

## Press Release

### Housing Pathfinder Win for Cambridgeshire Partnerships

8 August 2007

The Housing Corporation announced today that our client Cambridgeshire Partnerships Limited (CPL) have been named as the strategic development partner for the delivery of affordable housing on three strategic sites in Cambridge - Northstowe, Southern Fringe and North West Cambridge. The three sites are in areas where there is significant planned economic growth and an acute shortage of affordable homes.

CPL is a new joint venture between leading housing associations Bedfordshire Pilgrims Housing Association and Aldwyck Housing Association, in partnership with local housing associations King Street Housing Society, The Papworth Trust, and Hundred Houses Society.

The selection forms part of the 'Cambridge Challenge' a new pilot investment process to test the benefits of identifying a strategic partner for affordable housing provision at the earliest stage in the design and development of new communities. The selection involved a partnership approach from the Housing Corporation with a panel of key local stakeholders including local councils, land owners, English Partnerships and Cambridge Horizons.

CPL were selected from a shortlist of bidders for being best able to contribute to well-designed communities with functional and high-quality homes. The proposal includes establishment of a separate legal entity and provides efficiencies and broader benefits to deliver affordable homes in the three designated sites and ongoing management of the public realm.

Margaret Allen, Housing Corporation Field Director (Central) said, "This announcement marks the start of an exciting time for affordable housing in Cambridge. Through partnership we feel confident that this approach offers all involved bodies the opportunity to gain from each others skills and experiences. The selection of CPL is the start of a process which will see key stakeholders working together towards the successful delivery of homes and sustainable new communities. CPL have put forward a package that places great store on community development and the quality of social infrastructure, but is also financially competitive. It is now for them to take forward discussions with stakeholders and the next part of the challenge."

Our team for this project is led by Managing Director Mark Johnson, assisted by Matthew Wolton and Oliver Higgins. Mark Johnson said: "This is a major coup for our clients and is likely to be a showpiece project for community-led regeneration and affordable housing, acting as a test-bed for a new investment strategy by the Housing Corporation. We are delighted to be working with BPHA, Aldwyck and their local partners on such an important and exciting project for the regional economy and we congratulate them on their success."

**For further information please contact:**

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