

Press release

23 October 2008

2,000 Hackney Homes tenants make Decent Homes choice

Record turnout at kitchens and bathrooms event

Over two thousand residents turned out at the Town Hall this week to decide how homes in Hackney will be modernised as part of the Decent Homes programme.

Showcasing products and services on the day were five kitchen suppliers and two bathroom suppliers and residents had the chance to speak to them, test out the products on display and make a choice on which ones they preferred. The information will be used to help us choose the preferred supplier of kitchen and bathrooms.

Mrs Barkey who lives in Stoke Newington attended the event as she is due to have Decent Homes works carried out in her home in the next few years.

As her home is over thirty years old, work needs to be carried out to comply with the Decent homes standard to ensure that her home has reasonably modern facilities and is in a reasonable state of repair. This will mean a modern kitchen with new worktops, sink and cupboards and bathrooms with replacement bath, wash hand basin, and WC.

Mrs Barkey said “This has been a very interesting event. It’s a great idea to be able to see samples of the different kitchen units and compare them for quality as well as look and feel.”

Charlotte Graves, Hackney Homes Chief Executive said: “It is important for tenants to have a say about their homes. That is why we brought all the suppliers under one roof and have given tenants a real say in deciding what products will be installed in their homes”.

Hackney Homes is currently awaiting funding from the Government to continue the works to kitchens and bathrooms from April 2009. We are expecting to hear a decision on this in early 2009, following an inspection of Hackney Homes by the Audit Commission in November 2008.

For more information about Decent Homes, you can log on to www.hackneyhomes.org.uk and click on the link for Decent Homes.

Ends

Press queries to Olaide Oyekanmi on 0208 356 3522, 0777 256 5514 or email olaide.oyekanmi@hackneyhomes.org.uk

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.