

## Press release

29 May 2009

### **Hackney Homes cleaners and gardeners short listed for national Housing Heroes Awards**

Hackney Homes team of estate cleaners and gardeners have been short listed from more than 300 entries in the Housing Heroes Awards. This is a new awards scheme launched this year that aims to shine the spotlight on the people and teams that are doing great work in delivering services to local people.

The 300 strong team who ensure that the estates in Hackney are well kept are now one of six left in the running for the Customer Services Team of the year category. They have been recognised for the way in which they look out for vulnerable people on our estates by assisting with gardens and offering support during serious weather conditions as well as the range of community based initiatives that they give time to including community garden schemes for young children.

The winners will be revealed at a glittering awards ceremony at London's Hilton Hotel on 10 June. The ceremony will be hosted by TV presenter and former politician Michael Portillo. The awards are being sponsored by Tribal, Construction Skills and Campbell Tickell.

Hackney Homes Chief Executive, Charlotte Graves said: "We are pleased that our cleaners and gardeners are being recognised in this way. The hard work that they do on estates everyday does not go unnoticed by local people and this is a testament to that".

Steve Benson, the President of the CIH said there were some amazing people working in the housing sector. "Our sector spends a great deal of time talking about policy and strategy, business plans and budgets, our visions and our mission statements. Of course all of these things are really important. But in my experience it is the extraordinary people that do fantastic work for our customers that make the real difference. So I want to congratulate every finalist for getting this far in these awards. It was extremely tightly contested, and I look forward to helping to unveil the eventual winners in June."

*Inside Housing's* events director Ted Stevens said: "All the finalists have done brilliantly in getting this far. Well done to Hackney Homes Estate Environment Services Team for getting shortlisted. The competition was really fierce with well over 50 entries in some categories."

**Ends**

**Press queries to Olaide Oyekanmi on 0208 356 3522, 0777 256 5514 or email [olaide.oyekanmi@hackneyhomes.org.uk](mailto:olaide.oyekanmi@hackneyhomes.org.uk)**