



**Nottingham
City Homes**

Press Release

New fleet of vans rolls out onto streets of Nottingham!

Nottingham City Homes is now sending out its 312-strong fleet of brand new vans onto the streets of Nottingham.

The vans are not only more reliable, fitted with the latest technology and armed with the latest tools and equipment. They are also cheaper to lease than our old fleet.

The Citroen Dispatch and Relay LCV vans are being leased as part of the £142m repairs contract that was awarded to us by Nottingham City Council earlier this year. We beat large private sector companies in a tendering process to be awarded the contract, which was successful based on our value for money and quality of work.

The old fleet is now being replaced at a rate of six vans per day and currently we have more than 50 vans running on the streets of Nottingham. The entire fleet will be fully operational by the end of October this year.

The vans will be officially launched at Nottingham Forest's City Ground on Tuesday 12 August at 4pm as part of our Meet the Supplier event.

The event aims to engage its employees and representatives from other public sector organisations to learn more about the companies that support us and to share knowledge and experience.

Mark Johnson, director of Property Services at Nottingham City Homes, said: "It is great to see the new vans starting to head out onto our streets and into our estates.

"The replacement of these vans has been a huge project for our procurement team. They have secured a fleet of vans with all the latest technology and tools at a cheaper rate.

"I would like to thank the procurement team for their hard work in finalising the fleet contract for us and the drivers who are making the handover of the vans simple and efficient."

The new vans have a range of features that will improve the level of service we provide. These features include:

- Smartnav – a system that uses satellite navigation and traffic information to find the quickest and most appropriate route and guide drivers around congestion
- Support from Trafficmaster's Assist centre (open 24 hours a day, seven days a week). This means the vans can instantly check destinations, provide routes and even connect to emergency and breakdown services
- A Service provided by Trafficmaster, known as Fleet Director, allows us to locate the nearest vehicle, containing the correct service engineer, and direct them to the next repair request by entering the Customers post code, resulting in reduced costs and providing a more efficient service

- The Citroen's HDi diesel engines are able to run on up to 30 per cent bio diesel, without any technical modifications. This environmentally friendly solution could become standard for the fleet in the future.

The new fleet will be supported by local business, Jim Steel Garages, which will provide servicing and repairs. Through this contract, Jim Steel, based in Beeston, will be opening up a garage within one mile of the Harvey Road main depot to provide close support for the fleet. This will bring new jobs to the north west of Nottingham, helping to improve employment rates in the area.

Ends

Photocall:

- **Photographers are invited to attend the launch of the vans on Tuesday 12 August at 4pm at the City Ground, Nottingham.**

Notes to editors:

Nottingham City Homes was created on 1st April 2005 as an Arms Length Management Organisation (ALMO) to manage Nottingham City Council's rented and leasehold homes. We are now working hard towards bringing Nottingham's council houses up to the Government's Decent Homes standard by 2013.

For further information please contact:

PR & Communications Officer: Clare Pilling

Tel: 0115 9157246 Fax: 0115 9157256

Email: clare.pilling@nottinghamcityhomes.org.uk

Website: www.nottinghamcityhomes.org.uk