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EBICO TEAMS UP WITH FRONTIS TO COMBAT FUEL POVERTY IN WARRINGTON

- New partnership offers customers cheaper gas and electricity
- Calls for more to be done to protect vulnerable members of society throughout the winter months

Ebico, the UK's only not-for-profit energy supplier, has partnered with Warrington-based Frontis, a member of Harvest Housing Group, to offer customers fairer gas and electricity prices to heat and light their homes throughout the cold winter months.

The agreement will see 2,900 residents being able to take advantage of cheaper energy prices. Unlike many energy providers, Ebico's specially designed tariff has no standing charge and just one flat rate per unit of energy used, enabling customers to take greater control of their energy bills. It is the 26th agreement which Ebico has signed with UK housing associations and the 4th in Cheshire.

Energy prices, affordability and cold weather have dominated the news agenda over the last month, including reports that nine pensioners died from the cold every hour last winter*.

Lee Woods, Director of Frontis, said: "We are very pleased to be working with an energy supplier which has a social aim at its core. We are convinced that Ebico's fair pricing policy will make a big difference for many of our customers, particularly those paying via pre-payment meters. By only charging for the actual amount of energy used, customers will see a significant reduction in their energy bills."

Phil Levermore, Managing Director of Ebico, said: "People on pre-payment meters generally get a raw deal from energy suppliers. We have made the system fairer by charging all customers the same rate regardless of their payment method and eliminating the standing charge. We hope, in time, that all suppliers will follow our lead in doing this.

"The knock-on effects of colder weather and government cutbacks could put many UK households in a significantly worse position in the coming months. Consequently, it is important that people feel able to heat their homes properly and keep warm during the cold weather without having to question if they can

afford it. Our partnership with Frontis will allow us to offer more help to those on lower incomes and in many cases, those suffering from fuel poverty.”

Ebico was established as a social enterprise in 1998 with all surplus money donated in the pursuit of reducing fuel poverty and tackling climate change by helping households reduce their energy demands and carbon footprints.

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Notes to Editors

* Office for National Statistics: ‘Excess winter mortality in England and Wales, 2009/10 (provisional) and 2008/09 (final)’ <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/deaths1110.pdf>

About Ebico

Ebico is the UK’s only not-for-profit energy supply company and is committed to the reduction and elimination of fuel poverty. The company’s flat rate tariff with no standing charge rewards low users of energy. For more information visit www.ebico.co.uk

Harvest Housing Group

Harvest Housing Group owns and manages 18,000 affordable homes and we work with customers and partners to provide a range of housing, community and regeneration services, across the North West and West Midlands.