



Media Release

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SUPER HIGHWAY HELPS HOUSE PURCHASES

LATEST information released by the government shows that Harrogate Borough Council is the only local authority in the region which is able to provide property information available electronically for homebuyers via the National Land Information Service.

There is a lot of uncertainty and stress connected to buying a home, which is why the council wants to provide a fast, accurate and comprehensive service to its customers in one of the country's housing hotspots. The cost of an average house in the district has risen by £20,000 in the last four months – taking it from £213,611 to £233,461.

Councillor Alan Skidmore, Cabinet Member of Resources is urging house buyers in the district to ask their solicitor to carry out property searches through the council's electronic service.

He said: “Gone are the days when purchasers had a nail-biting six week wait for their property search to be returned because it was all done manually. Since we have been connected at this high level ‘super highway’ property search facility, solicitors and other property practitioners representing purchasers are seeing their searches returned electronically within three working days and in some cases within hours of receipt.

“We are the only authority in the region to be connected at the highest possible level to the only official government-backed land and property search service and one of only a handful across England and Wales. Our Land Charges staff provide an excellent service for homebuyers and look to minimise the problems that people may experience during the purchase process.” ENDS

FURTHER INFORMATION: Councillor Alan Skidmore is available for comment on 01765 658785. Further technical information is available from Alison Best, Principal Conveyancer on 01423 556031.