



## For immediate release

**Date: 22 October 2009**

### **Tower Hamlets Homes toughening up on flytippers**

Tower Hamlets Homes is joining forces with the Council to crack down on flytipping in the lead up to this year's bonfire period.

The joint initiative kicked off this week when Tower Hamlets Homes' officers met with the Council's Local Environment Teams' (LETs) Enforcement Officers on Tuesday to investigate a large fly-tip on Ocean Estate.

The Enforcement Officers, who fine on average over 20 fly-tippers per week, knew the culprit's name and had enough evidence to prosecute after the investigation.

Tower Hamlets Council's Lead Member for Housing and Development, Cllr Marc Francis, commented: "Dumped bulk rubbish can be a real hazard to residents on our estates, not just in the run-up to Bonfire Night, but during the rest of the year too. I'm delighted that Tower Hamlets Homes is being pro-active and working with the council to tackle the problems so residents are not put at risk."

Tower Hamlets Homes Chief Executive Gavin Cansfield said the ALMO would be regularly teaming up with the LETs to investigate and fine flytippers.

Gavin said: "Our caretakers remove huge amounts of rubbish on Tower Hamlets Homes estates everyday, amounting to over 300 tonnes in the last year alone. This bulk rubbish often blocks fire exits on landings and is occasionally being deliberately set alight.

"Ocean Estate is a real priority; just in the last week 50 tyres were dumped on the estate. Tyres are not only very difficult to destroy, but if caught alight the damage can be lethal.

"It is important that we step up our approach to dealing with bulk rubbish so residents are not put at any risk."

Gavin added: "This is a good example of partnering with the Council to come up with real solutions that keep Tower Hamlets Homes residents safe, especially during the bonfire period."

ENDS

**Notes to editor:**

1. Flytipping may vary in size from a single item such as a mattress or a black bin bag to a lorry load of construction material and can include hazardous waste.
2. The offence carries a maximum penalty of up to £50,000, or for very serious offences, up to five years in prison, or both. If convicted, the costs of investigation and clean up can also be sought.
3. Tower Hamlets Homes (THH) is an arm's-length management organisation (ALMO) managing approximately 22,000 tenants and leasehold properties on behalf of the Tower Hamlets council. [www.towerhamletshomes.org.uk](http://www.towerhamletshomes.org.uk)

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