

# PRESS RELEASE

20<sup>th</sup> September 2004

## Official opening



Photo opportunity – The Civic Mayor of Tameside, Cllr Bill Harrison will be opening the building at:  
12 noon, Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> September  
at Cavendish 249, Cavendish Street, Ashton-under-Lyne

The Civic Mayor of Tameside is set to officially open one of the most striking new buildings in Tameside.

Guests from the housing and finance worlds will mingle with suppliers, partners and tenants and residents at the opening of Cavendish 249. New Charter's environmentally friendly 48,000sq ft office occupies a gateway site to AMEC's Ashton Moss development, is next to the proposed Metrolink extension from Manchester and only 600 yards away from the M60 Manchester Orbital motorway.

The exciting new office houses 375 staff and will support the Group's four 'one stop' shops in high street locations, as well as its building depot in Dukinfield. A striking design featuring a curved roofline and a 25metre high central glazed atrium is only part of the



impact the building makes. Cavendish 249 is passively ventilated and boasts a range of environmentally friendly features that were key to its design. Windows and lighting are computer controlled; there's a high standard of insulation; and heat and power are generated from a roof-mounted Combined Heat and Power Unit. Even the location in rainy Greater Manchester has been put to good use - rainwater is collected to help flush the toilets!

Group Chief Executive Ian Munro said, "This is largest office development in Tameside for over 20 years and we are delighted the Mayor has been able to officially open it. We have regenerated a neglected part of the Ashton Renewal Area and brought an entirely brownfield site back into use. The move to this office will bring further improvement to the services we give to our tenants".

Work on the headquarters started at the end of January 2003 by Williams Tarr Construction Ltd. Staff started to move in at the end of March 2004, and moves were completed by May. The build project of £5.4m has been delivered on budget and to a superb standard.

#### **NOTE 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 £57million 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.

#### **CONTACTS:**

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**ENDS**



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