

## Golden Gates Housing Trust press release

30 November 2011



### **Golden Gates Housing Trust celebrates first birthday...**

**Golden Gates Housing Trust (GGHT)** turned one year old on the 29 November and hosted a number of events to celebrate a year of achievements. The Trust's Chief Executive Peter Mercer was on hand to launch the Trust's new digital television and Smartphone site before visiting a tenant who had received a new bathroom that had been installed as part of its Capital Investment Programme.

GGHT launched on the 29 November 2010 following a successful ballot in which 91.9% of tenants voted in favour of transfer from Warrington Borough Council. Since then the Trust have started work on a massive investment programme as it plans to spend £105 million pounds over the first five years improving its homes and neighbourhoods to the Warrington Standard.

In the first 12 months GGHT have already fitted new energy efficient doors and windows to 1,420 properties, installed 223 new kitchens, 136 new bathrooms and completed fencing at 124 of their properties. They have also installed new energy efficient boilers and have been fitting cavity wall insulation, loft insulation and solar panels to its properties to help their tenants save money on their energy bills.

The Trust have also managed to clear its backlog of Aids & Adaptations and have recruited two new handyperson to help their new and older customers to look after and improve their homes. Improvements for customers have seen the Trust introduce new repair response times, double the amount of estate inspections and employ extra staff to respond quicker to reports of Anti Social Behaviour.

On transfer the Trust made a commitment to supporting local employment and in the first 12 months have filled 26 jobs with local people, including the recruitment of 10 apprentices to work in all areas of the business.

**GGHT Chief Executive Peter Mercer, said:** “It is hard to believe that it is only 12 months since we launched as Golden Gates Housing Trust. We recognise that there is still plenty of work to be done as we aim to improve our neighbourhoods but I am extremely proud of what we have achieved in such a short period of time. I am looking forward to building on our successes and achievements over the next 12 months.”

-IMAGES-



GGHT Chair Roy Smith and Chief Executive Peter Mercer with a group of tenants at the First Birthday event.



GGHT tenants and staff celebrate the Trust's first birthday.



GGHT tenants release balloons to help celebrate a successful first year for the Trust.



GGHT Chief Executive meets Mr Gardner who has recently had a wet room completed by the Trust and who shared his birthday with GGHT.



GGHT Chief Executive meets Mr Wilkinson who has recently had a bathroom completed by the Trust.

-ENDS-

For further information contact Neil Martin, Communications and Involvement Manager [neil.martin@gght.org.uk](mailto:neil.martin@gght.org.uk) or phone 0800 25 26 27

### **About Golden Gates Housing Trust**

Golden Gates Housing Trust (GGHT) launched on 29 November 2010, formed as part of the Stock Transfer of 8,700 homes from Warrington Borough Council. The transfer converted the successful Arms Length Management Organisation Golden Gates Housing into a registered provider of social housing.

GGHT will be investing around £105M in tenants' homes and neighbourhoods over the first 5 years and £530M over 30 years to deliver the "Warrington Standard". This Standard has been developed by GGHT's tenants to ensure that improvements and investment is prioritised in the areas that tenants have said are a priority. Plans include the installation of double glazing and secured front and rear doors in all properties over the next five years as well as environmental improvements such as fencing, gates and lighting.