



11th February 2010

E-Homebuying Forum welcomes an historic e-Conveyancing first

The E-Homebuying Forum today welcomes what is an historic day for e-Conveyancing. Conveyancing Direct celebrated being the first law firm in the country to successfully submit a live electronic mortgage deed directly from a case management system using the Land Registry's new Business Gateway. The Skipton Building Society re-mortgage was completed on 5th February 2010.

Mark Riddick, Chairman of the E-Homebuying Forum comments:

"This represents what could be the start of a revolution, with the potential to transform conveyancing practice in the UK. The E-Homebuying Forum has been leading calls for the implementation of e-conveyancing which will enable faster transactions and greater efficiency and we are delighted at this historic moment.

He added, "Conveyancing Direct said that this has been one of their fastest transactions to date so I am very enthusiastic about the wider impact e-conveyancing can have on the homebuying and selling process."

Paul Fenn, General Manager, Lending, from Skipton Building Society said:

"This is a huge step forward in the use of electronic information exchanges, one to which we are very proud to have been a party. In the future, it means that we'll be able to take days off a process that currently relies on a paper based system."

Mark Craddock, Sales Director at software vendor FWBS Ltd stated:

"FWBS have been working with HM Land Registry to support the direct mortgage deed transaction from within our case management system. It is a truly exciting development to be involved with as there are very positive implications for the future of the property sector, especially the further efficiencies it brings for legal professionals."

The E-Homebuying Forum set out e-Conveyancing as one of the key areas in the Blueprint, launched in April 2008. The Blueprint was created to set out a platform for improving the property transaction process acting as a strategic high level call to action for Government and Industry. It positions widespread use of electronic information exchanges is a key part of working towards faster certainty as it will remove significant time delays.

Notes for Editors:



- The E-Homebuying Forum was established in April 2008 in order to bring together a group of like-minded companies and individuals who have a commercial interest in the home-buying and selling process, and who are interested in effecting real change within both industry and Government to speed up property transactions.
- The Forum intends to build on the Government’s vision of easier home buying and selling, first announced in 1999, to ensure modernisation of the home buying process – by harnessing technology to facilitate marketing, investigating and transferring residential property with greater ease, security, transparency and minimal environmental impact.
- The E-Homebuying Forum has signed memoranda of understanding with the Council of Property Search Organisations (CoPSO), the Council of Licensed Conveyancers (CLC), the Legal Software Suppliers Association (LSSA) and PISCES, and has received support for its aims from the Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML), the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS), the Building Societies Association, the Legal Services Commission and Which?.
- For further information on the E-Homebuying Forum please contact Harriet Crosthwaite, Richard Maughan or Surinder Gill on 0207 618 9100 or firstname.lastname@luther.co.uk
- Further information can also be found at the E-Homebuying Forum’s website: www.e-homebuyingforum.com.