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Press Release

April 2010

GM Procure Aim to Lead the Way with Resident Involvement

The country's most prominent procurement consortia, GM Procure, have been heavily engaged in the development of their resident involvement process throughout its existence, cementing their position of leading the field in this sector. The organisation is currently looking to recruit more residents from all their social housing clients to further strengthen the process.

Resident involvement is a vital process designed to give social housing tenants more say in the decisions that affect their homes. It encourages tenants to give feedback and become actively involved in housing issues such as repairs, security, materials and contracted labour, which may affect them directly.

Commenting, GM Procure Chief Executive, Mike Brogan said: "Better decisions are made when tenants get involved in the procurement of materials and contracted labour for their homes. In our experience tenants shed a vital spotlight on the practicalities of procurement."

Mr Brogan added: "GM Procure has a very good track record of tenant involvement across all social housing providers but there's a lot to do and we need as much tenant input and involvement as we can."

Tenants of GM Procure customers can currently get involved in the whole tendering process in a number of ways, including: sitting as a tenant representative on a working group with other tenants and staff looking at developing new products or initiatives, sitting on a management group making decisions with staff members, attending supplier road shows and material exhibitions to identify which are the best and briefing other tenant groups on what's happening.

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GM Procure has a clear set of tenant involvement objectives and cultivates a proactive approach. The objectives include:

- Ensuring transparency of information and input into decisions
- Welcoming a minimum of two customers to each management group, from a diverse background
- Provision of relevant training and support and
- Being easy and approachable to work with.

The tenant involvement panels will be under scrutiny once again in July 2010 after the previous framework comes to an end following 4 years of existence. From the feedback sourced from tenants, GM Procure will then decide which procedures need improving on and which have served to benefit tenants the most.

Summer 2010 will also see the merger of GM Procure with IMPACT Manchester completed with the newly merged business being branded Procure Plus. The merger will create the largest social housing procurement organisation in the UK and tenant involvement will remain a priority for the newly merged business, ensuring that residents receive optimum input onto the products and services they receive.

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Editors' Notes:

- June 2010 will see the merger of GM Procure and IMPACT Manchester. The merge will create the largest social housing procurement organisation in the UK.
- The two consortia agreed to amalgamate earlier this year to benefit from economies of scale and a sharing of expertise, systems and processes and it is a significant move for social housing.



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- The aim of the merger is to deliver a more consistent approach to the procurement of construction related products and services for members. This will create better value for money for Clients and provide increased community-based benefits for residents through a more cohesive regeneration strategy.



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