

Update for residents

November 2007

Partnership Proposal

Following the full update in the last HOME magazine, here are more details on our proposal to form a partnership with Oxford Citizens Housing Association:



We are on track to get the business case, the business plan, the new rules governing the group, and other key documents to our Government regulator, the Housing Corporation (HC), during early November following their approval by the OCHA and Westlea Boards of Management. The HC will then need to consider our proposal at meetings in December. We will also call special meetings of the shareholders of OCHA and Westlea where the necessary changes to our rules will need to be approved to enable the partnership to go ahead. The proposed start date for our partnership is still 1 April 2008.

Central to proposing the partnership was both organisations' desire to improve services to residents and reduce costs. We also wanted to improve residents' ability to influence the way in which the new organisation is run. As a result we are proposing to set up a Residents' Scrutiny Panel. This will be a group of OCHA and Westlea residents who will review the associations' performance and be able to work directly with the parent Board where they have concerns. In this way we will improve our accountability to our residents, giving you a say at the most strategic level of the new organisation.

If the proposal goes ahead, OCHA and Westlea will largely continue to operate independently of each other as they do currently – focusing on providing housing and neighbourhood management, maintenance, community development, and resident involvement services. The new Managing Directors of Westlea and OCHA will be responsible for running the subsidiaries and working with their Management Boards, residents and staff. But the advantage of a forming a group structure is the opportunity to share ideas and work together on new projects. We are now looking at how we can converge our procedures and working practices, to be more efficient and to take advantage of the best practice in both organisations.

- See the new year edition of HOME for a further update!



Opening hours for Christmas 2007 and New Year 2008

Mon 24 December 2007	Closed all day
Tues 25 December 2007	Closed all day
Weds 26 December 2007	Closed all day
Thurs 27 December 2007	Open 8.45am–5.15pm
Fri 28 December 2007	Open 8.45am–4.45pm
Mon 31 December 2007	Open 8.45am–5.15pm
Tues 1 January 2008	Closed all day
Weds 2 January 2008	Open 8.45am–5.15pm



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