

NEWS RELEASE

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NEIGHBOURHOOD AWARDS CELEBRATE COMMUNITY DIVERSITY

Housing associations are supporting community diversity as part of the National Housing Federation's Neighbourhood Awards 2006.

The Neighbourhood Awards 2006 - hosted by TV **Eamonn Holmes** and sponsored by RSM Robson Rhodes - celebrates the ways in which housing associations make their local communities a better place to live.

5 million people in England live in homes provided by not-for-profit housing associations.

The Diversity and Race Award acknowledges the best contribution by a housing association to provide services that meet the needs of black and minority ethnic customers.

60 housing association residents will judge 10 award categories, including Best Neighbour, with a panel of experts choosing an overall champion from the winners of each individual category.

Last year's winners, the Industrial Dwellings Society (IDS), wanted to establish a better relationship with young people in order to understand their needs and concerns. IDS trained twenty young people to act as peer representatives and establish a young tenants' group. They have worked hard to improve facilities and shown that young people can be committed and responsible.

David Orr, chief executive, National Housing Federation, said:

"Housing associations are dedicated to providing good housing and services for the whole community.

"Understanding the needs of minority and under-represented groups is crucial to delivering homes that meet their needs and which support them within the wider community."

The awards ceremony will take place at a special evening and dinner event at the National Housing Federation's Annual Conference in Birmingham on Thursday 21 September 2006.

The opening date for entries is Friday 31 March, closing on Friday 19 May, with a short list announced on Friday 7 July. All members of the National Housing Federation are eligible to enter.

More information on the awards criteria and how to apply is available at www.neighbourhoodawards.org.uk or from Tessa Williams on 020 7067 1173 or neighbourhoodawards@housing.org.uk



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For more information on sponsoring an individual awards, contact

Julian Hurst at Foremarke Exhibitions on

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Notes to editors

The **National Housing Federation** represents 1400 independent, not-for-profit housing associations in England. Together, our members provide 2 million affordable homes for around 5 million people. www.housing.org.uk

iN business for neighbourhoods is a long-term project to improve the performance of housing associations and challenge negative perceptions of the sector and its customers. www.iNbiz.org

Neighbourhood Awards 2006 – formerly the iNbiz Awards.

For more details, awards categories and criteria and including results from 2005, please visit www.neighbourhoodawards.org.uk

The full Neighbourhood Awards 2006 categories are:

- **Best Neighbour** *sponsored by Keynote/Prime Focus*
- **Customer Frontline Award** *sponsored by Northern Counties Housing Association*
- **Local Engagement and Involvement Award**
- **Leader of Tomorrow Award** *sponsored by Inside Housing*
- **Communications Award** *sponsored by Cisco Systems*
- **Peaceful and Better Neighbourhoods Awards**
- **Partner of Choice Award** *sponsored by the Riverside Group*
- **Employer of Choice Award** *sponsored by Trinity Public Sector*
- **Independent Living & Older People Award**
- **Diversity & Race Award**
- **Overall winner** *sponsored by Aareon*

The overall winner for the 2006 Awards will be selected from the other category winners by a panel of invited judges.