

**Press Release June 7<sup>th</sup> 2007**

**Leaders in the North rising to the challenge-  
Northern Housing Consortium members shaping housing futures.**

The Northern Housing Consortium is ready to pick up the gauntlet laid down by Richard McCarthy, Director General at Communities and Local Government, and John Carleton, Director (North) Housing Corporation, to help shape the future for housing in the North. Both were amongst the speakers at the Consortium's 'Leaders in the North' event, which took place on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June at Leeds United Football Club.

John Moralee, Chief Executive of the Northern Housing Consortium, said, "We were very pleased that both Richard and John were able to participate in our second annual 'Leaders in the North' event, helping the Consortium champion the needs and capabilities of the housing sector in the North. We are facing several challenges, from addressing the growing affordability problems in the North; supporting the implementation of Communities England; tackling the link between housing and worklessness, as explored by the Hills Review; through to delivering on our ambitions for transformational change in the North. 'Leaders in the North' is the perfect environment in which leading figures in the sector can come together to understand, debate and deliver this challenging agenda. With a new Prime Minister about to take up office, this was an ideal opportunity to engage with Richard and John to ensure that a strong, coherent message is delivered from the diverse housing sector in the North to Gordon Brown. We look forward to working in partnership with our members and government to continue the debate and to deliver truly sustainable communities in the North. Our 'Northern Development Summit' in November is the event where we will revisit the issues raised by 'Leaders', and it was encouraging to hear Richard pledging his commitment to come back for the Summit to continue the discussion. I think it demonstrates Government's view of the Consortium as the conduit enabling these very valuable discussions to take place."

The event also provided an opportunity for the Northern Housing Consortium to showcase its new corporate branding and the first screening of its corporate film, which celebrates positive images of housing across the North, as well as the launch of its new thematic approach to working. John Moralee explained, "We have identified four key themes which will have a major impact on our members and their work: Quality of Life, Quality of Place, Performance Improvement, and Investment and Resources. We are already working on some significant projects which will benefit and assist our members within these areas. In July, we will host a series of regional roadshows for our members across the North East, North West and Yorkshire and the Humber, and we look forward to being able to use these to launch some major new initiatives."

For further information, please visit [www.northern-consortium.org.uk](http://www.northern-consortium.org.uk)  
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