, while visiting the UK, two housing professionals from New South Wales in Australia spent time at Nightingale Estate in Hackney's North East neighbourhood to learn how residents are working together with authorities to improve social housing.

Maura Boland from the NSW Department of Housing and Olwyn Redshaw from the Victorian Department of Human Services were given a tour of the estate by Hackney Homes Chief Executive Charlotte Graves and Vice Chair of the Board and local resident, Alice Burke.

They knocked on doors and spoke to Hackney Homes residents as well as Southern Housing and Bangla Housing residents to find out how regeneration has improved the social and economic conditions in the area and how residents were involved throughout the process.

Charlotte Graves said: "Nightingale residents are proud of their estate and this international seal of approval shows that their involvement in the regeneration process is not going unnoticed."

- Ends -

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Our mission is to deliver excellent, responsive housing services with decent homes and estates. To help residents lead healthy lives in safe and sustainable communities.

www.hackneyhomes.org.uk

Notes to Editors

- Hackney Homes is an Arms Length Management Organisation (ALMO) launched in April 2006 to manage the Council's social housing stock. Hackney Homes is led by a board which includes residents, councillors and independent representatives and is responsible for managing 22,000 tenanted properties and 8,000 leasehold properties in the borough. For further information visit www.hackneyhomes.org.uk
- Mouchel is a housing management partner to Hackney Homes. Mouchel are contracted to manage housing services to thousands of Hackney Homes residents in the Homerton neighbourhood. This work includes rent collection, tenant liaison, estate visits and dealing with crime and anti-social behaviour.
- Nightingale Estate is currently being regenerated in a partnership between the Council, Hackney Homes, Southern Housing Group, Bangla Housing Association and Nightingale Partnership Residents Association, to provide 1,080 homes.