

PRESS RELEASE

12th July 2004

Tenants voting for Directors

Postal voting may have been a new experience for many recently, but New Charter tenants are old hands!

An important part of New Charter's constitution is the representation of tenants on the Boards. Tenants last voted for their choice of Board members in July 2001, and the postal ballot this week is part of the democratic renewal of the Boards. Those elected will serve for three years. There is no payment for Directors.

There are four places reserved for tenants on each of the two landlords, New Charter Housing (North) and New Charter Housing (South). In South - which covers the towns of Denton, Audenshaw, Hyde Longendale and Dukinfield - only four nominations were received, despite inviting applications from all tenants. Under the rules, the four are therefore elected unopposed.



In North, there are five candidates competing for the four places available. All New Charter tenants in Ashton, Droylsden, Mossley and Stalybridge (including introductory tenants) are eligible to vote for up to four people. Standing are Wendy Hindmarch and Michael Taguma both from Stalybridge, Alan Bezer from Mossley, and Kevin Kirtland and Philip Smith, both from Ashton-under-Lyne.

Speaking this week, Danny McLoughlin, New Charter's Company Secretary, said "I would urge all tenants to read the election material carefully, and post their votes. Representatives of the existing Boards and the Tameside Tenants' & Residents' Federation plumped for the postal ballot as the way to ensure all tenants can take part."

All tenants should now have received their ballot papers. The independent Electoral Reform Ballot Services is running the ballot, which has an electorate of almost 8300 tenants.

Tenants have until Friday 23rd July to return their votes and the result will be declared the following Monday.

NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. New Charter formed in 1999 as the new landlords to own and manage nearly 16,400 properties transferred from Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council in Greater Manchester. With a turnover of £49million a year and a workforce of 800, New Charter is one of the twenty largest Registered Social Landlords (RSL's), and is regulated by The Housing Corporation, a Government watchdog.



2. New Charter is governed by Boards comprising one-third tenants, one-third Council nominees and one-third independent experts. Tenants bring their personal knowledge and experience of services to the Boards, and are essential in reflecting the customer perspective on decisions.
3. Tenants to serve on the Board of New Charter Housing (South) Limited are Margaret Barker of Dukinfield, Frank Bennett of Hyde, Malcolm Burbridge of Hyde, and Julie Hardman of Dukinfield. They take up their places after New Charter's Annual General Meetings on 30th September.
4. **iN business for neighbourhoods** is a major new campaign, through which housing associations and companies across England are demonstrating the positive difference they make to people's homes, communities and quality of life. New Charter is one of over 370 housing companies and associations supporting the initiative. We've made a commitment to neighbourhoods, customers and excellence. Our commitment to neighbourhoods includes working with local people and responding to local needs. For our customers, we promise to listen to them and respond to their views. New Charter will pursue excellence and improvement.

CONTACTS:

David Rigby or Paula Thomas - New Charter Publicity 0161 331 2000

ENDS



business for neighbourhoods