

NEWS RELEASE

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HOUSING SECTOR SEARCHES FOR STAR LEADER

The search is on for the most inspirational leader of a housing association, as part of the National Housing Federation's Neighbourhood Awards 2006.

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

Not-for-profit housing associations provide affordable homes and services for over 5 million people in England, and have a combined turn over of £6 billion per year. They are the most successful example of the not-for-profit or 'Third Sector' social business model

The Leader of Tomorrow Award- a new category for the 2006 Awards – is looking for housing association leaders who inspire colleagues to deliver excellent services to customers and the local community. All staff or board members are eligible for the award.

The Award is one of the eleven Neighbourhood Awards up for grabs, which also includes Best Neighbour, Customer Frontline and Employer of Choice, plus an overall winner's award.

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

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

"Housing associations are spearheading the not-for-profit business model, building thousands of affordable homes and offering community services such as employment training and youth activities.

"Housing associations aim to create better homes, safer communities and improved quality of life for local people. It's an ambitious agenda.

"The Leader of Tomorrow award will recognise a new generation of housing association leaders, who combine private sector acumen with a public sector service ethos that means real benefits for local people."

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.



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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 020 8877 8898 or julian.hurst@foremarke.uk.com

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**
- **Peaceful and Better Neighbourhood Award**
- **Leader of Tomorrow Award** *sponsored by Inside Housing*
- **Communications Award** *sponsored by Cisco Systems*
- **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*

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