

Golden Gates Housing Trust press release

28 September 2011



GGHT Statement on Proposed Plans for Knutsford Road Community Flat

Peter Mercer, **Chief Executive of GGHT**, responded: "I appreciate that our decision to return the community flat at Knutsford Road to the housing stock will have come as a disappointment to some; however we have to balance this against the cost of maintaining the facility, its use by the local community and the increasing demand for our properties.

"We currently have over 13,000 applicants on the waiting list for our properties and demand for social housing has continued to increase in the current economic climate. A recent review of our community flats has found that the cost of running this facility is continuing to increase in terms of lost rent, council tax, utility bills and health and safety audits. The review also found that the flat at Knutsford Road is currently only being used on a limited basis and by a small number of residents.

"We welcome the opportunity to work with representatives from the residents association and the local Councillors to increase community engagement in this area. Officers from our Tenant Participation team will be meeting shortly with all of those involved to support the group and help secure alternative venues."

-ENDS-

For further information contact Neil Martin, Communications and Involvement Manager communications@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, path and lighting.