

NEWS RELEASE

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NEW COUNCIL HOMES CREATED AT ICONIC CHELSEA ESTATE

The first new council homes in Kensington and Chelsea for nearly two years have been created at the iconic World's End Estate. They are a result of the collaborative Hidden Homes programme between the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and Kensington & Chelsea TMO. Developed at a total cost of £743,000, the project was completed on budget; the homes will be managed by the KCTMO.

Officially opened on Thursday 8 October by the Leader of the Council, Nick Paget-Brown, the new homes at Whistler Walk on the World's End Estate are a result of the conversion of a redundant children's home on the estate – the home had moved to brand new premises in North Kensington. Affordable housing is at a premium in the borough, so the Council and the KCTMO's Hidden Homes programme have been working to redevelop underused spaces on existing council estates, resulting in much needed new affordable homes.

Following a tour of the flats, Cllr Paget-Brown said: "Work started on the scheme in March and it's remarkable to think that seven new homes have been built in just a few months.

"We all know that space is at a premium here in Kensington and Chelsea, so the Council and KCTMO continue to work closely to seek out underused spaces on existing Council estates to create new affordable homes for our residents."

KCTMO Chief Executive Robert Black added: "This was a challenging project, as we had to work within the constraints of an existing building's solid concrete frame and this limited the scope for remodelling. Strong teamwork between ourselves, the Council and Keepmoat, our contractor, has helped us develop the creative solutions we see today."

“I’m especially proud of the two level access flats, which the Council’s Occupational Therapy Team and our Aids & Adaptations Officer Louie-Ann Miller have ensured meet the highest standards for homes of their kind. All this for £743,000 in total, which wouldn’t even buy you two flats on the open market in this part of London.”

Notes to editors:

1. The new homes comprise: 1x1 bedroom (two people); 4x2 bedroom (four people); 1x2 bedroom (three people) and 1x3 bedroom (six people).
2. The new homes have been built to the Lifetime Homes standard. Lifetime Homes is a set of principles developed by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation that has been adopted into current building regulations. The principles focus on enhanced accessibility and design features which make the homes flexible enough to meet whatever comes along in life, for example disability. The goal is for properties to always be able to meet the needs of inhabitants.

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