



FAO: News editors/Journalists

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PLACES FOR PEOPLE AND COTMAN DISCUSS JOINTLY DELIVERING HOMES IN EAST ANGLIA

Places for People – one of the UK’s largest property management and development groups – and Norwich-based Cotman Housing Association, one of East Anglia’s leading associations, have today announced that they are in discussions on proposals that would see Cotman become part of the Places for People Group, managing a combined portfolio of over 2,100 properties mainly in Norfolk. The proposal plays to the strengths of both organisations, combining the large scale regeneration and development expertise of Places for People with Cotman’s strong experience and local knowledge in delivering high-quality housing management and customer services.

David Cowans, Chief Executive of Places for People, said:

“If we go ahead, we can look forward to combining our skills and resources with Cotman’s strong experience and excellence in housing management. Working together we can make a real difference in creating sustainable and cohesive communities“.

Vivien Farrow, Chief Executive of Cotman Housing Association said:

“Cotman’s Board can see many potential benefits for both organisations in Cotman entering the Group and we intend to explore further, consulting fully with all our customers, our key partners, our employees and the Housing Corporation before taking a final decision“.

As part of the proposed arrangements, Cotman will keep its existing identity, Board, and governance structures, but operate as a subsidiary of Places for People. It is expected a decision will be made by the end of the year.

- Ends -

For all media enquiries please contact:

Places for People

David Mills on 07929 161444, 020 7520 7403 or e-mail david.mills@placesforpeople.co.uk

Cotman Housing Association

Vivien Farrow on 01603 731699 or email vivien.farrow@cotman-housing.org.uk

Ben Veal on 01603 731653 or email ben.veal@cotman-housing.org.uk

Notes to editor:**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.

2007 saw the total number of properties managed by the Association increase to 1,360.

The 2007 Housing Corporation Key Performance Indicators show Cotman to be in the top quartile of associations nationally for meeting the Decent Homes Standard, re-let times, minimizing the number of properties vacant and residents' satisfaction with the way the Association deals with repairs and maintenance; this being evidence of the Association's commitment to delivering efficient housing management and maintenance services.