

Press release

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Hackney Homes providing a good service to residents

THOUSANDS of Hackney residents will benefit from a £225m funding injection, with the news that Hackney Homes has achieved a two-star rating from the Audit Commission.

7,000 households across Hackney will now be able to look forward to much needed new kitchens and bathrooms following the announcement by the Audit Commission today that Hackney Homes has achieved a two-star rating with promising prospects for improvement.

This news follows the culmination of an inspection process that started in November last year. The two-star rating frees up government funding to spend on the Decent Homes programme.

Already £190m has been spent on making Council homes decent in Hackney, with thousands of new windows, new roofs and other external improvements. The next phase of the programme, estimated to finish in 2012, will primarily focus on providing residents with new kitchens and bathrooms to meet the Government's Decent Homes standard.

Jules Pipe, Mayor of Hackney, said: "This is a great result for residents, and one which will improve the quality of life of thousands of households.

"Hackney Council has been working closely with Hackney Homes to improve services and raise standards, and I am delighted that residents are seeing the benefits of this partnership."

"Hackney Homes in partnership with the Council has successfully undertaken a major programme of improvements and this has been recognised by the Audit Commission."

Cllr Tom Price has been appointed as Cabinet Adviser for Hackney Homes, to further develop the strong working partnership between the Council and Hackney Homes.

Chairman of Hackney Homes and a long-time resident, Rupert Tyson, said residents would benefit from much-needed improvements to their homes.

“Not only does this rating confirm that Hackney Homes is providing a high quality service for residents, it also means we can continue on the progress already being made with the Decent Homes improvements programme.

“It is a great leap forward for the borough and a clear sign that Hackney is becoming a better, safer and cleaner place to live, work and play.”

The report has also provided Hackney Homes with a number of recommendations to continue to improve performance. These include improving services for residents reporting anti-social behaviour.

Copies of the report are available from Hackney Homes or from the Audit Commission website at www.audit-commission.gov.uk/reports

Ends

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Notes to Editors

- Hackney Homes was launched in April 2006 and is responsible for managing council homes in Hackney. This includes managing council housing, collecting council housing rental, repairing and maintaining council homes.
- The Hackney Homes Decent Homes Programme has completed the following across Hackney:
 - 10,403 homes with new windows
 - 8,675 new roofs
 - 1,854 kitchens and bathrooms(statistics are correct as of April 2008)
- Hackney’s Decent Homes programme has won a number of awards for its work. Recognition so far includes:
 - The award of Exemplar Demonstration Status from Constructing Excellence in London, gained in November 2005
 - Construction Client Charter Status, gained in December 2005
 - Society of Procurement Officers (SOPO) award, gained in November 2005
 - ‘Highly Commended’ in the Local Government Chronicle LGC Procurement Award in March 2006.