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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **4 million reasons to be happy**

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Synergy Housing Solutions Ltd are delighted to announce that they have been chosen to project manage a multi-million pound state-of-the art sheltered housing development in north Leeds. Leeds Jewish Housing Association have received a grant from the Homes and Communities agency of just over £4million, the biggest single sum ever received by LJHA.

The new development of 62 one and two bed retirement apartments will include a residents' lounge with communal kitchen facilities, guest room, conservatory, therapy suites, internal courtyard and gardens and sedum roof along with other environmental features. Combining cutting edge technology with the comfort of personalised support, a skilled housing and community team will be on hand offering 'wraparound' services for older people.

This project kick starts LJHA's visionary regeneration programme following the completion of a master planning exercise. Craig Simons, Project Director said; "This is a really exciting time for LJHA, after all the gloom and doom in the housing market it is brilliant to be able to move forward, we're now getting down to the business of making a real impact in the lives of older people by providing lifestyle solutions in affordable homes."

LJHA and Synergy Housing Solutions Ltd are committed to providing accommodation and services that meet the needs of the local community. This new development will be adjacent to two existing sheltered schemes creating a total of 130 apartments, all with linked access into a thriving Jewish Community Centre visited by a diverse range of people using restaurant, meeting rooms, educational, social and cultural facilities. LJHA's offices are also in the building along with various other local voluntary organisations.

The first of two phases of the scheme is planned to start in March 2009 the second phase will follow in Spring 2010 with a final completion date of March 2011.

**-Ends-**

## **Notes to Editors**

### **Synergy Housing Solutions Ltd - Chevin Housing Group**

The Chevin Housing Group was formed in 2001 following the merger of a number of associations who had been in operation from as far back as 1974. The current group consists of Chevin Housing Association Ltd, Harewood Housing Society Ltd and Synergy Housing Solutions Ltd. The Group operates across Yorkshire and the Humber and North Nottinghamshire, with around 6,500 rented homes in management. We also manage a further 1650 leasehold homes which include 750 private sector flats.

The vision for the Chevin Group is, 'building a better future for people and communities'. In order to achieve this we are involved in a diverse range of activities. These include; managing and maintaining rented and leasehold homes, the development of new and refurbished homes (including rented, leasehold and sale options) and regeneration services, working in partnership with local people to enable them to play a part in the future of their neighbourhoods.

The Group's reinvestment programme is around £6m per annum and the Development Programme is producing around 250 new homes each year. In 2004 the Group formed the Synergy partnership which is a regional based development partnership of associations with Chevin Housing Group as the lead partner for delivery. Synergy Housing Solutions Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of Chevin provides a development service to the Synergy partners.

### **Leeds Jewish Housing Association**

Leeds Jewish Housing Association (LjHA) is a Jewish led, minority ethnic housing association, providing homes primarily for the local Jewish Community. LjHA is committed to working in, with and for, local communities in North Leeds providing and maintaining sustainable affordable community housing.

LjHA is regulated by the TSA and has a very active tenant involvement, is a member of the National Federation of Housing Associations and the Chartered Institute of Housing.

LjHA strives to achieve high performance in all areas of activity and provide a valued service to tenants and residents. LjHA's vision is to enable Jewish people and others with limited choices to have access to good quality, appropriate and affordable housing located within their own community.

The last year has presented the LjHA with major new challenges principally as a result of the financial turmoil in the US mortgage market creating massive waves across the Atlantic. In response to these waves hitting our shores, the Association has identified its own "Seven C's" on which it has to navigate a safe passage: Certainty, Challenges, Change, Choice, Capacity, Commitment and Consideration. By following these 7 'C's' LJHA have completed a master plan through London based architects ECD (Energy conscious Designs) to create a 'New Village' on the site of the Queenshill Estate in North Leeds. The sheltered housing complex is the first development of a phased regeneration which is set to change the site beyond all recognition. Has the potential to make the biggest impact on the Leeds Jewish Community for half a century.