



**Contact:** Paula Littleboy  
**Title:** PA & Corporate Marketing Officer  
**Tele:** 01924 831009 **E-mail:** p.littleboy@chevinha.co.uk  
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## **Press Release**

**Get surfing on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2008**

**[www.chevinha.co.uk](http://www.chevinha.co.uk)**

## **Chevin launches its brand new website**

Chevin Housing Group is pleased to launch its new website on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2008.

Work has been ongoing throughout 2007, planning and working on the new website liaising with staff and customers, finding out what was needed on the site in terms of features and services, how the design should look and accessibility.

The new site has lots of great new information sources and services such as:

- Search for properties and apply for housing online
- Customers can view their rent account, report a repair and update their personal details online through a secure password login
- Apply for jobs online and access recruitment information
- Find out about the work we are doing in local communities
- See what's happening with the latest press releases
- View our latest newsletters and annual report
- Meet our Group Management Team and Board members
- Find out what services we offer such as aids & adaptations, tenancy support, debt advise, and anti-social behaviour support
- Access our recent Audit Commission and Housing Corporation reports
- View a wide range of our policies
- See answers to frequently asked questions
- Access pages in a range of formats such as larger font, different languages, speech reader format option

**And much more.....**

Steve Close, Group Chief Executive of Chevin Housing Group said: "The design of the website, which involved tenants and staff, ensures that clear information on the Group and our services is easy to access and use. The site is a great source of information providing a gateway to a whole range of services and features. Examples of how our customers can use it include: being able to search for a property, view a property inside, apply on line, check rent accounts and report repairs. We will soon be launching our Rosa Homes website which will advertise all our homes".

## **Note to editors**

### ***Background to 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 and Harewood Housing Society Ltd. Chevin, the parent company owns, manages and maintains the Group's rented homes and Harewood manages and maintains the Group's leasehold properties and also provides a management service to private sector leaseholders.

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 operates across Yorkshire and the Humber and North Nottinghamshire, with around 6,000 rented homes in management. We also manage a further 1650 leasehold homes which include 750 private sector flats.

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.

An inspection carried out by the Audit Commission in 2006 determined that Chevin provides a good 2 star service with promising prospects for improvement. The report commented that, 'Chevin is a customer focussed organisation, which develops services based on customer feedback'.

The Group employs around 200 staff headed by the Group Chief Executive, Steve Close.