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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Chevin getting greener**

Lee Winterbottom has recently been appointed 'Sustainability Implementation Manager', a new post within the Chevin Housing Group.

Lee's role is to lead on and develop the Group's Green Strategy and Action Plan. Key aims are to reduce the Association's carbon footprint through researching sustainable materials, products and practices. This will inform the development and refurbishment programmes, sustainable procurement and will improve the efficiency of offices and working methods.

**Lee says** "I am really excited about this new role, we have recently implemented a 'Chevin Green Action Plan' which sets out what we intend to do over the next few years to improve the sustainability of the Group and our operations. I am working with the reinvestment and development teams to ensure we improve the environmental sustainability of new and existing homes in terms of the components used in building and improving them and reducing the costs of heating and lighting etc. I am also working on plans for lowering Chevin's carbon footprint, this involves looking at a range of measures, for example: planning to replace inefficient lighting in offices and other Chevin buildings as and when the existing lights fail; replacing Chevin vans with more efficient types when leases expire; identifying office machinery which is more energy efficient along with implementing an eco-friendly font across the Group which uses 20% less printer toner each time a print is done".

Lee has implemented some quick wins that have been put in to practice at little or no cost such as:

- Banned the purchase of plastic drinking cups in offices
- Fitting low energy light bulbs on change of tenancy
- Power down plugs and low energy bulbs offered out at tenant conferences
- Insulation top ups to existing homes (through grant schemes)
- Waste sorting at DLO base to reduce disposal costs
- Recycling of toner cartridges and old mobile phones
- Improving on what we recycle across office bases

**Cont.....**

In terms of Chevin's work on maintaining and upgrading existing dwellings and providing new dwellings Lee will be seeking to 'green' the specification Chevin use and will be working with staff on the affordable warmth programme, seeking to reduce power consumption and costs for tenants. He will be responsible for researching new materials and components which have a lower carbon footprint and which offer greater sustainability and advising their use across Chevin's work.

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### **Notes to Editors**

#### **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 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 6,500 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.