



PRESS RELEASE

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PLACES FOR PEOPLE GROUP ENTRY CELEBRATIONS FOR COTMAN HOUSING

The sun shone brightly yesterday as Norwich-based Cotman Housing Association hosted a big celebration event to commemorate its entry into the Places for People Group.

The celebration event took place at the Association's Bowthorpe Hall head office on the afternoon of Tuesday 12th May. Over 100 guests were in attendance, including Board Members and Executive staff from both organisations, Chief Executives from Housing Associations around the region, representatives from Local Authorities, and many of the City's development consultants and architects.

The guest of honour on the day was Zenna Atkins, Group Chair of the Places for People Group, who officially marked the Association's entry into the Group alongside Sarah Dixon, Chair of Cotman Housing Association. Music and entertainment was provided by the winner of the British Jazz Rising Star Award in 2008, Freddie Gavita, and his jazz band.

Cotman is one of East Anglia's leading housing associations, whilst Places for People is one of the UK's largest property management and development groups. By entering

the Group, Cotman aims to deliver excellent customer services and large scale developments across East Anglia, by combining the large scale regeneration and development expertise of Places for People with Cotman's strong experience and reputation in housing management and high quality customer services.

By becoming part of the Places for People Group, Cotman Housing now has a combined portfolio of over 2,100 properties across East Anglia, principally in Norfolk and North Suffolk. These properties will be managed by Cotman, which has over 30 years' experience in housing management in the area.

"We are delighted to be joining the Places for People Group, and it has been wonderful to have the opportunity to officially celebrate this with our key partners today" said Cotman's Managing Director, Vivien Farrow, speaking at the event. "By working alongside Places for People and by taking advantage of the Group's initiatives and resources, we will be able to provide a more extensive service to our residents, and local Places for People customers will benefit from the strong performance reputation that we have in the local area".

For more information about the work of Cotman Housing Association, telephone 01603 731699 or visit www.cotman-housing.org.uk.

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Notes to editor:

- Photo Caption (left to right): Places for People Group Chair Zenna Atkins, with Cotman Housing Association's Managing Director Vivien Farrow and Cotman's Chair Sarah Dixon.
- For more information, please contact Information and PR Officer Ben Veal on 01603 731653 or e-mail ben.veal@cotman-housing.org.uk.

Places for People:

Places for People is one of the UK's largest property management and development groups, which is responsible for over 60,000 properties.

It has over 130,000 customers and provides solutions that focus on making neighbourhoods prosperous, popular and therefore sustainable into the future.

It is also a major developer and provides a range of social support services including affordable childcare nurseries; elderly care support and financial services such as mortgages and low-cost loans. Its vision for regeneration is not just about delivering housing and community facilities, but also delivering genuine choices and opportunities. This includes choices about whether to rent, buy or have an equity stake, and about the environment, training, employment and childcare provision in a place.

Cotman Housing Association:

Cotman Housing Association (CHA) is a non-profit-making housing association which aims to ensure that residents who need specialist housing care and support receive it effectively, and strives to provide our residents with appropriate homes, all designed, built and maintained to the highest possible standard.

The benefits to Cotman in joining forces with Places for People include:

- Access for customers to affordable finance, support services and flexible tenure options.
- Access to a wide range of customer services including web based repair ordering and online rent payments.
- The ability to compete with larger regional and national players for development and management opportunities.
- The opportunity to participate in large scale mixed-tenure initiatives.
- Access to in-house industry experts in sustainability, regeneration and development.

The benefits to Places for People in joining forces with Cotman include:

- Strengthened expertise in the management of rural housing, and local delivery of high quality services.
- The opportunity to develop effective partnership opportunities with Local Authorities in a strategic growth area.
- Access to local knowledge and key contacts in a priority development area.
- The opportunity to consistently improve service delivery to customers.