



**20 February 2012**

### **Orbit South and Moat move forward with stock transfer in Hastings, East Sussex**

Orbit South and Moat are delighted to announce the transfer of 361 residential properties in the Hastings and Rother area effective Monday 20 February.

After an open tender from Moat, who are rationalising their portfolio on a geographic basis, Orbit South has agreed to purchase the homes. Contracts were exchanged on the portfolio which includes flats and houses for rent, specialist properties, leasehold and shared ownership housing, on 23 December 2011.

Moat carried out an extensive consultation exercise with the residents affected at the end of 2011. Moat and Orbit held 'open house' roadshows in the Hastings area, at which residents were able to meet the teams and pick up information to help them better understand the transfer process. Both organisations are endeavouring to make the transition as seamless as possible. In many cases Orbit will temporarily use the same service providers for contracts such as repairs and estate services.

Hastings District Council has offered their support for the transfer, which aligns with the Tenant Services Authority's agenda for stock rationalisation. Orbit South will be managing the homes in conjunction with existing homes in the area from our local office in St Leonards-on-Sea.

Managing Director for Orbit South, Vivien Knibbs, says; "We are extremely pleased to welcome all of these residents to Orbit, and look forward to working with them to deliver the services they need. Hastings and Rother are important areas for Orbit as we already manage over 2,000 homes in the area and are involved in the Ore Valley regeneration project. By increasing our homes through this transfer from Moat we will be able to develop our services and make them better for all our residents."

Brian Johnson, Chief Executive at Moat, says; "We wanted to find the right provider to take over management of these homes which do not lie in one of our key local authority areas. The properties are some distance from the nearest Moat neighbourhood office and it made sense that an organisation with a strong track record in housing, good local knowledge and a nearby neighbourhood office took over their management. It was important to us that any decision we made reflected these requirements as well as feedback from the residents affected by the proposed changes.

Orbit South fulfils all criteria and we feel certain that they will deliver high quality, intuitive and customer-driven services to residents in the Hastings and Rother area."

## **Ends**

### **About Orbit South**

- Orbit South owns and manages over 13,000 homes in Kent, East Sussex, Surrey and South London and employs approximately 250 staff.
- Orbit South works in partnership with local authorities to develop new affordable homes, including Bexley, Sutton, Croydon, Medway, Thanet, Dover, Ashford, Canterbury, Tunbridge Wells, Sevenoaks, Tonbridge & Malling, Maidstone, Hastings, Rother, Wealden, Reigate and Banstead and Epsom and Ewell.
- Orbit South is part of the Orbit Group, one of the largest housing organisations in the country, providing more than 37,000 homes in the Midlands, the South East and the East of England. Our operating associations, Orbit Heart of England and Orbit East and South, help to build strong communities and meet local housing need in more than 100 local authority areas. Orbit Homes, our development and sales organisation, was named the CIH Housing Heroes 'Development Team of the Year' for 2011. Orbit Services offers a full range of back office functions and specialist support to the Orbit Group and external clients. Orbit is a strong social business committed to delivering its ambition of 'Building Brighter Futures for People and Communities.'

*Orbit Group Limited, Orbit South Housing Association Limited and Heart of England Housing Association Limited are exempt charities.*

[www.orbitsouth.org.uk](http://www.orbitsouth.org.uk)