

For Release

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Housing Transfer Success in Lambeth



Resident led housing association, WATMOS Community Homes, is celebrating the transfer of 1400 homes from Lambeth Council, following a successful resident ballot.

A year long campaign saw residents from tenant managed homes on Ethelred, Magdalen and Thorlands estates given a 28 day period to decide who should become

their landlord.

The transfer agreement is currently being drawn up and transfer of the Lambeth homes will officially take place in March 2012.

This landmark transfer will bring new jobs to the area, improve the local economy and more importantly see an investment of £24 million over the next five years alone into improving the living conditions on these mainly high rise estates.

Chief Executive, Ursula Barrington, is delighted by the result, stating “this is the outcome that both residents and staff have been working towards for the last 12 months. This is an amazing opportunity to work with the residents in Lambeth, to ensure their homes meet the decent homes standard and to empower them to be involved in the decision making process. Our goal is to increase community engagement, place greater emphasis on the importance of resident participation and in turn create stronger, stable communities in environments that people wish to live”.

The housing transfer will ensure that the three estates will continue to manage their own homes and be involved in determining the priorities for the investment programme through their resident majority estate committees.

New kitchens, bathrooms, roofs, improved security and environmental improvements are just some of the areas that the estates will benefit from, following transfer.

Mayor of Walsall, Councillor Garry Perry, said “WATMOS in Walsall have always been the trailblazers in terms of improving the living standards of their tenants. This was reached through meaningful involvement of residents in the types of improvements that made the most difference to their everyday lives and the local environment around them. To secure the Lambeth transfer is not only great news but is further evidence that the model of housing Improvement through tenant participation is one that has gained National recognition and interest”.

WATMOS Community Homes, based in Walsall in the West Midlands, was originally set up by a group of tenants in 2003, following the transfer of their homes from Walsall Borough Council.

The organisation prides itself on local decision making, devolving power to its residents to enhance their neighbourhoods and meet their local needs. Residents are involved at a ground roots level on a daily basis, managing their estates and running their housing management and maintenance services along with resident involvement activities.

Notes to News Desk

WATMOS Community Homes is a charitable housing association of eight tenant managed estates, which provides accommodation for people in housing need in the Walsall area of the West Midlands with each of our estates run by the tenants and residents who live there.

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Walsall Mayor Contact: Councillor Garry Perry can be contacted on 07960 503 512.

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