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**News Release from**  
Stockport Homes  
1 St. Peter's Square  
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### **Stockport Homes has £45 million impact on the local economy**

A recent study has revealed that Stockport Homes' £30 million of expenditure has had a £45 million impact on the local economy. The findings also revealed that although it only employs 450 staff directly, it supports 743 jobs, when its supply chain is taken into account.

The study into the economic impact of social housing providers in the North was commissioned by the Northern Housing Consortium and conducted by Sheffield Hallam University.

Stockport Homes earns over £700,000 each year from collecting water charges on behalf of United Utilities. This funds 13.5 jobs and allows investment in a range of ground-breaking projects to help tenants and the wider community of Stockport including:

- Rent Deposit Scheme – this helped 90 households who were homeless to move into private rented accommodation last year, reducing their reliance on scarce social housing.
- Offender Service – this helped 102 ex-prisoners into accommodation, reducing their risk of re-offending on release by up to 20 per cent.
- Employment and Volunteering Service – this helped 24 people into education or training and 19 into employment last year. In addition, 64 people provided over 1,000 hours of volunteering that helped them improve their chances of getting employment.
- Mortgage Repossession Advice – this helped 170 households with advice and prevented 51 from being made homeless after getting into difficulties with their mortgage payments last year.

The study found that these projects had a dramatic return on the relatively small investment Stockport Homes made in them. For example:

- The cumulative impact of benefit and money advice given to people last year was £4.3 million in gained benefits and reduced debts.
- The funding advice given to community groups brought in £350,000 of grant funding, attracting a further £750,000 of match funding into Stockport's neighbourhoods.
- Preventing mortgage repossessions resulted in a saving for the exchequer of an estimated £800,000.

Photo (from left to right): Simon Welch, Head of Rehousing Services, Stockport Homes; Rebecca Connolly, Housing Options Officer, Stockport Homes; Councillor Alanna Vine, Board Member, Stockport Homes.

## **ENDS**

### **Notes to Editor**

1. The report was shared with MPs and Peers at a Westminster reception yesterday on 22 January and was formally launched at an event in Leeds on 24 January and launched in Stockport on 7 February.

2. Housing organisations consist of the social housing sector – housing associations, council housing and housing managed on behalf of councils by arms length management organisations. Between them, the housing organisations encompassed by the study manage 1,198,000 homes across the three northern regions.

3. The Northern Housing Consortium (NHC) represents housing organisations across the North of England and is the voice of housing in the North.

4. The Centre for Regional and Economic Social Research (CRESR) at Sheffield Hallam University is one of the UK's leading academic research centres specialising in social and economic regeneration, housing and labour market analysis. For more information, go to <http://www.shu.ac.uk/research/cresr/>

5. Further information on the study including:

- Copies of the main report, The Economic Impact of Housing Organisation on the North, by Chris Dayson, Paul Lawless and Ian Wilson
- Case study reports for Durham City Homes, Helena Partnerships, Leeds Federated Housing Association, Liverpool Housing Trust, St Leger Homes of Doncaster, Stockport Homes and Wakefield and District Housing
- A short summary report featuring infographics, by the NHC
- A short animation which summarises the findings can be obtained by visiting - <http://www.northern-consortium.org.uk/economy>

6. Twitter activity relating to the report and the launch will use #HsgImpact

7. Representatives from the Consortium and the University are available for comment. To arrange an interview, please contact Louise Coulter on 0191 5661032.

8. For more information about Stockport Homes' involvement in the study please contact: Jane Ratcliff, Marketing & Communications Manager, Stockport Homes. Tel: 0161 474 2863 or email: [jane.ratcliff@stockporthomes.org](mailto:jane.ratcliff@stockporthomes.org)