



Press release

Date: 4th August 2009

Awards for green fingered GCH tenants

Green fingered Gloucester City Homes tenants have received their awards at the company's Annual Garden Competition Presentation at held at Gloucester Cathedral.

The awards were presented by Chair of the GCH Board Tim Dare, along with Chief Executive Ashley Green and competition judge Dr Sam Harding of Hartpury College.

As well as the more traditional garden types, the competition featured a number of special new categories this year including most creative and imaginative garden and space saver garden.

This year's entrants had worked hard to produce some excellent results from stunning containers and colourful hanging baskets to succulent vegetables. The winners received prizes of framed prints of their gardens as well as gardening vouchers.

GCH Head of Customer Services and Community Investment Lisa Howarth says: 'Each year the garden competition proves very popular with residents. It's great to see so many fantastic looking gardens all of which the entrants can be extremely proud of.'

Dr Sam Harding, Programme Leader for Horticulture at Hartpury College added: 'Gardens this year have been better than ever, with a number of new categories. The residents have shown commitment and imagination in creating gardens that are as diverse as their owners, with standards once again exceeding previous years.'

Gardeners are of vital importance for many reasons, from growing your own for health and fitness, for community initiatives, protecting wildlife and playing a part in reducing global warming. We shall be introducing new categories of garden to the competition again next year to reflect this increasing importance - with approximately 3 million acres of gardens in the country, gardeners can and do, make an impact.'

ENDS

A full list of the competition prize winners is attached.

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

Gloucester City Homes is a 2 star Arms Length Management Company, which provides housing management services to 4500 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. Since Gloucester City Homes was created in 2005 it has:

- Achieved a 2* rating (Good service) from the Audit Commission in June 2007
- Secured £39.6 million in Decent Homes funding to meet the Government's Decent Homes standard and completed improvements to over 1200 homes in the City.
- Become the first housing provider in the County to achieve a Gold standard for its supporting people services
- Achieved Investors in People Accreditation for performance management of our staff
- Achieved ISO 9001 for Quality Management systems, re-accredited again on the 9th March 2009 following re-inspection
- Achieved "managing for others" status with the Housing Corporation
- Achieved Investment Partner status with the Housing Corporation
- Implemented a programme of training for staff to achieve the Institute of Customer Service Awards
- Achieved the Customer Services Excellence Award in April 2009
- Achieved the Equalities Framework Award April 2009