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Whitefriars announces new homes programme

Whitefriars Housing Group has announced plans for its regeneration programme for Coventry, which could see over **£650million** invested in new homes over the next 15 years.

The announcement comes only months after Whitefriars delivered the news that its £240million six-year stock improvement programme will be completed a year ahead of schedule in September 2004.

The first steps in this programme have already started after Whitefriars received planning approval for the construction of 35 homes in Tile Hill. The building of the first four three-bedroom houses will commence on 1st November.

Developer Lovell will build a variety of family housing and elderly person's bungalows on sites of disused garages and vacant land in five locations across the Tile Hill area.

The new homes will be the first social housing to be built by Whitefriars since it assumed control of the city's housing stock in 2001. Coventry City Council last built social housing over 20 years ago.

Whitefriars Director of Property Investment, Mike Brown said:

“Upon the transfer of homes from Coventry City Council to Whitefriars we

promised our tenants that we would complete a homes improvement programme within six years. We are already more than 75 per cent through the programme and will be completing it in less than 12 months time, one year early. This means that we can now concentrate on the priority of adding to Coventry's housing stock.

"We are pleased to have received planning consent for the Tile Hill properties, which will be constructed in partnership with the city council and Lovell. This is only the beginning as we are currently making plans and formulating proposals for a £650million programme to provide new homes within the city over the next 10-15 years.

"This investment will help us to fulfil Coventry's future housing demand. However, it is more than just a building exercise; it will allow us to contribute to Coventry's regeneration and help build sustainable communities for the future."

Lovell's Midlands regional director Phil Wheeler said: "As one of the two key contractor partners carrying out the Housing Group's stock improvement programme, Lovell has developed a strong working relationship with Whitefriars. We are delighted to be continuing that partnership through our involvement in this landmark housing regeneration scheme."

The way forward for the future of housing provision in Coventry will be discussed in November at a city council seminar, which Whitefriars and all the major housing providers in the region will attend.

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