

Media Release



Date: Friday 6th May 2016

Historic Launch of New Homes in Matson

On Wednesday the 4th May, Gloucester City Homes (GCH) launched its first new homes since becoming an independent housing provider in March 2015.

6 properties, a mixture of two-bed bungalows and two-bed houses in Bazeley Road, Matson have now been handed over to tenants.

A launch event marking the completion of these first new homes was attended by the new tenants, local residents, dignitaries, GCH staff and Aqua construction, who have made the homes a reality. The event provided an opportunity for everyone to look around the new developments, showcasing the high quality homes.

4 shared ownership bungalows have also been completed on Painswick Road with the new residents moving in shortly. A further 23 properties are currently in development with more planned in the near future.

Tim Dare, Chair of the GCH Board commented: "We are delighted that after many years, GCH are now able to provide new, high quality, affordable housing in the City. We are especially pleased that we have also been able to do this through local companies supporting our aim of generating employment and training opportunities within Gloucester. We look forward to releasing more homes for rent and shared ownership soon."

A tenant moving into one of the new properties said: "This new property is lovely and I cannot thank you enough for this opportunity. It is much more suitable for my needs and I am looking forward to getting in and making it home."

Ashley Green, Chief Executive of GCH added: "As a new Housing Association, I am very proud that we have already been able to make a difference in the lives of Gloucester residents, in a little over 12 months since we launched. Over the next few months GCH will be continuing to deliver its promise of 100 new affordable homes within the first 4 years from transfer."

ENDS

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Gloucester City Homes Limited

Registered Address: Railway House, Bruton Way, Gloucester GL1 1DG is a charitable Community Benefit Society Registered Number 7041 and a non-profit registered provider of social housing Registered Number 4584 regulated by the Homes and Communities Agency.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Gloucester City Homes is an independent social landlord providing excellent housing management services to over 5,200 tenants. Owning and managing around 4500 rented homes, 501 sheltered housing properties, 270 leasehold properties, 25 commercial units and 21 homeless units.

Set up in December 2005 as an Arm's Length Management Organisation, we achieved an excellent 3 star service rating from the Government's Audit Commission. In March 2015, GCH became an independent social landlord following a hugely successful tenant ballot which saw 89% of our tenants supporting transfer. We now have ambitious plans to invest in our tenants homes, build new homes and create new job opportunities as a major employer in the city.

The company has completed a £40 million improvement programme to bring residents' homes to the Decent Homes Standard.

Highly valued and trusted by tenants, GCH is recognised by independent experts as one of the best housing providers in the country. Awards include:

- Being recognised by the **Sunday Times** as one of the **Top 100 not-for-profit companies** in the country in 2013 and 2016.
- Meeting the **British Standards Institute ISO 9001** standard for quality assurance and performance management.
- Being awarded the prestigious **Investors in People Gold Award** for people and performance management.
- Holding **The Gloucester Citizen's "Believe in Gloucester Award"** for excellent customer service.
- Winning a **Social Landlords Crime and Nuisance Group Award** for its "Project Solace" – which is nationally recognised as a model Anti-Social Behaviour service.
- Awarded with the **Equalities Framework Award** and **Diversity Champions Award 2016**.
- Achieved a **record number of Compliance Plus ratings** in the Customer Services Excellence Award
- Selected as a **preferred partner** of the Joint Core Strategy for Gloucester, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury.



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