

PRESS RELEASE

11th January 2005

Nasty neighbours? Blair and Brown agree!

Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) will be in the news in 2005, with the Queens Speech promising even more government action. The Prime Minister, Chancellor and other politicians seem set to make tackling ASB a major issue in the forthcoming General Election.

At New Charter, we're giving tenants an early opportunity to tell us how they see the problem of "neighbours from hell".

During January and February, we are reviewing our policy and procedures, and are seeking the widest possible views. We've invited over 130 organisations and individuals to an evening session in January at our offices on Cavendish Street Ashton-under-Lyne to give us their views face-to-face. Comments can be made in writing, either by letter or e-mail (to info@newcharter.co.uk) by 31st January 2005. We've also set up a special 24-hour answerphone service on 0161 331 2301 to collect views on our policy and procedures.



business for neighbourhoods

We're sending to every tenant this week a summary leaflet on how we deal with anti-social behaviour.

Director of Tenancy Services at New Charter, Tony Powell said: "We recognise the misery that anti-social behaviour can cause. At the extreme, it can destroy lives and communities. We've strengthened our approach to tackling anti-social behaviour, and our many successes mean we are an acknowledged leader in this work".

"Listening to people's views on our policy and procedures reflects the government's '**Together**' campaign. People everywhere are saying 'enough is enough', and together we will take effective measures to restore communities to those who value them. It's another example of being **iN business for neighbourhoods**".

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 almost £60million a year and a workforce of 800, New Charter is one of the country's largest Registered Social Landlords, and is regulated by The Housing Corporation, a Government watchdog.
2. The government's Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 requires all social landlords to produce Policy and Procedure Statements by the end of 2004, setting out how they will deal effectively with anti-social behaviour issues. We've published a summary which is available from our shops and our website:
<http://www.newcharter.co.uk/assets/resources/hsg/Anti-Social%20Behaviour%20summary.pdf>
3. The **Together** campaign is a package of financial and practical measures to support the various agencies involved in tackling ASB issues. The government launched this in October 2003. See <http://www.together.gov.uk/home.asp>

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 400 housing companies and associations supporting the initiative. We've made a commitment to neighbourhoods, customers and excellence. Our commitment to customers is to do everything we can to prevent neighbourhood problems, and to deal firmly with people who are bad neighbours.
5. This action is part of our contribution to the Tameside Strategic Partnership, a board made up of near 30 members from local business, the voluntary and community sector and key public bodies. Through consultation with local people, it creates and then implements the Tameside Community Strategy, a three-year plan to improve the quality of life for local people – Taking Tameside Forward. It was set up in 2000 and meets three times a year. It ensures actions are taken within six key areas, including: *A safe environment – cutting crime and disorder.*

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