

Procurement for Housing (PfH) ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Wednesday 18 October 2006

The International Convention Centre, Birmingham

Greg Dyke to spearhead Digital TV focus at PfH Conference

Greg Dyke, former Director General of the BBC and one of the most influential leaders in British television, will launch a major new focus for **Procurement for Housing** at the consortium's Annual Conference on 18 October 2006.

Digital TV Switchover is a critical issue for the housing sector. Starting in 2008 and ending in 2012, TV services in the UK will go completely digital, TV region by TV region. Any TV set or video recorder that's not converted to digital when the switchover takes place will no longer receive TV programmes.

PfH's Annual Conference at the ICC in Birmingham will examine why Digital TV Switchover should be at the top of the agenda for every Registered Social Landlord; **what steps need to be taken to ensure that tenants are not disadvantaged** and how PfH and Fusion 21 are collaborating to make sure that Switchover can be carried out as efficiently as possible.

Greg Dyke is particularly well qualified to talk about digital TV. In addition to his four decades of experience in broadcasting he has made major contributions to the use of digital technology to provide new education opportunities and to improve the cultural diversity of the workforce and BBC programmes. As well as his work with the BBC, ITV and Channel 5, Greg was Chief Executive of Pearson Television from 1995 to 1999, which he built into the largest independent production company in the world.

At the conference, Dave Neilson, Managing Director of pioneering Local Housing Procurement Forum Fusion 21 will reveal details of a new agreement for the supply and installation of TV aerial reception systems which will be launched by Fusion 21 and PfH January 2007.

Dave Neilson said, *"We believe that the UK must not end up with two tiers of access: one for wealthy homeowners and another for poor tenants. Digital TV will become increasingly central for access to entertainment, education, services and communication between landlord and tenant, and it is therefore important that residents are not disadvantaged."*

Andy Townend, Director of Operations at Digital UK will deliver the conference's keynote speech. He said, *"Digital switchover is the biggest event in broadcasting since colour television was introduced in 1967. All those responsible for communal television systems need to plan and prepare for the change now."*

Julie Craig, Director of Procurement for Housing said, *"PfH's Annual Conference is the housing sector's major procurement efficiency forum of the year and our speakers and subject matter reflect this. In addition to the focus on Digital TV Switchover we will be looking at ways to improve the efficiency of both insurance procurement and materials for repairs procurement."* www.procurementforhousing.co.uk

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Editor's Notes:

PfH's 2nd Annual Conference, Exhibition & Members' Meeting:

Wednesday 18 October, 2006, International Convention Centre, Birmingham.

The conference is open to all housing organisations including PfH Members and non-Members. To register call 01457 891 906 or email info@procurementforhousing.co.uk

PfH Conference Speakers:

Paul Diggory, Vice President of the Chartered Institute of Housing will open the conference.

Andy Townend, Director of Operations at Digital UK will give the Keynote Address, explaining why Digital TV Switchover is crucial to social housing and how Digital UK is leading the way.

Sean Gallagher, Assistant Director, Peabody Trust and Chair of Buy4London will run a plenary session focusing on delivering capital works efficiencies through collaboration.

Brian Cronin, Deputy Chief Executive of Arena Housing and Chair of PfH's Advisory Committee will chair the PfH Annual Members' Meeting.

At another sub-plenary session, **Dave Neilsen, Managing Director of Fusion 21** will discuss a new agreement for the supply and installation of TV aerial reception systems which will be launched by Fusion 21 and PfH.

In the closing address, **Greg Dyke, former Director General of the BBC** will give his view on the future of Digital TV and why nobody should be disadvantaged.

Workshops will include:

- Procurement Powerhouse: Getting to grips with the energy market
- Trial Separation: Pilot updates on separating labour, materials and repairs
- Remote controllers: What landlords need to know about digital TV
- Messages received: Making mobile working work in housing
- Risk Remedy: Joint procurement of insurance
- Golden Touch: How the Housing Corporation awards were won

Procurement for Housing

PfH is the only national procurement organisation dedicated to the needs of the social housing sector. Following a successful two-year pilot, the National Housing Federation, Chartered Institute of Housing and HouseMark officially launched it in March 2004. The Housing Corporation and the ODPM also support PfH.

PfH has been created as an essential business tool to generate substantial savings by harnessing the collective purchasing power of housing organisations. By reducing procurement costs, organisations can reinvest resources in front-line services, decent homes and vibrant neighbourhoods.

PfH currently has 465 Members collectively managing over two million units, making PfH's purchasing power unparalleled in the sector. The consortium provides services in the following product areas: Office Supplies; Print Management & Design Services; Communication Services (Mobiles, Landline & Data), Personal Computers; Photocopying Equipment & Services; Energy; Vehicle Leasing; Central Heating Supplies; Janitorial Supplies; Bathrooms; Knowledge Based Services - Consultancy; Residential Furniture & Furnishings; Workwear & Personal Protective Equipment; Decorating Vouchers and Domestic Appliances. Future products will include: Kitchens; Windows/ Doors; Digital TV Reception Systems' Materials for Responsive Repairs; Insurance/Financial Services and Agency Labour.

PfH Membership

Any social housing organisation (including Housing Associations, LSVTs, ALMOs, and Local Authorities) can become a Member of Procurement for Housing by paying a small refundable fee based on the number

of housing units they manage. The fee is rebateable against purchases made through the scheme. HouseMark subscribers are eligible for free Membership.

Management of PfH

Procurement for Housing (PfH) is managed by specialist contractor Collective Enterprises Limited (CEL) – selected following an open tendering procedure through the Official Journal of the European Union. CEL has significant experience of collective purchasing in both the public and private sectors. The quality of the contractor’s work is monitored and assured by HouseMark – the performance improvement subsidiary of the Chartered Institute of Housing. Further information can be obtained by visiting the website at www.procurementforhousing.co.uk

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