

**12<sup>th</sup> March 2010**

**Northern Housing Consortium Press Release – Grounds Maintenance**

Consortium Procurement, the collaborative purchasing arm of the Northern Housing Consortium, today announced the launch of its latest procurement framework, Grounds Maintenance.

The framework includes the maintenance of grassed areas, shrubs, hedges, flower beds and trees in communal areas and residents' gardens.

The new framework has been drawn up with the assistance of Incommunities, the largest social landlord in the Bradford district with around 21,300 rented homes and almost 1,000 leasehold properties.

Andrew Carlin, Commercial Director, Northern Housing Consortium commented: "Much of our procurement activities are in direct response to our members requirements so we were delighted to work with one of our members, Incommunities, and draw on their expertise in developing the new framework.

"As an organisation, our focus is always on our Members requirements. We have appointed three highly professional partners to this national framework agreement – Continental Landscapes Ltd, Sones Landscaping and Veolia Environmental Services - and been delighted by the interest in the framework from across the membership.

"What we have found is that members recognise the contribution professionally maintained grounds make in promoting a positive impression of their neighbourhoods and communities. This is something that really matters to residents and is becoming a greater focus for our Members as the Decent Homes programme reaches its final stages.

Ken Nicholson, Director of Incommunities – development and regeneration said: "We have previously worked with Consortium Procurement on the development of their Gas Servicing & Maintenance framework. So it is an extremely positive testament to the relationship we have with Consortium Procurement and the expertise within Incommunities that we have been involved in developing this new framework."

“As a caring and responsible social landlord we are committed to providing a high quality, value for money grounds maintenance service to our customers. I am sure the launch of the new framework will help other Consortium members to deliver a high level of service to their customers at competitive prices. We look forward to continuing to work with Consortium Procurement on further projects in the future.”

For further information please contact [solutions@consortiumprocurement.org.uk](mailto:solutions@consortiumprocurement.org.uk).

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#### **Notes to editors**

1. The Northern Housing Consortium is a non-political, not for profit, member based organisation, whose members between them manage almost 90% of social housing in the North. Our main roles are:
  - To provide a comprehensive range of timely, relevant and affordable services for members with a distinct focus on Northern issues
  - To take a lead role in enabling the improvement of housing and organisational performance in the North
  - To work with Government and other bodies to ensure the region benefits from the resources and funding available to provide safe, vibrant, sustainable communities

Our provision of support is delivered across four themed areas: Quality of Life, Quality of Place, Performance Improvement and Investment & Resources.

2. Operating on a national level, Consortium Procurement is the collaborative purchasing team of the Northern Housing Consortium, responsible for the development and delivery of business solutions to meet the needs of our membership.
3. Frameworks are compliant with EU Procurement Directives.
4. Frameworks are accessible by current or future Members of the Northern Housing Consortium.
5. Consortium Procurement currently offers a total of 12 frameworks.
6. The Grounds Maintenance Framework is available for a period of 4 years.
7. Incommunities, is the largest social landlord in the Bradford district with around 21,300 rented homes and almost 1,000 leasehold properties.