

## **PRESS RELEASE**

May 6, 2008



### Shoreline prepares for strike action

Shoreline has contingency plans in place to ensure residents experience minimum disruption from planned industrial action by trade union craftworkers of Shoreline Property Services (SPS).

The action will see SPS craftworker members of T & G and Amicus sections of Unite carry out a 24 hour strike from 8am on Friday May 9, 2008.

Workers will also be withdrawing emergency call-out cover on a continuing basis.

However, Shoreline ensures that wherever possible essential services will be provided and genuine emergency repairs carried out throughout the period of industrial action.

Residents are reminded that genuine emergency repairs are ones which are needed to avoid serious health and safety risk or to prevent serious structural damage to the property.

Shoreline chief executive Tony Bramley said: "It is with regret that we have to announce that there will be strike action because we have strived to avoid this but our tenants can be assured that there will be minimum impact on the service we provide."

"We will continue to keep tenants informed of any further developments."

The industrial action follows 22 months' of discussions and ten months' of negotiations, in which an agreement hasn't been met with employees and their trade union representatives over proposals to introduce new pay and productivity arrangements.

All existing SPS employees have been offered new contracts of employment and over 20% have already signed in support of the scheme.

There will be no reduction in the size of the workforce.

Shoreline says the changes to workers' contracts are absolutely vital to the long-term success of SPS in terms of commercial viability, service quality, and offering value for money to tenants.

The changes – moving employees onto a base salary and additional productivity-based bonus – will give the workforce the opportunity to earn significantly more than they currently do in return for the gains in productivity.

The proposals follow a major investment in new technology which will enable the workforce to spend more time efficiently out on site undertaking repair and maintenance work for tenants.

**ENDS**