



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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# **CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF 'GREEN FUTURES'**

Black Country Housing Group (BCH) celebrated 10 years of 'Green Futures' with a celebration dinner at the Radisson Hotel in Birmingham on Monday. Ian Pearson MP for Dudley South, Minister of State for Climate Change and Environment was a special guest speaker.

The event celebrated the environmental technologies that BCH have researched, developed and showcased over the last 10 years, working towards a Green Future.

Many guests attended the event, including house developers and several local councillors. All left with a miniature oak tree to plant, to help reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, providing a cleaner environment.

Sandra Spence, Chief Executive of Black Country Housing Group, commented, "With the publication of the Stern Review this week, about the economics of climate change, it is important for us to take our environmental responsibilities seriously. The event on Monday celebrated the excellent work we have achieved and to outline our plans for future R&D."

The projects that BCH have worked on include the UK's first Eco-Pod, a facility where visitors can study the design, fabrication and construction of houses showcasing the latest green technologies. They have also worked on Energyextra, a club that gives access to cheaper gas and electricity, along with energy efficiency advice and the worlds' first hydrogen fuel cell powered house. Plans in the pipeline include 'Sandwell Solar City', which will encourage the use of solar panels for generating electricity, innovative ways to cool buildings without the need for air conditioning and developing the next generation of hydrogen fuel cells for housing.

**Ends**

Note to Editors:

**Black Country Housing Group Ltd. is a leading social housing provider in Birmingham and the Black Country providing quality homes for rent and shared ownership. We are delivering more services including, training, care, community development and business advice within a wider geographical area. Having achieved preferred partner status with Sandwell and Dudley, we continue to work with other local authorities and organisations on a range of projects and local initiatives.**

**Black Country Housing Group Ltd, 134 High Street, Blackheath, West Midlands B65 0EE**

**Further information from Sharon Fereday or Laura Masters**

**Tel: 0121 561 1969 / Fax: 0121 561 5694 / email: [feredays@bcha.co.uk](mailto:feredays@bcha.co.uk) or [mastersl@bcha.co.uk](mailto:mastersl@bcha.co.uk)**