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Turf cutting marks start of new Extra Care Housing Development.

Work has started on a new development which will see 27 extra care bungalows built in Sorogold Street, St. Helens.

A special turf cutting ceremony was held to mark the beginning of the construction. The proposed development will provide a new extra care housing facility for St. Helens Council. Ashley House are working in partnership with the council and Inclusion Housing to develop this new build.

The specialist housing scheme will be leased to Inclusion Housing so that they can provide landlord and housing management services to the tenants with the care and support to be commissioned separately by the Council.

Each of the 27 bungalow units are designed to full accessible standards which will see an on site staff support office and communal lounge. Ashley House is aiming to complete handover of the first phase in February 2012, with phase 2 at the end of April.

The project has been developed by Ashley House, leading developers in the health and social care market.

Steve Cullen, Healthcare Executive at Ashley House commented "This project is an excellent example of true partnership working to improve community provision in St Helens. It has been a pleasure working with managers, practitioners, relatives and service users over the last couple of years to jointly plan and design this superb development and I'm sure the tenants will have many happy years living there."

Councillor Joe Pearson, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health said: "'Extra care' or 'assisted living housing' is a relatively new concept that is filling an important gap in the elderly care industry. Also known as 'very sheltered developments / schemes' or 'housing with care', this type of housing is designed to cater for a frail and incapacitated, yet fiercely independent-minded ageing population.

Councillor Andy Bowden, Cabinet Member for Urban Regeneration and Housing, added: "The properties are purpose built and targeted mainly at individuals with mobility problems, such as wheelchair users and older people looking for assistance with the practicalities of day-to-day living. Extra care housing provides easy access accommodation with, for example, kitchens and bathrooms adapted to meet individual needs. This takes extra care housing into a new dimension."



Caption: Left to right: Steve Cullen, Councillor Bowden in the cab, Steve Dawson (Seddon), Councillor Pearson, David de Silva (CEO Inclusion Housing), Mike Wyatt (Director of Adult Social Care and Health), Chris Lamb (Service Manager Housing and Community Care and Stephen Tracey (Head of Housing), both St. Helens Council, Howard Grady (Project Manager) and Kim Wells (Ashley House).