

Press release

2 October 2007

Residents lead the way on Hackney Homes Board

Hackney resident Rupert Tyson has been appointed Chair of the Hackney Homes Board and fellow residents Audrey Villas and Alice Burke have been appointed as Vice Chairs.

Collectively the trio has almost 70 years experience in the tenant's movement. Their knowledge and skills will be used to lead Hackney Homes, an organisation that manages more than 30,000 Council homes and leasehold properties in Hackney.

Rupert said he was looking forward to leading Hackney Homes and continuing to improve services for residents.

"Since Hackney Homes was launched 18 months ago there has been a focus on improving customer services. We've made progress but there is still more to be done," Rupert said.

"Encouraging residents to get involved and to have their say about the services they receive and what they want for their homes and environment is something I am passionate about and will be focusing on.

"I hope my appointment, as well as Alice and Audrey's, encourages other residents to get involved, and demonstrates that this organisation is committed to the residents it serves."

Susmita Noonan, Interim Chief Executive, said the appointments highlight the contribution residents are making.

"Rupert is our first resident Chair and it is a strong vote of confidence from the rest of the Board that this organisation should be led by a resident," Susmita said.

"Rupert, Audrey and Alice have lived in Hackney for decades. They know the challenges, they know how we can improve life on Hackney estates and they know the positives of living in this diverse borough."

Both Rupert and Susmita say the focus for the coming year will be achieving a two star rating from the Audit Commission and releasing Government funding to spend on improving Council homes.

"I understand that many residents are disappointed with the recent one-star rating provided by the Audit Commission. The Board is confident Hackney

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.

Homes can be a two star organisation in 2008 and our focus is firmly on achieving this goal,” Rupert said.

“I would urge all residents to have faith in the Board and in Hackney Homes to deliver excellent housing in Hackney. We are all committed to making Hackney a great place to live and we are working with residents throughout the Borough to make this happen.”

Ends

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