



# Press release

Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2009

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## GCH joins Big Tidy Up Campaign

Gloucester City Homes has held a number of events in communities around the City as part of this year's Big Tidy Up campaign.

During September, GCH staff from across the organisation joined forces with partners and residents to complete litter picks in Coney Hill, Matson and Robinswood, Tredworth and Westgate.

The aim of the campaign was to clear as much litter as possible, to show the rest of the community how big a problem litter is, and to encourage them to start disposing of it properly.

Figures released by the UK's biggest anti-litter campaign, Keep Britain Tidy, have revealed:

- That council taxpayers in the UK fork out £500m a year to clean the streets
- Over 30m tonnes of litter are collected from our streets each year
- That thanks to the growing presence of dropped food, the UK rat population now stands at approximately sixty million
- People can be fined £80 for dropping litter. Last year 44,000 people were prosecuted.

GCH's Head of Customer Services and Community Investment, Lisa Howarth said: 'We are delighted to have been able to support the Big Tidy Up Campaign on its first anniversary. Our events have been a great success and demonstrate our commitment to working together with residents and partners to improve our communities. Our events over the last two years have made a huge difference to the appearance of our estates.'

For further information about The Big Tidy Up in Gloucester and other Gloucester City Homes events please contact Customer Services on 0800 408 2000 (freephone) or 01452 530626 (normal call charges apply), or visit [www.gloscityhomes.co.uk](http://www.gloscityhomes.co.uk)

**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 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 2000 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 in September 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