



## Press release

Ref: GCH

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### **'Tenant of the Year Award' success for Mike Groom**

Gloucester City Homes' tenant Mike Groom is the winner of Tenant of the Year category of the Tenant Participation Advisory Service (TPAS) Connecting People Awards for the Midlands Region.

Mike was declared the winner and received his award at a ceremony in London on 11<sup>th</sup> March.

The awards are designed to reward people who have made an outstanding contribution towards improving their local community.

Mike has been involved with the local community for the last 20 years. His involvement in the local community began when he set up a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme for his road. He later took the lead in setting up the Barnwood Tenants and Residents Group of which he is now the Chair.

As Chair of the Barnwood Community Partnership, Mike has been instrumental in securing funding of over £100,000 to improve local parks and provide play equipment for children.

During the floods of July 2007, Mike's genuine concern for others came to the fore when he organised a team of volunteers to provide support for residents during the crisis. During this period Mike and his team delivered 160,000 bottles of drinking water to vulnerable households in the area.

With the support of local agencies, Mike has organised many successful community events and fun days in the area over the years.

Mike has made a major contribution to improving services for customers at Gloucester City Homes over the years through his involvement as a representative of

the Barnwood Tenants and Residents group, his attendance at focus groups, events and conferences. Mike is currently serving his second term as a tenant Board member, and also helps to maintain standards in void properties in his role as a tenant inspector.

On winning the award Mike said:

'I am delighted to have won this award and consider it a great honour to have been recognised in this way. I am only one of many residents investing their time and energies for the benefit of their communities. There are many I have to thank, but especially the Barnwood Tenants and Residents Group and Gloucester City Homes for nominating me for this award and for their ongoing support.'

GCH Chief Executive Ashley Green says:

'I am delighted that Mike's outstanding work in the community and for Gloucester City Homes has been recognised by this prestigious award. Mike has worked tirelessly over many years for the benefit of others, not only through his own efforts in his local community but also through his involvement at GCH, including his role as a tenant Board member. Mike is a very worthy winner of this award.'

**ENDS**

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**Notes to editors:**

**Gloucester City Homes** is a 2 star Arms Length Management Company, which provides housing management services to 4900 homes in Gloucester on behalf of the City Council. The company is carrying out a £40 million improvement programme to bring customers' homes to the Decent Homes Standard.