



# The Gateshead Housing Company

## Working with Gateshead Council

### Press release

**Date: 27 July 2010**

### New artwork is a 'wheel' treat for Gateshead

The Gateshead Housing Company has joined local residents and councillors to celebrate the unveiling of a new piece of artwork in Heworth.

'Water Wheel', by artist Jim Roberts, was officially opened at the entrance of the High Lanes estate through partnership work between the housing company, Gateshead Council, Heworth Grange Comprehensive School and local residents.

Residents of all ages were heavily involved in the project, attending a series of workshops to develop the piece.

Their ideas have been incorporated into Roberts' hand-crafted sculpture to encompass iconic images from the North East, which have all been secured within a water wheel design.

The water wheel theme came from a local resident as a nod to the estate's history, being a major power source in the area's original colliery format.

Chief Executive of The Gateshead Housing Company, Bill Fullen, attended the opening and said: "The piece truly reflects the full community's involvement and is a triumph for all involved.

"The artwork is the perfect finale to all of the home and estate improvements completed in the area."

The installation marks another milestone in a major programme of work in the area including:

- Building three new four-bed properties
- £1.5 million of Decent Homes work
- £2.25 million modernising the structure of the non-traditional 'Airey' properties
- Developing an outdoor 'social space' at the centre of the estate.

For more information on the development call 0191 433 5450 or email [les@gatesheadhousing.co.uk](mailto:les@gatesheadhousing.co.uk)

### Notes to Editors

Photo caption: (left to right) Heworth Grange Comprehensive School students Sophie Handy; Laura Wilson; Warren Connor; artist Jim Roberts; Chief Executive of The Gateshead Housing Company Bill Fullen; local residents Pat Larman; and Anne Young.

For more information please call Jill Ancrum on 0191 433 5386 or email [jillancrum@gatesheadhousing.co.uk](mailto:jillancrum@gatesheadhousing.co.uk)

The Gateshead Housing Company manages over 21,000 homes in the North East of England.

We aim to provide excellent and efficient services working in partnership with residents and the wider local community to create homes and neighbourhoods that meet the aspirations of the people of Gateshead.

In February 2009, the Audit Commission said that the services provided by us are 'excellent' and that we have 'excellent prospects for improvement'.

On a scale from zero to three stars, the Audit Commission inspection team gave us the top 'excellent' three star rating.

This was because we have a strong commitment to customer care, we manage estates well and we are bringing thousands of homes up to and then beyond the Government's Decent Homes standard.

For more information on The Gateshead Housing Company log onto [www.gatesheadhousing.co.uk](http://www.gatesheadhousing.co.uk)