

Press release
Date: 21 July 2010

2010
ROTHERHAM LTD

TURNING HOUSES INTO HOMES

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Fewer homes stand empty

Council rent and council tax payers in Rotherham are benefiting from a drop in the number of properties left empty, thanks to the work of 2010 Rotherham.

Properties become vacant every week and are refurbished in preparation for new tenants. This means that, at any one point in time, there is always a proportion of empty homes in the borough.

A total of 244 council homes were vacant at the end of June compared to 346 homes the previous year which means that the percentage of empty council housing stock in the town has fallen from 1.60 to 1.17 over the last year.

The rent loss associated with empty homes has dropped too – it now stands at 1.2 per cent of potential total rental income compared to 1.94 per cent in the previous year (end of June figures).

2010 Rotherham says this represents better value for money for council rent and tax payers as the rental received from these properties can be spent on improved services.

The average re-let time for an empty home in the borough also fell last year from 39.45 days to 18.35 days, which makes 2010 Rotherham the best performer in the region and one of the best in the country.

Meanwhile, satisfaction with the 2010 Rotherham's allocations and lettings service remains high, with over 98 per cent of customers stating they are happy with the service delivered by the management agency.

Empty Homes Manager Adrian Cheetham commented: "The team is rightly proud of what it has achieved for the town over the last year. We have worked in partnership with other parts of 2010 Rotherham and Rotherham Borough Council to identify improvements and the results of all our efforts are plain to see.

"We and our partners hope to do even better over the next year to raise our national ranking still further."

Ends

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



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CUSTOMER SERVICE EXCELLENCE

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Note to Editors

2010 Rotherham – wholly owned by Rotherham Borough Council

- 2010 Rotherham is the arms length management organisation (ALMO) set up by Rotherham Borough Council to have day-to-day responsibility of managing, repairing and improving the council housing in Rotherham. 2010 Rotherham acts, in effect, as a managing agent.
- Rotherham Borough Council is the landlord of Rotherham's council housing stock. Rotherham's council house tenants are still tenants of the council. Rotherham Borough Council retains responsibility for a number of specific functions including the development of housing policies, production of the housing strategy, homelessness, housing benefit, and monitoring the performance of 2010 Rotherham.

Latest press releases can be found at www.2010rotherham.org

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