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**Contacts:** Siobhan O'Rourke

**Tel:** 020 8583 4431

**Email:** [siobhan.o'rourke@hounslowhomes.org.uk](mailto:siobhan.o'rourke@hounslowhomes.org.uk)

## **Have your say to help us spend £2.7million!**

Hounslow Homes and the London Borough of Hounslow are proud to announce the launch of a brand new initiative called Project Empower. The two-year project starting in June 2009 gives residents the chance to share their views on how to spend £2.7m of tenants' money held as reserves in the Housing Revenue Account.

Project Empower will release the reserves totalling £4m. £1.3m of it will be spent on aids and adaptations for homes of tenants with disabilities, leaving £2.7m to be spent directly on other estate projects. The first stages of project planning will take place this year and the funds will be spent over the course of a two-year programme.

Project Empower is all about listening to residents so that Hounslow Homes can get a better understanding of how they want to see £2.7m of reserves funding spent to improve their communities. We want to hear directly from residents. Is improved rubbish and recycling facilities a priority or is it improved CCTV?

Councillor Jon Hardy LBH Executive Lead Member for Housing & Community Safety, is leading on the initiative, and hopes residents participate and share his enthusiasm for the project.

" Residents know their communities best and we are giving them the power to decide what their priorities are. We want to hear from all residents. After all it is your homes, your estates and your choice."

## Don't forget to have your say!

Residents have had the opportunity to attend opening meetings throughout the borough to get more information about Project Empower and share their views in person. Resident's ideas included:

- refurbishments of lifts,
- sheds for estates,
- improved fencing and;
- increased lighting.

The project's dual aim is to improve service provision and to empower residents by involving them fully in the process of identifying areas in need of improvement. After all, residents know their communities best!

Residents have been sent surveys to cast their votes or suggest alternative ideas. Surveys must be returned to Hounslow Homes by 12th June. Hounslow Homes will then count the votes and the panel will decide where to spend the funds, guided by what residents have selected.

For more information visit our website [www.hounslowhomes.org.uk](http://www.hounslowhomes.org.uk)

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## Notes To Editor

- Hounslow Homes was formed in 2002 as one of the first Arms Length Management Organisations (ALMOs) in the country. Hounslow Homes is tasked with managing the council's 16,500 homes and has delivered £120 million of refurbishment and improvement works to bring its housing stock up to the government's 'Decent Homes' standard, which took effect in 2006.
- The ALMO was awarded the highest possible three-star rating by the Audit Commission for excellent housing services in 2005.
- Services to residents include a free phone number and service, care-taking and ground maintenance