

PRESS RELEASE

26th July 2004

Tenants elect Directors



Portrait photographs of four tenants elected available

The results of the postal ballot of tenants for Board members of New Charter Housing (North) Limited have been announced by the independent Electoral Reform Ballot Services.

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 which closed on Friday (23rd July) is part of the democratic renewal of the Boards. Those elected will take up their places after New Charter's Annual General Meetings on 30th September 2004 and serve for three years. There is no payment for Directors.

Five candidates competed for the four places available and each presented an election address to voters living in Ashton, Droylsden, Mossley and Stalybridge. Tenants elected Wendy Hindmarch from Stalybridge, Alan Bezer from Mossley, and Kevin Kirtland and



business for neighbourhoods

Philip Smith, both from Ashton-under-Lyne. All New Charter tenants in the towns were eligible to vote, and the turnout was 25%.

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 Longdendale and Dukinfield - only four nominations were received, despite inviting applications from all tenants. Under the rules, the four were therefore elected unopposed.

Group Chief Executive Ian Munro was pleased with the turnout. “Representatives of the existing Boards and the Tameside Tenants’ & Residents’ Federation plumped for the postal ballot as the best way to ensure all tenants could take part. Postal voting had some controversy attached to last month’s Local and European elections; but I have no doubt using the Electoral Reform’s expertise avoided any problems. Our turnout increased slightly from last time, and tenants gave a vote of confidence by re-electing both Directors who stood again.”

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. The result details for New Charter Housing (North) Limited:

Number of ballot papers despatched	8,511
Number of ballot papers returned	2,160
Number of ballot papers found to be invalid (blank or spoilt)	14
Therefore, total number of valid papers counted	2,146

Alan BEZER.....	1,194	ELECTED
Wendy HINDMARCH.....	1,252	ELECTED
Kevin KIRTLAND.....	1,131	ELECTED
Philip SMITH.....	1,350	ELECTED
Michael TAGUMA.....	688	

4. 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.

5. **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 420 housing companies and associations supporting the initiative. We’ve made a commitment to neighbourhoods, customers and excellence. Our commitment to our customers includes listening to them, responding to their views and engaging them in our work at all levels.

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