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■ IMMEDIATE RELEASE

From Eyesore to Icon – Sutton celebrating Chaucer House as largest social housing improvement project to date

Chaucer House was unveiled last week in an event to celebrate a significant landmark for social housing in the borough as part of Sutton Housing Partnership's Decent Homes Programme.

Councillor Richard Clifton, the Mayor of Sutton, officially marked the end of the works at Chaucer House along with Sutton Housing Partnership, contractor Mulalley, consultant Pellings, the London Borough of Sutton and residents, following extensive improvement works.

Sutton's largest and most complex investment project to date came to a close in October, with the 1960s neglected block receiving substantial refurbishment, delivered by Sutton Housing Partnership on behalf of the London Borough of Sutton.

The £13 million milestone project, is one of the first of its kind in UK social housing to install state-of-the art fire safety systems in the building and innovative sprinkler systems installed in every home designed to improve fire safety.

Additionally and during the 3 year programme, all 96 homes have benefitted from new kitchens and bathrooms, heating systems, electrical rewiring, external cladding, windows and new lifts being installed.

The building's new external cladding system is designed to significantly improve energy efficiency and environmental performance of the building, reducing utility bills, a priority for all households.

The energy rating at Chaucer House has been increased by approximately 25% from the original structure completed in the 1960s. The estimated annual carbon emission for a 2 bedroom flat has been almost halved. This is a reduction from 2,889kg in 1965 to 1,531kg today, which is a substantial difference.

Additionally, a number of developments that will enhance the external environment and community life are being installed, such as a new recycling zone and improving parking areas.

From the beginning of the works, Sutton Housing Partnership and contractors have worked with residents through dedicated Resident Liaison teams, to consult and involve them in decision making throughout the project.

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The event held at Chaucer House celebrated the close of works and the displayed partnership working between Sutton Housing Partnership, the London Borough of Sutton, Pellings, Mulalley and their sub-contractors. The Mayor of Sutton personally thanked the involvement and patience of the residents that have lived there whilst the major works were carried out.

The event started with Councillors and The Mayor of Sutton, taking a tour of the internal and external works, including viewing a resident's property, before half term activities for children and residents proceeded.

The Mayor of Sutton, Councillor Richard Clifton said:

"I am delighted to say I am the Mayor of a London borough that has been responsible for leading the way in providing innovative fire safety systems for our residents in every Chaucer House home. I am proud that Sutton Housing Partnership, The London Borough of Sutton, Pellings and Mulalley, all put residents' safety at the forefront of the works. I would like to congratulate Sutton Housing Partnership in their 10th anniversary year and I'd particularly like to pay tribute to all of those involved in working together to create a superb refurbishment. What has been achieved is outstanding."

Ruth Dombey, leader of Sutton Council and Ward Councillor for Sutton North said:

"Creating excellent quality homes for Sutton residents is one of our top priorities. The new and improved Chaucer House has demonstrated the significance of Decent Homes funding which improves the lives of our council tenants and leaseholders, the local area and the investment to Sutton. We are extremely pleased with the results shown and proud to be part of the milestone project."

Andrew Taylor, Chief Executive of SHP said:

"We are proud to celebrate the close of works at Chaucer House, with this event showcasing the significant investment the project has brought to Sutton and to each home at Chaucer House. This project has not been without its difficulties and challenges, with many lessons being learnt along the way. It remains the most complex project of the Decent Homes programme, but I'm sure we would agree that the final outcome is cause for celebration. SHP has a strong working partnership with Mulalley and the quality of works being delivered is reflected in residents' satisfactions with works completed."

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Colin Watson, Operations Director for Mulalley said:

“We are extremely proud of the works we have completed, in partnership with SHP and Pellings, to totally transform Chaucer House, which is now an impressive, modernised, block of flats that enhances the area and has improved residents lives.”

ENDS

Notes for Editors

- For more information please contact Philippa Somerset on 020 8915 2364 or email philippa.somerset@suttonhousingpartnership.org.uk

- SHP is celebrating 10 years as an ALMO (Arms Length Management Organisation) and award winning housing provider. SHP delivers housing services on behalf of the London Borough of Sutton, managing nearly 8,000 tenanted and leasehold homes in Sutton providing a wide range of housing and management services for residents. This includes day to day repairs, major works projects, cleaning and grounds maintenance, management of sheltered housing and supporting community development.

- Follow SHP on twitter at [@SHP_Sutton](https://twitter.com/SHP_Sutton) and like SHP on Facebook at [/SuttonHousingPartnership](https://www.facebook.com/SuttonHousingPartnership).